# Notting Hill Carnival sees significant drop in serious violence amid technological crackdown in 2025



The 2025 Notting Hill Carnival concluded with a notably lower level of serious violence compared to previous years, despite the high volume of attendees and a substantial number of arrests. Across the two main days of the event, the Metropolitan Police recorded 423 arrests, including a significant number for possession of offensive weapons, with 46 individuals charged on that count alone. This year's incidents included two stabbings, which took place at Powis Terrace and Oxford Gardens. Importantly, neither incident resulted in life-threatening injuries, marking a relative improvement in public safety at the carnival.

The police attributed this reduction in serious violence to proactive and rigorous security measures, including the deployment of live facial recognition technology, which directly contributed to 52 arrests. Additionally, knife arches and intensive stop-and-search operations played critical roles in identifying and detaining suspects. Assistant Commissioner Matt Ward highlighted these strategies as key in preventing more severe violence during the festivities. The overall approach appeared to manage the challenges of policing one of Europe's largest street festivals effectively.

By contrast, the 2024 Notting Hill Carnival saw higher levels of violence and disruption. Police reports from that year noted eight stabbing incidents, with three cases occurring on Sunday alone, including a young mother who was critically injured. Five further stabbings happened on Monday, two seriously life-threatening. The previous year also saw over 300 arrests, primarily related to offensive weapons and drug offences, alongside a large number of assaults on police officers—50 officers were reported injured during that event. These figures underscore the significance of the 2025 event's improved safety record.

The Metropolitan Police's 2024 operational briefing detailed multiple assaults on officers—61 incidents were documented during the carnival weekend. There were also three firearms seized amid the arrests, and a broad range of offences was recorded, including drug-related crimes and sexual offences. Such figures serve as a stark reminder of the complex security challenges the police face each year at the carnival, which attracts over a million attendees celebrating culture and community but also provides opportunities for criminal activity.

This year's reported incidents and arrests, including 32 assaults on police officers and 70 cannabis-related offences, demonstrate that challenges remain, even as serious violence decreased. The Metropolitan Police's willingness to leverage technology and intensive patrols reflects a structured attempt to balance public enjoyment with necessary law enforcement presence. The success of these strategies in 2025 may offer a blueprint for future events, aiming to protect both participants and officers in an environment that has historically posed significant policing difficulties.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sadiq-khan-london-people-government-conservatives-b1244424.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-london-brazilian-african-scotland-yard-b1244408.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-scotland-yard-dubai-london-b1244408.html), [[7]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/423-arrested-at-notting-hill-carnival-amid-2-stabbings/lnew4kp)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-london-brazilian-african-scotland-yard-b1244408.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-scotland-yard-dubai-london-b1244408.html), [[7]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/423-arrested-at-notting-hill-carnival-amid-2-stabbings/lnew4kp)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07e55159kro), [[5]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czdpg9rz750o)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07e55159kro), [[5]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czdpg9rz750o)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/423-arrested-at-notting-hill-carnival-amid-2-stabbings/lnew4kp), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-london-brazilian-african-scotland-yard-b1244408.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-scotland-yard-dubai-london-b1244408.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sadiq-khan-london-people-government-conservatives-b1244424.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-london-brazilian-african-scotland-yard-b1244408.html> - The Standard reports that the 2025 Notting Hill Carnival saw a significant reduction in serious violence compared to previous years. The Metropolitan Police made 423 arrests over the two main days, including 46 for possession of an offensive weapon. Two stabbings occurred, one in Powis Terrace and one in Oxford Gardens, but neither resulted in life-threatening injuries. The police employed live facial recognition technology, leading to 52 arrests, and used knife arches and stop-and-search powers to identify and arrest more than 400 suspects. Assistant Commissioner Matt Ward stated that these measures helped prevent serious violence at the carnival.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/metropolitan-police-scotland-yard-dubai-london-b1244408.html> - An article from The Standard highlights the Metropolitan Police's efforts to reduce serious violence at the 2025 Notting Hill Carnival. Over the two main days, 423 arrests were made, including 46 for possession of an offensive weapon. Two stabbings occurred, one in Powis Terrace and one in Oxford Gardens, but neither resulted in life-threatening injuries. The police utilized live facial recognition technology, resulting in 52 arrests, and implemented knife arches and stop-and-search powers to identify and arrest more than 400 suspects. Assistant Commissioner Matt Ward emphasized that these proactive measures helped prevent serious violence at the event.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07e55159kro> - The BBC reports that during the 2024 Notting Hill Carnival, eight people were stabbed, with a total of 334 arrests made. Three stabbings occurred on Sunday, one of which involved a young mother who remains in critical condition. On Monday, five people were stabbed, with two critically injured. The Metropolitan Police also reported that 50 officers were injured during the event, and most arrests were for possessing an offensive weapon or drug offences. Over a million people attended the carnival, with the majority coming to celebrate, while a minority used it as an opportunity to commit crime, including violence.
5. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332> - The Metropolitan Police provide an update on incidents and arrests during the 2024 Notting Hill Carnival. Over the two days, there were 61 incidents where officers were assaulted, with 24 on Sunday and 37 on Monday. In total, eight people were stabbed, with three sustaining life-threatening injuries. A 41-year-old man remains in critical condition after sustaining a head injury during an assault in Queensway. There were 349 arrests over the weekend, with the majority for possession of an offensive weapon, assault on an emergency worker, and sexual offences.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czdpg9rz750o> - The BBC reports on the 2024 Notting Hill Carnival, where seven people were stabbed or sustained slash wounds in separate incidents. A 41-year-old man is in critical condition after a head injury during an assault in Queensway. A total of 61 police officers were assaulted during the event, with some being headbutted, spat at, and two having glass bottles thrown at them. Some 349 people were arrested throughout Sunday and Monday, most commonly for drug offences or possessing an offensive weapon. Three firearms were recovered, and there were also 49 arrests for other weapons.
7. <https://www.upday.com/uk/crime/423-arrested-at-notting-hill-carnival-amid-2-stabbings/lnew4kp> - Upday News reports that over the two main days of the 2025 Notting Hill Carnival, more than 400 people were arrested, with two stabbings reported but no life-threatening injuries. The Metropolitan Police confirmed 423 total arrests by Monday evening, including 223 on Monday alone. The stabbings occurred in Powis Terrace and Oxford Gardens during the festivities. Police made 177 arrests within the carnival area on Monday, with another 46 on the approaches to the event. Live facial recognition technology led to 52 arrests across the weekend. The breakdown of offences included 32 assaults on police, 46 weapons possession charges, and 70 cannabis-related arrests.