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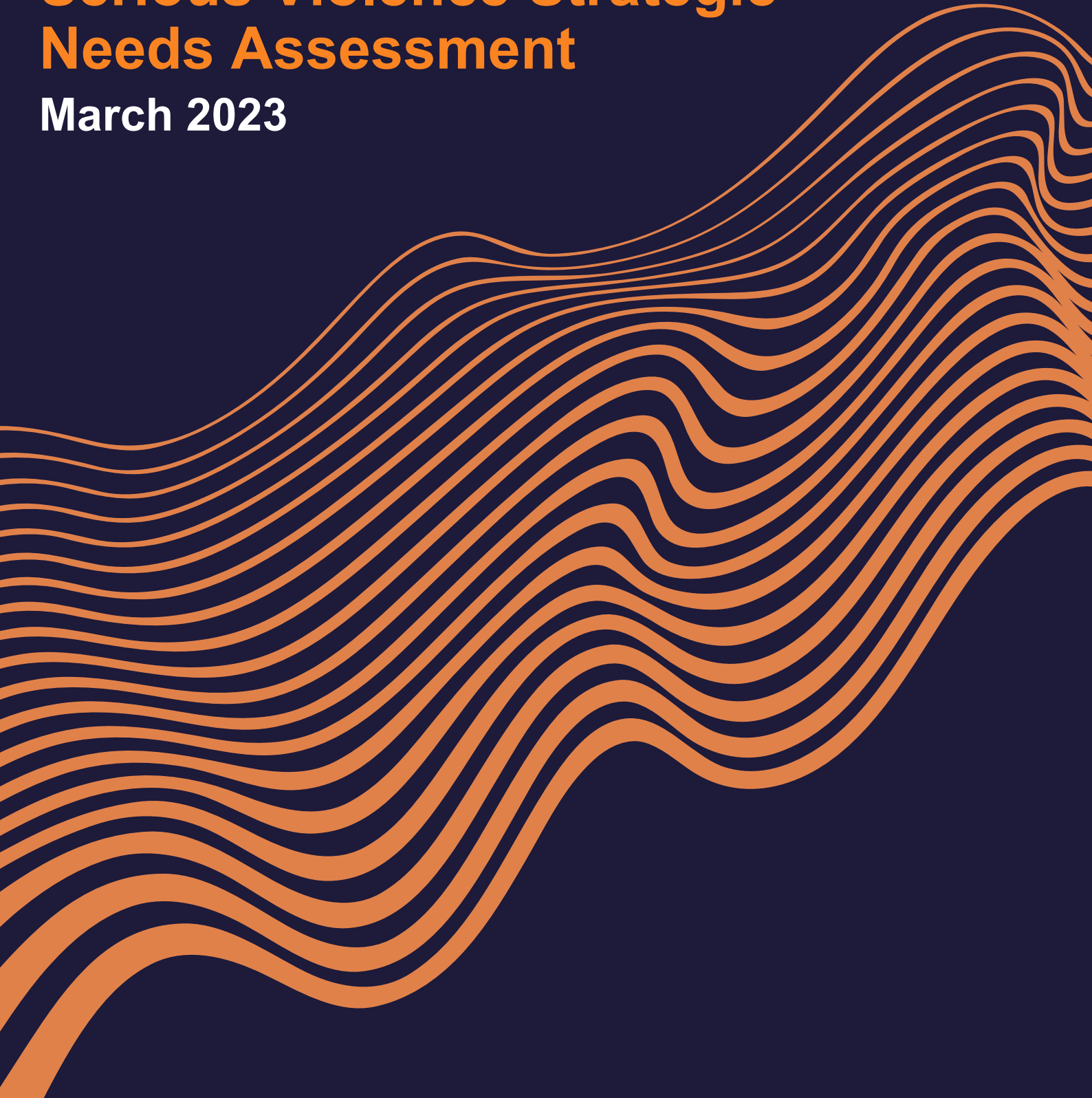


**VRP** Violence  
Reduction  
Partnership  
Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire  
Violence Reduction Partnership

# Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

March 2023



## **NNVRP Core Membership Signatories**

The strategic needs assessment has been agreed and signed off by the following NNVRP core members, as defined in the Home Office guidance.

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# Executive summary

The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment provides a comprehensive overview of trends, drivers and contextual factors impacting upon serious violence across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to inform policy and practice in our approach to violence reduction.

The assessment draws upon a wide range of information sources including data sets from police, A&E and EMAS which have shown strong correlations in terms of trends and geographic and demographic concentrations in serious violence.

## Key findings

- Levels of serious violence recorded by Nottinghamshire police in 2022 were 8% lower than those recorded during the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Police recorded 'crime harm' relating to serious violence increased by a marginal 1%. Levels of 'most serious violence' in Nottinghamshire remain broadly in line with the average for most similar police forces.
- There have been notable changes in some subcategories of serious violence compared to the pre-COVID baseline year, with reductions in homicide, S47 assaults and knife-enabled robbery of between 18% and 25%. 'Other violence with injury', knife-enabled threats to kill and sexual violence have all increased compared to the pre-COVID baseline, some of which has been driven by improvements in prevention and early intervention activity over this period.
- Police recorded rape (+9%) and sexual assault (+24%) have increased compared to the 2019 baseline and account for a significant driver of increased crime harm scores. The factors driving this increase are not fully understood.
- In the NNVRP area 41% of homicides involved links to drug markets and 24% are linked to domestic abuse. Spontaneous altercations were linked to 24% of all homicides, of which alcohol was a compounding factor in around 71% of cases.
- The rise in violence with injury offences has been driven, in part, by an increase in police recorded non-fatal strangulation / suffocation offences, of which 86% of which had a domestic abuse flag. Similarly, 47% of all recorded threats to kill have a domestic marker, with alcohol being cited as a compounding factor in 22% of cases.

## Demographic, geographic and temporal trends – *who is affected by serious violence?*

- Young males aged 20-24 continue to account for the vast majority of known perpetrators of serious violence. The profile of victimisation varies according to the nature of the offence.
- Males aged 15 to 19 account for the vast majority of knife enabled robbery victims and offenders. For victims of all ages, people from Asian backgrounds being disproportionately represented as victims (11.1%) when compared to the area's demographic composition (6.3%). Of note, these numbers are still low (n=25).
- There have been no significant changes in the primary geographic concentrations for serious violence across the NNVRP area, with predominant concentrations in the City Centre and Mansfield night-time economies, and urban centres within Sutton in Ashfield and Newark.

- There have been no significant changes in temporal trends in serious violence with seasonal peaks during June and July and weekly peaks between 6pm to 6am periods on Fridays and Saturday nights. Incident criticality is also concentrated during these weekly peaks, accounting for around 41% of all critical and life threatening ambulance call outs.

### **Contextual data and risk factors**

- Rising financial hardship, compounded by the rising cost of living, remains a significant contextual risk factor associated with increased risk of violent crime, particularly violent acquisitive crime, and exploitation in areas of already higher than average levels of economic disadvantage (City and Ashfield local authorities).
- Nottingham City continues to show significantly higher rates of school suspension, permanent exclusion, Looked After Children /Children in Care and first time entrants into the Youth Justice System than the England and East Midlands average. Young males continue to account for a large proportion of individuals permanently excluded from school.
- The number of children with either an Education, health and care plan (EHCP) or entitled to SEND support is rising across Nottinghamshire alongside a reduction in the proportion receiving support. Our understanding of the prevalence of SEND related needs among the serious violence cohort remains under-developed.
- Missing person cases and episodes recorded by police increased in 2022 compared the 2019/20 pre-COVID baseline year.

## **Recommendations**

The SNA team have proposed a number of key recommendations arising from the insight and analysis provided within the assessment.

### Serious violence definition

1. There are opportunities to further clarify the scope and definition of serious violence in order to better differentiate between the precursors, risk factors and consequences of serious violence and take account of the changing crime profile. Further work should be undertaken to clarify the scope of serious violence informed by the crime harm index and other relevant insight.

### Partnership working and data collection

2. There are clear opportunities to derive new insights and better identify and reduce risk of harm through the standardisation, triangulation and matching of partner agency data. This should include a particular focus on key risk factors such as missing episodes, exclusions and alternative provision.
3. Expand the collation of relevant information to inform future SNAs, including anonymised prison data, probation data, outcomes of homicide reviews including areas such as domestic homicide, child and adult safeguarding, mental health and offensive weapons homicide reviews, Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme data, MARAC data, GRIP Hotspots, Operation Reacher and Operation Sceptre for police activity.

4. Work with agencies to improve data quality and capture in respect of ethnicity, trans identity and speech and language related need and neurodiversity across partner agency data sets.
5. Work with health partners to drive improvements in information sharing to tackle violence (ISTV), particularly in relation to health data submissions. This should include data from additional hospitals within the catchment area and look to increase the number of submissions and improve captured ethnicity data from QMC and Kingsmill hospitals to provide additional insight to the current picture.
6. Strengthen our use of evidence from lived experience and community insights as part of the strategic needs assessment process.
7. Ensure data and insight in respect of ethnicity and serious violence is used to inform the VRP funded Disproportionality and System Change research project, alongside a comprehensive overview of the caveats and contextual factors affecting these data sets

#### Risk factors and drivers of serious violence

8. Develop an understanding of the discrepancies between police and council data on missing children and review the vulnerability and risk of involvement in serious violence among individuals that are recorded by local authorities and do not go on to be recorded by the police.
9. Strengthen the partnerships response to the incitement of violence on social media and issues concerning contextual safeguarding in the online space.
10. The assessment shows drugs to be a notable driver for serious violence. Strengthen the links between preventative workstreams focussed on serious violence and the substance use (combatting drugs) partnerships within the city and county, and delivery of the national From Harm to Hope strategy.
11. The assessment highlights consistent long-term geographic, demographic and temporal trends in serious violence. The partnership should explore opportunities to exploit big data and predictive analytics for serious violence, and knife crime in particular, to further inform harm prevention and early intervention activity.
12. Work with education providers to improve understanding of risk and prevalence of weapon possession within educational settings.

#### Rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO)

13. The VRP should strengthen its focus on rape and other serious sexual offences (RASSO) in view of the emerging post-COVID profile. Further analysis should be undertaken to understand the drivers of increased levels of police recorded serious sexual violence, and to understand what extent improvements in reporting have an underlying prevalence. This should be linked to Nottinghamshire's newly developed Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy.
14. The 15-19 year old population present the highest risk of rape, for both victims and perpetrators, highlighting the need to support and evaluate the rollout of schools-based domestic violence prevention programme focused on healthy relationships, in alignment with the ambitions of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Make Notts Safe Plan.

**15.** Further work is required to understand the impact of alcohol in a domestic setting and as a potential driver of hidden harm given the available evidence of increased alcohol use post-pandemic.

## Areas for further analysis and insight

The assessment highlights a number of research and intelligence gaps which would benefit from further exploration. These include:

- Exploring the links between economic disadvantage and violence associated with debt recovery in view of the rising cost of living and its impact on vulnerable individuals and communities
- Improving understanding of the vulnerabilities presented by young people with Special Educational Needs and the relationships between SEN, speech, language, victims and offending – informed by the Divert Plus programme.
- Develop our understanding of the factors driving higher than average rates of first time entrants into the youth justice system, school suspensions and permanent exclusions in the city.
- Improving understanding of the factors driving the increase in police recorded threats to kill and strangulation offences - particularly in Sutton in Ashfield where rates were more than double that recorded in any other ward.
- Explore the extent to which rises in recorded sexual offences and sexual offences in hospitality locations (licensed clubs) in particular, have been affected by societal, political and organisational factors, positive improvements in reporting or increases in underlying risk. This should be informed by the VRP-commissioned gender and violence research study.
- Improving our understanding of the differences in emotional, physical and multiple needs identified via Child Protection Plans across the city and county.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Strategic needs assessment approach

This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been developed on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP).

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 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. 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 Nottinghamshire area.

This is our fourth Serious Violence SNA for Nottinghamshire. 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, perpetrators
- Anonymised hospital and primary care data relating to serious violence injuries
- Local contextual data including Census 2021, unemployment statistics
- Children’s social care data sets
- Literature review on risk factors for serious violence and evidence for interventions
- A review of the impact of COVID-19 undertaken as part of the 2021 SNA refresh

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 a serious violence SNA for the partnership area. In 2022/23, this has included work to secure:

- Enhanced EMAS data sets
- Education data - attendance, suspension and exclusions

Further iterations of SNA will seek to secure additional partnership data sets including:

- Anonymised prison data and probation data
- Outcomes of homicide reviews including in areas such as domestic homicide, child and adult safeguarding, mental health and offensive weapons homicide reviews
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme data
- Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) data
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue data
- Grip Hotspot policing data, Operation Reacher, Operation Sceptre for police activity
- National Referral Mechanism referrals for all forms of modern slavery and exploitation

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions and measures put in place had a significant impact on social patterns of behaviour and violence during 2020 and 2021. As such, the profile of serious violence captured in 2022 has been compared to the 2019 pre-COVID period throughout this document.

The data and evidence presented in this SNA have been synthesised to draw out the learning for the Nottinghamshire area in 2023, with particular consideration of the priority areas for VRP system leadership and interventions that support an increasingly thematic approach.

## 1.3 Defining Serious Violence

### 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.

### Serious violence

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. Our definition recognises the complexity of violence but focuses on all incidents (including domestic violence) that cause serious harm.

**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, violence with injury, actual bodily harm.
- **Robbery:** knife enabled robbery of personal or business property.
- **Sexual violence:** rape and sexual assault.

Within these overarching classifications, particular attention is given to public space youth violence, homicide, knife crime and gun crime, alcohol-related violence, rape and high harm domestic abuse and sexual offences.

Violence against women and girls has been a matter of national concern recently, but physical and sexual violence against women has always been included in our scope, whether it occurs in a domestic setting or elsewhere.

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.

In September 2021 HMICFRS undertook a crime audit in reviewing crimes and incidents recorded between March and May 2021. It concluded that the force were failing to record secondary offences in addition to the most serious offence recorded and were therefore not compliant with new crime recording requirements that came into effect in April 2018. It was a common recommendation which was levelled against many forces nationally.

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 behaviour.

These changes to the data clearly affects some of our conclusions regarding underlying levels of low severity violence in the SNA, and it is considered highly probable that some of the large percentage increases seen in some of the crime types have been affected by these changes.

It is now our understanding that the recommendation will be retracted in May 2023 and forces will no longer be required to record secondary offences as additional crimes, these factors will be considered in future iterations of the report.

### **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 can drive or act as precursors for serious violence. This can include **possession of weapon offences** and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is often inherent, such as County lines drug dealing and other forms of **organised criminality** and exploitation.

In addition to being in line with HM Government's position, we know that the drugs trade, in particular, is the driver 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 our assessment.

## 1.4 Defining the local area

### 1.4.1 The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership Area

The local area against which the Violence Reduction Partnership is configured, and the Serious Violence Duty applies, must be defined <sup>1</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 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.

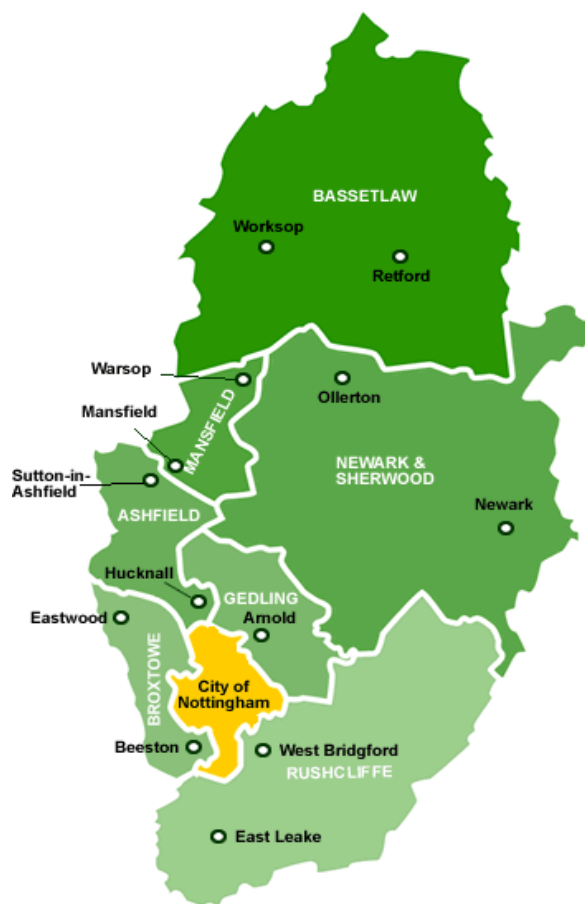
Nottinghamshire Police Force spans approximately 834 square miles, incorporating the local authorities of Nottingham (national core City), Nottinghamshire County Council and the district councils of Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood.

The VRP is a partnership that brings together specialists from local Government, Health, Education, Policing and Criminal Justice to work with communities and the third sector to reduce serious violence and tackle its underlying causes<sup>2</sup>.

### 1.4.2 Our population

The NNVRP area has a resident population of 1.15 million<sup>3</sup> which is projected to grow by a further 65,950 (+5.6%) over the next decade as a result of net migration and increases in life expectancy.

The populations of Rushcliffe (+8.9%) and Ashfield (+7.6%) in particular are each expected to rise by over 10,000 residents by 2031. 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<sup>4</sup>. The University of Nottingham has one of the highest numbers of international students nationally, accounting for around 28% of their total student population.



*Nottinghamshire County Council – District mapping*

<sup>1</sup> Section 36 – Defining the Local Area: Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

<sup>2</sup> [About the VRU | Violence Reduction Unit \(nottsvrp.co.uk\)](https://nottsvrp.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>4</sup> 20.2% of residents are aged 18 to 24 in the City, compared to 6.9% in the County and 8.3% in England & Wales. The area has a university population of over 59,550 full and part-time students ([UoN](https://www.uon.ac.uk) & [NTU](https://www.ntu.ac.uk) 2019/20).

		NNVRP area	Nottingham City	South Notts	Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood	Mansfield & Ashfield
<b>Total population</b>		<b>1,148,456</b>	<b>323,627</b>	<b>347,280</b>	<b>240,758</b>	<b>236,791</b>
<b>Age</b>	10 to 17	<b>103,079</b>	28,904	31,067	21,328	21,780
	18 to 24	<b>122,360</b>	65,231	24,843	16,083	16,203
	75 +	<b>98,905</b>	17,280	35,625	24,756	21,244
<b>Ethnicity</b>	White British / Irish	<b>921,247</b>	187,940	298,997	221,163	213,147
	Other White	<b>59,409</b>	25,490	11,384	10,823	11,712
	Asian background	<b>72,743</b>	48,217	17,458	2,866	4,202
	Black background	<b>42,141</b>	32,215	5,637	1,540	2,749
	Mixed background	<b>36,167</b>	19,063	10,252	3,249	3,603
	Other background	<b>16,751</b>	10,710	3,552	1,121	1,368

## Cultural identity

Nottingham City has a high level of cultural and ethnic diversity<sup>5</sup>, with around 42% 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. Ethnic diversity is significantly lower in the County, where around 12% of the population is estimated to be non-white British. 86% of residents have English as a main language in Nottingham City, rising to 96% in the County. Reflecting the national picture, Polish is the second most common language across Nottinghamshire, 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 Nottinghamshire County, where 46% defined themselves as Christian, falling to 35% 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%).

Nottinghamshire 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 are all based here. Across Nottinghamshire, 3.3% of people identified with an LGB+ orientation, reflecting the national picture. In the City, this diversity rises to 5% identifying as LGB+, and falls to 2.6% in the County.

## Index of multiple deprivation

The NNVRP area features higher than average levels of deprivation, particularly in the City, former coalfield areas and former industrial towns affected by economic stagnation. 55.2% of Nottingham City population, and 15.7% of the Nottinghamshire population live in the most deprived areas nationally<sup>6</sup>. In the County, Ashfield and Mansfield have the highest proportion of residents living in areas of high deprivation (26.8% and 41% respectively). Although Nottingham City remains the most deprived local authority in the NNVRP area, it has seen relative reductions in deprivation since 2015

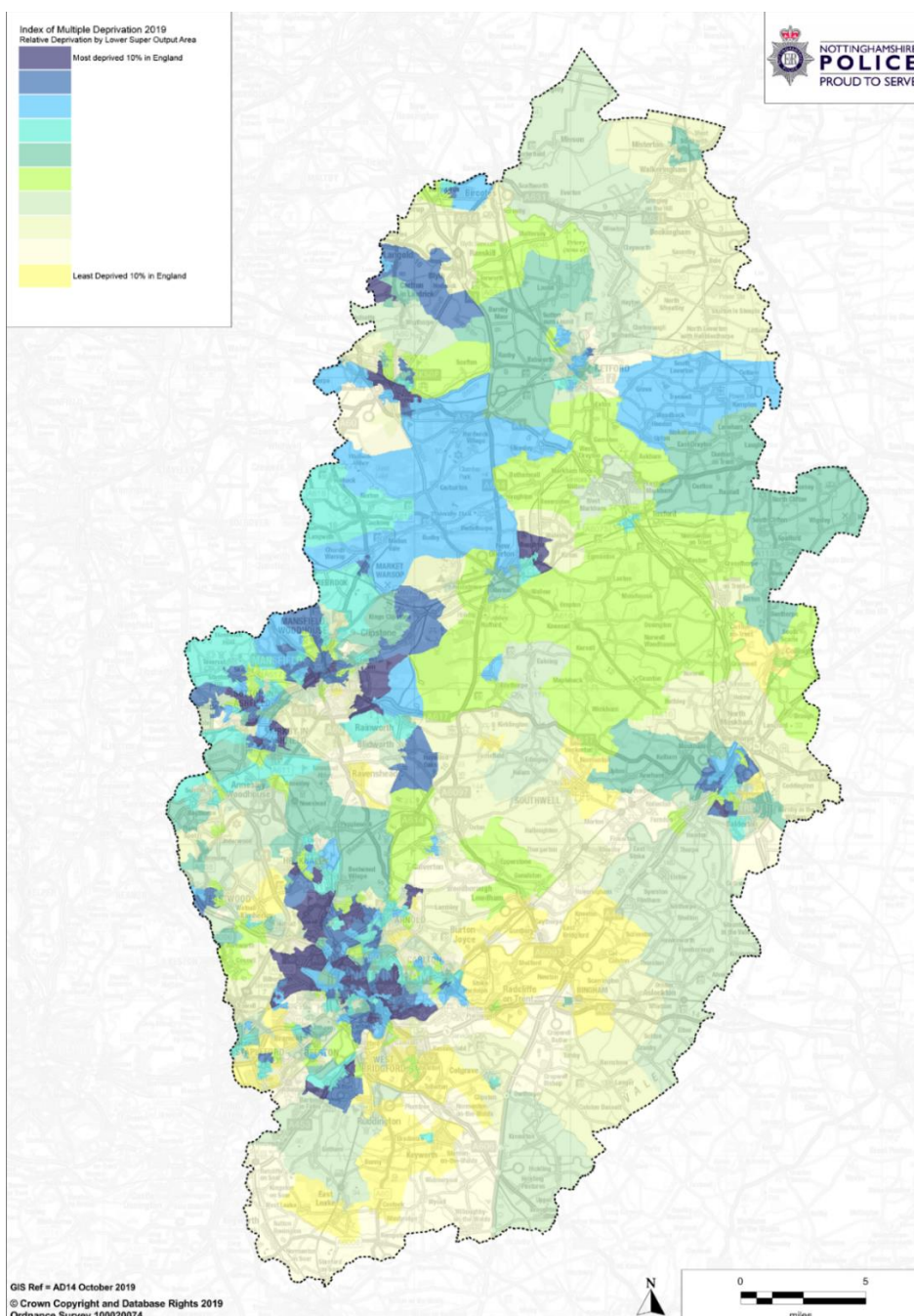
<sup>5</sup> [Cultural identity - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Nottingham Insight](#)

whereas Ashfield, Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood have seen an increase in deprivation, particularly in terms of health, housing and deprivation affecting children.

A number of priority and high impact localities have been identified on account of the levels of complex need and cross-agency demand that they present. These areas coincide with localities of higher-than-average multiple 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 South East, Worksop North West and Langold.
- **Newark and Sherwood:** Bridge, Ollerton and Devon.
- **South Nottinghamshire:** Netherfield, Colwick and Eastwood South.



## 2. Insight and analysis

### 2.1 Contextual data

This 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.

#### Unemployment and economic disadvantage

Unemployment, as measured by the number of people claiming unemployment benefits<sup>7</sup>, shows a strong positive correlation with the wider components of deprivation. Following the large increase of claimants from March 2020, the overall number of claimants across Nottinghamshire<sup>8</sup> has returned to a level comparable to the pre-pandemic period (-0.4%), following a marked rise between March 2020 and September 2021. This mirrors the national trend (-0.2%).

	Unemployment Aug 2022	Rate	% change since August 2021	% change since February 2020
Ashfield	2,681	3.4%	-28.7%	-4.5%
Bassetlaw	1,841	2.6%	-29.1%	-5.8%
Broxtowe	1,623	2.3%	-33.2%	-1.7%
Gedling	1,897	2.6%	-29.4%	-3.4%
Mansfield	2,405	3.6%	-28.3%	-1.2%
Newark & Sherwood	1,938	2.6%	-26.8%	-6.8%
Rushcliffe	1,162	1.6%	-32.9%	0.0%
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>13,547</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>-29.5%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>11,183</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>-28.0%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
<b>NVRP Area</b>	<b>24,730</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-28.8%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>

Unemployment rates remain highest in the City (4.8%, 11,183 claimants), followed by Mansfield (3.6%, 2,405 claimants) and Ashfield (3.4%, 2,681).

Despite a stable long term unemployment rate, 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.

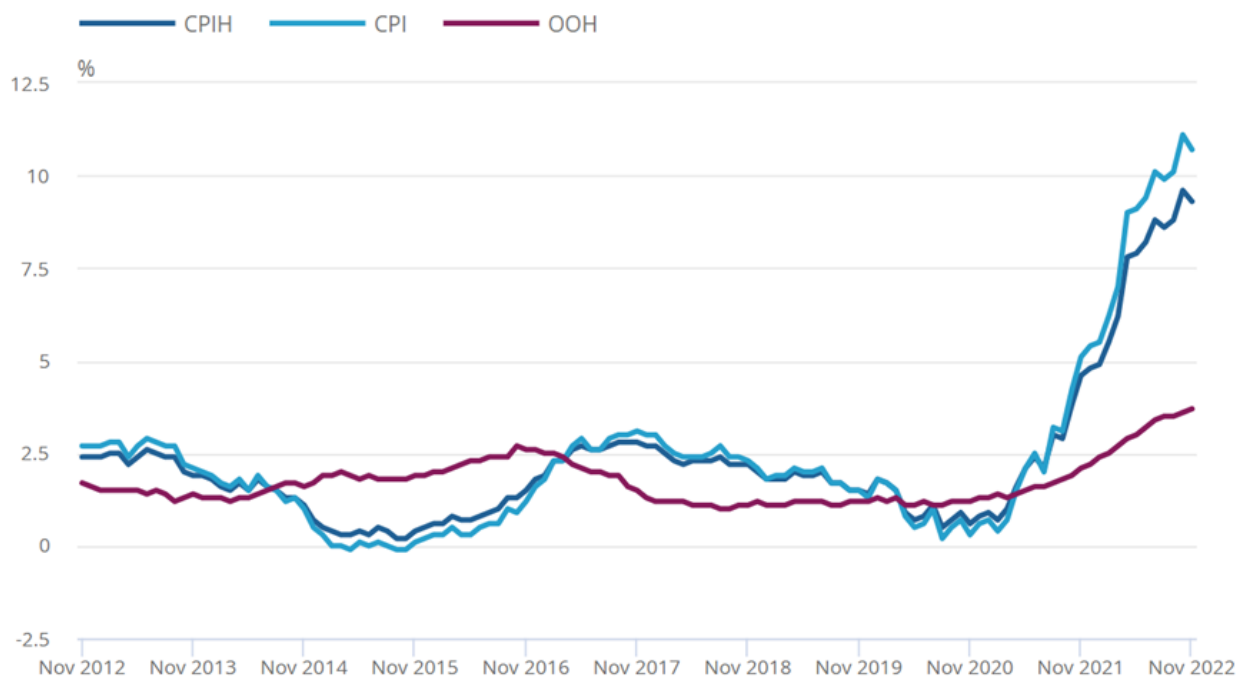
<sup>7</sup> Experimental Claimant Count: Number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit Searching for Work, Office for National Statistics

<sup>8</sup> [Alternative Claimant Count statistics January 2013 to August 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

The rising cost of living is expected to impact negatively upon levels of:

- Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) and complex need.
- Financial and criminal exploitation, including cuckooing and coercion of vulnerable people into **violence** and **selling drugs**.
- 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.

