

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence  
Reduction Partnership (NNVRP)

# **Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment**

**January 2024**

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## Acknowledgements

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The Serious Violence Duty builds upon the work already happening in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County (NNVRP area), the key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

In the development of this Serious Violence Needs Assessment gives, we give thanks to: -

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Public Health
- Office of Health Improvements and Disparities
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Boards
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Probation Services
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Services
- Safer Nottinghamshire Board
- Nottingham Community Safety Partnership

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### How to use this document

The Serious Violence Needs Assessment is a reference tool to for those seeking information about violence and violence reduction in Nottinghamshire, hereafter referred to as **the NNVRP area** to provide clarity regarding the geographical split between Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County that are referenced throughout the document.

The document provides information for practitioners, policy makers and partners to shape our approaches to violence reduction, and ultimately inform the local serious violence response strategy for the NNVRP area.

Issues that are likely to present a significant risk to delivery are highlighted via the following symbol:



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For further information about the NNVRP Serous Violence Needs Assessment, please contact the OPCC Strategy & Performance Team at [OPCCstratandperf@notts.police.uk](mailto:OPCCstratandperf@notts.police.uk) .

# Executive Summary

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The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of trends, drivers and contextual factors impacting upon serious violence across the NNVRP area to inform policy and practice in our approach to violence reduction. The assessment draws upon a wide range of information sources including datasets from Nottinghamshire Police and healthcare, which have shown strong correlations in terms of trends, geographic and demographic concentrations of serious violence.

## Key findings

- Levels of serious violence recorded by Nottinghamshire Police between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were 12% lower than those recorded in the previous year. This decrease was reflected in health data, with ambulance callout data to violent events and inpatient admissions for violent events decreasing by 17% and 9% respectively compared to the previous year.
- Within the subcategories of serious violence, reductions in homicide, Actual Bodily Harm, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual assault were seen between -6 and -16%. By contrast, increases in crime volumes were seen in knife-enabled offences of threats to kill and robbery, and rape offences however it is noted that these were small increases of marginal volumes, and overall levels of these subcategories have stayed relatively stable.
- Possession of weapon offences increased by 16% in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year, and levels of weapon possession in the NNVRP area sit at a rate 36% higher than the average of most similar police force areas. The proactive policing work in monitoring and challenging weapon carriers will have certainly contributed to this increase, however it is a recognised emerging risk that there is increased accessibility to a growing market of weapons, specifically online.
- Analytical work to identify missing ethnicity data points of victims, suspects and offenders of serious violence reduced blank ethnicities from 48% to 16%. In analysing what ethnicities were most likely to be blanks in the original dataset, 84% were from white ethnic backgrounds.
- Rates of homicide in the NNVRP area have stayed relatively stable during the reporting period (Oct 2022 – Sep 2023) when compared to the previous year, despite the attacks in June 2023. However, it is important to note that recent homicides outside of the reporting period have shown a furtherance of domestic links, young persons as offenders and public place violence.

## Demographic, geographic and temporal trends

- Males continue to account for most known perpetrators of serious violence (76%), and the demographics with the largest volume of offenders were males aged 30-34 and 15-19 at 11% and 10% of all offenders respectively. The profile of victimisation varies according to the offence.
- The age profile for perpetrators of sexual assault shifts to a much younger age, specifically amongst 12- and 15-year-old boys, and over a third of all sexual assault victims were females aged under 18. Notably, 7% of all sexual assault offences took place in an educational setting, and schools were the third most prevalent location for sexual assaults behind houses and street-based violence.
- In over a quarter of serious violence occurrences, the offender was a stranger, and this is considerably higher in urban centres such as Nottingham City Centre where approximately three quarters of offenders were strangers to the victim.
- The primary geographic concentrations and high rates of serious violence remain in the City Centre and Mansfield night-time economies, and in urban centres of Bulwell and Newark. Notably, volumes of serious violence in Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield Town Centre have shown marked decreases, each of 23%, in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year.
- Significant concentrations in volume and criticality of serious violence continue to be present during 6:00 pm to 6:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights, with this period accounting for 23% of police recorded serious violence and 39% of ambulance callouts to violent events. These temporal peaks were most significant in Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield, and most serious violence offences in these peaks had alcohol cited as an influencing factor.

- For serious violence occurring in a public place, young people aged under 25 are disproportionately represented as both victims and offenders in knife-enabled robbery offences, and as victims in modern slavery (exploitation into street-based drug dealing) offences.
- The NNVRP area is largely an exporting force for County Lines activity, but more recent inward lines have been identified in Ashfield, Mansfield and Newark. Trends also show that the age of the young people being exploited in the NNVRP area are getting younger, with 13–15-year-olds becoming more common within the trade.
- The volume of violent knife crime occurring in dwellings has increased, but the volume of public place knife crime has decreased. In the reporting 12-month period, more violent crime occurred in dwellings than in a public place. In addition, the volume of violent knife crime committed by a partner, or an ex-partner has increased by 54%. This highlights an increased threat to life within domestic violence occurrences, with knife-enabled violence in domestic settings increasing in demand presented to the police.
- Over half of all people arrested for a serious violence offence in the most recent 12 months were identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody. This is an increase of 20% in volume compared to the previous year, where 38% of those arrested for serious violence had this vulnerability identified.

### Contextual data and risk factors

- Nottinghamshire County performs above the national average across the majority of indicators for education performance while Nottingham City continues to perform below the national average. This includes lower levels of development, communication, and language skills of children at the end of reception, higher rates of permanent exclusion and suspension, and lower levels of educational attainment particularly affecting boys, children from black, white Gypsy and Roma backgrounds and children in care. The most deprived areas for education include Ravensdale in Mansfield, Devon in Newark and Bulwell in Nottingham City.
- Rising financial hardship compounded by the rising cost of living remains a significant contextual risk factor associated with increased risk of violent crime, particularly exploitation and domestic abuse in areas of already higher than average levels of deprivation (Mansfield, Ashfield, and City).
- Children most at risk of going missing in the NNVRP area were 12–14-year-old girls, followed by boys also in this age group. Notably, 5% of missing individuals accounted for a third of all missing episodes during this period. Children who go missing from home or care are often more vulnerable to exploitation from a range of criminal threats.
- The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the NNVRP area has increased by 64% in the year to March 2023 compared to 2022, and this increase was seen most significantly in the County. These young people are particularly vulnerable due to the nature of being separated from their family in a different country, with possible barriers to communication and language as well as being considered as children in care and care leavers.
- Many large-scale migrations are results of political instability and the seeking of refuge from war to escape conflict zones. Of note, migration statistics showed a skew towards 16-24-year-old females which accounted for 15% of all individuals migrating into the NNVRP area from outside of the UK.

### Knowledge gaps

- The increased accessibility towards weapons and, more specifically knives, is an intelligence gap that requires more research. The questions of how and where knives are being used, such as the increased use of knives in domestic settings, need to be explored.
- People from Asian backgrounds remain disproportionately represented as victims of knife-enabled robbery, though are not highly represented in the offender cohort for this offence type. 20% of victims and 11% of offenders for knife-enabled robbery have 'not known ethnicity'. As the data completion work on ethnicity data indicated that 84% of those originally blank had White British ethnicity, it is possible that there is a higher level of disproportionality for knife-enabled robbery. Further analytical

work into the trends surrounding these offences should be undertaken, namely the types of property stolen and the mechanisms of attack.

- The increasing lone access to digital environments provides more opportunities for online exploitation and abuse. This risk is reflected in increases in grooming as a component of CSE and increased occurrences of indecent image possession. Moreover, the impact of end-to-end encryption in the online space is not yet fully known however it will undoubtedly present a huge risk to child safety.

## Next steps

- As highlighted in the key findings, the prevalence of mental health vulnerability in serious violence perpetrators has increased in the most recent year. In 2023, Nottingham's Integrated Care Partnership formed the SMD Data Partnership to work collaboratively with partners' available data to plan, understand, integrate and embed the needs of people experiencing SMD to enable improved engagement and service provision. It is important that, in light of the trend outlined above, partners continue to work proactively to engage in this working group.
- In light of observed increases in weapon importation, the Policy and Scrutiny Team will continue to track changes in legislation around the growing market of weapons and their accessibility online, and any notable changes should be shared in the serious violence duty implementation group.
- Work to understand the full scope of adultification and the online space, and how this may affect patterns of risk and harm around young people, particularly with sexual exploitation, county lines and consent between children.
- Findings from this SNA will be used to support preventative work in schools around all forms of serious violence, with increased focus on the prevalence of young people as both victims and offenders of sexual assault.
- A profile is being undertaken to better understand any disproportionately in serious violence. Each Force area will be providing reports to the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and there will be an opportunity to compare and better understand any nuances when comparing the Nottinghamshire Police Force area, to our most similar police force areas.
- Refreshed local area profiles will be provided over the summer months to enable community safety partners to assess against their response strategies.
- Academic research into First Time Entrants is being undertaken by Nottingham Trent University in collaboration with the Youth Justice Service (YJS).

# 1. Introduction

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This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been developed for the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Violence Reduction Partnership (NNVRP) and on behalf of the wider partnership of specified authorities under the Serious Violence Duty. The SNA provides a comprehensive assessment of our population needs and is designed to provide an up-to-date reference tool for those seeking information about violence and violence reduction in the NNRVP area. The assessment also provides information for practitioners and policy makers to shape our approaches to violence reduction, and ultimately inform the local serious violence response strategy for the NNRVP area.

The **Serious Violence Duty** is a key part of the Government's programme that places a duty on specified authorities to plan and collaborate to prevent and tackle serious violence in their local area, and encourages the adoption of a public health approach. The duty started on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, and specified authorities have 12 months to deliver on mandatory requirements.

As part of the Duty, local area profiles were created for each of the 7 local authorities across Nottinghamshire County, plus separate profiles for Nottingham City. These local assessments provide comprehensive overviews of trends, drivers and enablers impacting upon serious violence in the respective areas, to inform policy and practice in the approach to the Serious Violence Duty.

## 1.1 Strategic Needs Assessment Approach

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This is the fifth Serious Violence SNA for the NNRVP area and has been compiled by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in collaboration with statutory partner agencies. It builds upon our previous work and draws from data and analytical outputs from a wide range of partner organisations including:

- Police recorded crime data – crimes, outcomes, victims and perpetrators;
- Hospital and primary care data relating to serious violence injuries;
- Local contextual data including Census 2021 statistics on areas such as population, unemployment and health;
- Migration statistics and population projections;
- Open-source material for deprivation, economic disadvantage and substance use;
- Children's social care, SEND and NEET datasets;
- Literature review on risk factors for serious violence and evidence for interventions;

The Serious Violence Duty introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 has provided a fresh impetus for information sharing and collaboration in the production of this SNA for the partnership area. This year, the facilitation of and collaboration within the Serious Violence Data Steering Group has allowed the following datasets to be secured youth justice datasets, enhanced **East Midlands Ambulance Service** (EMAS) data for callouts to violent events, **education data** such as school demographics, attendance, suspension and exclusions insight, and **youth justice data** for first time entrants, reoffending and the demographics of young offenders.

## 1.2 Defining Serious Violence

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### Violence

Section 13 of the PCSC Act makes clear that **violence** is not limited to physical violence. It provides that, for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty, violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)



## Serious Violence

Describing some violence as serious does not mean that other violence is of little consequence, as each act of violence has an impact that can be affected by the victims' vulnerability, previous experiences or by their relationship with the perpetrator. The term serious violence is defined here to guide the work of local partnerships and tackle violence that communities and partner agencies indicate should be given particular attention. The NNVRP's definition of serious violence recognises the complexity of violence but focuses on all incidents (offences and injuries) that cause serious harm. It is inclusive of:

- Any violence in under 25s; with particular focus on public spaces
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence;
- Violence Against the Person;
- Criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent;
- Exploitation where serious violence or its threat is inherent.

Although there remains no national definition, serious violence has been defined and classified by the following Home Office crime categories as part of this assessment based on the degree of harm that they typically present:

- **Violence against the person:** homicide, attempted murder, assault with injury<sup>2</sup>, assault with intent to cause serious harm, and knife-enabled threats to kill;
- **Sexual violence:** rape and sexual assault
- **Robbery:** knife-enabled robbery of business or personal property;
- **Exploitation:** modern slavery, child criminal exploitation (CCE) and child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Within these offences and injuries, there will be a particular focus on gun and knife crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and the associations with alcohol and/or drug use. The overall NNVRP strategic needs assessment (SNA) will consider the wider risk factors such as vulnerability, weapons possession, and other impacts that build the picture of serious violence locally.

### Precursors and risk factors for serious violence

In defining and understanding serious violence, this assessment also considers a range of inherent and contextual risk factors which drive or act as precursors for violent crime. This can include possession of weapon offences and, as mentioned, areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as County Lines<sup>3</sup> drug dealing and other forms of organised criminality.

In addition to being in line with HM Governments position, we know that the drugs trade in particular is the drive for some of our most harmful violence and, in recent years, children have been at particular risk as a result of exploitation. Any new patterns of offending that appear to be driving serious violence will be considered as contextual risk factors as part of this assessment.

## 1.3 Methodology

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### Data parameters

This assessment analyses health, crime, and intelligence data to provide a more detailed picture of serious violence in the NNVRP area. The data parameters for this assessment include:

- Nottinghamshire Police recorded crime occurring between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, referred to as the current 12-month period, compared October 2021 – September 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> **Assault with injury:** section 18, 20 and 47 offences as defined by the [Offences Against the Person Act \(OAPA\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> **County Lines:** highly organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'.

- Records of ambulance callouts for violent events, extracted by analysts at the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). Inclusion criteria included all ambulance callouts with a call date between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, and a geographical location within the NNRVP area.
- To protect confidentiality in datasets, figures below five have been suppressed.
- An analysis of intelligence submissions regarding violence was undertaken to provide greater insight into the drivers of violence by area and type. This has been used to inform and provide context for the analysis of crime and partner data sets but does not in itself form part of the wider document.
- All references to wards are police wards and not local authority electoral wards, this is due to the lack of availability of current local authority ward boundaries within the available mapping system.

## Data extraction and analysis

Police recorded crime data was retrieved from Nottinghamshire Police Management Information (MI) for the following crimes specified above in our serious violence definition. Data for sexual violence is filtered for *current offences* where the occurrence created data compared to the start date are within 12 months of each other, to exclude historic sexual offence reports as this is outside the scope of this assessment.

Ambulance callout data provided by analysts at the EMAS incorporates dispatch codes with '04' and '27', as listed below. Incidents relating to self-harm were identified with a dispatch code ending in X or Y and have been excluded from this analysis.

Callout reason	First 2 digits of despatch code	Last character of despatch code
Assault	4	A
Sexual Assault	4	S
Stun Gun	4	T
Gun Shot	27	G
Penetrating Trauma	27	I, P
Stab	27	S

## Data limitations - Crime Recording Audit

In September 2021, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) undertook a crime audit in reviewing crimes and incidents recorded between March and May 2021. It concluded that the force was failing to record secondary offences, in addition to the most serious offence recorded, and therefore not compliant with recording requirements.

Nottinghamshire police subsequently made changes to their recording processes which took effect in April 2022. This resulted in approximately 433 additional crimes being recorded each month, largely behavioural crimes such as stalking, harassment and controlling/coercive behaviour. These changes to the data will no doubt affect comparative conclusions regarding underlying levels of low severity violence, and it is considered highly probable that some of the large percentage increases seen in some crime types will have been affected by these changes.

This element of crime recording was retracted in July 2023 and forces are no longer required to record secondary offences as additional crimes. To better address the reporting of conduct crimes, recording rules now state where there is a course of conduct amounting to either **Stalking, Harassment or Controlling or Coercive behaviour** reported by a victim, then in most cases **ONLY** the relevant course of conduct crime should be recorded as the principal crime. Generally, this will be in preference to other more serious notifiable crimes reported at the same time and committed by the same offender.

The new principal crime threshold has been set at (and to include) S.20 GBH and any sexual offence where the maximum sentence is 10 years or under. In practice this means that only serious crimes – for example rape, some sexual violence crimes and S.18 grievous bodily harm with intent would be an exception to the rule and would be the principal crime to be recorded instead of the course of conduct crime. The only exception to this is where a Modern Slavery offence or Breach of Court Order has also been committed. These must still be recorded in addition to the principal crime which in most cases will be the conduct crime.

Where there is a course of conduct that involves a combination of Stalking, Harassment or Controlling Coercive Behaviour offences between the same victim and offender, then only the most serious conduct offence needs to be recorded. The application of this new rule does not mean that the other crimes will be forgotten: all crimes will be documented within the crime record and investigated fully. The changes are designed to ensure that victims of these pernicious crimes, often committed over months and years, will receive the positive service that they deserve, and more offenders will be brought to justice.

### Data limitations - Ethnicity data

HMICFRS found that police forces are still failing to record the ethnicity of victims of crimes in nearly two thirds of cases, and they should publish more data on ethnicity to help build public confidence<sup>4</sup>. In knowing this, in depth analysis was completed by the research and insight team to establish where the gaps are, and why they are so prevalent in data.

In the original dataset pulled, 48% of victims, suspects and offenders did not have an ethnicity matched to the person ID number, out of 22,196 person records between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for serious violence offences. This was most prevalent with suspects, where 72% of known suspects did not have an ethnicity tagged to their record. These blanks may have been due to a number of reasons:

- Data cleaning and the removal of duplicates: with person ID’s keeping the ‘blank’ ethnicities where there is a duplicate record with a filled in ethnicity that has been removed;
- The person ID attached to the occurrence has previously been recorded in the police system and therefore will have an ethnicity recorded, but this may not be pulled back with the occurrence;
- The individual refused to state their ethnicity;
- The officer did not record the ethnicity of the victim, suspect or offender at the time of the occurrence.

When the data was cleaned, and further queries compiled to match person data held within police systems by using a number of analytical methods and expanding queries to include both self-defined and officer-defined ethnicities; from 10,626 blanks an additional 7,075 ethnicities were added to the data set. This reduced the blank ethnicities overall to 16% of all people matched to an occurrence; reduced unknown offender ethnicities to 10%, unknown suspect ethnicities to 21% and unknown victim ethnicities to 16%.

In analysing what ethnicities were most likely to be blanks in the original dataset, 83% of blanks were from white ethnic backgrounds. The breakdown of the blank ethnicities is shown below.

New ethnicity data – previously blank data	Offender		Suspect		Victim	
	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
Asian	55	4.4%	158	5.1%	176	6.5%
Black	110	8.7%	270	8.7%	275	10.2%
Mixed	8	0.6%	41	1.3%	19	0.7%
Other	14	1.1%	45	1.5%	54	2.0%
White	1077	85.1%	2600	83.5%	2173	80.6%

<sup>4</sup> [Police forces still failing to record and publish data on ethnicity - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

## 1.4 Defining the local area

The local area against which the Violence Reduction Partnership is configured, and the Serious Violence Duty applies, must be defined<sup>5</sup>. A local partnership can extend its coverage to a wider area, such as a police force area, to allow specified authorities to determine the geographical extent of their collaboration.

The **Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Violence Reduction Partnership (NNVRP)** area referenced in this report covers the County of Nottinghamshire, including Nottingham City, and is coterminous with the police force boundary for Nottinghamshire Police, as defined below.

Nottinghamshire Police Force spans approximately 834 square miles, incorporating the local authorities of Nottingham (national core City), Nottinghamshire County Council and the district councils of Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood.

### 1.4.1 Local geography

Nottingham is well connected to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Liverpool by rail, and to East Midlands towns and cities via local connections. It is also served by the international East Midlands Airport.

As of the 2021 Census, there are around 481,867 households in the Nottinghamshire Police force area, with the number expected to increase by around 9% over the next decade.

Housing demand continues to outstrip supply, particularly among younger people, isolated migrant communities, and those with the most complex needs including those with substance use, mental health conditions or experiencing severe multiple disadvantage.

83% of homes across the area are privately rented or owner occupied, falling to 74% in the City where 18% of households are local authority owned and 7% are social housing<sup>6</sup>. In the County, privately owned housing was highest in Rushcliffe (91% of the housing stock) and lowest in Mansfield (83%) and Ashfield (85%).



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### 1.4.2 Our population

The NNVRP area has a resident population of 1.16 million, and population density is heavily concentrated in the City, which accounts for 28% of residents. The City has more than double the proportion of people aged 18 to 24 compared to the national average, largely on account of the two universities in the area, with full-time University students accounting for approximately 1 in 7 of the population.

The table on the following page shows the breakdown of population demographics for NNVRP area residents by district area.

<sup>5</sup> [Section 36 – Defining the Local Area: Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Local authority data: housing supply \(parliament.uk\)](#) – as of March 2022

		<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>South Notts (Broxt, Gedl, Rushcliffe)</b>	<b>Bassetlaw, Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	<b>Mansfield &amp; Ashfield</b>
<i>Population<sup>7</sup></i>	<b>All residents</b>	<b>1,159,657</b>	<b>326,795</b>	<b>350,523</b>	<b>243,620</b>	<b>238,719</b>
	10 to 17	106,648	29,982	32,027	21,889	22,569
	18 to 24	124,105	66,794	25,356	15,972	15,983
	75 and over	104,719	17,546	38,212	26,574	22,386
<i>Ethnicity<sup>8</sup></i>	White British / Irish	83.2%	58.7%	90.8%	95.5%	94.1%
	Other white	5.1%	7.7%	3.2%	4.2%	4.9%
	Asian background	5.4%	14.8%	3.5%	0.04%	0.2%
	Black background	3.1%	10.0%	0.6%	0.02%	0.3%
	Mixed background	2.3%	5.6%	1.8%	0.2%	0.4%
	Other background	1.0%	3.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
<i>Language<sup>8</sup></i>	English	93.2%	85.7%	96.9%	96.4%	95.0%
	Polish	1.6%	2.5%	0.4%	1.8%	2.0%
	Romanian	0.6%	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%
	Urdu	0.5%	1.4%	0.2%	0.03%	0.05%
	Arabic	0.4%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
	All other languages	3.6%	8.5%	2.1%	1.0%	1.9%
<i>Religion<sup>8</sup></i>	No religion	43.8%	41.2%	46.3%	39.4%	48.1%
	Christian	43.0%	34.7%	42.8%	53.3%	44.1%
	Muslim	4.4%	12.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0.8%
	Hindu	0.9%	1.7%	1.1%	0.2%	0.3%
	Sikh	0.7%	1.3%	0.9%	0.1%	0.2%
	Buddhist	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
	Jewish	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.03%
	Other	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%

<sup>7</sup> [Admin-based population estimates - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk): Dynamic population model (DPM) admin-based population estimates for mid-year 2022.

<sup>8</sup> [Cultural identity - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

## Cultural Identity

Nottingham City has a high level of cultural and ethnic diversity, with 42.7% of the population being non-white British. The city is home to long standing Pakistani and Caribbean communities, and more recent Eastern European migrant populations mostly from Polish and Romanian backgrounds. Ethnic diversity is significantly lower in the county, where 11.6% of the population is estimated to be non-white British.

In the City, 85.7% of residents had English as a main language, which rises to 96.1% in the County. Reflecting the national picture, Polish is the second most common language across the NNVRP area, with 2.5% of residents in the City and 1.3% of residents in the County stating this as their main language. The other most common languages included Romanian, Urdu and Arabic.

For the first time in an England census, less than half of the population described themselves as Christian. This is reflected in the County, where 46.2% defined themselves as Christian, falling to 34.7% in the City where the most common response was 'no religion'. The City also features a higher proportion of individuals identifying as Muslim (12.2%).

The NNVRP area has a vibrant LGBTQ+ history, with the first officially licensed gay club, the first professor of gay and lesbian studies and the first trade union LGBT support group all based here. Across the area 3.3% of people identified with an LGBTQ+ orientation, reflecting the national picture. In the City, this diversity rises to 5.4% identifying as LGBTQ+, and falls to 2.6% in the County.

## Migration

Many distinct types of migration have a significant effect upon the NNVRP area, specifically in Nottingham City. This includes migration in and out of the City and County, particularly student populations; migration from the City to surrounding districts, particularly families with children; and migration into the City and County from outside of the UK, often young adults particularly from Eastern European Communities. Taken together, they contribute to a considerable amount of **'population churn'**.

The 2021 census shows that on Census Day, 20.4% of people (over 66,000) in Nottingham City and 9% of people (over 75,000) in Nottinghamshire County had a different address to the previous year, compared with 11% as the national figure for England<sup>9</sup>. Of these, the majority had moved from an address within the UK, as part of the student population. There were approximately 9,600 usual residents whose address one year ago was outside the UK.

Census data further classifies the characteristics of usual residents aged 1 year and over who have moved within England or from another Country into England during the year before the 2021 Census<sup>10</sup>. Of these international migrants, the majority had migrated into Nottingham City (62.5%), followed by Broxtowe (9%), Rushcliffe (7%) and Mansfield (6%). Lower volumes were seen in Gedling, Bassetlaw and Ashfield, each accounting for 3% of international migrants respectively. Demographic data for this cohort showed that:

- Of these 42% were from white ethnic backgrounds, followed by 34% from Asian ethnicities, 12% from Black ethnicities, 8% from other ethnic groups and 4% from mixed/multiple ethnic groups.
- There were equal volumes of females and males, and the demographic that had the highest volume of migrants was young adults aged between 16 and 24 (33%) or between 25 and 34 (28%). There was a skew towards 16- to 24-year-old females overall, which accounted for 15% of all individuals migrating into the NNVRP area from outside of the UK.
- As anticipated, the proportion of 16-to-24-year old's migrating into the UK was greatest in Nottingham City, where 42% were from this demographic. In all other local authorities, 25- to 34-year-olds made up the largest demographic.

<sup>9</sup> [Migrant Indicator - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Detailed migration data, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

National Insurance number (NINo) Registrations<sup>11</sup> are also a further useful guide to consider the volume and origins of international migrants, however it is important to note that this dataset is not comprehensive and will not capture the picture in its entirety. In the most recent financial year end (2022/23), there were approximately 17,000 NINo registrations to adult overseas internationals entering the UK in the NNVRP area, with approximately 11,000 in Nottingham City. This is 21% higher than the previous year, and more than double volumes seen in the pre-pandemic baseline of 2019/20.

Of those arriving in 2022/23, the majority of adults had South Asian (33%) or Sub-Saharan African (24%) nationality. Specifically, the highest volume international migrants were of Indian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Hong Kong and Romanian nationality. There are also increasing volumes of international migrants from Zimbabwe and Ukraine. Many of these large-scale migrations are results of political instability and the seeking of refuge from war to escape conflict zones.

### 1.4.3 Population and demographic projections

The NNVRP areas resident population of 1.16 million is projected to grow by a further 62,757 (+5.3%) over the next decade largely as a result of net migration and increases in life expectancy. The largest increases by demographic are seen in 20-24 population in Nottingham City, and the 65-69 age group in the County. Overall, the populations of Rushcliffe (+8.1%) and Nottingham City (+4.4%) show the largest increases and are respectively expected to rise by over 10,000 residents by 2033.

Patterns of migration to and from other parts of the UK are likely to remain relatively similar in the short to medium term in the NNVRP area. Migration flows from Eastern Europe are expected to continue and there is potential for additional migration from other war-torn areas.

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<sup>11</sup> [National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK - GOV.UK](#)

## 2. Contextual insight

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### 2.1 Risk factors

The following section gives an overview of some of the factors believed to impact upon the risk of individuals becoming victims or perpetrators of serious violence.

#### 2.1.1 Deprivation and financial instability

The relationship between crime and deprivation is complex, but one that needs to be considered as part of an evidence-led approach to violence intervention and prevention.

#### Indices of multiple deprivation

The NNVRP area experiences pockets of persistent and systemic deprivation, with at least 148,000 people estimated to be living within the 10% most deprived lower super output areas across England<sup>12</sup>. Deprivation is particularly concentrated in the City, former coalfield areas and former industrial towns affected by economic stagnation. 55.2% of Nottingham City and 15.7% of Nottinghamshire County population live in the most deprived areas nationally. In the County, Mansfield and Ashfield have the highest proportion of residents living in areas of high deprivation (41% and 26.8% respectively).

There are seven separate domains that combine make up the index of multiple deprivation score outlined above. Of these domains, *education*, *employment*, and *income deprivation affecting children* (IDACI) had the highest number of LSOAs ranking within the 10% most deprived in the country.



- The education domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. 120 LSOAs across the NNVRP area were in the most deprived decile. The lowest ranked areas were Mansfield 009E in Ravensdale, which ranked 37<sup>th</sup> most deprived nationally for education deprivation; Newark 010E in the Devon ward which ranked 55<sup>th</sup> most deprived nationally, and Nottingham 005C in Bulwell which ranked 67<sup>th</sup> nationally.
- The employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. 103 LSOAs in the NNVRP area were in the most deprived decile, more than half of which were located in Nottingham City (54%). The most deprived areas were Nottingham 020B in Bilborough which ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally for employment deprivation, Nottingham 026E in Radford which ranked 64<sup>th</sup> nationally and Mansfield 009E ranking 73<sup>rd</sup> nationally.
- IDACI domain measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. 97 LSOAs across the NNVRP area were in the most deprived decile, two thirds were located in Nottingham City. The most deprived areas were Mansfield 009E, and Nottingham 011B which covers the north-western side of the Broxtowe Estate.

A number of priority and high impact localities have been identified on account of the levels of complex need and multi-agency demand that they present. These areas coincide with localities of higher-than-average deprivation, and remain a focus for targeted multi-agency activity:

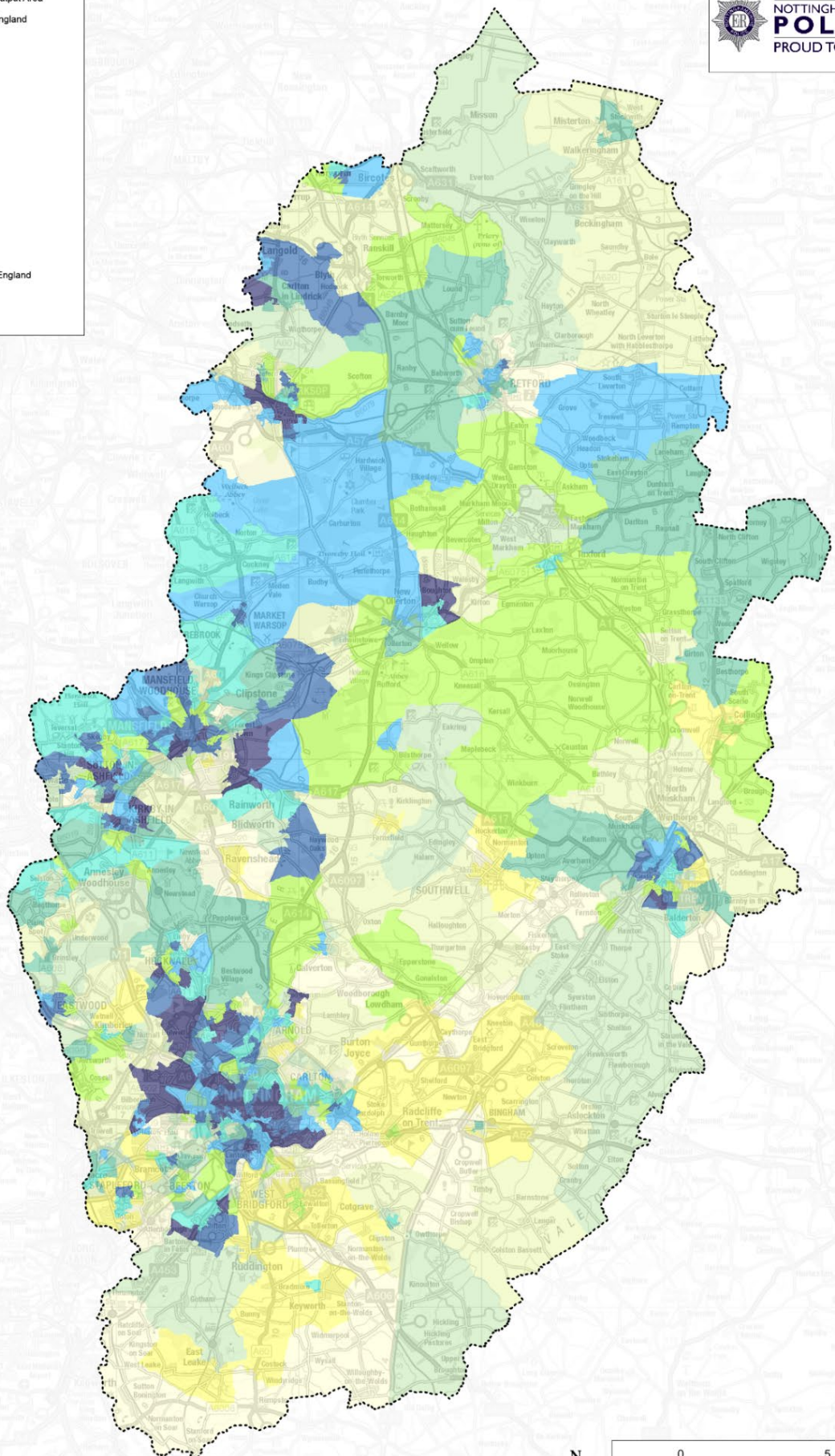
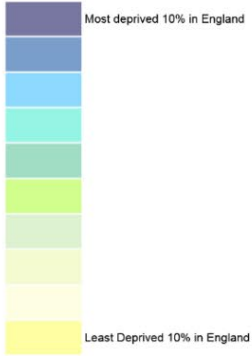
- **Nottingham City:** Hyson Green/Arboretum, Bulwell and Aspley.
- **Ashfield:** Carsic, Abbey Hill, Central, New Cross and Hucknall.
- **Mansfield:** Newgate, Portland, Ravensdale and Oak Tree.
- **Bassetlaw:** Worksop Southeast, Worksop North West and Langold.
- **Newark & Sherwood:** Bridge, Ollerton and Devon.
- **South Nottinghamshire:** Netherfield, Colwick and Eastwood South.

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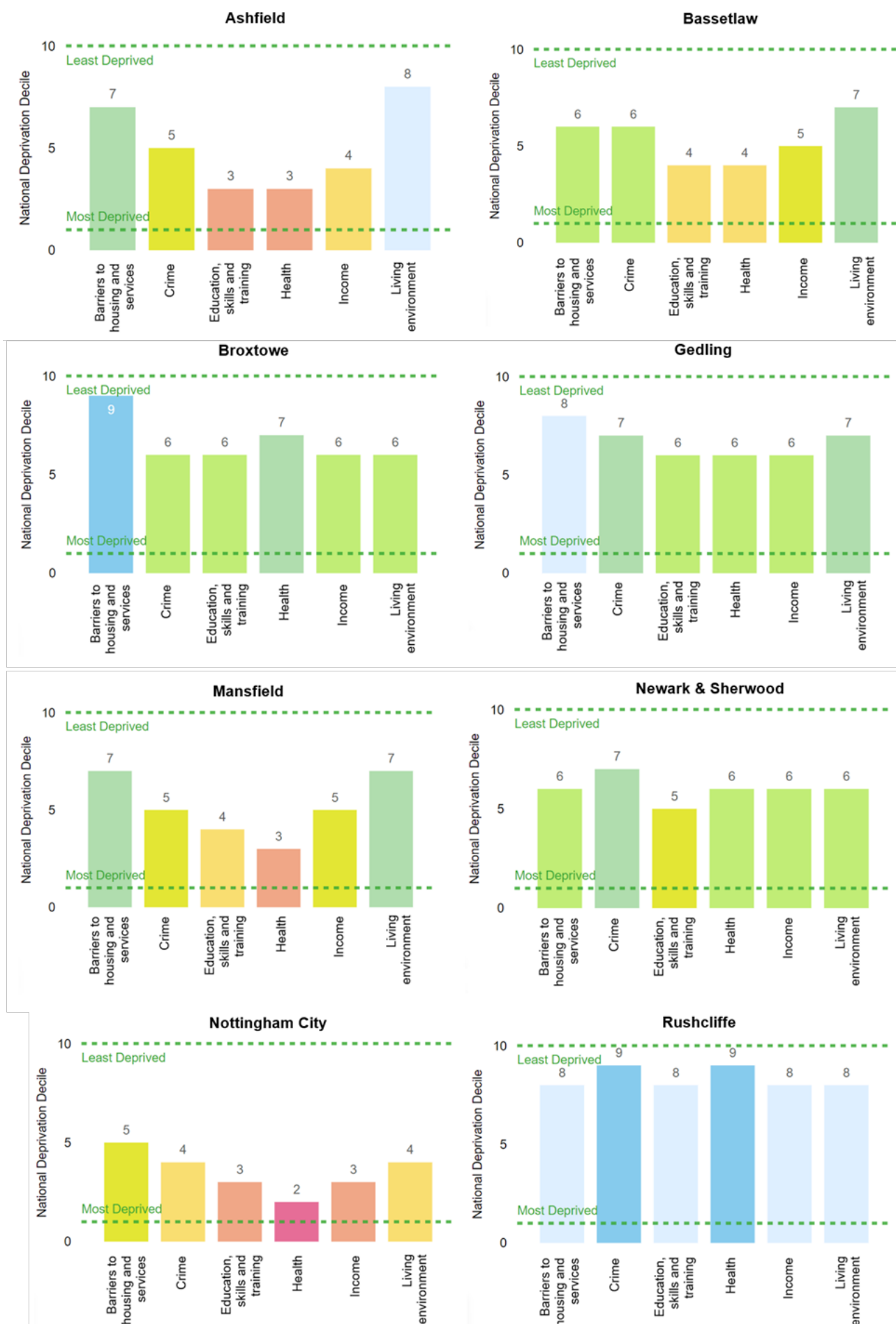
<sup>12</sup> [English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#) - Note: the latest deprivation data is from 2019, this is due to be updated in 2024.



Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019  
Relative Deprivation by Lower Super Output Area



The table below shows the indices of deprivation, by domain, in each district across the NNVRP area <sup>13</sup>.

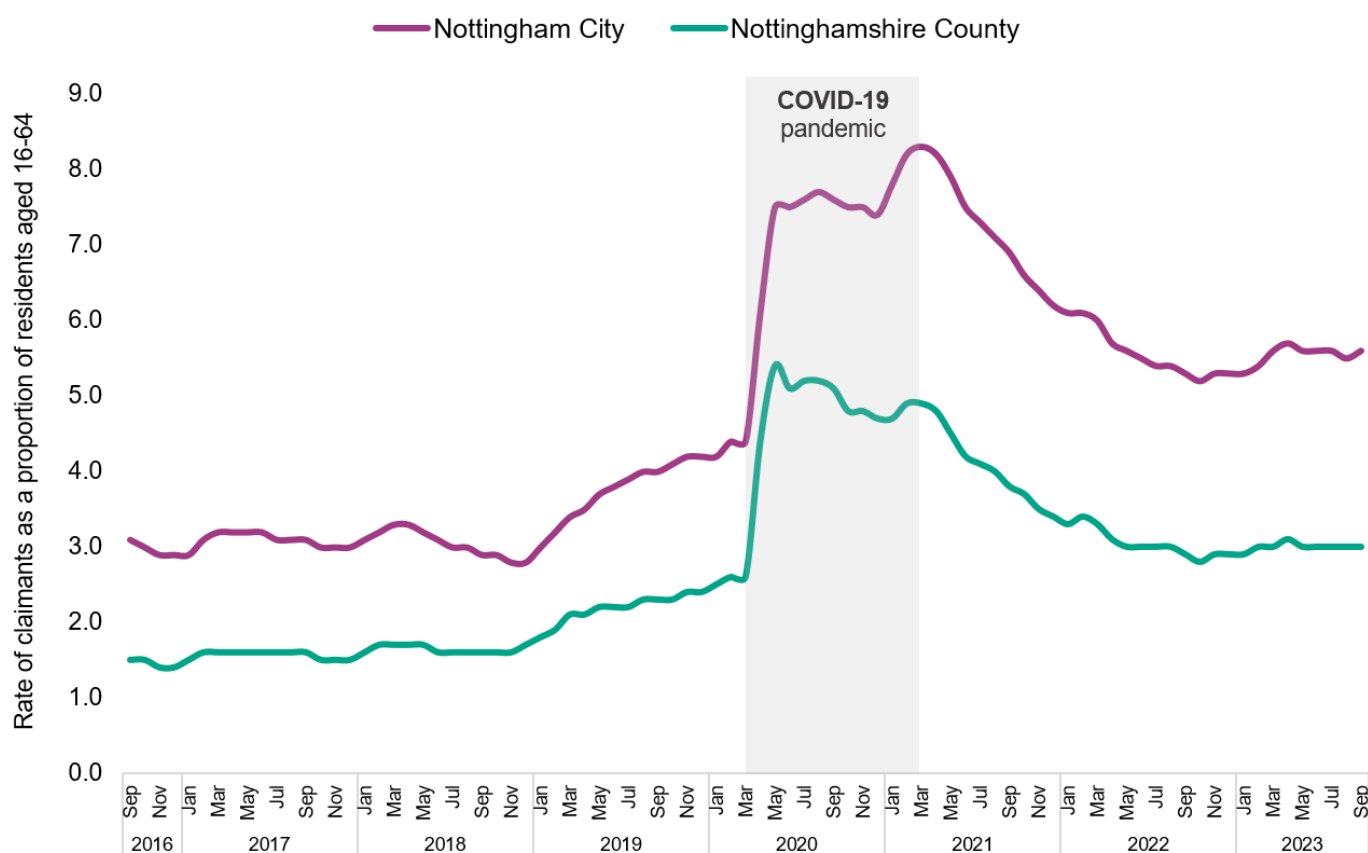


## Employment

Unemployment, as measured by the number of people claiming unemployment benefits<sup>14</sup>, shows a strong positive correlation with the wider components of deprivation. The percentage who are unemployed among the 16- to 64-year-old population (3.8% in September 2023) remain higher than pre-pandemic levels (3.1% in March 2020) despite a steady return following the large increase from March 2020. Data also shows an increase in claimant count towards the end of 2022, into the beginning of 2023. This may be reflective of rising financial pressures due to increased inflation and the cost of living, which is explored further below.

