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What are the risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the United Kingdom aged 10-24 years old, and how effective are targeted intervention as a preventative method of knife crime?

Gareth Thomas 2124768

University: UWTSD Swansea

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Declaration

This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree.

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This dissertation is being submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of BSc Policing and Criminology.

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Statement 2:

This dissertation is the result of my own independent work/investigation, except where otherwise stated.

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Abstract

Knife crime is becoming an increasingly serious issue across the United Kingdom. It is often associated with drug dealing, gang violence and organised criminal activities. There is a substantial body of literature describing knife crime statistics in communities, however there is less research on the risk factors associated with knife crime and young people. Furthermore, there is little evidence on the effectiveness of preventative strategies and methods in the communities.

This dissertation aims to investigate the risk factors associated with knife crime and young people and how preventative methods can be an effective deterrent to knife crime.

Analysis of existing literature on knife crime and its association with young people was completed. Both primary and secondary research was conducted by the researcher and compared to establish any patterns.

The findings were presented and analysed to provide recommendations for future research and assist with raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime and the risk it possesses to young people.

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Chapter one – Introduction

Knife crime is a crime which involves an object with a blade or sharp instrument. If a knife or sharp object is used during the commission of an offence, then the Police will record it as a knife crime. For example, if a knife was used during a robbery offence, this would be labelled as a knife crime. According to recent statistics at the end of March 2023, there were approximately 50,500 recorded offences involving sharp instruments in England and Wales. This statistic is an increase of 4.7% in comparison to the previous year 2021/2022 (Allen *et al*, 2023). Additionally, when looking at a longer period it shows that Police figures for knife crime have increased by approximately 75%, compared to 2012/2013 (Popham, 2023). Knife recorded crimes have increased in all Police forces across the United Kingdom which is a cause for concern. It is therefore a worthy topic for an undergraduate research dissertation.

The Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice research (2013) advise there are two motivators for young people carrying knives. The first being, a young person's fear of crime, which could be because of that individual's previous experience of victimisation. The second motivator being a young person's belief that carrying a knife offers such protection against any potential of victimization.

There is research to suggest that there is a lack of trust between the Police and young people especially in areas with a lower socio-economic status. An example of this lack of trust is the unwillingness of young people to co-operate with Police, accompanied with the feeling of needing to carry a knife for protection (Skarlatidou *et al* 2021). This project has the sole aim of investigating the risk factors associated with knife crime in young people aged 10 to 24 and questions the effectiveness of targeted interventions as preventative methods.

For this research project the following three objectives have been identified:

- 1) Analyse statistics and figures of the prevalence of knife crime in the United Kingdom.
- 2) Discuss the risk factors associated with Knife crime for young people aged 10-24 years old.
- 3) Explore how effective early interventions are as a preventative strategy

To answer the set objectives, a questionnaire was distributed and answered by Police officers working in different departments within South Wales Police. The questionnaire aimed to help answer the objectives and allow the researcher to accurately analyse the findings at the conclusion of the project. The questions covered a variety of topics such as establishing officer experience in dealing with knife crime and their opinions on the involvement of young people and how effective intervention methods are in preventing knife crime.

Chapter two – Literature review

2.1 Introduction

A literature review is described as an evidence-based, in-depth analysis of current academic literature on a specific topic. A literature review offers the opportunity to identify any

limitations within current research and highlight areas of focus in future research (Winchester and Salji, 2016). This chapter will focus on the current academic research on risk factors associated with knife crime and the effect on young people. The chapter will discuss the effectiveness of targeted interventions as a preventative method in reducing knife crime. Additionally, it will consider any limitations in the literature and identify areas for future research to assist with the reduction of knife crime in young people.

2.2 Prevalence of knife crime in the UK

Knife crime is as a crime which involves an object with a blade or sharp instrument (e.g. broken bottle). If a knife or sharp object is used during the commission of an offence, then it will be recorded as a knife crime. In 2022/23 there were approximately 50,500 recorded offences involving sharp instruments in England and Wales. This is a 4.7% increase compared to 2021/2022. The data shows an increase in offences using a knife or sharp object since 2010/11 (Allen *et al*, 2023). Police data demonstrates a 75% increase in knife crime compared to 2012/2013 (Popham, 2023). Assaults with injury, intent to cause serious harm and robbery were the main offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded in 2021 (Allen *et al*, 2023).

Knife crime is a topic frequently discussed in mainstream media, and particularly its association with younger people. Statistics from the Ministry of Justice suggest that young people aged between 10-17 years old represent one in five of knife crime perpetrators (Allen *et al*, 2023). However, hospital admissions data show that only 15-20% of knife crime victims are aged 18 or under. Despite this, medical professionals from accident and emergency (A&E) departments report that the injuries were becoming more severe, and victims becoming younger. In 2018, teenagers accounted for more than 1000 hospital admissions resulting from assaults involving a knife or sharp object (NHS, 2019). Similarly, research from hospital A&E admissions data between 1997-2008 found that 11% of admissions for stabbing injuries involved victims who were aged 18 or under (Squires, 2011). There are limitations to this research as most of the data was collected during the late 1990s and early 2000s, therefore the research is likely outdated and not reflective of the current situation. However, the research does highlight the correlation between knife crime injuries and young people. Studies by Bentham (2019) and Grierson (2020) found that approximately one-thirds

of all knife crime offences occur in London, United Kingdom, and 10 – 25-year-olds account for two-thirds of these incidents involving knife crime.

Gang culture and gang violence is highly associated with knife crime across cities in the United Kingdom, however it is difficult to quantify the true effects as there is no legal definition for a 'gang'. Shamserad *et al* (2021) defines a gang as "any durable, street-orientated youth group whose involvement in illegal activity is part of its group identity". During 2007/2008, Manchester Police Service reported the death of 55 people aged 13-19 years and stated that more than half were because of gang violence (Densley, 2011). As there is no *legal* definition for a 'gang', there are questions surrounding the credibility of the data published by the researchers and would suggest there is potentially a gap in the research between 'gang association' and knife crime. Furthermore, there are limitations to the research by Densley, 2011 as the data collected is obtained from 2007 & 2008 and therefore outdated.

Since 2013, knife and offensive weapon possession offences have resulted in more custodial sentences compared to cautions and community sentences (The Ministry of Justice, 2024). Knife possession offences resulting in custodial sentences lasting more than six months have continued to increase since 2009. The research also suggests that such punishment for knife offences has had major implications on the safety of prisons and young offender institution.

In conclusion, the data demonstrates that the incidence and prevalence of knife crime has significantly increased in previous decades.

2.3 Risk factors associated with Knife Crime for young people 10-24 years old?

A research paper by Vinnakota *et al* (2022) analysed the causes and risk factors associated with knife crime in the United Kingdom from 2011 to 2021. The study included an analysis of knife crime reports by six online news portals including Metro, Daily Mail, The Sun, The Guardian, and the Daily Mirror. 692 reports were produced on knife crime between January 2011 and December 2021. The study found that those aged between 11-20 years old were the individuals most at risk and vulnerable to knife crime. In relation to sex differences, it was reported that males were more likely to be reported as both victims and perpetrators compared to females. The study also found that street violence, gang attacks, robbery and

personal family problems are both risk factors and catalysts for knife crime. Despite this, the data is limited given only six online news portals were analysed. A meta-analysis by Haylock *et al*, (2020) evaluated 16 studies which investigated the risk factors associated with weapon-related crime. A positive correlation was found between knife crime and adolescence. The literature shows that prevalence of carrying a weapon increases with age, from 30% aged 11-13 years old, up to 52.6% aged 18-19 years old (Barlas *et al*, 2006).

Research commissioned by Manchester City Council's Youth Justice Service investigated serious youth violence by interviewing justice-involved young people and youth justice workers. The research found that 30% (n=60) of the 200 justice-involved children had been charged with carrying a knife/bladed article. Children reportedly carry knives because of both the fear and desire to protect themselves, whilst simultaneously not being fully aware of the risks e.g. being a victim or perpetrator of knife crime (Gray *et al*, 2020). This research collected qualitative data from justice-involved young people as well as those working with them which increases the reliability and credibility of the research; however, the research was conducted in 2020, which may suggest the research is somewhat outdated.

Seven studies included in the meta-analysis by Haylock *et al* (2020) demonstrated an association between adolescents who had adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and weapon related crime. ACE can be defined as potentially traumatic incidents that happen in childhood. Such incidents can include abuse, violence, and substance misuse all of which can interfere with normal brain development and how the body responds to stress (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). Gray *et al* (2020) found 66% (n=132) of the 200 children had five or more ACE, which included abuse (sexual, emotional and/or physical), neglect and/or loss. Smith *et al* (2007) found that young people aged 15 or under who had conflicts with parents were at higher risk of offending, whilst strong parental attachment and positive parental relationships acted as a deterrent to young people offending.

The meta-analysis by Haylock *et al* (2020) included three studies which looked at the relationship between school exclusion and involvement in knife crime. A study by Clement (2010) found that in Bristol, there was an association between school exclusion and the involvement of young people in violence, as 80% of young offenders had previously been excluded from school. Contrastingly, a study by Briggs (2013) involving qualitative interviews

found that some individuals involved in crime had obtained GCSEs. Additionally, a study by Hayden *et al* (2010) found very little difference in school exclusion rates offending; 44% for offenders and 40% for non-offenders. There is a limitation to this study and questions surrounding the reliability of statistics due to all participants being removed from their family home which could have affected the results.

The meta-analysis by Haylock *et al* (2020) included three studies which investigated the association of knife crime with poor mental health. All three determined that factors such as suicide, depression, and self-harm as a risk for knife crime. A cross-sectional study of 20 adolescents charged with homicide, were all suffering from psychological vulnerabilities (Bailey *et al*, 2001). In comparison, a case control study by Wood *et al* (2017) of 1,539 men, found that self-defined gang members and associates were more likely to suffer with anxiety, psychosis, and suicide attempts than violent men not associated with gangs.

Relationships and friendships have been found to be a major factor in knife crime among young people. The meta-analysis by Haylock *et al* (2020) included seven independent studies which all found that peer influence was a risk factor for knife crime. In addition, relationships and peer influence have been found to be a catalyst for young people to join criminal gangs. A study by Alleyne *et al* (2016) found that 65% of self-defined gang members state the reason for joining was due to a friend being a member. Weapon carrying and violence has been found to be a way of gaining status, power, and a way of demonstrating masculinity (Haylock *et al*, 2020). “Feeling powerful” and “peer admiration” were some of the most common reasons for weapon carrying by young people (Barlas 2006).

2.4 Early interventions as a preventative strategy

Vinnakota *et al* (2022) found that knife crime in the United Kingdom is in fact a public health concern and educating young people about the dangers of knife crime is essential. Early interventions such as workshops and group discussions at school have been found to be somewhat helpful when trying to prevent knife crime. Vinnakota *et al* (2022) concluded that reducing the prevalence of risk factors and increasing positive factors such as improving self-esteem, positive school attachment, strong parental bonds and academic achievement are all things that can reduce violence among young people.

A study by England & Jackson (2013) asked 140 pupils aged between 11-16 years old from four different schools in Liverpool, to give their opinion on the effectiveness of a session delivered by a nurse-clinician about the possible consequences of knife crime. The study included a two-hour session where the dangers of knife crime were highlighted and photographs of potential injuries. Such educational school-based interventions were found to be effective. The students rated the session as 'good' (48%) or 'excellent' (28%). Furthermore, 77% of students reported that they would re-consider carrying a knife after attending the educational session. The study is limited by its small sample size and geographical reach; however it does highlight the positive impact such sessions can have on young people. The inclusion of schools from other major UK cities would allow a more robust data set and analysis to be conducted.

A study by Ward *et al* (2011) looked at how effective prevention strategies such as 'Stop Search', curfews, and media amnesties had on knife crime. The intervention was called 'Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme' (TKAP). The programme nominated 16 areas who all shared an annual funding of £4-5million. The funding was used by different organisations to develop their own initiatives and interventions to prevent knife crime. For example, Police forces looked at how they could make best use of their 'Stop Search' power. The interventions were reviewed by analysing data from A&E, Police records and public perception. The results did not show a significant difference between hospital admissions or homicide data in TKAP areas compared to non-TKAP areas. Additionally, there was no significant difference in offences of possession of a knife in TKAP areas compared to non-TKAP areas. The findings suggest that interventions such as 'Stop Search' and media appeals doesn't prevent knife crime. Moreover, a study by Murray *et al* (2020) found that such interventions can increase offending behaviour among young people in England and Scotland due to the lack of trust in policing.