**Annual CPIH/CPI inflation rates in the UK<sup>9</sup>**



## Health deprivation

Violence can affect the mental and physical health of victims, perpetrators, and communities and impair overall resilience and recovery from serious violence. Consequences vary with age, sex and type of violence; however, they include increased incidences of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, increased risk of cardiovascular disease and premature mortality. The effects of violence may also be compounded among those already experiencing health-related vulnerabilities.

Health deprivation is most significantly concentrated in Nottingham City, which has one of the lowest healthy life expectancies across England. The proportion of residents reporting a long-standing

<sup>9</sup> [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)



health condition via the GP patient survey<sup>10</sup> reached the highest level on record both locally (56.6%) and nationally (55.1%) in 2021/22. Both health deprivation and acute mental health-related need are most prevalent in the Nottingham City, Mansfield and Ashfield areas.

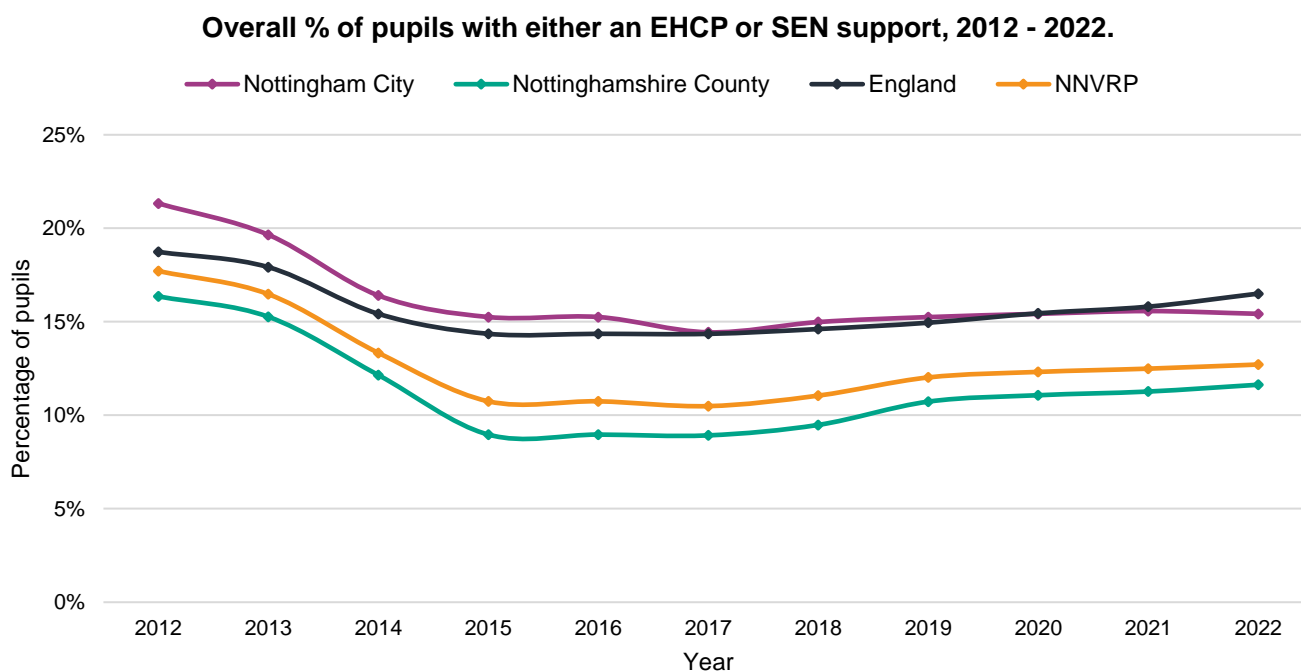
Long-term mental health conditions are estimated to affect around 120,900 residents across the NNVRP area. By contrast, around 20,800 adults and 7,760 children are known to be in contact with mental health services across Nottinghamshire<sup>11</sup>.

### 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.

### Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND)

The proportion of school age pupils with either an Education, health and care plan (EHCP) or entitled to SEND support has reduced markedly over the last decade at both a local and national level. Despite a long term reduction, the overall number of children an EHCP or SEND support need across the NNVRP area (22,732)<sup>12</sup> has been rising incrementally since 2017.



The variation across the NNVRP area is shown below, with Nottingham City having the highest proportion (15.2%) of children receiving support. The proportion of children with an EHCP or requiring SEND support remains lower than the England average (16.5%) across all local authorities within the NNVRP area.

<sup>10</sup> [GP Patient Survey - Analysis Tool](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Mental Health Services Monthly Statistics - NHS Digital](#)

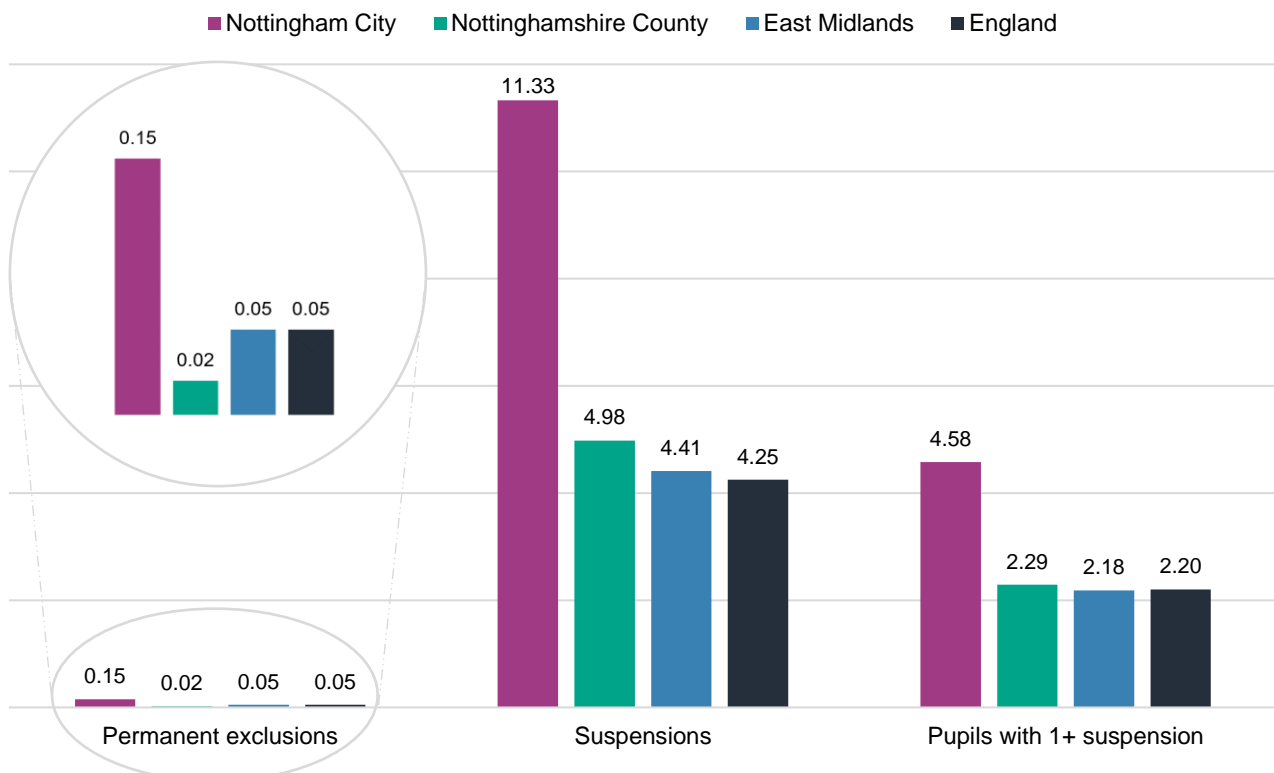
<sup>12</sup> [Special educational needs in England: January 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

	SEND support %	EHCP %	Total %
Ashfield	12.3%	2.1%	14.4%
Bassetlaw	10.1%	1.4%	11.5%
Broxtowe	9.4%	1.4%	10.8%
Gedling	10.4%	1.5%	11.9%
Mansfield	11.2%	2.8%	13.9%
Newark & Sherwood	10.7%	2.2%	12.8%
Rushcliffe	6.6%	1.0%	7.6%
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	10.1%	1.7%	11.8%
<b>Nottingham City</b>	13.0%	2.2%	15.2%
<b>NNVRP total</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
<b>England</b>	12.6%	4.0%	16.5%

## Exclusions data

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 crime<sup>13</sup>. Due to data validation, the following figures refer to the academic year 2020/21, using rates per 100 children from state-funded primary and secondary schools, special schools (including non-maintained special schools), and pupil referral units<sup>14</sup>.

**Rates of exclusion and suspension per 100 pupils 2020/21**



<sup>13</sup> [Timpson Review of School Exclusion](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics](#)

The total rate of school suspension in Nottingham City (11.33) was more than double that seen at East Midlands (4.41) and England (4.25) levels in 2020/21, whilst the permanent exclusion rate in the City (0.15) three times the regional and national level.

As highlighted below across the NNVRP area, exclusion and suspension rates vary by school type, with secondary schools experiencing the highest rates compared to primary and SEN schools. The highest rates of suspension were observed with regard to secondary schools in the city (n=4,873) and SEN schools in the city (n123).

	Rate per 100 pupils, 2020/21	
	Permanent exclusion	Suspension
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>11.33</b>
Primary school	0.02	1.21
Secondary school	0.35	26.95
SEN school	0.00	18.06
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>4.98</b>
Primary school	0.00	0.64
Secondary school	0.05	11.07
SEN school	0.00	2.93
<b>England</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>4.25</b>
Primary school	0.01	1.00
Secondary school	0.10	8.48
SEN school	0.03	7.29

Analysis of the cohort of permanently excluded pupils the NNVRP area highlight that young boys account for the majority of exclusions, at 74% in the City and 76% in the County. Physical assault of an adult or pupil was a factor in 25% of all permanent exclusions in the City<sup>15</sup> and 32% in the County<sup>16</sup>. Poor prior attendance is a common factor among 70% of those permanently excluded in the City.

### Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

All under-18s should be in either full or part-time education or training. 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 2021, an average of 773, 16 and 17 year olds were NEET across the NNVRP area (3.3% of people in this age group)<sup>17</sup>. The NEET rate for Nottingham City was 5.5%, compared to the Nottinghamshire County rate of 2.6%. NEET rates increased in both the City and County in the year to March 2021, in part reflecting the impact of the pandemic on prospects for young people during this period. Figures released in May 2023 are expected to show an improved position.

<sup>15</sup> Exclusions Problem Profile DAISI – 44 out of 175 exclusions were physical assault.

<sup>16</sup> Exclusions by reason 2020/21 – Nottinghamshire County Council: 15 out of 46 exclusions were physical assault.

<sup>17</sup> [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority, Academic year 2021/22 – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-in-education-training-and-neet-age-16-to-17-by-local-authority-academic-year-2021-22)

In addition, the NEET status was not known for a further 945 people (4%), with nearly 900 of these being Nottinghamshire County residents. This takes the total percentage of 16 to 17 year olds NEET or not known for Nottinghamshire County to 7.9%, and to 6.3% for Nottingham City.

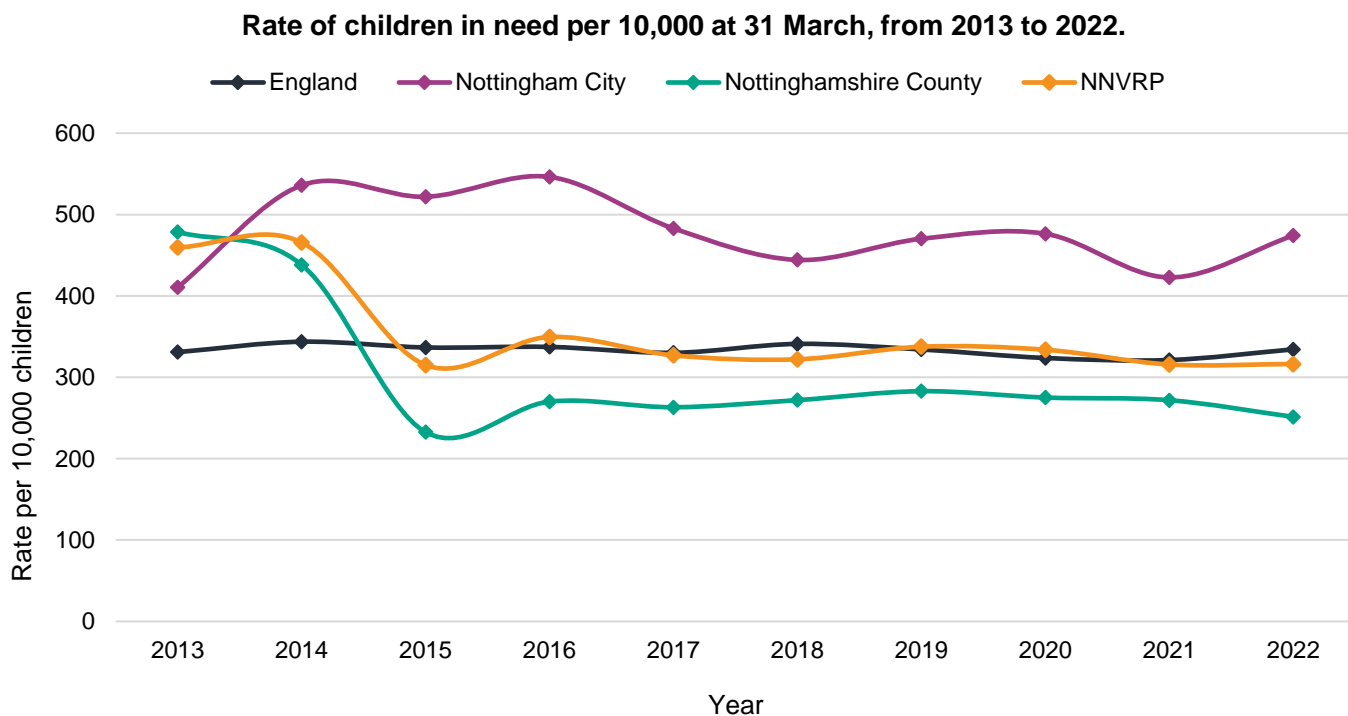
### 2.1.3 Parenting, family experience and multiple risk factors

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 victimization, 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 abuse or loss prior to becoming involved in the justice system<sup>18</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>19</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>20</sup>. In the NNVRP area 7,520 children were classed as Children in Need in March 2022; a rate of 316 per 10,000 children aged under 18 <sup>21</sup>. The number and rate for NNVRP has fallen since 2020 but remain similar to levels seen in 2021.



<sup>18</sup> [Is the justice system retraumatizing vulnerable young people? - Beyond Youth Custody](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Childhood vulnerability to victimisation in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>20</sup> Section 17, Children Act 1989

<sup>21</sup> [Characteristics of children in need: 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

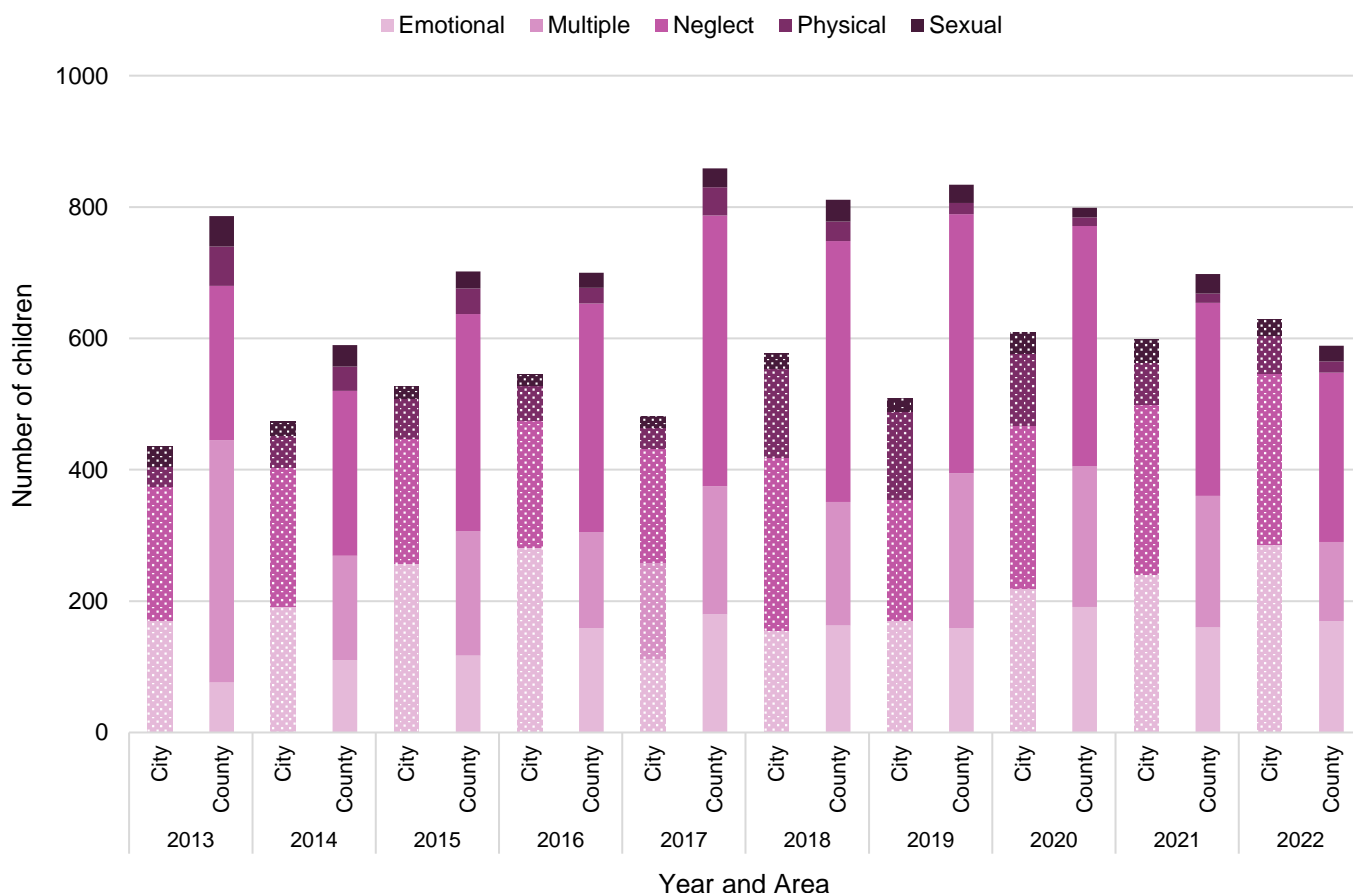
The picture at district level is mixed, with Nottingham City (+51.4) experiencing a rise in the rate of Children in Need, and Nottinghamshire County (-20.4) experiencing a reduction. The rate in the City continue to exceed the NNVRP and England average. In the County, numbers of children in need were highest in Ashfield (243), Mansfield (200) and Bassetlaw (199).

### Child protection plans (CPP)

1,218 children were the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) in March 2022, a rate of 51 per 10,000 children in the NNVRP area<sup>22</sup>. The overall number and rate of children with CPPs in the NNVRP area has fallen since 2021, however the picture at local authority and district level is mixed, with Nottingham City (+4.4) experiencing a rise and Nottinghamshire County (-6.5) experiencing a fall. For the first time, Nottingham City recorded a higher number of children subject of a CPP than Nottinghamshire County area.

As highlighted below, there are also differences between the City and the County in the reasons for CPPs. In the County, neglect (43.8%) remained the most common initial category of abuse for children, followed by emotional abuse (28.7%). In the City, emotional abuse (45.4%) was the most common initial category in 2022 for the first time since 2017, followed by neglect (41.4%).

**Number of children who were the subject of a CPP at 31 March by initial category of abuse, 2013 to 2022, in Nottinghamshire.**



<sup>22</sup> [Statistics: children in need and child protection - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-need-and-child-protection) – Number child protection plans, October 2022

## Looked after children/children in care

The rate of looked after children in the NNVRP area has increased from 70.5 per 10,000 children aged 0-17 in 2021 to 73.0 as of 31 March 2022<sup>23</sup>, largely driven by increases in the City. The overall rate of looked after children in the NNVRP area remains marginally higher than the national average (70.0), however there is considerable variation across the City (109) and County (59).

In absolute terms, 1,680 children in the NNVRP area were looked after by local councils as of 31 March 2022. 718 children were looked after in Nottingham City, and 962 in Nottinghamshire County. The highest volumes of looked after children in the county were recorded in Ashfield (211) and Mansfield (198), whilst the lowest were in Rushcliffe (33).

## Supporting families programme

In 2011, the government launched the 'troubled families programme', which was locally adopted as the Supporting Families Programme by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils<sup>24</sup>. This is a partnership programme that focuses on targeting help and supporting families with multiple and complex need.

Nottinghamshire County met its target of achieving a positive outcome for 903 families in the 2021/22 financial year. Data to September 2022 shows a further 831 positive outcomes (including 109 carried over from 2021/22). This is 94% of the annual target (880 positive outcomes) for the 2022/23 financial year.

Nottingham City also met its target of achieving a positive outcome for 722 families in the 2021/22 financial year. Data to September 2022 showed a further 570 positive outcomes (including 52 carried over from 2021/22), which is 94% of the annual target (607 positive outcomes) for the financial year of 2022/23.

## Missing Children

Missing children datasets in the City and County are compiled differently and as such are not directly comparable. The data sets are profiles separately below in comparison to police-recorded data extracted from COMPACT for children aged 0-18.

### Nottinghamshire County

Children most at risk of going missing are between the ages of 13-17 years (13-15 years from home, 15-17 years from care)<sup>25</sup>. According to the information gathered from return home interviews, the main risk issues identified for missing children include sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, violent crime and offending behaviour.

Nottinghamshire County Council recorded 2,539 missing episodes involving 956 children in 2021/22. This represented an increase in both episodes (+24%) and individuals (+28%) compared

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<sup>23</sup> [Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting year 2022 – Explore education statistics](#)

<sup>24</sup> [NCP Home \(nottinghamchildrenspartnership.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> Child exploitation and children missing from home and care annual report 2021/22 – Nottinghamshire County Council

to levels recorded in 2020/21, largely on account of the lifting of lockdown restrictions. Despite this, however, the number of missing episodes and individuals in 2021/22 stood 3.1% and 5.0% higher than the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20) respectively.

By contrast, police recorded data showed a significantly lower number of missing episodes (1,222) and individuals (642) in the county than the local authority data set in 2021/22. In analysing the home addresses of these missing children through key word searches, the discrepancies are seen most among children missing from care.

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Episodes	Individuals	Episodes	Individuals	Episodes	Individuals
<b>County Council data</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>956</b>
Children missing from home	1,078	646	802	496	1,138	655
Children missing from care	1,384	290	1,242	290	1,377	324
<b>Police data</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>642</b>
Children missing from home	986	549	758	487	1,179	625
Children missing from care	44	8	26	7	24	8

Nationally, police forces define a missing person as *'anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or risk of harm to themselves or another'* <sup>26</sup>. Police recording is undertaken following an on-going risk assessment, and if the whereabouts of the child are known they will not be treated as missing or absent. However, council data also includes 'absent' episodes, and therefore has a broader scope<sup>27</sup>.

This provides some insight into why the figures are significantly different between the datasets, however this is an area which needs to be reviewed to assess the scale of vulnerability and risk involvement within the cohort of missing children that are not recorded by the police.

### Nottingham City

The following data is from Nottingham City Council, where missing numbers relate to open missing cases starting in the given quarter where the responsibility is recorded as Nottingham UA or is unknown. Demographic data is counted once for each individual regardless of missing episodes.

In 2022/23 (quarters 1 to 3), there have been 1,716 missing incidents involving 684 individuals. In this period, 53% of missing children were male compared to 49% in 2021 and 54% in 2019. Where ethnicity was known (86% of individuals), 57% of children were from white ethnic groups, 23% from mixed ethnic groups, 14% from Black or Black British ethnic groups and 3.5% from Asian or Asian British ethnic groups. As highlighted in last year's SNA, missing children from mixed ethnic groups were the most overrepresented relative to the ethnic profile of children in Nottingham City.

<sup>26</sup> [Lancashire Constabulary - What is a missing person?](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Children Missing from Care, Home and Education \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

## 2.2 Drivers of serious violence

Serious violence is not an isolated event. It is the culmination of personal and societal factors which escalate individuals into serious offending. 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>28</sup>. The following section provides literature insight into these **drivers of serious violence**.

### 2.2.1 Vulnerabilities

As discussed in the contextual data, the link between deprivation and poverty has long been 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

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 misuse and absenteeism from school<sup>29</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.

#### 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>30</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

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<sup>28</sup> [Serious violence in context: understanding the scale and nature of serious violence](#)

<sup>29</sup> [The characteristics of gang associated Children and Young people: Technical Report](#)

<sup>30</sup> [The statistical association between drug misuse and crime: a meta-analysis — University of South Wales](#)



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 is not as strong. Moreover, alcohol use was almost as strongly linked to victims of violence as it is to perpetrators. Research has also highlighted the risk of serious violence to increase when drugs and alcohol are used in combination.

### 2.2.2 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>31</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>32</sup>.

The force **Modern Slavery Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration Crime profile**<sup>33</sup> shows that for the period 2021/22, local criminal exploitation in the NNVRP area is mainly driven by exploitation of young males aged under 18 through drug dealing, along with those involved in cannabis cultivations. The warning markers for these young male victims show a commonality in that many are described as 'vulnerable' or 'child at risk', experiencing difficulties at home or have been placed in care.

Crime figures for the same period showed that of 89 recorded MSHT offences, 64 involved criminal exploitation, 88% of which were linked to drug dealing through local exploitation (25), cannabis cultivation (23), county lines (8) and cuckooing (<5). Additionally, of the 164 forms for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals received during the same period, 63% (n103) were for criminal exploitation, of which 55 were for minors, with 43 being young males.