Reflecting the pre-pandemic picture, levels of employment across the NNVRP area are broadly in line with the England average (3.8%) but remain high in Nottingham City (5.6%, 12,495 claimants), followed by Mansfield (3.9%, 2,705 claimants) and Ashfield (3.8%, 2,955 claimants). Research by Legal & General<sup>15</sup> suggests that women were 1.8 times more impacted by reduced employment opportunities than males.

**Unemployment rate in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, 2016 - 2023.**



## Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

NEET data provides an overview of the destinations of children aged 16 and 17 after they have completed their GCSE year. As most 16- and 17-year-olds will not be eligible for unemployment benefits, these individuals will not be reflected in the unemployment data.

As of 31 March 2023, 4.7% of 16–17-year-olds in Nottingham City and 2.0% in Nottinghamshire County were NEET, an increase of 0.5 percentage points and a decrease of 0.5 percentage points respectively from the previous year<sup>16</sup>. In addition, the education status was not known for a further 1,007 young people, with nearly 979 of these being Nottinghamshire County residents. This takes the total percentage of 16–17-year-olds who were NEET or not known in Nottinghamshire County to 7.7%, and to 5.1% for Nottingham City.

<sup>14</sup> **Alternative claimant count:** the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance or Universal credit searching for work, ONS.

<sup>15</sup> [www.legalandgeneral.co.uk](http://www.legalandgeneral.co.uk) - February 2021

<sup>16</sup> [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2022/23](#)

Analysis of the individuals NEET/not known highlighted that where gender was known, the majority of the cohort were young males (58%). 20% of individuals had a special educational need (SEN) or EHC (education, health and care) statement.

## \* Cost of living

The rising cost of living, as typified by high inflation and reductions in disposable income, is placing increased financial pressure on many low to medium income households. This is likely to be compounded in areas of already high deprivation across the City and County.

The rising cost of living has been demonstrated to, and is expected to, impact negatively upon levels of:

- Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD), complex need and mental ill-health;
- Financial and criminal exploitation, including cuckooing and coercion of vulnerable people into **violence** and **selling drugs** or fraudulent behaviour to generate income;
- Begging, vagrancy and ASB, particularly in urban centres;
- Rise in low-level acquisitive offending including shoplifting involving threatening and abusive behaviour towards shop workers;
- **Domestic abuse**, significantly coercive behaviour, and financial control;
- Rural crimes, including diesel theft and theft of produce and livestock.
- Suicide risk on account of increasing hardship and emerging problems such as debt, redundancy, increased mortgages and inflated essential expenditure.

As highlighted by national inflation statistics, overall consumer price inflation has decreased in recent months following the sharp rise seen in October 2022 where inflation reached its highest rate in over 40 years<sup>17</sup>. The largest downward contributions to the change came from food, non-alcoholic beverages, furniture and household goods, whereas rising prices for motor fuel made the largest upward contribution. Owner occupiers' housing cost, which measures the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, was the highest rate observed in 30 years at 5.0% in the 12 months to September 2023.

## Health deprivation

It is well established that deprivation or being in a position of relative disadvantage is associated with poorer health and childhood adversity, including mental health, which are both key risk factors for violence. Approximately a third of the NNVRP area live in the most deprived 20% of the national population for healthcare inequalities<sup>18</sup>.

Health deprivation measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health, and it is most significantly concentrated in Nottingham City, which has one of the lowest healthy life expectancies across England, as well as Mansfield and Ashfield.

The proportion of residents across the force area reporting a long-term physical, mental health, disability, or illness via the GP patient survey<sup>19</sup> reached the highest level of record both locally (59%, n=8,532) and nationally (56%). Mental health is closely related to many forms of inequality, with a particularly pronounced gradient for severe mental illness. The proportion of NNVRP area residents reporting a long-standing mental health condition (14%) remains higher than the national average (13%). This figure has increased since pre-COVID but stayed relatively stable to levels seen in the previous year.

As of July 2023, approximately 31,660 people in the NNVRP area had been in contact with mental health services<sup>20</sup>, equating to 3% of the resident population. Of these service users, 45% were children aged under 18 and 16% were adults aged 65 and over. Compared to the previous year, this is an increase of 21%.

<sup>17</sup> [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>18</sup> IMD2019: 204 out of 658 LSOAs in Nottinghamshire had an IMD decile of 1 or 2 for health deprivation.

<sup>19</sup> [GP Patient Survey](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Mental Health Services Monthly Statistics, Performance July](#) – MH01 for sub ICB 52R

## \* 2.1.2 Opportunities, inclusion, and education

Schools and colleges, including alternative education providers, have a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils, and overall play a crucial part in breaking the cycle of violence. Engagement in full time, quality education is a strong protective factor against the risk of a young person becoming involved in violent crime.

The table below summarizes the performance indicators explored in this section for both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, compared to the national average. As highlighted, Nottingham City performs below the national average, and Nottinghamshire County above the national average, across the majority of indicators for education. These are explored in further detail in the following section.

		Local Value	National value	Local comparison to national value <sup>21</sup>
Nottingham City	% of children achieving good level of development at the end of reception	60.3	65.2	▼
	% of children achieving the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of reception	75.4	79.5	▼
	Average attainment 8 score	44.8	48.7	▼
	Average attainment 8 score – Children in care	16.6	20.3	▼
	Average attainment 8 score – Children eligible for FSM	37.8	39.1	▼
	Rate of exclusion per 100 pupils	0.18	0.08	▲
	Rate of suspension per 100 pupils	16.08	6.91	▲
	% of pupils that were persistent absentees	23.72	22.59	▲
% of pupils that were severe absentees	1.68	1.67	=	
Nottinghamshire County	% of children achieving good level of development at the end of reception	66.8	65.2	▲
	% of children achieving the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of reception	81.5	79.5	▲
	Average attainment 8 score	49.1	48.7	▲
	Average attainment 8 score – Children in care	19.5	20.3	▼
	Rate of exclusion per 100 pupils	0.05	0.08	▼
	Rate of suspension per 100 pupils	7.50	6.91	▼
	% of pupils that were persistent absentees	21.25	22.59	▼
% of pupils that were severe absentees	1.56	1.67	▼	

<sup>21</sup> Performance worse than national average = red, performing better than national average = green. This data is based on raw figures being higher or lower and does not necessarily indicate a *statistically significant* difference.

## School readiness

School readiness has a significant impact on children's educational experiences and potential exposures to violence and exploitation. It may impact engagement, achievement and both real and perceived prospects. Nationally, 65% of children in England achieved a good level of development at the end of reception, as of the 2021/22 academic year<sup>22</sup>. Levels in Nottinghamshire County sit slightly higher than this at 66.8% of pupils however in Nottingham City, levels sit much lower at just over 60% of children.

These statistics indicate that around 4 in 10 children in Nottingham City, and 3 in 10 children in Nottinghamshire County are beginning their school life at a disadvantage and as such, may encounter more difficulties or be more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

Public health data is collected on the percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of reception. In Nottinghamshire County, this value was 82% of children, which is slightly higher than the national value of 79.5%. In Nottingham City however, this value was 75% of children, which again is significantly lower than national values. As well as affecting communication skills at school, this is significant as there is well-established research suggesting that poor speech, language, and communication places young people at considerably higher risk of offending<sup>23</sup>.

## Educational attainment

Schools are awarded an attainment 8 score based on how well pupils at key stage 4 (aged between 14 and 16) performed in eight core subject areas. The average attainment score in England for the 2021/22 academic year was 48.7; as with school readiness, Nottinghamshire County performs slightly higher with a value of 49.1 whilst Nottingham City perform significantly lower with a value of 44.8<sup>24</sup>.

Educational attainment is also broken down further by characteristics and demographics including ethnicity, gender, special educational need (SEN), children in care for children eligible for school meals (FSM). For the NNVRP area, the following key trends were highlighted:

- In every ethnic group and every characteristic, boys had lower educational attainment than girls;
- Children in care and children eligible for FSM had lower average scores than pupils not in this cohort;
- On average, black pupils and white pupils scored lower than the average score and, white Gypsy and Roma pupils had the lowest educational attainment score overall;
- The average attainment score for those with special educational needs was 29.4 compared to 52.5 for pupils with no special educational need.

## \* Exclusions

As highlighted by the Timpson Review, school exclusion is recognised as one indicator, among others, of a higher risk of exposure to and involvement in serious violence<sup>25</sup>. In the most recent academic year with complete data available (2021/22), Nottingham City recorded 86 permanent exclusions, an increase of 25% from the previous year, and 7,725 school suspensions, an increase of 45%<sup>26</sup>. Nottinghamshire County recorded 59 permanent exclusions and 9,478 suspensions, an increase of 103% and 53% respectively.

While suspensions and exclusions were possible throughout the academic year, pandemic restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years. It is however important to note that the rates of permanent exclusion and school suspension in Nottingham City for the 2021/22 academic year were more than double the average regional and national rates. This is shown in the figure below. As highlighted, rates of exclusion and suspension in Nottinghamshire County are more in line with regional and national figures.

<sup>22</sup> [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk/public-health-profiles)

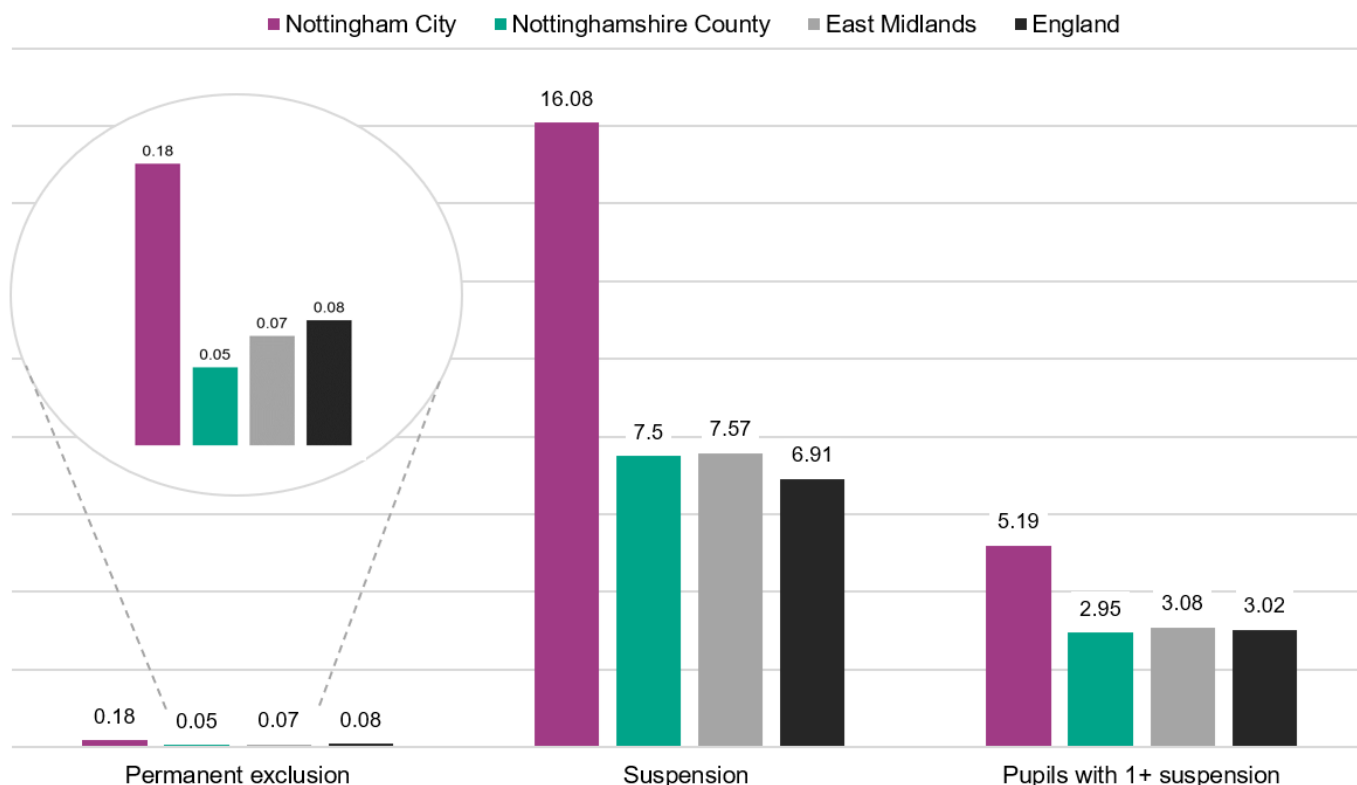
<sup>23</sup> [justice-evidence-base2017-1.pdf \(rcslf.org\)](https://rcslf.org/justice-evidence-base2017-1.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [GCSE results \(Attainment 8\) - GOV.UK Ethnicity facts and figures \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/gcse-results-attainment-8)

<sup>25</sup> [Timpson Review of School Exclusion \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/timpson-review-of-school-exclusion)

<sup>26</sup> [Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England, Summer term 2021/22 – Explore education statistics](https://explore.education-statistics.gov.uk/permanent-exclusions-and-suspensions-in-england-summer-term-2021-22)

## Rates of exclusion and suspension per 100 pupils, 2021/22 academic year



Additional data was provided by the research and insight team from DAISI Nottingham City. This highlighted that of the exclusions in Nottingham City (year to date figures), the majority of pupils were excluded for being 'persistently disruptive' (36%), followed by physical assault of another pupil (24%), and of an adult (15%). Notably, the only category of exclusion to show an increase was 'physical assault of another pupil', which increased from 5 occurrences to 14 compared to the previous year.

Notably, three schools made up half of all permanent exclusions in Nottingham City in the most recent academic term and all of these schools also showed a significant increase in the number of permanent exclusions issued compared to the previous year. The top two schools for exclusion volume also had significantly high rates of 1 permanent exclusion per 100 pupils respectively <sup>27</sup>.

### Truancy levels

It is important to consider school absences alongside the exclusion picture, with research suggesting that school exclusions could be even higher if absences decrease. Following the pandemic, there has been national commentary that suggests a cultural shift in the UK has caused a *national persistent truancy crisis*<sup>28</sup>.

High levels of persistent absence are concerning, not least because of the safeguarding issues they raise, but because children who aren't in school are at threat from any number of malign influences that can increase the risk of involvement in violent crime.

Nationally, 1 in 4 pupils were absent for 10% of term time in Autumn 2022, which is nearly double the position in 2019<sup>29</sup>. The absences were most marked among children on free school meals (37.9%) and those with an education, health, and care plan (34.0%). The table below shows the percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more term time missed) and severe absentees (50% or more term time missed) in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County for pupils aged 5-15, by school type<sup>30</sup>. This is compared to national levels for the 2021/22 academic year.

<sup>27</sup> This data is from a live system and references the data up to the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.

<sup>28</sup> [Absence rates signal a crisis of confidence in education](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Improving school attendance - Ofsted: schools and further education & skills \(FES\)](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Pupil absence in schools in England, Autumn and spring term 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK](#)

As highlighted, reflecting the exclusions data, 24% (n=9,933) of students in Nottingham City were persistent absentees, which is higher than both the regional, national and percentage seen in Nottinghamshire County. This is also seen in severe absentees, where 1.68% (n=704) of students missed more than half of the academic year. Also of note, the rate of persistent and severe absentees in Nottingham City in special education providers was significantly higher than the national levels.

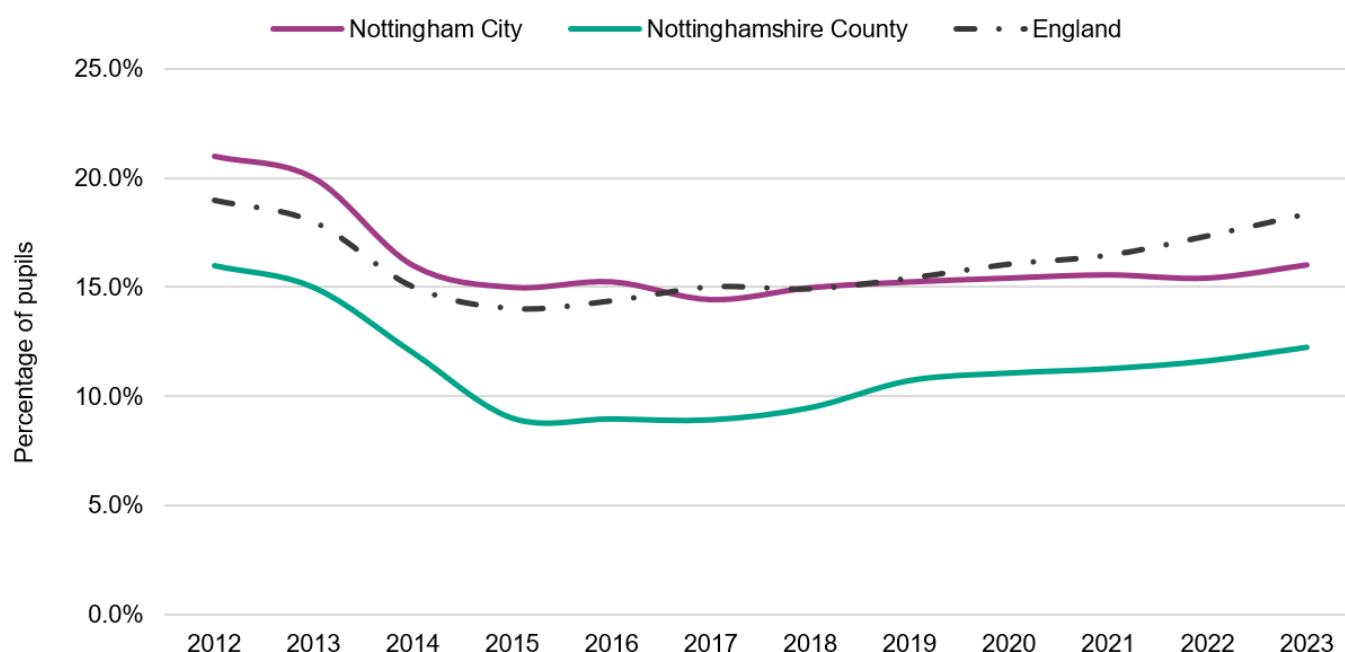
	% of pupils in the 2021/22 academic year that were	
	Persistent Absentees	Severe Absentees
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>23.72</b>	<b>1.68</b>
Special	44.22	10.07
State-funded primary	20.36	0.73
State-funded secondary	27.54	2.68
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>21.25</b>	<b>1.56</b>
Special	34.14	4.67
State-funded primary	16.72	0.57
State-funded secondary	26.71	2.75
<b>England</b>	<b>22.59</b>	<b>1.67</b>
Special	40.20	5.82
State-funded primary	17.69	0.63
State-funded secondary	27.83	0.77

### Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND)

As mentioned, pupils with SEN or EHC statements are over-represented in exclusion, absence, and NEET data. This cohort of individuals may have additional needs that make them more vulnerable to exposure to serious violence, exploitation, or they may be less able to speak out if something isn't right. The figure below shows the overall % of pupils in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County with an EHCP or SEN support



### Overall % of pupils with either an EHCP or SEN support, 2013 - 2023



The proportion of children with an EHCP or requiring SEND support in both Nottingham City (16%) and Nottinghamshire County (12.3%) remains lower than the England average. Following the national trend, the volume of pupils requiring support has increased slightly in the most recent academic year in both the City and the County and has reached the highest proportions since 2015.

#### 2.1.3 Parenting, family experience and multiple risk factors

Although not all individuals who have experienced adversity and trauma during childhood are affected by serious violence as either victims or perpetrators, a disproportionate number of children who enter the justice system have experienced trauma. The presence of varying factors at home can make children more vulnerable to victimisation, but also more likely to engage in negative behaviours.

National statistics indicate that as many as 91% of young people who have committed violent offences experienced loss or abuse prior to becoming involved in the justice system<sup>32</sup>. Moreover, children aged 10 to 15 years living in households with mental ill-health or domestic abuse have been found to be twice as likely to experience violent crime<sup>33</sup>. These risk factors are explored below.

#### Children in Need

In England, the broad legal term ‘*Children in Need*’ refers to those who are unlikely to maintain a reasonable level of health or development, whose health or development are likely to be further impaired or are disabled<sup>34</sup>. In the NNVRP area, 7,354 children were classed as in need on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, a rate of 445 children per 10,000 in Nottingham City and 270 per 10,000 in Nottinghamshire County<sup>35</sup>.

The number and rate of children in need have remained stable in Nottinghamshire County since 2016, however Nottingham City has shown a much more sporadic trend; levels in 2023 now remain similar to levels seen before the pandemic between 2018-2020. Notably, the rate of children in need in Nottingham City remains significantly higher than the national average.

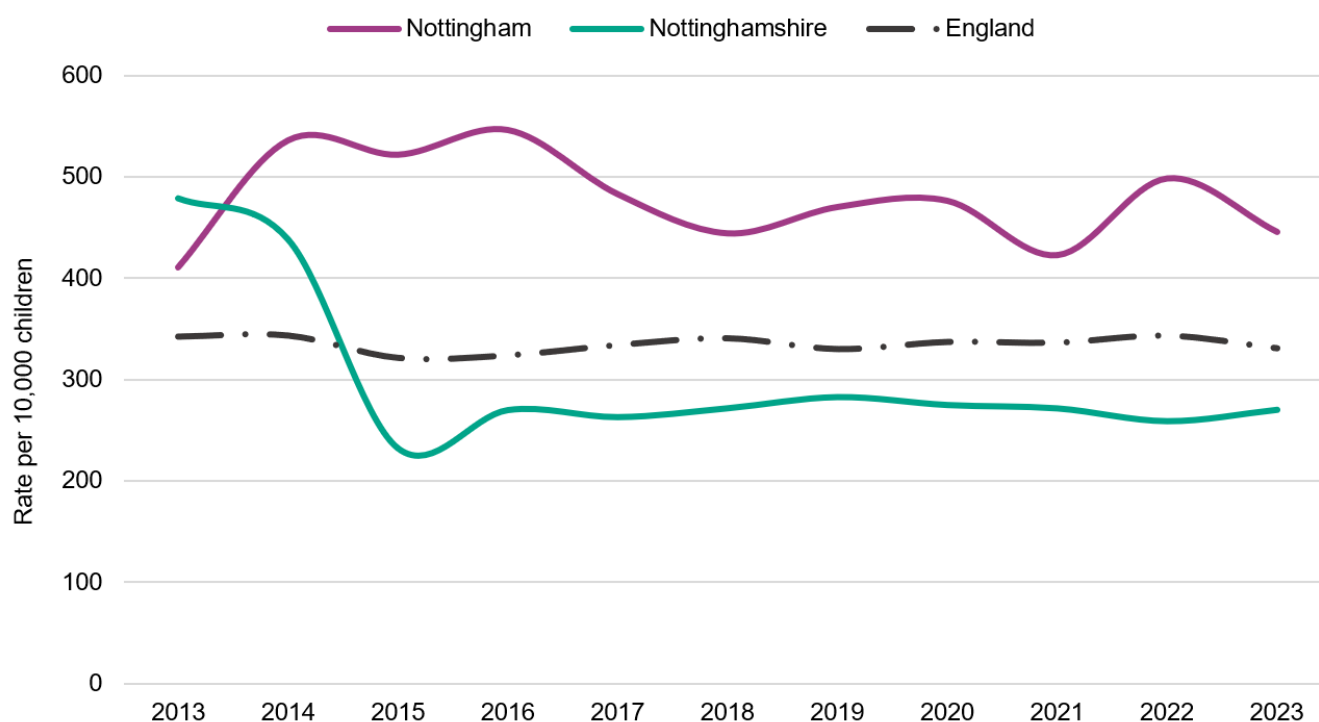
<sup>32</sup> [Is the justice system retraumatising vulnerable young people? - Beyond Youth Custody](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Childhood vulnerability to victimisation in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>34</sup> Section 17, Children Act 1989

<sup>35</sup> [Children in need, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK](#)

**Rate of children in need per 10,000 at 31 March, 2013 to 2022.**



Nationally, the most common primary need for children was abuse/neglect at 59% of cases, followed by family dysfunction at 13% and family in acute stress at 9%. Of the children in Nottingham City where a primary need was recorded (85% of cases), the most common primary need was abuse/neglect at 80% (n=1,996) of all children in need. This was followed by a disability/illness (6%), family dysfunction (5%) and family in acute stress (5%). This contrasts the national picture and indicates that children in need in Nottingham City have a much higher rate of abuse/neglect than the national baseline.

This also contrasts the picture seen in Nottinghamshire County, where of the children that had a primary need recorded (60% of cases), the most common primary need was abuse/neglect at 40% (n=1,292), followed by family dysfunction which accounted for a quarter of all children in need (25%).

### Looked after children/children in care

The number of looked after children in the NNVRP area has stayed very stable to the previous year, increasing slightly by 0.1%, plateauing the rise seen in recent years<sup>36</sup>. The overall rate of looked after children in the NNVRP area remains marginally higher than the national average, however there is considerable variation across the City (109 per 10,000) and County (59 per 10,000). In absolute terms, 1,682 children in the NNVRP area were looked after by local councils as of 31 March 2023. 721 children were looked after in Nottingham City, and 961 in Nottinghamshire County.

Many of the changes nationally can be explained by the large increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) this year. UASC have increased nationally by 29%, following the 37% increase seen last year. In the NNVRP area, this trend is much more distinct, with the number of UASC increasing by **64%** in 2023 compared to 2022. Notably, this increase was seen most in the County (+118%) where UASC increased from 32 in 2022 to 70 in 2023. In the City, the number of UASC increased from 38 to 45 (+18%).

Local data available from Children, Families and Cultural Services for the NNVRP area to December 2023 shows that the increase in UASC has begun to plateau in the later end of this year. Between 2022 and 2023, Nottingham City has seen a 45% increase, and Nottinghamshire County a 32% increase, in children seeking

\* <sup>36</sup> [Children looked after in England including adoptions. Reporting year 2023](#)

asylum and in their care. Most children seeking asylum are 14–17-year-old males, with only 4% of the total National Transfer Scheme cohort identified as being female.

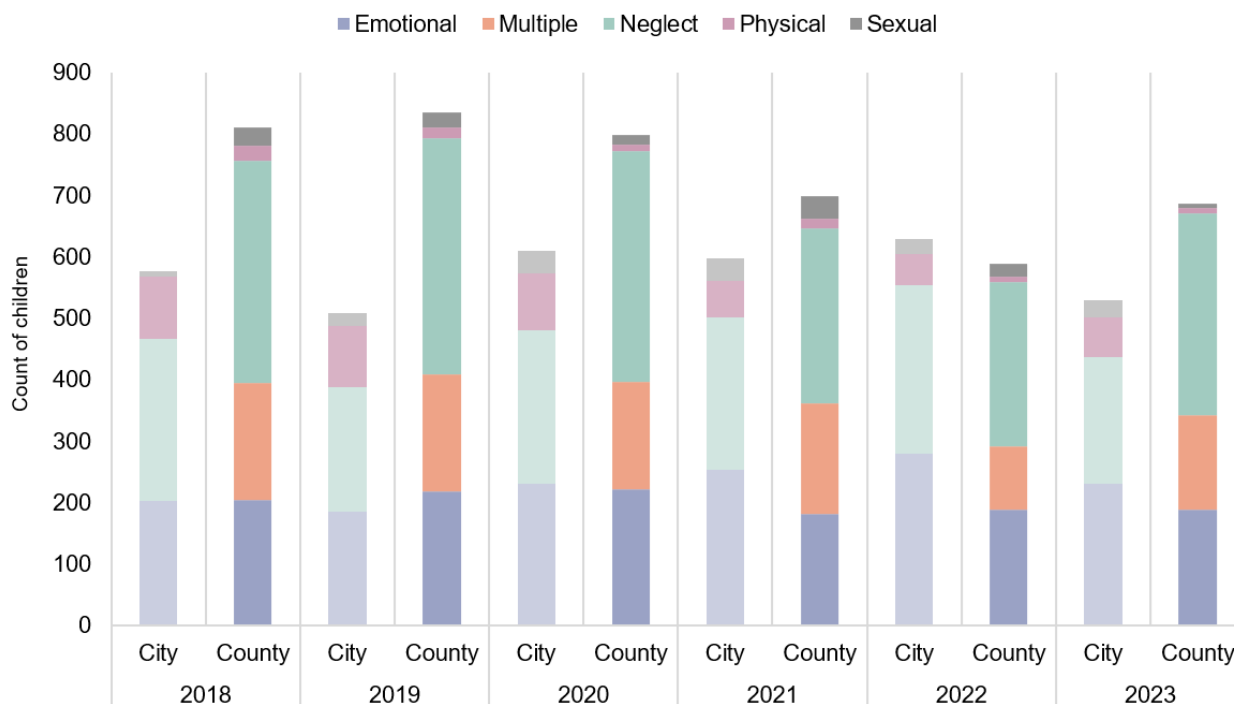
These young people are particularly vulnerable due to the nature of being separated from their family in a different country, with possible barriers to communication and language as well as being considered as children in care and care leavers. The NNVRP area has mainstream and targeted support in place for these children as part of them being in the care of the local authority, as well as services such as Barnardo’s Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy services to help reduce risk of harm and exploitation.

### Children protection plans (CPP)

As shown below, 1,215 children were the subject of a CPP in March 2023, a rate of 80 per 10,000 children in Nottingham City (n=529) and 42 per 10,000 children in Nottinghamshire County (n=686). The overall number and rate of children with CPPs have fallen since 2021 in the City (-19%) but increased in the County (+16%).

There are also differences between the City and the County in the reasons for CPPs, reflecting a similar picture to the primary reason of need for children in need. In the County, neglect remained the most common initial category of abuse (48%) whilst in the City, emotional abuse (43%) was the most commonly stated category of abuse. It should be noted that the section for ‘multiple’ categories of abuse was only used by CPPs in the County.

**Number of children who were the subject of a CPP by category of abuse, 2018 to 2023.**



### Supporting families programme

In 2011, the government launched the ‘troubled families programme’, locally adopted as the Supporting Families programme by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils<sup>37</sup>. This is a partnership programme that focuses on targeting help and supporting families with multiple and complex need.

<sup>37</sup> [NCP Home \(nottinghamchildrenspartnership.co.uk\)](http://NCP Home (nottinghamchildrenspartnership.co.uk))

Nottinghamshire County met its target of achieving a positive outcome for 880 families in the 2022/23 financial year. Data to September 2023 have carried over 225 from the previous year and have a target of 1,423 positive outcomes. Nottingham City supported a total of 3,091 families in the 2022/23 financial year. The table below shows the breakdown of supported family figures in Nottingham City by area of need, and then further the proportion of issues with positive outcomes after intervention.

		% of families with need	% of positive outcomes after intervention
Area of need	Education	41%	60%
	Finance and Worklessness	45%	75%
	Early Years	24%	89%
	Mental & Physical Health	46%	89%
	Substance Misuse	5%	81%
	Parenting & Family Relationships	40%	87%
	Child Abuse & Exploitation	52%	94%
	Criminality	25%	54%
	Domestic Abuse	31%	85%
	Housing	20%	66%

The common reason of need for the family was child abuse and exploitation, with 52% of total families supported having this need. Notably, this category also had the highest proportion of positive outcomes after intervention, sitting at 94%. 46% of families had mental & physical health need, 45% finance and worklessness, 41% educational need and 31% domestic abuse. Less common areas of need included criminality (25%), housing (20%) and substance use (5%).

### Missing children

Children face a range of complex and interconnected threats, both on- and offline, including sexual abuse and exploitation, criminal exploitation, and trafficking. Children who go missing from home or care are often more vulnerable to exploitation from a range of criminal threats.

The following sections uses police-recorded data for missing persons cases extracted from the police system COMPACT for children aged between 0-18 between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Within this period, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 2,498 missing episodes involving 1,075 missing children, accounting for three quarters of all missing persons records in the NNVRP area. Compared to the previous year, the number of missing episodes and individuals stayed very similar, where 2,474 missing episodes were recorded for 1,083 missing children.

The gender split in the most recent 12 months for missing children was equal between boys and girls, however the most prevalent age group of missing children was 12–14-year-old girls at 26% (n=282) of missing children, followed by 12–14-year-old boys at 21%. Notably, 5% of children (n=60) accounted for a **third of all missing episodes** during this period.

45% of occurrences of missing children were recorded in Nottingham City, 29% in Mansfield & Ashfield and South Notts respectively, and 17% in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. Within these areas, the most prevalent area for missing children to go missing was **Aspley/Bilborough**, at 12% of occurrences, followed by Ashfield North at 8%, Mansfield North at 7% and Newark at 7%.

- 7% of missing children were involved in criminal activity, of which the majority were 15–17-year-old males (36%).
- 7% of occurrences had a flag for child sexual exploitation (CSE) risk, an increase from the previous 12 months where 4% had this flag. 6% of occurrences had a county lines flag compared to 5% last year, and 8% had a flag for criminal exploitation compared to 4% previously.
- Of the children flagged for criminal exploitation, the majority went missing from Nottingham City (6%) or South Notts (2%), specifically Aspley/Bilborough, Basford/Hyson Green and Gedling North. This cohort of individuals were frequent MISPERs: 206 missing episodes for 36 children.

## 2.2 Crime causation and correlations

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The following section explores the associations of specific, non-criminal factors, some of which are outlined above, with specific crimes. This is to consider the role of social contexts in crime causation. The Digital Crime and Performance Pack<sup>38</sup> released by HMICFRS in collaboration with key policing partners uses robust statistical methods, contextual data and police recorded crime data to give a better understanding on drivers of crime and to explore the correlation between them.

The following trends were outlined in the data:

- **Income deprivation** was found to be correlated to weapon possession (70%), violence with injury (66.3%), drug trafficking (53.3%) and other sexual offences (50.4%).
- **Household deprivation** was found to be correlated to weapon possession (73.2%), violence with injury (65.2%), drug trafficking (55.4%) and personal robbery (50.3%).
- **Unemployment** (JSA claimants) was found to be correlated with weapon possession (63.6%), violence with injury (62.7%), criminal damage (60.1%), violence without injury (59.7%) and other sexual offences (54.7%).
- Contextual indicators that showed little to no correlation with the majority of crimes included apprenticeships, student households and female population.

Overall, this highlights that the key indicators that showed correlations to crime rates were mostly those related to deprivation and financial instability. This supports the findings outlined in previous sections and should be considered when reflecting on the serious violence picture across the NNVRP area.

## 2.3 Drivers and enablers

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Serious violence is not an isolated event – it is the culmination of personal and societal factors which escalate individuals into serious offending. When assessing an area, it is important to contextualise data by looking at these factors. Research undertaken by the Crest Advisory and Home Office highlighted the following drivers of vulnerabilities, changing drug markets, technology and media consumption, and criminal justice effectiveness<sup>39</sup>.

The following section provides a summary of these known drivers, enablers, and factors alongside the local context of the NNVRP area.

### 2.3.1 Vulnerabilities

As discussed in the contextual data, the link between deprivation and poverty has been long established, with research showing those who live in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage to face an increased likelihood of experiencing violence, whether as a victim or an offender.

### Youth violence

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<sup>38</sup> [Digital Crime and Performance Pack - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Serious violence in context: understanding the scale and nature of serious violence](#)

Research highlights the disproportionate involvement of young people in urban street gangs (USGs) and County Lines, with these individuals often known to services for having vulnerabilities linked to experience of trauma, neglect, early involvement in substance use and absenteeism from school<sup>40</sup>. Young people with such experiences are at greater risk of exploitation and are more likely to become victims or perpetrators of serious youth violence. While children in need of additional help represent a small proportion of the overall population, they comprise most children involved in County lines. In this assessment, a particular focus will be placed on young people and public place serious violence.

## **Substance use**

Substance use is a particular vulnerability that is frequently linked to violence. It has a complex inter relationship with personality, comorbidities with mental health disorders, life events and sociocultural factors, and the risk of serious violence. The physical and psychological effects of the substance use can lead to agitation, aggression, and cognitive impairments that in turn heighten risk of violence. Additionally, violence may provide a means to finance drug use, or may be a result of disputes within illegal drug markets.

Those that are dependent on one or more substance have a particularly higher risk of aggression and violence. The type of substance used may also have an influence, with research suggesting that stimulants, such as amphetamines and cocaine, are more associated with irritability and aggressiveness, whereas other drugs such as cannabis might reduce the risk due to its sedative and calming effects<sup>41</sup>.

Drug users are also at increased risk of experiencing violence due to vulnerabilities, accrued debts and early life trauma. Local reporting shows that there is often serious violence, or threats of serious violence involved in dealers recouping drug debts, often for relatively small amounts of money. This can also lead to violence and threats of violence against the family members of those that have accrued debts.

Alcohol use is significantly linked to risk of being physically assaulted or injured, whereas the link with drug use and physical injury is not as strong<sup>42</sup>. Moreover, alcohol use was almost as strongly linked to victims of violence as it is to perpetrators, and the risk of violent acting out while under the influence of drugs or alcohol was significantly higher for men than women. Research has also highlighted the risk of serious violence to increase when drugs and alcohol are used in combination.

### **2.3.2 Changing drug markets**

As well as links with substance use as a vulnerability, there are well established links within the drugs trade, with previous increases in the supply and demand of Class A drugs correlating to rises in violence. This is unsurprising considering that the illegal drugs market is estimated to be worth £9.4 billion a year<sup>43</sup>, making this a lucrative business for USGs and OCGs. The majority of drug-related costs to individuals and society are related to the markets for heroin and crack cocaine, which are also more heavily associated with supply related violence.

USG and organised crime groups (OCGs) have evolving business and distribution models, with violence and exploitation intertwined as ways of increasing and securing profit. For example, OCGs are forming relationships directly with the supplier/producer to get a better price than rivals and driving competition. County Lines is a distribution model that can be found in most Force Areas. It is a model particularly linked to violence, both for victims and between groups, and is thought to be the main driver of increases in drug related violence<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> [The characteristics of gang associated Children and Young people: Technical Report](#)

<sup>41</sup> [The statistical association between drug misuse and crime: a meta-analysis — University of South Wales](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Alcohol, Drugs, and Violence: A Meta-Meta-Analysis](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Review of drugs: summary - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>44</sup> [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK](#)

Locally it has been observed that rivalries between opposing OCG/USG members and drug dealers in general, have resulted in numerous serious violence events, often involving knives. Even when rivalries regarding drug markets are not directly involved in reported incidents, reputational issues viewed by the involved individuals as being key to their business have resulted in violent reactions, including offences as serious as homicide.

Further risks can be linked to exploitation by emerging foreign national organised crime groups. This is a particular risk to 'hidden' victims who are being utilised by the groups to cultivate large cannabis farms, with risks of serious violence coming from both the exploiters and those who target such cannabis cultivations for theft.

### 2.3.3 Technology and social media

#### Social media as an opportunity

Social media plays a central role in the lives of many, particularly for children and young people. Whilst it has benefits for communications and access to information, these platforms are additionally being used to glamorise, display, and incite serious acts of violence.

