



KNIFE CRIME



AIM

Knife crime is far more prevalent in the UK than it should be. Explore why some people choose to carry knives, understand why carrying a knife doesn't provide protection and how knives can have horrific consequences for all involved.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Knife Crime: True or False? Activity Sheet
- Projector / Large TV
- Computer



GET LEARNING: KNIFE CRIME

THEME: STAYING SAFE



LEADER PREPARATION

A leader will need to print the true or false activity sheet and set up a projector / large TV to watch the video.



Download Knife Crime: True or False? Activity Sheet



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

- 1 Carrying a Knife:** As a group, consider reasons why young people may carry knives. How many different reasons can you come up with? Answers may include things like to protect themselves, to look 'hard', carrying for someone else, pressured to do so, to purposefully injure someone, because they are part of a gang and so on.
- 2 Is it Ever Right?** Discuss if there is ever a right reason to carry a knife. The answer is a simple no. Even if you feel under pressure or in danger, carrying a knife often just makes things worse.
- 3 Knives: True or False:** Use the Knife Crime: True or False sheet. A leader should cut out the boxes, so you have 12 statements and the two headers. Place the headers at the top of a table and arrange the statements into true / false columns. Make sure to have plenty of discussion as you move the statements around. If working in a large group, split into smaller groups. Afterwards, go through the answers and discuss anything that stands out or surprises you.
- 4 The Impact of Knife Crime:** Knife crime has a huge impact, not only on the victim but also on all the people connected to the victim/attacker, as well as all those who witness and deal with the aftermath. Watch Mark's Story (<https://youtu.be/FvC884FdpgM>) to explore this a bit more.
- 5 Mark's Story Discussion:** Discuss some of the following questions. Why do you think Mark took the knife? Do you think he meant to use it? What would have happened if Mark didn't have the knife? Who else has been impacted from this one stabbing?
- 6 What Can We Do?** Finally consider what we can all do to prevent situations like this happening. If you were one of Mark's friends, is there anything you could have done to prevent the situation or intervene? Answers might include regularly talking to your friends and being open with them, if you know a friend is carrying a knife then questioning them, trying to de-escalate the situation rather than encouraging it. Reporting people carrying knives is also an option. Whilst this could be seen as 'grassing', it's ultimately saving lives (both the victim and the attacker) and giving your friend a chance of having a future, rather than spending time behind bars for carrying or using the knife.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

For more information around Knife Crime and prevention, head to charities such as www.knifefree.co.uk, www.fearless.org or www.benkinsella.org.uk



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

The topic of knife crime may be sensitive to some young people who have had some experience of this. Be conscious and adapt the programme accordingly if needed.

KNIFE CRIME: TRUE OR FALSE?

You can only go to prison if you physically use a knife.

False: Carrying a knife, even if it isn't used, can result in a prison sentence of up to 4 years.

Even if you don't stab someone, you can still be sent to prison if someone you are with injures or kills someone with a knife.

True: This is called 'joint enterprise'. If it is believed that you contributed to the ultimate injury / death with your presence, then you can also end up in prison on a murder or attempted murder charge, despite not having used a weapon.

You can't die from a stab wound to the leg, so it's safer to stab someone there.

False: There's no 'safe' place to stab someone. A stab to the leg still has the chance of hitting a major artery and causing quick and significant blood loss.

Carrying a knife makes you less likely to be the victim of a knife attack.

False: Young people are more likely to be a victim of crime by carrying a knife in the first place. This is because situations can escalate far quicker when you carry a knife, or people have their own knives used against them.

Loopholes in the law mean that handmade knives, from things like sharpened combs, aren't currently included in legislation around offensive weapons.

False: The definition by law of an offensive weapon includes anything that is intended to cause harm. This includes handmade weapons.

Police can stop and search anyone they believe is carrying a weapon.

True: If police have grounds for suspecting you of carrying a weapon, then they are allowed to stop and search you.

If you stab someone intentionally and they die, you will receive a life sentence.

True: A life sentence is given to those killing with a knife, usually with a minimum of 25 years attached.

Criminal records can stop you from travelling to some countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia.

True: If you have a criminal record, you'll struggle to enter some countries. Criminal records also make it difficult to apply for college, university and getting jobs.

Whilst it's illegal to buy large knives under 18, young people are still able to purchase small kitchen knives and cutlery.

False: Shops are not able to sell any knife to a person under 18. This includes your standard cutlery knife.

Women are more likely to be victims of knife crime than men.

False: Knife attacks are predominantly male on male. 85% of people convicted of carrying knives are male and most victims are male too.

You're more likely to be stabbed by someone you know.

True: Most people know the attacker and it is usually related to an ongoing argument or dispute. You're unlikely to be stabbed by a stranger.

If you tell the police that you were carrying a knife because you were afraid and felt in danger, you are likely to still be given a warning.

False: It doesn't matter if it was for your protection or not, it's illegal to carry a knife and the police are likely to deal with it seriously. The police have probably heard this excuse many times before.

TRUE

Even if you don't stab someone, you can still be sent to prison if someone you are with injures or kills someone with a knife

Police can stop and search anyone they believe is carrying a weapon

If you stab someone intentionally and they die, you will receive a life sentence

Criminal records can stop you from travelling to some countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia

You're more likely to be stabbed by someone you know

FALSE

You can only go to prison if you physically use a knife

Carrying a knife makes you less likely to be the victim of a knife attack

You can't die from a stab wound to the leg, so it's safer to stab someone there

Loopholes in the law mean that handmade knives, from things like sharpened combs, aren't currently included in legislation around offensive weapons

Whilst it's illegal to buy large knives under 18, young people are still able to purchase small kitchen knives and cutlery

Women are more likely to be victims of knife crime than men

If you tell the police that you were carrying a knife because you were afraid and felt in danger, you are likely to be given a warning