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.

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<sup>31</sup> [Review of drugs: summary - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>32</sup> [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>33</sup> Nottinghamshire Police MSHT and OIC Profile – April 2021 – March 2022

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.

### 2.2.3 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. 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>34</sup>.

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 (links to fast parcels) and can pick from multiple sellers which drives competition and rivalries.

Drill music, predominantly consumed via social media, is a sub-genre of 'Trap' music, which derives its name from drug market 'trap houses', likened to 'crack houses' - which are heavily associated with USG activity. The lyrics and music videos have long been criticised for glorifying violence, substance use and gang culture. Although it is important to note that as drill has become more mainstream, this form of music has arguably become less explicitly violent. Whilst some drill music has been shown to influence real-world violence, particularly when it is used as a medium to threaten or humiliate, there is little empirical evidence to suggest that the medium is a significant driver serious violence<sup>35</sup>.

### 2.2.4 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, Governments Drugs Strategy<sup>36</sup> and review of police budgets has increased, this challenge persists with there still being a gap between demand and resource.

Additionally, efforts to rehabilitate offenders in prison are hampered by short sentences, lack of resource and access to intervention due to a growing prison population, continued offending behind

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<sup>34</sup> [Social Media as a catalyst and trigger for Youth Violence – Catch 22](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Drill down: Drill music, social media and serious youth violence](#)

<sup>36</sup> [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK](#)

from the prison estate. Reoffending is therefore very likely to occur once a person is released back into the community. 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>37</sup>.

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<sup>37</sup> [Review of drugs: summary - GOV.UK](#)

## 2.3 Summary of findings - Contextual Risk Factors

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<b>Deprivation</b>	<p>The NNVRP area features higher than average levels of deprivation, with 13% of Nottinghamshire falling within the 10% most deprived nationally. This rises to 31% in Nottingham City, and 16% in Ashfield.</p>
	<p>Rising financial hardship, compounded by the rising cost of living, remains a significant contextual risk factor associated with increased risk of violent crime, particularly violent acquisitive crime, and exploitation in areas of already higher than average levels of economic disadvantage (Nottingham City and Ashfield local authorities).</p>
<b>Opportunities, inclusion, and education</b>	<p>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. Cohort analysis highlighted young boys to make up ~75% of permanently excluded pupils in the NNVRP area.</p>
	<p>In Nottingham City, the rates per 10,000 of children in need (+51.4), child protection plans (+4.4) and looked after children (+10) have increased compared to 2021 figures, whilst the County has remained the same.</p>
	<p>Children most at risk of going missing in Nottinghamshire are between the ages of 13-17 years, and levels of missing children have increased significantly compared to 2021/22. Police and council data for missing children are conflicting, and it is important to review these cohorts to assess the scale and vulnerability of their risk involvement with serious violence.</p>
<b>Drivers of serious violence</b>	<p>Substance use 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.</p>
	<p>USGs and OCGs have violence and exploitation intertwined as ways of increasing and securing profit. County Lines is particularly linked to violence, both for victims of exploitation and between groups, and is thought to be the main driver of drug related violence. Local criminal exploitation in the NNVRP area is mainly driven by exploitation of young males aged under 18 through drug dealing, along with those involved in cannabis cultivations.</p>
	<p>Social media platforms are being used by USGs and OCGs to recruit and exploit new members, and to track, monitor and control juniors. Online markets allow aggressive marketing and high speed delivery of products.</p>
	<p>Despite an increased focus, there remains a failure to recognise and respond to local criminal exploitation. Safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults is key but the siloed nature of public services makes it hard to tackle this problem.</p>

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## 2.4 Serious Violence Profile

The following section combines health and crime datasets to provide a more detailed picture of serious violence in the NNVRP area. The data analysed in this section looks at:

- Police recorded crimes occurring between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 in the NNVRP area. These figures are compared to offences committed in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019 to provide a pre-pandemic baseline.
- 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> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and a geographical location within Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County boundaries.
- To protect confidentiality in both datasets, figures below five have been suppressed.

### 2.4.1 Violent crime – serious violence scope

#### Data extraction and analysis

Police recorded crime data was retrieved from Nottinghamshire Police Management Information (MI) for the following crimes, by reason of our serious violence definition. Data is filtered for current offences, where the occurrence created date compared to the start date is within 12 months.

- **Violence against the person:** homicide, violence with injury (excluding actual bodily harm (ABH), S47 Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (AOABH), knife-enabled threats to kill.
- **Robbery:** knife enabled robbery of personal and business property.
- **Sexual violence:** sexual assault and rape.

Ambulance call out data (Ambulanc3) provided by EMAS incorporates despatch codes with '04' or '27', as listed below. Incidents relating to self-harm were identified with a despatch code ending in X or Y and have been excluded from the analysis in line with the scope of the SNA.

Callout reason	First 2 digits of despatch code	Last character of despatch code
Assault	04	A
Sexual Assault	04	S
Stun Gun	04	T
Gun shot	27	G
Penetrating Trauma	27	I, P
Stab	27	S

#### Police recorded serious violence

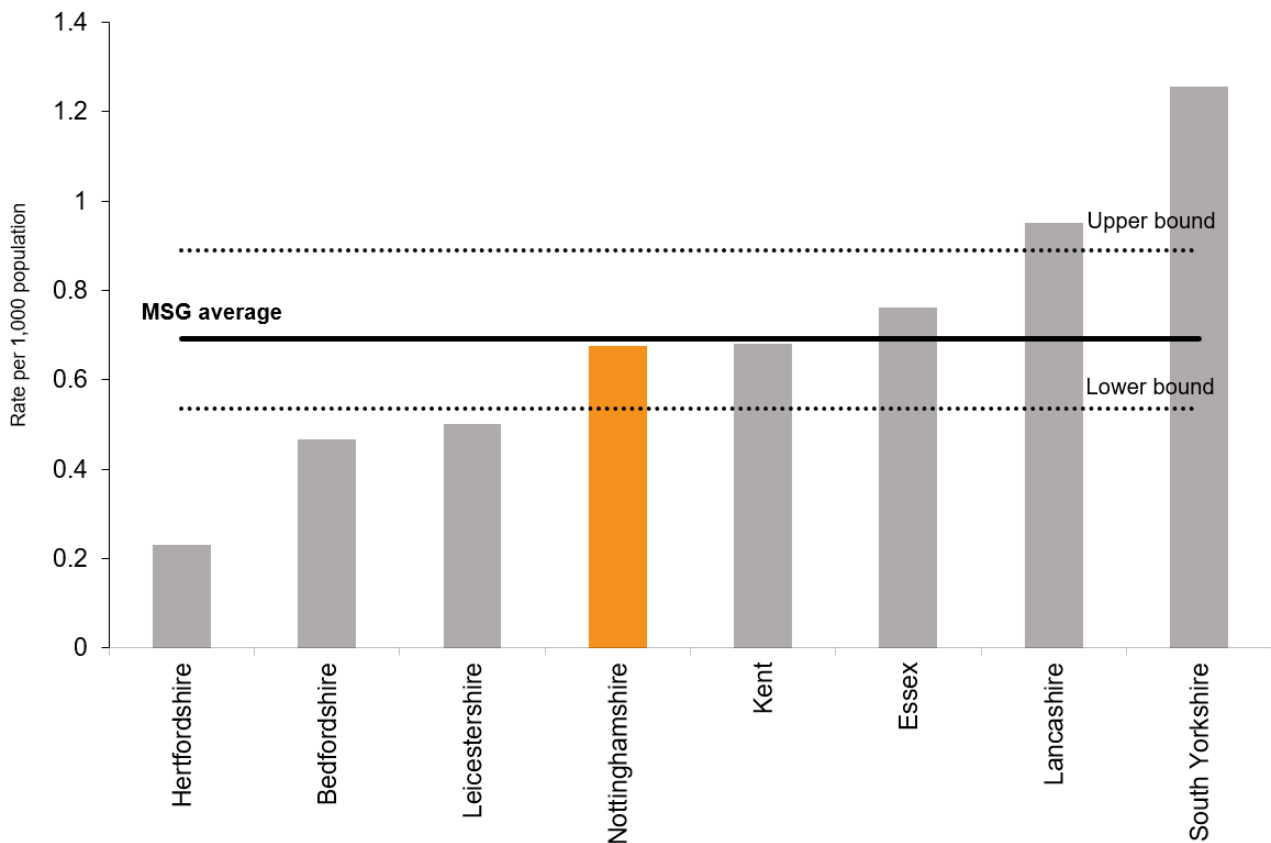
In 2022, Nottinghamshire Police recorded **13,708 serious violence offences**, 81% of which were violence against the person (VAP), the largest proportion being relatively low harm S47 Assaults.

Compared to 2019, overall levels of serious violence decreased by 8%, with homicide, S47 Assault occasioning ABH and knife-enabled robberies all decreasing compared to pre-pandemic figures. By contrast, increases in crime volumes were seen in violence with injury (excluding ABH), knife-enabled threats to kill, rape and sexual assault offences. The potential influencing factors behind these changing trends are explored in-depth in subsequent sections of analysis.

		2019		2022		% change
<b>All serious violence</b>		<b>14,961</b>	-	<b>13,708</b>	-	-8%
<b>Violence against the person</b>	Homicide	11	0.1%	9	0.1%	-18%
	Violence with injury (excluding ABH)	1,463	9.8%	2,048	14.9%	+40%
	S47 Assault occasioning ABH	11,048	73.8%	8,917	65.0%	-19%
	Threats to kill (knife enabled)	88	0.6%	134	1.0%	+52%
<b>Sexual violence</b>	Rape	977	6.5%	1,061	7.7%	+9%
	Sexual assault	1,045	7.0%	1,291	9.4%	+24%
<b>Knife enabled robbery</b>	Robbery of personal property	296	2.0%	223	1.6%	-25%
	Robbery of business property	33	0.2%	25	0.2%	-24%

Nottinghamshire’s overall crime rate for ‘most serious violence’ offences, which include homicide, attempted murder and assault with intent to cause serious harm, remain broadly in line (-0.013 per 1,000 population decrease against average of most comparable police force areas) with that of comparable police force areas, the most similar groups (MSGs)<sup>38</sup>. The same can be said for serious sexual violence offences (+0.063 per 1,000) and robbery offences (+0.085 per 1,000).

**Rate of most serious violence (MSG comparison) - 2022**

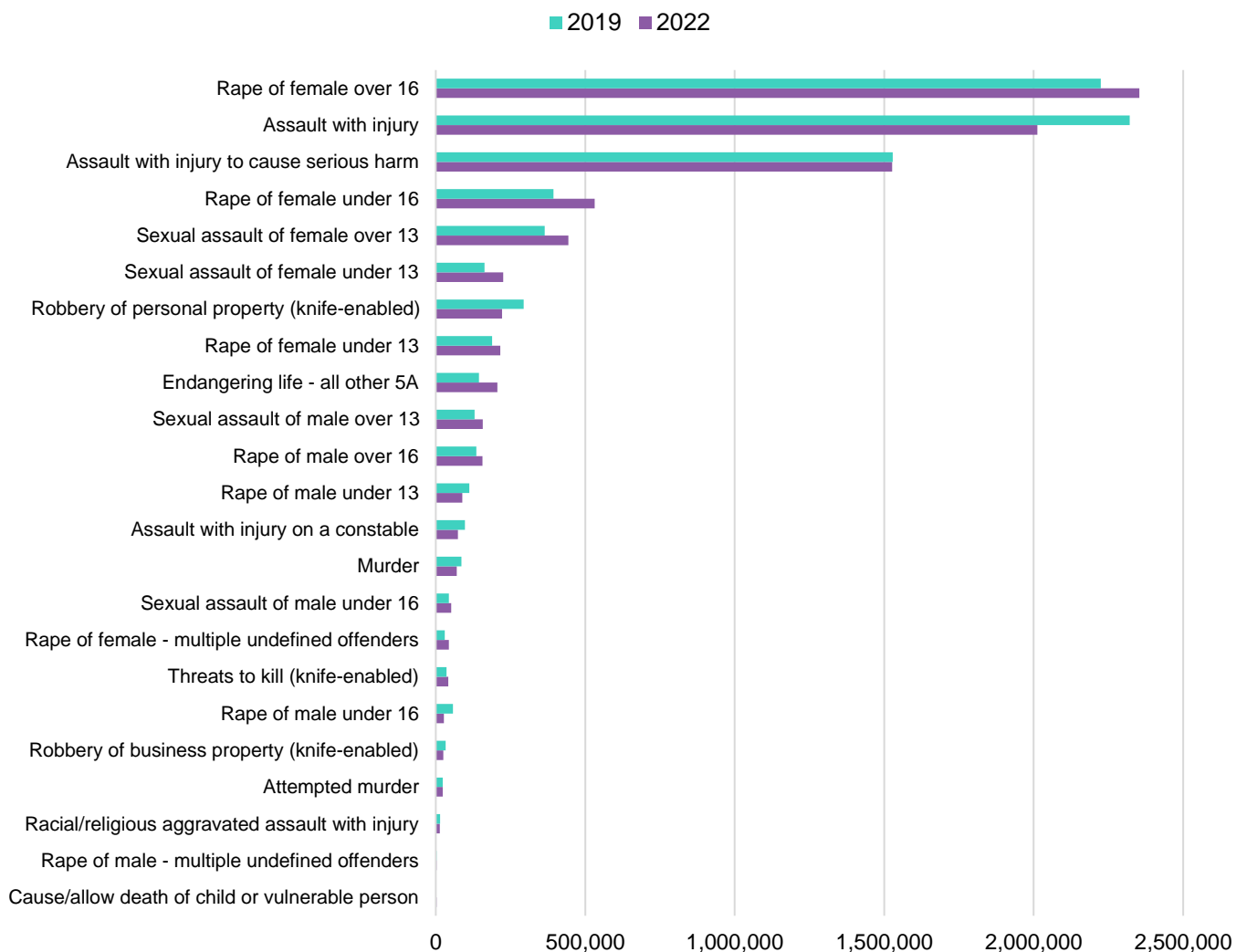


<sup>38</sup> iQuanta police recorded crime data – most serious violence rates per 1,000 population.

As not all offences are equal in terms of harm to victims, ONS developed **crime severity scores** (CSS)<sup>39</sup> for individual crime types informed by sentencing guidelines for offences. The chart below ranks the home-office classifications of the crimes specified above by levels of crime harm (total calculated CSS) for 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic baseline. This provides an indication of the scale and severity of violent crime across the NNVRP area<sup>40</sup>.

This data highlights that despite a 8% decrease in total police recorded serious violence in 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, total recorded **crime harm** for serious violence has increased by 1%. This suggests that the decrease in volume of overall police recorded serious violence is mostly attributed to decreases in the high volume, relatively low level harm offences (S47 ABH offences), whilst high harm crimes such as RASSO have increased in 2022 compared to 2019. This also reflects the shift in policing focus towards high-harm and high-vulnerability as part of the THRIVE approach: a police prioritisation model for response that considers threat, harm, risk, intelligence, vulnerability and engagement.

**Total Crime Severity Score of serious violence, by crime classification**



<sup>39</sup> [Crime Severity Score \(Experimental Statistics\) - Office for National Statistics](#) - See appendix for full crime severity index

<sup>40</sup> Levels of crime harm are ONS CSS: sum of weighted offences recorded by police based on crime sentencing guidelines

## Ambulance service recorded violent events

In 2022, EMAS responded to **1,780 calls** with **1,865 reported casualties** relating to violent events in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Compared to the 2019 baseline, where 1,849 calls and 1,946 casualties were reported, this is a slight decrease of 3.8% and 4.2% respectively.

Despite the volume of calls being similar, the distribution of outcomes is significantly different. In 2022, the proportion of incidents conveyed to emergency departments decreased to 30% from 46% in 2019, incidents resolved on the phone increased to 42% from 27%, whilst incidents resolved on the scene stayed similar at 28%. It is important to consider these differences, and the data below, in the context of escalating demand pressures that have faced the EMAS over recent years.

The table below shows the distribution of callouts for violent events by reason. In 2022, 86.2% of incidents related to an assault which didn't involve a gun, stabbing or penetrating trauma. Stab wounds accounted for a further 10.7% of victims, and penetrating trauma 1.6%. This distribution and volume are broadly in line with pre-pandemic figures from 2019. Gun shot (2019: 10, 2022: <5) and stun gun (2019: <5, 2022: 0) related callouts both decreased in 2022 compared to 2019, however sexual assault related incidents increased to 23 from 15 callouts.

Total callouts (NNVRP)	2019		2022	
	1,849	-	1,788	-
Assault	1,601	86.6%	1,541	86.2%
Stab	192	10.4%	192	10.7%
Penetrating trauma	27	1.5%	28	1.6%
Sexual assault	15	0.8%	23	1.3%
Gun shot	10	0.5%	<5	0.2%
Stun Gun	<5	0.2%	0	0.0%

In 2022, 20.5% of casualties were initially classed as a category 1 incident, denoting the injuries to be potentially life critical, and over half (53%) were life threatening category 2 emergency calls. 20.9% were urgent category 3 calls, and 5.6% were less urgent category 4/5 incidents. This distribution is broadly similar to that seen in 2019, where 19% were life critical, 46.7% life threatening, 29.6% urgent and 4.4% less urgent.

When analysing the categorical distribution by callout reason, the severity of these violent events is further highlighted. In 2022, all gunshot wounds (<5), 92% of stab wounds (176), 57% of penetrating traumas (16), 11% of assaults (169) were life critical. Moreover, 60% of assaults (922) and 52% of sexual assaults (12) were life threatening. This distribution is broadly in-line with the 2019 baseline.

Overall, this data shows a similar picture to the police recorded data of increased violence with injury (+40%) and sexual violence (+14%). The EMAS data reflects this, with increased levels of callouts to category 1 and 2 violent events (+8.2%) and increased sexual assault callouts (+53%). This data also supports the changes in the levels of crime harm, overall suggesting that the decrease in serious violence is mostly due to relatively low harm offences, such as S47 AOABH and category 4/5 callouts, whilst **high-harm and life-critical serious violence** has increased in the NNVRP area.



## Location analysis

Across the local authorities within the NNVRP area in 2022, most serious violence offences recorded by Nottinghamshire Police were in Nottingham City (41%), followed by Mansfield & Ashfield (23%), Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood (19%), and the lowest volumes in South Notts (17%). The main concentrations of serious violence offences were in beats in **Nottingham City Centre** and **Mansfield Town Centre**. Secondary concentrations can be seen in other urban centres such as wards in Sutton in Ashfield and Newark. Of note, this location data is consistent with concentrations of night time economy (NTE) locations, which will be more closely explored in later sections.

The highest proportion of serious violence occurred in 'dwellings' (48.9%), followed by 'public place' (29.9%) and hospitality (8.4%). This distribution and proportionality differs slightly depending on the location, with County districts having a higher proportion of dwelling violence than the City, but the City having a higher proportion of public place violence.

	NNVRP area	Nottingham City	Nottinghamshire County
<b>All serious violence</b>	<b>13,243</b>	<b>5,567</b>	<b>7,676</b>
Dwelling	48.8%	45.0%	51.5%
Public/open place	29.9%	33.4%	27.4%
Hospitality	8.4%	11.3%	6.3%
Education	3.1%	2.3%	3.6%
Medical	2.9%	1.9%	3.6%
Public building	2.4%	0.9%	3.4%
Shop	1.7%	2.1%	1.4%
Moving vehicle	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%
Commercial	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Leisure	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%
Travel	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%

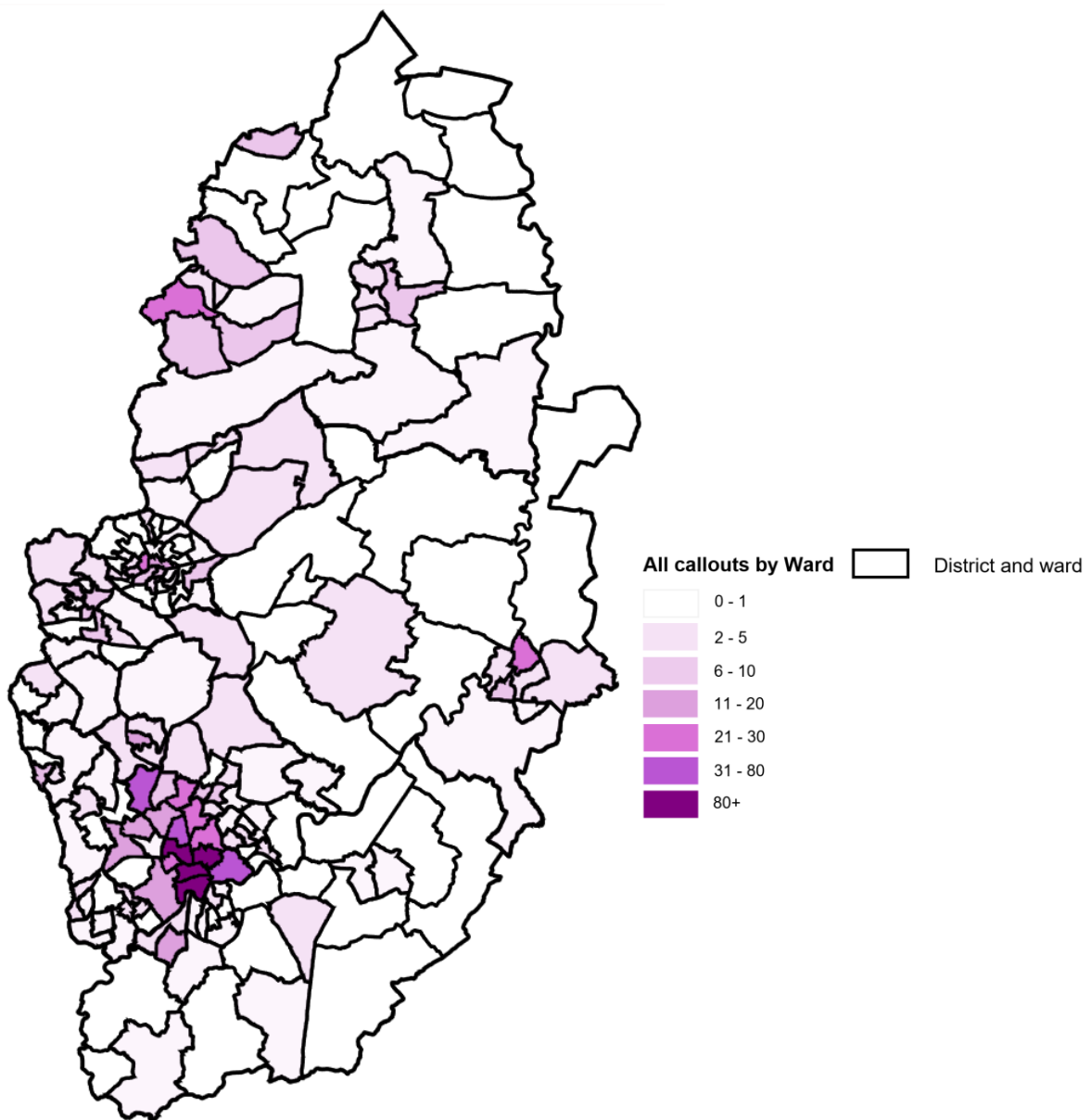
The table below shows ambulance callouts for violent events by districts within the NNVRP area (excluding 10 occurrences in 2022 with no location data). Overall, the division of callouts between districts is very similar to the pre-pandemic baseline, and to trends reported in the 2021 SNA.

	2019		2022	
Ashfield	172	9.3%	182	10.2%
Bassetlaw	155	8.4%	164	9.2%
Broxtowe	112	6.1%	92	5.2%
Gedling	95	5.1%	103	5.8%
Mansfield	210	11.4%	188	10.6%
Newark and Sherwood	132	7.1%	112	6.3%
Rushcliffe	62	3.4%	47	2.6%
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>49.3%</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>50.1%</b>
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>49.9%</b>

Callouts were evenly split between the City (50.1%) and County (49.9%). The highest proportions in the County districts were in Mansfield, which accounted for 10.6% of callouts, followed by 10.2% in Ashfield and 9.2% in Bassetlaw.

The figure below shows the number of callouts in each ward to give a more detailed picture of where violent events occur. The top wards with the highest number of callouts for violent events in 2022 were all in the **City Centre**: Castle (144), St Ann's (131) and Hyson Green & Arboretum (106). The top LSOAs were also in the City Centre (E01033406: 105, E01033400: 54 and E01033409: 49). Other high volumes of repeat areas include Woodlands in **Mansfield Town Centre** (30) and Bridge in **Newark North** (25).

### East Midlands Ambulance Service callouts for violent events by ward (2022) <sup>41</sup>.



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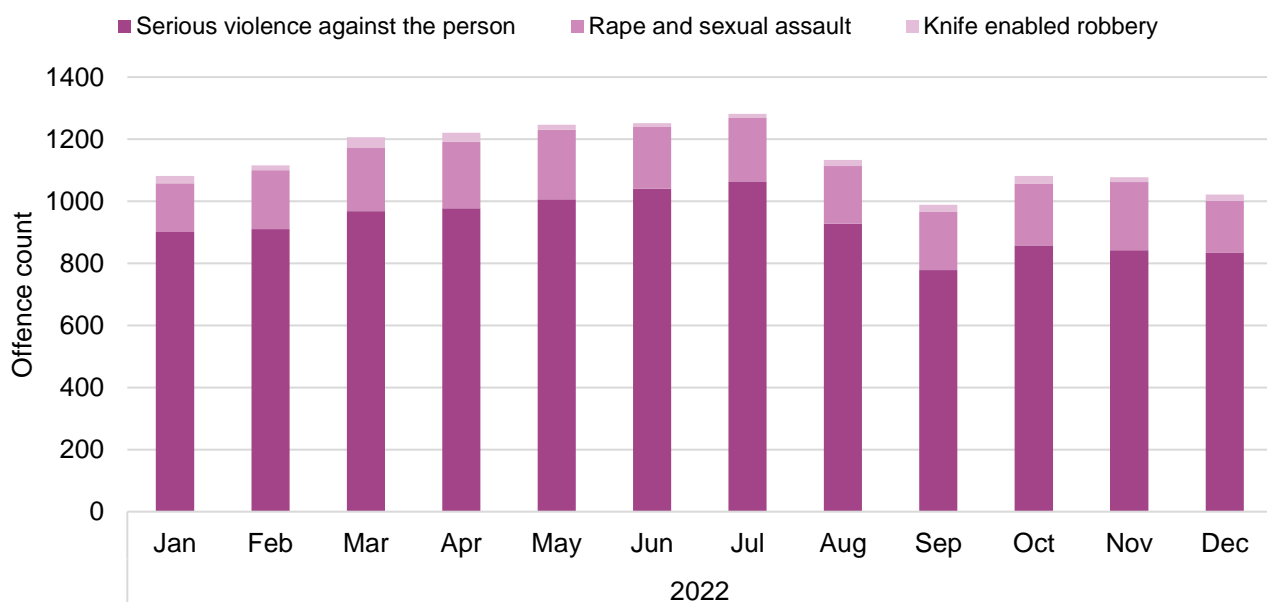
<sup>41</sup> [Nottingham City Council - Insight Mapping GIS Mapping](#)

## Temporal analysis

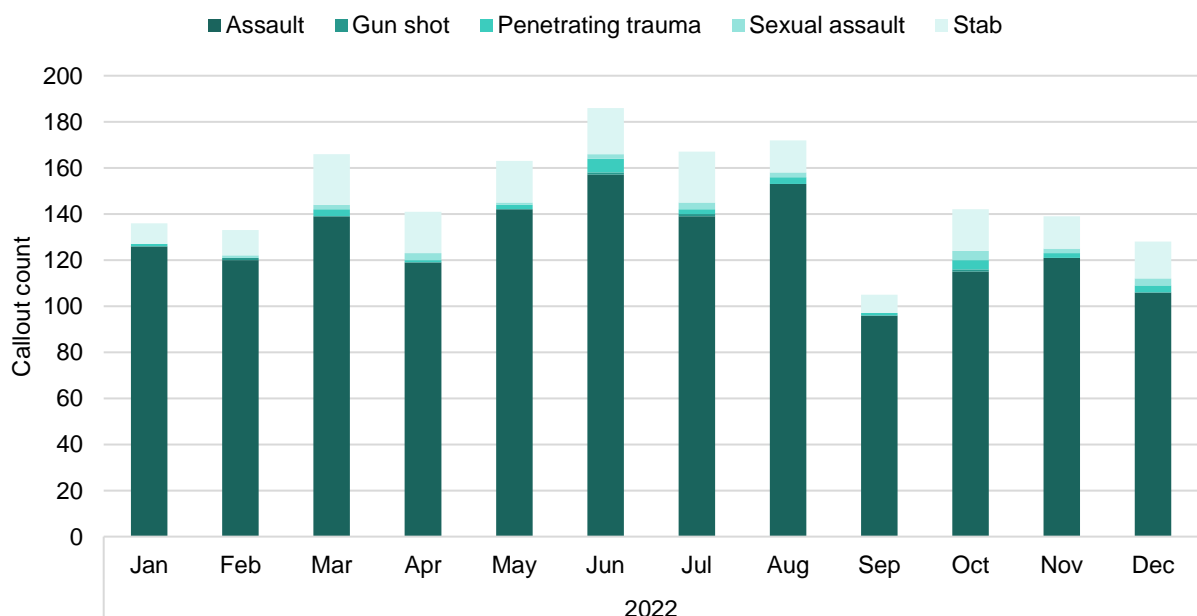
The monthly figures for serious violence and EMAS callouts to violent events in 2022 broadly follow the usual seasonal pattern of increased violence in the summer months and smaller numbers in the winter. July saw the highest number of police recorded serious violence (1,282) whilst September saw the lowest volumes (989). VAP offences were highest in July, knife-enabled robbery in March and RASSO in May of 2022. June saw the highest total volume of callouts relating to violent events (186), with the highest number of assault callouts (157) and penetrating traumas (6). The months of March and July however saw the most callouts relating to stabbings (22 in each month).