A study by Williams *et al* (2014) compared two male groups aged 16-29 years old from deprived areas in Glasgow. One group (n=167) were male offenders who had engaged with various community initiatives to reduce violence, and the second group (n=167) were gang-involved youths who did not engage with any intervention programmes. The interventions included access to opportunities and support with education, housing, and various training programmes. In the first year 167 male offenders reached the follow up, and after two years

124 males completed the study. Criminal records from Police submissions to the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) were analysed as an outcome measure. After the first year, results demonstrated a greater reduction in knife carrying in the intervention group compared to the group with no interventions, 65% and 35% respectively. A further reduction in knife carrying was found in the second year; 82% for the intervention group and 40% for the group with no interventions. This data highlights the potential benefit of providing offenders with access to education, housing, and employment to reduce knife carrying which will very likely reduce knife crime as a result. Future research should include women participants to assess any difference in the effect of such interventions. Furthermore, a study by Crabbe (2009) looked at the positive effect diversionary activities such as sport can have on reducing knife crime amongst young people. He explains, participation in sport can keep young people occupied and busy whilst providing them direction and a sense of control. He further explains that a young person's association with a sporting team, can provide the similar positive feeling in which a 'gang' member may feel. This highlights the importance of guiding and directing young people in to participating in sports to prevent their participation in 'gang activities'.

A study by Gilbert and Sinclair (2019) looked at the effectiveness of an intervention named 'Devastating After Effect' anti-crime sessions. This intervention included sessions delivered by a facilitator who had personal experience of the effects of knife crime. The session included a short film followed by a group discussion. Between 2016 and 2019, the sessions were delivered to 13,683 pupils aged 13-15 years old across 57 schools in London and Luton. The aim of the intervention was to change the attitude of young people who carried knives. Questionnaires were used before and after the sessions to measure the intervention's effectiveness. The results showed that, prior to the intervention, 14% of the students said they would consider carrying a knife. After attending the session this reduced to 9%. Initially, 26% of the students believed that carrying a knife would keep them safe prior to the intervention, however this was decreased dramatically to 6% following the intervention. The sessions also had an impact on knife awareness; 87% of students said they would now prevent a peer from carrying a knife, compared to 76% of students prior to the intervention.

2.5 Conclusion

There is a significant amount of research available for knife crime and its effects on young people in the United Kingdom. The literature demonstrates that knife crime is a serious public health concern throughout the United Kingdom and needs attention immediately. Further research is required to gain a better understanding on the risk factors for knife crime and which interventions are most effective in its prevention, and to reduce the gap in research by obtaining accurate and up to date data. Engaging with young people in schools, particularly in areas where knife crime is more prevalent, offers an opportunity to promote behaviour changes, compared to alternative methods such as the use of stop search and media appeals. This literature review has provided a better understanding of the risk factors associated with knife crime in young people. The next chapter will highlight the research methodology and how data will be collected prior to being analysed.

Chapter Three – Research methodology

3.1 – Introduction

Research can be defined as a meticulous and systematic inquiry designed to explore and unravel specific subjects (Jain, 2023). The previous chapter outlined the existing literature on knife crime and the effectiveness of interventions as a preventative method. This chapter will outline the methodology for the research project, the strategy, data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations. This research project will consist of primary research i.e original data collection in the form of an electronic survey created by the researcher. Primary research is firsthand information rather than obtaining from a second-hand source (Streefkerk, 2022). Primary sources can consist of statistics, interviews, law cases and surveys which are all information obtained first-hand. Primary data is recognised as a data that has been obtained directly by an individual in comparison with secondary data which is collected by someone else. Accurate data, controlled sample sizes and personalised research methods are all known advantages of primary data. In comparison, advantages of

secondary data collection can be less time consuming and a less expensive method. (Saunders *et al* 2009).

3.2 - Research Strategy

This research will be cross sectional providing a snapshot of data collected at one point in time. This strategy is suitable for data collection under time constraint (Setia 2016). This study will use a mix method approach whereby both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection will be used. The unit of research will be an online survey from Qualtrics survey. A mix methods approach allows more comprehensive and reliable data to be obtained (Tariq *et al*, 2013). This method will be useful to explore the knowledge and opinions of Police officers on knife crime in young people. The method of sampling will be targeted whereby participants are specifically selected from the general population i.e., Police officers. Purposing sampling is used when the opinion of experts in a particular field is required for data analysis (Martinez-Mesa *et al*, 2016).

For participants to be eligible they will need to be Police officers dealing with the public specifically response officers, neighbourhood policing teams, and priority policing teams. Eligible participants will be recruited through opportunistic sampling via the principal researcher's colleagues and associates. This method increases selection bias however it is a realistic approach for this research (Palinkas *et al*, 2015). The email will include information regarding the aim of the research, the estimated completion time, and the hyperlink to the online survey from Qualtrics. This research has been approved by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David prior to data collection.

3.3 - Data Collection

The survey was curated based on the research objectives. A survey allows a professional and user-friendly method of collecting data which can reach a large audience quickly. Individuals will complete the survey independently, reducing the risk of any social desirability bias as no researcher needs to be present (Ball 2019). Using Qualtrics as a survey platform will allow anonymity of data meaning it will not be possible to identify participants via their responses. Prior to distribution of the survey a small internal pilot will be conducted with two to three participants to ensure that the survey is user friendly and allows estimation of its completion

time. The pilot will allow identification of any errors in the survey such as data entry (Hassan *et al* 2006). The data obtained from the pilot will be omitted from the primary data collection. The main data collection is expected to generate approximately 30 -35 responses.

3.4 - Data Analysis

Qualitative data will be analysed using Microsoft Excel to identify themes, counts and representative quotes (Maguire *et al* 2017). Each participant response will be allocated to a particular theme. Representative quotes from some of the themes given will be included within the results section as examples. Quantitative data will also be analysed using Microsoft Excel. Results will both be presented in graph and table format. Microsoft Excel is flexible, fast and an accurate method of data analysis due to the many features available. Additionally, Microsoft Excel offers benefits like specialist software and internet delivery programmes without the researcher requiring specific skill set and therefore a user-friendly way of analysing data effectively. The use of Microsoft Excel is also a cost-effective method of analysing data as it does not require the same investment as specialist programs (Black *et al* 2005).

3.5 – Limitations and Ethical considerations

The data obtained will be anonymous. Data will be collected by Qualtrics and downloaded into Excel. Each participant will be assigned an ID code to allow anonymity to all participants. Eligible participants will be invited to complete the survey. Before commencing the survey, participants will be provided with an information sheet which will be incorporated in the online Qualtrics survey. This will outline the aim of the research the survey estimated completion time and that all responses will be anonymised. If agreeable to take part, they can commence the survey.

The sample of participants are only based within the South Wales Police constabulary. Given that only one constabulary is being surveyed it would therefore be misleading to generalise the results at a national level. Despite this, the results will offer insights on the opinions of knife crime by Police serving officers in the South Wales area. Such a survey could be completed by other constabularies across the United Kingdom to compare regional differences. The reliability of the results obtained will be compromised by the studies small,

predicted sample size. However, the predicted sample size is a realistic number given the time constraints attached to an undergraduate project.

3.6. Conclusion

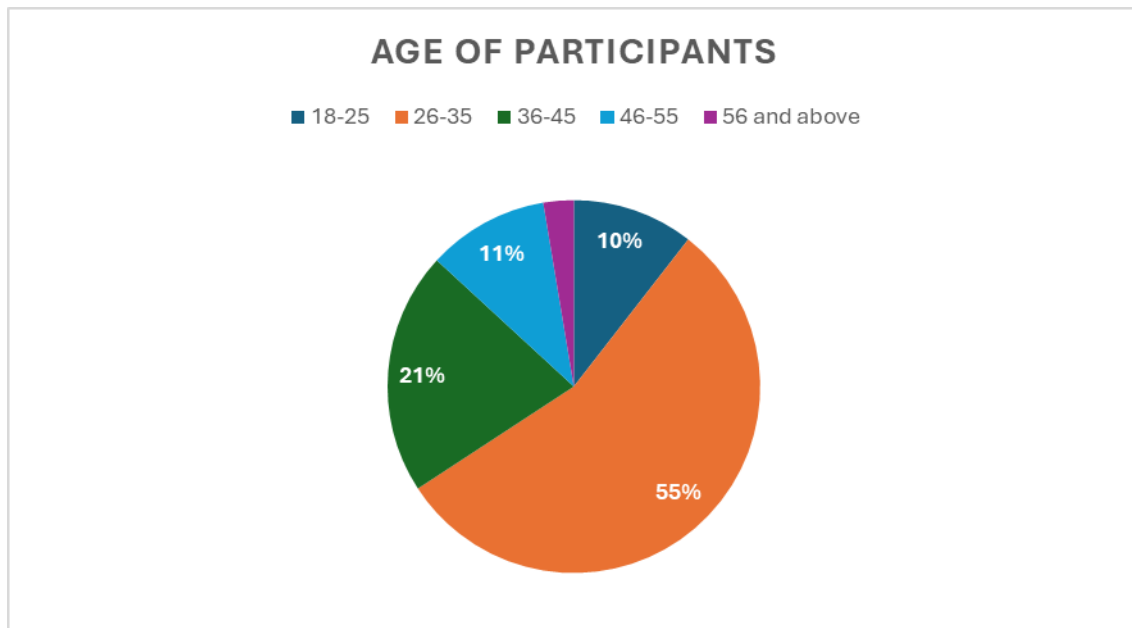
This chapter highlights the research methodology for this project and describes the different types of research with their advantages and limitations. An electronic survey was chosen as it is time efficient and easily accessible. The following chapter will analyse the findings from the survey and present the data in graphs and charts.

Chapter four – Results and Analysis

This chapter will display and analyse the results obtained from the questionnaire distributed to Police officers currently working within South Wales Police. Qualtrics Survey was used to produce the questionnaire, which consisted of both quantitative and qualitative questions. This results chapter will highlight South Wales Police officers' experiences with knife crime, their perception of risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the UK, and the effectiveness of targeted interventions in their opinion. The questionnaire was distributed to 38 serving Police officers in South Wales Police.

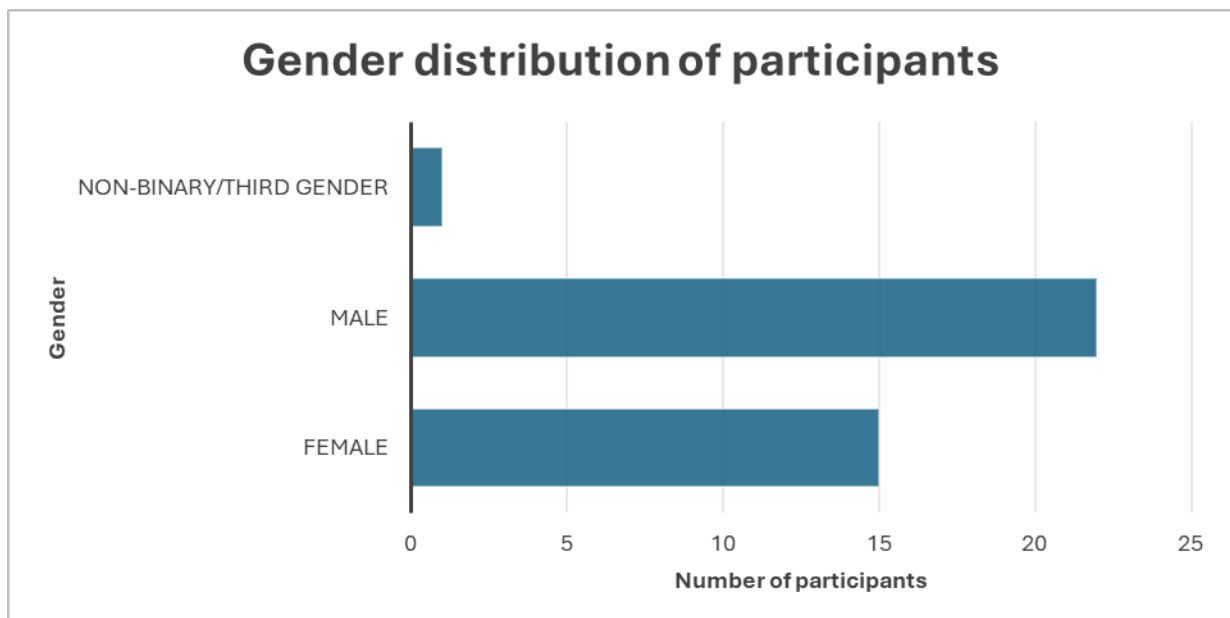
Question 1 – Age

Figure one displays the age ranges for participants. Most participants (55%) were aged between 26-35 years. Only 3% of participants were aged 56 and over.



