

Knife crime increases by over 70% in Gloucestershire during ten year period, according to data

by Grace Dembowicz

Knife crime in Gloucestershire has risen by 74.4% between 2008 and 2018, figures have shown. With a national increase of 25.1% across the United Kingdom in that time, the data represents offences for assault with injury and to cause serious harm.

Number of offences in Gloucestershire from 2008-2018 for assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm



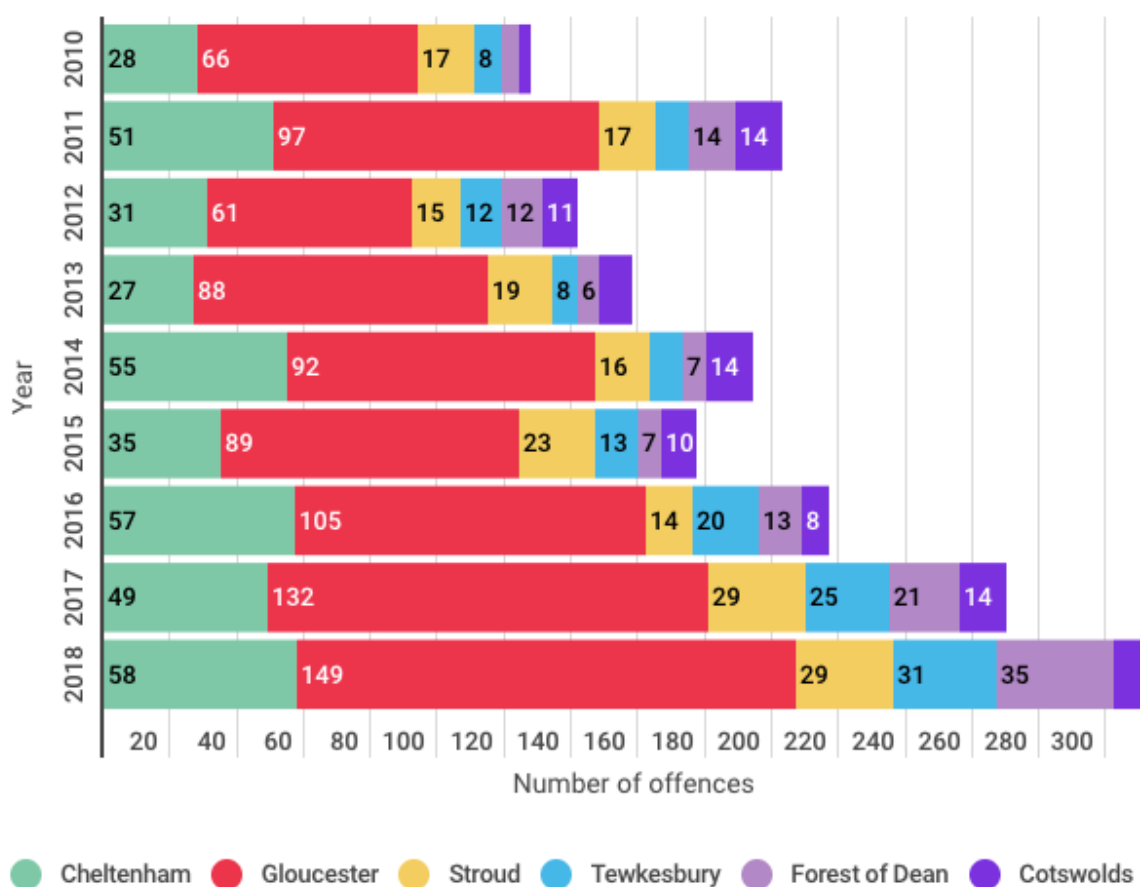
Source: Gov.uk

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With 171 incidents reported in 2018, Emily Midwinter, Communications Manager for *Gloucestershire Constabulary* stated: "we're addressing the problem locally with the Office

of the Police and Crime Commissioner and agencies and partnerships likes Safer Gloucestershire. Our work has included initiatives with reformed knife crime offenders and courts to take the message to vulnerable children, and work with charities to divert teenagers into positive activities”.