The figures below demonstrate the temporal pattern of crime types and ambulance callouts, highlighting their proportionality between categories to stay relatively stable across the months.

Police recorded crime for serious violence by month and crime type

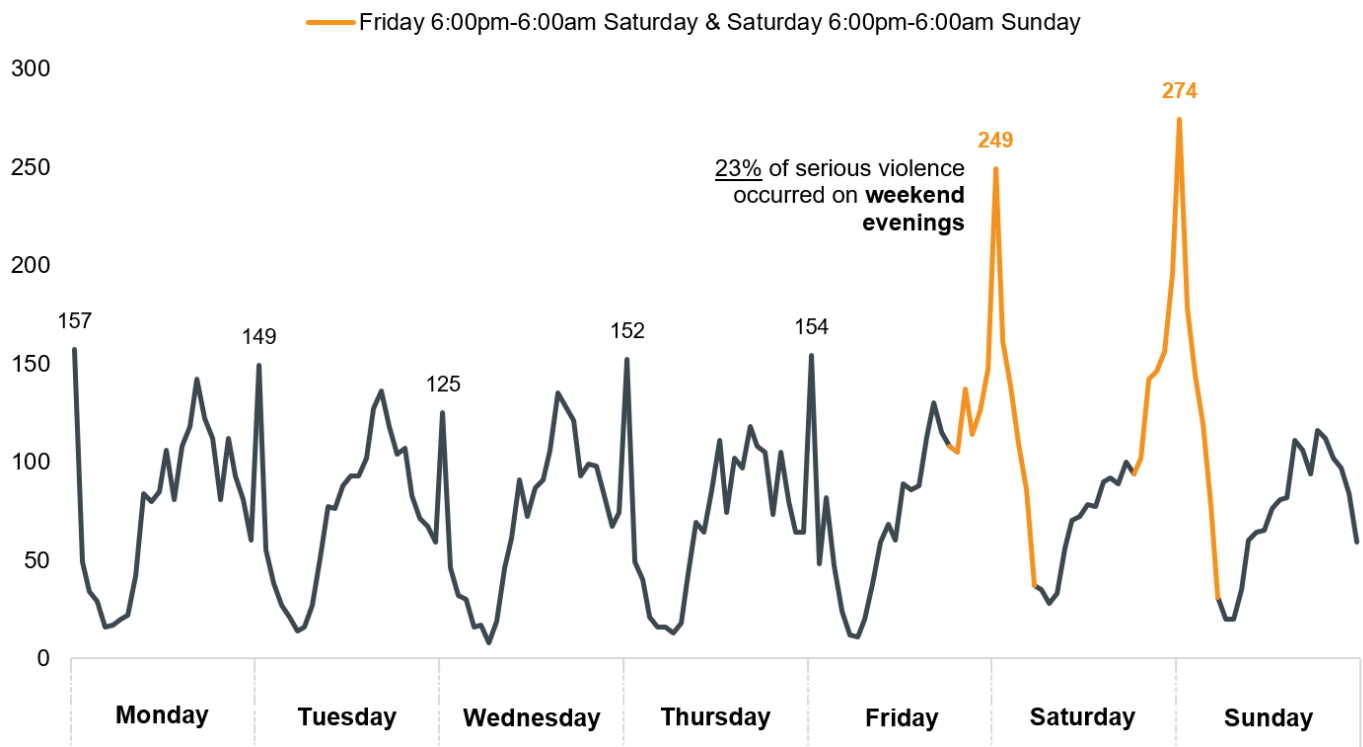


EMAS callouts for violent events by month and classification category

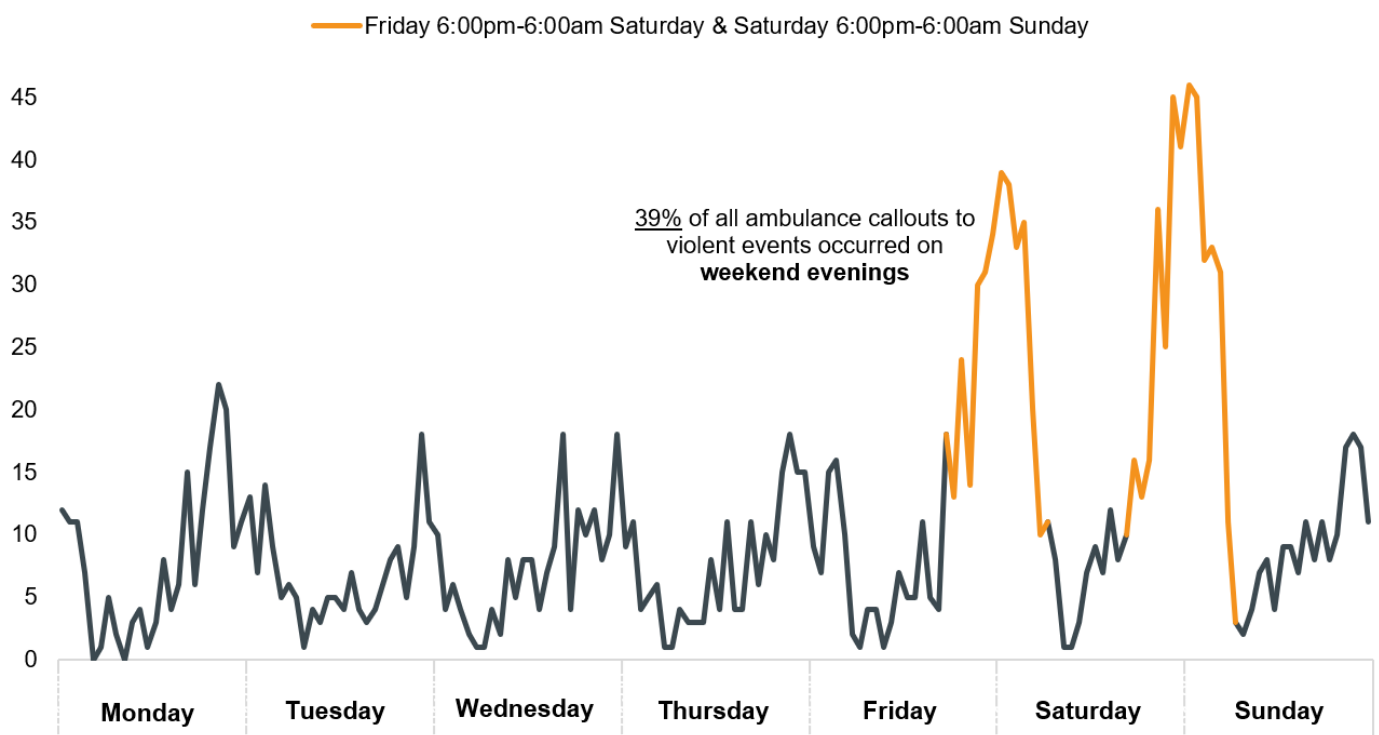


The figures below highlight the start data and time of police recorded serious violence, and the callout time for violent events, in 2022. This demonstrates the largest proportion of serious violence to occur between the period of 6:00pm Friday to 6:00am on Saturday, and the same period from Saturday evening into Sunday morning. This period of *weekend evenings* accounted for **23% of police recorded violence data**, and **39% of ambulance callouts to violent events**.

**Levels of police recorded crime - Serious Violence (2022)**



**EMAS callouts for violent events by day and time (2022)**



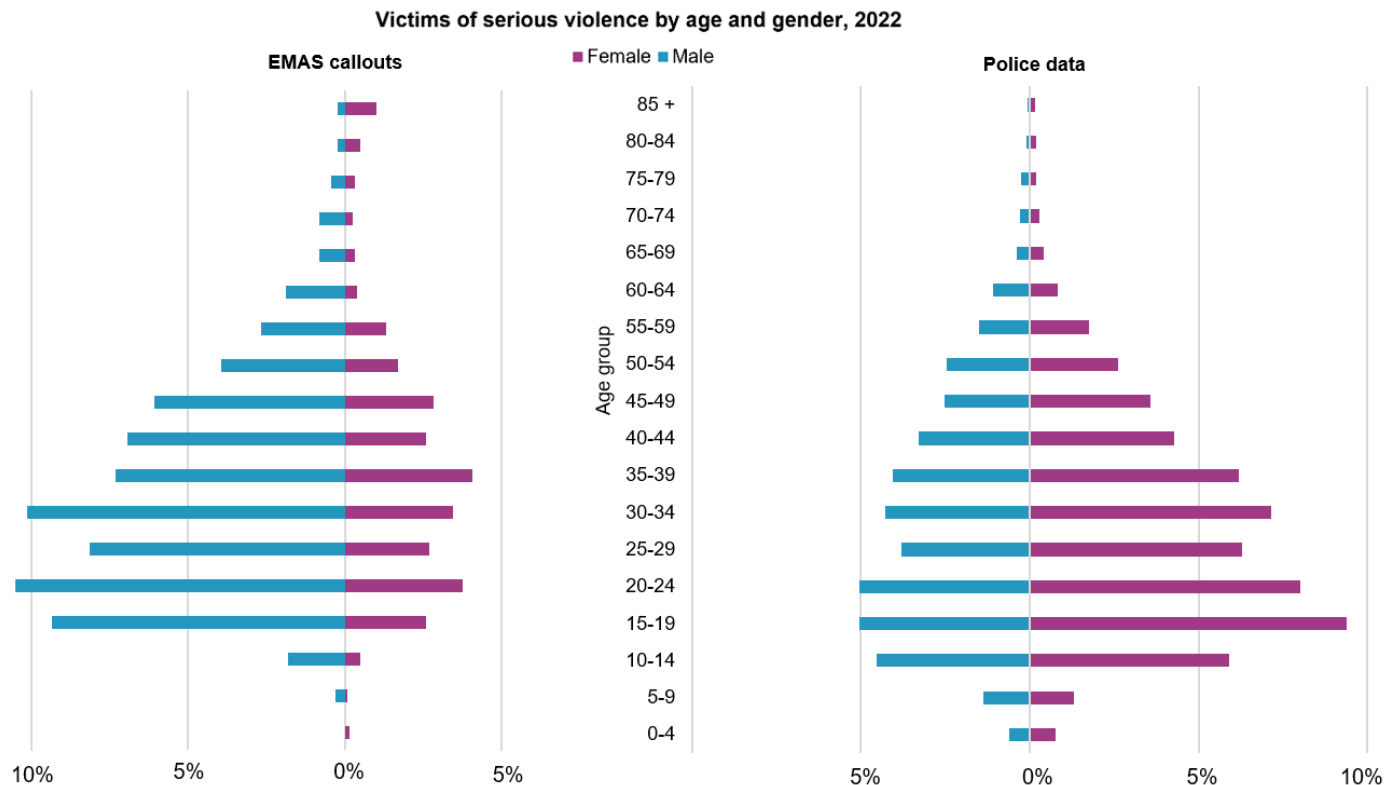
This temporal link is further significant when taking the category classification of EMAS callouts into account. As **incident criticality** increases, the proportion of callouts during weekend evenings also increases, with 41.2% of life critical callouts and 41.5% of life threatening callouts occurring on weekend evenings compared to 22% of less urgent category 4/5 callouts at this time.

The proportion of national incident category list (NICL) qualifiers in the police recorded data were also analysed to assess this trend further. This highlighted that the period that had the highest proportion of occurrences with alcohol cited as an influencing factor was between 1:00am and 5:00am on Sunday morning (63%), and the same period on Saturday morning (57%), correlating to the increased number of offences shown in the figure above.

Overall, analysis of temporal data, incident criticality and of NICL qualifiers does provide a key link between the **night-time economy (NTE)** and serious violence. However, it is important to consider the influence of increased police proactivity during this time on police data. As highlighted by the data labels on the police recorded crime there are peaks each day between 12:00am and 1:00pm, again with the largest proportion occurring in this hour on weekend evenings. These peaks are possibly influenced by increased policing activity with Operation Validity in the County and Operation Guardian in the City.

### Demographic analysis

Data on the age and gender of victims was recorded for 10,814 police-recorded records, and 1,598 EMAS callouts. For police recorded data, the victim was female in 59% of offences and the percentage with the largest number of victims was females aged 15-19 at 9%. By contrast in the EMAS dataset, 72% of victims were male, and in every age group apart from 1-4, 80-84, 85 or over, there are more callouts to male victims than female victims.



The demographic which had the largest number of callouts was male victims aged 20-24, at 10.5% of all callouts, and 45% of all callouts were to male victims aged 15-39. There are fewer female victims in the EMAS data, yet they are still concentrated in the 15-39 age group (17%).

The demographic breakdown for the 306 EMAS callouts that were classed as category 1 – life critical injuries (that had age and gender recorded – 84%), differs to the overall demographic of violent incidents. These callouts were more prevalent in male victims (83% - 255 callouts), and more heavily concentrated amongst men aged 15-39 (57% - 174 callouts). The largest proportion in any single group was amongst men in the 30-34 age group (14% - 42 callouts).

These differences could perhaps be explained by the classifications of violent events that the datasets represent. For example, police data includes sexual violence data which are not reflected in the EMAS dataset (23 callouts for sexual assault). Because of the gender disproportionality that affects this crime classification, this may provide reason as to why two different gender profiles are shown in the datasets. Moreover, as highlighted by the callout classification, the EMAS data indicates that male victims experience the most serious violent injuries that require medical intervention in the NNVRP area.

The following sections provide a more detailed analysis of 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.

#### 2.4.2 Violence Against the Person

In 2022, 81% of all serious violence offences within the NNVRP area were violence against the person (VAP). As such, the spatial and temporal patterns for this group of offences is often the main driver behind the overall trends observed in serious violence described above.

##### Homicide

In 2022, 9 murders were recorded in the NNVRP area, with a further 5 occurrences of attempted murder. These figures remain broadly in line with the average for that of most similar forces and previous yearly data. As a rare major crime, homicide cases are heavily resourced, with the vast majority leading to a positive criminal justice outcome.

On average, between 1.7 and 3.0 **domestic homicides** are recorded in Nottinghamshire each year, although this peaked at 6 during the 2018 calendar year following an exceptional random spate. Between 2020 and 2022, there have been 5 domestic homicides.

Findings from the Force Homicide profile<sup>42</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, with Rushcliffe being over-represented, although it must be noted that the sample size is small.
- 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

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<sup>42</sup> Nottinghamshire Police Homicide Profile 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2022 (29 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.

A spatial and temporal profile for homicides has been commissioned by the VRP via the NTU, and findings will be presented in the next iteration of the SNA.

### **Assault occasioning ABH (AOABH)**

In 2022, 10,965 'violence with injury' offences were recorded in the NNVRP, the majority being S47 assault occasioning ABH (81%). Of the 8,917 AOABH offences in 2022, 143 were on a constable, 32 on an emergency worker and 46 were racially/religiously aggravated.

- 35% had a domestic marker and 27% had alcohol cited as an influence. Of the 3,116 domestic flagged offences, 933 also had an alcohol marker.
- 47% occurred in a dwelling, 31% in a public/open place (20% occurring on the street/road) and 8% in hospitality.

Nottingham City Centre had the highest number of AOABH offences across the NNVRP area (922), with most offences occurring in Market Square (384) and Victoria Centre (228). These high volumes can possibly be attributed to the effect of NTE on these areas, with over half of these occurrences having alcohol cited as an influence factor to the crime.

Overall, 24% of AOABH in the NNVRP area occurred between 6:00pm Friday – 6:00am Saturday, and the same period on Saturday to Sunday. The highest number of occurrences were seen between 12:00pm – 1:00am on Sunday morning (172) of which over half had an alcohol flag.

161 AOABH occurrences involved a **knife**, 70 of which occurred in Nottingham City, 33 in South Notts, 29 in Mansfield & Ashfield and 29 in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. Most knife related AOABH was recorded in Stockhill and Market Square.

### Victim and offender profile

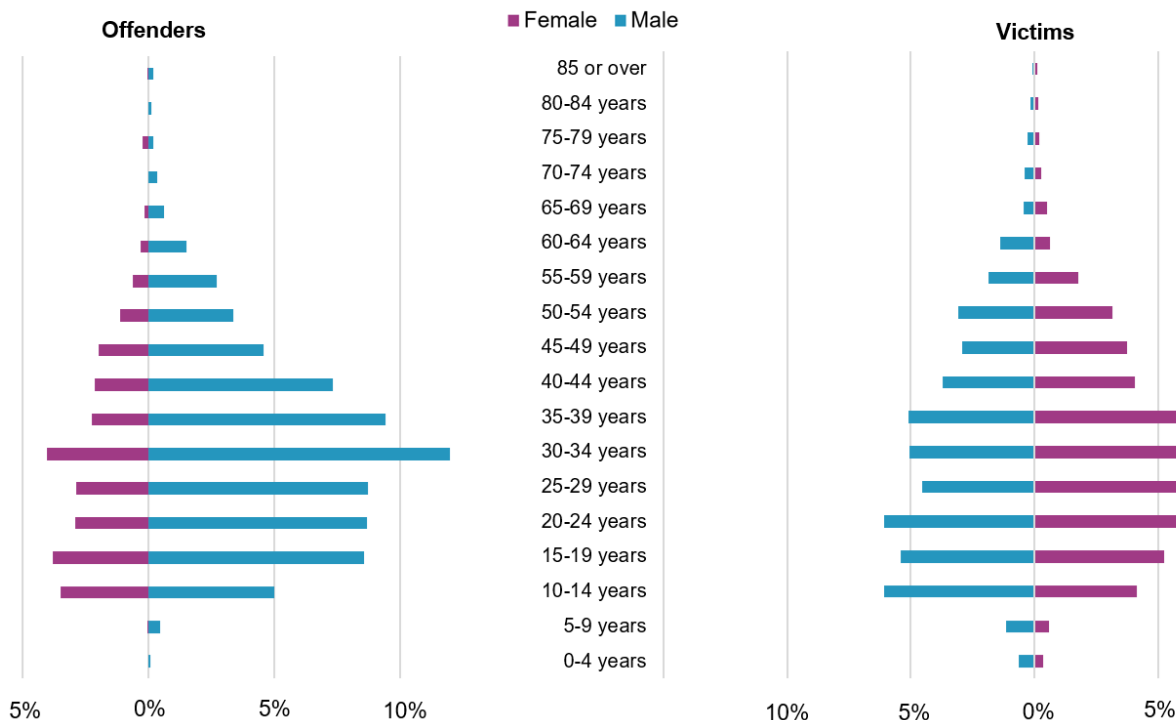
Data was recorded for 1,838 offenders and 5,764 victims of AOABH in 2022. In this dataset, there were 136 repeat offenders and 118 repeat victims. In these offences, the offender was a stranger to the victim in 25% of cases, a partner in 16%, an acquaintance in 15% and an ex-partner in 10%.

Age and gender data was recorded for 1,774 offenders and 5,354 victims of AOABH, and this is shown in the figure below. In 77% of cases, the offender was male and, in every age group apart from 75-79 year olds, there are more male offenders than female. The gender breakdown of victims is much more equally distributed across the majority of age groups (52% female, 48% male).

The demographic which had the largest volume of AOABH offenders was males aged 30-34 at 12%, and 47.4% of all offenders were males aged 15-39. There are fewer female offenders, yet they are still concentrated in this age group (16%). The demographic with the largest volume of victims was

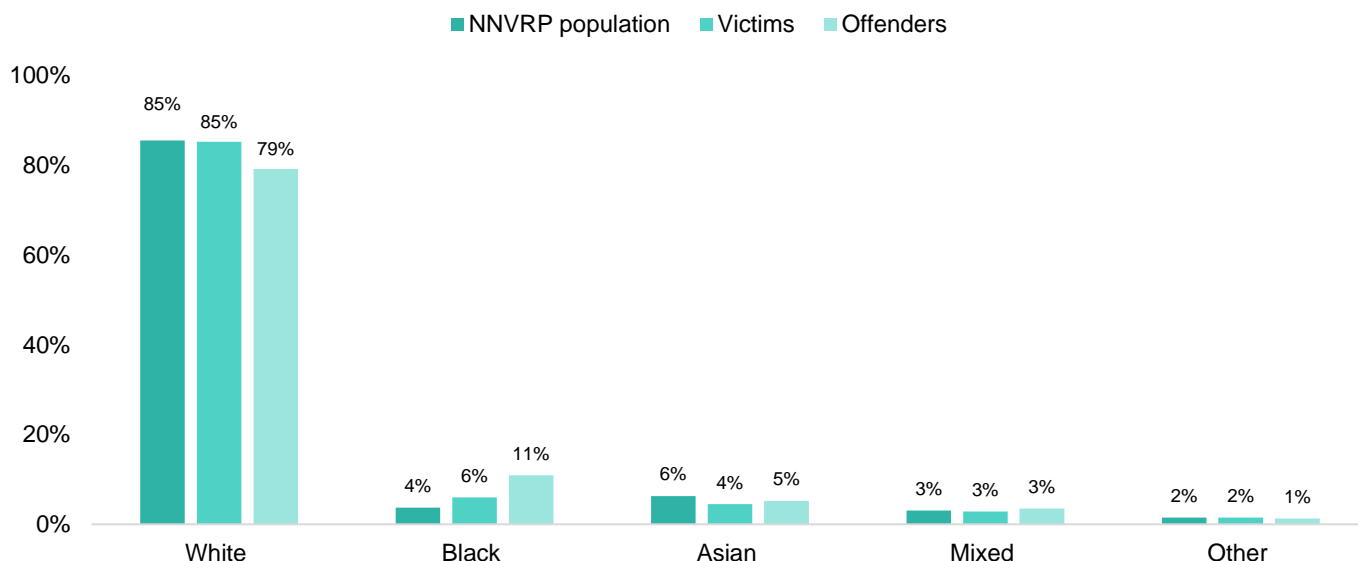
females aged 30-34 at 8%, and 32% of all victims were females aged 15-39. Male victims are also concentrated in this age group (26%).

**S47 - AOABH: demographic profile by age and gender, 2022**



Ethnicity data was collected for 85% of offenders and 78% of victims, introducing a degree of uncertainty and inferences should be treated with caution. The data showed that 79% of AOABH perpetrators were from white ethnic groups, 11% from black ethnic groups, 5% from Asian ethnic groups, 3.5% from mixed ethnic groups and 1% from other ethnicities. A similar distribution is seen for victims, with 85% from white ethnic groups, 6% from black ethnic groups, 4.5% Asian groups, 3% mixed groups and 1.5% from other ethnicities. This data is shown below against the NNVRP area population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

**Police recorded AOABH by ethnicity against NNVRP population (2022)**





## Violence with injury

Violence with injury (VWI), excluding S47 ABH, offences have increased by 40% in 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic baseline. Crime areas that showed the largest increase include 'non-fatal strangulation/suffocation', 'cause/administer poison with intent to injure' and 'dog causing injury to a person' offences. Overall, Grievous bodily harm (901) made up 44% of VWI offences in 2022, dogs causing injury 19% (384) and non-fatal strangulation/suffocation 14% (281).

- Alcohol and domestic flags were each cited in 24% of occurrences respectively.
- 41% of offences were in a dwelling, 37% in a public/open place, and 14% in hospitality.
- Of note, **86% of non-fatal strangulation/suffocation** offences had a domestic flag, and 83% of attempt to suffocate with intent.
- 60% of administer poison with intent to injure offences had an alcohol flag.

Nottingham City Centre had the highest number of VWI offences across the NNVRP area (281), followed by Sutton in Ashfield (98). Of note, Sutton in Ashfield had the highest volume of domestic flagged offences (34), and also the highest volume of non-fatal strangulation offences with than 2x the occurrences compared to any other ward.

As anticipated, 24% of VWI in the NNVRP area occurred on '*weekend evenings*', with the highest number of occurrences between 12:00pm-1:00am on Sunday morning (39), of which over half had an alcohol flag.

267 VWI occurrences involved a knife, with over half (143) occurring in Nottingham City. Most knife enabled VWI were recorded in Victoria Centre, Sneinton Hermitage and New Basford. Of these offences, the majority were GBH (255).

### Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 383 offenders and 1,295 victims of VWI (excluding ABH) in 2022. In this dataset, there were 43 repeat offenders and 52 repeat victims. The offender was a stranger to the victim in 32% of cases, a partner in 13%, an acquaintance in 11% and an ex-partner in 8%.

