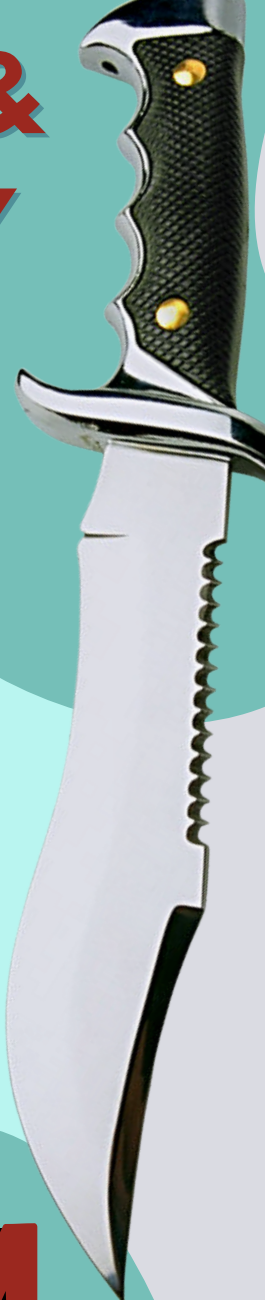
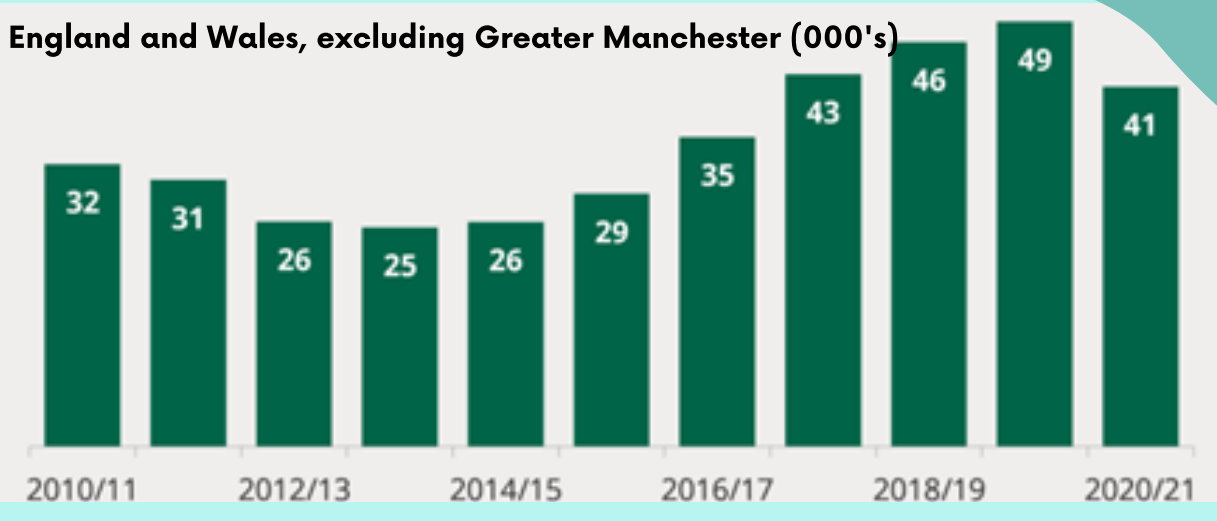


GANGS & COUNTY LINES.



Increase in recorded levels of knife crime [1]



In the year ending March 2021, there were around **41,000** offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales [1]

West Midlands Police Force recorded the highest rate of **156** offences involving a knife per 100,000 population in 2020/21 [1]



224

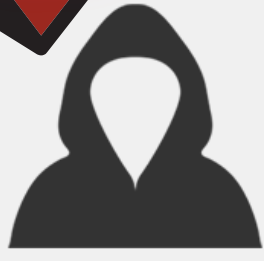
In the year ending March 2021 there were **224** homicides using a sharp instrument, including knives and broken bottles in the UK. [1]



Ministers have announced that a 10-year drugs strategy will allocate **£780m** in funding for the drug treatment system in England. It also includes **£300m** for combating more than **2,000** county lines gangs. [2]



The number of crimes recorded by the police decreased during the pandemic compared with the previous year (**down 10%**) [1]



'County lines' are where urban gangs are supplying illegal drugs in suburban areas, market or coastal towns



Vulnerable children and adults are exploited by gangs to move drugs and cash around

Spotting County Line Activity



Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school



An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community



Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults



An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat



Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia [3]



[1] House of Commons Library [2] GOV.UK [3] National Crime Agency