

In the year ending December 2019, the offence “assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm” accounted for almost half of all offences in England and Wales involving a knife or sharp instrument (44% or 20,196 offences). Robberies accounted for a further 44% (19,943 offences).

The latest available provisional admissions data for NHS hospitals in England reported 5,024 admissions for assault by a sharp object between April 2018 and March 2019. This was, an increase of 1% compared with the previous year.

Police recorded “possession of an article with a blade or point”<sup>3</sup> offences also rose by 11% to 21,527 offences in England and Wales in the year ending December 2019. Trends in this offence would have been influenced by increases in targeted police action, such as the recent increases in stop and searches<sup>4</sup>, which are most likely to occur at times when rises in offences involving knives or sharp instruments are seen

However, Nottinghamshire seems to be bucking the national, and regional trend. In the 12 months December 2018 to December 2019, there was an 8% decrease in knife crime in the county compared with the previous 12 months. The other four police forces in the region showed increases of between 5 and 34% for the same period resulting in an overall rise for the East Midlands of 13%.

Of the 812 offences in Nottinghamshire involving a knife, 403 (just under 50%) were in the category “Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm”. 309 (38%) were involved with robbery. It should be borne in mind that many instances in the former category are involved with domestic abuse.