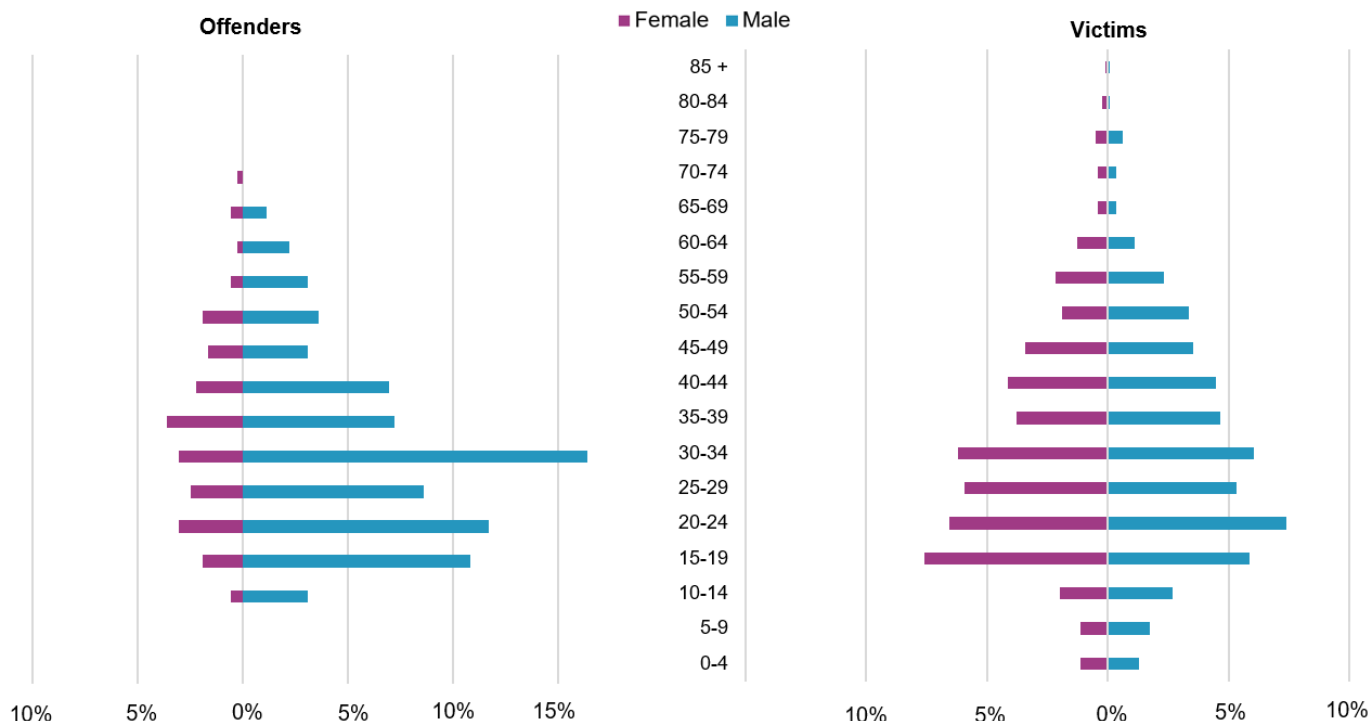
Age and gender data was recorded for 360 offenders and 1,163 victims, and this is shown in the figure below. In 77% of cases, the offender was male and, in every age group apart from 70-74 year olds, there are more male offenders than female. The gender breakdown of victims is much more equally distributed across the majority of age groups (49% female, 51% male).

54.7% of all offenders were males aged 15-39, with the males aged 30-34 representing the largest group (16%). There are fewer female offenders and distribution is much more even across age groups, although still concentrated in the 15-39 age group (14%). 60% of all victims were also aged between 15-39.

Of note, the demographic with the largest volume of victims was females aged 15-19 at 8%. Further analysis highlighted the largest volume crime experienced by female victims in this age group as '**cause administer poison with intent to injure**', with 44 occurrences in 2022. This classification accounts for spiking incidents, providing insight into the gender and age disproportionality of this crime. Overall, 72% of victims for this crime type were female, and 75% of offenders were male.

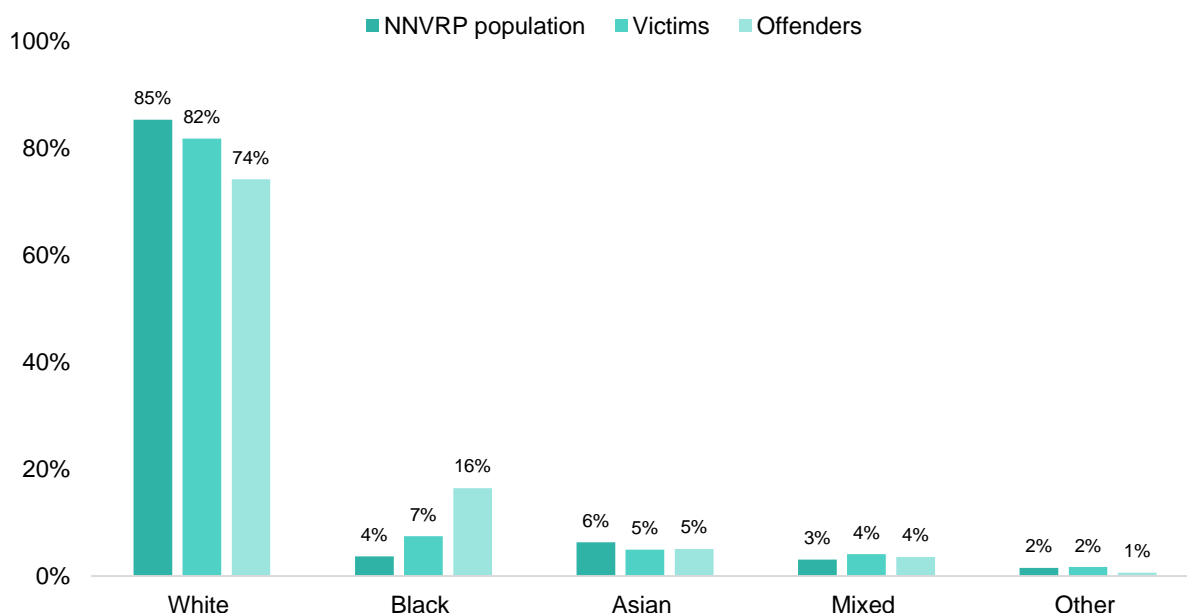
Other crime types of note that demonstrate significant gender disproportionality amongst victims and offenders include non-fatal strangulation (86% female victims, 97% male offenders) and GBH (72% male victims and 85% male offenders).

**Violence with Injury - offender and victim profile by age and gender, 2022**



Ethnicity data was collected for 87% of offenders and 74% of victims, and thus only represents a partial picture. The data showed that 74% of VVI perpetrators were from white ethnic groups, 16% from black ethnic groups, 5% from Asian ethnic groups, 4% from mixed ethnic groups and 1% from other ethnicities. As shown below, this distribution differs slightly for victims. The data is plotted against NNVRP population data of the 2021 census to highlight areas of over/under representation.

**Police recorded VVI by ethnicity against NNVRP population (2022)**



## Threats to kill

In 2022, 134 'threats to kill' offences that involved a bladed weapon were recorded by Nottinghamshire Police, an increase of 52% compared to pre-pandemic figures (88 offences).

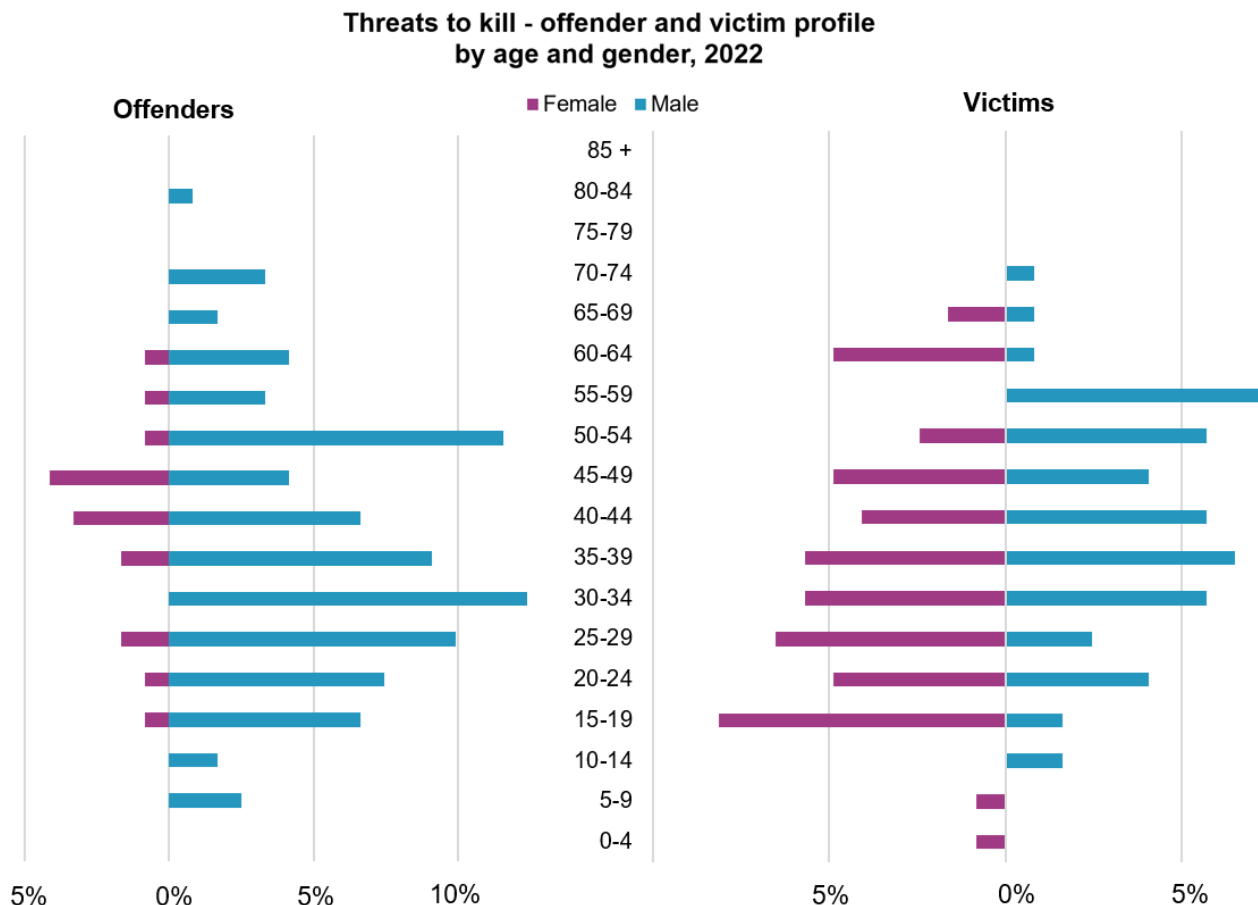
- 47% had a domestic marker, and 22% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor. These proportions of flags are similar to those seen in 2019.
- 72% occurred in a dwelling and 20% in a public/open place, further highlighting the domestic nature of this crime.

There are no significant concentrations in 'threats to kill' offences: 55 occurred in Nottingham City, 39 in Mansfield & Ashfield, 21 in South Notts and 19 in Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood. The highest volumes were recorded in Sutton East, Forest Recreation Ground, and Sherwood. The temporal pattern of these offences does not follow the weekend evening patterns previously highlighted, and there are no specific times or days with increased volumes.

### Victim and offender profile

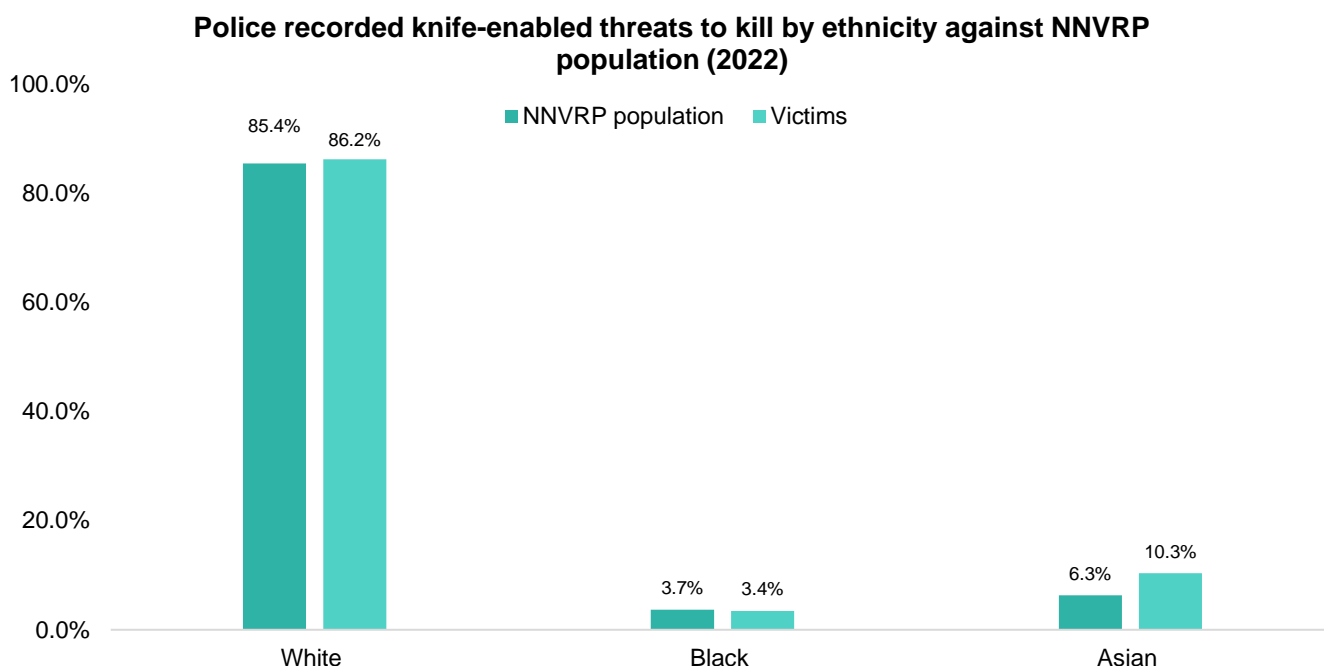
Data was recorded for 122 offenders and 133 victims of knife enabled threats to kill in 2022. In 19% of occurrences, the offender was the victims partner, acquaintance in 18%, stranger in 11% and ex-partner in 10%.

Age and gender were recorded for 121 offenders and 123 victims. In 85% of cases, the offender was male, and, in every age group, there are more male offenders than female. The gender breakdown of victims is much more equally distributed (53% female, 47% male)



The demographic which had the largest volume of ‘threats to kill’ offenders was males aged 30-34 and 50-54 each at 12%. There are fewer female offenders, however they are concentrated in the 35-44 age group (7%). The demographic with the largest volume of victims was females aged 15-19 at 8%, followed by male victims aged 55-59 at 7.3%.

Ethnicity data was collected for 52% of offenders and 87% of victims: because of this level of uncertainty, the following analysis refers to the victim data only and caution should still be applied when interpreting this. This data highlighted that 86% of victims were from white ethnic groups, 3% from black ethnic groups and 10% from Asian ethnic groups. The data is shown against the population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation.



### 2.4.3 Sexual violence

In 2022, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 2,352 occurrences of rape and sexual assault, accounting for 17% of all serious violence in the NNVRP area. Overall, this is an increase of 330 sexual violence offences (14%) compared to the pre-pandemic baseline.

#### Rape

Of the serious sexual violence offences recorded in 2022, 1,061 were rape offences, a 9% increase from the pre-pandemic baseline. Of all rape offences:

- 70% were of a female over 16, 13% of a female under 16, 7% of a female under 13, 5% of a male over 16 and 2% of a male under 13.
- 31% had a domestic flag, 13% were flagged for child sexual abuse (with 60 offences flagged as child sexual exploitation).
- 77% occurred in a ‘dwelling’, 12% in a public/open space, and 3% in hospitality.

41% of rape offences were in Nottingham City, 23% in Mansfield & Ashfield, 18% in South Notts and 17% in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. Areas with high volume of offences include Linby & Papplewick (31), Market Square (22), Sutton East (21) and Forest Recreation Ground (20).

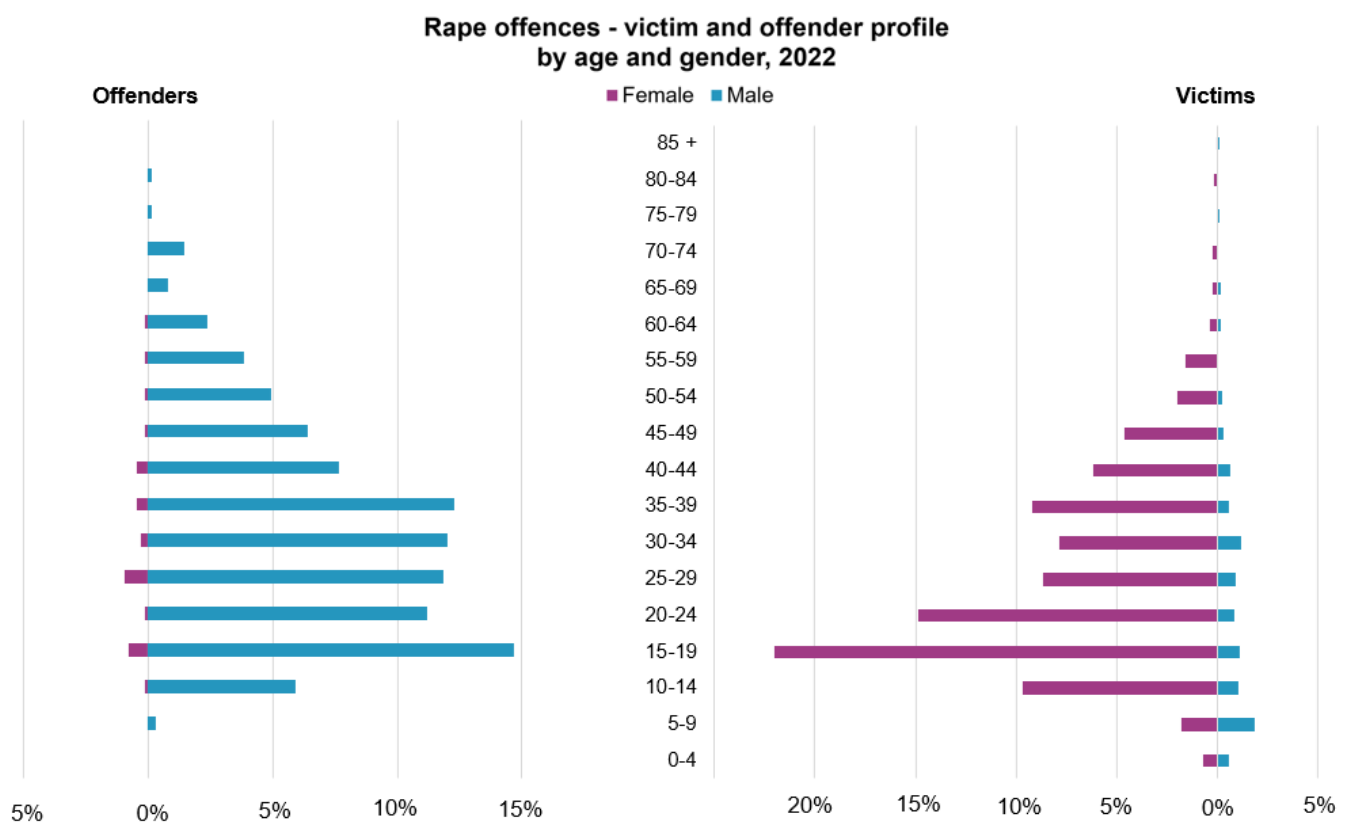
Although there are no specific periods with significantly increased occurrences, the highest number of rape offences occurred between 12:00pm and 1:00am each day, with a slight increase at this time on Saturday (+ 54%) and Sunday (+ 23%) compared to weekdays. The month of November saw the largest amount of rape occurrences (109) and January saw the lowest (67).

There were 12 rape offences in 2022 that involved a **knife**, of which 7 occurred in Nottingham City. Half of these offences were flagged as *domestic* and 5 had *alcohol* cited as an influencing factor.

Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 718 offenders and 1,324 victims of rape in 2022. In this dataset, there were 35 repeat offenders and 88 repeat victims. The offender was an acquaintance of the victim in 28% of cases, an ex-partner in 18%, a partner in 13% and a stranger in 12% of occurrences.

Age and gender data was recorded for 626 offenders and 1,258 victims, and this is shown in the figure below. In 96% of cases, the offender was male, and the victim was female in 90% of cases. The demographic which had the largest volume of offenders was males aged 15-19 at 14.7%, and 62% of all offenders were males aged 15-39. The largest volume of victims were females aged 15-19 at 22%, and 63% of all victims were females aged 15-39.

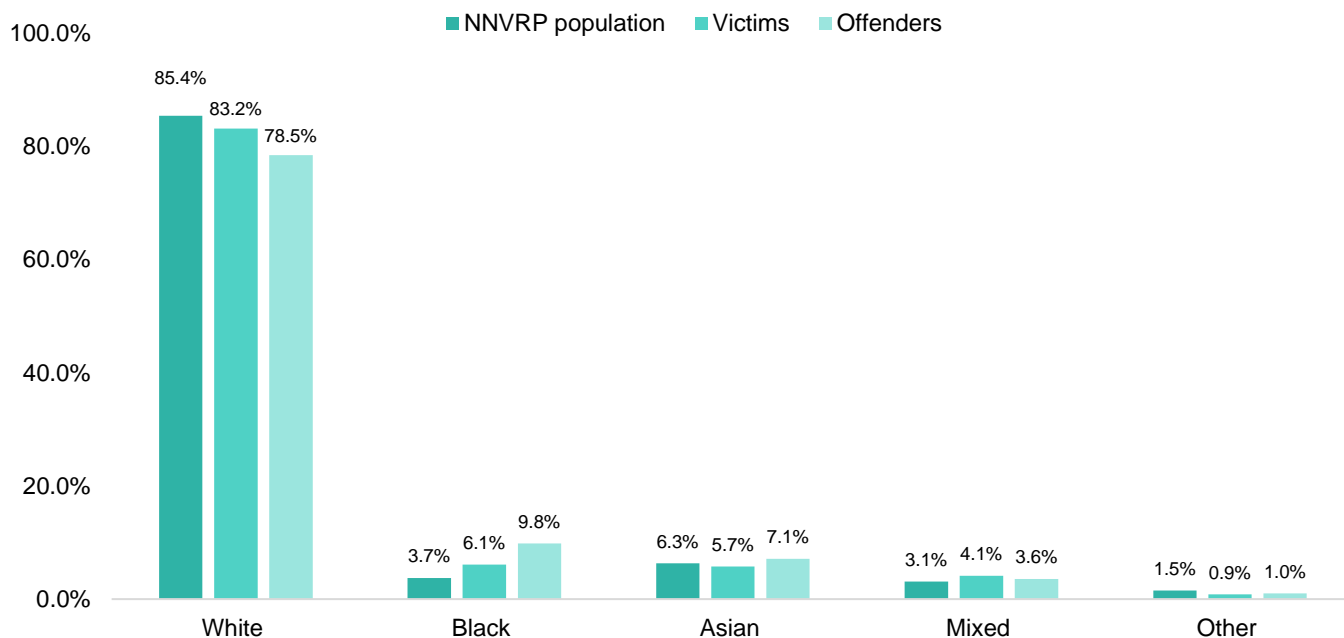


As rape offences are further classified by victim age and gender, further insight can be gained into the offender profile. For rape offences where the victim was aged **under 16**, 31% of offenders were males aged 15-19, and 25% were males aged 10-14. For rape offences where the victim was aged **over 16**, the highest proportion of offenders were males aged 35-39 at 15%, followed by males aged 30-34 at 14%.

Ethnicity data was collected for 83% of offenders and 79% of victims. The data showed that 78% of rape perpetrators were from white ethnic groups, 10% from black ethnic groups, 7% from Asian

ethnic groups, 4% from mixed ethnic groups and 1% from other ethnicities. As shown below, this distribution differs slightly for victims, with 83% from white ethnic groups, 6% from black and Asian ethnic groups respectively, 4% from mixed and 1% from other ethnicities. The data is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

**Police recorded rape offences by ethnicity against NNVRP population (2022)**



## Sexual assault

Of the serious sexual violence offences recorded in 2022, 1,291 were sexual assault offences, a 24% increase from the pre-pandemic baseline. Of all sexual assaults:

- 69% were of a female over 13, 14% of a female under 13, 13% of a male over 13 and 4% of a male under 13.
- 19% of offences had a 'vulnerability' marker, 16% were flagged for child sexual abuse (with 18 offences flagged as child sexual exploitation), 15% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor and 9% had a domestic flag.
- 46% occurred in a dwelling, 21% in a public place, 11% in hospitality and 6% in education. Of note, the proportion of '**public place**' (+51%) and '**hospitality**' (+95%) sexual assaults have increased the most significantly from 2019 baseline figures.

44% of sexual assaults were in Nottingham City (with 12% in Nottingham City Centre), 22% in Mansfield & Ashfield, 18% in South Notts and 16% in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. Areas with high volumes of offences include Market Square (59), Victoria Centre (37) and Lowdham (32). Sutton in Ashfield also had the highest volume ward in the County (62).

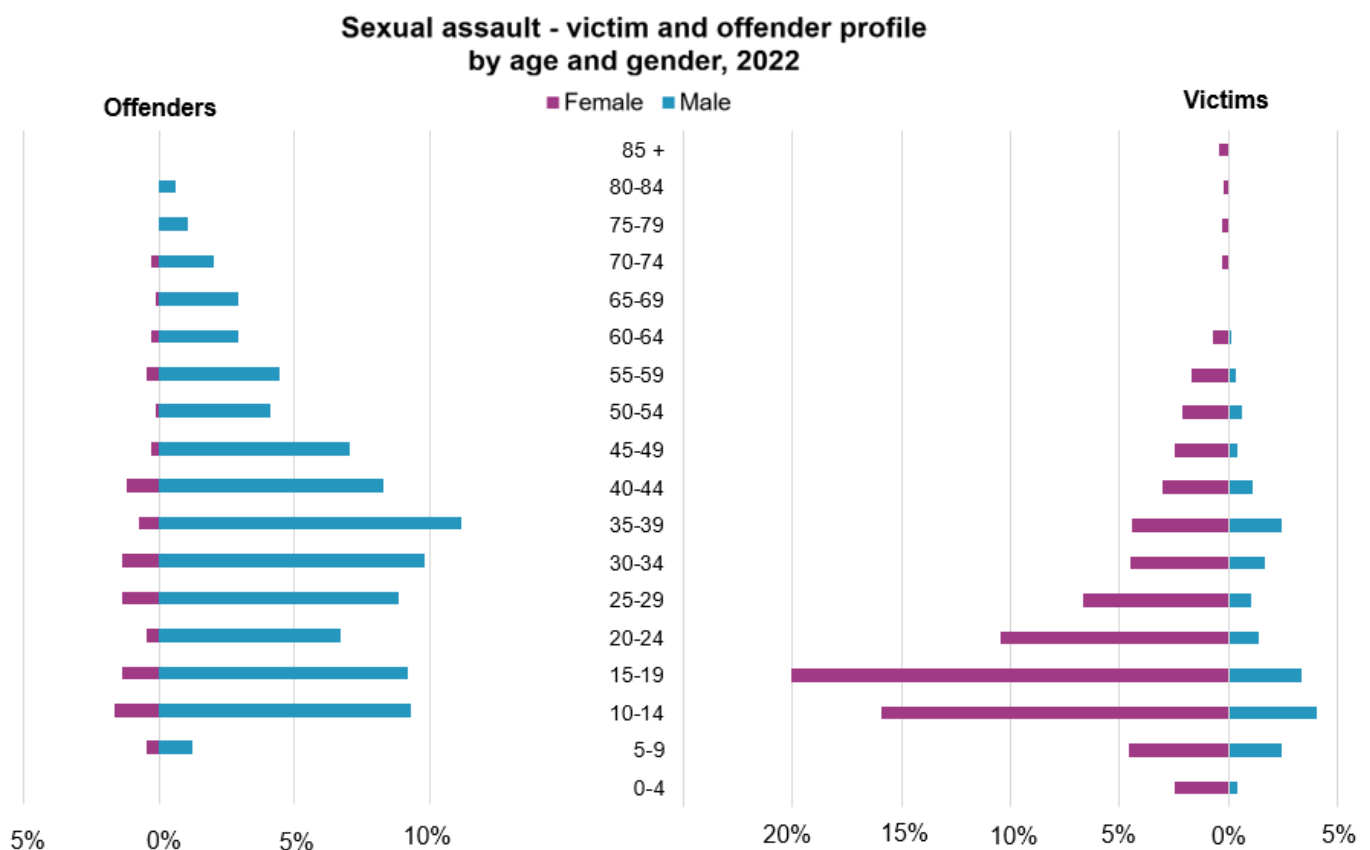
Friday (212) and Saturday (198) had the highest volumes of sexual assault offences, with a particular increase of offences between 2:00pm and 6:00pm on Friday afternoons, with levels dropping in the evenings and increasing early into Saturday Morning. This trend can be seen across all weekdays, with most occurrences seen in the hour of 12:00pm – 1:00am (133), followed by 3:00pm-4:00pm (11), not following the typical trend of serious violence increasing over weekend evenings.