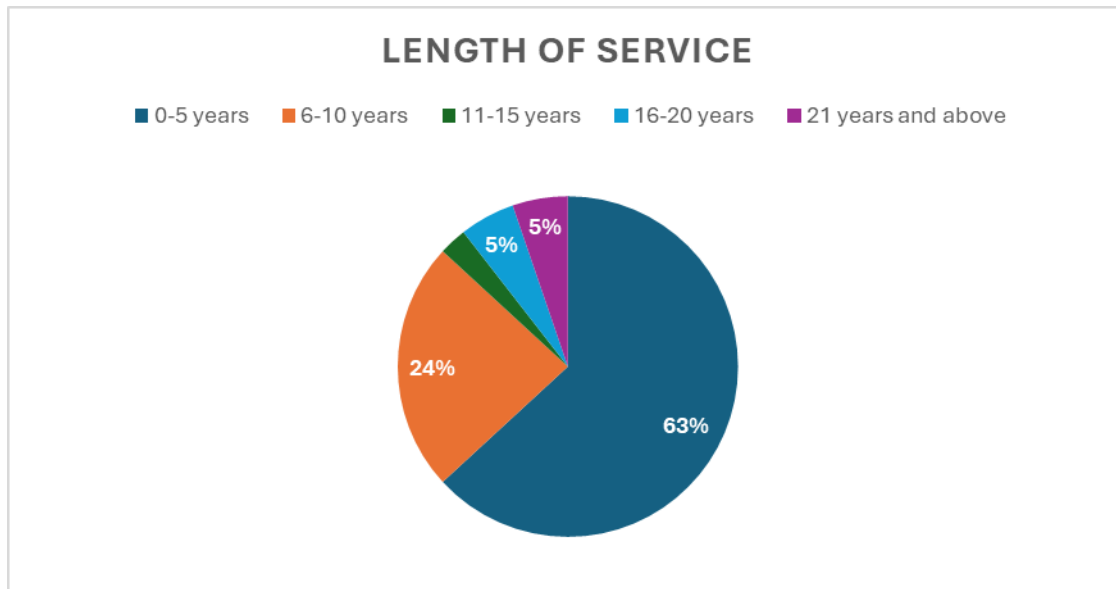
Question 2 – Gender distribution of participants

Figure 2 shows the gender distribution for participants. Most participants were male (n=22), followed by (n=15) females. 1 participant identified as non-binary/third gender.



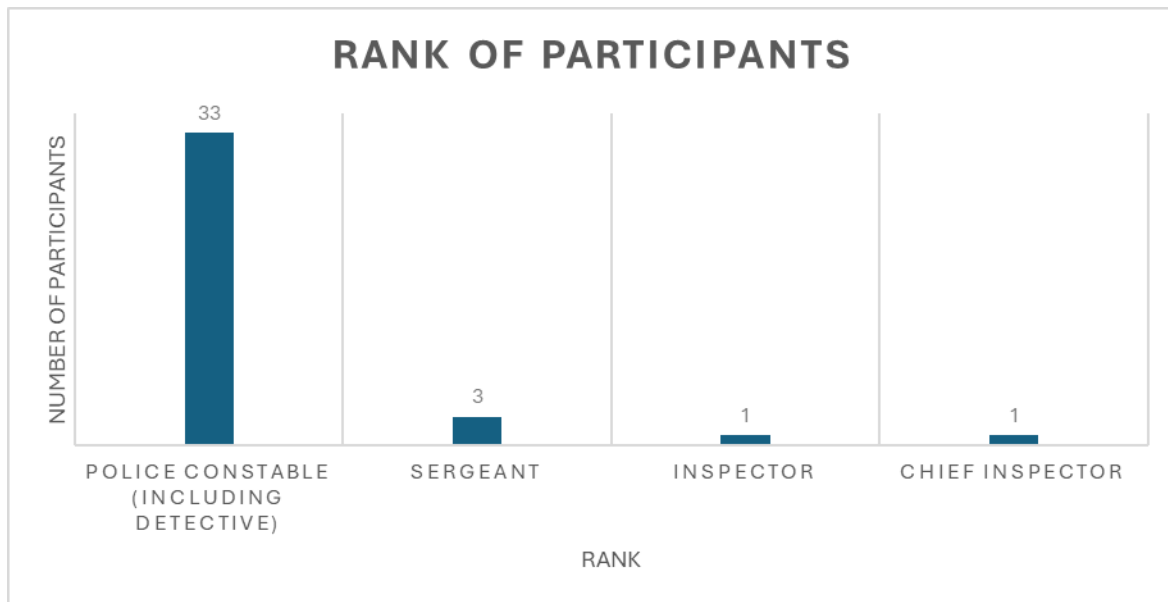
Question 3 – Length of service

Participants were asked for their length of service to determine their level of experience. The aim of the question was also to establish their perception of knife crime over the years. 63% of participants answered that they had less than 5 years' experience and 24% of participants answered that they had between 6-10 years' experience. Only 5% of participants had over 21 years of service.



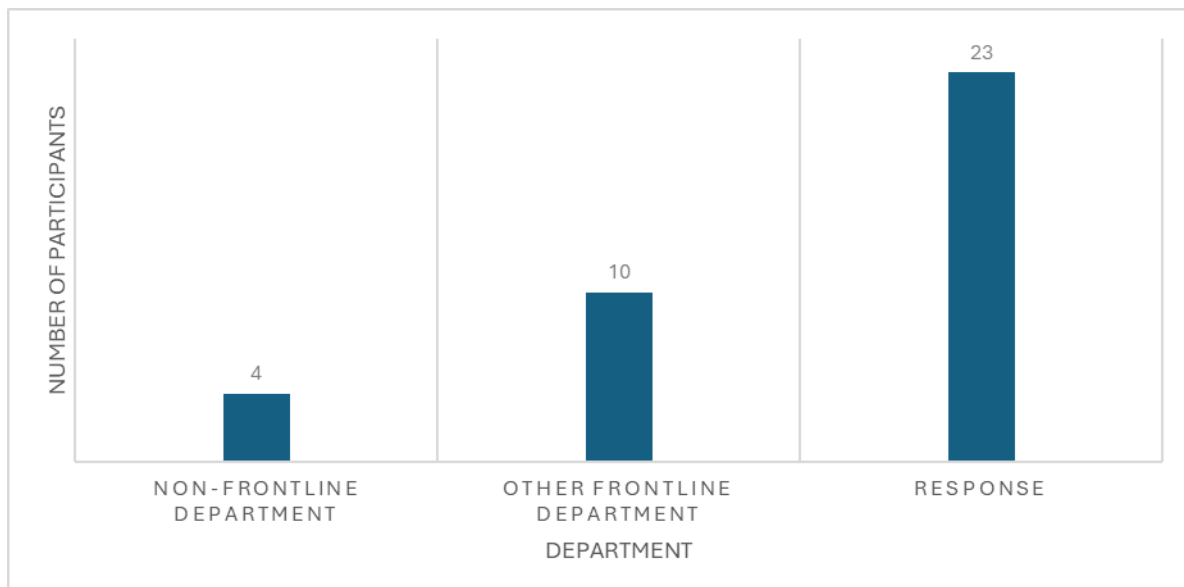
Question 4 – Rank of participants

Figure 4 shows that 33 respondents were of Police Constable rank. This is relevant as constables are more likely to be dealing with knife crime in the community compared to higher ranking Police officers who may be more involved in managerial roles.



Question 5 – Department

Figure 5 shows that 23 participants were currently working as response officers. Such a role would likely involve encounters with knife crime when undergoing day to day duties. 4 participants answered that they're in a non-frontline department and 10 participants answered that that they worked in alternative front-line departments on special teams such as Op Sceptre, major crime etc.

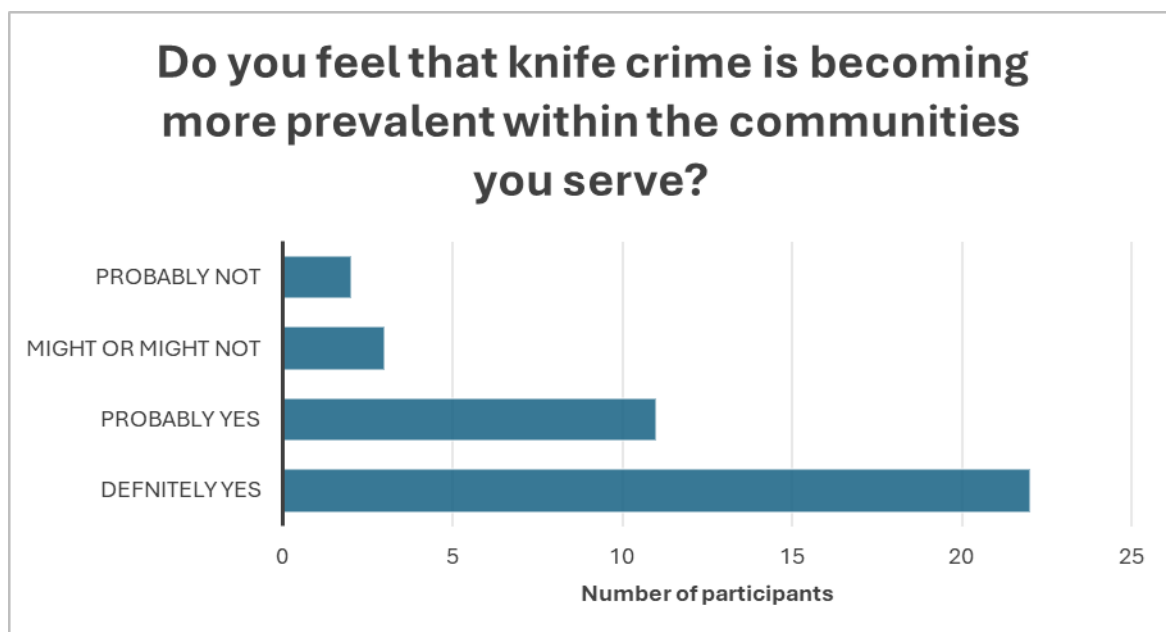


Question 6 – Do you feel that knife crime is becoming more prevalent within the communities you serve?

Figure 6 demonstrates that participants overwhelmingly believe that knife crime is becoming more prevalent. 22 participants answered, 'Definitely yes' whilst 11 participants answered 'Probably yes'. In contrast, only 2 participants answered, 'Probably not'.

Similarly, according to recent statistics at the end of March 2023, there were approximately 50,500 recorded offences involving sharp instrument in England and Wales. This statistic is an increase of 4.7% in comparison to the previous year 2021/2022 (Allen *et al*, 2023).

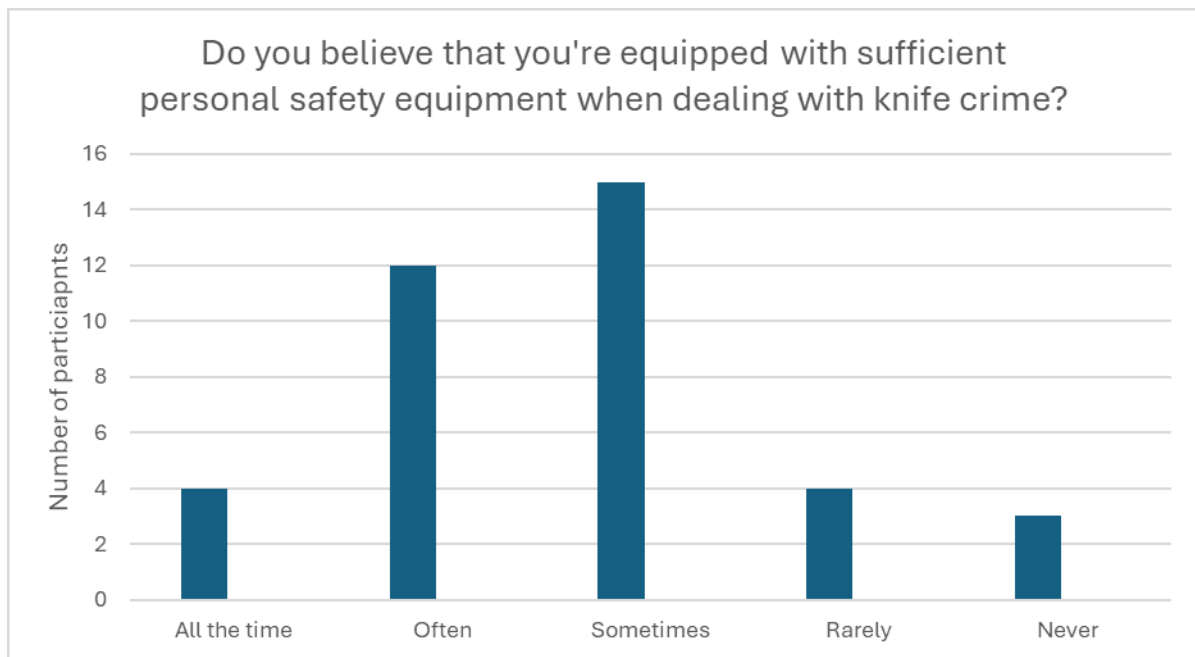
Additionally, when looking at a longer period it shows that Police figures for knife crime has increased nearly three quarters from a decade ago as it is now approximately 75% higher than in 2012/2013 (Popham, 2023).



