

9 August 2024

FOI Ref 16421

Request - You asked us the following:

I would like to know what data Staffordshire Police holds on children that have been caught with a knife and/or been attacked with a knife.

I am looking for data pertaining to 6 to 13 year olds which is broken it down by age (ie individual stats for 6 year olds, 7 years olds, etc) on the following:

1. The number of children within that age bracket who have been found with a knife by the police.
2. The number of children within that age bracket that have been a victim of knife related crimes committed by other adults.
3. The number of children within that age bracket who have been a victim of knife related crimes by other children
4. The number of children within the ages of 10 to 13 that have been arrested or charged for carrying a knife.

The date needed is from Jan 2019 to December 2023 (or the most recent available data - please make clear when this data runs up to) and would like the data broken down by year and age group.

We received your request on 25/01/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. The number of children within that age bracket who have been found with a knife by the police. – **Information held.**
2. The number of children within that age bracket that have been a victim of knife related crimes committed by other adults. – **Information held.**
3. The number of children within that age bracket who have been a victim of knife related crimes by other children – **Information held.**
4. The number of children within the ages of 10 to 13 that have been arrested or charged for carrying a knife. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

1. The number of children within that age bracket who have been found with a knife by the police. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16421 Knife Crimes data.CSV'.**
2. The number of children within that age bracket that have been a victim of knife related crimes committed by other adults. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16421 Knife Crimes data.CSV'.**
3. The number of children within that age bracket who have been a victim of knife related crimes by other children – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16421 Knife Crimes data.CSV'.**
4. The number of children within the ages of 10 to 13 that have been arrested or charged for carrying a knife. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16421 Knife Crimes data.CSV'.**

Please note: we have retrieved the data presented for Qs 1-3 by conducting a search of our crime/occurrence recording systems for offences where a knife crime flag has been applied and the offence has occurred within the date parameters requested.

With relation to question 4, this has been extracted from our occurrence management system for arrests occurring where the age of the arrestee at the time of offence has been between the ages indicated and the offence has been recorded as any possession of a blade or sharply pointed article, again occurring within the timespan indicated.

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit