# London reports 13% drop in violent crime amid targeted police efforts and new prevention programmes



Violent crime in London has seen a substantial decline, with recent figures showing a 13% reduction, which translates to nearly 10,000 fewer violent offences annually. This positive trend includes a notable drop in homicides, with 30 fewer cases reported, and significant decreases in incidents of gun crime, residential burglary, and business burglaries. According to official statements, these improvements are largely attributed to the dedicated efforts of the Metropolitan Police and London’s Violence Reduction Unit, which have collectively contributed to residents being significantly less likely to fall victim to assault or other violent crimes compared to the rest of England and Wales.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has highlighted the importance of continuing to tackle violence across the capital, noting early summer figures that indicate a 17% decrease in homicides alongside a 13% reduction in violence with injury and a 27% fall in burglary rates. To maintain this momentum, the Mayor has committed to launching initiatives such as a new £6 million programme aimed at providing holiday activities and opportunities to young people most at risk of exploitation and violence.

These encouraging statistics align with data stretching back several years, which reveal long-term progress in tackling serious violence. For example, over the period from 2016 to early 2024, there has been a 3% reduction in homicides, a 19% decrease in knife crime with injury among those under 25, and an 18% decline in burglary. Gun crime has also notably fallen by 19%. These trends demonstrate a sustained effort by the city’s authorities to curtail violence and protect vulnerable groups. Public safety reports show London’s violent crime rate, at around 28.4 offences per 1,000 population, remains lower than the rest of England and Wales, where it stands closer to 33-35.4 per 1,000.

Certain boroughs have experienced particularly dramatic improvements. In the North Borough Command Unit, which includes areas such as Haringey and Enfield, homicides have dropped by 58.3%, with Haringey itself seeing a 42.9% reduction. This success follows the implementation of targeted operations like Operation Denali, launched in 2022, which focuses on six London boroughs with high levels of serious youth violence and has resulted in nearly 2,000 arrests and the recovery of over 450 weapons.

While these figures mark undeniable progress, the Mayor’s office highlights the ongoing challenges posed by broader social issues, including the cost-of-living crisis, which has been linked to crime rates in London. The Mayor continues to call for urgent government action to tackle these root causes and sustain the downward trend in violence, emphasising that further investment in policing and prevention services remains crucial.

Overall, the combination of intensified policing, community engagement, and focused preventative programmes appears to be having a measurable impact in reducing violence and making London a safer city, although officials remain vigilant about emerging threats and socio-economic pressures that could influence future crime patterns.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/Early-figures-show-significant-reduction-in-homicides-in-London-across-summer-months-as-Mayor-commits-to-continue-tackling-violence), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-demands-urgent-government-action-causes-crime-new-report-confirms-cost-living-crisis-link-rise), [[5]](https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/keep-date-mopac-work/mopac-publications/mopac-annual-report-23-24), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/mayor-joins-specialist-officers-working-to-tackle-violence-in-London), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-demands-urgent-government-action-causes-crime-new-report-confirms-cost-living-crisis-link-rise), [[7]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/safety-london-1), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/violent-crime-plunges-london-homicide-rate-b1247078.html> - This article reports a 13% reduction in violent crime in London, equating to nearly 10,000 fewer attacks annually. It highlights a significant decrease in homicides, with 30 fewer cases, and a notable drop in gun crime incidents. The piece also mentions reductions in both residential and business burglaries. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, attributes these improvements to the dedicated efforts of the Metropolitan Police and London's Violence Reduction Unit, emphasizing that residents are now significantly less likely to be victims of assault or other forms of violence compared to the rest of England and Wales.
3. <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-demands-urgent-government-action-causes-crime-new-report-confirms-cost-living-crisis-link-rise> - This report from the Mayor of London discusses the link between the cost-of-living crisis and a rise in crime and violence. It highlights that in the twelve months to May 2016 compared to the twelve months to January 2024, homicides in London fell by 3%, knife crime with injury under 25 years decreased by 19%, gun crime dropped by 19%, and burglary declined by 18%. The report also notes that the violent crime rate in London is lower than the rest of England and Wales, with 27.9 recorded violence against the person offences per 1,000 population in the Metropolitan Police area, compared to 35.4 per 1,000 in the rest of England and Wales.
4. <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/Early-figures-show-significant-reduction-in-homicides-in-London-across-summer-months-as-Mayor-commits-to-continue-tackling-violence> - This press release from the Mayor of London presents early figures indicating a significant reduction in homicides across the summer months. It reports a 17% decrease in homicides, with 20 fewer offences compared to the previous period. The release also highlights a 13% reduction in violence with injury and a 27% decrease in burglary. The Mayor commits to continuing efforts to tackle violence, including launching a new £6 million programme to provide holiday activities and opportunities for young people at risk of exploitation and violence.
5. <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/keep-date-mopac-work/mopac-publications/mopac-annual-report-23-24> - The 2023-24 MOPAC Annual Report outlines key priorities and achievements in enhancing public safety in London. It reports a 3% reduction in homicides, a 19% decrease in knife crime with injury under 25 years, a 19% drop in gun crime, and an 18% decline in burglary. The report also notes that the violent crime rate in London is lower than the rest of England and Wales, with 28.4 recorded violence against the person offences per 1,000 population in the Metropolitan Police area, compared to 34 per 1,000 in the rest of England and Wales.
6. <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/mayor-joins-specialist-officers-working-to-tackle-violence-in-London> - This press release details the Mayor of London's involvement with specialist officers working to tackle violence in London. It reports a 58.3% reduction in homicides in the North Borough Command Unit, which includes Haringey and Enfield, and a 42.9% decrease in Haringey alone. The release also highlights the launch of Operation Denali, targeting six London boroughs with high levels of serious violence affecting young people, resulting in 1,914 arrests and 459 weapons being recovered since January 2022.
7. <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/safety-london-1> - This document from the London Assembly discusses the Mayor's investment in policing and preventative services. It reports a 24% reduction in knife crime with injury among victims aged 25 and under, a 5% decrease in gun crime, a 40% drop in lethal barrel discharges, a 7% reduction in homicides, and a 21% decline in burglary since 2016. The document also notes that London's violent crime rate is lower than the rest of England and Wales, with 28.4 violent crimes per 1,000 people in London, compared to 33 per 1,000 in the rest of England and Wales.