Question 7 – Do you believe that you're equipped with sufficient personal safety equipment when dealing with knife crime?

Figure 7 shows that only 15 participants feel that they 'Sometimes' have sufficient equipment to deal with knife crime. 4 participants selected that they 'Rarely' believe they're equipped, and 3 participants selected that they 'Never' have sufficient safety equipment. 12

participants selected that they 'Often' feel sufficiently equipped, whilst 4 participants felt they're equipped with personal safety equipment 'All the time'.



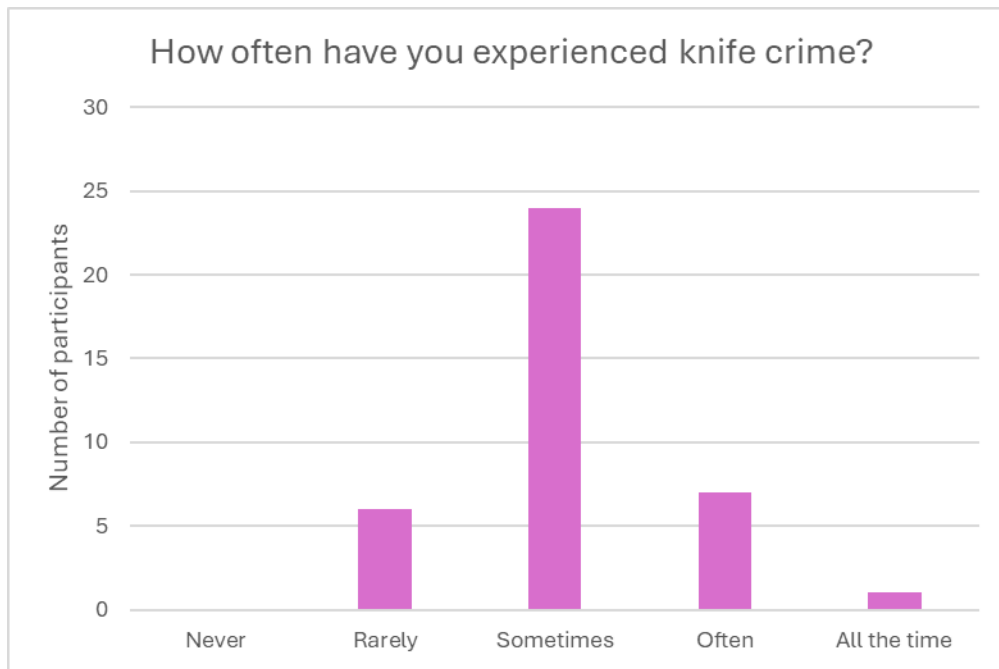
Question 8 – Have you experienced knife-crime working as a Police Officer?

Figure 8 shows that all 38 participants answered 'Yes' to have experienced knife crime whilst working as a Police officer.



Question 10 – How often have you experienced knife crime?

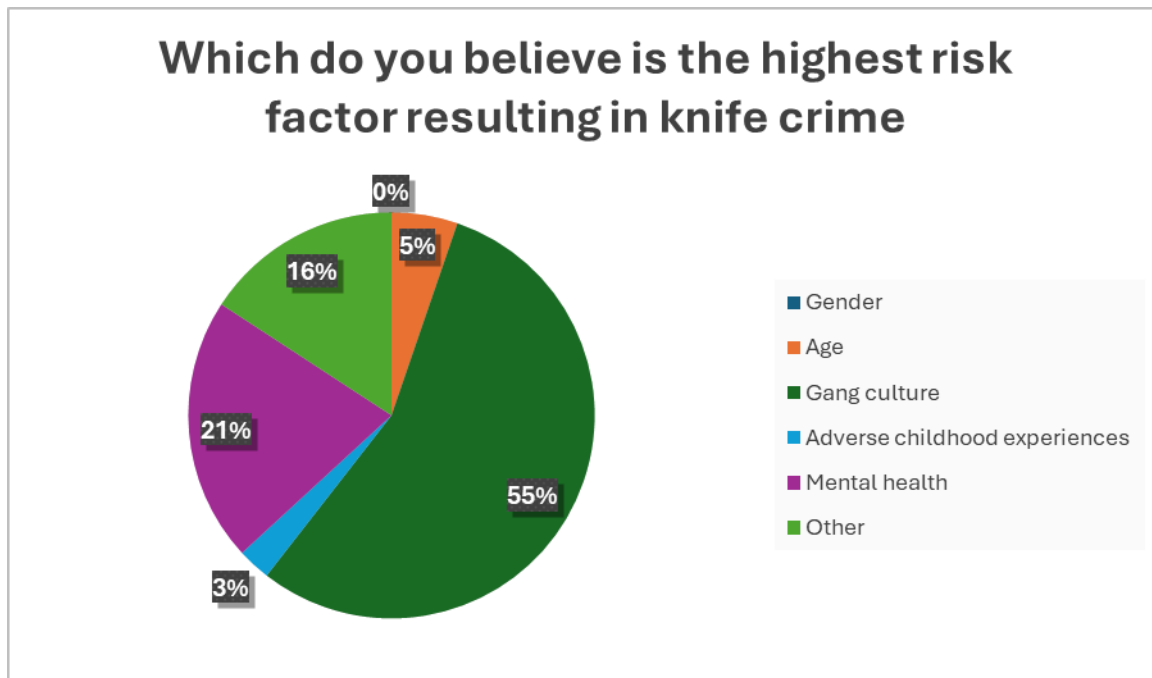
Figure 10 shows that all participants have experienced some level of knife crime during their policing career. Most respondents (n=24) selected that they experienced knife crime 'Sometimes'.



Question 11 – Which do you believe is the highest risk factor resulting in knife crime?

Figure 11 shows that 55% of respondents believe that 'Gang culture' is the highest risk factor associated with knife crime. Interestingly, as highlighted during chapter one, a meta-analysis by Haylock *et al* (2020) included seven independent studies which all found that peer influence was a risk factor for knife crime. In addition, relationships and peer influence have been found to be a catalyst for young people to join criminal gangs.

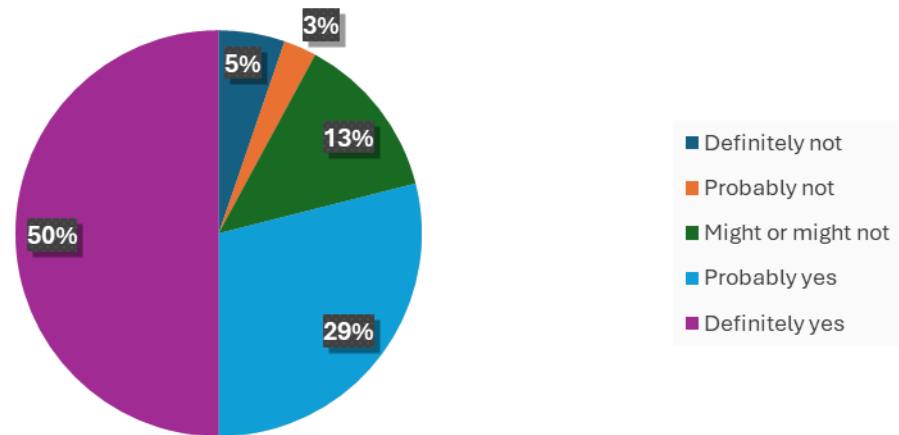
21% of respondents selected 'Mental health' as the next highest risk factor associated with knife crime. This supports the study by Bailey *et al* (2001), whereby a cross-sectional study of 20 adolescents charged with homicide, were all suffering from psychological vulnerabilities.



Question 12 – Should knife crime be a public health concern in the United Kingdom?

Figure 12 shows that 50% of respondents believe that knife crime should be a public health concern in the UK. The Ministry of Justice (2024) highlights that knife possession offences resulting in custodial sentences lasting more than six months have continued to increase since 2009. During this survey, 29% of respondents answered 'Probably yes' which suggests that, overall, 79% of respondents feel that knife crime should be a health concern.

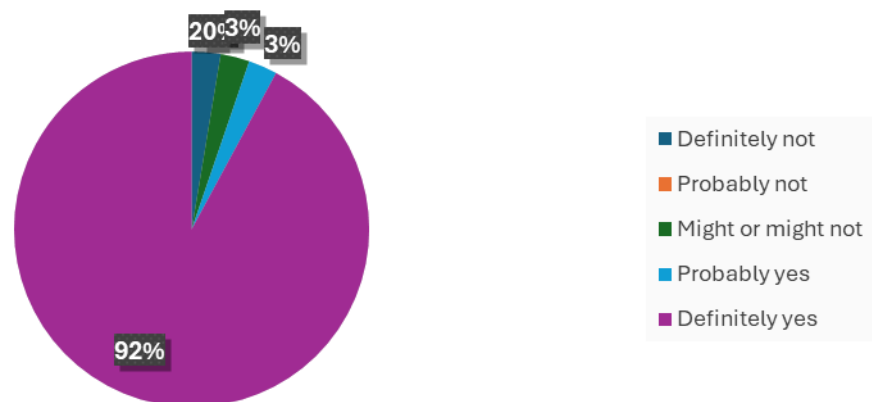
Should knife crime be a public health concern in the United Kingdom



Question 13 – Should young people be educated about the dangers and consequences that come with carrying a knife?

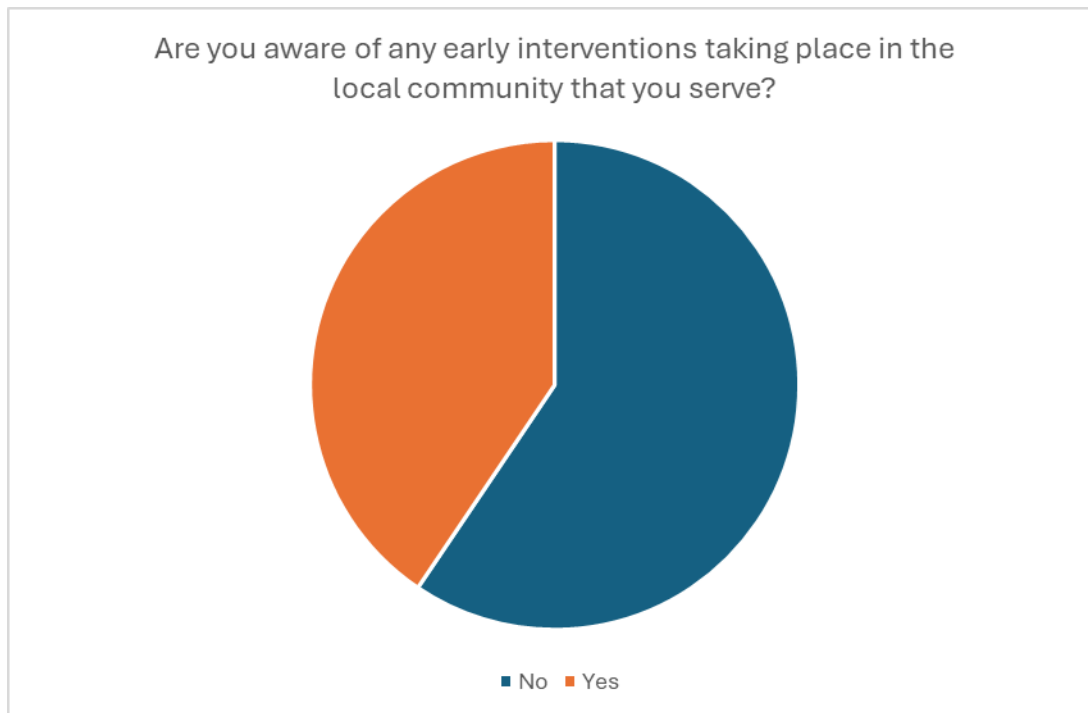
Overwhelmingly, 92% of respondents believe that young people should be educated about the dangers of carrying a knife.

Should young people be educated about the dangers and consequences that come with carrying a knife



Question 14 – Are you aware of any early interventions taking place in the local community that you serve?

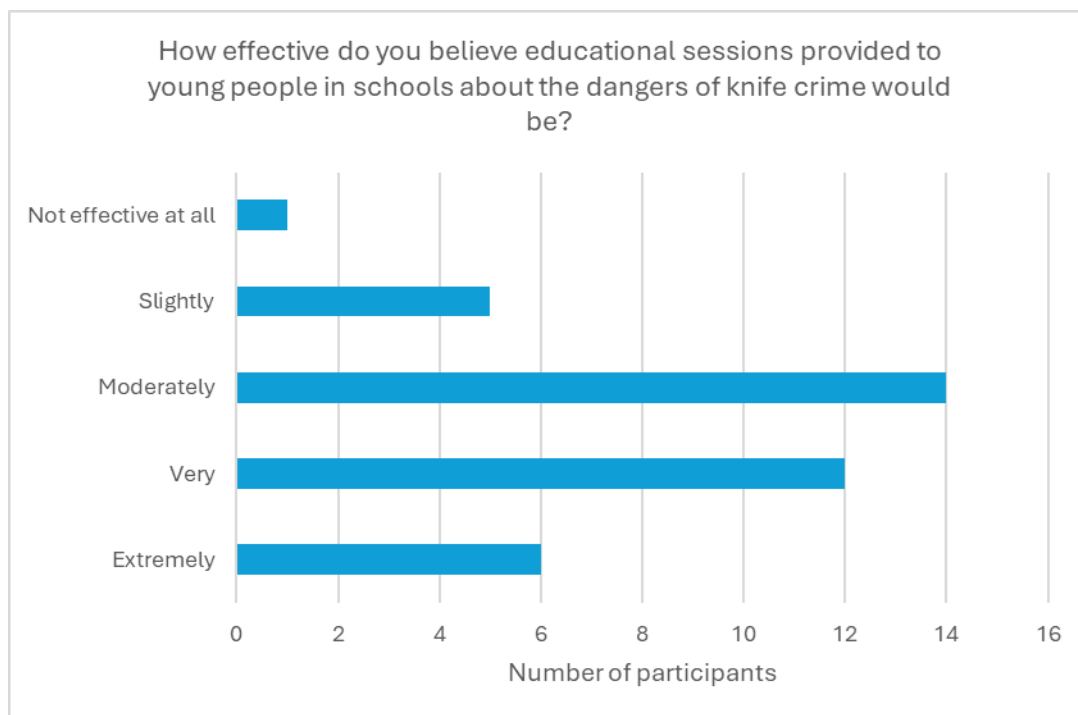
16 participants answered, 'Yes' to being aware of early intervention programmes in their local community whilst 22 respondents answered 'No'.



Question 15 – How effective do you believe educational sessions provided to young people in schools about the dangers of knife crime would be?

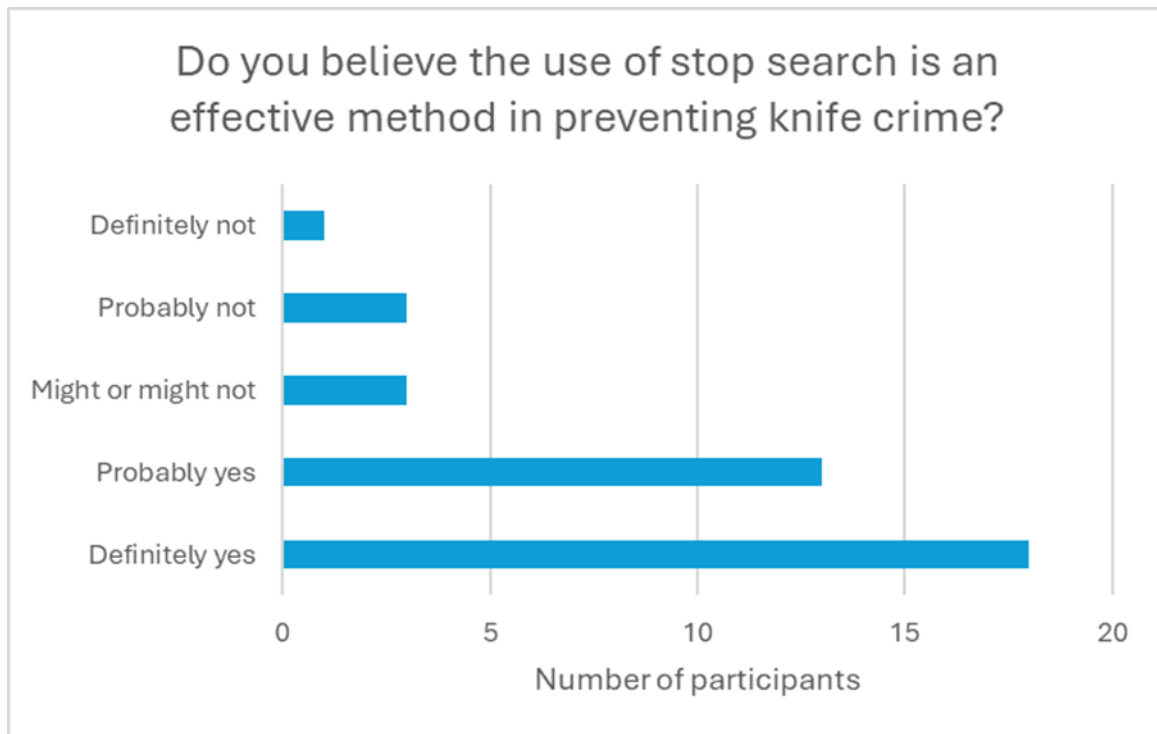
Most participants believe that educational sessions would be effective for young people in schools. Six respondents believe that they would be extremely beneficial, whilst five respondents believe it would be only slightly beneficial. 14 participants believe that it would be moderately effective whilst 12 respondents believed it would be very effective. Only one participant believed that they would be not effective at all.

Vinnakota *et al* (2022) found that early interventions such as workshops and group discussions at school have been found to be somewhat helpful when trying to prevent knife crime.



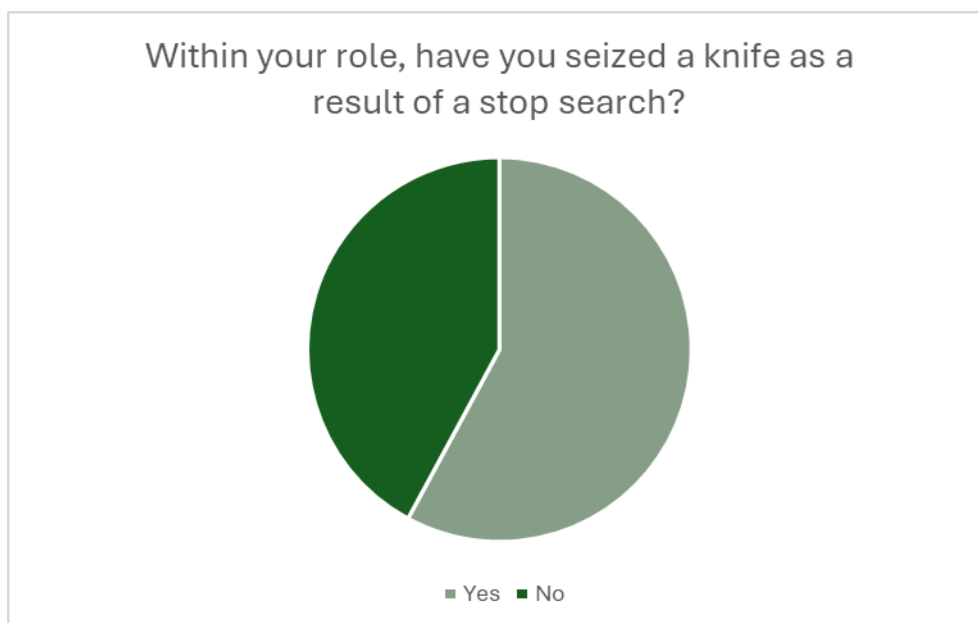
Question 16 – Do you believe the use of stop search is an effective method in preventing knife crime?

As displayed in figure 16, 18 respondents answered that the use of stop search is 'definitely effective' method in preventing knife crime. 13 respondents also answered 'Probably yes' for the use of stop search being effective in preventing knife crime. One respondent answered, 'definitely not' and 3 answered 'probably not'. Overall, the results indicate that most respondents believe it to be an effective method.



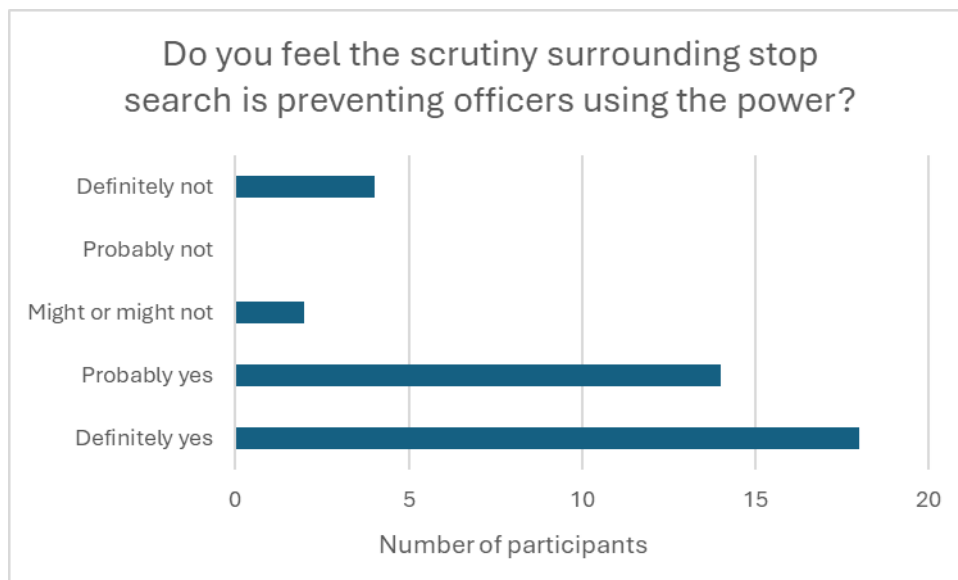
Question 17 – Within your role, have you seized a knife as a result of a stop search?

22 respondents answered, 'Yes' to seizing a knife following a positive stop search, whilst 16 participants answered 'No'.



Question 18 - Do you feel scrutiny surrounding stop search is preventing officers using the power?

Interestingly, most respondents (n=32) answered that the scrutiny surrounding stop search can prevent officers from using this power. 18 respondents answered 'definitely yes' whilst 14 respondents answered 'probably yes'.



Question 19 – Do you think South Wales Police provide sufficient training to deal with knife crime?

Six participants failed to provide an answer to this question, therefore only 32 responses were recorded. Thematic analysis was used for this question.

18 participants responded 'No' to this question. Few participants elaborated to provide an explanation for their answer. One participant reported:

"No, not enough. All police should carry taser & stop searches should be more than justified in areas"

Nine participants answered 'Yes'. Two participants elaborated:

"Yes, the new training is far superior to what it was and covered far more scenarios"

“Would say so. There are two aspects to this question really. Personal safety when encountering and investigation. Believe PPST around dealing with knife crime is much better than used to be, main thing is around distance, warning signs in offender behaviour etc, securing subject and thorough search techniques - all things that are drilled into us through training and the same officer safety principles apply regardless of if a knife is mentioned or not. Applies to risk of escape, assault, use of a weapon or anything. Providing training and PPE and reinforcing this goes a long way to dealing with any threat knife or not. I’m not sure what extra can be done to protect officers, or to train us to deal with crime. Dealing with the investigation of knife crime, also very simple. Legislation is clear and investigating the offence much the same enquiries and process as any other matter.”