One way in which the NNVRP area based individuals utilise social media for violence is through group tension music videos, more prominent within our urban street gangs (USGs) than our organised crime groups (OCGs) as they tend to be made up of younger members. They provide greater opportunity for individuals to insult and undermine one another, generating social pressure to restore status and reputation, which can create a vicious cycle of retaliation and an escalation in severity<sup>45</sup>.

Access to social media for young people has drastically increased over recent years, with data showing that ownership of a smartphone within the UK for persons aged 16-24 has increased from 66% in 2012 to 99% in 2022<sup>46</sup>. Moreover, research demonstrated that in 2022, 44% of 9-year-olds have a smartphone and, by the age of 11, this increases to 91%. Due to social media still being relatively in its infancy, we cannot categorically draw direct links between social media and violence however, one inference we can take is that young persons are desensitised to real life violence at an early age, which opens them up to higher changes of involvement within violence throughout life.

Technology and social media platforms/applications are additionally an enabler to USGs and OCG related activities. Platforms are being used to recruit new members, to track, monitor and control juniors and violence used to seize drug contacts (sim cards/phones). Online illegal markets mean customers receive aggressive marketing and high-speed delivery and can pick from multiple sellers which drives competition and rivalries.

### 2.3.4 Criminal Justice effectiveness

Police and wider criminal justice agencies have been struggling to meet the changing volume and complexities of demand. Budget constraints over the past decade and competing priorities, have left policing understaffed and overstretched, resulting in reactive rather than proactive and preventive policing. Reductions in analytical staff have resulted in limited capacity to develop the intelligence picture and work upstream to tackle USGs and OCGs to effectively dismantle them. Whilst investment, particularly into policing via the Police Uplift Programme<sup>47</sup>, Governments Drugs Strategy<sup>48</sup> and review of police budgets has increased, this challenge persists with there still being a gap between demand and resource.

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<sup>45</sup> [Social Media as a catalyst and trigger for Youth Violence – Catch 22](#)

<sup>46</sup> [Ownership of smartphones in the UK 2022 | Statista](#)

<sup>47</sup> The police uplift programme was a national programme that aimed to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers in England and Wales by the end of March 2023.

<sup>48</sup> [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives](#)

Additionally, efforts to rehabilitate offenders in prison have been hampered by short sentences, lack of resource and access to intervention due to overcrowding in prisons. The Ministry of Justice has projected a longer-term rise in the population to between 93,100 and 106,300 by March 2027 referring to factors such as changes to sentencing legislation and the impact of increased numbers of police officers as drivers.

With Police custody cells being used to temporarily hold Prisoner to help manage capacity, the Government has brought forward plans to reform prisons to reduce pressures on prison capacity. This includes suspension of short prison sentences, early release on license for certain cohorts, continuation of the prison building programme<sup>49</sup>.

However, offending and violence is likely to continue within the prison estate and reoffending upon released back into the community is likely. There has also been a failure to recognise and respond to local criminal exploitation, which while there has been increased focus and prioritisation, young people and vulnerable adults are still slipping through the net.

Safeguarding these individuals is key but the siloed nature of public services makes it hard to tackle this multifaceted problem which requires multi-agency approaches across disciplines and across geographical areas. Even if these organisations were sufficiently resourced there are still doubts on whether they would be able to bring about a sustained reduction in drug supply, given the resilience and flexibility of illicit drug markets<sup>50</sup>.

Probation has undergone further organisational restructuring, with the reunification of private and public sector services in 2021. The most recent Inspection into the probation services, highlights how the service is still adjusting and working through the implications of reunification and wider systemic challenges. Consequently, the service is currently facing high caseloads and further work is required to develop the programmes/services that were lost through the re-unification<sup>51</sup>.

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<sup>49</sup> [What is the Government doing to reduce pressure on prison capacity?](#)

<sup>50</sup> [Review of drugs: summary](#)

<sup>51</sup> [HM Inspectorate of Probation Annual Report 2022/2023](#)



## 2.4 Summary of findings – contextual data

<b>Deprivation</b>	<p><b>IMD:</b> The NNVRP area experiences pockets of persistent and systemic deprivation particularly concentrated in Nottingham City, Mansfield and Ashfield, particularly deprivation affecting education, employment and income deprivation affecting children. Priority and high impact localities that have higher-than-average deprivation include Ravensdale in Mansfield, Devon in Newark, and Bulwell, Bilborough and Aspley in Nottingham City.</p> <p><b>Cost of living:</b> Rising financial hardship compounded by the rising cost of living remains a significant contextual risk factor associated with increased risk of violent crime. Areas particularly negatively impacted include increased levels of exploitation of vulnerable people into violence and selling drugs, domestic abuse significantly coercive behaviour and financial control, and severe multiple disadvantage, particularly mental ill-health.</p>
<b>Opportunities, inclusion and education</b>	<p><b>Education:</b> Nottingham City performs below the national average, and Nottinghamshire County above the national average, across the majority of indicators for education performance. This includes lower levels of development, communication and language skills of children at the end of reception, lower levels of educational attainment particularly affecting boys, children from black, white Gypsy and Roma backgrounds, children in care, children eligible for FSM and children with SEND.</p> <p><b>Exclusions:</b> The total rate of suspension is over twice as high, and permanent exclusion three times as high, in Nottingham City than observed both regionally and nationally. Notably, three schools made up half of all permanent exclusions in Nottingham City.</p> <p><b>Truancy levels:</b> 24% of students in Nottingham City and 21% in Nottinghamshire County were persistent absentees and 2% of students in both the City and County respectively were severe absentees in the 2021/22 academic year. Notably, severe absentees from state-funded secondary schools in the City and County, and from SEND providers in the City, were significantly higher than national averages.</p>
<b>Multiple risk factors</b>	<p><b>Migration and UASC:</b> The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has increased by 64% in 2023 compared to 2022, most significantly in the County from 32 children to 70. Many large-scale migrations are results of political instability and the seeking of refuge from war to escape conflict zones and notably, there was a skew in the migration statistics towards 16 - 24 year old females which accounted for 15% of all individuals migrating into the NNVRP area from outside of the UK.</p> <p><b>Missing children:</b> Children most at risk of going missing in the NNVRP area were 12–14-year-old girls (26% of all missing children in the most recent 12 months), followed by boys also in this age group (21%). Notably, 5% of missing individuals accounted for a third of all missing episodes during this period. Children who go missing from home or care are often more vulnerable to exploitation from a range of criminal threats.</p>
<b>Drivers of serious violence</b>	<p><b>Substance use</b> is frequently linked to serious violence: the physical and psychological effects can lead to agitation and aggression that in turn may heighten the risk of violence. Additionally, violence may provide a means to finance substance use, or may be a result of disputes within illegal drug markets.</p> <p><b>USGs and OCGs</b> have violence and exploitation intertwined as ways of increasing and securing profit. County Lines is thought to be the main driver of increases in drug related serious violence, mainly driven by the exploitation of young males aged under 18 through drug dealing, along with those involved in cannabis cultivations. Further risks can be linked to exploitation by emerging foreign national organised crime groups.</p> <p><b>Social media</b> platforms are being used to glamorise, display and incite serious acts of violence as well as acting as enablers to many USG/OCG related activities such as recruitment, the monitoring of juniors, group tension music videos and the use of online illegal markets.</p>

## 3. Serious Violence Profile

### 3.1 Violent crime – serious violence scope

#### Police recorded serious violence

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded **11,898 serious violence offences**, an overall rate of 10 serious violence offences per 1,000 population; the majority of which (75%) were violence against the person (VAP), the largest proportion being relatively low harm S47 assaults.

Compared to the previous year, overall levels of serious violence decreased by 12%, with Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and sexual assault all decreasing in crime volume. By contrast, increases in crime volumes were seen in knife-enabled offences of threats to kill, rape, and robbery.

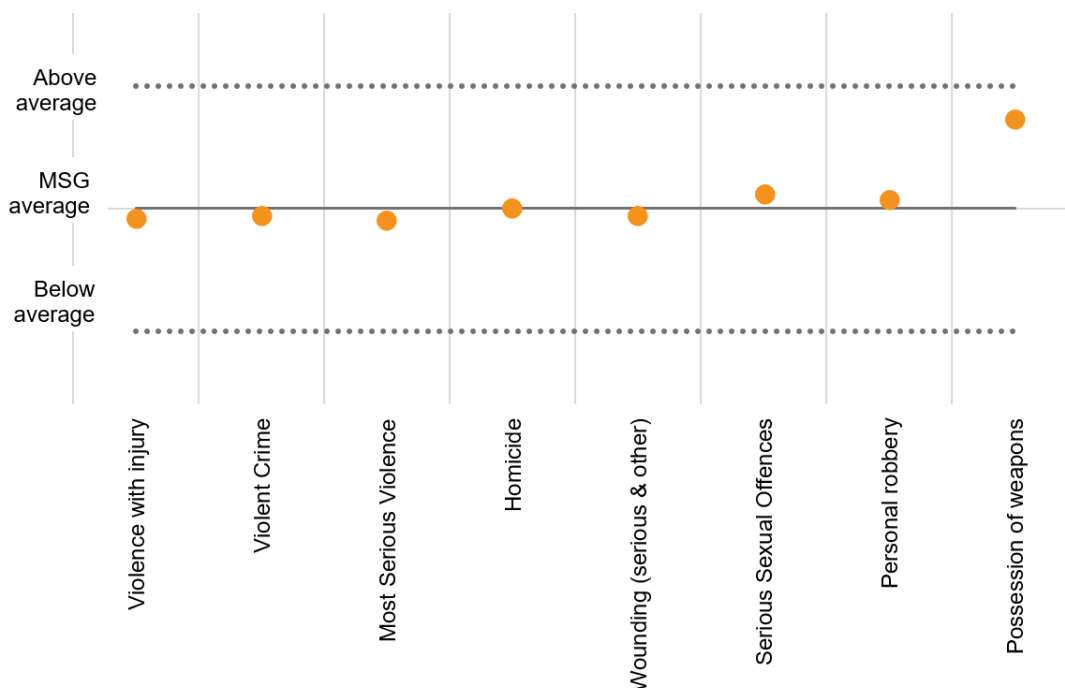
Volumes of homicide, knife-enabled business robbery and modern slavery all stayed stable to volumes in the previous year, and it should be noted that knife enabled-threats to kill and knife-enabled personal robbery also only increased by marginal volumes of 10 and 5 incidents respectively. The potential influencing factors behind these changing trends are explored in-depth in subsequent sections of analysis.

		2021/22	2022/23	Change	
				Volume	%
<b>All Serious Violence</b>		<b>13,594</b>	<b>11,898</b>	-1,696	▼ (-12%)
Serious violence against the person	Homicide	13	12	-1	▼ (-8%)
	Actual Bodily Harm (section 47)	9,739	8,196	-1,543	▼ (-16%)
	Grievous Bodily Harm (section 18/20)	931	876	-55	▼ (-6%)
	Knife enabled threats to kill	146	156	+10	▲ (+7%)
	Modern Slavery	107	106	-1	▼ (-1%)
Sexual violence	Rape	1,059	1,077	+18	▲ (+2%)
	Sexual assault	1,349	1,220	-129	▼ (-10%)
Knife enabled robbery	Robbery of personal property	216	221	+5	▲ (+2%)
	Robbery of business property	34	34	0	=

The table below shows the crime rate in the NNVRP area for serious violence in the most recent 12 months, as compared to the most similar group (MSG) average<sup>52</sup>. As highlighted, the majority of serious violence in Nottinghamshire Police Force area remain broadly in line with that of comparable police force areas. The only exception is **possession of weapon** offences, which sit at a rate 36% higher than the MSG average. This is included in the drivers section of the assessment as an enabler of serious violence, but not in the overall figures above as volumes are often influenced by proactive policing measures.

<sup>52</sup> **MSGs** are groups of police force areas that have been found to be the most similar based on analysis of demographic, social and economic characteristics relating to crime. For Nottinghamshire, the MSGs are Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire.

**Nottinghamshire Police Recorded Serious Violence (MSG comparison),  
October 2022 - September 2023**



It is notable that Nottinghamshire Police are the only Force outside of the Metropolitan Police who have dedicated knife crime teams. The proactive work in monitoring and challenging knife/weapons carriers contributes to the increased numbers seen, as does the work undertaken by the Operation Reacher neighbourhood teams.

**Crime severity**

As not all offences are equal in terms of harm to victims, ONS developed crime severity scores (CSS)<sup>53</sup>, for individual crime types informed by sentencing guidelines for offences. The chart on the following page ranks the home-office classifications of the crimes specified above by levels of crime harm (total calculated CSS<sup>54</sup>) for October 2022 – September 2023 compared to the baseline. This provides an indication of the severity of violent crime across the NNVRP area.

The data highlights that compared to the previous year, 2023 saw a decrease in crime harm of 5% (-411,043 CSS). This would suggest that despite a larger reduction in crime volume (-12%) in the police recorded crime data, crime severity has not decreased as substantially.

The graph on the following page also shows the percentage change for each crime classification, next to the crime type. In analysing what may underly this trend, the data shows that 2023 has higher volumes of high harm rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) crimes, with rape of females over 16 (+2%) and under 13 (+26%), and rape of males over 16 (+23%) showing the largest increases. By contrast, the higher volume offences covering assault with injury, which encompasses the relatively lower harm S47 ABH offences, have shown the greatest decrease.

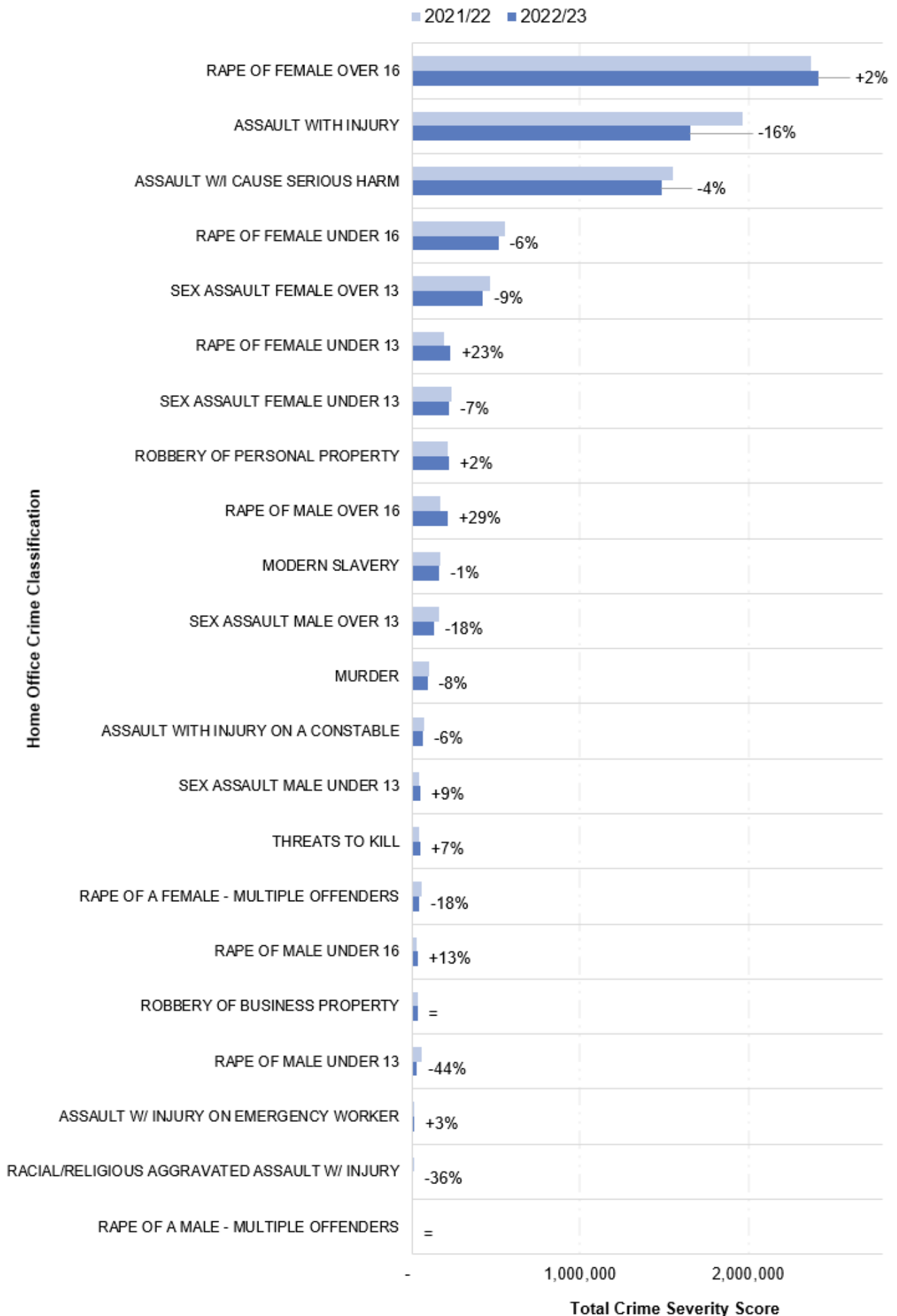
This reflects the shift in policing focus towards high harm and high vulnerability as part of the THRIVE approach: a police prioritisation model that considers **threat, harm, risk, intelligence, vulnerability, and engagement**<sup>55</sup>.

<sup>53</sup> [Crime Severity Score \(Experimental Statistics\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>54</sup> Total Crime Severity Score (CSS): the total volume of offences recorded in the monitoring period multiplied by the crime severity score for that home office offence.

<sup>55</sup> [Introduction to vulnerability-related risk | College of Policing](#)

## Total Crime Severity Score of serious violence in Nottinghamshire, by HO crime classification.



## Ambulance service recorded violent incidents

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) responded to **1,547 calls** with **1,614 reported casualties**, relating to violent events in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. Compared to the previous year, where 1,874 calls and 1,939 casualties were reported, this is a significant decrease of 17% for both casualties and callouts respectively.

The table below shows the distribution of these callouts by reason. In the most recent 12 months, 85% of incidents related to an assault that didn't involve a gun, stabbing or penetrating trauma. Stab wounds accounted for a further 12% of injuries, penetrating traumas 2% and sexual assaults 1.5%. This distribution is broadly in line with the previous 12 months, with slight increases in the proportions of stab-related callouts and sexual assaults. All categories decreased in volume compared to the previous year apart from penetrating trauma and sexual assault callouts.

	1st October - 30th September			
	2021/22		2022/23	
<b>Total callouts</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>-</b>
Assault	1,639	87.5%	1,311	84.7%
Stab	190	10.1%	181	11.7%
Penetrating trauma	22	1.2%	28	1.8%
Sexual assault	16	0.9%	23	1.5%
Gun shot	6	0.3%	<5	0.2%
Stun gun	<5	0.1%	<5	0.1%

In the most recent 12 months, 19% of injuries were initially classed as a category 1 incident, denoting the injuries to be potentially life critical, and over half (55%) were life threatening category 2 emergency calls. 20% were urgent category 3 calls and 6% were less urgent category 5 incidents. This distribution is broadly similar to that seen in the previous year, where 20% were life critical, 54% life threatening, 21% urgent and 5% less urgent.

When analysing the categorical distribution by callout reason, the severity of these violent events is further highlighted. In the most recent 12 months, all gunshot wounds (<5), 88% of stab wounds, 68% of penetrating traumas and 9% of assaults & sexual assaults were life critical. This distribution is again broadly in-line with the previous year, although the proportion of life critical penetrating traumas increased from 50% to 68%.

### 3.1.2 Serious Violence Hotspots

Across the local authorities within the NNVRP area in the most recent 12 months, most police recorded serious violence offences were in Nottingham City (41%) followed by Mansfield & Ashfield (22%), Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood (19%) and South Notts (18%). Exploring crime rate more closely can help to effectively reduce crime by focusing resource on high-rate areas as well as areas that have high volumes of crime<sup>56</sup>. The following data refers to rates of serious violence per 1,000 population in the NNVRP area.

In the most recent 12 months, main concentrations of serious violence offences were in **Nottingham City Centre** and **Mansfield Town Centre**, which had rates of 88 and 41 serious violence offences per 1,000 population respectively. These figures are largely redundant in this context as these wards comprise significant concentrations of commercial areas and night-time economy, rather than residential populations, and many of the serious violence offences will be linked to people travelling into the city and town centres from other areas.

<sup>56</sup> [Lower layer Super Output Area population estimates](#) - Due to data validation and availability, crime rates were calculated using midyear population estimates from 2020, and therefore they may not be fully reflective of the true population as it stands in 2023.

The table below shows the rates of serious violence by police ward in the NNVRP area, comparing the most recent 12 months to the previous year. This data focuses on wards that had a rate higher than 10.3 offences per 1,000 population between October 2022 – September 2023, as this highlights areas of disproportionality and high crime concentrations compared to the force average. Overall, the makeup of the highest rate areas have stayed relatively stable from the previous 12 months to the current period. Key areas of change include:

- Significant decreases in serious violence in Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield Town Centre. Other areas which showed significant decreases include Mansfield West, Sneinton & Dales and Bilborough.
- Volumes of serious violence in **Bulwell** have stayed relatively stable despite other areas showing significant decreases; was previously the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate for serious violence in the NNVRP area, it is now 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the top two urban concentrations of town and City Centres. **Bulwell Forest** also increased from having the 13<sup>th</sup> highest rate to the 9<sup>th</sup> highest rate of serious violence.
- **Clifton** had the highest volume increase (+36 occurrences) of serious violence in the NNVRP area, with only 10 out of 55 wards increasing compared to the previous year. Other wards that increased and also had high rates of serious violence include Mansfield East, Wollaton and Lenton Abbey, and The Meadows.

Police Ward	Rate of serious violence per 1,000 population	
	2021/22	2022/23
Nottingham City Centre	113.9	87.9
Mansfield Town Centre	53.8	41.3
Bulwell	18.3	18.1
Newark	18.4	17.2
Worksop South	22.5	16.0
Arboretum	17.8	15.6
Basford	15.1	14.2
Bulwell Forest	15.0	13.9
Mansfield East	11.6	12.5
Bilborough	17.5	12.4
Aspley	15.8	12.3
Sherwood	15.8	12.2
Bestwood	13.8	12.2
St Ann's	15.7	12.1
Sutton in Ashfield	13.4	12.1
Eastwood South	13.4	11.9
Sneinton & Dales	17.0	11.6
Dunkirk & Lenton	13.9	11.4
Wollaton & Lenton Abbey	9.7	11.3
Meadows	10.2	11.3
Clifton	9.6	10.9
Berridge	14.2	10.7
Worksop North	13.5	10.6
Mansfield West	14.1	10.5
Calverton, Ravenshead & Villages	10.4	10.4
Daybrook	10.1	10.3
<b>Nottinghamshire Police Force Area</b>	11.7	10.3

Top 4 wards

Top 8 wards

Top 12 wards

It is also important to consider areas that are disproportionately affected by serious violence, relative to the volume of other crime they face. Of all crime recorded by Nottinghamshire Police between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 11.2% was 'serious violence' under the NNVRP's definition. The following wards had the highest proportions of serious violence, relative to the crimes reported in that area:

- *Calverton, Ravenshead & Villages*: 17% of crimes (n=207) in this ward were classed as 'serious violence'. It should be noted that the Nottinghamshire Police Headquarters is located in this ward and will therefore skew data if occurrences are gazetted to this address. Previous analysis shows that offences linked to MSHT are commonly recorded to Joint Headquarters.
- *Bilsthorpe, Lowdham & Villages*: 17% of crimes (n=246) in this ward were serious violence. These high volumes are significantly attributed to the presence of HMP Lowdham Grange in this ward which accounts for approximately a third of serious violence in this area.
- *Warsop*: 16.2% of crimes (n=73) were classed as serious violence. Intelligence states that a drug supplier who has historically been prominent in the area was released from prison at the start of 2023, and reporting since suggests that they have been highly violent since their release and have forced others to be so as well. Another drugs chain is suggested to be prevalent in the area and it is likely that these two drug supply operations regularly conflict when on the same patch and may be linked to the high levels of serious violence.
- *Bassetlaw Rural*: 15.6% of crimes (n=243) were classed as serious violence. It should be noted that Rampton Hospital and HMP Ranby account for a large volume of serious violence in this ward, accounting for 28% and 18% of all serious violence respectively.
- *Bulwell Forest*: 14.3% of crimes (n=185) were classed as serious violence, of which 29% occurred at Highbury Hospital. In addition, this area is suggested to be a hotspot for OCG and USG members to live within which may help explain the high levels of serious violence. A tactic that has become more common in recent years is 'Taxing' which is where criminals will violently rob other criminals, sometimes under the guise of making a transaction. Intelligence states that there have been a number of 'taxings' within the area recently which are likely to lead to increased tensions and overall violence within the area.

Ambulance callout data also provides a detailed picture of where violent events occur and often represents the highest harm and most life critical serious violence offences. The division of callouts between districts reflects a similar picture to the police recorded crime data, with Nottingham City accounting for 48% of callouts to violent events. In the most recent 12 months, Nottingham City Centre ward accounted for **9%** of all serious violence callouts in the NNVRP area, followed by **Sutton in Ashfield** (6%), the **Arboretum** (5%), the **Meadows** (4.5%) and **St Anns** (4%). Notably, Sutton in Ashfield showed the greatest volume increase in ambulance callouts in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year (+15 occurrences).

### 3.1.3 Seasonal trends of serious violence

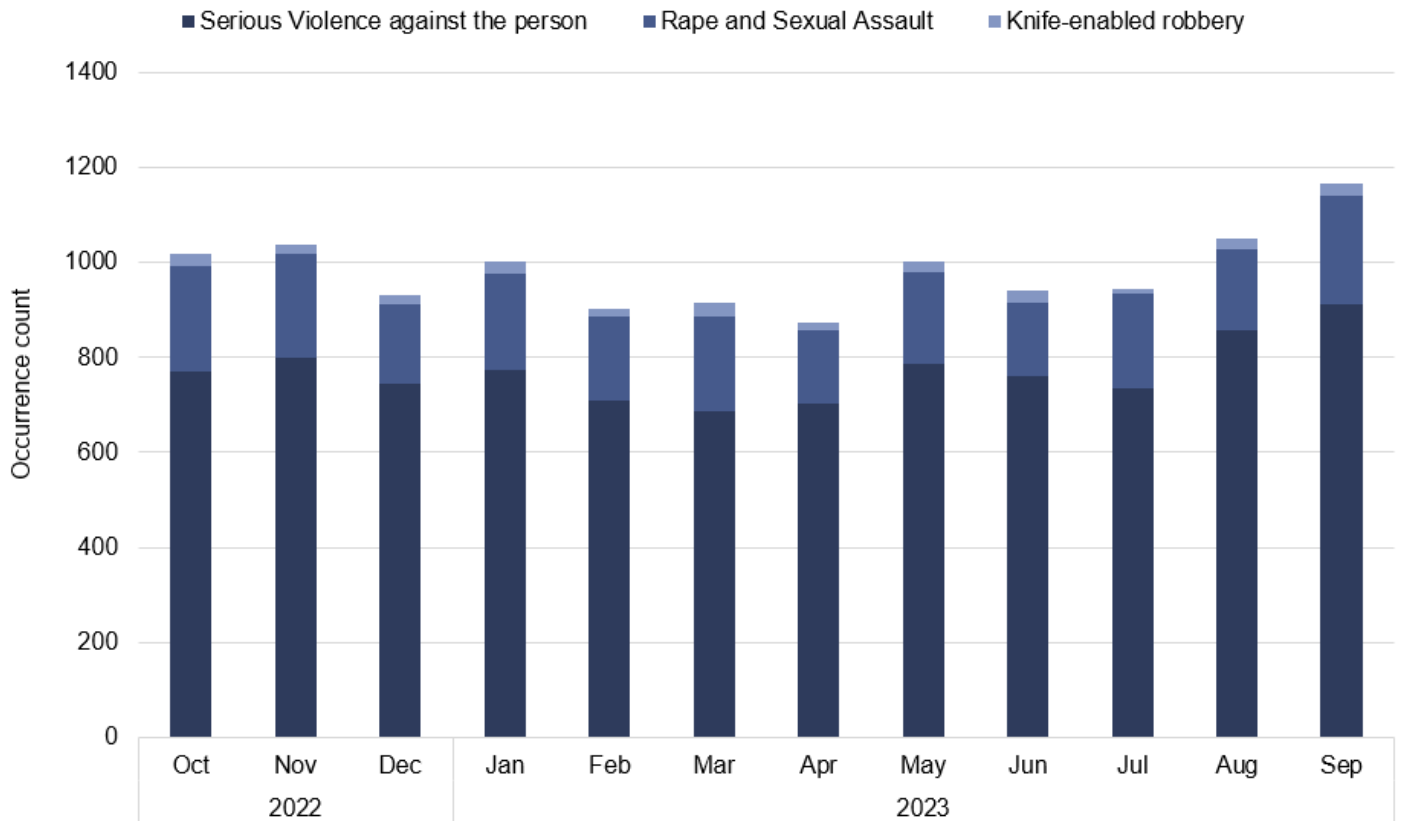
The monthly figures for serious violence and EMAS callouts to violent events<sup>57</sup> in the NNVRP area are shown below, highlighting proportionality and trends across 2023. When comparing these datasets, it is important to note the smaller sample size within the EMAS data compared to police recorded crime, and therefore caution must be taken when interpreting any contrasting or similar trends.

September (n=1,171) and August (n=1,058) of 2023 saw the highest volumes of police recorded serious violence in the NNVRP area. Violence against the person (VAP) and sexual violence offences were also highest in September, whilst knife-enabled robbery offences were highest in March 2023. May saw the highest total volume of ambulance callouts to violent events (n=157), with the highest number of assault, stab and sexual assault related callouts all occurring in this month.

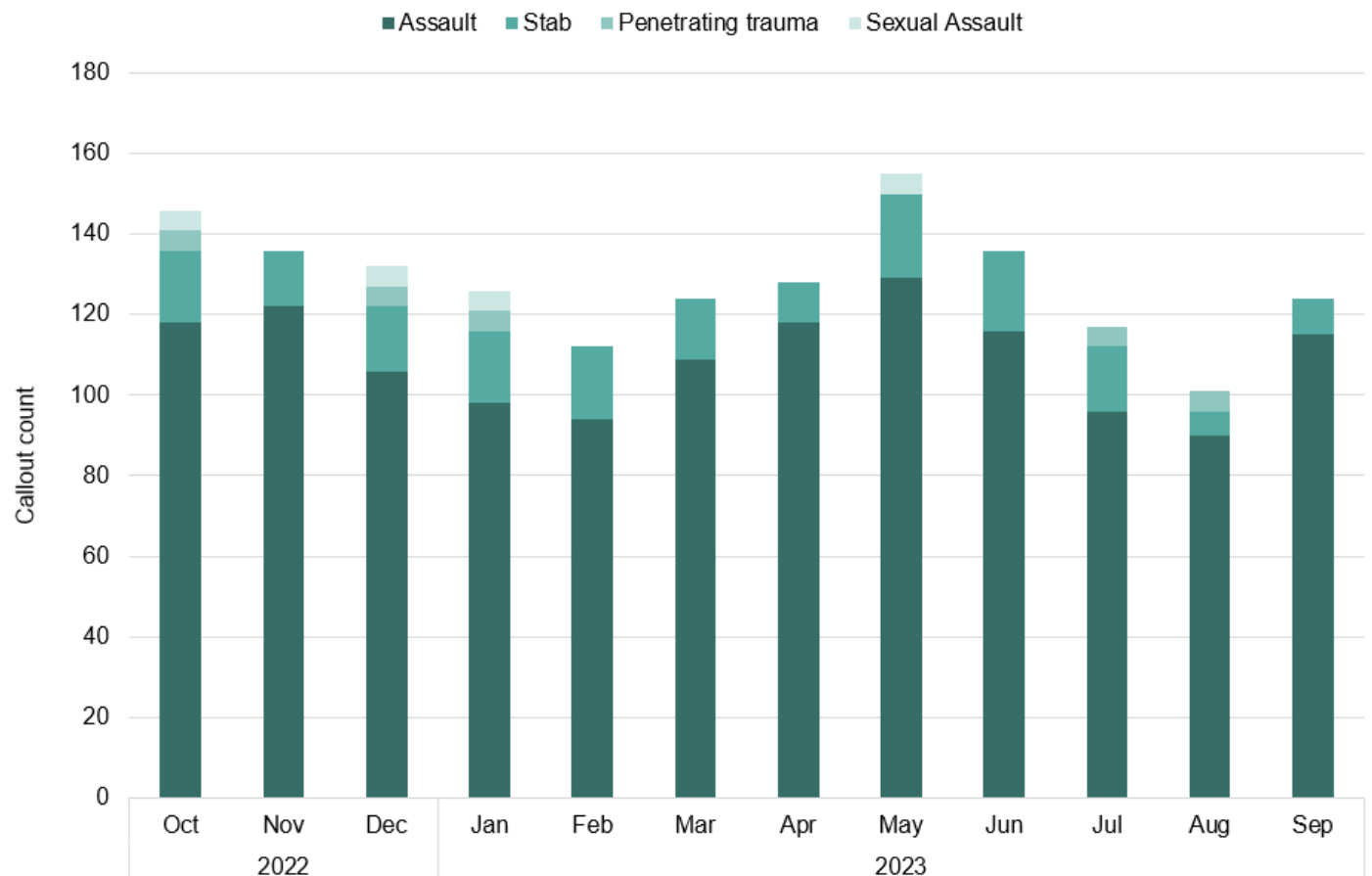
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<sup>57</sup> For patient confidentiality, months with less than 5 occurrences are rounded up or down and because of this, all stun-gun and gunshot callouts are entirely excluded from this graph.

**Police recorded serious violence in Nottinghamshire by month and crime type, October 2022 - September 2023.**



**EMAS callouts for violent events in Nottinghamshire by month and classification, October 2022 - September 2023.**





The figure above demonstrates the temporal pattern of crime types and ambulance callouts in the most recent 12 months, highlighting their proportionality to stay relatively stable across the months. Exceptions in the data include September, which had a higher proportion of assault callouts (92%) than any other month. This is reflected in the police recorded crime dataset, as this month had a much higher volume of violence against the person offences.

Notably, in analysing the crime types, this increase is marked by a significant rise in ABH offences in September, where 807 ABH occurrences were recorded in the month compared to a monthly average of 671 across the rest of the 12-month period.

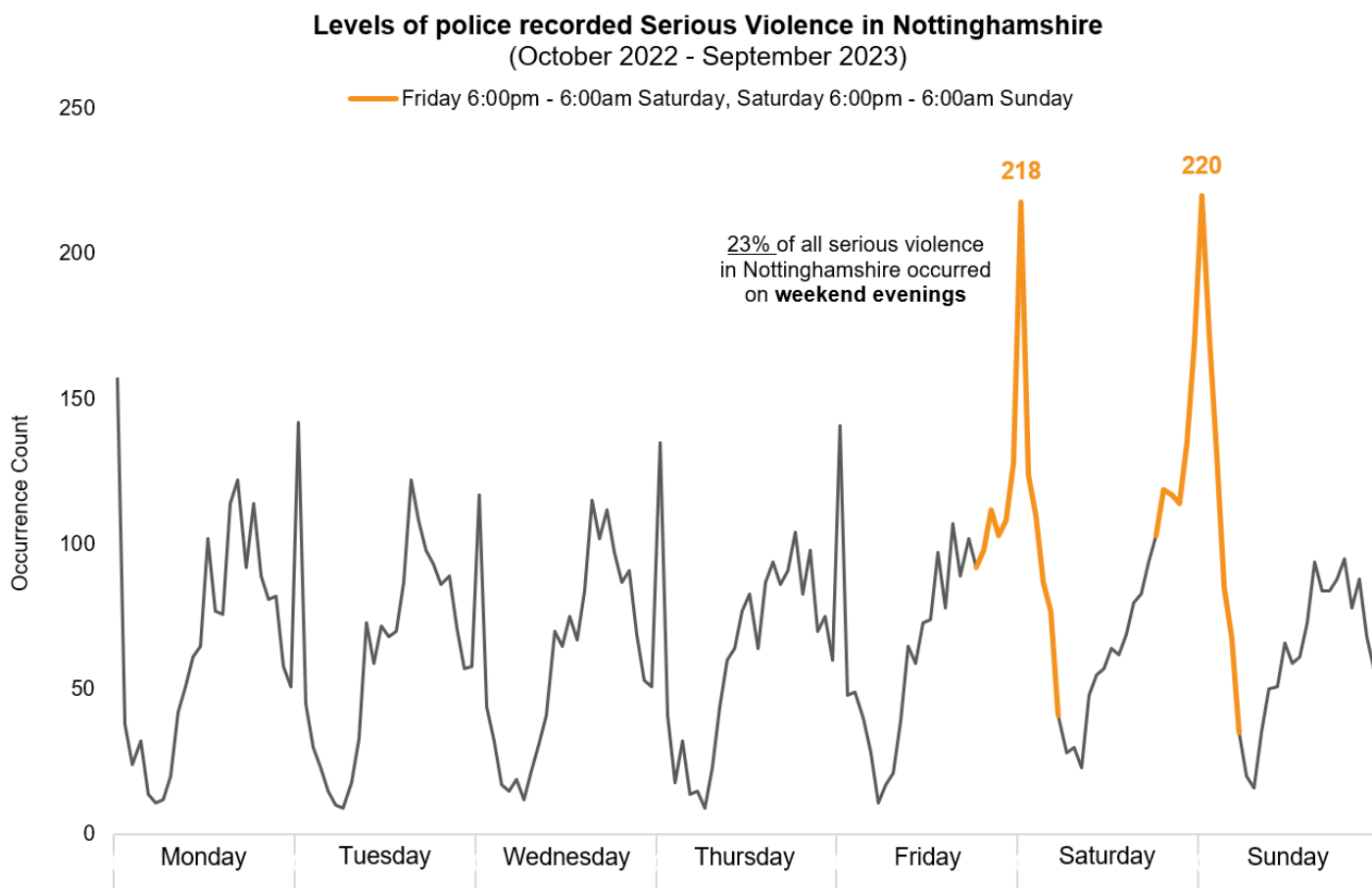
### 3.1.4 The timing of serious violence

The figure below highlights the start date and time of police recorded serious violence, and the callout time for violent events from EMAS in the NNVRP area, between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This demonstrates the largest proportion of serious violence to occur between the period of 6:00pm Friday to 6:00am on Saturday, and the same period from Saturday evening into Sunday morning.

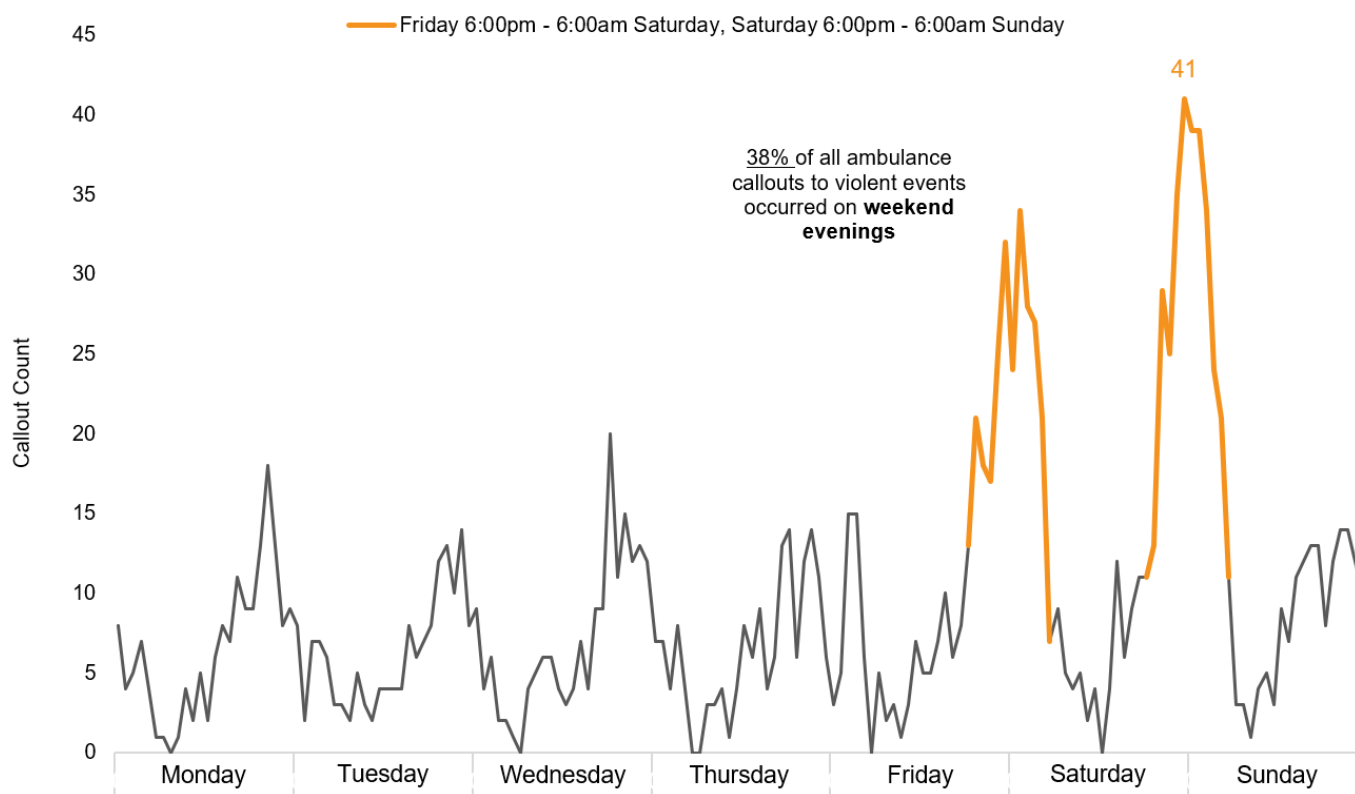
- This period of weekend evenings accounts for 23% of police recorded serious violence, and 39% of ambulance callouts to violent events.

