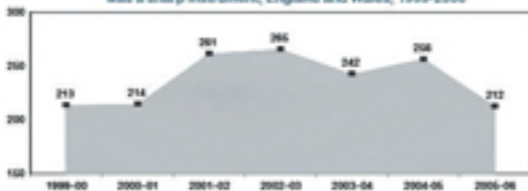


Knife culture

Knives are the most common type of weapon used in violent crime

Offences recorded as homicide where the method of killing was a sharp instrument, England and Wales, 1999-2006



Number of convictions for possession of knives and offensive weapons, England and Wales, 2000 to 2005



* It is an offence to have an article with a blade or a sharp point in a public place. (An exemption applies to folding pocket knives with a blade of less than three inches.)

** It is an offence to have any offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. An offensive weapon is "any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person." Offensive weapons include: knives, clubs, bladed sticks, hand axes, hand saws, push-cans, ball baton knives, push-loggers, butterfly knives, blow-pipes, guns, franchisees etc.