Five participants answered along the theme that the training is ‘adequate’ and that ‘possibly’ South Wales Police provides sufficient training. One participant stated:

“I believe the training provided is adequate”

And

“Satisfactory – training could be improved”

Conclusion

The findings overwhelmingly show that the respondents believe that knife crime is becoming more prevalent, as all respondents stated they have experienced knife crime whilst working as a Police officer. Additionally, the respondents believe that ‘Gang culture’ followed by ‘Mental Health’ is the biggest risk factor associated with knife crime, which answers the second objective within this research. The questionnaire also answers objective three, as majority of respondents believe young people should be educated about the dangers of carrying a knife and believe such educational programmes would be beneficial. Over half of the respondents are unaware of interventions taking place in their communities which could be detrimental when in contact with young people involved with knife crime, as they may not be able to direct the young people in the right direction of receiving education.

Chapter Five – Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

The overall aim of this research was to advance an understanding of knife crime and the impact it can have on local communities. The research objectives were to analyse statistics and figures of the prevalence of knife crime in the United Kingdom, discuss the risk factors associated with knife crime for young people 10-24 years old and explore how effective early interventions are as a preventative strategy of reducing knife crime. This conclusion will cover the research objectives, summary of findings and the conclusion of each objective. Additionally, it will cover limitations and recommendations for future research.

5.2 Research objectives: summary of findings and conclusions

Research objective 1

Analyse statistics and figures of the prevalence of knife crime in South Wales.

As a result of my literature review and my research it is evident that knife crime is a growing problem amongst young people in the United Kingdom. Knife crime and its association with young people has become a topic frequently discussed in mainstream media, with alarming statistics suggesting that young people aged between 10-17 years old represent 1 in 5 of knife crime perpetrators (Allen *et al*, 2023). Statistics from 2018 suggested that teenagers accounted for more than 1,000 hospital admissions from assaults involving a knife or sharp object (NHS, 2019). 58% of serving Police officers who participated in my research believe that knife crime is becoming more prevalent in the communities they serve. In conclusion, the data demonstrates that the incidence and prevalence of knife crime has significantly increased in previous decades amongst young people aged between 10-24 years old.

Research objective 2

Discuss the risk factors associated with Knife crime for young people 10-24 years old.

The literature suggests that age and gender are both factors resulting in individuals being associated with knife crimes, either as victims or perpetrators. Additionally, street violence,

gang attacks, robbery and domestic problems are risk factors associated with knife crime (Vinnakota *et al*, 2022). Positive correlation was found between knife crime and adolescence. The literature shows that prevalence of carrying a weapon increases with age, from 30% aged 11-13 up to 52.6% aged 18-19 (Barlas *et al*, 2006). Research suggests that children reportedly carry knives due to both the fear and the desire to protect themselves, whilst simultaneously not being fully aware of the risks i.e. being a victim or perpetrator of knife crime (Gray *et al*, 2020). 55% of serving police officers who completed the questionnaire believe that gang culture is the highest risk factor resulting in knife crime, whilst 21% stated that mental health is the highest risk factor. In conclusion, the data suggests that there are many factors which are associated with knife crime.

Research objective 3

Explore how effective early interventions are a preventative strategy

The research suggests that early interventions such as workshops and group discussions at school have been found to be somewhat helpful to prevent knife crime by reducing risk factors associated with knife crime and increasing positive factors such as self-esteem (Vinnakota *et al* 2022). My research found that 92% of serving South Wales Police officers believe that young people should be educated about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife. However, 59% were unaware of any interventions taking place in the communities that they serve. Findings suggest that the sharing of information of local interventions should be a focus for South Wales Police. Further data from my research suggests that South Wales Police officers believe that educational sessions provided to young people in schools about the dangers of knife crime would be very effective.

There is a significant amount of research available for knife crime and its effects on young people in the United Kingdom. The literature demonstrates that knife crime is a serious public health concern that requires immediate attention. Further research is required to gain a better understanding on the risk factors resulting in knife crime and establishing the most effective preventative interventions. Engaging with young people in schools, particularly in areas where knife crime is more prevalent, offers an opportunity to promote behaviour changes, compared to alternative methods such as the use of stop search and media appeals.

5.3 Limitations

The research was restricted to 8,000 words which is a limitation, given that knife crime is a mainstream topic with several current studies available. A further limitation identified was the sample size of the survey. Only 38 South Wales Police Officers responded to the survey which may suggest the data is not as reliable as it could be. Additionally, a further limitation is the lack of response to the qualitative questions within the survey. Six respondents of the 38 failed to provide a response to this questions which impacts the credibility of the study. Eighteen participants answered 'No' and nine answered 'Yes', the lack of available data may not be as reliable due to the lack of response. The quantitative data was effective in meeting the objectives of the research, in comparison to the qualitative data which lacked detail from respondents.

5.4 Recommendations

Following the conclusion of the research project, there have been recommendations identified for future research. Future research would benefit from expanding the number of participants taking part in the questionnaire, as this research was limited by a small sample size and only surveying one specific constabulary. It would be beneficial if the questionnaire was distributed to Police officers in different constabularies in the United Kingdom. It would be beneficial if knife crime was treated as a public health concern as it would increase the public profile and allow other professional bodies the opportunity to make a difference. It would be beneficial if the questionnaire was distributed to other professional people who work with young people such as social workers, care workers, and schoolteachers. This would provide the opportunity to obtain information form young people as they may be more forthcoming with information in comparison when speaking with Police.

Future research would benefit from a questionnaire distributed in areas where knife crime is more prevalent such as city centres. As highlighted in the literature review, there is a lack of understanding around the risk factors associated with knife crime. Studies should focus on gaining a better understanding to allow these risk factors to be addressed at an earlier stage. Future research would benefit from further interventions to raise awareness in local

communities on the dangers of knife crime. Such interventions and campaigns, especially within schools, by Police school liaison officers could help with young peoples' education and understanding.

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7. Appendices

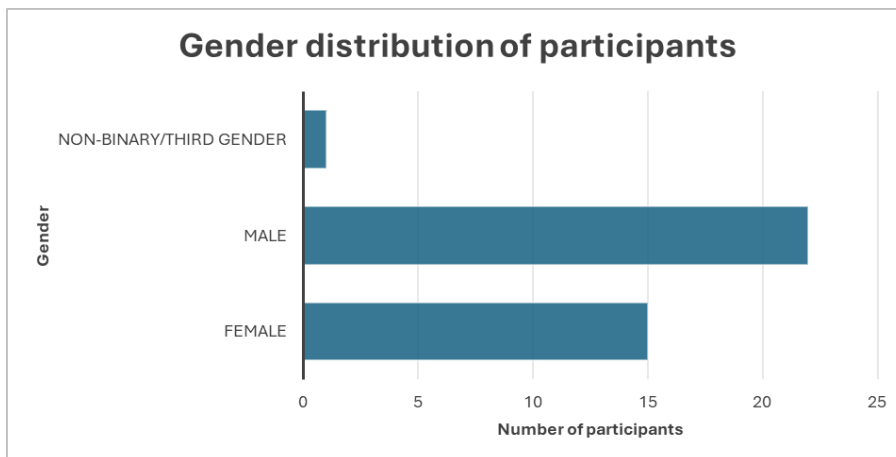
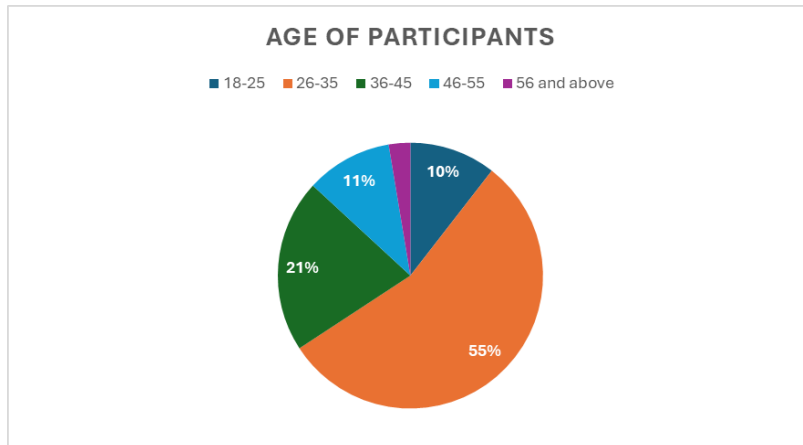
7.1 Appendices one – Survey Questions

- 1) Age?
- 2) Gender?
- 3) Please confirm you work within South Wales Police?
- 4) Length of service?
- 5) Rank?
- 6) Department?
- 7) Do you feel that knife crime is becoming more prevalent within the communities you serve?
- 8) Do you believe that you're equipped with sufficient personal safety equipment when dealing with knife crime?
- 9) Have you experienced knife-crime working as a Police officer?
- 10) If you answered 'Yes' to Q9, on a scale from 1-5, how often have you experienced knife crime?
- 11) From the list below, please select which you believe is the highest risk factor in knife crime?
- 12) Do you think knife crime should be a public health concern in the United Kingdom?
- 13) Do you think young people should be educated about the dangers and consequences that come with carrying a knife?
- 14) Are you aware of any early interventions taking place in the local community that you serve?
- 15) How effective do you believe educational sessions provided to young people in schools about the dangers of knife crime would be?
- 16) Do you believe the use of stop search is an effective method in preventing knife crime?
- 17) Within your role, have you seized a knife as a result of a stop search?

18) Do you feel the scrutiny surrounding stop search is preventing officers using the power?

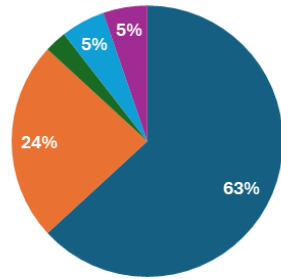
19) Do you think South Wales Police provide sufficient training to deal with knife crime?

7.2 Appendices two: Survey answers

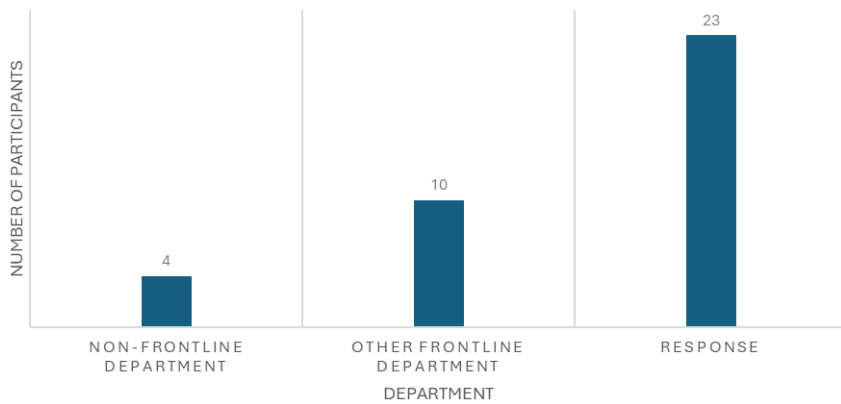
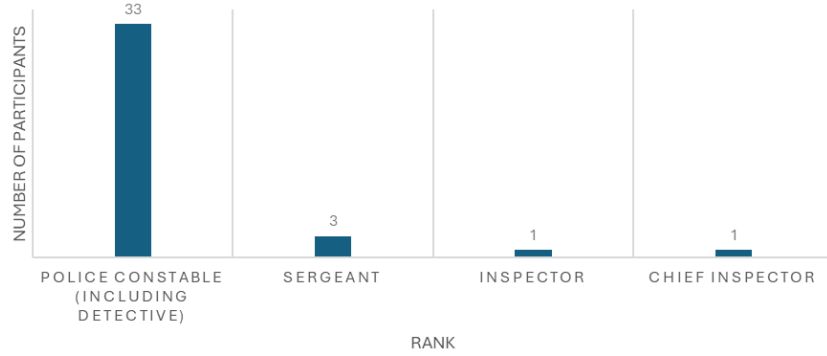