Additional analysis through the serious violence local profiles demonstrated these temporal peaks to be most significant in Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield, and much less significant in areas that do not have a high concentration of night-time economy.

- This analysis also demonstrated that the majority of serious violence offences that occurred over the weekend evening period had alcohol cited as an influencing factor.



## Ambulance callouts to violent events in Nottinghamshire (October 2022 - September 2023)



As highlighted on the graph as data labels, there are peaks each day between 12:00am – 1:00 pm, again with the largest proportion occurring in this hour on weekend evenings. It is important to consider the influence of increased police proactivity, with initiatives such as Operation Guardian and Operation Validity<sup>58</sup>, during this time on police data. The presence of police in busy areas of high footfall such as Nottingham City Centre over weekend evenings may provide more opportunity for victims to report crimes, and overall crime to be detected. This peak may however also be impacted by data recording defaulting to this hour:

- Of the occurrences in this hour (n=1,130), over a third had the default of 00:00:00, many of which were domestic occurrences. It is therefore likely that the ‘start time’ for these occurrences is placed at this hour when a victim cannot place a time on when the occurrence took place.
- Despite this data anomaly, ambulance data confirms this is a high-risk hour for violent events.

### 3.1.5 Victims and perpetrators of serious violence

Data on the age and gender of victims was recorded for 9,821 unique victims for 11,122 police-recorded occurrences of serious violence in the NNVRP area between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Demographics were recorded for 8,013 unique offenders for 9,905 serious violence offences. In over a quarter of serious violence occurrences, the offender was a stranger or was not seen.

- Local area profile analysis revealed this to be considerably higher in urban areas, for example in Nottingham City Centre where approximately three quarters of offenders were strangers to the victim.
- This is believed to be a result of the nature of an urban Centre where different groups of people congregate and cross paths.

The victim cohort was similarly split between males and females, slightly biasing females at 55% of all victims of serious violence. The demographic with the largest number of victims was young girls aged 15-19 at 8%

<sup>58</sup> **Operation Guardian** is an anti-violence operation which sees officers and specially trained drug dogs tackle the supply and use of illegal drugs, in order to reduce violence during the night-time economy. **Operation Validity** ensures that police resources are in place to meet demand placed on service from pubs, clubs and bars.

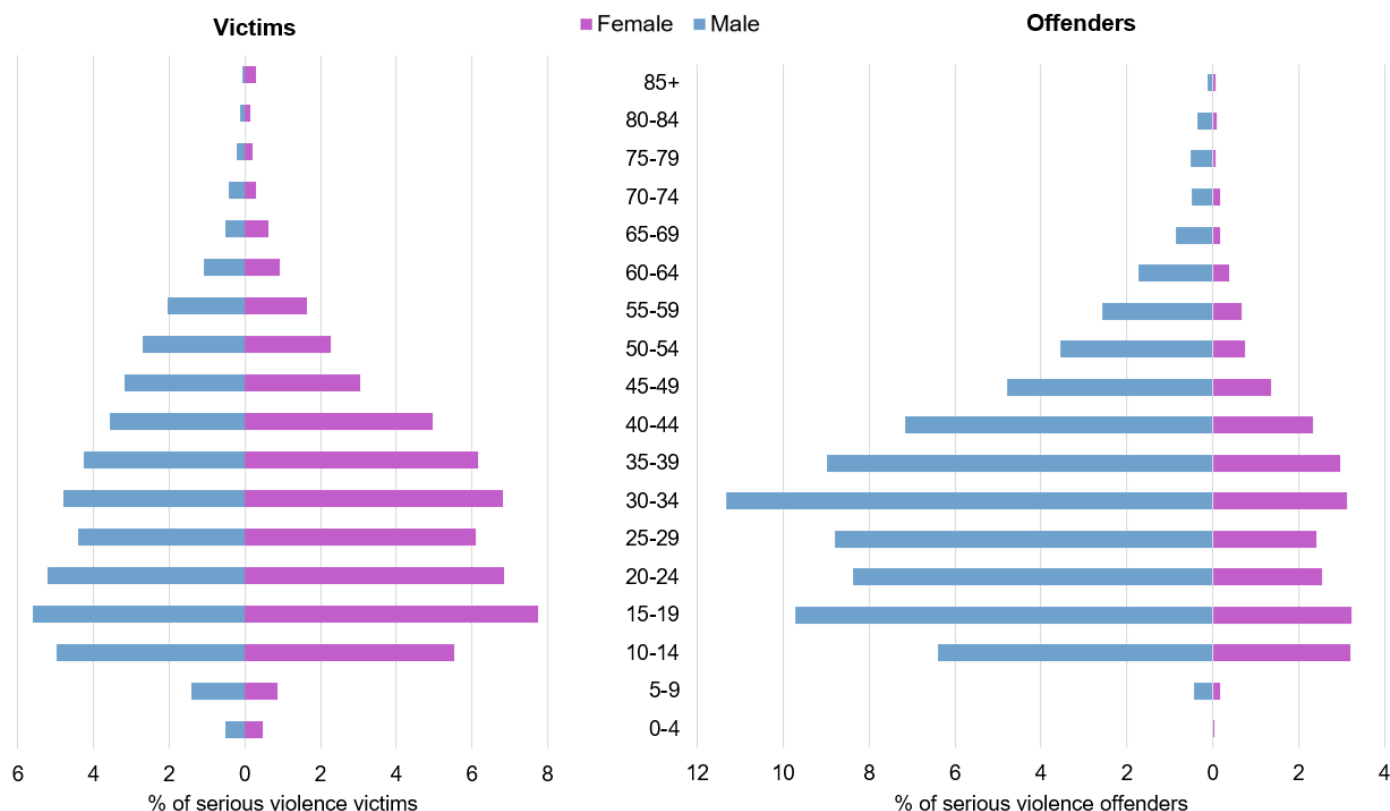
of all victims, closely followed by 20–24-year-old females (7%). The profile for male victims was also concentrated in the 15–19-year-old age group, representing 6% of all victims.

The offender cohort showed a much stronger gender bias, with 76% of offenders/suspects being male. The demographic with the largest volume of offenders was males aged 30-34, accounting for 11% of all perpetrators of serious violence, followed by 15-19-year-old males at 10%. Although there were fewer female offenders, they were found most concentrated in the 15-19- and 10–14-year-old age group, accounting for 3% of serious violence offenders respectively.

- The male offender cohort matches trends seen in previous years, however young girls as serious violence offenders is something that was not as prevalent in the previous 12 months and may perhaps be an emerging trend to consider. This will be explored in later sections.

The demographic makeup of victims and offenders of serious violence in the NNVRP area between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 is shown below.

**Serious Violence: Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023**

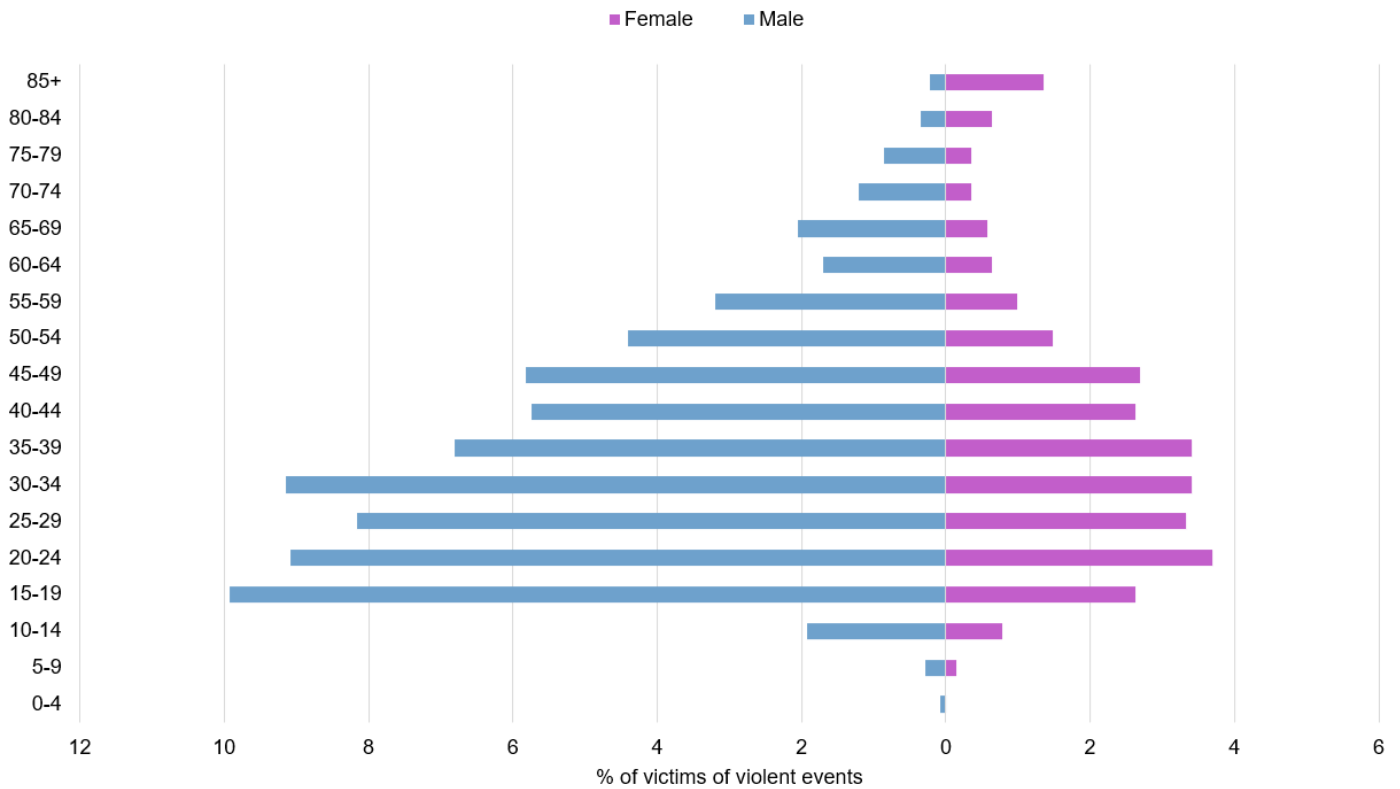


For ambulance callouts, age and gender was recorded for 1,410 victims of violent events. Contrasting the victim cohort of the police recorded dataset, 71% of victims were male and in every age group apart from those aged over 80, there were more callouts to male victims than female victims.

The demographic which had the largest number of callouts was male victims aged 15-19 at 10% of all callouts. There are fewer female victims in the EMAS data, and they are found most concentrated in the 20–24-year-old age group (4%).

This age and gender profile for victims of violent events also becomes more skewed and prevalent as the severity of the incident increases. For category 1 life critical injuries, 81% of victims were male and 15% of all victims were males aged 15-19. The overall demographic breakdown of ambulance callouts to violent events for the most recent 12 months is shown in the figure below.

**EMAS callouts to violent events: Victim profile in Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023.**



The differences in the demographic profile of the two datasets may reflect the different nature of the incidents or crimes that are included. The police recorded crime dataset will include sexual violence data that will not necessarily be included in the EMAS dataset and, because of the disproportionality that affects this crime classification, this may provide reason as to why there are a higher proportion of female victims in the police recorded crime data.

### Ethnicity data

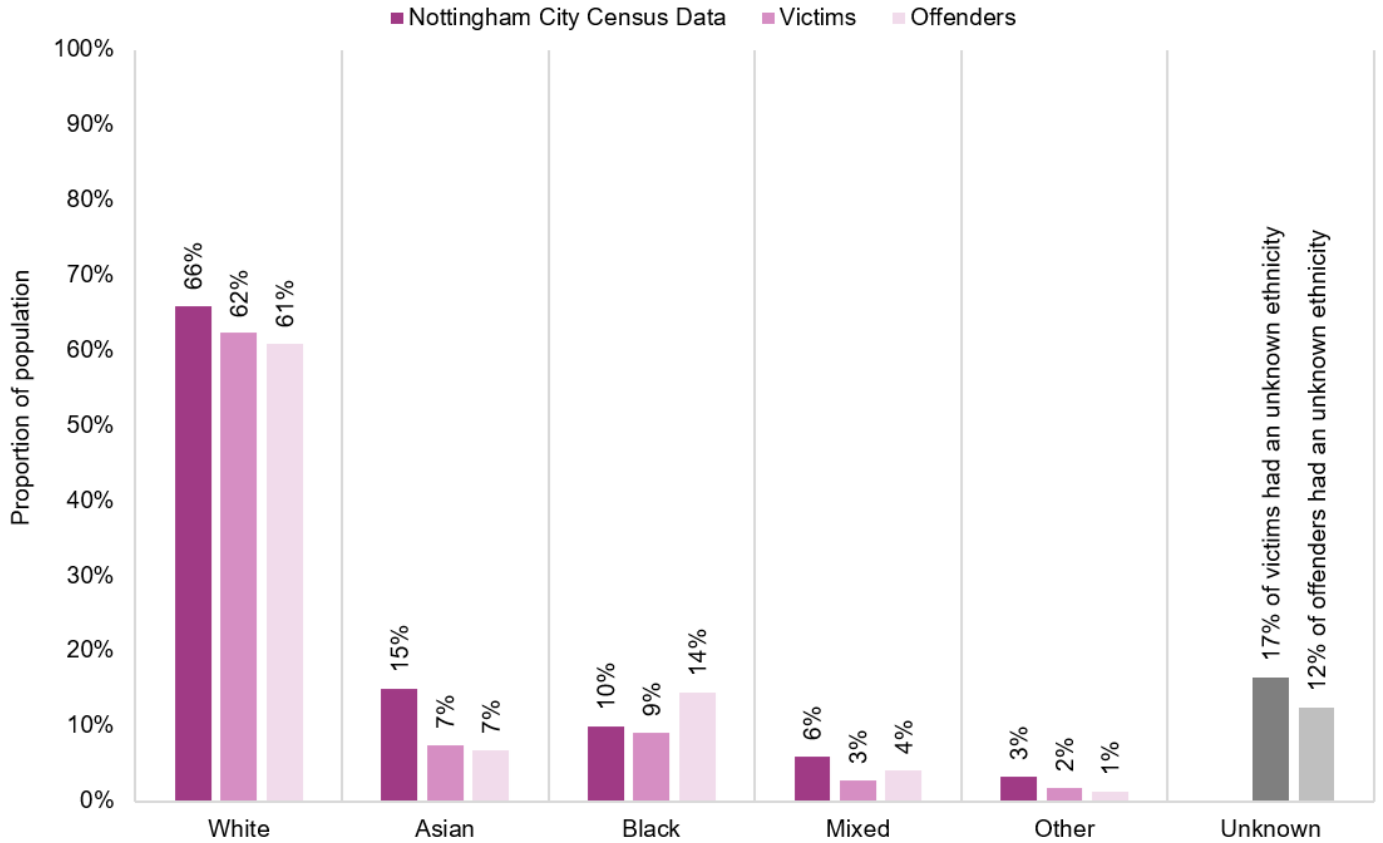
Ethnicity data was collected for 89.7% of offenders<sup>59</sup> and 84% of victims for all serious violence between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, introducing a degree of uncertainty and any inferences should be treated with caution. The graphs and data below refer to the proportions (rounded to the nearest whole number in the graphs) of ethnicity amongst victims and offenders of serious violence with missing/unknown data included, in consideration of this data gap. Data is shown against the population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation in ethnicity data. The City and County are presented in separate graphs due to the significant differences in diversity previously highlighted.

In Nottingham City, 60.9% of offenders were from white ethnic groups, 14.5% from black ethnic groups, 6.8% from Asian ethnic groups, 4.1% from mixed ethnic groups and 1.3% from other ethnicities. 12.4%, or 197 serious violence perpetrators, did not have an ethnicity recorded. For victims, 62.3% were from white ethnic groups, 9.1% from black ethnic groups, 7.5% from Asian ethnic groups, 2.8% from mixed ethnic groups and 1.8% from other ethnic groups. 16.5%, or 796 serious violence victims, did not have an ethnicity recorded.

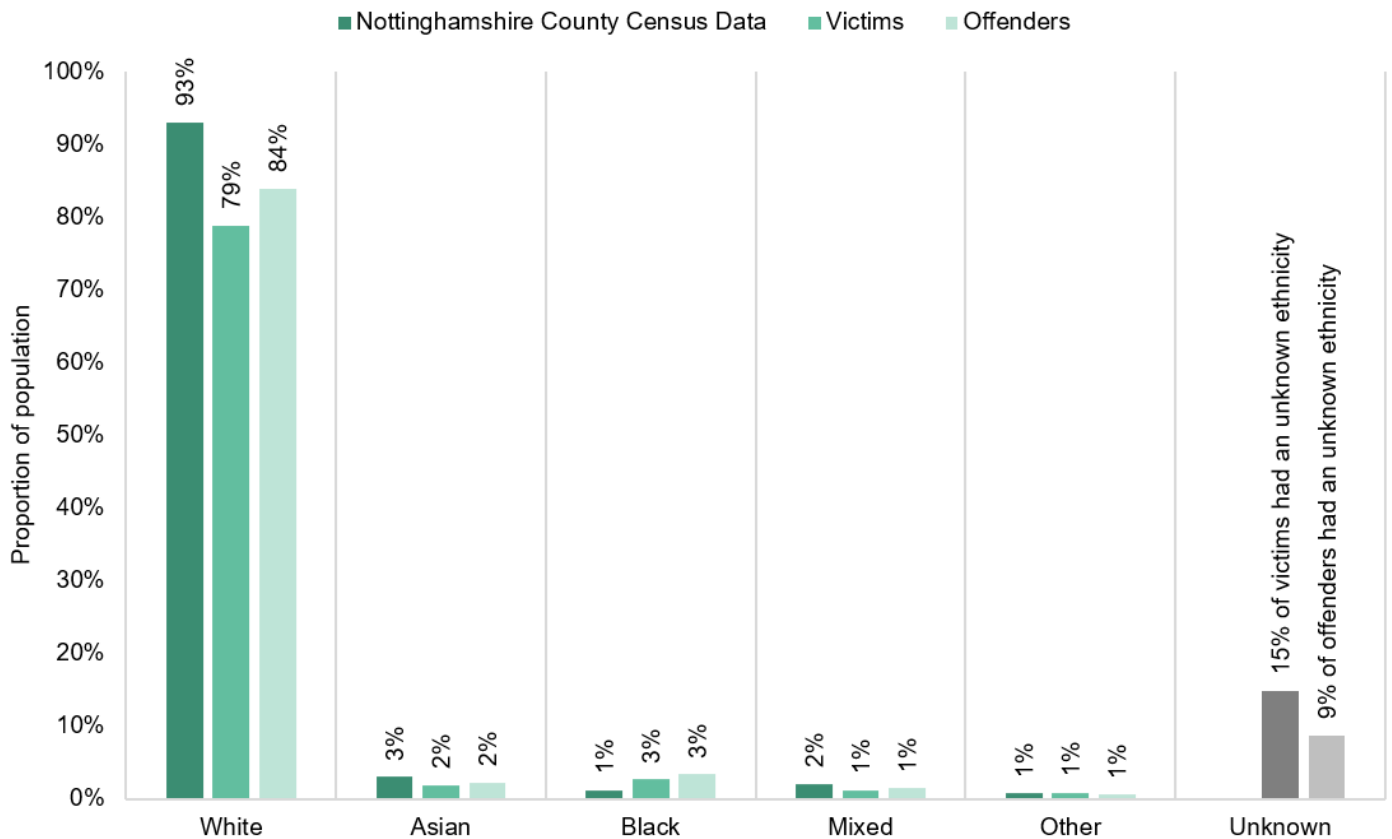
In Nottinghamshire County, 83.9% of offenders were from white ethnic groups, 3.3% from black ethnic groups, 2.2% from Asian ethnic groups, 1.4% from mixed ethnic groups and 0.6% from other ethnicities. 8.6%, or 217 serious violence perpetrators, did not have an ethnicity recorded. For victims, 78.8% were from white ethnic groups, 2.7% from black ethnic groups, 1.9% from Asian ethnic groups, 1.1% from mixed ethnic groups and 0.7% from other ethnic groups. 14.9%, or 1,027 serious violence victims, did not have an ethnicity recorded.

<sup>59</sup> This refers to **offender data only**, suspect ethnicity is excluded from this analysis on account of data quality.

**Police recorded serious violence by ethnicity against Nottingham City's population, October 2022 - September 2023.**



**Police recorded serious violence by ethnicity against Nottinghamshire County's population, October 2022 - September 2023.**



The following sections provide a more detailed analysis of the individual crime types within the serious violence category based on **police recorded crime data**. This highlights any key exceptions or influencing factors, and the demographic profile of offenders and victims of serious violence.

### *Custody data*

Custody data has been used to provide further insight surrounding the vulnerabilities of those arrested for serious violence offences. Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, there were 3,689 arrests for serious violence offences where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. This excludes arrests for non-recent rape and sexual assault offences. Repeat offenders were left in this data set as different vulnerabilities may have been identified at each arrest.

Of the total serious violence arrests, the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody in 1,879 arrests (51%). This is an increase from 1,566 (which represented 38% of arrests) in the previous 12 months. The offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability in 1532 arrests (42%). Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 829 were listed as having depression;
- 641 were listed as having anxiety;
- 153 were listed as having PTSD;
- 106 were listed as having schizophrenia;
- 97 were listed as having bipolar disorder;

It should be noted that individuals may appear in more than one of the categories listed above, and if so will be counted twice as this analysis is completed from free-text field of the custody dataset. In 412 out of the 3,689 arrests (11% of total arrests) the offender was identified as having a substance use vulnerability.

### **3.1.6 Public place violence and young people**

As per the NNVRP's definition for serious violence and the emphasis in the Serious Violence Duty, particular focus will be placed on areas of crime that disproportionately affect young people in the area, specifically in a public place. There is a clear distinction between trends in serious violence that affect urban areas such as City and Town Centres, and rural areas with pockets of higher population density i.e. villages. This includes differences between the times of offences, as explored in the temporal section, the location of offences, whether they are in domestic or public place settings, and the demographics of victim offenders, largely the relationships between them.

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 5,626 occurrences of serious violence where the victim or offender was under the age of 25, representing 47% of all serious violence in the NNVRP area. This is a decrease of 21% from the previous year where 6,825 occurrences involved a young person, representing 50.2% of all serious violence between October 2021 – September 2023. Of the occurrences in the most recent 12 months, 4,578 occurrences had a young victim, 2,965 had a young offender and 1,917 had both a victim and an offender in this demographic.

#### **Public place violence**

In the most recent 12 months, 30% of serious violence in the NNVRP area occurred in a public/open place. Overall, volumes of public place violence decreased from 4,014 occurrences in the previous year to 3,379 occurrences between October 2022 – September 2023. Although the volume of public place violence has decreased, the proportions for both years have stayed stable at 30%. This highlights that violence occurring on the street is still a significant driver of crime in the NNVRP area.

Notably, of the occurrences of public place violence in the NNVRP area, the majority involved either a victim or an offender under the age of 25, at 54% of all offences. As discussed above, this is mostly due to a skew towards **victims of violence**: young victims made up 46% of serious violence occurrences in a public place while young offenders made up 27%.

The table below shows the proportions of public place violence that involved a victim, or an offender aged under 25 in the most recent 12 months, compared to the previous year. As shown, the majority of proportions have decreased significantly compared to the previous year, however of note **knife-enabled robbery**, **modern slavery** (exploited into dealing drugs on the street) and **sexual assault** continue to have a high proportion of young people involved, suggesting that young people are more likely to be exposed to these categories of violent crime.

	Proportion of public place violence that involved a victim or offender aged under 25	
	2021/22	2022/23
Homicide	71%	50%
Knife-enabled robbery	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>
Knife-enabled threats to kill	41%	33%
Modern Slavery	<b>68%</b>	<b>76%</b>
Rape	75%	64%
Sexual Assault	<b>78%</b>	<b>73%</b>
ABH	53%	51%
GBH	54%	46%
<b>All public place serious violence</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>54%</b>

\* For young victims, this disproportionality of higher levels of exposure was most significant for sexual assault (71% involved a young victim, n=169), modern slavery (72% involved a young victim, n=21) and knife-enabled robbery (61% involved a young victim, n=110). For young offenders, this was most significant for perpetrators of knife-enabled robbery (29%, n=52), rape (30%, n=32) and GBH (29%, n=106).

As anticipated, the ward with the highest volume of public place violence involving young people was Nottingham City Centre which represented 16% of all of this classification. Areas that were disproportionately affected by public youth violence include:

- **Bassetlaw Rural:** 87% (n=20) of all public place violence in this ward involved under 25-year-olds. The perception of violence and feelings of being unsafe are reflected in the responses for the 'Speak Up Notts' survey.
- **Gedling, Burton Joyce & Villages:** 79% (n=23) involved under 25-year-olds, specifically in Gedling were 93% of all public place violence involved a victim or offender aged under 25. the majority of which were occurrences of public place ABH (n=17).
- **Aspley:** 72% (n=39) involved under 25-year-olds. The majority of these were ABH occurrences, however of note every occurrence of public place sexual offences (n=6) in this ward involved a victim aged under 25.
- **Bulwell Forest:** 70% involved under 25-year-olds. Every occurrence of knife-enabled robbery in this ward involved a victim who was under the age of 25.
- **West Bridgford:** over two thirds (n=34) involved under 25-year-olds as victims or offenders of public place violence. This was mostly from public place assaults (n=27).

## 3.2 Violence against the person

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 79% of all serious violence offences in the NNVRP area were VAP offences. As such, the spatial and temporal patterns for this group of crimes is often the main driver behind the overall trends described above.

### 3.2.1 Homicide

Major crime has had a high level of demand in 2023, with complex and challenging enquiries across the region. The homicide figure stands at 30 investigations across the East Midlands Region. Nationally, homicide rates remain at 17% below the 2019 baseline figure, but an +88% increase for the first 6 months of 2023 may put the region as an outlier nationally.

An average of 10 homicides are recorded in the NNVRP area each year<sup>60</sup>, which remains broadly in line with the three-year average for that of most similar forces. The 12 months to September 2023 however saw 12 homicides, and a further 9 attempted murders. These figures were impacted by the tragic multiple homicide in Nottingham City in June 2023. As a rare major crime, homicide cases are heavily resourced, with the vast majority leading to a positive criminal justice outcome. *It is important to note that the 12 homicides to September 2023 include one historic occurrence from June where remains found in Sutton-in-Ashfield were linked to a missing persons case from 1967.*

In the NNVRP area, between 1.7 and 3.0 domestic homicides are recorded each year in the rolling 12-month data. Reflecting this, the rolling yearly average for domestic homicides, as captured in September 2023 is 1.7 against a 2019/20 baseline of 4. In the year ending September 2023, 5 homicides were knife related, with attempted murder accounting for a further 3. Findings from the [Force Homicide profile](#)<sup>61</sup> shows that:

- 24% of the homicides in the assessed period were spontaneous altercations, 71% of which were influenced by alcohol, with Saturday 18:00 – 23:59 being the most prevalent time.
- 24% were linked to Domestic Abuse.
- Links to the drug markets have been identified as a key driver with 41% of the homicides reviewed showing some link to drugs. There was a peak in 2020 with 8 of the 12 homicides recorded for that year having drug links and a trough in 2022 when none of the 4 recorded showed any links.

The report also showed that despite a decrease in knife related homicides, this remains the predominant modus operandi (MO) for gang related homicides, which account for 17.2% of the homicides assessed (n29). The perpetrators of these homicides are most commonly aged 16-20 years. In addition, a further 10% were linked to retribution/retaliation attacks.

It should be noted that at the time of writing, there have been a further 5 homicides in the NNVRP area to the end of 2023, that fall outside of the reporting period as given. To allow for further insight to be drawn regarding the crime type; these occurrences have been assessed and show furtherance of **domesticity links, young persons as offenders** and **public place violence**, which all align with findings from the force profile.

The **Winter Homicide Prevention campaign** has been introduced in force in January 2024; it has been developed from data obtained from the NPCC homicide portfolio that is led by Nottinghamshire Police's Chief Constable, Kate Meynell.

While there are numerous factors that influence homicides throughout the UK, men aged 25 and over are being targeted in the prevention campaign to prevent incidents in public places. In the NNVRP area, analysis shows that violence in the night-time economy is a key contributor for homicides and near misses, with alcohol and spontaneous altercations being common factors.

<sup>60</sup> Based on 3 year rolling average on account of low volumes concerned.

<sup>61</sup> Nottinghamshire Police Homicide Profile 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2022 (29 homicides).



### 3.2.2 Assault

An **assault** is where a person intentionally or recklessly uses unlawful force against someone else. The following section covers actual bodily harm (ABH) or section 47 offences assault occasioning ABH offences, and grievous bodily harm (GBH) or section 20 and 18 offences, separately on account of the severity of injury they cause.

In the Police and Crime Survey, 2.33% of respondents across the NNVRP area said they had personally been a victim of physical violence or assault by anyone in either a public or private place. This is an increase of 0.26% percentage points compared to the previous year. Of those that answered yes, 29% of respondents were repeat victims of physical violence, an increase compared to 26% in the previous year.

#### Actual bodily harm

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 9,072 assault with injury offences were recorded by Nottinghamshire Police, the majority being incidents of ABH (90%). Of the 8,196 ABH offences, 141 were on a constable (-3% compared to previous 12 months), 34 on an emergency worker (+6%) and 32 were racially/religiously aggravated (-36%). Of the ABH offences in the most recent 12 months:

- 36% had a domestic marker compared to 33% of offences in the previous 12 months.
- 24% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor compared to 26% in the previous 12 months; of the alcohol flagged offences, over a third also had a domestic marker.
- 45% occurred in a dwelling, 30% in a public/open place (with 20% on the street) and 7% in hospitality.

*Mental health:* Of note, occurrences of assault in a mental health unit showed the greatest volume increase from the previous year (+17%, +31 occurrences). These increases were noted in the local area profiles, with the occurrences mostly attributed to a small number of vulnerable residents in healthcare units located in Mansfield and Bulwell.

- In July 2023, the National Police Chiefs Council and College of Policing released both the national partnership agreement and Right Care Right Person Toolkit<sup>62</sup>. The national partnership agreement sets out the agreement between partnership agencies across England and Wales who are adopting the RCRP approach, which includes Nottingham.
- This may impact on offences linked to mental health moving forward and should be considered when analysing links between mental health and violent crime.

As mentioned on account of the large volume of serious violence that are ABH offences, the temporal, seasonal and demographic trends largely reflect what was presented in the previous section. Nottingham City Centre had the highest number of ABH offences across the NNVRP area, accounting for 9% of offences, the majority of which were in Market Square (n=329). These high volumes can possibly be attributed to the effect of the NTE on this area, with over half of ABH offences in the City Centre ward having alcohol cited as an influencing factor.

As previously mentioned, it is important to consider disproportionality when analysing location data for serious violence. As anticipated, high volumes and proportions of **alcohol-related assaults** were in urban areas such as Nottingham City Centre (54% of ABH were alcohol flagged, n=405) and Mansfield Town Centre (51%, n=106). Particular wards that had high volumes and proportions of **domestic assault** include Aspley (53% of ABH were domestic, n=86), Bilborough (52%, n=88) and St Ann's (50%, n=71).

Over 10% of ABH offences in the NNVRP area in the most recent 12 months involved a weapon. Of the 869 offences that were weapon-enabled, 191 involved a knife. This is an 8% increase on the volume of knife-

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<sup>62</sup> [Right Care Right Person \(RCRP\) national guidance launched | College of Policing](#)

enabled ABH seen in the previous year. Notably, in analysing what may underly this trend, domestic knife crime is the area which showed the largest increase:

- Domestic flagged ABH that involved a knife increased to 94 occurrences in the most recent 12 months from 59 in the previous year (+60%). When domestic flagged occurrences were removed, knife enabled ABH decreased by 18% from 118 occurrences to 97.

\* This highlights a trend of increased threat to life with domestic violence occurrences, and this will be explored further in the domestic abuse thematic section of this assessment. It is important to consider that because domestic abuse is often a hidden crime, data held can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic violence experienced in the NNVRP area.

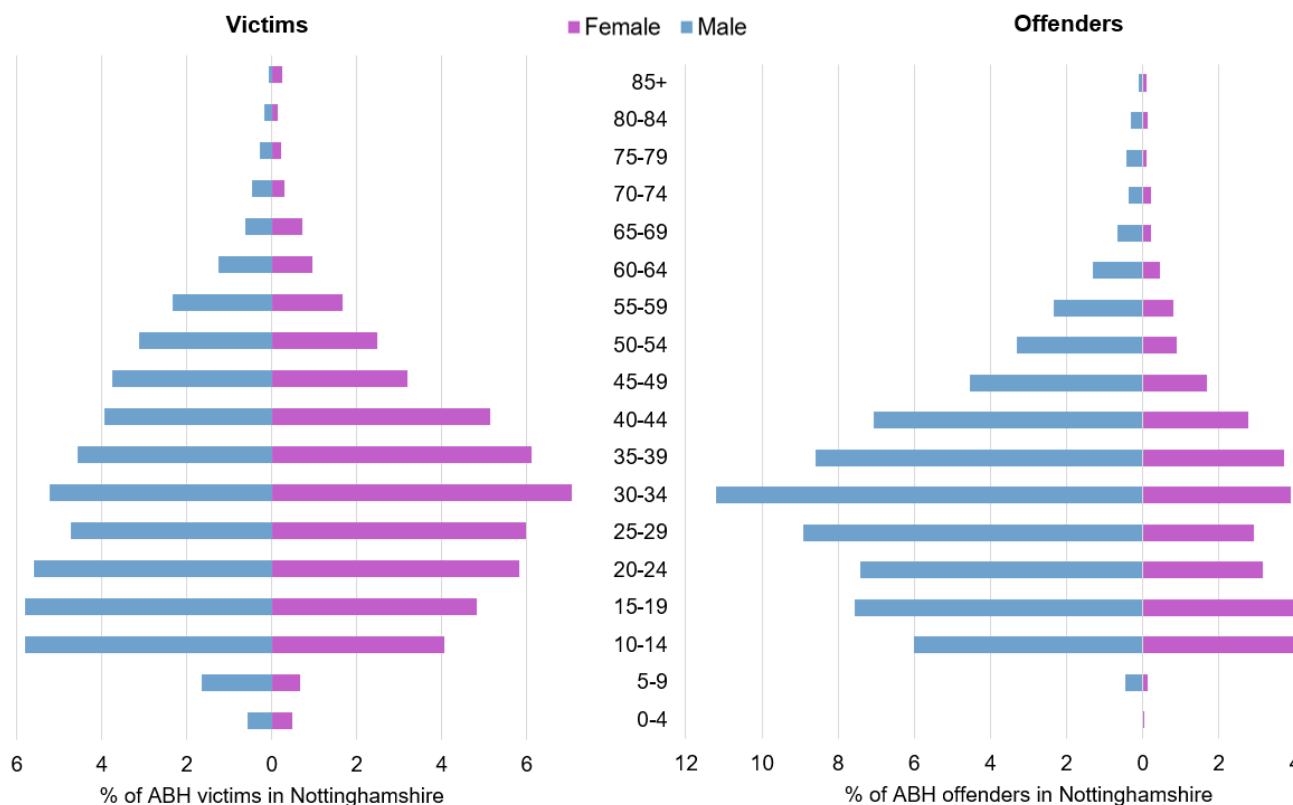
### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 7,617 victims and 6,908 suspects/offenders of ABH in the most recent 12 months. In these offences, the offender was a stranger in 25%, an acquaintance in 18%, a partner in 16%, a family member in 13% and an ex-partner in 9%<sup>63</sup>.

- As mentioned, this victim-offender relationship does shift depending on the location of assault, with urban areas such as Nottingham City and Mansfield Town Centre showing a much higher volume of stranger ABH offences, compared to residential/rural areas which have a higher domestic skew.

In the dataset, there were 819 repeat offenders responsible for 1,994 offences, and 548 repeat victims the victim of 1,223 offences. Of the repeat victims, **47% had a domestic marker**. The demographic makeup of victims and offenders of ABH in the NNVRP area is shown in the figure below.

**Actual Bodily Harm: Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023**



In 71% of occurrences, the offender was male and in every age group there were more male offenders than female. The gender breakdown of victims is much more equally distributed between split between males and

<sup>63</sup> 18% of victim-offender relationships were unknown/other, 1.0% the victim refused to identify the offender.

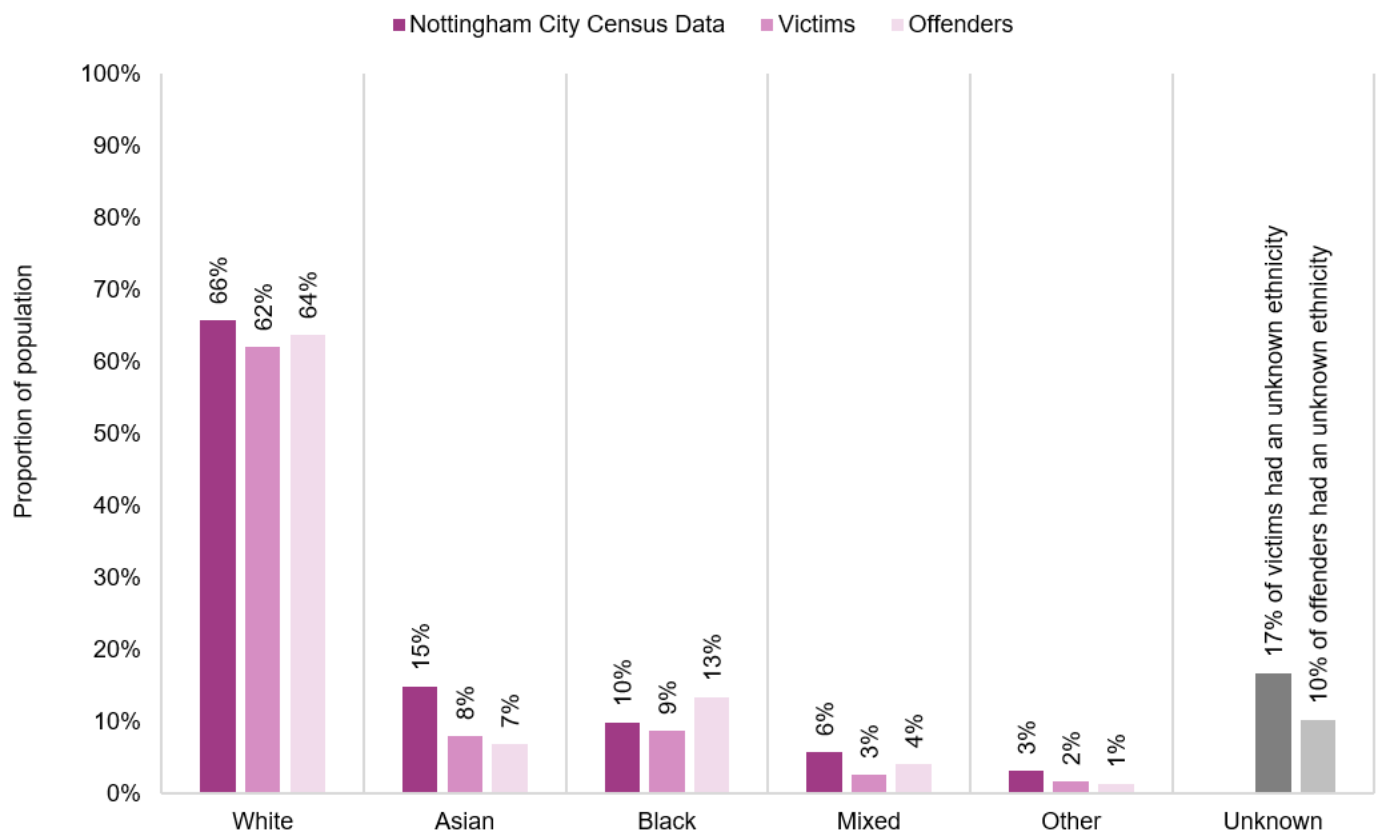
females, both representing 50% (males: n=3,807, females: n=3,810) of victims of ABH in the NNVRP area. The demographic which had the largest volume of ABH offenders was males aged 30-34 at 11%, followed by 25–29-year-old males at 9%. There were fewer female offenders however they were found most concentrated in the 10–14-year-old age group (n=291, 4.2% of all ABH offenders).