The months of April (145) and June (135) saw the highest volume of offences. This can be attributed to an increase in ‘sexual assaults of a female over 13’, with April and June having 93 and 95 occurrences respectively compared to an average of 70 from other months. There was also an increase in ‘sexual assaults of a male over 13’ in April, which had 36 offences compared to an average of 12 from other months.

Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 757 offenders and 1,590 victims of sexual assault in 2022. In this dataset, there were 49 repeat offenders 65 repeat victims. The offender was a stranger in 28% of offences, an acquaintance in 28%, a family member in 12%, an ex-partner in 6% and a partner in 4% of sexual assault occurrences.

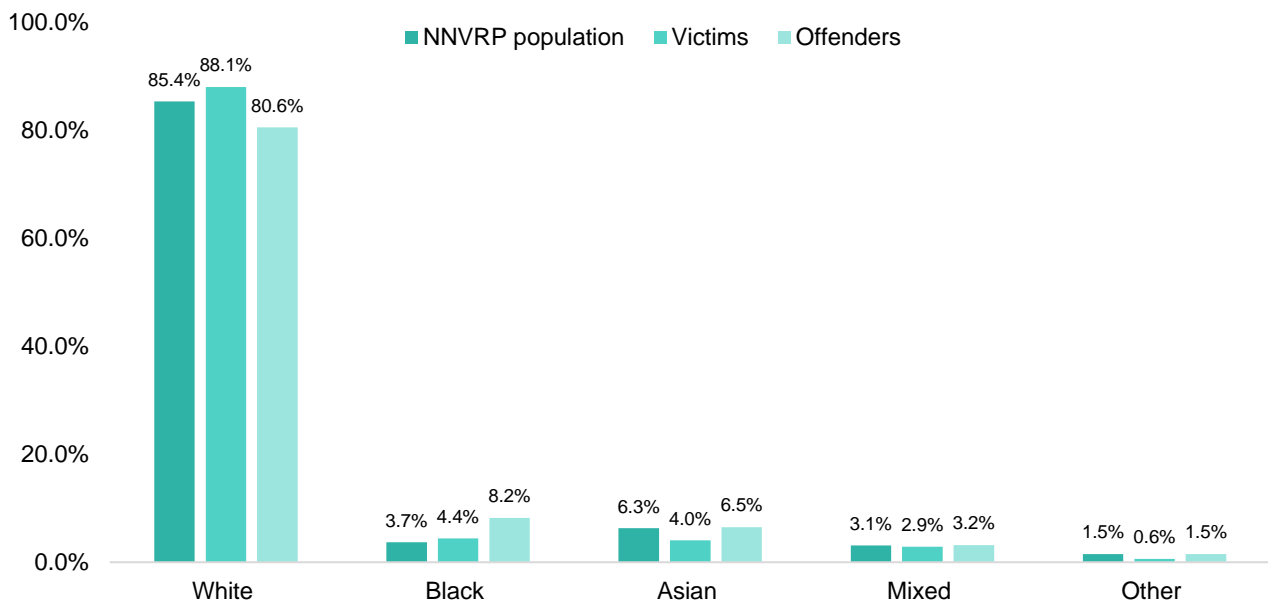
Age and gender were recorded for 654 offenders and 1,501 victims, and this is shown in the figure below. In 90% of sexual assaults, the offender was male, and the victim was female in 81% of offences. The demographic which had the largest volume of offenders was males aged 35-39, at 11%, and 46% of all offenders were males aged 15-39. Of note, there is also a high proportion of male offenders in the 10-14 category (9.3%). The largest volume of victims were females aged 15-19 at 20%, with 46% of all victims in the female 15-39 category. As with the offenders, there is also a high proportion of female victims in the 10-14 age category (16%).



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**, 22% of offenders were males aged 10-14, and 25% were males aged 30-44. For sexual assault offences where the victim was aged **over 13**, the highest proportion of offences were males aged 35-39 at 12%, followed by males aged 30-34 and males aged 15-19 at 10% respectively.

Ethnicity data was collected for 91% of offenders and 70% of victims. The data showed that 81% of sexual assault perpetrators were from white ethnic groups, 8% from black ethnic groups, 7% from Asian ethnic groups, 3% from mixed and 2% from other ethnicities. This distribution differs slightly for victims, with 88% of victims from white ethnic groups, 4% from black ethnic groups, 4% from Asian ethnic groups, 3% from mixed and 1% from other ethnicities. The data is shown below against the population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation.

**Police recorded sexual assault offences by ethnicity against NNVRP population (2022)**



#### 2.4.4 Knife enabled robbery

In 2022, Nottinghamshire police recorded 228 knife-enabled robberies in the NNVRP area. This is a decrease of 25% compared to the pre-pandemic baseline for both categories of robbery.

##### Personal robbery

Of 228 knife-enabled robberies in 2022, 223 were robbery of personal property. This is a decrease of 73 offences (-24.7%) compared to the pre-pandemic baseline. Of these offences:

- 9% had alcohol cited as an influence and 7% had a ‘vulnerable’ flag.
- 79% occurred in a public/open place, with 52% occurring on the street and 10% in a park/garden, and 15% in a dwelling, with 7% in a flat and 6% in a house.
- 40% of weapons were classified as a ‘bladed instrument’, 17% were a kitchen knife, 4% a machete and 3% a flick knife.

59% of knife-enabled robbery of personal property occurred in Nottingham City, 19% in South Notts, 14% in Mansfield & Ashfield and 8% in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. The highest volume of knife-enabled personal robbery can be seen in The Arboretum (24), Nottingham City Centre (22) and Clifton (11).

The temporal pattern of these offences also does not follow the trend previously mentioned of across weekend evenings. Most occurrences can be seen in the hours between 5:00pm and 9:00pm (34%), and levels are overall higher in this period Monday – Friday than over the weekend.



## Business robbery

25 knife-enabled robberies of business property were recorded by Nottinghamshire Police in 2022, a decrease of 8 offences compared to 2019. Of these offences:

- 10 offences took place in a Supermarket, 5 in a convenience store.
- The temporal pattern of knife-enabled business robberies does not highlight any particular trends, however there is a slight increase in the number of offences over the weekend.

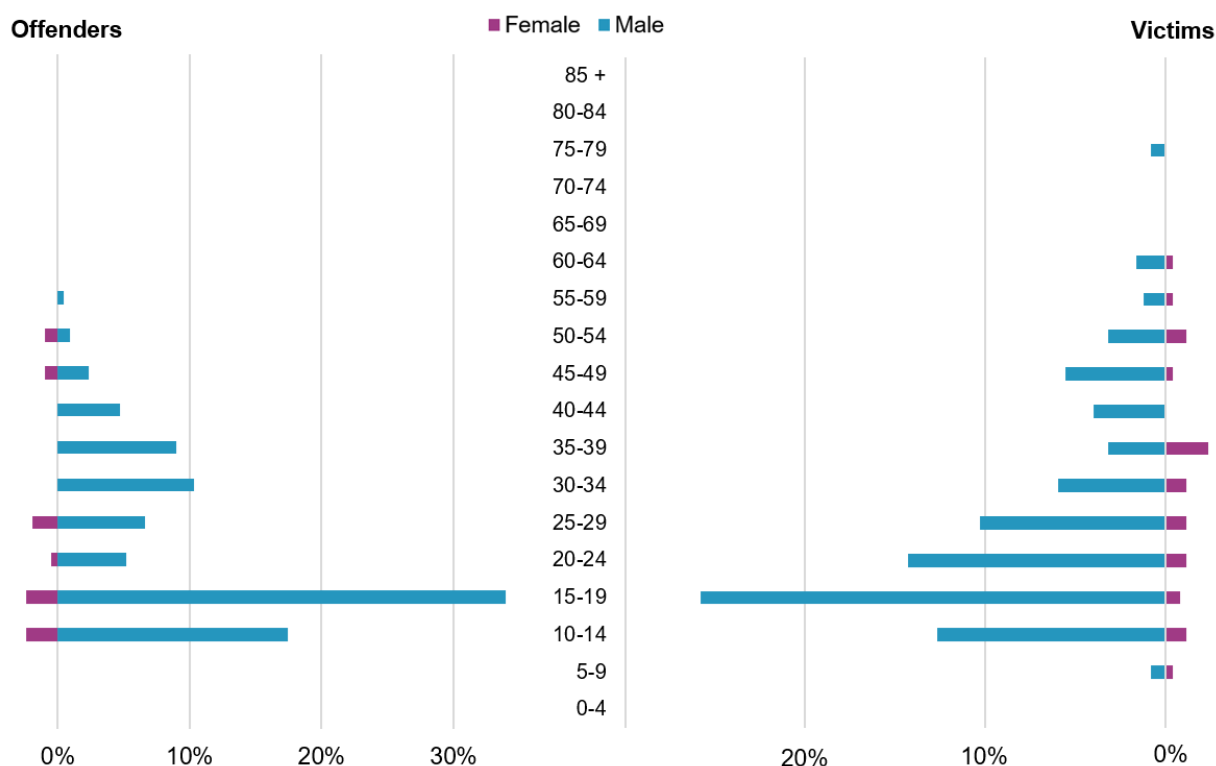
Nottingham City had the highest number of occurrences (12), followed by Mansfield & Ashfield (5), South Notts and Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood. The highest volume Wards were in Radford & Park and West Bridgford, although numbers remain low (<5).

### Victim and offender profile

Due to the low numbers of knife-enabled robbery of business property, the following section looks at the demographic makeup of victims and offenders for both business and personal knife-enabled robbery. Data was recorded for 232 offenders and 276 victims of knife-enabled robbery in 2022. In this dataset, there were with 36 repeat offenders and 10 repeat victims.

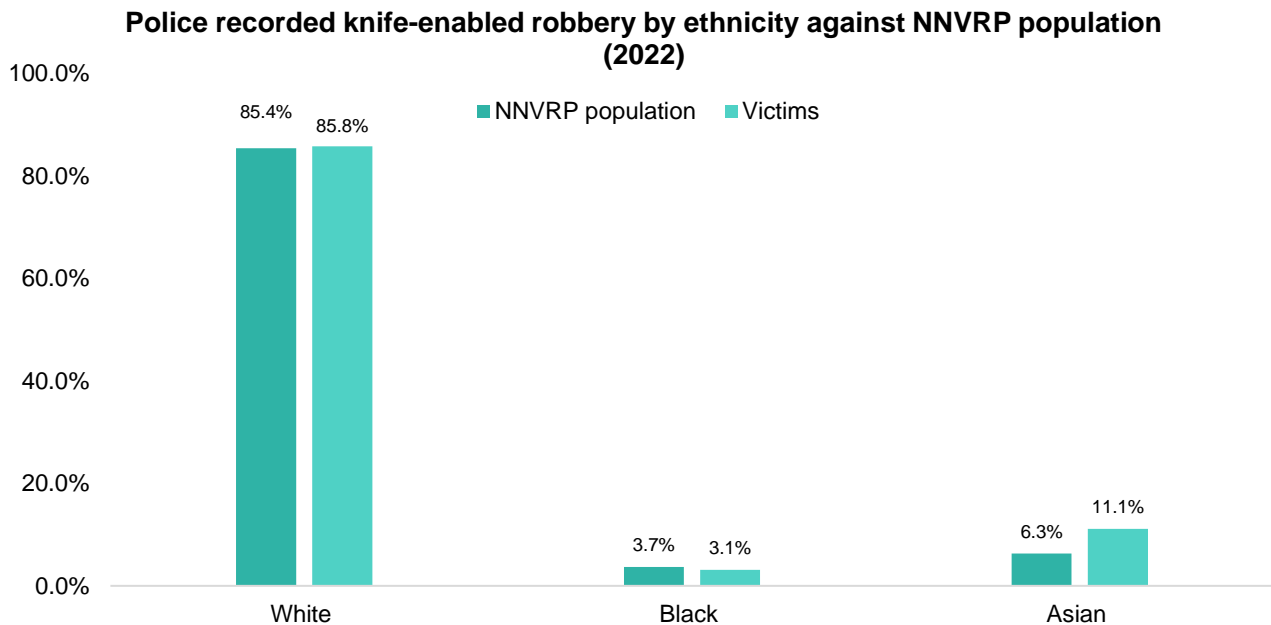
Age and gender were recorded for 212 offenders and 252 victims. In 91% of knife-enabled robberies, the offender was a male, and the victim was a male in 91% of offences. The demographic that had the largest volume of offenders was males aged 15-19 at 34%, followed by males aged 10-14 (17%).

**Knife enabled robbery - victim and offender profile by age and gender, 2022**



The largest volume of victims were males aged 15-19, making up 26% of all victims of knife enabled robbery. Moreover, 63% of all victims were males aged 10-24. Overall, this highlights a clear skew in the data towards **young males**, both victims and offenders.

Ethnicity data was collected for 42% of offenders and 82% of victims: because of this level of uncertainty, the following analysis refers to the victim data for knife-enabled robbery only. As shown below, this data highlighted that 86% (n=193) of victims were from white ethnic groups, 3% (n=7) from black ethnic groups and 11% (n=25) from Asian ethnic groups, although this decreases to 9% when all data is considered. It is important to consider the low numbers when analysing the ethnicity distribution amongst this crime type. The data is shown against the population data of the 2021 census to highlight any areas of over/under representation.



## Gun crime

The following data was retrieved from Nottinghamshire Police MI Gun Crime Compilation, giving an overview of weapons offences, and thus an insight into serious violence in the NNVRP area.

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 217 offences in the Gun Crime Compilation. Excluding criminal damage and possession of weapons offences, 89 offences were recorded. Of these victim-based offences:

- 43% of gun crime offences were violence with injury, 28% violence without injury, 12% public order, 7% robbery and 4% stalking and harassment.
- 53% were in a public place, a dwelling in 33% and hospitality in 5%. 44% of victim-based gun crime offences were in the City, and 56% in the County
- July and August saw the highest number of occurrences, with 11 and 12 respectively.

Section 38 (7) of the firearms licensing law defines a 'real firearm' as either a firearm of an actual make or model of a modern firearm, or a generic modern firearm<sup>43</sup>. In 68% of gun crime occurrences with a victim, the firearm was not real. The weapon was 'fired causing injury' in 35 occurrences and used as a threat in 28. There was 'slight' injury to the victim in 38% of offences, 'threatening' injury in '36%', 'serious/fatal' injury in 4% and no injury in 21%.

The offender was a stranger, or not seen, in 48% of occurrences and was known to the victim in 36%. Of the occurrences where the offender was known to the victim, 'acquaintance' was the most

<sup>43</sup> [Guide on firearms licensing law - GOV.UK](#)

common relationship (41%), followed by neighbour (18%), ex-partner (18%), boyfriend/girlfriend (14%), spouse (5%) and sibling (5%).

### 2.4.5 Thematic areas

The following sections provide closer insight into the thematic areas surrounding serious violence such as NTE, alcohol, domestic abuse and knife-enabled serious violence. The table below gives an overview of the influencing factors that were flagged in relation to violent incidents.

	Total	NTE	Alcohol (excluding NTE)	Drugs	Domestic abuse	Knife enabled violence
<b>All serious violence</b>	<b>13,708</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>2,832</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>825</b>
Homicide	9	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
Violence with injury (excluding ABH)	2,048	122	405	15	497	267
S47 Assault occasioning ABH	8,917	502	2,029	32	3,116	161
Threats to kill (knife enabled)	134	0	29	<5	64	134
Rape	1,061	32	184	<5	321	12
Sexual assault	1,291	65	151	<5	120	<5
Robbery of personal property	223	6	20	<5	<5	223
Robbery of business property	25	0	<5	0	0	25

### The night-time economy

Nottinghamshire Police MI flag an event as NTE if they occurred in Nottingham City Centre or Mansfield Town Centre between the hours of 10pm and 6am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

In 2022, there were 727 occurrences of serious violence with a NTE marker, a 40% increase from the pre-pandemic baseline. Of the NTE flagged offences in 2022:

- 86% were violence with injury (68% S47 AOABH, 7% cause administer poison with intent to injure), 13% sexual offences (9% sexual assault and 4% rape offences) and 1% knife-enabled robbery.
- 67% had alcohol cited as an influencing factor, 6% had a domestic flag.
- As anticipated, the proportion of occurrences where the offender was a stranger is much higher for NTE offences at 75%.
- 21 offences involved a **knife**, the majority of which were GBH offences (10) and knife-enabled robbery of personal property (6).

The largest number of NTE occurrences were on Saturday and Sunday morning between 1:00am and 2:00am, which accounted for 249 serious violence offences in 2022.

Increases were seen in both the City Centre (+49%) and Mansfield Town Centre (+13%) compared to the baseline. The largest changes were observed in Victoria Centre (+96%) and Market Square (+48%), whereas decreases were seen in Portland (-21%).

- Expectedly, 47% of the NTE offences were in ‘public place’, with the largest proportion (36%) occurring on the street/road, and just 6% occurred in a dwelling.
- 40% occurred in ‘hospitality’, with 24% in a club and 9% in a public house.

The largest increases compared to the pre-pandemic baseline were seen in club occurrences (+92%) and street (+70%) based serious violence. The increases for both locations are mostly attributed to S47 AOABH offences, however of note there is a particular increase in administer poison with intent to injure offences in licenced clubs. As previously mentioned with the victim profile for violence with injury, this is likely ‘spiking offences’ that, expectedly, mostly occur in the NTE.

### Substance use

As outlined above, there is a key link between the NTE, alcohol and serious violence in the NNVRP area. However, it is also important to look at alcohol as an isolated factor, away from the NTE environment, when considering thematic areas that influence serious violence.

When the NTE offences are filtered out, alcohol was cited as an influencing factor in 2,832 serious violence offences in 2022. This is a decrease of 14% compared to 2019. Of these offences:

- 86% were violence with injury (72% S47 AOABH, 6% GBH, 2% non-fatal strangulation), 7% rape offences, 5% sexual assaults, 1% threats to kill.
- In 28% of occurrences, the offender was a stranger, they were the victims partner in 22%, and ex-partner in 9%.
  - *(40% of alcohol flagged offences also had a ‘domestic abuse’ flag, highlighting the domestic link between alcohol and serious violence).*
  - 52% of occurrences were in a dwelling, 25% in public/open place and 18% in hospitality.
- 130 alcohol flagged serious violence offences involved a **knife**. These include 29 threats to kill, 38 S47 AOABH offences, 32 GBH and 21 robbery offences.

Crime occurrences can also be flagged with a ‘drugs’ marker if they are thought to be an influencing factor of the crime however, this flag is not as well-used as the alcohol or domestic flag and therefore, caution must be taken when interpreting this data.

In 2022, 56 serious violence offences had a drugs flag on the occurrence, a 25% decrease from pre-pandemic figures. Of these offences:

- The majority of these were VWI offences (56% S47 AOABH, 12% GBH, 9% administer poison with intent to injure, 4% administer drug with intent to commit indictable offence).
- 10 drug related serious violence offences were in Nottingham City Centre.

Involvement with drug markets should also be considered a significant driver of offending with **23.9%** of identified serious violence offenders also having previous police involvement for drug offences, with **7.4%** of these occurring in the 2022 reporting period.

### Domestic violence

In 2022, Nottinghamshire Police recorded 4,123 serious violence offences with a domestic marker, an 8% decrease compared to pre-pandemic figures. Overall, domestic violence made up 30% of all serious violence offences in 2022 across the NNVRP area. Of these offences:

- 87% were violence with injury (76% S47 AOABH, 5% non-fatal strangulation and suffocation, 3% GBH), 8% were rape offences, 2% knife-enabled threats to kill and 3% sexual assault.
  - *The largest increases compared to pre-pandemic levels were for endangering life offences and knife-enabled threats to kill.*
- In 43% of occurrences, the offender was the victims partner (boyfriend/girlfriend in 34%, spouse in 9%), they were an ex-partner in 30% of occurrences and a family member in 18%.
- Expectedly, 88% of domestic flagged serious violence occurrences were in a dwelling, 9% in public place and 2% in hospitality.

The highest volumes of domestic occurrences were seen in Sutton in Ashfield (233), Hucknall (149) and Mansfield West (143). Areas which saw the greatest increase in domestic flagged occurrences were Leen valley (+44%), Worksop North (+40%) and Stapleford (+39%), whilst the greatest decreases were seen in Mansfield East (-39%), Wollaton East (-36%) and Clifton (-34%).

227 domestic serious violence offences involved a **knife**: the majority of these were threats to kill (63) and AOABH (59).

- Berridge (11) and Bestwood (8) had the highest number of knife-related domestic violence occurrences, with other high volumes in Bulwell, Aspley, Sutton in Ashfield and Carlton & Porchester (all with 7 occurrences respectively).

### **Knife enabled serious violence**

In 2022, **825** serious violence events involved a knife, accounting for 6% of all serious violence in the NNVRP area. Of these offences:

- 32% were violence with injury (excluding ABH), 23% were AOABH, 16% were threats to kill and 27% were robbery of personal property.
- Where the relationship between victim and offender was recorded, 58% of victims knew the offender, with the most common relationship being an acquaintance.
- 21% of knife enabled serious violence was domestic related.

Volumes were evenly split between Nottingham City (52%) and Nottinghamshire County (48%). The wards with the highest volumes were Nottingham City Centre (59), the Arboretum (56) and Sutton in Ashfield (37). Moreover, the highest volume beats were Forest Recreation Ground (30), Market Square (21) and Radford East (18).

- 41% of occurrences were in a dwelling and 45% were in a public place.
- Berridge (20), Aspley (21) and Sutton in Ashfield (16) had the highest volume of knife-related serious violence in a dwelling, whilst the Arboretum (42) and Nottingham City Centre (42) had the highest volume of public place occurrences.

This highlights a key difference between Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County: 63% of public place, knife-enabled serious violence was in the City, whilst the majority of knife-enabled serious violence that occurred in a dwelling was in the County (55%).

The **Force Homicide profile**<sup>44</sup> notes that between June 2021 and February 2022, there was a decrease in knife related homicides, despite no corresponding decrease in overall homicides. It was noted that all gang related, and revenge/retribution homicides were knife enabled and assessed that this trend is likely to continue, and that knife crime should remain a priority. A review of homicides that occurred outside of the profiles reporting period shows that the stab/slash MO remains consistent for this type of offender. Perpetrators for knife related homicides are most commonly aged 16-20 years, which is supported by the findings for possession of weapon offenders below.

## **Possession of weapons**

In 2022, Nottinghamshire Police recorded **1,429 possession of weapons offences**, an increase of 15% compared to the pre-pandemic baseline. This is reflective of continued targeted police proactivity in the NNVRP area associated with the national Operation Sceptre campaign. Of these offences:

- Over half (53%) were possession of an article with a blade or point
- 11% involved possession of a firearm and 36% involved other weapons.
- Possession of an article with a blade or point offences saw the largest increase compared to the pre-COVID baseline (+23%)
- By contrast, firearm possession offences decreased (-7%)
- 61% of possession of weapon offences occurred in public place (41% on the street), 22% in a dwelling and 5% in education settings
- Occurrences in dwellings (+90%, +150 offences) saw the largest proportional increase

Occurrences were evenly split between the City (732) and the County (697). Areas with the highest volume of offences shown on Nottingham City Centre (160), Basford (76) and Sutton in Ashfield (65), along with high volumes in Market Square (54), Whitemoor (42) and Victoria Centre (33).

Offences show no clear temporal patterns, largely reflective of operational demands and the proactive nature in which offences are identified. The months of July and August saw the highest volumes of possession offences, with 140 and 152 respectively, whilst February saw the lowest (85).

## Victim and offender profile

Data was recorded for 1,698 offenders and 382 victims. In this dataset, there were 159 repeat offenders and 10 repeat victims. When the relationship between victim and offender was known (excluding crimes against the state), the offender was a stranger in 38% of offences, an acquaintance in 14% and a neighbour in 4%.

Age and gender data was recorded for 1,661 offenders and 345 victims. In 90% of occurrences, the offender was male, and the victim was male in 71%.

- The demographic which had the most offenders was males aged 15-19 at 19%, and 61% of all offenders were males aged 15-39. Of note, 9% of offenders were males aged 10-14.
- The largest volume of victims were males aged 10-14 at 15%, and 42% of all victims were males aged 10-29. Although there are fewer female victims, they are also mostly concentrated in the 10-14 age category (6% of all victims).

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<sup>44</sup> Homicide and near-miss problem profile 2022 (Data period 2019/2020 – 2021/2022)

Ethnicity data was recorded for 91% of offenders and 42% of victims, therefore the following analysis refers to offenders only. The data showed that:

- 70% of possession of weapons offenders were from white ethnic groups, 17% from black ethnic groups, 6% from Asian ethnic groups, 6% from mixed ethnic groups and 2% from other ethnic groups.
- The largest disparities when compared to census data are seen amongst the black ethnic group which makes up 17% of offences compared to 3.7% of the NNVRP population.

## 2.5 Additional data sets

Health data has 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<sup>45</sup>. 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 SNA, 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 (*totals may thus not add up due to rounding*).

### 2.5.1 Injury surveillance data

Emergency departments capture details of patients who present as victims of assault as part of the ISTV initiative. This information is used to identify demographic characteristics of victims, and data relating to the nature, time and location of the assault. This SNA includes data from Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) and Kings Mill Hospital (KMH).

Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, **2,220 assaults** were recorded in the ISTV system at QMC, and 638 at KMH. Of these attendances:

- 898 involved a weapon (770 at QMC, 128 at KMH), of which the majority were via a 'blunt object' (32%). QMC had a higher proportion of assaults involving a weapon (35% of all assaults), compared to KMH (20% of all assaults).
- Of note, 210 attendances were following an assault involving a knife (193 at QMC, 17 at KMH) and 152 involving a sharp object (84 needle admissions at QMC).