LENGTH OF SERVICE

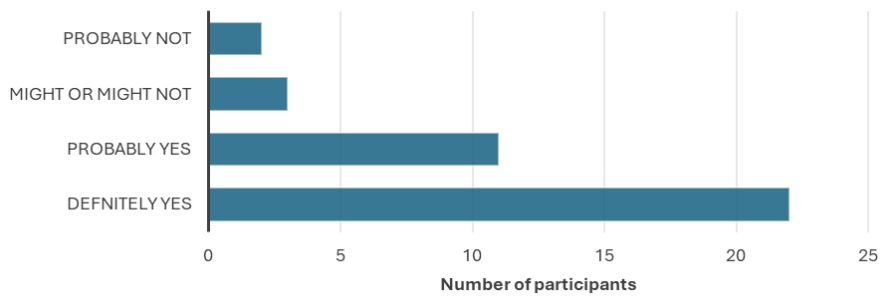
0-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years 16-20 years 21 years and above



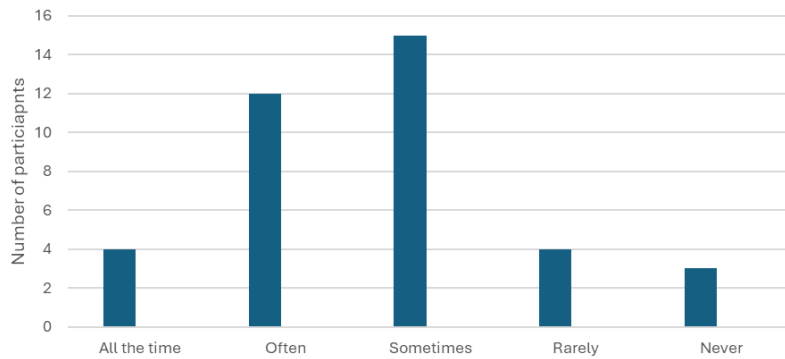
RANK OF PARTICIPANTS



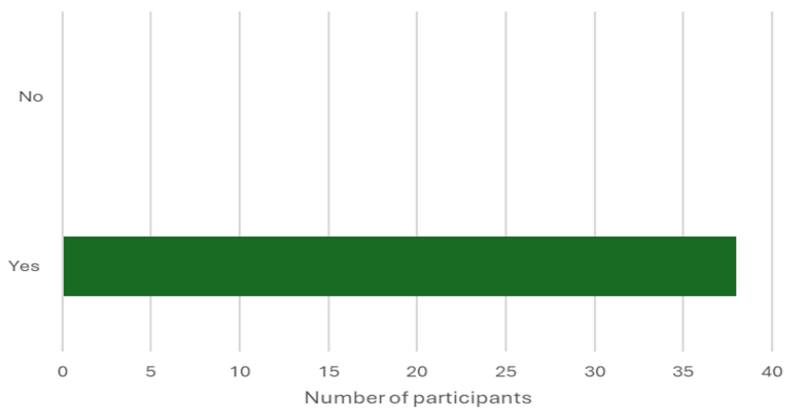
Do you feel that knife crime is becoming more prevalent within the communities you serve?

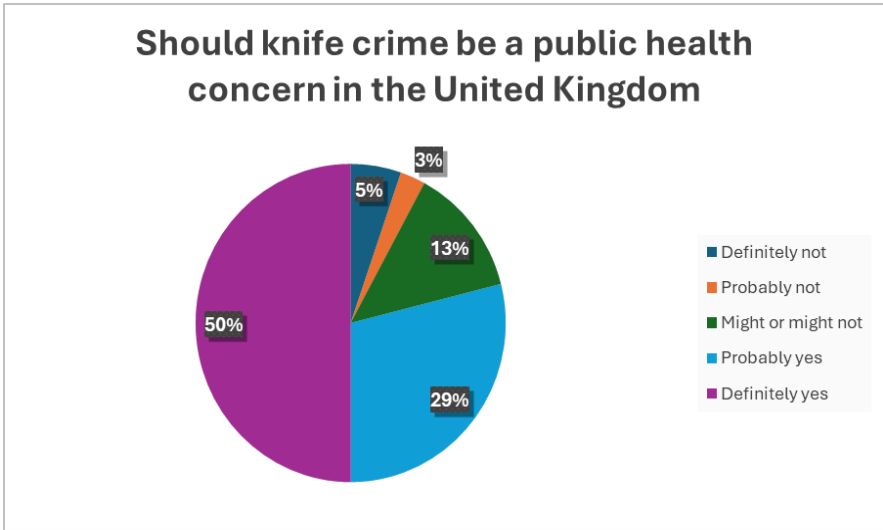
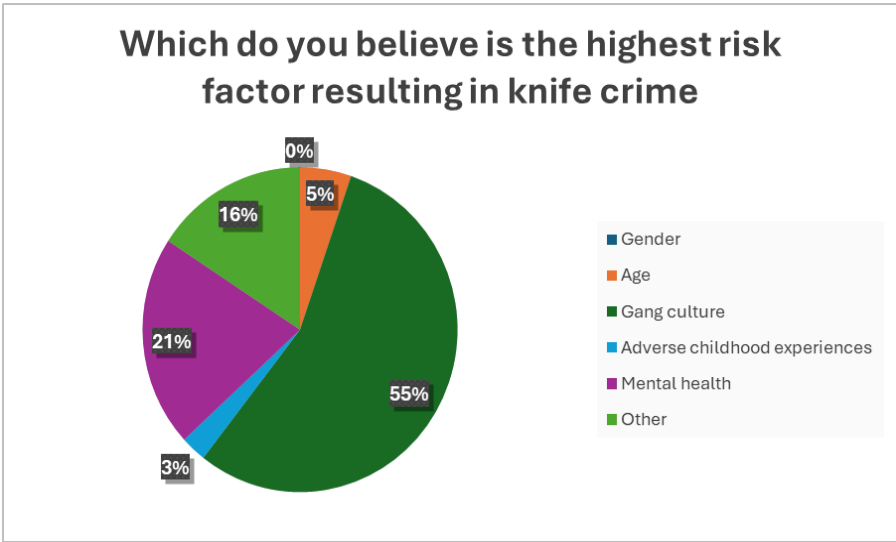
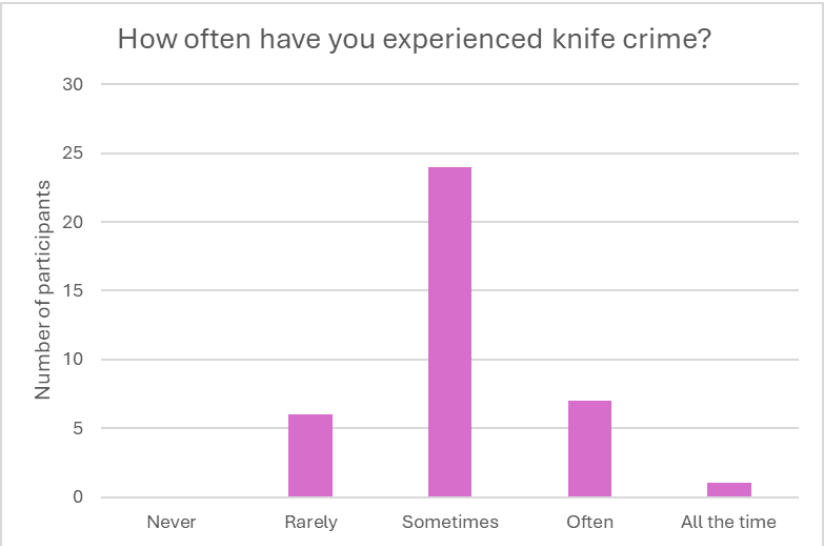


Do you believe that you're equipped with sufficient personal safety equipment when dealing with knife crime?

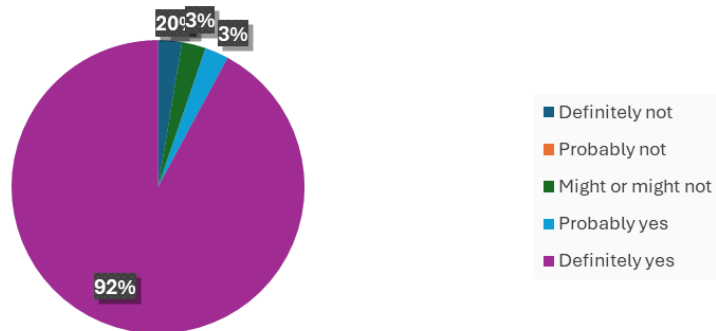


Have you experienced knife-crime working as a Police officer?

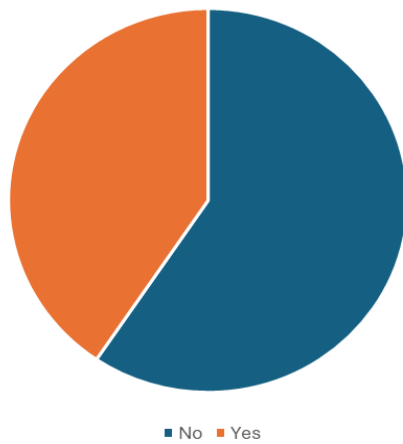




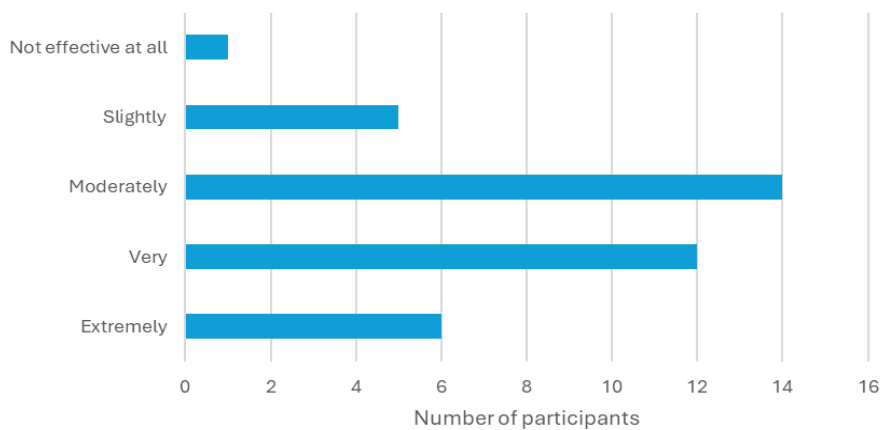
Should young people be educated about the dangers and consequences that come with carrying a knife



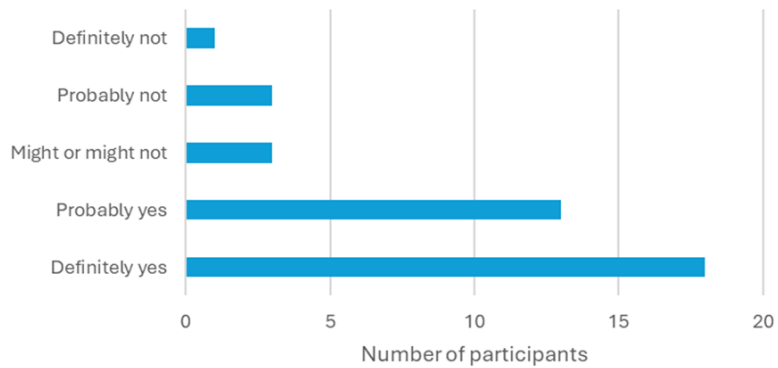
Are you aware of any early interventions taking place in the local community that you serve?



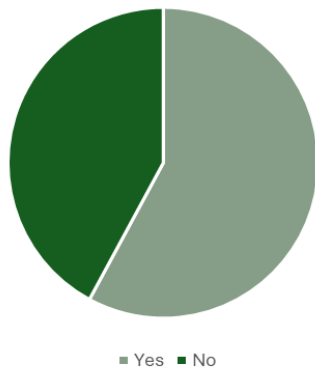
How effective do you believe educational sessions provided to young people in schools about the dangers of knife crime would be?



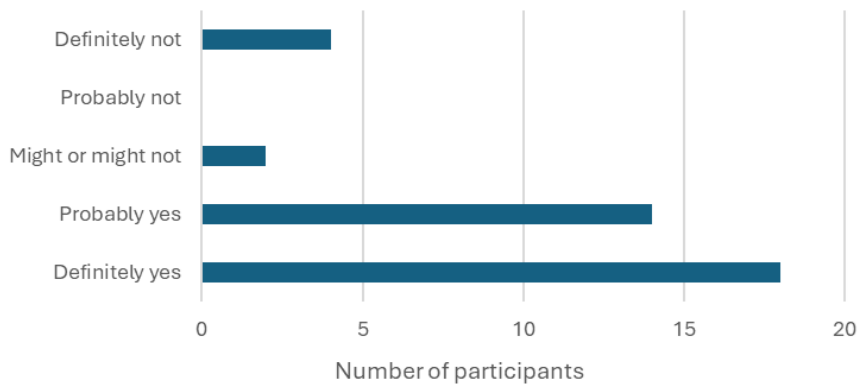
Do you believe the use of stop search is an effective method in preventing knife crime?



Within your role, have you seized a knife as a result of a stop search?



Do you feel the scrutiny surrounding stop search is preventing officers using the power?



7.3 Appendices three – Ethics form

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name:	Gareth Thomas			
2	Tick all boxes that apply:	Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
	Undergraduate Student	☒	Taught Postgraduate Student	☐	Postgraduate Research Student
3	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	IMH			
4	Campus:	Swansea			
5	E-mail address:	2124768@student.uwtsd.ac.uk			
6	Contact Telephone Number:	07376008635			
For students:					
7	Student Number:	2124768			

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8	Programme of Study:	BSc (Hons) Professional Policing Practice
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Jane Davies

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☒	NO	☒
					Date
2	If Yes , please indicate source of approval (and date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Research Degrees Committee	☐		
Institute Research Committee		☐			
Other (write in)		☒	Sergeant Holly Probert		

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

	Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, location-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines. You may add rows to this table if needed.	
1	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	☒
2	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	☒
3	<i>[List any other relevant documents here]</i>	☐

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

If there are external collaborators then you should gain consent from the contact persons to share their personal data with the university. If there are no external collaborators then leave this section blank and

1	Institution		
2	Contact person name		
3	Contact person e-mail address		
4	Is your research externally funded?	YES ☐	NO ☒
5	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES ☐	NO ☒
6	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	Voluntary YES ☐	NO ☒
7		Employed YES ☐	NO ☒
8	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)?	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered. YES ☐	NO ☒
9	Has permission to undertake the research been provided by the partner organisation?	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue YES ☐	NO ☒

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Where research activity is carried out in collaboration with an external organisation

10	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES ☐	NO ☒
If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation (this may be a copy of an email if appropriate).			

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	What are the risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the United Kingdom aged 10-24 years old, and how effective are targeted intervention as a preventative method of knife crime?		
2	Proposed start date:	22/02/2024	Proposed end date:	07/10/2024
	Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words per section) Ensure that you write for a <u>Non-Specialist Audience</u> when outlining your response to the points below: <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> <i>Proposed Research Question</i> <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how Existing Research has informed the proposed activity and explain <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>			
3	Purpose of Research Activity This project has the sole aim of investigating the risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the United Kingdom aged 10-24 years old, and the effectiveness of targeted intervention as a preventative method of knife crime. According to recent statistics at the end of March 2023, there were approximately 50,500 recorded offences involving sharp instrument in England and Wales. This statistic is an increase of 4.7% in comparison to the previous year 2021/2022 (Allen et al, 2023). Additionally, when looking at a longer period it shows that Police figures for knife crime has increased nearly three quarters from a decade ago as it is now approximately 75% higher than in 2012/2013 (Popham, 2023). Knife record crimes have increased in all Police forces across the United Kingdom which is a cause for concern and therefore I believe it is worthy of consideration for an undergraduate research dissertation due to the amount of information available. Furthermore, there is research to suggest that there is a lack of trust between the Police and young people especially in more deprived areas. This lack of trust has shown an unwillingness with young people to co-operate with Police accompanied with the feeling of needing to carry a knife for protection (Skarlatidou et al 2021). (this box should expand as you type)			

	(this box should expand as you type)
4	Research Question What are the risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the United Kingdom aged 10-24 years old, and how effective are targeted intervention as a preventative method of knife crime.

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	Below are three objectives surrounding the chosen research topic which will be used to explore and analyse relevant information: 1. Analyse statistics and figures of the prevalence of knife crime in the United Kingdom. 2. Discuss the risk factors associated with Knife crime for young people 10-24 years old. 3. Explore how effective early interventions are as a preventative strategy (this box should expand as you type)
5	Aims of Research Activity To understand risk factors associated with knife crime among young people in the United Kingdom aged 10-24 years old. Additionally, the research will also try and establish the effectiveness of targeted intervention as a preventative method of knife crime. (this box should expand as you type)

	(this box should expand as you type)
6	Objectives of Research Activity Below are three objectives surrounding the chosen research topic which will be used to explore and analyse relevant information: 1. Analyse statistics and figures of the prevalence of knife crime in the United Kingdom. 2. Discuss the risk factors associated with Knife crime for young people 10-24 years old. 3. Explore how effective early interventions are a preventative strategy (this box should expand as you type)

	(this box should expand as you type)
	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed. You do not need to justify the methods <u>here</u>, but should instead describe how you intend to collect the data necessary for you to complete your project.
7	To answer the set objectives, a questionnaire will be distributed and answered by a range of different Police officers within different departments within South Wales Police. The questionnaire will help answer the objective of the project and allow the researcher to accurately analyse the findings at the conclusion of the project. The researcher will develop questions with the intention of answering the objectives of the research. The questions will cover a range of topics such as establishing officer experience in dealing with knife crime and the involvement of young people. The questionnaire will be available via a hyperlink and will ensure the anonymity of all participants to allow for an accurate and true account of their involvement with knife crime. An anonymous survey will ensure that officers provide true feedback giving accurate data to analyse. There will be no personal details from Police officers within the survey ensuring that there are no confidentiality issues. The target sample will be intended for all Police officers across all different departments

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	involved with crime in South Wales Police. By asking a wide range of participants it will allow the gathering of more information to be analysed. Specialist departments within South Wales Police such as Priority Policing Team (PPT) and Child Exploitation Teams will be part of the sample group which will provide expert perspective of knife crime and the effects on young people due to their daily roles.
	(this box should expand as you type)

	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.					
8	Research will be conducted electronically whereby an email will be sent to South Wales Police officers. (this box should expand as you type)					
	Research activity outside of the UK If research activity will take place overseas, you are responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Specify any local guidelines (e.g. from local professional associations/learned societies/universities) that exist and whether these involve any ethical stipulations beyond those usual in the UK (provide details of any licenses or permissions required). Also specify whether there are any specific ethical issues raised by the local context in which the research activity is taking place, for example, <u>particular cultural</u> and/or legal sensitivities or vulnerabilities of participants. If you live in the country where you will do the <u>research</u> then please state this.					
9	Not applicable. (this box should expand as you type)					
10	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents NOT publicly available?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>☒</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> </table>	NO	☒	YES	☐
NO	☒					
YES	☐					
11	If <u>Yes</u>, please provide details here of how you will gain access to specific documentation that is not in the public domain and that this is in accordance with the current data protection law of the country in question and that of England and Wales. (this box should expand as you type)					

	Does your research relate to one or more of the seven aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?	YES	NO
12	A prosperous Wales	☐	☒
13	A resilient Wales	☐	☒
14	A healthier Wales	☐	☒
15	A more equal Wales	☐	☒
16	A Wales of cohesive communities	☐	☒
17	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	☐	☒
18	A globally responsible Wales	☐	☒
19	If YES to any of the above, please give details:		

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SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
1	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☒	☐
2	Use of interviews?	☐	☒
3	Use of focus groups?	☐	☒
4	Use of participant diaries?	☐	☒
5	Use of video or audio recording?	☐	☒
6	Use of computer-generated log files?	☐	☒
7	Participant observation with their knowledge?	☐	☒
8	Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
9	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
10	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
11	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
12	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
13	Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
14	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
15	Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒
16	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?	☐	☒
17	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.	☐	☒
	Details of any other primary data collection method: (this box should expand as you type)		

If NO to every question, then the research activity is (ethically) low risk and **may** be exempt from **some** of the following sections (please refer to Guidance Notes).

If YES to any question, then no research activity should be undertaken until full ethical approval has been obtained.

SECTION G: Intended Participants

If there are no participants then do not complete this section, but go directly to section H.

	Who are the intended participants:	YES	NO
1	Students or staff at the University?	☒	☐

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Y Drindod Dewi Sant
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2	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
3	Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
4	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☐	☒
5	Prisoners?	☐	☒
6	Young offenders?	☐	☒
7	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☐	☒
8	People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☒
9	Others. Please indicate the participants below, and specifically any group who may be unable to give consent.		
	Details of any other participant groups: (this box should expand as you type)	☐	☒

	Participant numbers and source Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?	
10	How many participants are expected?	20 <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
11	Who will the participants be?	South Wales Police officers <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
12	How will you identify the participants?	From South Wales Police approved documentation <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>



	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
13	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	☒	☐	☐
14	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	☒	☐	☐
15	Will you obtain written consent for participation?	☒	☐	☐
16	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?	☒	☐	☐
17	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?	☐	☐	☒
18	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?	☐	☐	☒
19	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?	☒	☐	☐
20	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	☒	☐	☐
21	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?	☒	☐	☐
22	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
24	Will participants be paid?	☐	☒	☐
25	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?	☐	☒	☐
26	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?	☐	☒	☐
27	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?	☐	☒	☐
28	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>			

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

	Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.		
1	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes	☒
		No	☐
2	Risks to participants For example: sector-specific health & safety, emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information		
	Risk to participants: There is no anticipated risk to participants as there are no assessments. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
3	If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or <u>actually illegal</u> is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities		
	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
4	Risks to the investigator For example: personal health & safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest		
	Risk to the investigator: N/A – No assessment. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
5	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection		
	Risk to the University:	How you will mitigate the risk to the University:	

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	N/A – No assessment. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems			
	Risk to the environment: N/A – No risk to the environment. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
				
	Disclosure and Barring Service			
	If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A
7	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☐	☒	☐
8	If YES, please give the certificate number. If the certificate number is not <u>available</u> please write "Pending"; in this case any ethical approval will be subject to providing the appropriate certificate number.			



SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality



1	Feedback What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when?
	This will not be required. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
2	Informed consent Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation.
	I will be using survey monkey which is a questionnaire website which will ensure all consent requirements are to be met before the process begins. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
3	Confidentiality / Anonymity Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case.
	Most of the questionnaire questions will consist of tick boxes. There will however be open questions allowing participants the opportunity to expand on their answers. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

	Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 "GDPR" and the Data Protection Act 2018 "DPA")?	YES	NO
1	"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier	☐	NO

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	such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person. Any video or audio recordings of participants is considered to be personal data.		
	If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
2	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
3	"Special category data" means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects' – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes).	☐	NO
	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
4	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

4	(this box should expand as you type)
---	--------------------------------------

	Will data from the research activity (collected data, drafts of the thesis, or materials for publication) be stored in any of the following ways?	YES	NO
5	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☒
6	University computers?	☐	☒
7	Private company computers?	☐	☒
8	Home or other personal computers?	☐	☒
9	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☐	☒
10	"Cloud" storage or websites?	☐	☒
11	Other – specify:	☐	☒
12	For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of backup procedures, password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:		
	(this box should expand as you type)		

Data Protection			
	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
13	Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☐	☒
14	Sharing of data with others at the University outside of the immediate research team?	☐	☒
15	Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☒

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16	Export of data outside the UK or importing of data from outside the UK?	☐	☒
17	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☒
18	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☒
19	Use of data management system?	☐	☒
20	Data archiving?	☐	☒
21	If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) (and any international equivalents, where appropriate):		
	(this box should expand as you type)		
22	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	Myself only (this box should expand as you type)		
23	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	Myself (this box should expand as you type)		
24	Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not <u>why not</u> .		
	Data secured by SSL protected website (this box should expand as you type)		
25	Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtsd.ac.uk/). If <u>so</u> please explain. (Most relevant to academic staff)		
	(this box should expand as you type)		
26	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☒
27	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	☒

SECTION K: Declaration

The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
1	Signature of applicant:	Gareth Thomas Date: 22/02/2024

For STUDENT Submissions:

2	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Date:
3	Signature:	

For STAFF Submissions:

4	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:	Date:
5	Signature:	



Checklist: Please complete the checklist below to ensure that you have completed the form according to the guidelines and attached any required documentation:

x	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
X	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
X	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
X	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
X	I have attached a full risk assessment (where <u>appropriate</u>) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
X	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the <u>above named</u> research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
x	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.

RESEARCH STUDENTS ONLY

Once complete, submit this form via the **MyTSD Doctoral College Portal** at (<https://mytsd.uwtsd.ac.uk>).

RESEARCH STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