This trend of young girls as offenders was noted in the local area profiles, specifically in the Ashfield local authority. This matches the most recent data, with 17% of all young female offenders aged between 10-14 committing ABH in the Ashfield area. It was noted that within this demographic many offences are against cohabitants/family members in a dwelling, and the remainder being in public spaces against peers. When considered against the full data set here were 30 repeat offenders and 9 occurrences that involved group offending with multiple girls aged between 10-14.

Ethnicity data was recorded for 84% of victims and 91% of offenders (excluding suspects). The proportion breakdown for ethnicities of offenders and victims is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census, for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

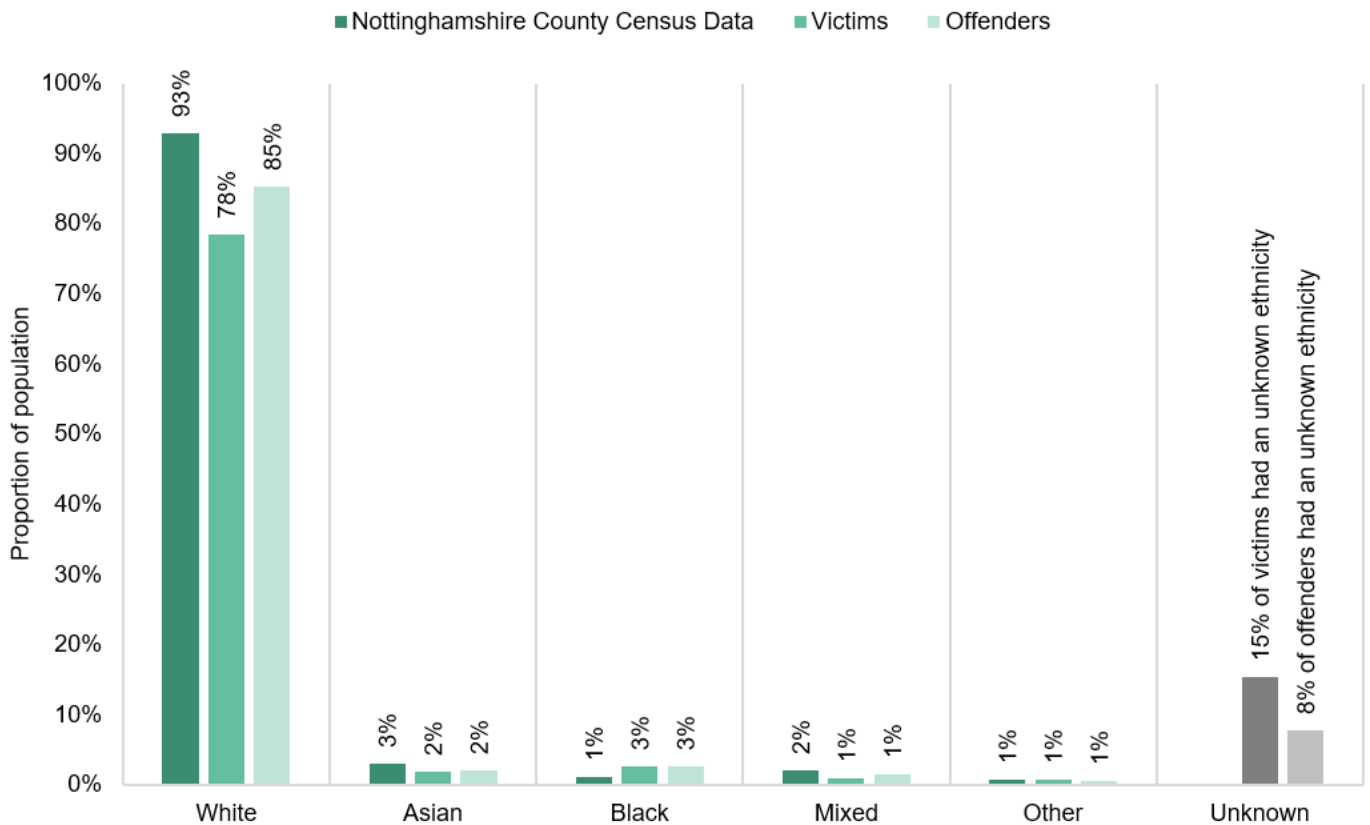
As highlighted in the graphs, there are no significant areas of over/under-representation. It is noted that areas that did show under-representation such as victims and offenders from white ethnic groups, will likely be affected by the missing data as this is the most common missing ethnicity indicated in the methodology<sup>64</sup>. This is particularly significant in the data for Nottingham City, where 21% of offenders had an unknown ethnicity.

**Police recorded ABH by ethnicity against Nottingham City's population, October 2022 - September 2023.**



<sup>64</sup> [Ethnicity Data Methodology](#)

**Police recorded ABH by ethnicity against Nottinghamshire County's population,  
October 2022 - September 2023.**



### *Custody data*

Custody data has been used to provide further insight surrounding the vulnerabilities of those arrested for ABH. Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 2,422 arrests for ABH where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. Repeat offenders were left in this data set as different vulnerabilities may have been identified at each arrest.

Of the total ABH arrests, the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody in 1,263 arrests (52%). This is an increase from 1,098 (which represented 40% of arrests) in the previous 12 months. In addition to this, the offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability in 1,038 arrests (43%). Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 567 were listed as having depression;
- 448 were listed as having anxiety;
- 104 were listed as having PTSD.
- 80 were listed as having schizophrenia;
- 72 were listed as having bipolar disorder;

It should be noted that individuals may appear in more than one of the categories listed above, and if so will be counted twice as this analysis is completed from free-text field of the custody dataset.

In 270 out of the 2,422 arrests (11% of total arrests) the offender was identified as having a substance use vulnerability.

### **Grievous bodily harm**

GBH is the most serious level of assault, as the injuries are deemed to cause a serious detriment to a victim's health. It should be noted that ABH and GBH can both be psychological, but these are rare cases. In the most recent 12 months, 876 GBH offences were recorded by Nottinghamshire Police of which the majority (83%) were more severe section 18 offences where the perpetrator intended to cause serious bodily harm.

Of these 876 GBH offences:

- 27% had a domestic marker compared to 20% in the previous 12 months. Overall, the volume of domestic GBH has increased by 24% from 186 to 231 occurrences.
- 23% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor compared to 27% in the previous 12 months; of the alcohol flagged offences, 30% had also had a domestic marker compared to 20% last year.
- The majority of GBH occurred in a public place (42%), followed by dwellings (38%). Notably, public place serious violence causing GBH has decreased (-7.5%).

As with ABH, the majority of GBH offences occurred in Nottingham City Centre (8%), largely attributed to the effect of the NTE on this area. Notably, the Meadows and Bestwood were disproportionately affected by GBH both as a rate of serious violence, and compared to other volumes of serious violence in the area. Across the NNVRP area, GBH made up 7% of all serious violence offences at a rate of less than 1 occurrence per 1,000 population:

- In the Meadows, GBH made up 13% of all serious violence in the area at a rate of 1.5 per 1,000 population. It is noted that there were increased tensions in this area linked to the drug markets following a homicide in November 2021, several perpetrators of serious violence in the period after this homicide have now been arrested and charged.
- In Bestwood, GBH made up 11% of all serious violence in the area at a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 population.
- The intelligence stream notes well established links to organised crime in both of these areas. Both areas also showed slight increases in the volume of GBH recorded in the most recent 12 months.

As mentioned, there is a significant amount of GBH that occurs in a domestic setting, and this has increased compared to previous years. Particular wards that had high volumes and proportions of **domestic assault** include Bestwood (52% of GBH were domestic, n=12) and Hucknall (52%, n=12).

As anticipated due to the harm that injuries cause to be classed as GBH, over half of all GBH offences recorded in the NNVRP area involved a weapon. Of these, the majority (27% of all GBH, n=235) involved a knife, a decrease of 8% compared to the previous year. Notably however, as observed with ABH offences, knife-enabled GBH that was flagged as domestic increased in the most recent 12 months from 36 occurrences to 59 (+64%).

### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 821 victims and 898 suspects/offenders of GBH in the most recent 12 months. In these offences, the offender was a stranger in 30%, an acquaintance in 19%, a partner in 11%, ex-partner in 8% and a family member in 6%<sup>65</sup>. In this dataset, there were 19 repeat victims the victim of 44 offences, and 58 repeat offenders responsible for 132 occurrences of GBH. The demographic makeup of victims and offenders of GBH in the NNVRP area is shown in the figure below.

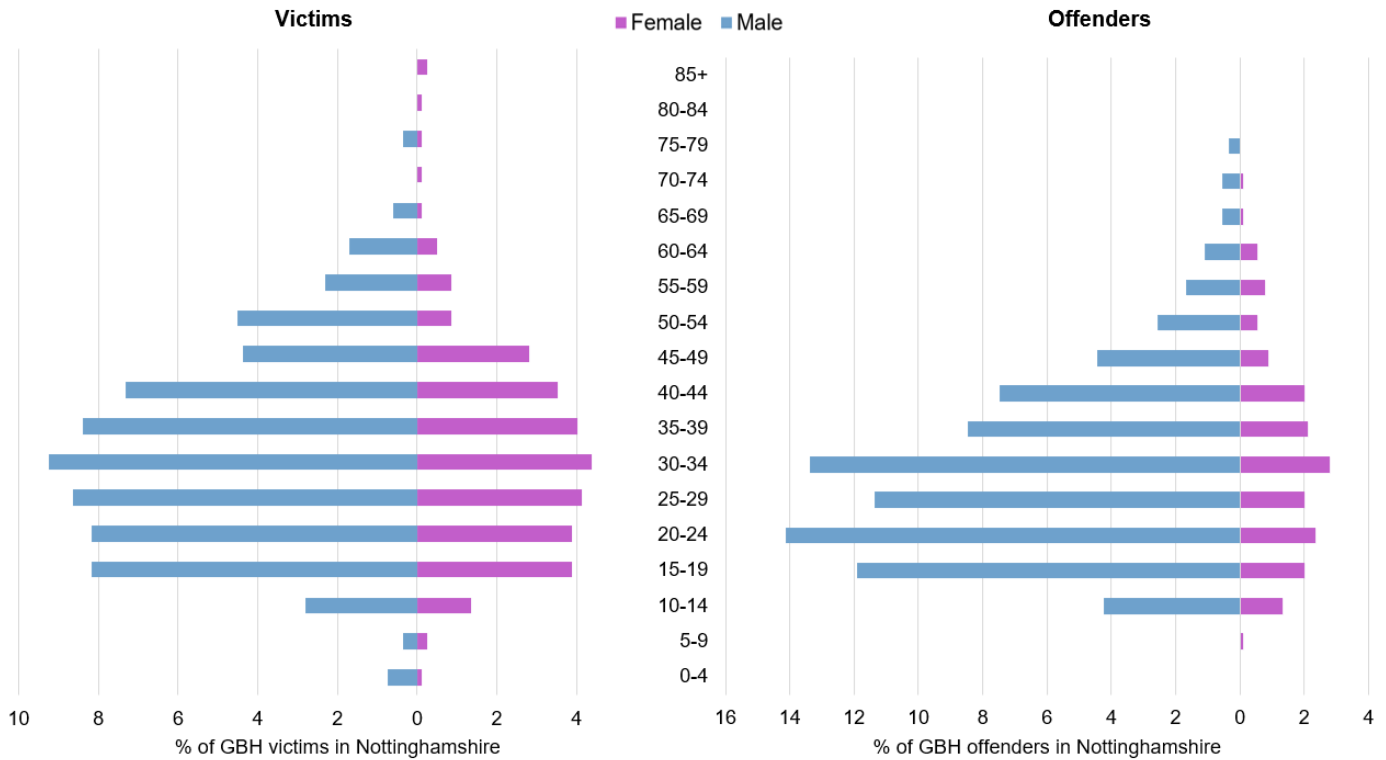
The demographic profile for GBH offences shifts towards males, as both victims and offenders, more significantly than ABH. This reflects what was observed in the EMAS dataset, which represents the highest harm and most severe assaults, such as GBH. In 82% of occurrences, the offender was male, and in 69% of occurrences the victim was male.

Victims were found most concentrated in the 30–34-year-old age group, as both males (9% of all victims) and females (4.4% of all victims). Offenders were most likely to be 20–24-year-old males at 14% of all GBH perpetrators, closely followed by 30–34-year-old males.

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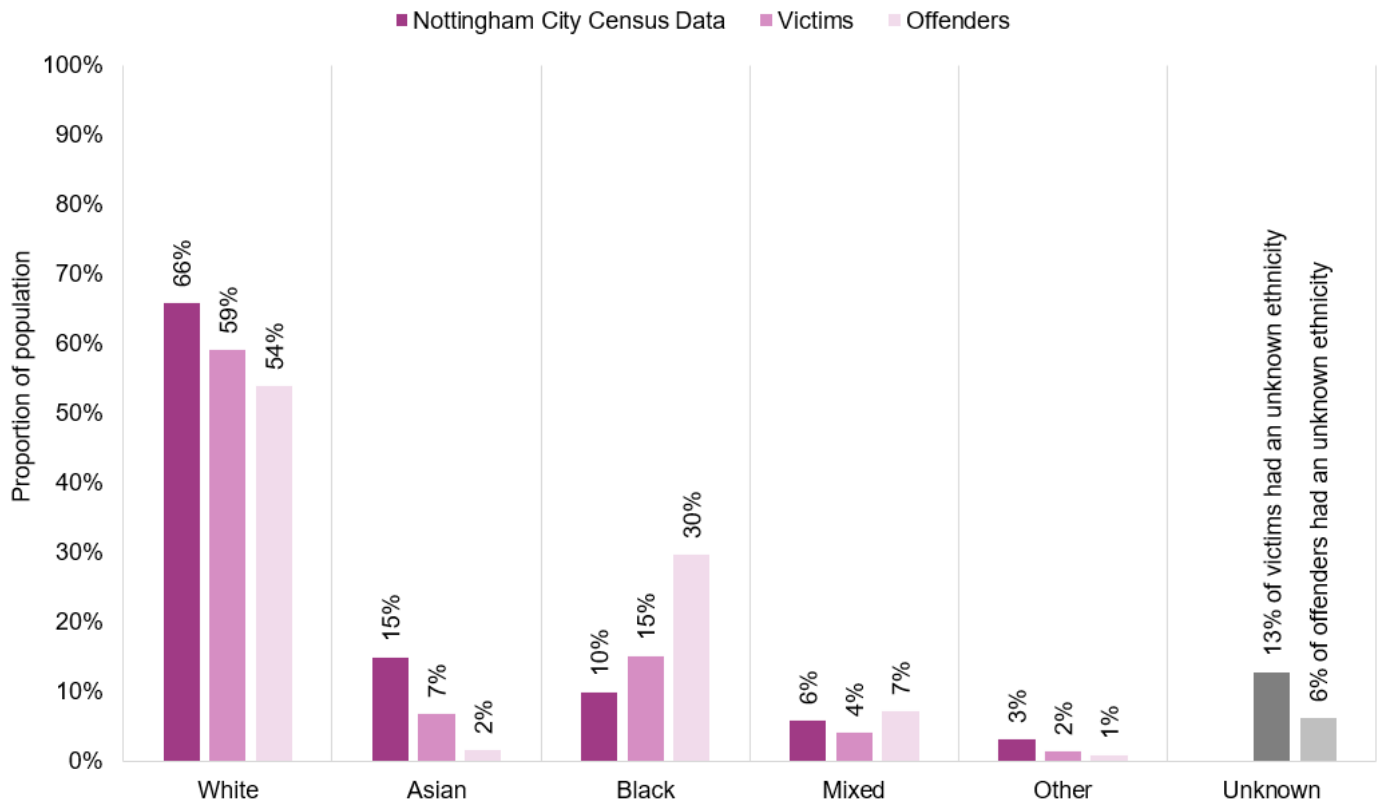
<sup>65</sup> 22% of victim-offender relationships were unknown and 3% the victim refused to identify the offender.

**Grievous Bodily Harm: Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire**  
by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023

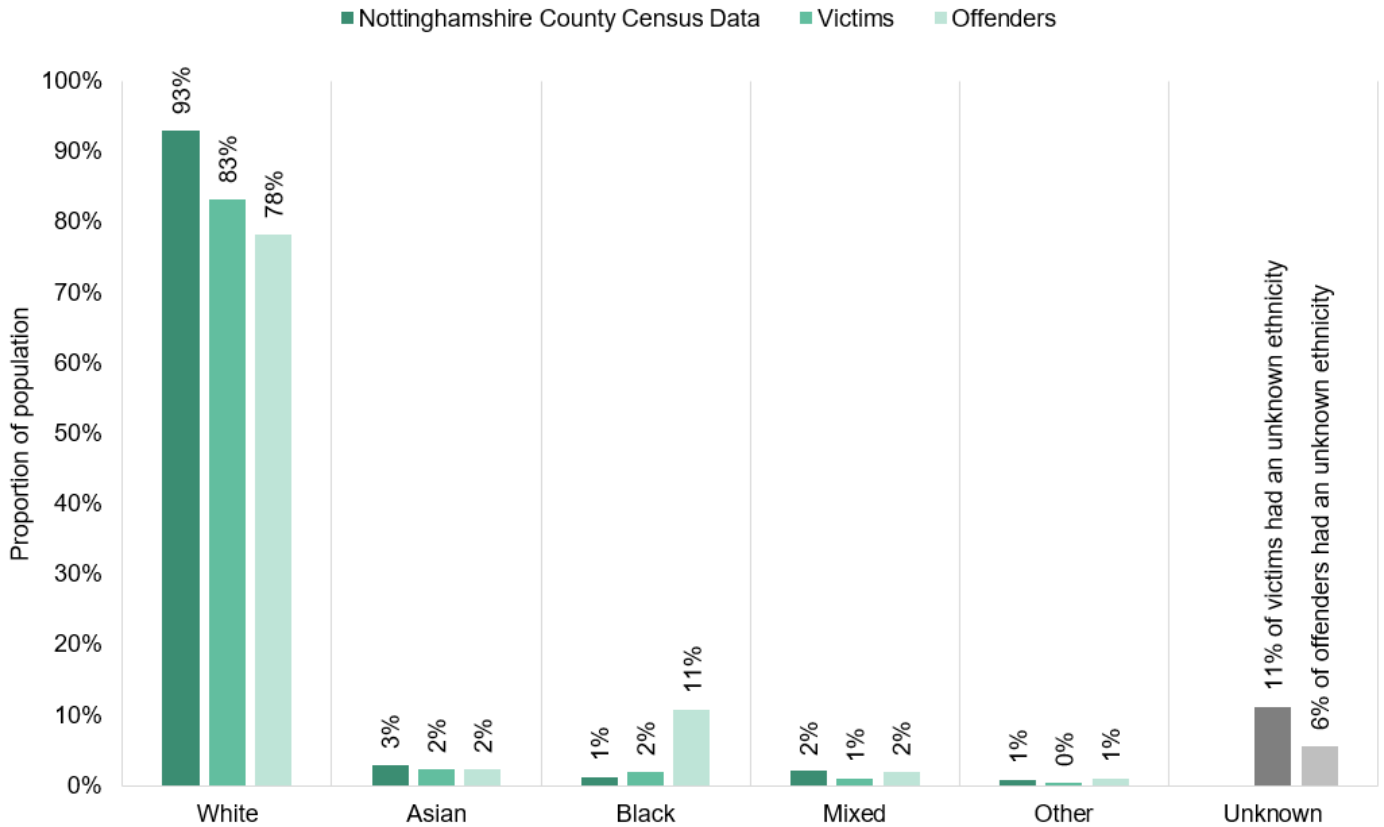


Ethnicity data was recorded for 88% of victims and 93% of offenders (excluding suspects). The proportion breakdown for ethnicities of offenders and victims is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census, for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

**Police recorded GBH by ethnicity against Nottingham City's population,**  
October 2022 - September 2023.



**Police recorded GBH by ethnicity against Nottinghamshire County's population,  
October 2022 - September 2023.**



It is important to consider the small sample size when interpreting the graph below for example with the over-representation of offenders from black ethnic groups: 30% of GBH offenders in Nottingham City represents 33 individuals out of 111, and 11% of GBH offenders in Nottinghamshire County represents 23 individuals out of 212.

**Custody data**

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 503 arrests for GBH where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. Of the total GBH arrests, the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody in 242 arrests (48%). This is an increase from 179 (which represented 32% of arrests) in the previous 12 months.

In addition to this, in 199 arrests (40% of total GBH arrests) the offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability. Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 99 were listed as having depression;
- 83 were listed as having anxiety;
- 28 were listed as having PTSD.
- 7 were listed as having schizophrenia;
- 7 were listed as having bipolar disorder;

In 53 out of the 503 arrests (11%) the offender was identified as having a substance use vulnerability in custody.

**3.2.3 Threats to kill**

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 156 threats to kill offences that involved a bladed weapon, a slight increase compared to the previous year (n=146). This data reflects an upward trend that has been seen nationally of increased knife-enabled threats to kill compared to pre-pandemic figures (n=88).

Of these 156 offences of knife-enabled threats to kill:

- More than half (52%) had a domestic marker compared to just under a half (49%) in the previous 12 months. Overall, the volume of domestic knife-enabled threats to kill have increased by 12.5%. This reflects observations of increased severity of domestic crime shown in assault data.
- The majority of knife-enabled threats to kill were in dwellings (74%), followed by 14% in a public place. Notably, the volume of threats to kill in dwellings has increased by 16% in the most recent 12 months, whereas public place occurrences have decreased by 35%.

There are no significant concentrations of threats to kill offences in the NNVRP area. Notably however, **Hucknall** and **the Arboretum** were disproportionately affected by knife-enabled threats to kill, with 3% of serious violence in the areas being knife-enabled threats to kill respectively compared to 1% across Nottinghamshire. The two wards also represented the highest volume of offences in the most recent 12 months, each making up 7% of all occurrences.

### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 151 victims and 151 perpetrators of knife-enabled threats to kill offences in the most recent 12 months. In 17% of occurrences, the offender was the victims boyfriend/girlfriend, they were a family member in 19%, an acquaintance in 16%, a stranger in 12%, and an ex-partner in 12%<sup>66</sup>. The largest increases compared to the previous year were seen in threats to kill between boyfriends/girlfriends (+68%) and strangers (+72%), whereas offences between acquaintances showed a decrease (-31%).

The offender was a male in 83% of occurrences and in every age group there were more male offenders than female. The gender breakdown of victims is much more equally distributed (52% female, 48% male).

The demographic with the largest volume of offenders was males aged between 30-34 at 13% of offenders, followed by 15–19-year-old males (12%). For victims, they were most likely to be found in the 30–34-year-old female cohort (9% of all victims), or the 35–39-year-old male cohort (8.6%).

Ethnicity data was recorded for 85% of victims (n=142) and 97% (n=57) of offenders (excluding suspects) of knife-enabled threats to kill. The majority of victims (71%) and offenders (81%) were from white ethnic groups, and there were no specific areas of over/under-representation.

### 3.2.4 Exploitation

**Exploitation** is a complex and hidden issue; it is a form of abuse that involves being groomed, forced, or coerced into doing something for someone else's gain. People who are being exploited can find themselves in situations where they experience abuse and violence and may be forced to take part in criminal activities.

Under the NNVRP's revised definition of serious violence in line with the Serious Violence Duty, a focus has been placed on exploitation where serious violence or its threat is inherent. There are many forms of exploitation that cause serious harm; however, this section covers:

- Modern Slavery: a form of slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour.
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): when an individual or group manipulates, deceives, coerces, or controls someone under the age of 18 to take part in criminal activity. Within this, there will be a particular focus on *county lines*<sup>67</sup> as a form of CCE.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): when an individual or group take sexual advantage of someone under the age of 18 for their benefit.

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<sup>66</sup> 15% of victim-offender relationships were unknown, and 3% were recorded as victimless/crimes against state.

<sup>67</sup> **County Lines**: gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using a dedicated mobile phone line or other form of deal line.



## Modern Slavery

The National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery. NRMs are regularly submitted in the NNVRP area, the majority submitted by the Home Office, followed by Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council.

- The referrals being made by Nottinghamshire Police are predominantly linked to criminal exploitation; of these, all UK nationals are linked to drug dealing or cuckooing (both adults and minors), whereas all adult foreign national referrals are associated with cannabis grows.
- The majority of Home Office referrals relate to labour exploitation in Libya for people originally from Sudan and Eritrea. This is likely linked to human rights issues driving them to seek security elsewhere, but they are then often kidnapped and extorted as they travel through Libya.

Between October 2022 - September 2023, 287 incidents of modern slavery have been recorded by Nottinghamshire Police. The overall volume of modern slavery offences (crimed & non-crimed) is 7% higher than the previous year, however this does not necessarily correlate with an increase volume of victims but could indicate an improvement in identifying potential victims of modern slavery.

It is important to note that this figure is predicted to be much higher than what demand presents to the police; it is a hidden crime with victims often unable to come forward due to fear, shame or threat of violence. It must also be considered that following effective grooming, some young people will not believe they are being exploited and that they are 'choosing' to engage in activities that may put them at higher risk of violence.

The volume of crimed modern slavery offences has stayed stable to volumes seen in the previous year, with increases in holding a person in slavery/servitude offences (+49%) offsetting decreases in forced/compulsory labour offences (-30%). This data may change given that regular auditing takes place to ensure NRMs are correctly reclassified when appropriate. Examples of recent crimed offences include:

- A Pakistani female forced into domestic servitude after arriving in the UK after marriage;
- Albanian and Vietnamese males found at cannabis grows;
- A female being forced into sex work;
- A female being cuckooed at her home address by several males;
- A young Romanian female being forced to commit shop-theft offences;
- Criminal exploitation of UK nominals being threatened and forced into drug dealing;

There was a significant increase in the volume of police recorded modern slavery in the pandemic, with figures peaking after the end of the second lockdown in 2021. The increase during COVID may have been a result of closed borders meaning no further persons could be bought into the country and therefore, those already in the NNVRP area had to work significantly more hours of forced labour to cover what had been planned. Other factors to consider that may have impacted the increase during COVID include:

- Vulnerable cohorts of substance issuers may have been more targeted for exploitation;
- Drug use, namely cannabis, increased in lockdown, so the demand rose which impacts the amount of workers needed in the illicit market for labour and distribution;
- Financial instability may have meant people turned to illicit money lenders, and they may have entered servitude from this.

### Victim and offender profile

91 victims were identified from the crimed modern slavery offences recorded by Nottinghamshire Police in the most recent 12 months. Of these, 60% were adults, which has increased from 52% in the previous year, and 40% were children, which has decreased from 48%. 71% of victims were male and 27% female, the remaining 2% did not have a gender recorded.

This is similar to the previous year, but female potential victims have increased slightly in referrals. 51 perpetrators were identified from the crimed modern slavery offences recorded by Nottinghamshire Police in the most recent 12 months. Of these, 80% were males.

In police recorded crime data, both male and female victims were found most concentrated in the 15–19-year-old demographic; female victims were found most concentrated in the 15-year-old age group, representing 5% of all victims, and males in the 17-year-old age group, at 7% of all victims.

The table below shows the breakdown of NRM referrals by age, gender, and main exploitation type category. As can be seen criminal exploitation accounts for the majority of referrals for both male adults and children. Where the exploitation type is not established, this is due to the exploitation field not being fully completed on the form.

		National Referral Mechanism – Nottinghamshire (NNVRP)							
		2021/22				2022/23			
		Adult		Child (under 18)		Adult		Child (under 18)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Total NRM referrals</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Main exploitation type</b>	Labour	38	< 5	< 5	-	39	< 5	7	< 5
	Sexual	< 5	14	-	6	<5	14	-	15
	Criminal	53	< 5	64	< 5	48	7	62	5
	Domestic Servitude	6	7	-	-	< 5	< 5	-	-
	Human Trafficking	< 5	-	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	5	-
	Not Established	< 5	-	-	-	< 5	< 5	-	-

#### Ethnicity data

Ethnicity was recorded for 67% of NRM referrals in the most recent 12 months. For referrals under the age of 18 where ethnicity was known, victims from white ethnic backgrounds made up 49% of modern slavery victims, from black ethnic backgrounds made up 33%, Asian ethnic backgrounds made up 11% and Southeast Asian ethnic backgrounds made up 7%. For referrals over the age of 18 where ethnicity was known, white ethnic backgrounds made up 56% of modern slavery victims, Black, Asian and Southeast Asian ethnic backgrounds each made up 12% of victims respectively, and Middle Eastern backgrounds made up 9% of victims.

\* Migrant adult workers are more than three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant adult workers due to an increased risk of unfair/unethical recruitment, or irregular or poorly governed migration. It is therefore a predicted trend that the demographics of victims of modern slavery often reflects that of migration statistics.

- This is observed in the NNVRP area where there is a skew towards young adults and an emerging trend of young females in both migration and modern slavery statistics, although numbers remain low.
- As world events such as climate change, political instability, and the seeking of refuge from war to escape conflict zones lead to increased migration worldwide, measures must be taken to protect the displaced from further exploitation.

All NRMs, once submitted and recorded, are subject to numerous ongoing requests by the SCA; for example, to help determine Conclusive Grounds decisions, or to ensure consent is obtained from a nominal who is turning 18. Notifications from the SCA chasing such requests are increasing.

Given the frequency of young victims of modern slavery in the victim cohort, occasions where support is withdrawn for those nominals who have turned 18 and have not given consent to remain in the process raises concern, as this will continue to put them at risk of further exploitation as adults. Here is a further risk that some victims will go on to become offenders of exploitation establishing a continuing cycle.

## **Slavery Exploitation Team**

The Slavery Exploitation Team (SET) and the SERAC are jointly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Council to ensure victims are supported and potential future cases are minimised. The following analysis was extracted from the Nottingham City Council Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2023.

Since its inception, the SET has continually worked to strengthen the partnership approach to the identification, prevention, and management of cases of vulnerability & exploitation. In 2022/23, SET received 273 referrals. The team has had a significant increase in referrals since the model was launched in 2019.

- This increase is likely to be a combination of an increase in awareness of how to identify slavery and exploitation, and the increase in vulnerability to exploitation caused by the pandemic and current cost of living crisis.

A total of 480 types of exploitation were identified; almost half (49%) only had 1 exploitation type identified, but 17% had 3 or more identified, and 6 cases had 5-7 types identified. The most common type of exploitation was financial exploitation, identified in just over 40% of cases, followed by cuckooing, identified in just over a third of all cases, and then sexual exploitation in 18% of cases.

Over half of referrals had identified vulnerabilities of: Homelessness, Mental Health Issues, and Substance Use. Over a third of referrals had identified vulnerabilities of Unemployment and Unsettled Family Settings. There were 943 vulnerabilities identified over 242 referrals, with over half (59%) of referrals having 4 or more identified vulnerabilities, and over a third (37%) having 5 or more. This demonstrates that people who are exploited are often vulnerable in multiple ways and may be more susceptible because of these severe multiple disadvantages.

## **Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines**

**County lines** is the name given to drug dealing where OCGs use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas. They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs. This is often referred to as '*drug running*'. Criminals may also use a vulnerable person's home as their base of operations. This is known as '*cuckooing*'. The drugs mainly associated with County Lines are crack cocaine and heroin.

At the time of writing there are believed 10 active County Lines recorded by Nottinghamshire Police. The area remains a predominantly exporting area, but has been impacted by inward lines, particularly in Ashfield, Mansfield and Newark. The table below shows the number of NRM referrals for child criminal exploitation by age and type of exploitation, whether a County Line was indicated. As can be seen overall criminal exploitation remains stable, although County Lines involvement has increased.

This places young people at higher risk as they are likely to be operating out of area and away from family and other support mechanisms. Although it is noted that local criminal exploitation often shows links to wider groups and associated offending that often includes violence.

Data from the Child Criminal Exploitation Meetings held between the police and partners is now available on a quarterly basis and shows 41 new meeting requests for the period July - September 2023, of which 16 were high risk. A full data set will be available for the next iteration of this needs assessment.

		NRM For Child Criminal Exploitation in Nottinghamshire			
		2021/22		2022/23	
		Criminal Exploitation	County Line Indicated	Criminal Exploitation	County Line Indicated
<b>Total NRM referrals</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Age of victim</b>	9-12	< 5	< 5	<5	-
	13-15	25	< 5	33	8
	16-18	44	< 5	33	7
	19-21	7	-	7	-
	22-24	10	-	15	-

\* Recent trends show that the age of the young people being exploited are getting younger, with 13–15-year-olds becoming more common within the trade. Adulthood has also caused those involved to be younger, as the present teenage generation are introduced to a digital and marketized world at a much younger age.

This is partially reflective in the newly named organisations known as **urban street gangs** (USGs). These are groups of usually young individuals who all identify under a social banner, which may be defined by their local geography. Their common actions relate to tensions with other groups, as well as being heavily involved with social media.

There are several USGs in the NNVRP area, with most using social media to post music videos, these are often bragging about their criminal exploits or promoting how they have hurt members of other groups, in order to establish a higher status in the area. A number of the NNVRP area USGs are also involved in the supply of drugs, albeit not as heavily linked into the networks as OCGs but do remain an active part of the drug scene.

### 3.3 Sexual Violence

Rape and sexual offending are among the most serious and high-impact crimes against the person. Under the serious violence definition, the NNVRP recognises this high-harm and places a particular focus on these crimes, domestic violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

As per the serious violence definition, this data refers to **recent offences only**<sup>68</sup>; for historic sexual violence occurrences, Nottinghamshire Police recorded an additional 417 occurrences in the most recent 12 months compared to 353 in the previous year. These figures may reflect a change in people’s willingness to report historical sexual violence incidents to the police.

**The following analysis excludes historical incidents.**

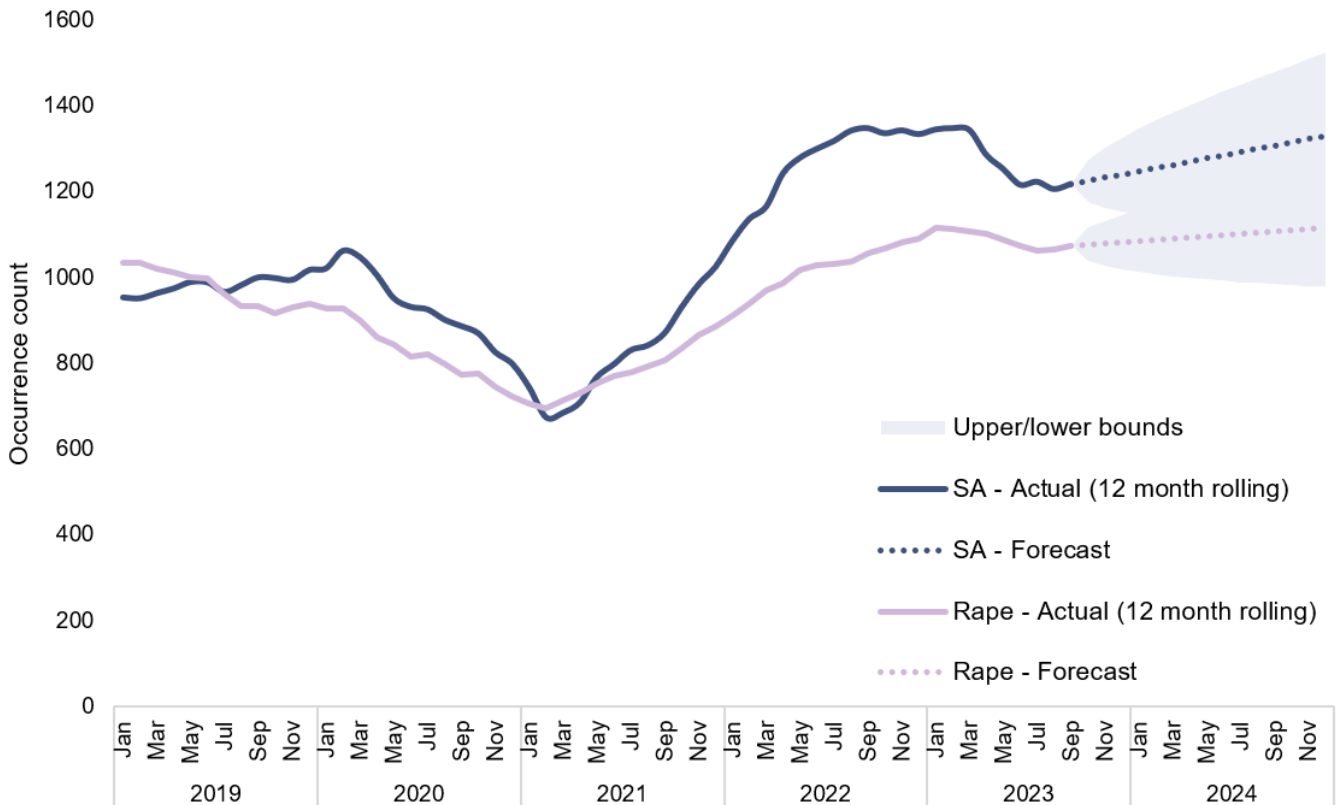
Between October 2022 – September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 2,297 occurrences of rape and sexual assault, accounting for 19% of serious violence. Compared to the previous year, this is an overall decrease of 5%, with larger decreases in sexual assault (-10%) offsetting a marginal increase in rape offences (+2%). The rate of serious sexual offences in the NNVRP area is in line with the MSG average.

The graph below shows the rolling 12 months of data for rape and sexual assaults recorded by Nottinghamshire Police over the past 4 years, forecasted to 2024. As highlighted, police recorded crime levels for RASSO fell at the start of the pandemic affected by periods of lockdown.

<sup>68</sup> **Recent offences**: the occurrence start date and the occurrence end date were within 12 months of one another.

- Volumes have since returned to a level higher than the pre-pandemic baseline for both rape (+20%) and sexual assault (+16%).
- It should be noted that the rolling 12-month data for sexual assault is affected by a peak between April – May at a singular location, with one unique victim. This is illustrated below with the sharp decline in March of 2023, as the figures are no longer in the rolling data.

**Police recorded RASSO in Nottinghamshire, 2019 - 2023, forecasted to 2024.**



### 3.3.1 Rape

Of the serious sexual violence offences recorded in the most recent 12 months in the NNVRP area, 1,077 were rape occurrences, a 2% increase compared to the previous year. Of these offences:

- 72% were of a female aged over 16, 20% of a female under 16. 6% were of a male over 16 and 3% of a male under 16. Increases were seen in rape of boys aged under 13 (+80%, +12 incidents), rape of males aged over 16 (+33%, +16 incidents), and rape of girls under 13 (+22%, +14 incidents).
- 35% had a domestic flag compared to 31% in the previous 12 months. Overall, the volume of domestic rape has increased by 15% from 325 to 374 occurrences.
- 15% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor compared to 19% in the previous 12 months. Overall, the volume of alcohol flagged rape has decreased by 18% from 201 to 164 occurrences.
- Three quarters of all rape offences occurred in a dwelling, and 10% in a public place.

Notably, 18% of all rape occurrences were flagged for **child sexual abuse**, and overall, the volume of occurrences with this flag increased by 53% from 129 to 197 in the most recent 12 months. The majority of these were flagged as being without sexual exploitation (78%).

