

The Mayor's analysis on a public health approach to serious youth violence (July 2019) - summary

On 15 July, the Mayor published data on Serious Youth Violence (SYV) and related assaults in London, “using multi-agency data to help inform a public health approach to prevent and reduce serious violence affecting young people in London”. Data sources include the Met, British Transport Police (BTP), the London Ambulance Service (LAS), NHS hospital data, and other public health data sources. The data:

- sets the demographic context of London's young population
- describes the nature and scale of violence affecting people under the age of 25 in London
- identifies links between violence and public health factors at a borough-level in London

The Mayor also outlined the types of projects and programmes that will be funded through the Violence Reduction Unit, as a result of this analysis. This includes:

- Expanding after-school provision in high-crime areas.
- Supporting the transition from primary to secondary school.
- Supporting schools to reduce school exclusions.
- Extra support for young people affected by domestic violence.
- Supporting vulnerable parents – including those who are victims of domestic violence or sexual offences.
- Providing better training for youth workers and establishing a Youth Action Group to inform the VRU's work.
- Piloting programmes in prisons and Young Offender institutions.

The following sets out some of the main points in the analysis.

1. London's youth population

- Nearly a third of Londoners (2.8 million) are aged under 25, in line with other comparable cities.
- A quarter of these young people live in areas in the top quintile of deprivation.
- 75 per cent of young Londoners live in an area classified as being in the worst 40 per cent for crime.

2. Serious Youth Violence

- SYV has been rising since 2012-13. This trend is consistent across different data sources e.g. the Met, BTP, ambulance data and hospital admissions.
- Most SYV offences in 2017 were Serious Wounding offences (59 per cent), followed by Personal Robbery offences (33 per cent).
- 13 per cent of SYV victims are victims of domestic violence and abuse (it is unclear in the data which period this refers to). 70 per cent of these are female and tend to be aged between 18 and 24.
- Ten per cent of ambulance call-outs to youth assaults (10-24 years) involved the use of knives and guns (it is unclear in the data which period this refers to).

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- For the victims aged 10-16, incident patterns reflect school finishing times, whereas for the victims aged 18-24 years, incident patterns more closely reflect the night-time economy and associated activities.
- Three quarters of SYV victims are male and most offenders are male.
- 39 per cent of the victims are from a White ethnic background, and 26 per cent are from a Black ethnic background.
 - Black young people comprise 17 per cent of the young person population in London, meaning that they are over-represented as victims of SYV.
 - However, less than 1 per cent of all Black young Londoners are involved in SYV as either victims or offenders.
- Nearly two thirds of SYV offenders SYV offenders have previously been convicted, cautioned or arrested recently

Boroughs with most SYV victims recorded by the Met (by volume)	Boroughs with highest rate of SYV victims recorded by the Met (by rate)	Boroughs with most SYV victims recorded by BTP (by volume)
Brent Croydon Enfield Haringey Lambeth Newham Southwark Tower Hamlets Westminster	Camden Hackney Haringey Islington Lambeth Southwark Tower Hamlets Westminster	Camden Lambeth Newham Southwark Westminster

Note: Differences between levels and rates of victimisation can result from the size of a borough's youth population; how localised the SYV offending is; as well as by increased flows of people in to a borough.

3. Risk factors for SYV

- The research found a strong correlation between SYV and a numbers of risk factors, the top five of which are:¹
 - The rate of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system (aged 10-17).
 - The proportion of children living in out-of-work benefit claimant households.
 - The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) overall average score.
 - Long-term unemployment as measured by the rate of JSA claims of 1 year or more.
 - The estimated prevalence of emotional disorders amongst 5-16 year olds.
- Other risk factors include prevalence of mental health disorders, educational attainment and the rate of domestic violence and abuse.
- There is a strong positive association between the proportion of the population who were victims of SYV and the perception of gangs being a problem in the area.
- There is a strong positive association between the proportion of the population who were victims of SYV and the perception of violence being a problem in the local area.

¹ The analysis examines correlation and does not imply direct causation from any risk factor to SYV.