Monthly attendances for both QMC and KMH follow the seasonal pattern highlighted in police-recorded crime and EMAS data, peaking during the summer months. The highest volume of attendances following an assault were in May (299), and the lowest in December (180).

The figure below shows this temporal trend and profile of weapon-enabled assault. This highlights that the highest volume of attendances following an assault via a weapon was in the month of

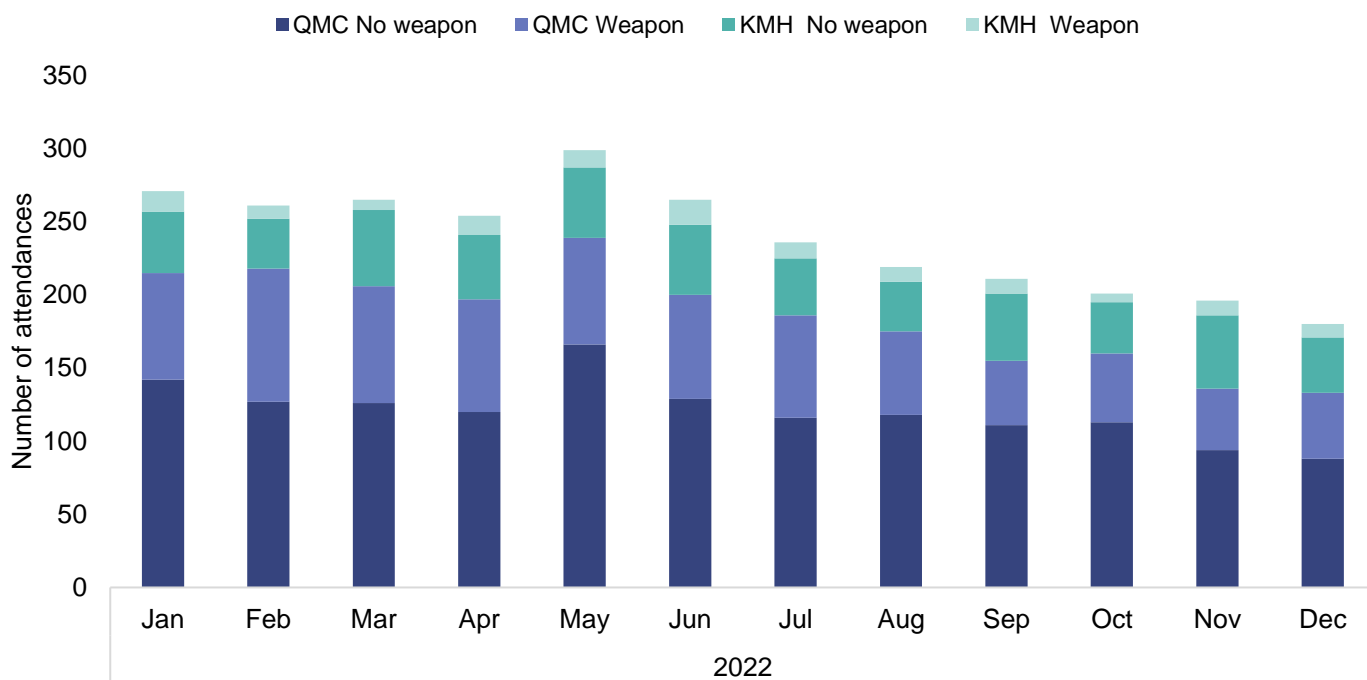
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<sup>45</sup> [Preventing serious violence: summary - GOV.UK](#)

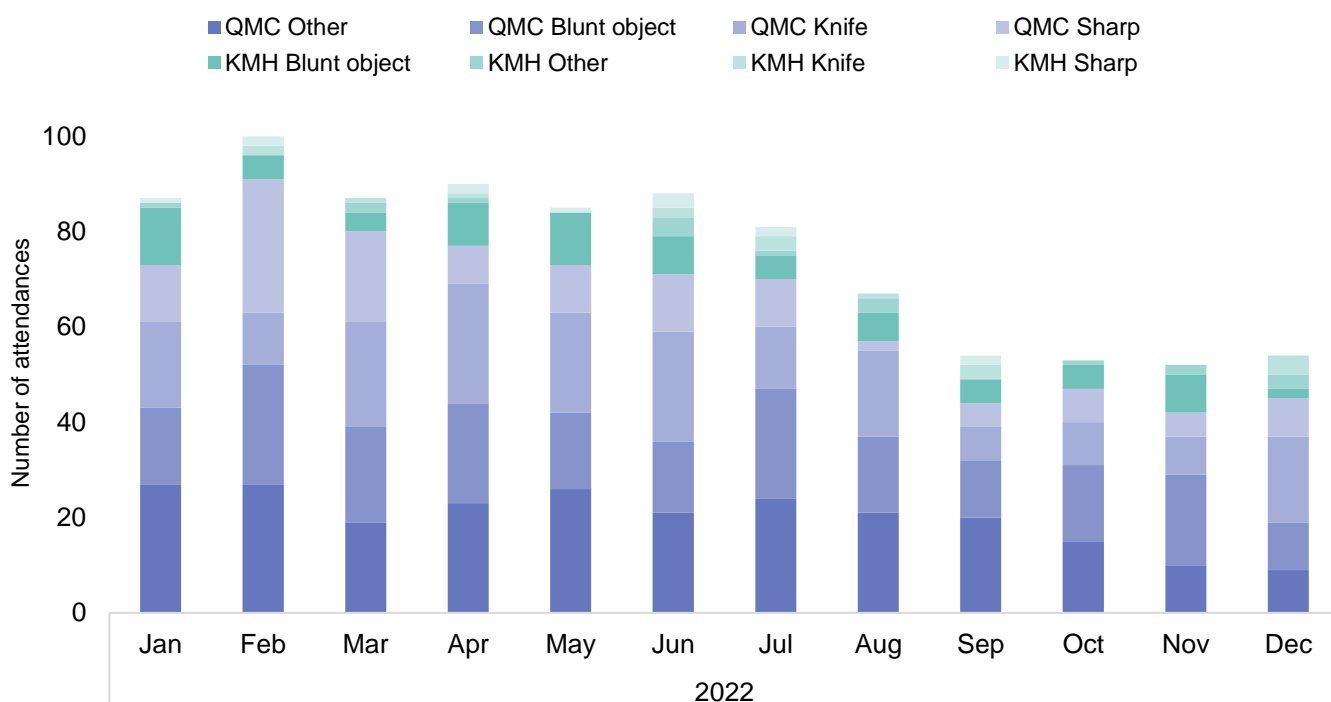
February (100), which can mostly be attributed to an increase in the number of 'sharp' attendances at QMC (28) and is contrary to the overall seasonal patterns identified above.

- February 2022 saw an increase in attendances following 'needle stick injury' (24), compared to the overall monthly average for 2022 (5). Admissions for this type of injury subsequently decreased, with 4 recorded in December 2022.

**Emergency department attendances following an assault, by month and category, 2022.**



**Emergency department attendances following an assault via a weapon, by month and category, 2022.**





## Demographics of ISTV data

Age and gender data was recorded for all victims at QMC and KMH. In 70% of attendances, the victim was male (72% at QMC, 64% 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 46% of all victims at QMC were males aged 10-34. Although there are fewer female victims, they are also concentrated in the 15-19 age category (7% of all victims).
- At KMH, the largest demographic was males aged 15-19 at 9% of all victims, followed by males aged 10-14 at 8%. Similarly, 40% of all victims at QMC were males aged 10-34.
- By contrast, the largest volume of female victims were in the 35-39 category (5% of all victims), although there are still concentrations in the 15-19 age category (4% of all victims).

Furthermore, this demographic distribution does change depending on the category of assault. Of 193 knife-enabled assaults that were recorded at QMC, **90%** of the victims were male, and over half of all victims were males aged 15-24.

### 2.5.1 Hospital admissions for violent events (HES)

#### Data extraction and analysis of inpatient data

Data was retrieved from OHID<sup>46</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.

#### Inpatient admissions for violent events

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (2-year pooled data), there was approximately 1,040 hospital admissions for assault in the NNVRP area. The yearly trend for inpatient admissions following a violent event is shown below, highlighting 2021/22 levels to have increased (+7%) from the pre-pandemic baseline of 2019/20.

Across the local authorities within the NNVRP area, most admissions for assault were in Nottingham City (41%), followed by Mansfield & Ashfield (24%), South Notts (19%), and the lowest volumes in Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood (17%).

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Ashfield	65	50	70
Bassetlaw	50	35	40
Mansfield	65	50	75
Newark and Sherwood	50	35	55
South Nottinghamshire	90	90	110
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>NNVRP area</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>600</b>

<sup>46</sup> Hospital Episode Statistics - NHS digital

Assault by bodily force was the most common reason, accounting for 55.6% of all admissions for assault. Other reasons for assault included assault by a sharp object (15.5%) or by a blunt object (10.1%), sexual assault by a bodily force (1.4%), and assault by other specified means (17.4%).

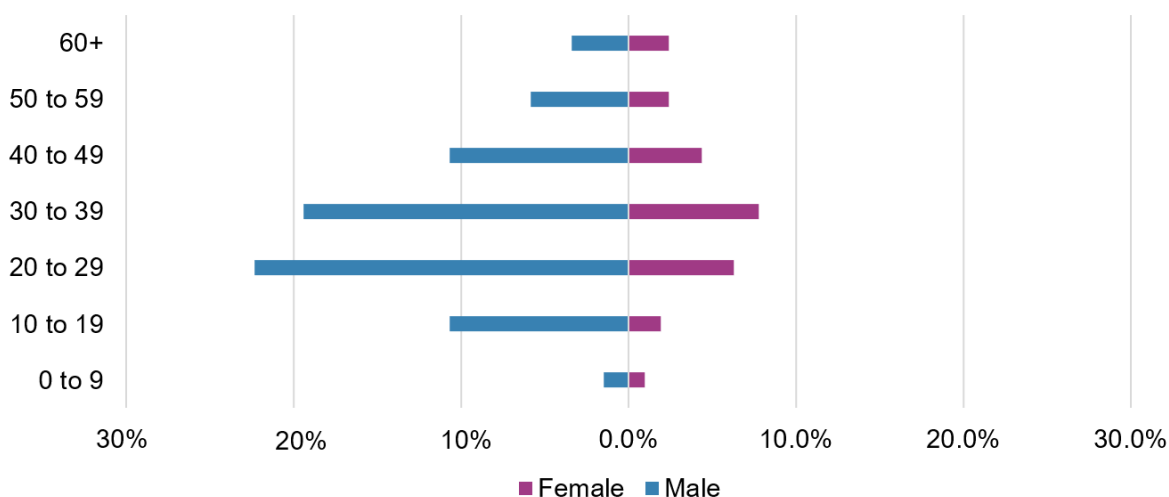
## Demographics of inpatient admissions

### Age and gender

Of those admitted to hospital in the NNVRP area following an assault between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, approximately 755 (73%) were male patients and 275 were female (27%). Of note, admissions for assault were lower in 2020/21 which covered the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a higher proportion of admissions were female (32%).

The figure below shows the age and gender distribution of assault victims admitted to hospital in the NNVRP area between 2020/21 and 2021/22. Male victims make up a higher proportion than female victims in every age group. The highest proportion of assault admissions is for males aged 20 to 29, who make up 22.3% of all admissions. By contrast, the highest proportion for women is in the 30-39 age group, making up 7.8% of all assault admissions between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**Inpatient admissions for assault, by age distribution and gender, 2020/21 to 2021/22.**



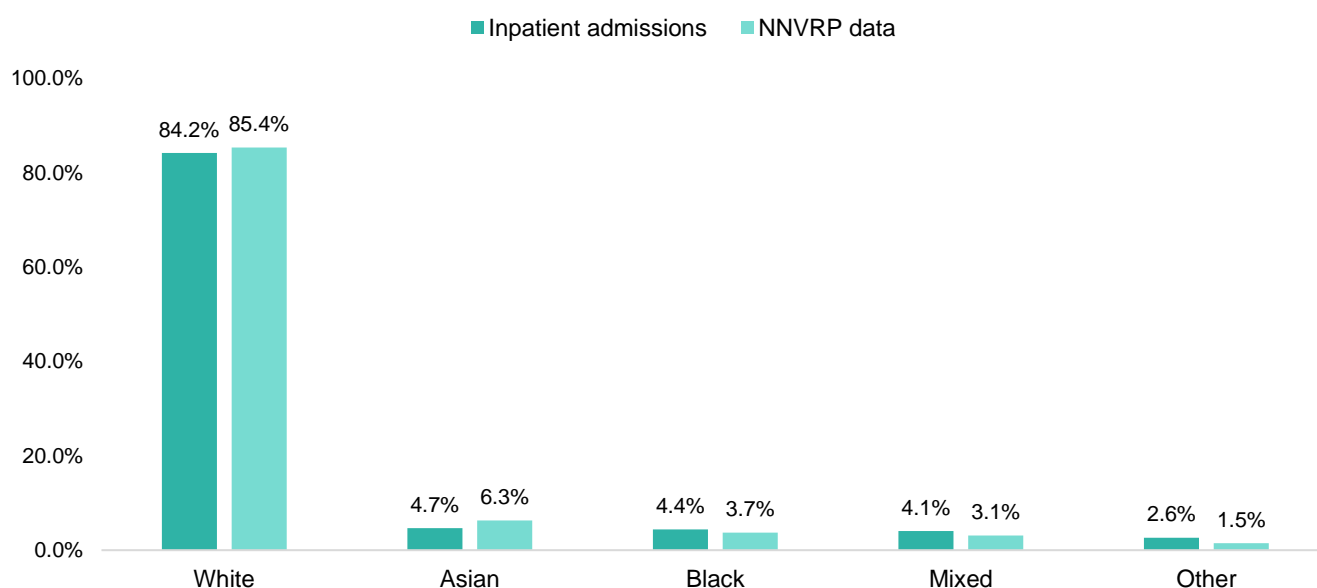
### Ethnicity data

Ethnicity data was collected for 83% of patients who were admitted for assault. This data gap introduces a degree of uncertainty to any calculations as to whether different ethnic groups are under/overrepresented in the figures. The patients for whom ethnicity data was collected is shown in the figure below and compared to the 2021 Census figures by broad ethnic group.

This data shows that while 84.2% of admissions were from white ethnic groups, this figure is slightly lower than the proportion from these groups. There are slight disparities across all ethnicities, with the largest disparities amongst the Asian ethnic group which makes up 4.7% of admissions compared to 6.3% of the NNVRP population.

- This data does however raise questions about whether ethnicity categories presented adequately represent the identity of the patients, and also, if the full picture of ethnicity was collected whether this would resolve these disparities.

### Inpatient admissions for assault by ethnicity (2020/21 - 2021/22) against NNVRP population



### 2.5.2 A&E attendance for violent events (ECDS)

#### Data extraction and analysis of ECDS data

ECDS was retrieved from OHID for A&E attendance for assault, which is a subset of injury data where the injury intent field is 'apparent assault' with single or multiple assailants.

- 1) The number of assault from ECDS is estimated to include all A&E attendances where the injury intent is apparent assault, as well as attendances with no assault coding but the cause of injury is blunt injury, firearm/explosion and sharp injury.

Due to a recording data issue, Bassetlaw figures are excluded from this dataset and therefore, these figures, Nottinghamshire County totals and NNVRP totals are awaiting data correction and have been left blank.

#### A&E attendance for violent events

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, there was approximately 2,850 A&E attendances following an assault. The yearly trend for this data is shown below, highlighting levels of emergency attendance to have increased compared to 2020/21 (+65%), but to have not returned to the pre-pandemic baseline level from 2019/20 (-22%).

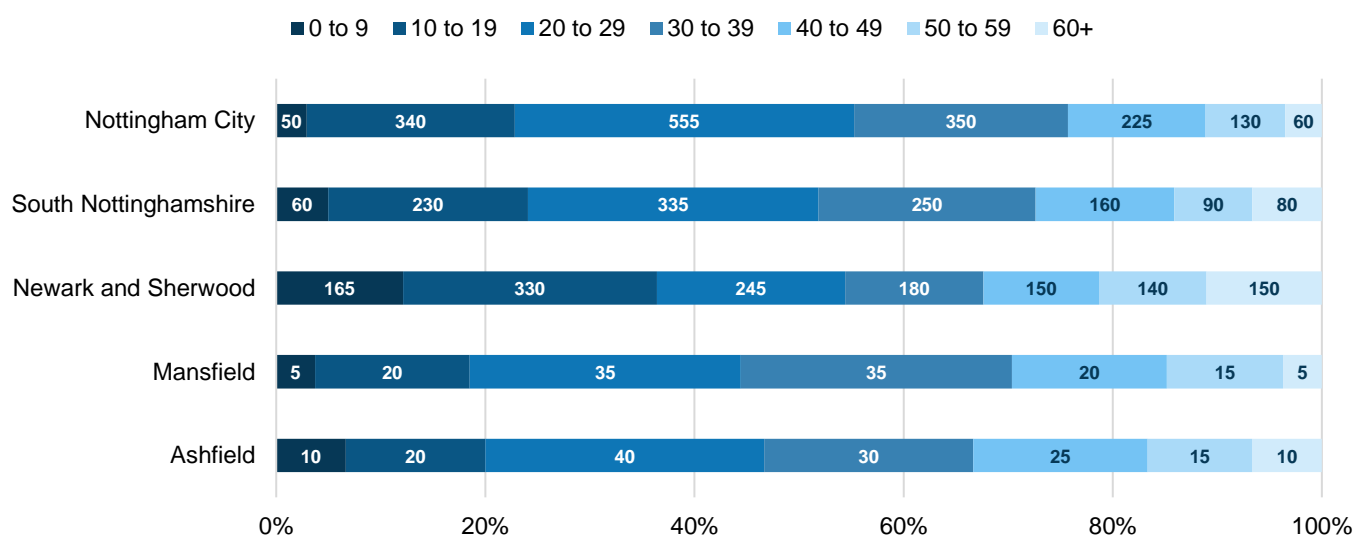
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Ashfield	170	70	90
Bassetlaw			
Mansfield	120	65	70
Newark and Sherwood	865	465	900
South Nottinghamshire	1,090	455	755
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1,035</b>
Nottinghamshire County			
NNVRP area			

Across the local authorities within the NNVRP area, most A&E attendances following an assault were recorded in Nottingham City (36%), followed by Newark & Sherwood (32%), South Notts (26%) and the lowest volumes in Mansfield & Ashfield (5%).

### Demographics of A&E attendances

Due to data quality, demographic data can only be received for age and location of A&E attendances, to allow for Bassetlaw figures to be excluded. The figure below shows the age breakdown by location. This data highlights that 20 to 29 year olds make up the highest proportion of A&E attendances following an assault in Nottingham City (32%), South Notts (28%), Mansfield (26%) & Ashfield (27%). In Newark & Sherwood however, 10-19 year olds make up a higher proportion of A&E attendances than any other age group (24%).

Age of A&E attendees by location, 2020/21 - 2021/22.



### 2.5.4 Deaths from assault (ONS mortality data)

Data was extracted from the ONS civil registration dataset<sup>47</sup>. Deaths from assault were identified using ICD 10 codes **X85-Y09** and **U509**. Directly age-standardised rates (DSR) were calculated using mid-year estimates and the 2013 European standard population.

#### Deaths from assault

Over five pooled financial years (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022), there were a total of 80 deaths from assaults amongst residents of the NNVRU area, equating to a directly age-standardised rate (DSR) of 1.5 deaths per 100,000 population. 28 deaths occurred within Nottingham City, with a DSR of 1.9, 52 deaths occurred in Nottinghamshire County, with a DSR of 1.4.

- 67.3% of the 80 people who died due to assault were **male**
- 84.9% of deaths were people **aged 20 or over**, with the highest concentration of 27.4% amongst 20-29 year olds.
- Less than a third of offences occurred in areas which ranked in the **most deprived** 20%.
- Deaths due to assault in Nottinghamshire County have **an older age profile**, with 55.8% aged 40 or over, compared to 39.3% in Nottingham City.

<sup>47</sup> [Mortality analysis, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

The table below shows the breakdown of deaths from violence by local authority district. A larger time period from April 2007 to March 2022 is used due to small numbers in some areas for confidentiality. The figures highlight that over this period, 40.5% of deaths were Nottingham City residents, and the smallest volumes were in the districts surrounding Nottingham City in South Notts.

	Number of deaths from violence	
Ashfield	22	10.5%
Bassetlaw	19	9.1%
Broxtowe	11	5.2%
Gedling	13	6.3%
Mansfield	29	13.8%
Newark and Sherwood	20	9.5%
Rushcliffe	11	5.2%
<b>Nottingham City</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>40.4%</b>
<b>Nottinghamshire County</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>59.6%</b>

### 2.5.5 Nottingham Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Nottingham YJS is an organisation set up to respond to and meet the needs of young people in contact with, or at risk of contact with, the criminal justice system in Nottingham City, with the aim to prevent offending and reduce re-offending. The following dataset was received children and young people in Nottingham City aged between 10-18 that have committed a violent offence from the 1 January 2022 to the 31 December 2022.

In 2022, **333 individuals** that had committed a violent offence were recorded by the YJS in Nottingham City, a decrease of 22% compared to 2019. Of the individuals that committed these offences:

- 76% were male, and the demographic which had the largest volume of offenders was 16 year old males at 25%, and 46% of all offenders were males aged 15-17.
- By contrast, the largest volume of female offenders were in the 15 year old age group (6%) and the 13 year old age group (5%).
- 32% of the offences were possession of weapons offences, of which, 25% were possession of a knife. 28% were common assaults, 15% were ABH and 14% assault by beating.
- 20% of occurrences had an outcome of community resolution, 15% a referral order, 13% a conditional caution, 10% a caution and 7% a rehabilitation order.

### 2.5.6 Survey data

#### Police and crime survey

Nottinghamshire Police run a quarterly survey of City and County residents. Providing context around the levels of crime, underreporting, local perceptions of the police and local priorities.

#### Experience of crime

The latest survey relates to the year ending December 2022. Over this year, 16.8% of respondents had been a victim of crime (excluding online crimes), and respondents in the City were most likely to have experienced crime (20%).

The prevalence of **violent crimes** in the survey is smaller, with 2.0% of respondents having been the victim of physical violence, 1.1% of robbery, 1.3% of domestic abuse, 0.5% of sexual violence and 2.6% of a hate crime. Most of these crime types saw little to no change in comparison to 2021, except hate crime which fell from 3.2%. The figures are broadly in line with pre-pandemic figures, except from robbery which has decreased from 2.36% in 2019.

### Public priorities for the police

The survey also asks respondents for issues which they would like to see the police tackle in their local area. Across the whole NNVRP area, dangerous driving and speeding were the most cited offences (36.6% and 33.2% respectively), followed by drug use and dealing (29.4%).

Public violence and disorder were ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> most important of 15 crime types (16.3% of respondents), domestic abuse as 9<sup>th</sup> (15.3%), robbery 13<sup>th</sup> (13.3%) sexual abuse was 14<sup>th</sup> (13.3%), hate crime 15<sup>th</sup> (13.1%). This suggests a disparity between the experience of crime and the perceived importance or volume of different crime, with hate crime being the most experienced violent crime, but amongst the least important for the public wanting the police to tackle.

There is a geographical aspect to these variations, with violent offences higher on the list of priorities for parts of Nottingham City. In the County districts, violent crimes, particularly hate crimes are less likely to be cited as a problem for police to tackle.

## 2.6 Summary of findings - data and insight

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### Overall trends

Overall levels of police-recorded serious violence in the NNVRP area in 2022 were 8% lower than in 2019. Homicide, S47 assaults and knife-enabled robbery all reduced by 18-25%, whilst increases were seen in other VWI (+40%), knife-enabled threats to kill (+52%) and RASSO (+14%). Increases in rape and sexual assault offences accounted for a key driver of increased crime harm in 2022 compared to 2019 (+2%).

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EMAS responded to 1,780 calls with 1,865 reported casualties relating to violent events, a decrease of 4% compared to 2019. Callouts to category 1 and 2 violent events (+8.2%) and sexual assaults (+53%) both increased in 2022 compared to the baseline, reflecting the increase seen in police-recorded date in VWI and RASSO. Overall, this highlights an increase in high-harm and life-critical serious violence in the NNVRP area.

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### Demographic and temporal analysis

Young males aged 20-24 continue to account for the majority of known perpetrators of serious violence. The profile of victimisation varies markedly according to the nature of the offence.

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There have been no significant changes in the primary geographic concentrations for serious violence, with predominant concentrations in City Centre and Mansfield night-time economies, and urban centres within Sutton in Ashfield and Newark.

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Temporal trends show seasonal peaks of serious violence during June and July, and weekly peaks between 6:00pm and 6:00am on Friday and Saturday nights. Incident criticality is also concentrated during these peaks, with weekend evenings accounting for 41% of all critical and life threatening ambulance callouts.

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### Key exceptions

The rise in VWI offences has been driven, in part, by an increase in police recorded non-fatal strangulation/suffocation offences, of which 86% had a domestic abuse flag. Similarly, 47% of all recorded knife-enabled threats to kill had a domestic marker, with alcohol being cited as an influencing factor in 22% of cases.

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Around 50% of homicides in the NNVRP area involved links to drug markets, and 24% to domestic abuse. Spontaneous altercations were linked to 24% of all homicides, of which alcohol was a compounding factor in around 71% of cases.

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Males aged 15 to 19 account for the vast majority of knife-enabled robbery victims and offenders, with disproportionately higher proportion of Asian victims (11.1%) than the demographic composition (6.3%). Of note, these numbers are still low (n=25).

## 3. Evidence

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

### 3.1 Local insight on communities and violence

Two local research projects that look at the context of violence across both the City and County have been completed during 2022/23.

#### 3.1.1 Boys Beliefs and Behaviours – NTU

Locally commissioned research, funded by the OPCC and NNVRP, was undertaken by Nottingham Trent University partnered with Nottinghamshire Women's Aid and Juno Women's Aid<sup>48</sup>. The evaluation sought to answer two research questions, the first being how witnessing or experiencing domestic violence affects beliefs and behaviours of boys and young men towards women and girls, and the second about which factors provide resilience for boys and young men.

The research team undertook interviews with boys and young men in the NNVRP area that addressed the three topics of beliefs, gender roles and behaviours. The inclusion criteria for the study were boys/young men aged over 10 that were receiving support having witnessed, or experienced, domestic violence and/or domestic abuse. When interpreting the results from this study, it is important to be mindful of the small sample size, as only 6 participants were interviewed.

The analysis highlighted the participants knowledge of **traditional notions** of masculine and feminine stereotypes, some talking about how boys tend to be less engaged with school than girls. These notions were seen by the participants as something others would typically endorse rather than their own personal beliefs, with some rejecting the notion of ownership of women by their partners or parents. The participants also recognised that **families had secrets** however, the nature of these secrets was not explored.

Across the data collection for this project, there were significant challenges associated. This is perhaps because research exploring witnessing, and/or experiencing, domestic abuse or violence in the home is a sensitive topic. Also, the self-reflecting nature of the sample may have influenced the findings, and the group that chose to participate may have given contrasting answers to those who chose not to.