Across the NNVRP area, rape offences made up 9% of all serious violence. Areas that have disproportionately high volumes of rape, compared to the volume of serious violence, include Cotgrave & Wiverton (25% of serious violence was rape), Dunkirk & Lenton (17%) and Mapperley and Wells (15%). Particular beats of note that represented a high volume of rape occurrences include **Radford East**,

**Ravensdale** and **Cotgrave**. Notably, these areas also showed the most significant increases in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year.

As mentioned, over a third of all rape occurrences were flagged as domestic. Particular wards that had high volumes and proportions of **domestic rape** include Retford (80% of rape was domestic, n=12) and Mansfield West (65%, n=17). Domestic rapes were lowest in City Centre (5%), Dunkirk & Lenton (14%) and the Arboretum (15%). It is noted that these are areas of high student populations, and students are less likely to be living in a domestic relationship than older adults.

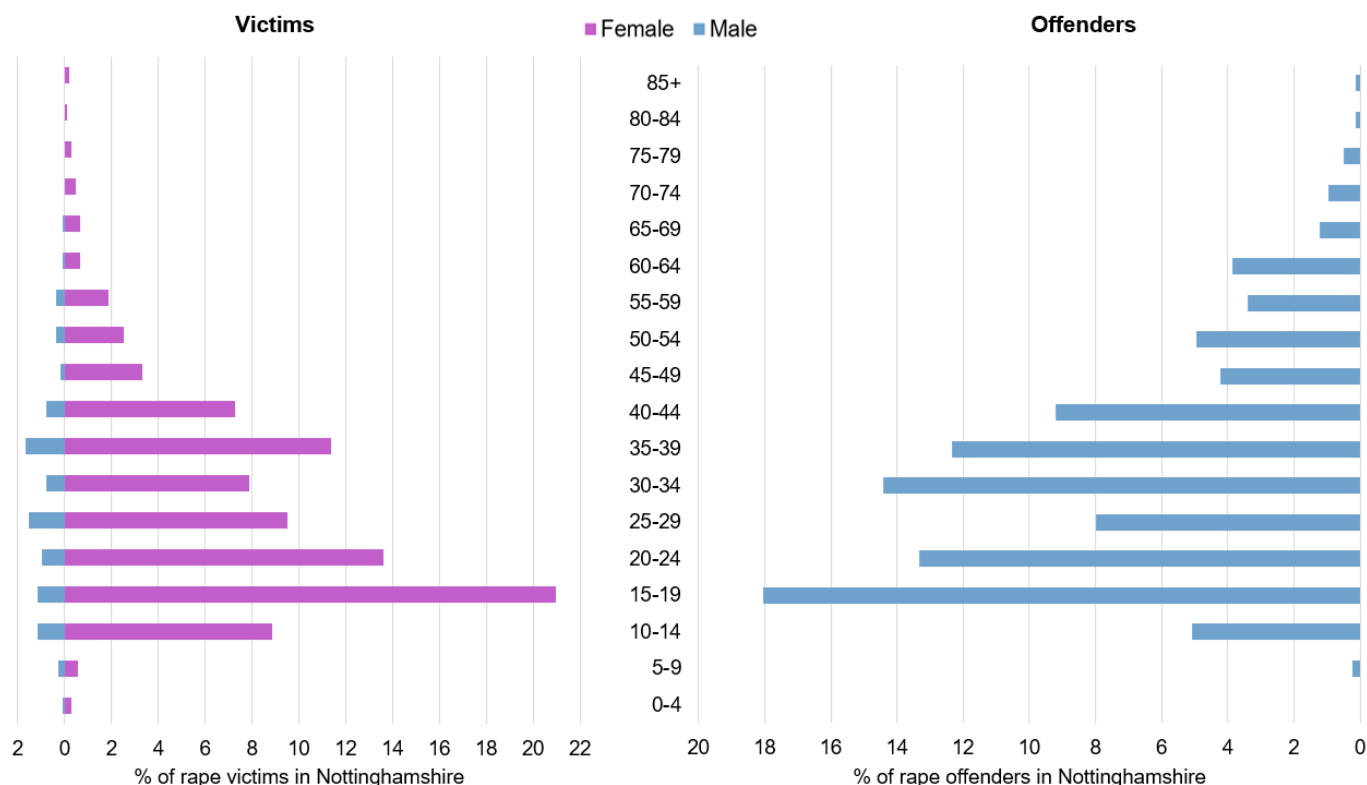
Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 1,040 victims and 826 perpetrators of rape in the most recent 12 months. In this dataset, there were 39 repeat offenders responsible for 88 offences, and 69 repeat victims the victim of 189 incidents. The offender was an acquaintance of the victim in 23% of cases, an ex-partner in 20%, a stranger in 15%, a partner in 13% and a family member in 6%<sup>69</sup>.

Notably, the number of rapes perpetrated by ex-partners (+19%) and strangers (+12%) both showed increases compared to the previous year. The demographic makeup of victims and offenders of rape in the NNVRP area is shown in the figure below.

As highlighted below, there is a strong bias towards women being victims of rape and men being perpetrators: 100% of offenders were male, and 90% of victims were female. The demographic with the largest volume of offenders was males aged between 15 and 19 at 18% of all offenders, and female victims were also most likely to be found in this demographic at 21% of all victims.

**Rape:** Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023



Notably, 15- and 17-year-old girls made up the highest proportion of victims by single year of age, at 5% respectively. 17-year-old boys made up the highest proportion of offenders, at 5%, followed by 15-year old boys at 4%. This suggests that these offences are not overly impacted by student populations or the night-time economy, but rather lack of healthy relationships and consent issues.

<sup>69</sup> The victim-offender relationship was unknown in 21% of occurrences and the victim refused to identify in 1.4%.

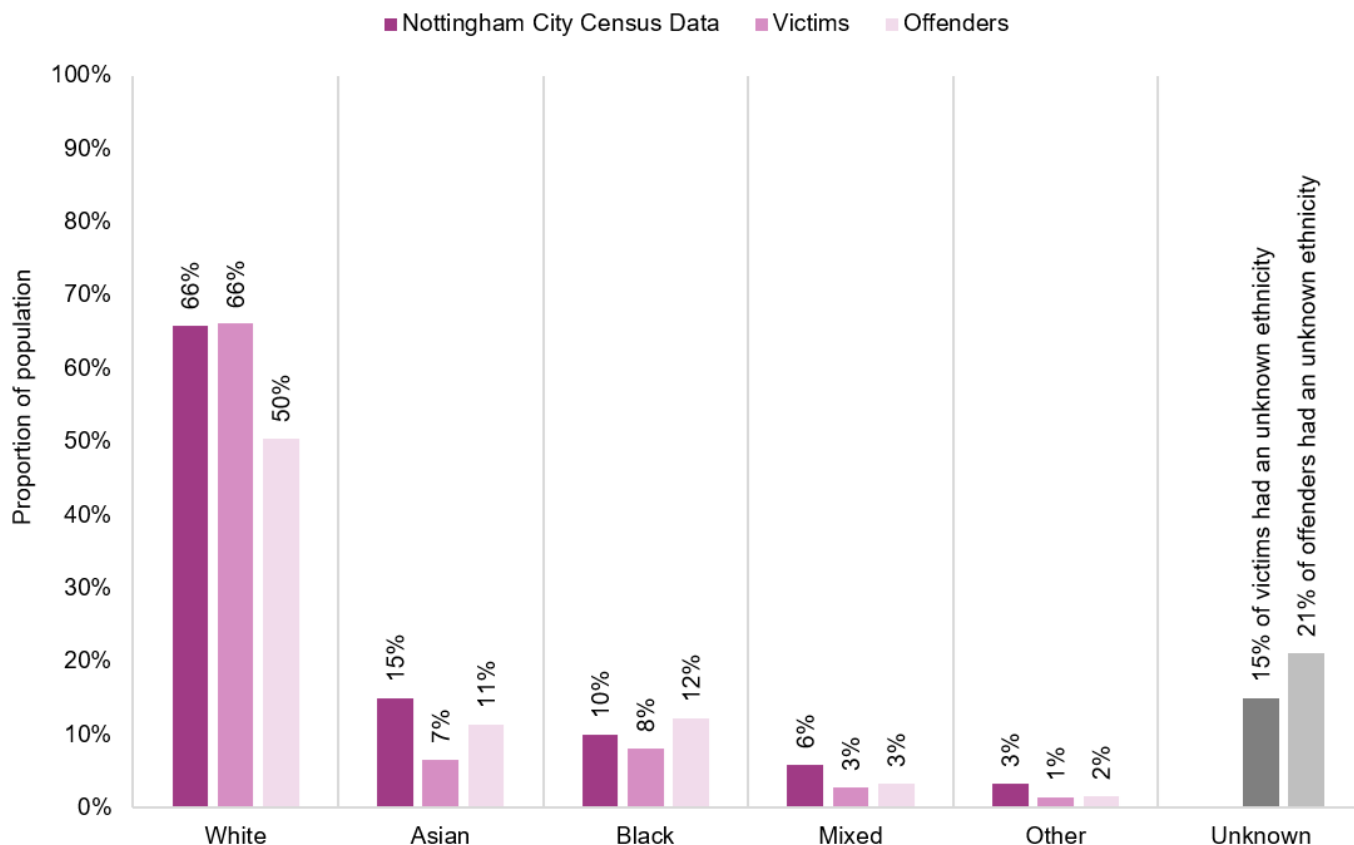
As rape offences are further classified by victim age and gender, further insight can be gained into the offender profile. For rape offences where the victim was aged **under 16**, the majority of offenders were young boys aged between 10-14 (25%). For offences when the victim was aged **over 16**, the majority of offenders were males aged between 30-34 (16%), followed by 20–24-year-old males (15%).

Ethnicity data was recorded for 87% of victims (n=926) and 84% of offenders (n=321) (excluding suspects). The proportion breakdown for ethnicities of offenders and victims is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census, for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

There were no significant areas of over/under-representation for either Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire County, it is noted that areas that did show under-representation such as victims and offenders from white ethnic groups, will likely be affected by the missing data as this is the most common missing ethnicity indicated in the methodology<sup>70</sup>. This is particularly significant in the data for Nottingham City, where 21% of offenders had an unknown ethnicity.

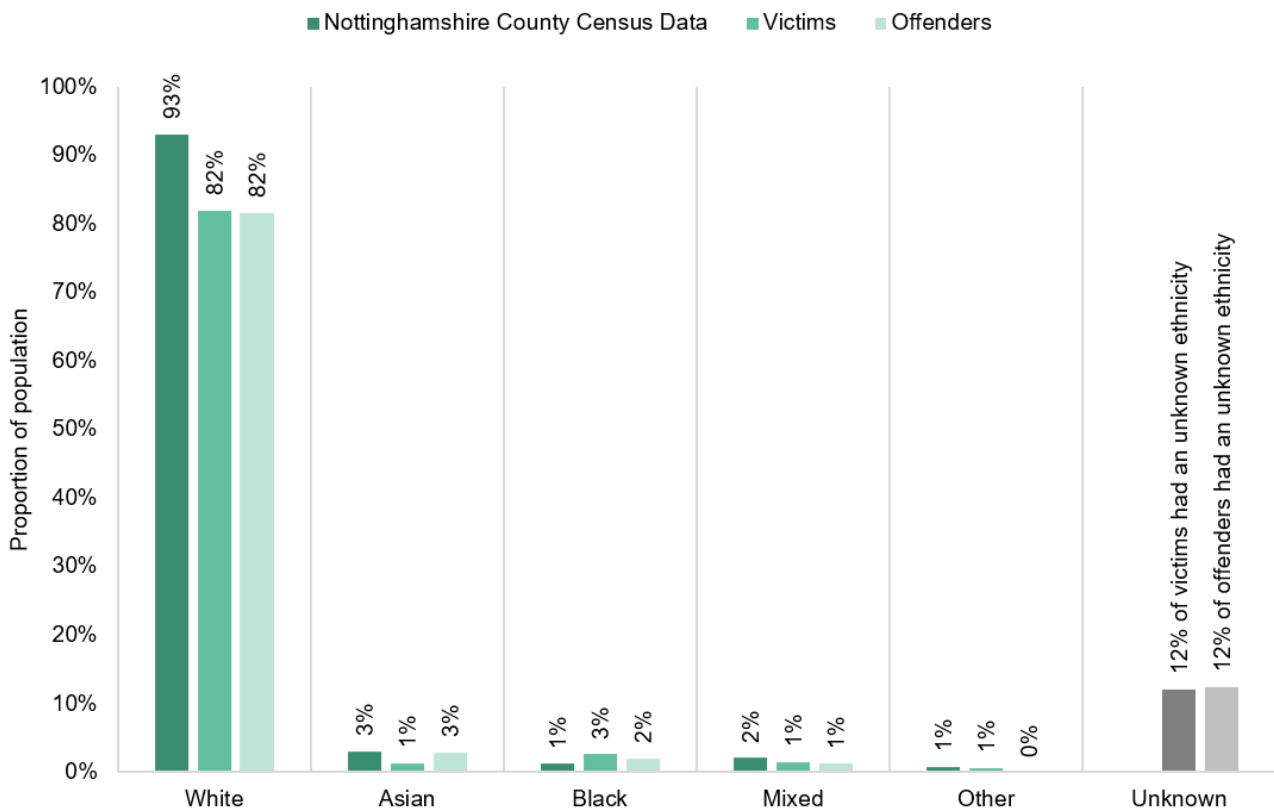
**It is important to consider the data quality and sample size when interpreting disproportionality, any figures above and the graphs below.**

**Police recorded rape by ethnicity against Nottingham City's population,**  
October 2022 - September 2023.



<sup>70</sup> [Ethnicity Data Methodology](#)

**Police recorded rape by ethnicity against Nottinghamshire County's population,  
October 2022 - September 2023.**



### *Custody data*

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 319 arrests for rape where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. Of the total arrests for rape occurrences, the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody in 135 arrests (42%). This is an increase from 114 (represented 39% of rape arrests) in the previous 12 months. The majority of the health vulnerabilities related to the mental health of the person in custody; in 110 (34%) arrests the offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability.

Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 64 were listed as having depression;
- 50 were listed as having anxiety;
- 6 were listed as having PTSD.
- 6 were listed as having schizophrenia;
- 6 were listed as having bipolar disorder;

### **Sexual assault**

Of the serious sexual violence offences recorded between October 2022 – September 2023, 1,220 were sexual assault offences, a 10% decrease compared to the previous 12 months. Of these offences:

- 70% were of a female over 13, 14% of a girl under 13, 12% of a male over 13, 4% of a boy under 13.
- Over a quarter of all sexual assault offences (27%) were flagged for child sexual abuse compared to 16% in the previous year. Overall, the volume of sexual assault flagged for child sexual abuse has increased by 56% from 210 to 327 in the most recent 12 months. The majority of these occurrences were without sexual exploitation (94%). The increases are believed due in part, to better recording practices and triage by the Exploitation team, most occurrences that have the 'without sexual exploitation' flag indicate online related offences rather than in person assaults.
- 13% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor, and 11% had a domestic flag.



Across the NNVRP area, sexual assault offences made up 10.3% of all serious violence. Areas that have disproportionately high volumes of sexual assault, compared to the volume of serious violence in the area include, Dunkirk & Lenton (18% of serious violence was sexual assault) and Chilwell (16%). There were 110 repeat addresses, the top of which highlighted the following trends:

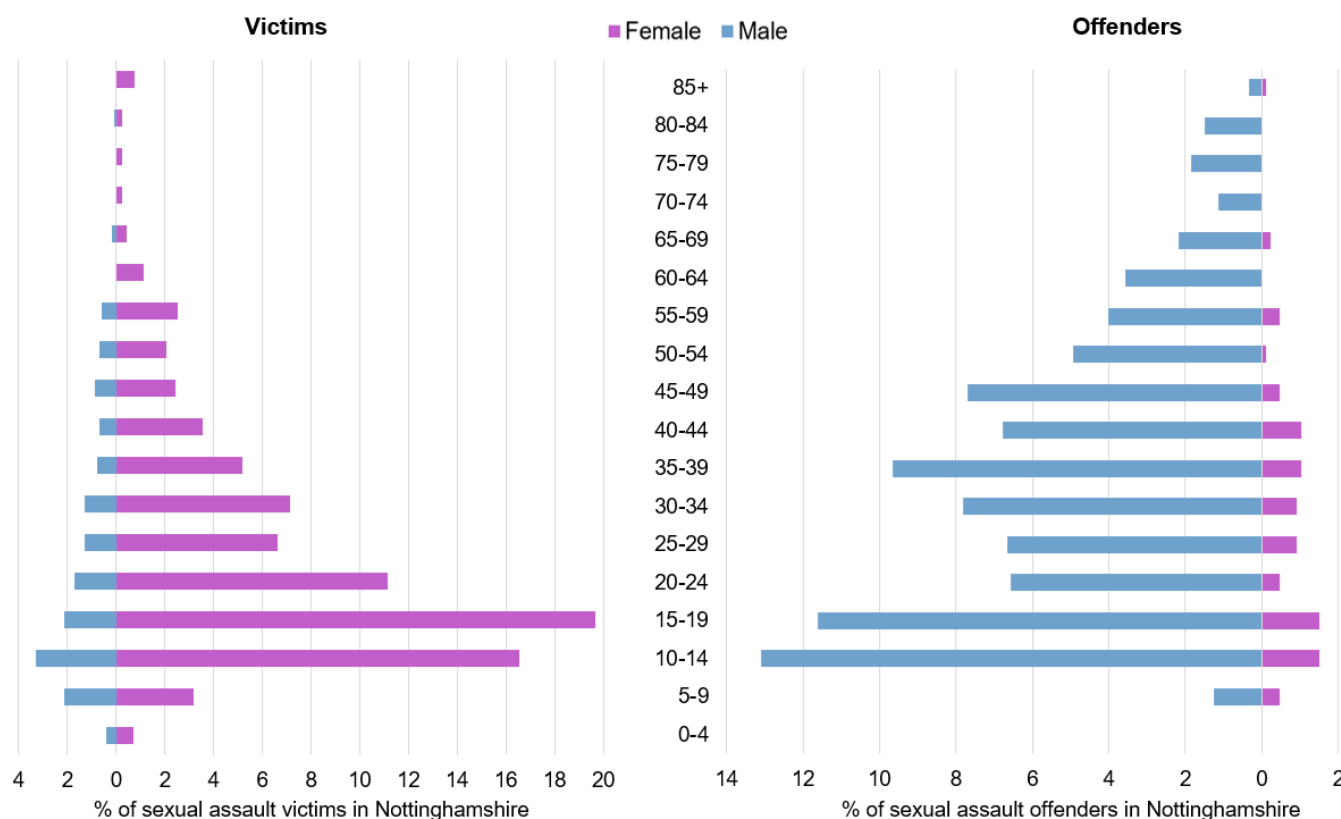
- **Nightclub venues:** the top two repeat addresses were both clubs in Nottingham City Centre. Many of these occurrences include non-consensual touching of females by unknown male offenders in crowded spaces. Overall, 8% of offences took place in a hospitality location.
- **Education:** the third top repeat address was an educational facility for those above 11 years in the NNVRP area. The majority of offences here were occurrences of male pupils sexual assaulting female pupils. Overall, 7% of offences took place in an educational setting.
- **Prisons:** although levels have decreased significantly from the previous year (-56%), there is a trend amongst the repeat addresses for sexual assault occurrences of prison-based assaults.

### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 1,160 victims and 869 perpetrators of sexual assault in the most recent 12 months, of which there were 41 repeat victims and 69 repeat offenders. The offender was an acquaintance in the majority of sexual assault occurrences at 30%, followed by a stranger in 26% of occurrences, and a family member in 13%<sup>71</sup>. Of note, the proportion of sexual assaults committed by strangers showed a significant decrease (-18%) from 374 occurrences to 307 in the most recent year, whereas offences committed by acquaintances (+5%) were shown to increase.

The figure below shows the demographic profile of victims and offenders of sexual assault in the NNVRP area. As with rape offences, there is a strong gender bias towards female victims and male offenders for sexual assault; 84% of victims were female and 90% of offenders were male.

**Sexual assault: Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023**



<sup>71</sup> The victim-offender relationship was unknown in 20% of occurrences, they were an ex-partner in 6% and a partner in 5%.

The age profile does however appear to shift towards a much younger age, for both victims and offenders. The demographic with the largest volume of offenders was boys aged between 10-14 at 13% of all perpetrators, with 12-year-old boys and 15-year-old boys making up the largest proportion by single year of age. The demographic with the largest volume of victims was females aged between 15-19 at 20% of all victims, followed by 10–14-year-old girls at 17%; 14- and 15-year-old girls made up the largest proportion of victims by single year of age. Of note, **over a third** of all sexual assault victims were females aged under 18.

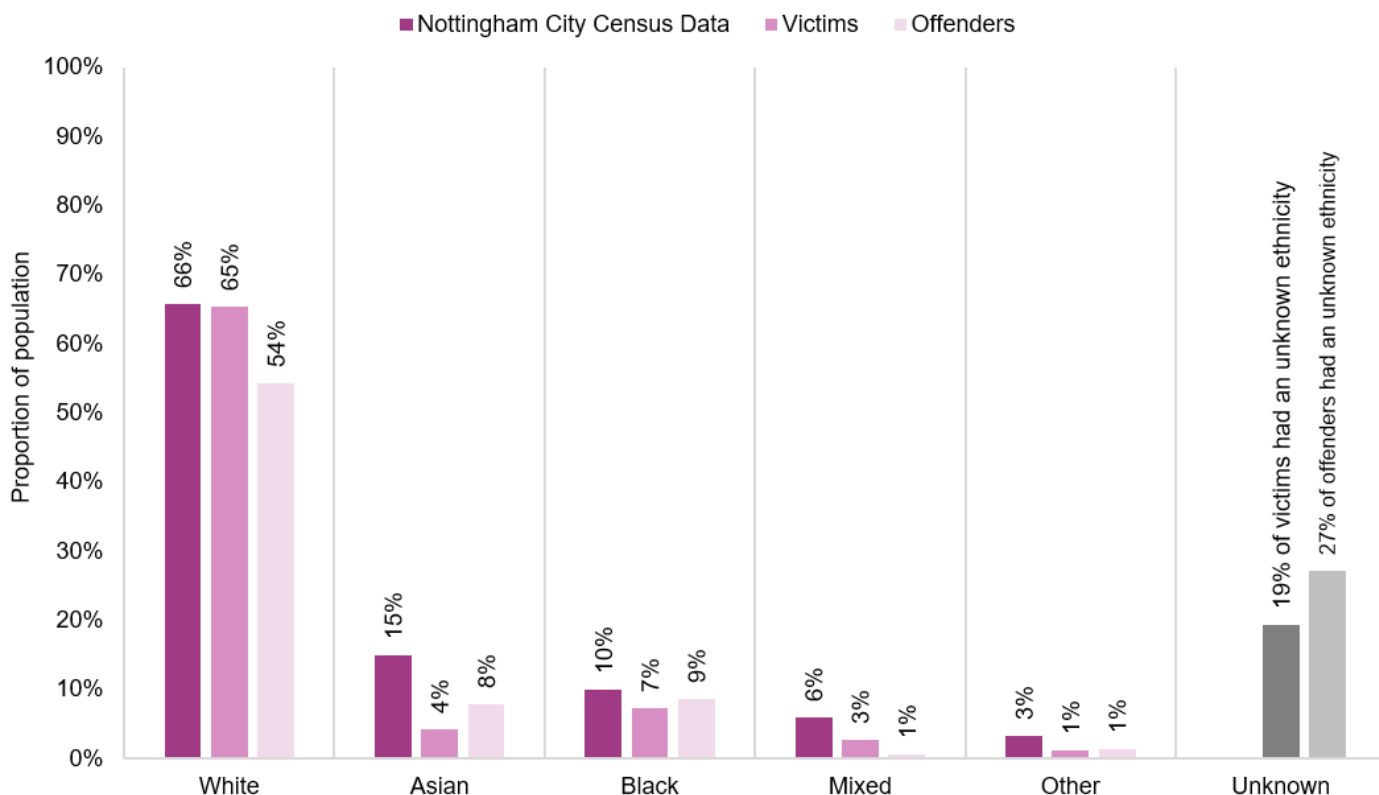
Alike to the classification of rape offences, sexual assault is also further classified by age and gender:

- For sexual assault where the victim was aged under 13, 30% of offenders were males aged between 10-14, most significantly 11 and 13-year-old boys which each made up 11% of offenders respectively.
- For sexual assault offences where the victim was aged over 13, the highest proportion of offenders were males aged between 15- and 19- at 21% of all offenders.

Ethnicity data was recorded for 83% of victims (n=1,014) and 79% of offenders (n=299) (excluding suspects). The proportion breakdown for ethnicities of offenders and victims is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census, for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

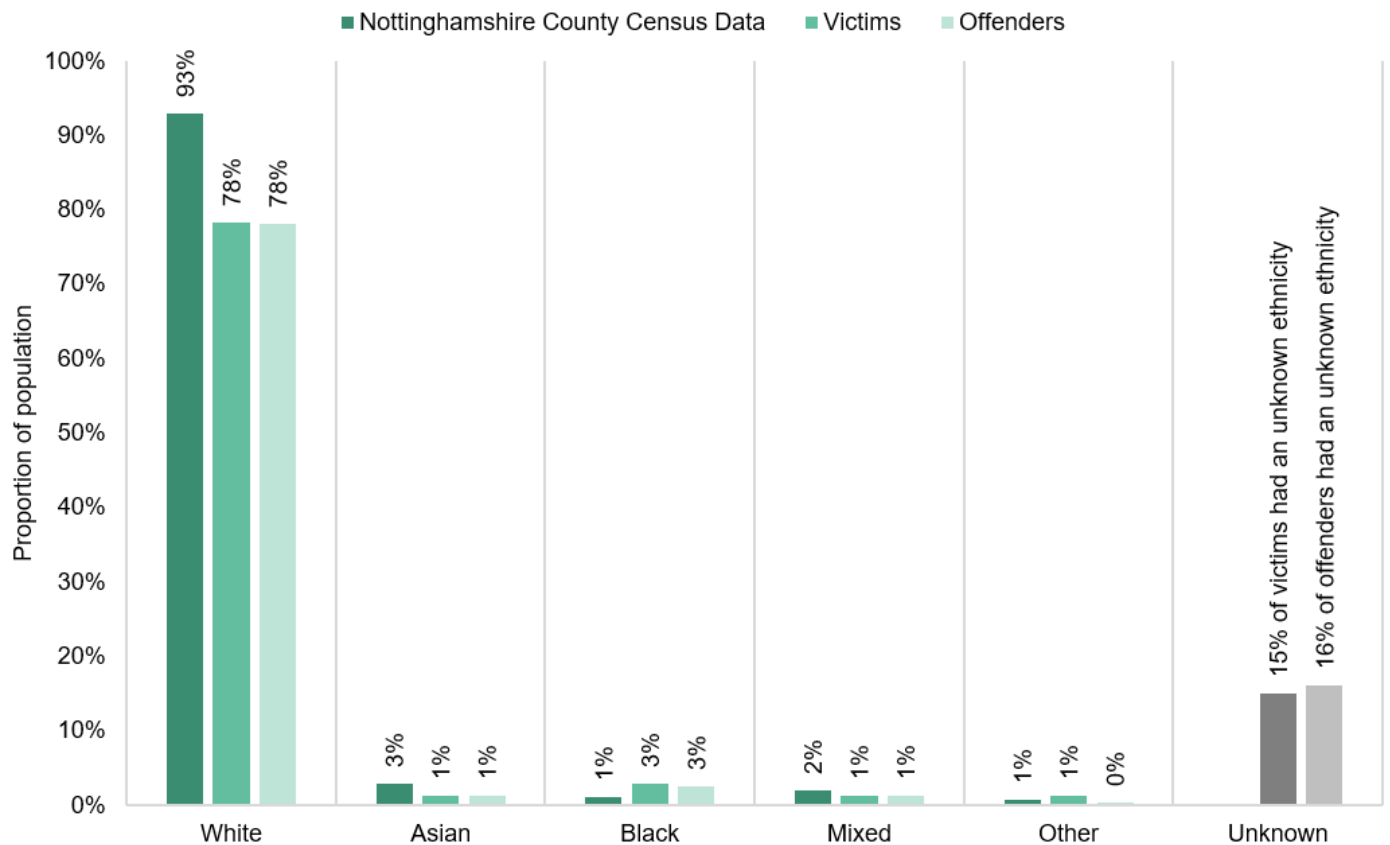
It is noted that victims and offenders from white ethnic groups, will likely be affected by the missing data as this is the most common missing ethnicity indicated in the methodology<sup>72</sup>. This is particularly significant in the data for Nottingham City, where 27% of offenders had an unknown ethnicity. By contrast, this would affect our understanding of victims of assault from other ethnic groups and percentages would decrease accordingly. Alternatively, this may highlight an area of hidden harm, with individuals from BAME communities less likely to report sexual assault to the police.

**Police recorded sexual assault by ethnicity against Nottingham City's population,**  
October 2022 - September 2023.



<sup>72</sup> [Ethnicity Data Methodology](#)

## Police recorded sexual assault by ethnicity against Nottinghamshire County's population, October 2022 - September 2023.



### Custody data

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 213 arrests for sexual assault where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. Of the 213 arrests for sexual assault occurrences, in 107 arrests (50%) the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody. This is an increase from 83 (which represented 36% of arrests) in the previous 12 months.

The majority of the health vulnerabilities related to the mental health of the person in custody; in 68 (32%) arrests the offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability. Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 30 were listed as having depression;
- 24 were listed as having anxiety;
- <5 were listed as having PTSD.
- <5 were listed as having schizophrenia
- <5 were listed as having bipolar disorder;

### 3.3.3 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Internet Child Exploitation (ICE)

#### Child Sexual Exploitation

Over the reporting period, there were 205 CSE tagged occurrences with the CSE National Incident Category List (NICL) qualifier and 177 tagged with the CSE referral local qualifier. The highest offence type was sexual grooming, which accounted for 42% of CSE (n=55) compared to 27% in the previous 12 months (n=35).

The most common type of grooming in the NNVRP area for CSE is the **relationship model**, with older males forming relationships with younger victims, whether that be sexual or offering friendship, and then using them to sell drugs, mentally manipulating them and threatening violence should the victim attempt to challenge or stop the relationship.

In the reporting period, 126 children who are victims of or vulnerable to CSE have been identified. These children are recorded on a multi—agency dataset known as Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (CARoSE), which defines cases that are escalated for consideration into the multi-agency sexual exploitation panel. The following trends were highlighted in the victim dataset:

- 88% of recorded victims are female, which is slightly higher than the national figure (79%)<sup>73</sup>.
- Victims range between 9 and 19 years of age, with over half of the victims falling into the 14 – 16-year-old age group (58%).
- 54% of CSE victims were housed on the County. When looking at schools attended by victims, 31% are recorded as blank: the top school was located in Mansfield.
- 26% of victims were detailed as looked after children, with 52% on a full care order.
- 66% of victims had missing from home markers.
- 8% individuals listed on the CARoSE dataset were also on the child criminal exploitation tracker.

11% remained on the CARoSE for the whole 12-month period, of which the majority were female. Victims were equally split between the City and County, and all but one were detailed as missing from home. There remains a strong link between CSE and missing from home episodes, since going missing can be both a cause and consequence of being exploited.

Data from Compact shows that during the data period, there were 539 missing reports for 94 individuals with CSE, CCE or County Lines flags (some may have had more than one flag). This was a 58% increase when compared to the previous 12-month period, when there were 342 reports and 66 individuals.

## Internet Child Exploitation

Nottinghamshire Police has a dedicated Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Team who receive referrals for offences that are cyber enabled. The Force Intelligence Profile for 2022/2023 showed 310 occurrences for indecent image possession and 341 enforcements linked to 300 recorded offences, this is 74% increase from 2020/2021 when the data was last assessed. The majority of referrals (77%) were made by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).

The ICE team risk assesses cases, with most (48%) being low risk and 8% being Very High Risk. Offences are most commonly reported between 31-60 days following the offence occurring with 10% having occurred historically<sup>74</sup>. 73% of offenders are male with 53% being under the age of 30, and 48% are recorded as White British.

Snapchat and Instagram are the prevalent applications used in Indecent Image linked offences. It is important to consider the impact of **end-to-end encryption (E2EE)** on child safety, specifically indecent image sharing. E2EE is a secure communication system where messages can only be seen by the sender and receiver. It is used positively to keep bank transactions/online purchases safe and secure, however some social media companies such as Meta are proposing to implement or already have implemented E2EE in private messaging spaces<sup>75</sup>.

This would override some of the current controls in place that help to keep children safe and potentially poses a huge risk to child sexual abuse: the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children estimate up to 70% of Meta referrals could be lost following the roll out of E2EE. The online safety bill does set out a legal duty for social media companies to put in place systems and processes to tackle child sexual abuse content on their services irrespective of the technologies they use, including services using E2EE.

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<sup>73</sup> NCA Annual Threat Assessment 2023

<sup>74</sup> Historic Sexual Offences are deemed as any that occurred more than year before reporting.

<sup>75</sup> [End-to-end encryption and child safety - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-to-end-encryption-and-child-safety)

## 3.4 Weapon Enabled Crime

### 3.4.1 Knife enabled robbery

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 255 occurrences of knife-enabled robbery between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, of which the majority (n=221) were occurrences of personal robbery. Compared to the previous year, volumes have stayed relatively stable, with robbery of business property showing the same volume as the previous year, and robbery of personal property increasing slightly by 5 occurrences. Of these occurrences:

- The majority (71%) were in a public/open place, with 46% occurring on the street. 10% were dwelling robberies, 5% were from supermarkets and 4% from convenience stores.
- Where the type of knife was listed, the majority were kitchen knives (16%), with machetes and flick knives each making up 5% of occurrences respectively.

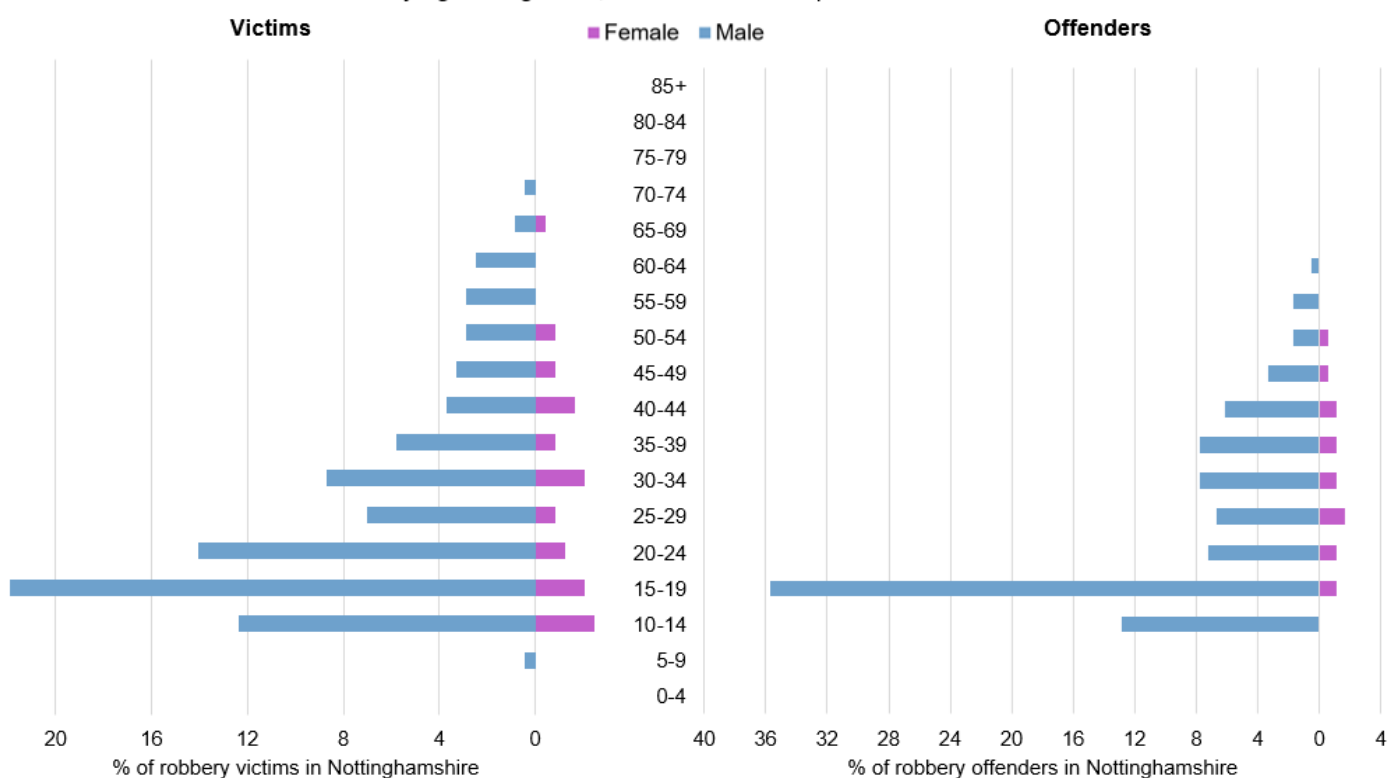
Across the NNVRP area, knife-enabled robbery made up 2% of all serious violence. Areas that have disproportionately high volumes of this crime classification, compared to the volume of serious violence in that area include: Radford & Park (8% of serious violence was knife-enabled robbery), the Arboretum (7%), Meadows (8%) and Mapperley & Wells (8%).

#### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 179 perpetrators and 242 victims of knife-enabled robbery in the most recent 12 months. In this dataset, there were 6 repeat victims and 20 repeat offenders. In over two thirds of the occurrences the offender was a stranger to the victim.

The figure below shows the demographic breakdown of victims and offenders of this crime. As highlighted, this crime type is significantly gendered towards young males as both victims and perpetrators of knife-enabled robbery: 87% of all victims and 92% of all offenders were males.

**Knife-enabled robbery: Demographic profile of Nottinghamshire**  
by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023



There were 18 occurrences of group offending, where 3 or more offenders were linked to the same occurrence of knife-enabled robbery. Within this, cohort of group offenders, there were 50 unique individuals, 7 of which committed more than 1 knife-enabled group robbery. 95% of group offenders were male, and 41% were males aged between 15 and 19. 18% were boys aged between 10-14. Of note, over half of these group offenders were young males aged under 18.

Ethnicity data was recorded for 80% of victims (n=214) and 89% of offenders (n=57) (excluding suspects) in the most recent 12 months. Across the NNVRP area, white ethnic groups represented 63.8% of victims and 71.9% of offenders; Asian ethnic groups represented 8.2% of victims, and no offenders of knife enabled robbery, Black ethnic groups represented 4.9% of victims and 10.9% of offenders, mixed ethnic groups represented 1.9% of victims and 6.3% of offenders, and other ethnicities represented 1.1% of victims and no offenders.

**It is important to consider the small sample size when interpreting the data outlined above as, for example with offenders from black ethnic groups: 10.9% of knife-enabled robbery offenders represents 7 individuals out of 64.**

#### *Custody data*

Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 115 arrests for knife-enabled robbery where the suspect was arrested by Nottinghamshire police and taken into custody. Of the total knife-enabled robbery arrests, the offender was identified as having a physical or mental health vulnerability in custody in 63 arrests (55%). This is an increase from 42 (which represented 25% of arrests) in the previous 12 months.

In addition to this, the offender was identified as having mental health vulnerability in 53 arrests (46%). Of those identified as having a mental health vulnerability:

- 24 were listed as having depression;
- 15 were listed as having anxiety;
- 6 were listed as having schizophrenia.
- 6 were listed as having bipolar disorder;
- <5 were listed as having PTSD;

In 27 out of the 115 arrests (23% of total arrests) the offender was identified as having a substance use vulnerability.

### **3.4.2 Possession of weapons**

Whilst under the VRP's definition of serious violence weapon possession offences are not included in the serious violence definition, it is important to analyse them in the local context as they are enablers of the most serious forms of violence. The data can also act as an indicator to how many and what type of weapons are being carried on the streets.

As previously mentioned, the rates of weapon possession in Nottinghamshire Police Force area sit at a rate 36% higher than the MSG average, however it is important to analyse these figures and the ones outlined below knowing the context of the crime type. Weapons possessions are often influenced by **proactive policing measures**, and it is notable that Nottinghamshire Police are the only Force outside of the Metropolitan Police who have dedicated knife crime teams. The proactive work in monitoring and challenging knife/weapons carriers contributes to the increased numbers seen, as does the work undertaken by the Operation Reacher neighbourhood teams<sup>76</sup>.