Number of knife crime offences between 2010-2018 in Gloucestershire by electoral ward



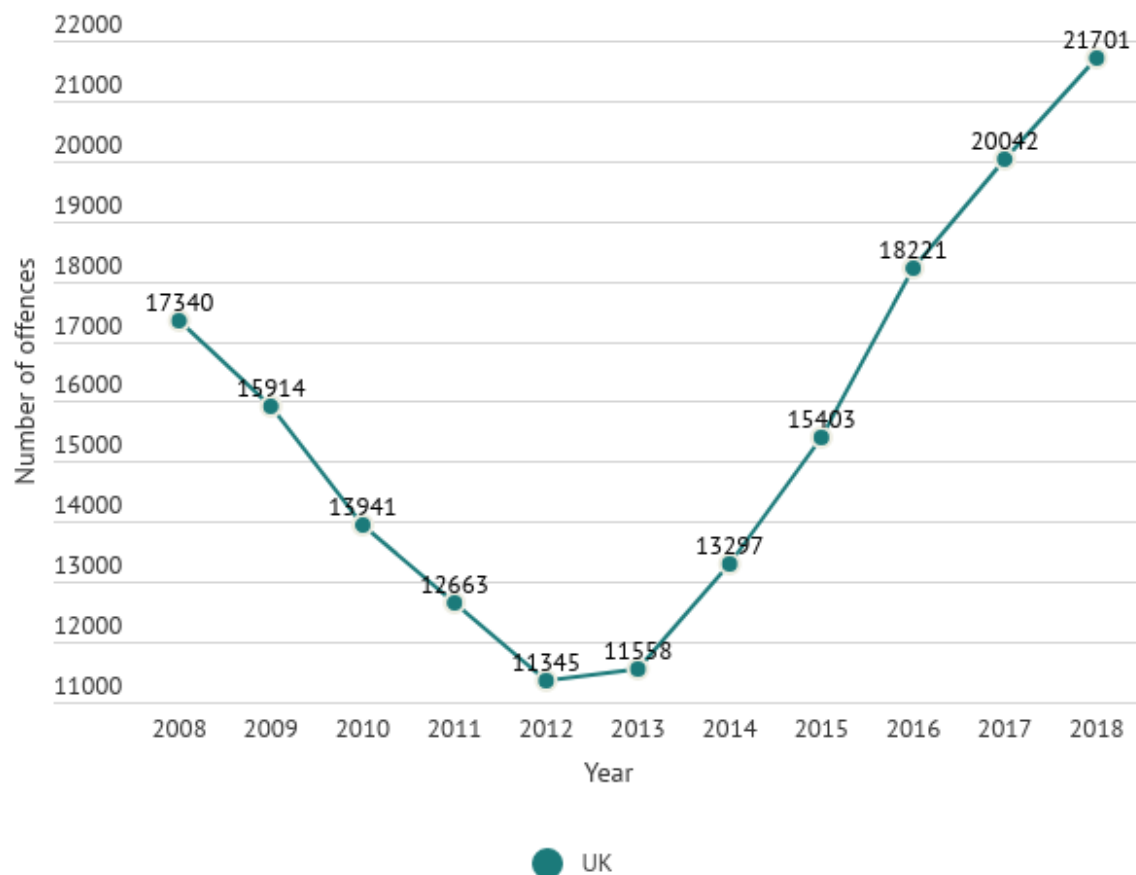
Source: Freedom of Information from Gloucestershire Constabulary

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According to Freedom of Information data by *Gloucestershire Constabulary*, Gloucester city has the highest number of knife crime offences since 2010. Within the eight year period there were 879 reported knife crimes compared to The Cotswolds, 23 miles away with 95

offences, highlighting a 85% difference. These crimes cover any knife related offences, including rape, robbery and attempted murder.

Number of offences across the UK from 2008-2018 for assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm



Source: Gov.uk

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The figures highlight higher numbers of knife crime within urbanised areas, such as Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud despite rural areas such as Tewkesbury, Forest of Dean and The Cotswolds having a 9.1% higher combined population.

Last month 49 year old [Michael Lebon](#) from Gloucester was sentenced to twelve years in prison after pleading guilty to involvement in knife point robberies which took place last summer.

Lebon terrorised staff and customers in restaurants and supermarkets across Gloucester, Cinderford and Twynning by threatening them with a knife after demanding money. With 123 offences since 2004, Lebon was well known to Gloucestershire police.

At Lebon's trial, Judge Ian Lawrie QC at Gloucester Crown Court said: "These robberies are very similar to his previous convictions in 2004. It seems he just doesn't learn his lesson." The judge branded Lebon as a "dangerous man" who needs to be locked up for "longer than normal sentencing guidelines".

In the UK the average sentence for possession of a knife alone can be up to [four years](#) even if the weapon is not used.