#### 3.1.2 Women and girls experience of violence – Equation

A locally commissioned research piece funded by the OPCC and NNVRP, was undertaken by Equation, to explore the lived experiences of young women and girls who have experienced violence<sup>49</sup>. The report was commissioned following the previous SNA which demonstrated males as

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<sup>48</sup> Boys' and young men's beliefs and behaviours towards women and girls - NTU

<sup>49</sup> A report exploring the lived experiences of young women and girls who have experienced violence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – A collaborative between Equation and NNVRP



over-represented perpetrators and victims of serious violence, with concerns around the exploitation of young women.

The qualitative data of this report consists of narrative from 15 interviews and 290 survey responses from young women and girls. The data revealed four overarching themes:

- **The interplay** between perpetrator and victim: lack of relationship experience, isolation, blame placement and maintaining factors.
- **Use of social media to harm**: application of pressure and lack of control.
- **Relational support**: professional support, social support and coping alone.
- **What would help**: early intervention, understanding and knowledge sharing, connection with others and specialist services.

The quantitative survey responses mirrored that of those obtained from the interview data. In terms of whether healthy relationship education had been provided during school, 65% stated it had not. 95% of respondents stated they had experienced violence or abuse, and the most commonly experience type was emotional or psychological. Of 96 respondents, 82% stated they had felt able to share their experience, with 25% stating this helped them to cope. Regrettably, 34% of respondents stated that whilst engaged in the abusive relationship they found their own way to cope with the harm, and 15% confirmed nothing has helped with the pain they suffered.

This report also surveyed parents and carers and was broken down into five sections which included social media, their perception of their child's social media usage, understanding of violence and abuse, the impact of violence and abuse, and support services.

- Two respondents specifically stated that their child had experienced **harassment via social media**, and another had an upskirting image share.
- When respondents relayed that their child had been a victim of violence and abuse, the **perpetrator was known** to them in the overwhelming majority of cases.
- 80% of respondents reported they knew where to go for **support**, with friends and family most listed, and other service provisions such as Women's Aid, Juno and CAMHS were listed.

Similarly to the other locally commissioned project, there were a number of barriers identified by the research team in recruiting participants. It is noteworthy that over 70% of girls and young women who opted to complete the screening questionnaire declined to consent to an interview. It is however positive that when the opportunity to be involved in a survey was include, intake was 6 times greater.

## 3.2 National insight on communities and violence

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

### 3.2.1 Children, violence and vulnerability – Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and research partners surveyed 2,025 13–17-year-olds to explore how violence impacts their lives<sup>50</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:

- 39% of teenage children were **victims or witnesses** to violence
- 9% of children had **committed** an act of violence, with 2% reporting **holding gang membership** and 2% to carry a **weapon**.
- These figures do increase for those that were *victims of violence*, with 10% reporting gang membership and 12% carrying a weapon.

This risk of being affected by violence is however not shared equally by all children, with some groups such as those supported by a social worker, regularly missing classes, receiving school meals or not from a two-parent household, being *significantly overrepresented* in the data. Moreover, **51% of black children** were the victim of or witness to violence. This overrepresentation is supported by the national statistics, which show that despite black children making up 4% of 10–17 year olds, they make up 15% of arrests, 18% of stop and search and 29% of children in custody.

As aforementioned, social media continues to present a challenge as it is an area of children's lives that is hidden from family, carers and professionals, and the role that it plays in youth violence has been of concern for some time. The prevalence and reach of violence via social media was highlighted in the survey, with:

- 55% of the children and young people have seen real life acts of violence displayed via social platforms, with the most common acts being fights and/or threats of violence.
  - *This increases to 85% for victims of violence.*
- 24% of respondents reported seeing children carrying, promoting or using weapons online.

Showing the impact violence has on children and young people, 65% reported that they had changed their behaviour due to concerns about safety, which increases to 76% for black children, and 93% for children who were victims of violence. These changes included skipping school out of fear (14%), lack of concentration because of worries (14%) and avoiding social events (16%).

### 3.2.2 Good Childhood Report – Children's Society

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>51</sup> presents the

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<sup>50</sup> [Children, violence and vulnerability 2022 - Youth Endowment Fund](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Good Childhood Report 2022 – Children's Society \(childrensociety.org.uk\)](#)

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 2022, just over 2,000 children took part in the Children's Society's survey. The survey highlighted the following themes:

- **Wellbeing:** A higher proportion of children in 2022 showed low levels of wellbeing compared to previous data captures. Females, 16- and 17-year-olds, and those who said their families were not well off were disproportionately represented within those indicating low well-being.
- **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<sup>52</sup>.
- **Society:** When asked about concerns on broader societal issues, children were most worried about the environment, new illnesses/pandemics, crime and online safety.

The survey was also conducted with parents and carers. Overall, 85% of parents and carers indicated that they were either 'very' or 'quite' concerned. This is an important context considering that children's experiences of poverty and financial strain, their perceptions of their family wealth, and their material resources can influence their wellbeing state.

### 3.2.3 Youth Voice: SEND and Exclusions – Children's Society

In 2021, the disrupting exploitation (DEx) programme, working in partnership with The Children's Society, began consulting with young people with SEND on their experiences of school exclusion<sup>53</sup>. The project engaged with 22 young people aged between 12 and 16 from two schools in North London. The report identified three key themes:

- **Unfair contributors to exclusions:** young people highlighted experiences of racism, the negative effects of having a reputation, an unrealistic expectation from mainstream schools of maturity and development, as factors that they felt contributed to their exclusion.
- **Communication:** according to RCSLT<sup>54</sup>, two-thirds of children excluded from school have language difficulties. Some young people stated they struggled to understand what was being communicated in mainstream schools, and that this contributed to the behaviour problems. Others said they did not understand the seriousness of their behaviour before they were sanctioned. The importance of school staff listening was also underlined by respondents, with young people highlighting that not enough staff were available to listen to each student.
- **Behaviour management:** The need for behaviour sanctions was recognized, but respondents disagreed with mainstream schools approach to behaviour management, with young people highlighting sanctions as disproportionate and quickly given out. However, respondents did highlight that the sanctions given to them in specialist schools helped them to learn from their behaviour and made sure their voices were heard.

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<sup>52</sup> [The current state of children's wellbeing | Understanding Society](#)

<sup>53</sup> Youth Voice: SEND and Exclusion – The Children's Society (November 2022)

<sup>54</sup> [Inquiry into Education Otherwise than at School - Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#)

Overall, this report highlights the long-term and detrimental impact of school exclusion. Not only do they disrupt children's participation in education and thus impact future life chances, they also make children more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. One key learning is that young people feel as though their voices and experiences are rarely heard when exclusion decisions are being made.

The need to develop child focused approaches to children's behaviour in school, improve professional understanding of the impact of trauma and SEND on behaviour, and the need for non-punitive support for children are all key points to highlight from this report.

### 3.2.4 Hidden in Plain Sight – Commission on Young Lives

The Commission on Young Lives (COYL) developed a national plan to support vulnerable teenagers to succeed and protect them from adversity, exploitation and harm. The report proposes a new '**Sure Start Plus for Teenagers**', a network of intervention and support as the centrepiece of a wide range of recommendations to government, the police, schools, and others to tackle the deep-rooted problems in the children's social care, education, family support, children's mental health, and criminal justice systems.

Its recommendations include:

- **Introducing a new Sure Start Plus programme:** A universal offer that is placed initially in the areas of greatest need and is a mechanism for bringing local services together and providing bespoke services for families who need it (target of 1,000 sure start plus hubs by 2027).
- **Develop a national strategy to reduce the risk of violence:** The crisis of teenage harm and violence as a national threat should be recognised and made national priorities by the PM, who should deliver monthly COBRA-style meetings held to drive and monitor progress.
- **Helping young people and their families out of poverty:** beginning with the uprating of family benefits in line with inflation, ending the two-child benefit cap, and the extension of free school meals to all families receiving Universal Credit.
- **Re-establishing a Child Poverty Unit:** tasked with reducing and then ending child poverty to level up opportunities and life chances to all communities.
- **Develop a one-off mental health recovery programme:** financed in part by a levy on social media companies and mobile phone providers.
- **Identify and remove racial bias in existing systems:** nationally identify these biases that are currently failing many Black, Brown and Minority Ethnic children.
- **Introducing a new "Family First" approach in government and local agencies:** a bespoke scheme led by the Department for Children, Families and Schools, within the Government's existing 'Supporting Families' programme, specifically targeted at families with teenagers, and would be delivered through *Sure Start Plus* hubs or schools.
- **Reforming the children's social care system:** implementing the Macalister recommendations, funding more new local children's homes and specialist youth foster carers and encouraging the expansion of kinship care.
- **Recruiting an army of Youth Practitioners:** aim is to inspire, support and guide young people in their community, administered by a collaboration of national charities.

- **Opening all school buildings before and after school, at weekends and during holidays:** provide safe and appealing places for teenagers, staffed by community groups, youth practitioners and volunteers.
- **Encouraging a new era of inclusive education and end exclusion culture:** Support primary schools to end exclusions in all primaries by 2024, to extend SEN support, to provide a greater focus on nurture and therapeutic support for vulnerable children, develop a new 'inclusion measure' to inform Ofsted judgements, and the ending of Pupil Referral Units with specialist provision established instead.
- **Reforming the youth justice system to accelerate moves towards a fully welfare-based, trauma-informed Child First approach:** Aim to replace Youth Offender Institutions with secure schools and secure children's homes.
- **Introduce a statutory definition of Child Criminal Exploitation.**

### 3.3 Summary of local and national research projects

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#### Local insight

Participants in the ‘boys beliefs and behaviours’ survey conducted by NTU highlighted that boys and young men are aware of the traditional notions of masculine and feminine stereotypes, and these notions were seen as something others would typically endorse. There were significant challenges associated with data collection in this project, and it is important to be mindful of the small sample size of this data.

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Equation’s research project that explored lived experiences of young women and girls around violence revealed four overarching themes: the interplay between perpetrator and victim, the use of social media to harm, the importance of relational support and also the importance of early intervention. Similarly to the other locally commissioned project, there were barriers identified by the research team in participant recruitment.

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#### National insight

The children, violence and vulnerability research project by the YEF found that in the past 12 months, 39% of teenage children were victims or witnesses to violence. This risk of being affected by violence is however not shared equally by all children, for example, with 51% of black children being the victim of or witness to violence. The project also highlighted the impact of social media and the role it plays in youth violence, with 55% of children and young people seeing real life acts of violence online.

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The Children’s Society ‘Good Childhood Report’ highlighted 4 key themes: decreased levels of wellbeing in children, decreased levels of happiness during school (with happiness declining significantly with age and among children in lower income households), and worry amongst children about crime and online safety.

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In partnership with the Children’s Society, the DEx programme consulted with young people with SEND on their experiences of exclusion. The report highlighted three key themes: unfair contributors to exclusions including racism, reputation and unrealistic expectations, communication in mainstream schools, and mainstream schools approach to behaviour management. The report also highlighted the long-term and detrimental impact of school exclusion, making children more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

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The COYL developed a national plan to support vulnerable teenagers. The report proposes a new ‘sure start plus for teenagers’: a network of intervention and support as the centrepiece of a wide range of recommendations to the government, police, schools and others to tackle the deep-rooted problems in social care, education, family support, children’s mental health and criminal justice systems.

## 4. Appendix

### 4.1 Progress on 2022 Recommendations

The following themes were identified in the 2022 Strategic Needs Assessment, and recommendations were set for the VRP and its partners. This section provides an update on the progress made against each of these recommendations, as of 1 March 2023.

#### 1. The COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns had a huge effect on patterns of violence in the NNVRP area such as opportunities to offend, lifestyles and behaviour. Despite many areas of crime returning to pre-pandemic levels, it is important to consider and monitor the long-term impact of this pandemic on serious violence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

**Recommendation:** Continue to assess for the impacts of COVID-19 on the risk factors and the patterns of serious violence within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

**Progress update:** Whilst during the pandemic levels of offending fell, levels are forecasted to continue to rise and hit near pre-pandemic baseline levels by the end of the financial year. Assessing for the impacts of COVID-19 has been integrated as business-as-usual within the VRP insight work on serious violence, with particular attention paid to the data ranges for data and social context of these time periods. The data in this refreshed SNA provides an overview of our key datasets and the accompanying narrative sets out an interpretation on the impacts of COVID-19 within the data.

#### 2. Data sharing and quality

In light of some of the continuing gaps in local data highlighted in the 2021 needs assessment, the NNVRP will work with partners to improve data quality, consider opportunities for building in operationally informed data and consider the issues of the varying definitions of serious violence.

**Recommendation:** Convene a joint data steering group to start the development of the joint Strategic Needs Assessment for 2023, in line with serious violence duty requirements.

**Progress update:** A Serious Violence Data steering group has been established to implement the data sharing and insight requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. The group have provided input to this SNA and are working on a common technical definition of serious violence and information sharing arrangements to support the development of future needs assessments and joint analytical products. There is a shared ambition for developing a data dashboard on serious violence.

#### 3. Use of qualitative and quantitative data

It is increasingly important for us as a VRP to demonstrate how evidence from lived experience and community insights is being incorporated to build our understanding and inform our priorities.

**Recommendation:** Seek advice from academic partners on how to systemically integrate our local quantitative and qualitative data and demonstrate how evidence from lived experience

**and community insights is being incorporated to build our understanding and inform our priorities.**

**Progress update:** The community engagement work for the Violence Reduction Partnership continues as a priority, including the development of the Citizens Panel approach. The gender and violence qualitative research projects have been completed and are noted in this SNA. A PhD project has been proposed with a focus on blending data science with lived experience evidence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and the development of methodologies and ethical frameworks to underpin this work.

#### 4. Probation data

**Recommendation:** **Work with probation colleagues to agree data sharing agreements to enable the inclusion of probation data in the 2023 SNA and onwards, and to support its interpretation.**

**Progress update:** The use of probation is an essential part of the criminal justice landscape. Probation colleagues are involved in the Serious Violence data steering group and ongoing work is being completed to allow for the inclusion of probation data in upcoming needs assessments.

#### 5. Knife Crime

As highlighted in the previous SNA, knife crime fell overall in 2021, driven by large falls in Nottingham City, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark and Sherwood. By May 2021, knife crime had returned to its pre-pandemic level. There was however a shift in the nature of knife crime during this period, with large falls in knife-related robberies but increases in domestic violence offences involving knives.

**Recommendation:** **Work with police colleagues to interrogate the data on key changes in trends including the patterns of knife crime to understand the increases observed in Violence Against the Person offences involving a knife.**

**Progress update:** The PCC and partner agencies have published the Nottinghamshire Knife Crime Strategy which importantly relates to educating children and young people on the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife. The Youth Justice Service (YJS) work with young people on a voluntary basis, offering preventative interventions to address individual needs with the aim of preventing them from entering the CJS<sup>55</sup>. The data in this refreshed SNA provides an overview of our key knife-crime datasets to interpret the patterns and develop a deeper understanding of knife related violence.

#### 6. Youth violence

It is important to scope a workstream that draws upon the risk factors that heighten a young persons potential involvement in youth violence. These risk factors must be understood at the individual, interpersonal, community and wider society level.

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<sup>55</sup> [Knives and Weapons Guidance 2022 \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)



**Recommendation:** Carry out a deep dive on violence, including sexual violence, occurring with victims aged 15-19 years, building on the under 25s data section of the strategic needs assessment.

**Progress update:** We have sought to increase our understanding of young people experiencing key risk factors cognisant of the pandemic impacts. There is a requirement for schools to share exclusions data with local authorities, and we will undertake to collate alongside missing persons etc. to understand patterns and risk factors including referral pathways and links into support services, paying particular attention to disproportionality.

## 7. Interactions between violence

Violence takes many forms which are often interconnected and share the same root causes. They can take place under the same roof, in any given community or area, happening at the same or different stages of life<sup>56</sup>. Understanding this overlap is important to better address violence in all its forms.

**Recommendation:** Explore the relationship between violence that occurs in public spaces and violence in domestic settings, particularly understanding how patterns of sexual violence, domestic violence and other forms of violence interact.

**Progress update:** An analysis of knife crime and the relationship between offending in public space and private settings in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire has been developed by Dr Andy Newton. This analysis introduced street segment mapping, neighbourhood, and urban mobility contexts. Some overlap was identified for repeat offenders committing both NTE and domestic abuse.

## 8. Criminal justice

In 2021, the VRP commissioned the University of Northampton to explore the nature of serious violence locally<sup>57</sup>. In the study, there was a widespread view that the criminal justice system does not work well for victims or offenders, a situation made worse by the backlog of cases that grew during COVID-19.

**Recommendation:** Assess the issues associated with pressures on the criminal justice system specifically in relation to the experiences of young people affected by serious violence to understand the impacts on their wellbeing and behaviors, and the wider community.

**Progress update:** The reducing reoffending board is convened by the OPCC to facilitate statutory obligations on partner agencies to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of reoffending in the area. A delivery plan and performance framework was developed to focus partnership efforts on reducing reoffending, broadly covering criminogenic need, priority themes and priority cohorts. The theme of young people affected by serious violence has been raised with the

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<sup>56</sup> [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence \(cdc.gov\)](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Exploring Serious Violence in Nottinghamshire – A Qualitative Study — University of Northampton's Research Explorer](#)

criminal justice board, who lead on pathways in the criminal justice system, mitigating the impacts of changes and pressures in the systems and any misconceptions among local communities.

### 9. Risk factors amongst young people

Schools and colleges, including alternative provision 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 that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities. It is therefore important to consider how this environment identifies children and young people that are vulnerable to violence.

**Recommendation:** Scope the potential for a workstream to develop our understanding of young people experiencing key risk factors of missing episodes, exclusions and alternative provision, and those not in education, employment and training.

**Progress update:** The serious violence duty includes a requirement for schools and alternative education providers to share data with local authorities on exclusions. This data will be collated alongside data on missing episodes and risk factors, paying attention to disproportionality as an additional insight data stream to understand local patterns.

### 10. Domestic violence prevention in schools

The YEF toolkit<sup>58</sup> shows that relationship violence prevention activities are likely to have a moderate impact on keeping children safe from involvement in violence. The research suggests that these activities can reduce all types of dating and relationship violence, including emotional, physical, and sexual violence, and violence that takes place online.

**Recommendation:** Support the ongoing rollout of schools-based domestic violence prevention programmes focused on healthy relationships, in alignment with the commitments in the Make Notts Safe Plan from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Progress update:** The PCC has funded schools-based domestic violence prevention programmes focused on health relationships. Equations have been funded to deliver healthy relationships awareness and domestic abuse prevention education to primary and secondary schools plus alternative provisions across the City and County. In addition, the funding is supporting the scoping of provision in SEN schools as well as the development of SEN resources and tools, and for the schools to deliver themselves. Partners are exploring opportunities to evaluate the impact of this local programme.

### 11. Spiking Incidents and the NTE

In Autumn 2021, there were numerous reports of spiking incidents here a noxious substance was administered in the spiking of a drink or by needle injection. Nottinghamshire police stood up 'Operation Windblown' to work with partners and take further actions to improve safety and provide reassurance across community groups.

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<sup>58</sup> [Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities - Youth Endowment Fund](#)

**Recommendation:** Collate the police data from October 2021 onwards on spiking incidents, reviewing alongside injury surveillance data, and a refreshed strategic approach to the night-time economy.

**Progress update:** Injury surveillance data indicates there has not been a repeat of the spiking incidents seen in Autumn 2021 during 2022/23. The focus on improving safety and feelings of safety in night time economy is included in the new VAWG strategy. Interventions such as Police Nights of Action have been supported through the PCC-led safety of women at night funding, in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire City Council.

## 12. Community conversations

It is important to consider the factors that influence why certain cohorts remain significantly over-represented as perpetrators and victims of serious violence as this can lead to more effective prevention strategies and a deeper understanding of violent crime more widely. Discussions with communities will shed more light on these factors.

**Recommendation:** Integrate the findings from the community assets assessment and qualitative research with our ongoing community conversations on key themes of disproportionality, adversity and trauma, and financial wellbeing, linking in with other strategic workstreams including the joint health and wellbeing strategies.

**Progress update:** Key themes identified within the Community Assets Assessment have been recognised and picked up in community conversations, most recently with the Another Way (Focused Deterrence) project community listening event that included discussions around deprivation, education and community cohesion.

## 13. Violence on social media

The role that social media plays has been of concern for some time and continues to present a challenge as an area of young people's lives that is hidden from carers and professionals. The NNVRP has previously commissioned training on social media risks for practitioners working with children and young people from St Giles Trust; further consideration of how to facilitate ongoing practice development and upskilling is warranted.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen the partnerships response to the incitement of violence on social media and issues concerning contextual safeguarding in the online space, building on recommendations from the research undertaken by the St Giles Trust and the Online Safety Bill. This should include consistent approaches to the identification of online intelligence, exploring the implementation of an anonymised reporting facility, training across agencies, and other approaches to workforce development including establishment of communities of practice.

**Progress update:** The Online Safety Bill has been delayed further. In the meantime, as part of the Nottinghamshire Police Knife Crime Strategy, the offer is understood with any potential social media commentary triaged by intelligence for warning, disruption notices, arrests or further intelligence tasking.

## 4.2 ONS crime severity scores

Home Office Classification	ONS Crime Severity Score
MURDER	7,832.0
MURDER(ATTEMPT)	4,707.4
RAPE OF MALE UNDER 13	3,862.6
RAPE OF FEMALE UNDER 16	3,825.8
RAPE OF MALE UNDER 16	3,394.7
RAPE OF FEMALE OVER 16	3,163.4
RAPE OF FEMALE UNDER 13	3,043.4
RAPE OF A MALE - MULTIPLE UNDEFINED OFFENDERS	2,834.3
RAPE OF MALE OVER 16	2,834.3
RAPE OF A FEMALE - MULTIPLE UNDEFINED OFFENDERS	2,165.5
ASSAULT W/I CAUSE SERIOUS HARM - 5/1, 5/6, 5/27 ONLY	2,087.8
ENDANGERING LIFE - ALL OTHER 5A CODES	1,923.3
SEX ASSAULT FEMALE UNDER 13	1,294.8
CAUSE/ALLOW DEATH OF CHILD OR VULNERABLE PERSON	1,196.3
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	993.5
ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	993.5
SEX ASSAULT MALE UNDER 13	977.9
SEX ASSAULT MALE OVER 13	908.6
SEX ASSAULT FEMALE OVER 13	497.8
ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE	443.2
THREATS TO KILL	310.7
RACIAL/RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	297.0
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	203.1

## 4.3 Key definitions

### Prevention and diversion

Prevention when used by a public body generally refers to an intervention to stop something happening to somebody. For example, a *sexual harm prevention order* may be taken out against someone who is considered to pose a risk of sexual harm to either the public, a group, or individual person(s). It can also refer to non-legal actions and actions against less clearly defined risks.

The NNVRP has established a **three-tier prevention approach**, which recognizes that there are opportunities for prevention even after a problem has emerged.

- Primary prevention aims to prevent the problem occurring in the first place.
- Secondary prevention provides early intervention, identifying risk factors as they begin to emerge and working to reduce them whilst increasing protective factors.

- Tertiary prevention aims to ensure an ongoing problem is managed to avoid crises and reduce harmful consequences, supporting a young person to access more positive pathways.

Diversion is an intervention to involve the person themselves in pursuing a less harmful or unlawful course of action than might otherwise be the case. This can be quite broadly conceived but will usually mean that the individuals or groups involved are assessed as being at some heightened risk and have been referred to that intervention.

- Diversion could be sports and activities but might also include more educational elements such as decision-making.

In the **Youth Justice setting**, both terms have a more structured meaning. The youth justice board identifies early prevention as occurring prior to any offending but includes the objective of preventing entry into the youth justice system – as well as addressing other needs. Targeted prevention is offered where a child has been in contact with the youth justice system but is not currently in receipt of any programme because of that offending. Diversion is where a child has committed an offence but receives an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record. These diversion options, which include an out of court disposals, give some flexibility to police charging decisions.

### Trauma informed practice

Trauma informed practice is an approach which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individuals neurological, biological, psychological and social development, thus shaping a person's world view and relationship development.

- **Trauma** results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful, or life threatening, and that has lasting adverse effects on the individuals functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual wellbeing.
- **Re-traumatisation** is the re-experiencing of thoughts, feeling or sensations experienced at the time of a traumatic event or circumstance in a person's past.
  - It is generally triggered by reminders of previous trauma which may or may not be potentially traumatic in themselves.

Being trauma-informed means assuming that people are more likely than not to have a history of traumatic experiences and that these experiences may impact on their ability to feel safe within or develop trusting relationships with services and their staff. Trauma-informed practice is not designed to treat trauma related difficulties:

- It seeks to address the barriers that those affected by trauma can experience when accessing care and services.
- Trauma-specific services are specialist services designed to treat trauma, offering specific care, support and interventions for the consequences of trauma.

### Organised crime groups and urban street gangs

There is significant overlap between the activities of organised crime groups (OCGs) and urban street gangs (USGs), and many USGs go on to evolve into OCGs. Gangs tend to be less organised and more concerned with perpetuating a threat of violence or harm across a particular and smaller area related to its core activities.

The **Serious Crime Act 2015**<sup>59</sup> defines an OCG as a group which:

- Has, at its purpose or one of its purposes, the carrying on of criminal activities
- Consists of three or more persons who act, or agree to act, together to further that purpose.

It is not necessary for the individual participating in the OCGs criminal activities to know any of the group members, for all of the acts comprising participation in the groups criminal activities to take place in England and Wales (as long as at least one does), or for the gain or benefit of criminal activities to be financial in nature.

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<sup>59</sup> [Serious Crime Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) – Section 45 (6)

## 5. Glossary

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>ABH</b>	Actual Bodily Harm
<b>AOABH</b>	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services
<b>CPP</b>	Child Protection Plan
<b>COYL</b>	Commission on Young Lives
<b>CSS</b>	Crime severity score
<b>DEx</b>	Disrupting Exploitation
<b>EMAS</b>	East Midlands Ambulance Service
<b>EHCP</b>	Education, health and care plan
<b>ECDS</b>	Emergency Care Dataset
<b>HESS</b>	Hospital Episode Statistics
<b>ISTV</b>	Information Sharing To Tackle Violence
<b>KMH</b>	Kings Mill Hospital
<b>MARAC</b>	Multi-Agency risk assessment conference
<b>MI</b>	Management Information
<b>MSG</b>	Most similar group
<b>MSHT</b>	Modern Slavery Human Trafficking
<b>NICL</b>	National Incident Category list
<b>NTE</b>	Night time economy
<b>NEET</b>	Not in Education, Employment or Training
<b>NNVRP</b>	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership
<b>NRM</b>	National Referral Mechanism
<b>NTU</b>	Nottingham Trent University
<b>OIC</b>	Organised Immigration Crime
<b>ONS</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>OPCC</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>OCG</b>	Organised Crime Group
<b>PCSC</b>	Police, Crime and Sentencing Court
<b>QMC</b>	Queens Medical Centre
<b>RCSS</b>	Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
<b>SARC</b>	Sexual assault referral centre
<b>SMD</b>	Severe multiple disadvantage
<b>SEND</b>	Special Educational Need and Disability
<b>SNA</b>	Strategic Needs Assessment
<b>THRIVE</b>	Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability and Engagement
<b>USG</b>	Urban Street Gang
<b>VAP</b>	Violence Against the Person
<b>VRP</b>	Violence Reduction Partnership
<b>YEF</b>	Youth Endowment Fund
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service