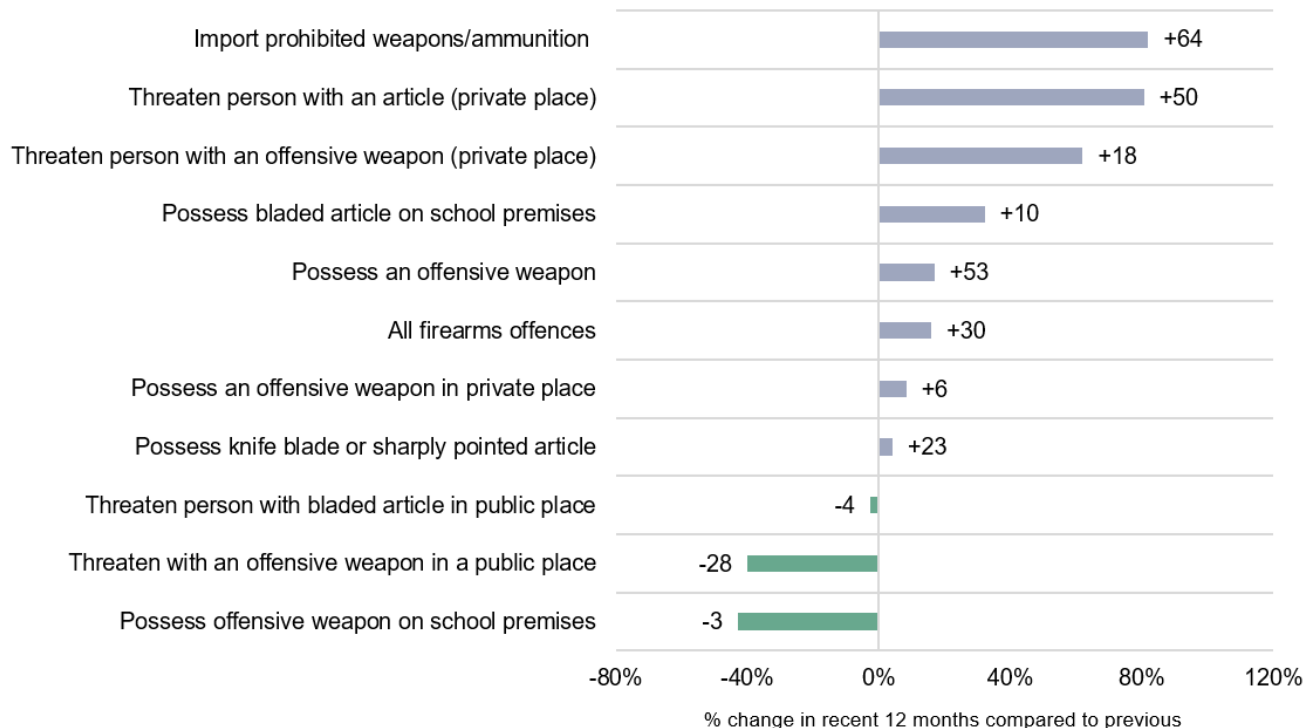
Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 1,559 weapon possession offences, an increase of 16%, or 210 occurrences, compared to the previous 12 months. The figure below shows the breakdown of weapon offences by their crime classification, highlighting significant percentage and volume changes over the most recent year. Firearm offences have been grouped collectively

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<sup>76</sup> **Operation Reacher:** proactive policing tactics and community engagement to generate intelligence.

and will be analysed separately in this section, and any classifications with a count of less than 5 have been removed for confidentiality.

**Changes in weapon possession offences recorded by Nottinghamshire police, between October 2022 - September 2023, compared to the previous 12 months.**



**Location analysis**

The majority of weapon possession offences over the last 2 years occurred in Nottingham City, accounting for 50% of all weapon offences, with Nottingham City Centre ward having a rate of 12 offences per 1,000 population. This overrepresentation is to be expected in partly due to the City being the epicentre of the county for night-time economy, as well as hosting a huge number of amenities to draw large quantities of people to the area. The City also features the highest concentration of organised crime groups and persons involved in drug supply, again linked to the number of people drawn into the City and thus becoming a large customer base to sell to.

Other areas of note with high rates of weapon possession include Bulwell, the Arboretum, Basford and Leen Valley. Notably, both Bulwell (+41%, +13 incidents) and Leen Valley (+188%, +15 incidents) showed significant increases compared to the previous 12 months, as well as Hucknall (+74%, +14 incidents), Aspley (+74%, +14 incidents) and Mansfield Town Centre (+52%, +14 incidents). The number of police recorded weapon possession offences are sensitive to proactive policing, such as the work of the Operation Reacher team, which contributes to the observed increase.

**\* Weapon importation**

As shown in the previous figure, the **importation of weapons** shows the largest volume and percentage increase. Importation crimes have risen over recent years, with general trends showing a move towards digital marketisation which was only further by the effects of the global pandemic. Nottinghamshire Police recorded 84 occurrences of weapon importation in the most recent 12 months, compared to just 14 offences in the previous year. In analysing the occurrences within the last 2 years, the majority of weapons originated in China and were seized at Heathrow Airport. The most prevalent type of weapon was a flick knife.

Due to the laws around the purchase and possession of certain types of knives, there are few opportunities to attain knives specifically designed for combat. There are overt websites that originate abroad and sell

illegal weaponry and a common technique is for the item to be mis-labelled to reduce detection rates. This is a tactic that is suggested to be happening more regularly which reflects the increase of weapon importation in the NNVRP area.

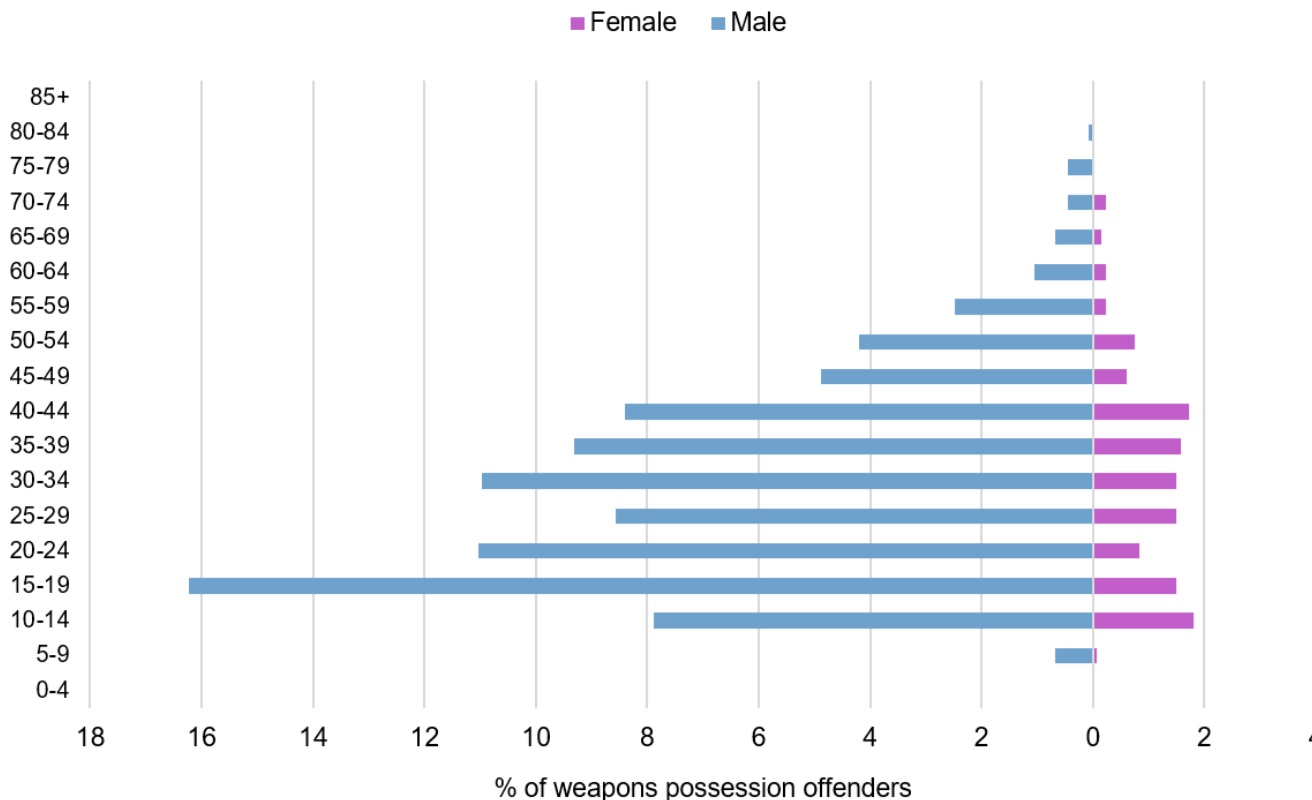
Of note, there was also an identifiable trend in the reasons given by the suspects as to why they had purchased the articles, which was given as *not knowing that it would be illegal*. Whilst reasons presented by a suspect may be falsified in order to escape punishment; it is likely that this is the true case in a number of instances. A quick online search for an illegal weapon followed by 'UK' brings back numerous results, many of which feature big name online shopping brands that show items for sale claiming to be UK legal however hold absolute prohibition to possess. It is evident that mislabelling online as 'UK legal' is a prevalent and ongoing issue.

- Anyone searching for weapons or comes across advertisement for them are likely to be influenced by seeing them on a **reputable and known site** and having misleading wording, using phrasing such as 'Hunting Knife' or 'Self-Defence'; distracting from the actual legality of the product.
- An example of such offence was an item purchased from an online website originating in China of a 'Women's Self Defence Toolkit' which was a keyring with a taser style stun gun, pepper spray and a flick knife on. All three items are illegal in the UK.
- By labelling the article as it was, it presents the illusion that because it is a self-defence tool, that the user would not be carrying it for unlawful purposes.

## Demographics

Data was recorded for 1,332 offenders of possession of weapons (excluding firearms offences) between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, of which 93 were repeat offenders. The demographic profile of weapon possession offenders is shown in the figure below.

**Weapons possession:** Offender profile in Nottinghamshire by age and gender, October 2022 - September 2023.



87% of all weapons possession offenders/suspects were males, and the most prevalent demographic was 15 – 19-year-old males at 16% of all offenders. By single year of age, 15 and 16-year-old boys made up the



highest proportions, each at 4% respectively. There were fewer female offenders, however notably they were found most concentrated in the 10 –14-year-old category at 2% (n=24) of all possession offenders.

### Links to drug supply

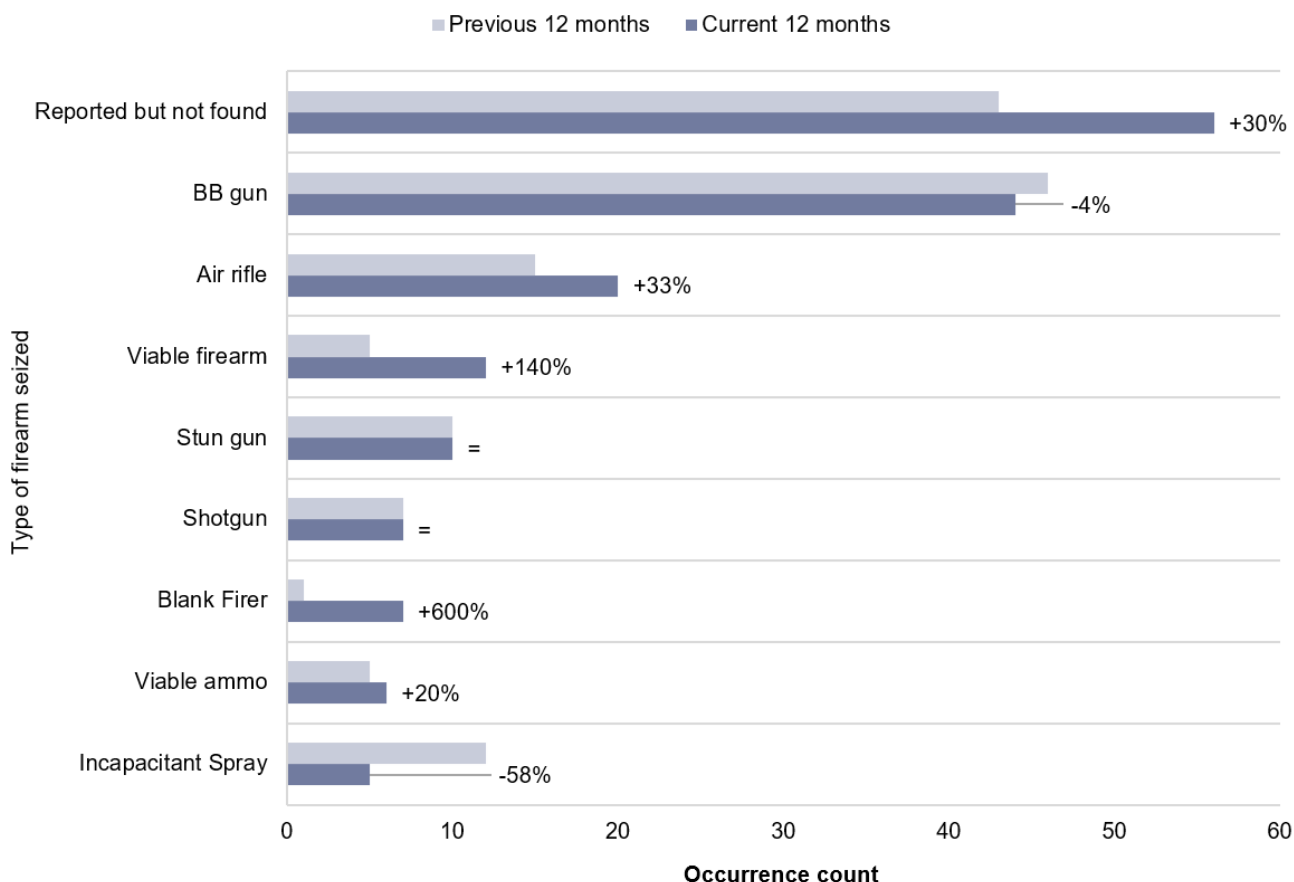
The possession and use of weapons are frequently linked to the supply of drugs. Persons involved arm themselves with weapons as a form of protection to defend against any rivals. The issue is that if one group of people are armed with weapons, then all other groups and individuals may then choose to arm themselves as they would be defenceless against an attack. The large majority of individuals involved in the supply of drugs will have possession and/or access to dangerous weaponry.

A regression analysis of Class A supply offences and weapon offences over the last 2 years indicated a 50% reliability between the two offences. This tool looks at the rates of each offence types month by month and identified a strong pattern between Class A and Weapon offences. The link between Class B and weapons is much weaker but is classified as a ‘Moderate Link’ with a reliability of 34.4%.

### 3.4.3 Firearms

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded **187 firearms incidents**, an increase of 19% compared to the previous 12 months. The graph below shows the number of occurrences relating to firearms within the NNVRP area over the last 2 years, excluding any categories with below five occurrences for confidentiality. The figure also shows the percentage change for each crime classification, next to the crime type.

**Firearm seizures in Nottinghamshire** between 1st October 2022 - 30th September 2023, compared to the previous 12 months



A **viable firearm** is a firearm that can fire live rounds and includes, but is not limited to handguns, rifles, slam guns, converted blank firers, etc. Occurrences in the viable row reflect the number of occurrences where a

viable firearm was seized and not how many, as there were a few occurrences where multiple firearms were seized. Comparing each period by the true number of viable firearms seized showed 6 in the previous 12 month to 22 in the most recent 12 months. A large contributor to this increase is a solo occurrence where 8 slam guns were seized in January 2023 from one address.

With the rise of technology, the trends of firearms are evolving, with the possession and use of slam guns and converted blank firers increasing as shown in the figure above. These firearms are usually made of easily attainable parts such as metal pipes, but can also be made using 3D printing technologies, a method that has become more common as the costs of 3D printing have come down.

## Intelligence context

Firearms are heavily associated to the drugs trade and organised crime as they are seen to be the ultimate for protection, to threaten and to cause harm. They are not as common as bladed articles as they are less accessible and, those with capability to possess firearms tend to sit towards the higher end of the criminal chain. Intelligence suggests that there are a select number of persons within the NNVRP area who have the capability to supply firearms however the likelihood is that they are sourced from out of county.

The most common viable firearm possessed is a handgun, which is likely due to the size of the firearm being small and easier to conceal. From reports, we can assume that the majority of firearms in possession by crime groups and organised criminals are not in their physical possession at all times and are stored in various places until they want or need it. Examples of how they are stored are:

- Being buried in an uncommon location where there is little to no foot traffic, e.g., a woodland area.
- Be kept under/within bushes in an area the group/person frequents, such as a side street on their known drugs turf to enable easy access.
- Use of lock-up storages, which was noted in the NNVRP area last year. This is a secure method to store a firearm however for the recent example, an innocent member of the public took over the storage unit which led to an inspection by the premises owner and in doing so uncovered the weapon.

## Demographics

Data was recorded for 216 offenders of firearm offences between October 2022 – September 2023, of which 14 were repeat perpetrators. 88% of suspects/offenders were male, and the most prevalent demographic was 15–19-year-old males at 18% of all offenders. Notably, the most frequent demographic by single year of age was 29-year-old males at 6% of all offenders, followed by 16-, 18- and 19-year-old males each representing 5% of offenders respectively. By firearm class, the following trends were highlighted:

- **Viable firearms:** 100% of suspects were male, 88% were linked to drug use/supply.
- **Shotgun:** 100% of suspects were male, 85% were linked to drug use/supply.
- **Air rifle:** 100% of suspects were male, 71% were linked to drug use/supply.
- **Blank firer:** 100% of suspects were male, 71% were linked to drug use/supply.
- **BB gun:** 93% of suspects were male, and half of all suspects were linked to drug use/supply. Over half of offenders (57%) were under the age of 20.

## 3.5 Violence Against Women and Girls

Although RASSO crimes are encompassed within the serious violence definition, there are other crime types that come under Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) that must also be analysed when considering serious violence. National definitions and commonality across of VAWG were examined when considering what offences to classify as in scope.

The data analysed in this section focuses on the crimes that disproportionately impact women and girls as victims. As rape and sexual assault have been previously examined in the RASSO section, the offences covered are **stalking & harassment**, **other sexual offences** and **honour-based abuse/violence**. A focus will also be placed on domestic violence and abuse throughout.

### 3.5.1 Stalking and harassment

Between October 2022 – September 2023, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 11,296 occurrences of stalking & harassment, which represents a marginal increase (+1%) compared to the previous year. Increases in the volume of controlling and coercive behaviour (+30%) and malicious communications (+8%) were offset by decreases in harassment offences (-7%).

	2021/22	2022/23	% change
Controlling/coercive behaviour	582	758	▲ (+30%)
Stalking	1,315	1,331	▲ (+1.2%)

In the Police and Crime Survey, 9% of respondents across the NNVRP area said they had personally been a victim of intimidation or harassment in the last 12 months. Of those that answered yes, the majority were female, reflecting the demographic of the victim cohort that is observed in the police recorded crime data, where 69.2% of stalking and harassment victims were female.

This disproportionality within the victim cohort is also more significant depending on the type of offence, with 92% of **controlling and coercive behaviour** and 85% of **stalking** victims being female. Because of this disproportionality and the VAWG definition, these two offence types will be explored in more detail below.

#### Controlling and coercive behaviour

Coercive control is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim. Controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour. Combined, controlling and coercive behaviour creates invisible chains and a sense of fear that pervades all elements of a victim's life; it works to limit their human rights by depriving them of their liberty and reducing their ability for action<sup>77</sup>.

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 758 occurrences of controlling and coercive behaviour in the most recent 12 months, an increase of 30% compared to the previous year.

When analysing the proportions of controlling and coercive behaviour across the NNVRP area, **Ashfield** and **Nottingham City** show as outliers as they are overrepresented when compared to their population share<sup>78</sup>. All local authorities in the NNVRP area showed an increased volume of police recorded coercive control, with the most significant increases in Broxtowe (+78%, +25 incidents) and Newark & Sherwood (+58%, +18 incidents). This may be reflective of increased trust and confidence to report to the police, but also an increased understanding amongst officers to recognise victims of coercive control.

<sup>77</sup> [Coercive control - Women's Aid](#)

<sup>78</sup> Ashfield makes up 11% of Nottinghamshire's resident population, but 14% of coercive control occurs here, and Nottingham City makes up 29% of the population but represents 40% of coercive control.

As previously mentioned, there is a significant disproportionality amongst victims of coercive control; 92% of victims were female, and 91% of offenders/suspects were male.

- The demographic which had the largest volume of victims was females aged between 30-34 at 16% of all victims, followed by 20–24-year-old victims (15%).
- Perpetrators were also found most concentrated in this age group, with 15% of offenders/suspects being males aged between 30-34. 35–39-year-old males also represented 15% of all perpetrators.
- The most common relationship between victim and offenders was ex-partners (37%), followed by boyfriend/girlfriend (30%) and spouse (17%).

## Stalking

**Stalking** may be understood as a pattern of fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeat (FOUR) behaviour which is intrusive. Domestic abuse is a key driver for stalking offences, however non-domestic stalking is also an emerging and persistent issue faced within the scope of VAWG. Both non-domestic and domestic stalking will be explored below.

Nottinghamshire police recorded 1,331 occurrences of stalking in the most recent 12 months, a slight increase of 1.2% compared to the previous year. 79% of all stalking offences in the most recent 12 months had a domestic flag. This is a slight decrease to volumes of domestic stalking seen in the previous year (-1%). By contrast, non-domestic stalking increased by 12% compared to the previous year, representing 21% of all stalking offences recorded. Due to these differences, domestic stalking and non-domestic stalking will be analysed here separately.

### Domestic stalking

For domestic stalking, **Ashfield** and **Nottingham City** show as outliers as they are over-represented compared to their population share. Despite this, both areas showed decreased volumes in the most recent 12 months, as well as Mansfield, Gedling and Newark & Sherwood. The most significant increase was seen in Broxtowe and Rushcliffe. Of the cohort involved in domestic stalking:

- 17% of victims were repeat victims. The demographic which had the largest volume of victims were females aged between 30-34 (17% of all victims).
- 7% of perpetrators were repeat offenders. The demographic which had the largest volume of perpetrators were males aged between 30-34 (16%).

### Non-domestic stalking

For non-domestic stalking, **Nottingham City**, **Mansfield** and **Ashfield** show as outliers as they are over-represented compared to their population share<sup>79</sup>. Nottingham City showed decreased levels of occurrences to Nottinghamshire Police alongside Newark & Sherwood however, all other local authorities showed increased volumes of reporting. Mansfield, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe had the most significant increases.

The victim cohort for non-domestic stalking shifts to a much younger age:

- The demographic which had the largest volume of victims were females aged between 15-19 at 17% of all victims, with 17- and 18-year-old girls making up 5% of all victims respectively.
- The demographic with the largest volume of offenders is an older demographic, with 35–39-year-old males making up 13% of all perpetrators, followed by 50–54-year-old males at 11%.

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<sup>79</sup> Mansfield makes up 9% of the population, but 14% of non-domestic stalking, Ashfield makes up 10% of the population but 12% of non-domestic stalking, and Nottingham City makes up 29% but 38% of non-domestic stalking.

### 3.5.2 Other sexual offences

The other sexual offences not encompassed directly within the serious violence definition but that come under the scope of VAWG include *exposure*, *voyeurism* and *sexual grooming*.

	2021/22	2022/23	% change
Exposure	196	184	▼ (-6%)
Voyeurism	39	55	▲ (+41%)
Sexual grooming	141	172	▲ (+22%)

#### Exposure and voyeurism

Indecent exposure is a sexual offence of specific intent that refers to the act of purposefully displaying or revealing, or sexually pleasuring oneself, in a public place or in view of a member of the public. Nottinghamshire Police recorded 184 occurrences of **exposure** in the most recent 12 months, a slight decrease of 6% compared to the previous year. Half of all exposure occurrences were in a public/open place. The majority of victims were female (82%) and the majority of perpetrators male (95%).

Voyeurism is the act of watching or recording someone non-consensually in a private act to gain sexual pleasure. The voyeurism offences act, which was commonly known as the upskirting bill, came into force April 2019 and allows upskirting to be treated as a sexual offence. Nottinghamshire Police recorded 55 occurrences of **voyeurism** in the most recent 12 months, an increase of 41% compared to the previous year. This increase was most significantly seen in recording a private act and observing offences. Over two thirds of all voyeurism occurrences were in a dwelling. 96% of victims were female, and 90% of identified perpetrators were male.

#### Grooming

Sexual grooming is a process by which a sexual predator cultivates a relationship with a potential victim, which are is usually a child, teen or vulnerable adult. Grooming is not a specific form of child sexual exploitation but should be seen as a way in which perpetrators can target children and manipulate their environments.

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 172 occurrences of sexual grooming<sup>80</sup> in the most recent 12 months, an increase of 22% compared to the previous year. Of these occurrences, 50 had a flag of child sexual exploitation, which is more than double the volume recorded previously.

The majority of victims of sexual grooming were female (82%) and girls aged between 10-14 made up over half of all victims (57%). There were fewer male victims, however they were also found most concentrated in this age group. More than a quarter of all victims of sexual grooming were 13-year-olds, the majority of whom were female. The majority of perpetrators were male (94%) and were concentrated in the 20–24-year-old age group, with males in this demographic accounting for 16% of all offenders.

### 3.5.3 Honour Based Violence

**Honour-based abuse** (HBA) is an umbrella term that describes a combination of practices used principally to control and punish the behaviour of a member of a family or social group, in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs in the name of 'honour'. HBA crimes are broad, ranging from threats and intimidation, through to serious violence and danger to life.

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<sup>80</sup> Sexual grooming includes engaging in sexual communication with a child and adult meeting child under 16 following sexual grooming offences.

Nottinghamshire Police flagged 51 occurrences as ‘honour-based incidents’ in the most recent 12 months, this is a decrease of 48% compared to the previous year. The majority of occurrences were occurrences of controlling/coercive behaviour (22%), followed by assault with injury offences (16%), harassment (9%) and threats to kill (8%).

### 3.5.4 Domestic Violence and Abuse

The statutory definition for **domestic violence and abuse** comes in two parts, the first deals with the relationship between the abuser and the abused, and the second defines what constitutes abusive behaviour. The criteria for relationship are:

- The victim and offender of domestic abuse must be aged 16 or over: abusive behaviour directed at a person under 16 would be dealt with as child abuse.
- Both persons involved must be ‘personally connected’: intimate partners, ex-partners, family members or individuals who share parental responsibility for a child. There is no requirement for the victim and perpetrator to live in the same household.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 outlines the following behaviours as abuse:

- Physical or sexual abuse;
- Violent or threatening behaviour;
- Controlling or coercive behaviour;
- Economic abuse;
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

A focus has been placed throughout this document on domestic flagged offences, as there is a known link between serious violence and domestic abuse. Key findings for all domestic crime are summarized here, not just serious violence occurrences, alongside any exceptions of note. Nottinghamshire Police recorded 16,852 domestic occurrences between October 2022 – September 2023, which is an increase of 4% compared to the previous 12 months.

		2021/22	2022/23	% change
Domestic-flagged	Violence with injury	3,641	3,798	▲ (+4%)
	Violence without injury	8,327	8,735	▲ (+5%)
	Rape	400	462	▲ (+16%)
	Other sexual offences	152	178	▲ (+17%)
	Other crime	3,269	3,219	▼ (-2%)
	<b>Total Domestic crime</b>	15,789	16,392	▲ (+4%)
	<b>Total Domestic non-crime</b>	432	460	▲ (+6%)

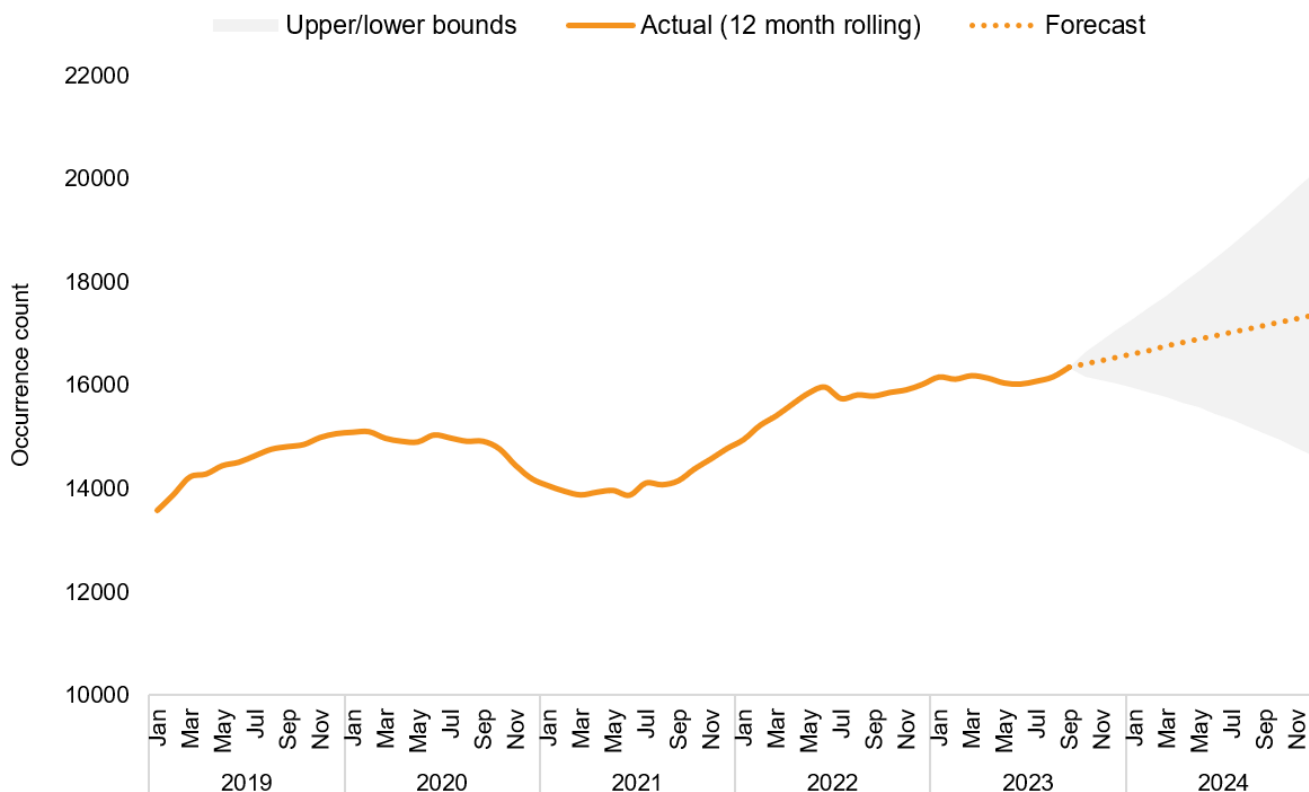
As highlighted above, the areas which showed the most significant increases were domestic sexual violence, and violence without injury. Within these crime classifications, **non-fatal strangulation and suffocation** (+348%, +449 incidents), **controlling/coercive behaviour** (+33%, +184 incidents) and **harassment** (+8%, +117 incidents), **rape of woman over 16** (+16%, +59 incidents) and **S18 GBH** (+42%, +57 incidents) all showed notable volume and percentage increases in the most recent 12 months compared to last year.

The graph below shows the rolling 12 months of data for domestic crime recorded by Nottinghamshire Police over the past 4 years, forecasted to 2024. The COVID-19 pandemic had a varied effect on levels of reported domestic abuse across police forces nationally. In the NNVRP area, reported offences fell slightly below the

seasonal norm in the initial lockdown after March 2020, before rising to a level significantly higher than expected as lockdown restrictions were eased.

Police recorded levels of domestic crime in the NNVRP area now sit at a level 9% higher than the pre-pandemic baseline of March 2020, and overall levels have remained relatively stable. This is following an increase, as previously mentioned, in reporting of domestic abuse following the easing of lockdown restrictions. A range of factors including improvements in public awareness and an increased willingness of victims coming forward, alongside the repercussions of lockdown, are likely to have impacted upon this trend.

**Police recorded domestic crime in Nottinghamshire, 2019 - 2023, forecasted to 2024.**



\* As previously mentioned, the serious violence data analysis highlights a trend of increased threat to life with domestic violence occurrences. It is important to consider that because domestic abuse is often a hidden crime, data held can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic violence experienced in the NNVRP area. The following analysis highlights any areas of note for knife-enabled domestic violence:

- 19% of violent knife crime was committed by a partner (12%) or ex-partner (7%). The volume of violent knife crime committed by a partner/ex-partner have increased by 54%.
- In the most recent 12 months, there has been an increase in the volume of violent knife crime in dwellings (+8%) but a decrease in public/open place (-6%). Notably, in the current 12-month period, more violent knife crime occurred in dwellings than in a public place.
- The majority of violent knife crime in the home had a 'domestic' marker (58%), and overall domestic violence involving a knife increased by **42%** in the most recent 12 months compared to last year.

As mentioned, knife crime encompasses both threats and attempts as well as violence causing injury. A **threat to kill** is a criminal offence that involves threatening to take another person's life or causing them to fear for their own safety. Threats to kill offences that were enabled by a knife/sharp instrument recorded by Nottinghamshire Police increased by 7% in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year. Of these offences, over half had a **domestic marker**, and the number of domestic threats to kill that involved a knife increased by 12.5% in the most recent 12 months.

## Victim and offender profile

Women are more likely to experience domestic abuse and/or violence than men; 76% of identified domestic violence victims recorded by Nottinghamshire police were female. A higher percentage of victims experienced domestic abuse by an ex-partner (35%) in the most recent 12 months than a family member (25%) or a partner (14%).

Men are more likely to commit domestic abuse and/or violence than women; 77% of identified domestic violence offenders were male. The demographic which had the highest volume of both offenders and victims was the 30–34-year-old age group, which may reflect that this age group are more willing to come forward and disclose the crime to the police.

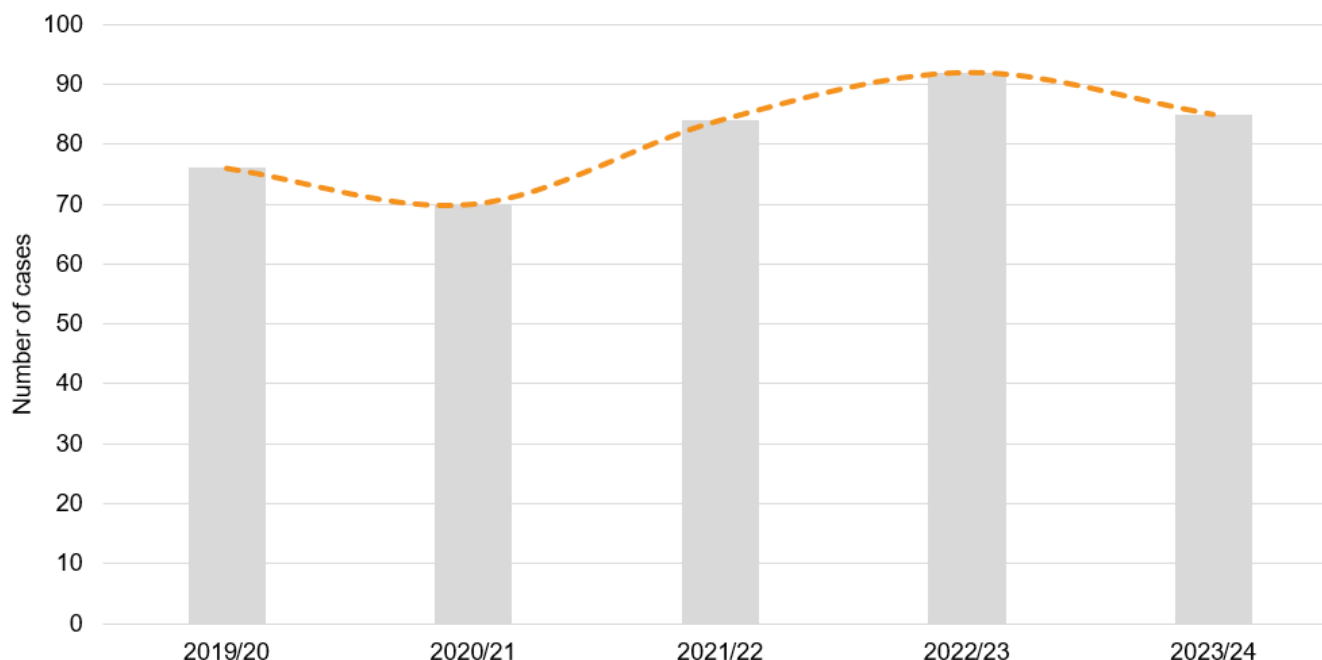
The proportion of victims of domestic abuse that were repeat victims (26%) has remained relatively stable over recent years. Repeat victimization presenting to the Police is heavily concentrated, with over a quarter of all domestic-violence related crimes recorded by Nottinghamshire Police in the most recent 12 months linked to less than 10% of survivors (9.2%). This small cohort of high repeat survivors are also more likely to exhibit complex needs and report experience of other non-domestic abuse-related crimes.

## MARAC data

A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Co-ordination (MARAC) is a meeting where local agencies such as police, probation, health, child protection and housing practitioners, share information about high-risk domestic abuse victims.

Data was received from the **MARAC Steering Group Workshop** which highlighted a sustained increase in the volume of cases discussed at MARAC post-COVID: in 2019/20 financial year, the monthly average for cases discussed was 76, this peaked in 2022/23 with an average of 92, and in 2023/24 so far (April 2023 – December 2023), the monthly average sits at 85 cases. This is shown in the figure below.

**Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City cases discussed at MARAC,**  
monthly average, per financial year.





## 4. Additional partner data

The Serious Violence Data Steering Group was created to facilitate the sharing of partner data, to allow for greater understanding and insight regarding serious violence within the NNVRP area. The group is responsible for identifying additional data streams and engaging with partners to facilitate data flows, with particular regard to the production of the needs assessment and the creation of the *common data platform*, which is currently in progress.

### 4.1 Health Data

Health Agencies have an essential role to play in preventing violence and nationally, there is a drive for statutory agencies to use health data to inform violence prevention. When combined with, or used alongside data collected by partners, it can:

- Measure the level and nature of violence in a local area;
- Identify population groups and geographical areas most affected;
- Inform the development, targeting and evaluation of prevention activity.

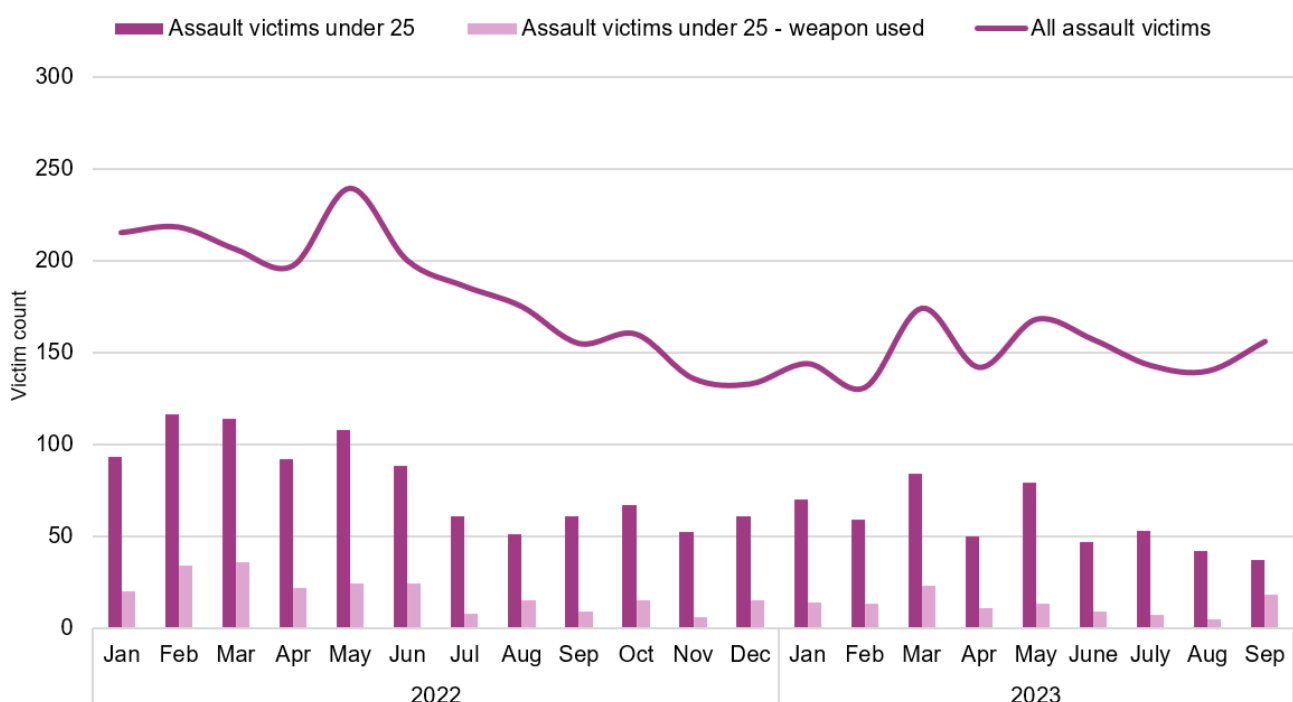
In this needs assessment, injury surveillance data was received from emergency departments as part of the information sharing to tackle violence (ISTV) initiative. Additional health data has been obtained from hospital episode statistics (HES) and the emergency care dataset (ECDS). To protect patient confidentiality in HES and ECDS datasets, figures between 1 – 7 inclusive have been suppressed and replaced with an \*, and all other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 in keeping with the NHS digital disclosure guidance.

#### 4.1.1 Injury Surveillance Data

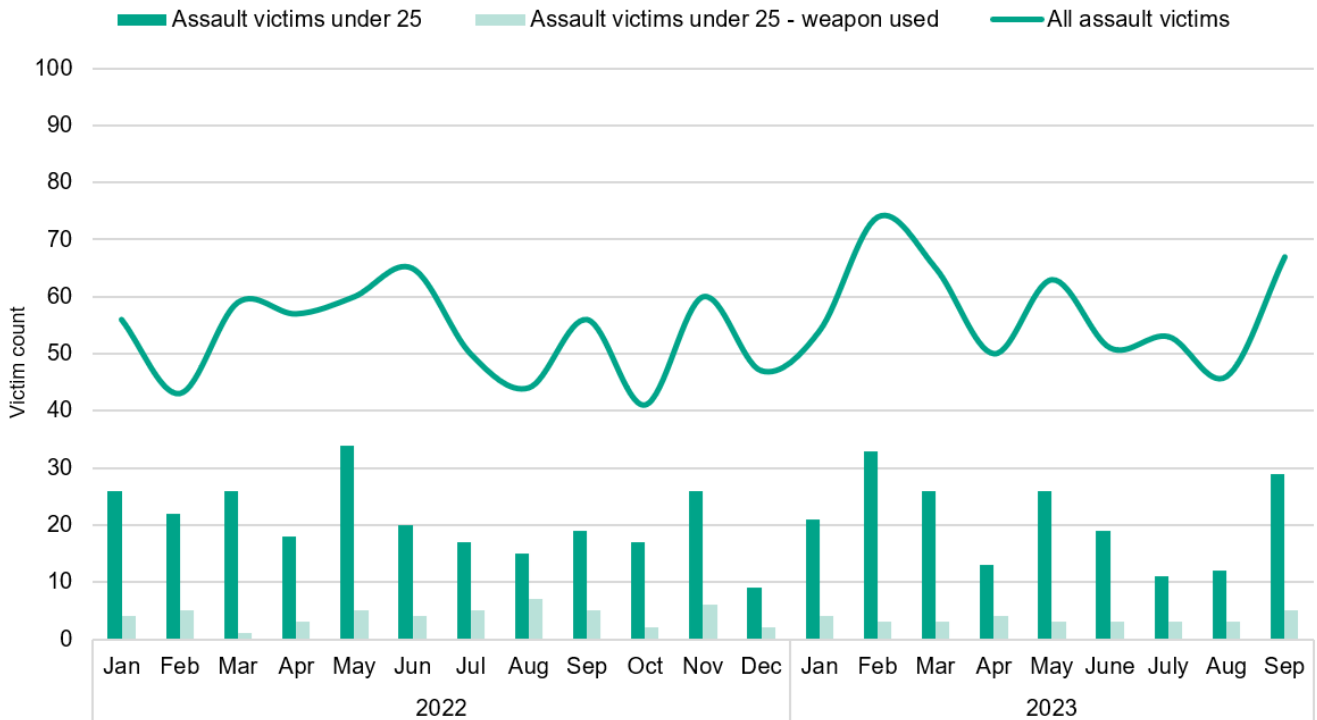
Emergency departments capture details of patients who present as victims of assault as part of the ISTV initiative. This SNA includes data from Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) and Kings Mill Hospital (KMH), and work is on-going to capture data from Bassetlaw District General Hospital which will be presented in the next iteration of this SNA.

#### Trends in ISTV data

**Injury Surveillance Data** - victims of assault presenting at QMC Hospital, 2022 - 2023.



## Injury Surveillance Data - victims of assault presenting at Kingsmill Hospital, 2022 - 2023.



Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 1,784 assaults were recorded in the ISTV system at QMC, and 671 at KMH. Of these attendances, 525 involved a weapon (401 at QMC, 124 at KMH). The graphs above show the monthly attendances for both QMC and KMH, further categorizing patients who were under 25 and whether a weapon was used during the assault.

### Demographics of ISTV data

In 68% of attendances following an assault between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the victim was a male (73% at QMC, 61% at KMH).

- At QMC, the demographic which had the largest volume of victims following an assault was males aged 20-24 (16%), followed by males aged 15-19 (12%), and 31% of all victims were males aged under 25. Although there are fewer female victims, they were also found most concentrated in the 15–19-year-old category at 5% of all victims.
- At KMH, the demographic which had the largest volume of victims was 15–19-year-old males at 9% of all victims, followed by 25-29- and 10–14-year-old males at 7% respectively. 23% of all victims were males aged under 24, female victims were found most concentrated in the 30–34-year-old demographic at 5%.

Demographic distribution does change depending on the category of assault. Of the assaults that involved a knife (n=193), 90% of victims of knife-enabled assault were male, and 17% of all victims were males aged between 15-19. Most significantly, **6% of all victims were 16-year-old males**, which was the most common demographic for victims of knife-enabled assault in the NNVRP area ISTV data.

## 4.1.2 Hospital admissions for violent events

### Data extraction and analysis

Data was retrieved from OHID<sup>81</sup> for inpatient admission episodes (emergency and non-emergency) where the cause of the admission was violence as classified by diagnosis code **X85 to Y09**. Admissions by a sharp object cause are defined as those with ICD10 code **X99**.

- 1) Regular and day attenders are excluded from this dataset.
- 2) Admissions are only included if they have a valid local authority code.

As HES covers inpatient trends from financial years, the following data set will refer to the most recent 12 months as 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022– 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and CCGs in England.

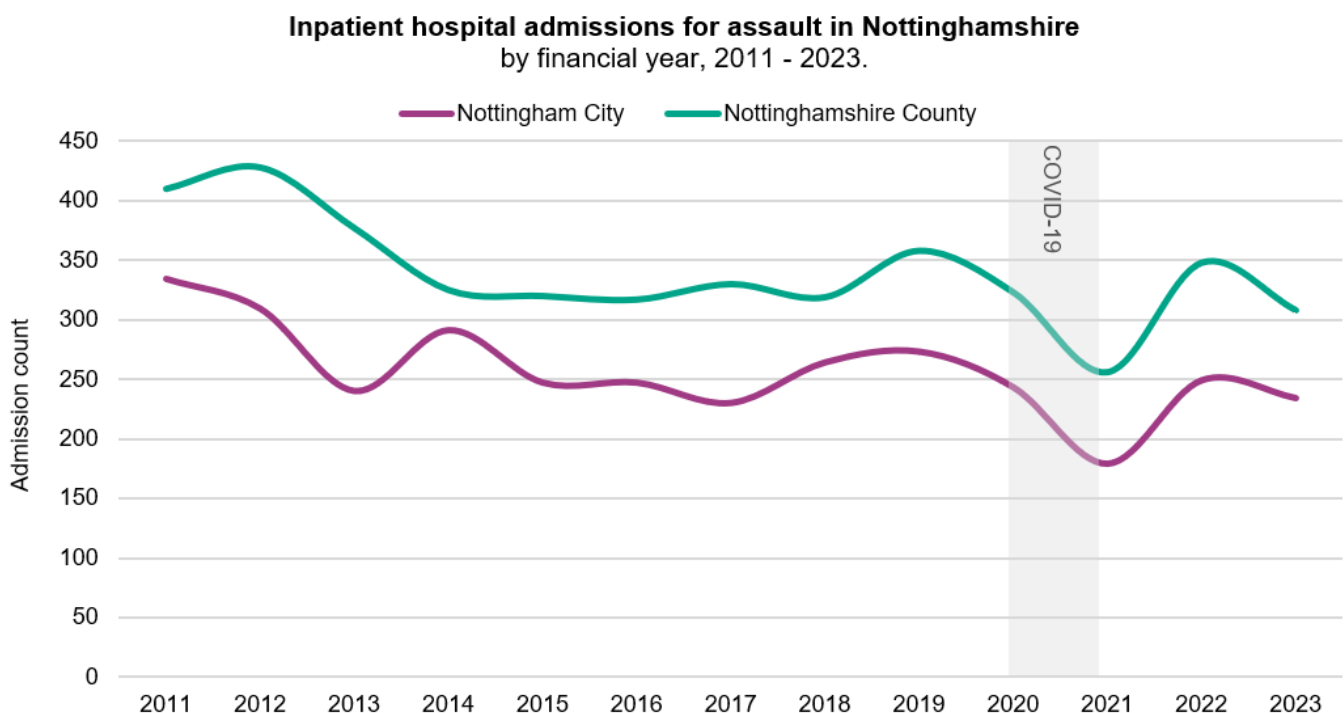
It is important to note that the data for Bassetlaw (and thus Nottinghamshire County totals) refers to those living in the area, not just those attending hospital in the area. Of those that live in Bassetlaw and attended hospital following a violent event, approximately 62% of admissions were to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital which runs services in both Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw District General Hospital and Retford Hospital) and South Yorkshire (Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital). A further 17% were from Rotherham Hospitals, and 10% from Sheffield Hospitals.

This may slightly affect the data as figures from Bassetlaw residents may include violent events in South Yorkshire as well as Nottinghamshire figures.

- Due to data validation not allowing these figures to be excluded from the entire dataset, the figures for Bassetlaw, encompassing South Yorkshire hospitals, remain in the totals for Nottinghamshire County and therefore, the NNVRP area totals as a whole.

### Inpatient admissions for violent events

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, there were approximately **542 hospital admissions for assault** in the NNVRP area. The yearly trend for inpatient admissions following a violent event is shown below, highlighting 2022/23 levels to have decreased from the previous year (-9%) and sit at a level lower than the pre-pandemic baseline of March 2020 (-4%).



<sup>81</sup> Hospital Episode Statistics - NHS digital, Midlands Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service

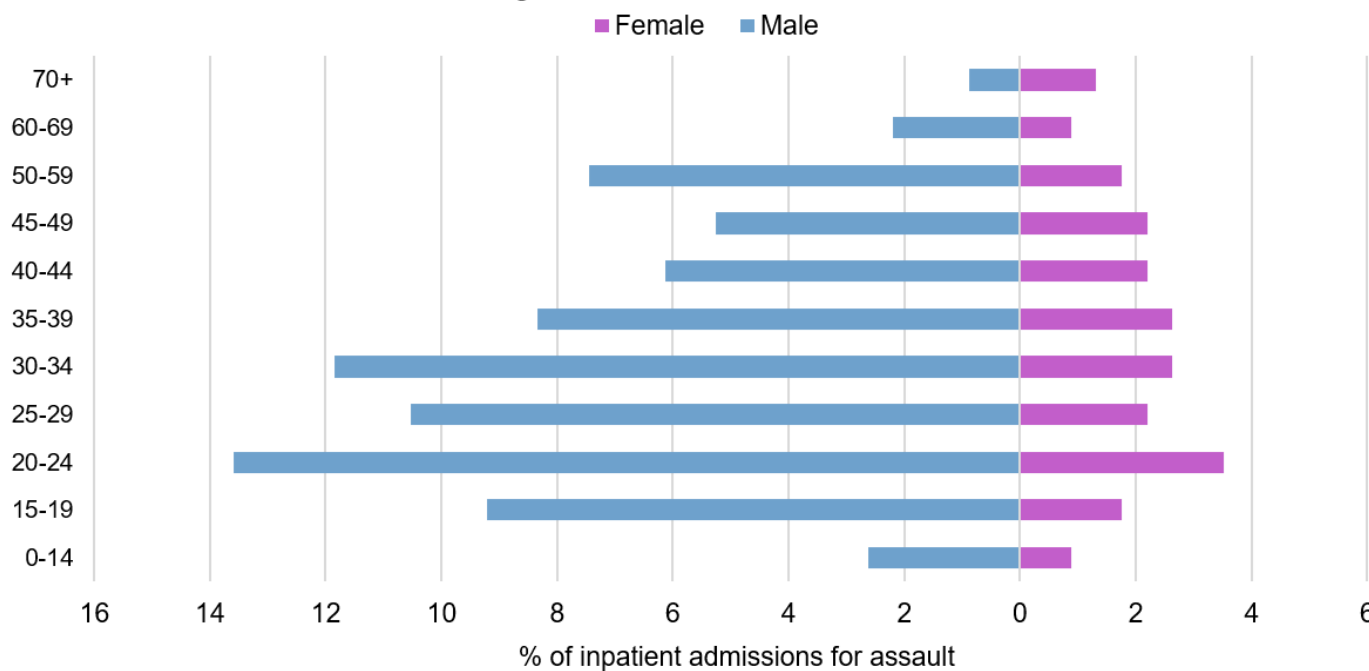
Between 2021/22 to 2022/23 (two-year pooled data), 1,140 hospital admissions for assault were recorded: the most common reason for admission was assault by bodily force at 59.6% of all admissions. Other reasons for admission included assault by a sharp object (13.2%) and assault by a blunt object (7.9%)<sup>82</sup>. Assault by a sharp object show a trend that has remained stable over recent years, with in-patient admissions fluctuating between 70 and 80 from 2019 to the most recent 12 months. Notably, admissions following assault by a sharp object in Nottingham City are at the lowest value since 2014, at approximately 40 admissions in the financial year.

### Demographics of inpatient admissions

The graph below shows the demographic profile of inpatient admissions for assault between the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (two-year pooled data). Of those admitted to hospital in the NNVRP area following an assault in this 2-year period, approximately 78% (n=880) were male patients and male victims made up a higher proportion than female victims in every age group. The highest proportion of assaults were found in males aged 20-24 at 13.6% of all assaults over the 2-year period. Although there were fewer female victims, they were also found most concentrated in this age group at 3.5% of all patients.

For assault by a sharp object, the most common age demographic for victims to be found in was 20–24-year-olds, which accounted for approximately 1 in 5 of all patients over the 2-year period. Males accounted for approximately 90% of all inpatient admissions following assault by a sharp object in this period across the NNVRP area.

**Inpatient admissions for assault: Victim profile in Nottinghamshire by age and gender, 2021/22 to 2022/23.**



Ethnicity data was collected for 80% of patients who were admitted for assault between the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This data gap introduces a degree of uncertainty to any calculations as to whether different ethnic groups are under/over-represented in the figures. The data showed that, approximately, the majority of patients admitted (67%) were from white ethnic groups, 3.9% were from Asian ethnic groups, 3.5% from Black ethnic groups, 3.5% from mixed ethnic groups and 2.6% from other ethnicities.

For inpatient admissions following assault by a sharp object, ethnicity data was collected for 77% of victims, again introducing a data gap. Approximately 53% of patients were from white ethnic groups, less than 5% from Asian ethnic groups and other ethnicities respectively, 7% from black ethnic groups and 10% from mixed ethnic groups.

<sup>82</sup> 12.7% of admissions were classed as other assaults, 6.1% as assault by unspecified means.

## 4.2 Criminal Justice Data

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### 4.2.1 Youth justice

A new recording system has been introduced in the last 12 months and some data is still being ratified. The advent of the new system includes a dashboard specifically relating to young persons involved in serious violence and drug offences, which will enable improved reporting and comparisons against most similar Youth Justice areas as well as other geographic locations in England. The most recent data provided for the NNVRP area is for year ending September 2022. Alongside this, local data has been provided regarding first time entrant (FTE) rates<sup>83</sup>. For October 2021 - September 2022: -

#### Nottingham City

- There were 31 serious violence offences committed by young people, this is a decrease of -31 compared to the same period in 2020/2021.
- This gives a rate of 10.7 per 10,000 population, (children aged 10-17 years), this is a decrease from the previous rate of 21.4 per 10,000 population.
- Serious Violence offences linked to young people comprised 9% of all offences, a decrease of -7.4 percentage points.

#### Nottinghamshire County

- There were 13 serious violence offences committed by young people, this is a decrease of -31 compared to the same period in 2020/2021.
- This gives a rate of 1.7 per 10,000 population, (children aged 10-17 years), this is a decrease from the previous rate of 2.2 per 10,000 population.
- Serious Violence offences linked to young people comprised 6% of all offences (+1.4 pp).

#### First Time Entrants (FTE)

The most recent figures for Nottinghamshire County are for July 2021 – June 2022 when 156 were recorded (based on case level data) with a custody rate of 0.05 per 1,000 of 10–17-year-old population. In Nottingham for the same period there were 139 FTE rising to 153 for July 2022 – June 2023. The custody rate for 2022-2023 was 0.45 per 1,000 of the 10-17 population, an increase from 0.31 in the previous period.

#### Local Data

Local data from youth justice was received for Nottingham City for young offenders of serious violence where the offence date was between the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. For the most recent 12 months of data:

- 209 serious violence offences were committed by 164 children in Nottingham City. The majority of these were violence against the person offences (97%). This is a decrease from 296 serious violence offences committed by 250 children in the previous year.
- Of the children recorded in the dataset in 2022/23, 7% were children in care. This is a decrease in the proportion observed in the previous 12 months, where 9% of serious violence offenders were children in care.
- 63 out of 164 children recorded as committing a serious violence offence in the most recent 12 months were FTE. 47.6% of FTE received a youth caution, 28.6% received a referral order, 22.2% received a youth conditional caution and 1.6% received a conditional discharge.

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<sup>83</sup> It is noted that serious violence within Youth Justice is defined differently than that used for the wider document and covers Drug, Robbery and Violence Against the Person offences with a gravity score of five or more.

Males made up the majority of young offenders (70.7%), with 16-year-old boys making up 20.7% of all offenders in this period. Although there were fewer female offenders, young girls aged 15 made up the highest proportion at 6.1% of all young serious violence offenders. There was also notably a high proportion of both 12-year-old boys (7.9%) and girls (5.5%) in the dataset. This trend of young girls under the age of 13 is more distinct in the most recent 12 months than the previous year and could perhaps indicate an emerging trend of younger female offenders.

Ethnicity data was recorded for 87.6% of young offenders, of which, the majority were from white ethnic backgrounds (50%), followed by mixed ethnic groups (18.3%), Black ethnic groups (10.9%), Asian ethnic groups (4.3%) and other ethnicities (1.8%).

#### 4.2.2 Disproportionality in the criminal justice system

Addressing disproportionality for those involved in serious violence is critical to reducing disparities and promoting equity. It was recommended by HMICFRS that by March 2024, chief constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas. A problem profile is currently being developed to answer this, and findings of this profile will be presented in the next iteration of this needs assessment.

The section below covers insight we already have from external data sources, dashboards and board meetings around disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

#### Youth Justice System

The Youth Justice Board produces a summary Ethnic Disparity Tool Dashboard, the latest version of which contains data from year ending March 2017 to year ending March 2022. This tool provides information about how members of all ethnic groups were represented in the Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales and includes information on the local 10-17 ethnic groups profiles for comparative analysis.

Data for Nottingham City shows that compared with the year ending March 2017, the numbers of White children receiving a caution or sentenced fell by 55% for the year ending 2022. This compares to 31% for children from ethnic minorities in the same period. Using the Relative Rate Index (RRI) to calculate the disparity between White and ethnic minorities cautioned or sentenced (where RRI=1 indicates no disparity), for the year ending 2022:

- Those from a Mixed ethnic group faced the highest levels of disparity being 1.8 times more likely to be sentenced or cautioned than their white counterparts.
- Those with a Black ethnicity were 1.2 times more likely to be cautioned or sentenced, whilst in the Asian population there was a reverse disparity, with the RRI coming out at 0.4.
- This indicates underrepresentation in this community compared to their white counterparts in receiving a caution or sentence.

Within Nottinghamshire County Youth Justice, similar trends of disproportionality are present. Due to lower population sizes, the data available is not statistically significant for the year ending 2022.

#### Use of Outcome 22

Outcome 22 is a police outcome used when the police decide to defer prosecution until the accused has been given the opportunity to engage with an intervention activity. It is used by the police to defer prosecutions, in accordance with the Youth Justice Board's Child First agenda, offering an opportunity for intervention and diversion from serious violence. The increased use of Outcome 22 by Out of Court Disposal panels is noted in disproportionality figures.

Across the force area, there is a positive disproportionate use of Outcome 22 for those from ethnic minorities. Those from Black ethnicities were 1.7 times more likely to receive an outcome 22, whilst those from a mixed background were 1.9 times more likely to receive the same outcome for the year to November 2023.

## 5. Evidence

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This section looks at the evidence to improve knowledge about the drivers of violence and, more importantly, what works to reduce serious violence.

### 5.1 Local insight on communities and violence

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#### Homicide Prevention Tool

Evidence suggests that drug supply, county lines and OCG/USG affiliation is commonly associated with serious violence and harmful incidents, interconnected with weapon-enabled offending and homicide risk. Intelligence also suggests that serious violence between opposing groups can often lead to retaliation attacks of escalating severity. Locally, there is a recognised gap in the understanding of social network and place targets related to drug supply and dealing that are amenable for intervention to prevent homicides.

A spatial and temporal profile for homicides has been commissioned by the VRP via the NTU, where a homicide risk mapping toolkit has been designed and developed. This toolkit is a placed based analytical tool to support scanning and analysis to inform ongoing problem solving in relation to homicides and near misses. The multi-method project uses a range of data sources including:

- Triangulation of police data with ambulance data and emergency department data, to build a more comprehensive and complete picture of near misses;
- Journey mapping of homicides/near misses which were identified as drug related;
- Social network analysis of the web of contacts linked to perpetrators and victims of near misses, this will include analysis of the interaction with county lines and OCGs/USGs;
- Study of the interaction in time and place between perpetrator and victim;
- Review of wider subsequent incidents before and after a homicide or near miss to identify triggers and patterns of retaliatory incidents;
- Review of significant places and dates surrounding those involved OCG/USG related serious violence to establish any patterns that may enable targeted interventions to further reduce offences.

The project is entering phase 2 of delivery which includes interviews, focus groups and workshops with analysts, and the summarising of research findings, which will be presented in the next needs assessment.

#### First Time Entrants research

An exploratory research study to understand the high numbers of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the youth justice system in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County has just been commissioned locally. The multi methods research will assess the contributory factors towards the high numbers of FTEs locally, and the impact of individual, family, local and wider determinants. The research is underway with a research team from Nottingham Trent University and findings are expected in spring 2024.

Whilst the number of FTEs to the Youth Justice Service has decreased substantially over the past ten years, Nottingham City continues to be a national outlier in reference to the high number of FTEs and in 2022, had the highest level in the country. Nottinghamshire County has a rate of 141 per 100,000 of the population, which is within the national average. Performance in the County has however plateaued, where statistical neighbours continued to see a decrease.

The negative impact upon children entering the justice system can be felt for years to come for the individual; it can contribute to increased school exclusions leading to future employment challenges, increased mental health problems, the stigma of a criminal record and other life limiting opportunities. The contributory factors to high numbers of FTEs in Nottingham have not been comprehensively identified and described and whilst professionals have a range of theories as to why this may be the case, little is known evidentially.

## Speak Up Notts Survey

In October 2023, the NNVRP conducted a survey and campaign known as #SpeakUpNotts, as part of the engagement and consultation of the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty. The survey forms an essential part of developing local area response plans, and each local authority across the NNVRP area has been provided with summaries from residents in their area. A full analysis of the Speak Up Notts survey data will be completed at a later date and made available online through the VRP website.

The survey had 602 responses, of which 204 lived in Nottingham City, 186 from South Nottinghamshire, 119 from Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood, and 83 from Mansfield & Ashfield. A further 10 respondents were practitioners and/or voluntary and community providers of local services in the NNVRP area. The survey was aimed at gaining insight into young people's views on serious violence in their local area, and the voices of 420 young people aged under 25 were captured.

Of the 'young respondents', 1 in 5 said they knew someone who was in a gang and over two thirds had witnessed some form of serious violence. Nottingham City had the highest number of respondents who knew someone in a gang, followed by Mansfield and Ashfield. The following trends were highlighted in under 25s:

- Feelings of safety significantly reduced amongst this cohort during the night compared to the day; Bassetlaw had the highest number of respondents who felt unsafe during the day, and also felt serious violence and youth violence were high in their local area.
- When asked what makes you feel unsafe, the most frequent responses were darkness, drunk people/people on drugs, weapons, men, being alone;
- When asked what makes you feel safe, the most frequent responses were street lighting, police, the community, family and friends, having a phone on their person;
- When asked what would help reduce youth crime/violence, the most frequent responses were more police, more street lighting and CCTV, youth clubs and more activities for young people;
- When asked what would help young people being drawn into violence and crime, the most frequent responses were sports such as boxing and football, and youth clubs/youth workers.

## Evaluations

The Domestic Violence perpetrator programme evaluation was completed and is available online<sup>84</sup>. A comprehensive evaluation of four sports diversion programmes is currently underway by a team from Loughborough University. The evaluation is considering the effectiveness of these interventions and includes an economic evaluation. The final report is due March 2024.

### 5.2 National insight on communities and violence

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The research discussed below represents national data and can be referenced when analysing local data for emerging patterns, trends and areas of concern.

#### Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2023

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and research partners surveyed 7,500 13–17-year-olds, building on last year's survey of 2000 children and young people, to better understand how violence impacts their lives<sup>85</sup>. To provide additional insight, this survey has been reviewed in conjunction with other national surveys. The survey found that in the past 12 months:

- 47% of children had experienced violence as a victim or witness. The most common type of violence experienced was assault (63%).

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<sup>84</sup> [Evaluation of your choice project](#)

<sup>85</sup> [Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2023 | Youth Endowment Fund](#)



- 15% of children reported committing violence.
- Children were four to five times more likely to be victims if they'd been in a gang, carried weapons or had contact with the police.

This risk of being affected by violence is not shared equally by all children. Those supported by a social worker, regularly missing classes, or using drugs, were found to be twice as likely to be victims. Moreover, while most of the violence was reportedly committed by White children (70%) and most victims were White (72%), Black teenage children were, on average, more likely to be vulnerable as both victims (21%) and perpetrators (22%) compared to White children (16% and 14%, respectively).

The survey highlights how hard it is for children to avoid violence online - 60% of those surveyed had seen real world acts of violence online within the last 12 months, with TikTok and Snapchat being the most prevalent sources. The most common type of content seen was footage of fights between children (48%) or young people and threats to beat up another child or group (36%).

The survey also showed children have a polarised opinions about the police; with half agreeing that the police kept them safe from violence, 11% disagreed and the rest either remained neutral or didn't know. In comparison 90% thought that parents keep them safe, and 61% thought teachers did so.

## The Good Childhood Report

The Children's Society has conducted household surveys since 2010 with a view to understanding wellbeing and topical issues of children aged 10 –17. The Good Childhood Report<sup>86</sup> presents the most recent trends in children's subject well-being, purposively selecting children to closely match the demographic, socio-economic, and geographic make-up of the wider population. It is important to note however that the most vulnerable children's experiences are unlikely to be captured within this survey due to the sample size.

Between May and June 2023, just over 2,000 children took part in the Children's Society's survey. The survey highlighted the following:

- **Wellbeing:** 10% of children and young people surveyed had low wellbeing (that is, they scored below the midpoint on a multi-item measure of overall life satisfaction).
- **School life:** Children were more unhappy with school than with any other aspect of life examined. Happiness with school declined significantly with age and was significantly lower among children in lower income households.
- **Society:** When asked about concerns on broader societal issues, children were most worried about the rising prices, the environment and crime.

## Keeping Girls and Young Women Safe

The Commission on Young Lives and Manchester Centre for Youth Studies report explores how girls and young women are becoming at risk of violence and harm, the impact of gangs, how they can be protected, and how they can be supported to succeed<sup>87</sup>. Whilst there is lack of reliable data concerning the scale and nature of girls and women at risk of exploitation, this report suggests that there could be as many as 60,000 girls in England vulnerable to serious violence.

The evidence submitted to the inquiry identified a series of factors which situate girls and young women at risk of exploitation. The most common risks identified related to familial, educational, health and structural factors such as poverty, low socio-economic status, and public funding, as well as the patriarchal structure of society. Within these identified themes, the inquiry also highlighted adverse childhood experience, mental

<sup>86</sup> [The Good Childhood Report 2023 | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

<sup>87</sup> [Keeping-Girls-And-Young-Women-Safe-MMU-and-COYL-report-pdf \(thecommissiononyounglives.co.uk\)](https://www.thecommissiononyounglives.co.uk)

health and low self-esteem, and diagnosed or undiagnosed special education needs or disabilities as additional risk factors. The report's recommendations included:

- Training for teachers, health professionals, the police, and children's services to raise awareness for the impact of vulnerability and trauma on girls and young women, and the violence and harm that some are experiencing. This should include training to recognise and prevent adultification.
- Protecting girls and young women from harm in gang related contexts is raised to a priority in safeguarding frameworks, VAWG strategies and preventative work.
- Specialist educational programmes are run in all secondary schools in violence hotspot areas, and all pupil referral units to support girls to stay safe from exploitation, control and harm.
- Educational programmes to tackle the spread of misogynistic messages via social media influencers, and to explore issues around consent and health relationships in schools.
- Specialist girls/young women practitioners are based in A&E departments in violence hotspot areas.
- Risks to vulnerable girls and young women are prioritised in research and evaluation.
- Mental health and emotional support are guaranteed to all girls judged to be at risk of exploitation, violence and harm.

## 5.3 Horizon Scanning

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Horizon scanning is a strategic process used to identify and analyse emerging trends, developments and potential disruptions that could have significant impacts in the future. The primary objective is to gain foresight and anticipate upcoming opportunities and risks.

The following areas and latest policy developments have been identified through horizon scanning as relevant to this needs assessment as they are expected to have a new or continued influence on serious violence.

### 5.3.1 Latest Policy Developments

#### Online Safety Act 2023

In October 2023 the much-anticipated Online Safety Act received royal assent. The act has introduced a new set of laws designed to protect children and adults online and make tech companies more responsible for users' safety on their platforms. This included the legal responsibility on tech companies to remove illegal content and material harmful to children's wellbeing.

This will have an impact on a whole host of offences facilitated online – including VAWG, pornography, terrorism, incitement of violence etc. OFCOM has set out its plans for putting online safety laws into practice, and what we expect from tech firms now that the Online Safety Act has passed. Draft guidance and codes of practices are expected to be published and consulted upon throughout 2024 and 2025<sup>88</sup>.

#### Clear Hold Build

Following a pilot in selected Forces, Clear Hold Build is being rolled out nationally to tackle OCG and build local community resilience. The clear phase involves initial enforcement activity (arrests and relentless disruption). The hold phase involves capitalizing on the vacuum created to ensure the area remains safe. The build phase concerns a whole-system approach to address the driver of serious organised crime.

All Forces are required to have identified a pilot site to implement this approach by March 2024. The implementation of this approach will require buy-in and support from a range of partners, across all sectors. To date the model has been found to work best when governed or closely aligned to local Community Safety Partnerships.

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<sup>88</sup> [Ofcom's approach to implementing the Online Safety Act - Ofcom](#)

## **Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2023 – 2028**

The mission in the latest SOC strategy is to reduce serious and organised crime in the UK, using the full reach and power of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies in partnership with the private sector and communities<sup>89</sup>.

The strategy priorities five lines of action: disrupting and dismantling criminal operating in and impacting on the country; strengthening the UK border; international information and intelligence sharing; ensuring the best intelligence and data collection, analysis and investigative capabilities are in place; and finally, taking a multiagency response.

The strategy aims to enhance collaboration between law enforcement agencies, government, and wider partners, ensuring all public and private sector partners are working together as effectively as possible with the right capacity, skills, structures, and tasking processes. It also highlights the need for innovation, technology and data sharing to stay ahead of evolving criminal tactics.

### **Serious Violence Reduction Orders**

Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs) were introduced in the Police Crime Sentencing & Courts Act (PCSC) 2022 and came into effect in April 2023 in the pilot areas of Merseyside, Thames Valley, Sussex, and West Midlands.

A Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs) is a civil order made in respect of an offender (aged 18 and over) convicted of an offence involving a bladed article or offensive weapon. Under this provision, someone placed on an SVRO can be subjected to a stop and search in a public place to ascertain if they have a bladed article or offensive weapon. This stop and search power is enforceable by police across England and Wales, with the court orders to be implemented nationally should the pilot prove successful.

The impact and effectiveness of the orders will be explored through the pilot. SVRO has the potential benefit of making individuals less likely to carry a weapon. However, concerns have also been expressed about the level of discretion it affords policing and in particular the negative consequences this may have on ethnic minorities given the known disproportionate use of stop and search.

### **Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews (OWHRs)**

The PCSC Act 2022 introduced a requirement on the police, local authorities in England and Wales and integrated care boards in England and local health boards in Wales, to review the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over, and the events surrounding their death involved, or were likely to have involved, the use of an offensive weapon. This was in response to growing concerns that homicides are not formally reviewed by multiagency partners and the large growing proportion of offensive weapon homicides.

In March 2023, the government published its statutory guidance on OWHRs, with the approach being piloted in areas of London, West Midlands, and South Wales<sup>90</sup>. The pilot is to be evaluated before a decision is made on further implementation across England and Wales. The guidance leaves the coordination of this process up to local partnership discretion. Partners should therefore begin to consider local preparedness for this requirement and await the findings of the pilot.

### **Criminal Justice Bill 2023**

The Criminal Justice Bill includes the following measure relevant to serious violence needs assessment<sup>91</sup>:

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<sup>89</sup> [Serious and organised crime strategy 2023 to 2028 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/serious-and-organised-crime-strategy-2023-to-2028)

<sup>90</sup> [Offensive weapons homicide reviews: statutory guidance \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/offensive-weapons-homicide-reviews-statutory-guidance-accessible-version)

<sup>91</sup> [Criminal Justice Bill: Overarching factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/criminal-justice-bill-overarching-factsheet)

- Enhancing the ability of law enforcement agencies to clamp down on knife crime, including creating a power to seize, retain and destroy bladed articles found on private property; increasing the maximum penalty for sale of dangerous weapons to under 18s; and creating a new criminal offence of possessing a bladed article with the intent to cause harm.
- Expanding police powers to drug test more suspects on arrest, helping direct more drug users into treatment and away from drugs.
- New powers to tackle serious and organised crime. Prohibiting articles used in serious crime (including templates for 3D printed firearm components, pill presses and vehicle concealments), banning electronic devices such as signal jammers used in vehicle theft, and strengthening the operation of Serious Crime Prevention Orders to make it easier for police and other law enforcement agencies to place restrictions on offenders or suspected offenders and stop them from participating in further crime.

The proposal will strengthen law enforcements response to serious violence and serious organised crime, whilst also ensuring there are pathways to treatment and deterrence measures in place to help reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

### 5.3.2 Inspections

The following inspections were published in 2023, giving an indication of how well we are responding to Serious Violence nationally, regionally, and locally.

#### **East Midlands Response to Serious & Organised Crime**

In 2022 HMICFRS conducted an inspection into the regional response to SOC<sup>92</sup>. The report published in March 2023 sets out the inspectorates' findings with regards to regional performance and provides individual judgement on each Force and the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU).

Nottinghamshire Police was graded as 'adequate', commended for by Op Reacher and the Forces diversionary activity with regards to child criminal exploitation, urban street gangs and county lines. The Force were also commended for the use of a wide range of tactics to disrupt SOC and manage offenders, particularly as Nottinghamshire Police is one of a few forces that have sought a gang injunction with local authorities, to limit the behaviour of known gang members. The Forces areas for improvement included ensuring there is enough staff within the SOC command to meet demand and improving how disruption are recorded on the national database.

EMSOU were graded as inadequate with the areas of improvement including the need for a revised section 22 collaboration agreement, ensuring funding is given in line with the HM Treasury's three-year settlement and ensuring there is sufficient intelligence capacity to meet demand. Work is underway to by Nottinghamshire Police & EMSOU to meet these recommendations and should be completed within the next financial year.

#### **An Inspection of How Well the Police Tackle Youth Violence**

In March 2023, HMICFRS published its findings from its thematic inspection into serious youth violence. Nottinghamshire Police was one of the forces visited as part of the inspectorate's field work<sup>93</sup>. Whilst not specific to Nottingham, the key findings included:

- Early signs that the Violence Reduction Partnerships are reducing crime. However, some areas did not have a consistent approach to allocating resources for reducing youth violence, and communication could be improved.

<sup>92</sup> [An inspection of the east midland's regional response to serious and organised crime - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/inspections/2023/03/2023-03-01-an-inspection-of-the-east-midland-s-regional-response-to-serious-and-organised-crime)

<sup>93</sup> [An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/inspections/2023/03/2023-03-01-an-inspection-of-how-well-the-police-tackle-serious-youth-violence)

- Interventions to reduce serious violence were often not evaluated enough or frequently enough.
- Whilst forces started making use of Outcome 22, their understanding of this was often flawed. Outcome 22 is a police outcome used when the police decide to defer prosecution until the accused has been given the opportunity to engage with an intervention activity.
- Police were not making full use of other relevant powers, gang injunctions particularly highlighted, due to the time-consuming, bureaucratic, and expensive application process.
- Linked to the serious violence duty, police were increasingly willing to share information with partner organisations. For example, they share information with health professionals to support those involved in youth violence.
- Forces and VRPs are working with schools to support children at risk of exclusions, but the relationships between these organisations would benefit from better communication.
- Evaluation is needed into the effectiveness of school liaison officers, with feedback being mixed.

## **Homicide Prevention: An Inspection of the Police Contribution to the Prevention Of Homicide**

In August 2023, HMICFRS published the findings from their inspection into police contribution to the prevention of homicide<sup>94</sup>. Whilst not specific to the NNVRP area, the key findings were as follows:

- Most police forces were able to identify the patterns and causes of homicide effectively, and they were able to prioritise and allocate the right resources to tackle them.
- The link between drugs and homicide may be overstated and until the Home Office has finished developing the analysis of data to better understand this, the Police Forces will only have partial understanding.
- Forces are not effective at assessing and linking less serious crimes or incidents to they can prevent escalation into homicide. To support this, the availability of analysts needs to improve.
- There are missed opportunities around the Serious Violence Duty in relation to data sharing and it's unclear to the police how other agencies can be held to account on this.
- Police forces complete major crime and statutory reviews following incidents of homicide and serious violence. But these reviews take time and most forces we inspected didn't have a way of quickly identifying learning.
- Forces who use the Homicide Prevention Framework produced by the NPCC and College of Police, were generally more effective at preventing crime.

## **Evaluation of Violence Reduction Units and Hotspot Policing**

In January 2023, the evaluation into the third year of the Violence Reduction Units (VRU) was published<sup>95</sup>. This evaluation was conducted by Ecorys UK, Ipsos UK, the University of Hull and the University of Exeter. Since funding began, an estimated 136,000 (or 243 per 100,000 persons) violence without injury offences had been prevented in funded areas – with the NNVRP area being one such area.

Whilst not statistically significant, there were encouraging indications of reductions in homicides and hospital admissions resulting from any violent injury. This included admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object which was a Home Office agreed outcomes measure for assessing the VRUs. Furthermore, analysis focusing on just violence 'hot spots' (within VRP areas) also indicated a potential impact on police recorded violence with injury offences.

Overall, the report concluded that the VRUs substantially contribute towards a whole-system approach to violence. Whilst some progress may have been made in the absence of the VRU, it would have been over a longer period and/or reduced scale.

<sup>94</sup> [Homicide prevention: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/homicide-prevention-an-inspection-of-the-police-contribution-to-the-prevention-of-homicide)

<sup>95</sup> [Violence Reduction Units, year ending March 2022 evaluation report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/vru-evaluation-report-2022)