# London’s crime crisis deepens as statistics reveal alarming surge under Sadiq Khan



Since Sadiq Khan assumed office as Mayor of London in 2016, the capital's decline into chaos has become painfully evident, with crime rates spiraling to alarming levels and governmental incompetence on display for all to see. According to the Office for National Statistics, over March’s figures released by the BBC, crime in the Metropolitan Police area increased by over 30 percent—a staggering failure of leadership—while violent crimes surged by 40 percent. These numbers expose Khan’s attempts to spin a falsely optimistic narrative, with his cherry-picked quarterly statistics doing little to hide the undeniable long-term deterioration in public safety.

The most disturbing trend is the explosion of theft and violent offences, which have doubled under Khan’s watch. Conservative candidate Susan Hall pointed out a near doubling of thefts—up 96 percent—and an almost equal rise in knife-related robberies, which have soared by 97 percent since 2016. Meanwhile, armed shoplifting has exploded, with weapon or tool-involved incidents rising by 91 percent—from 456 in 2015 to 874 in 2023—data critics like Rob Blackie highlight as evidence of an “epidemic” of lawlessness. These statistics cast a glaring spotlight on Khan’s failure to protect London’s citizens, with the city descending into a state of lawlessness where thieves and violent offenders feel emboldened.

Knife and gun crimes remain persistent threats, with recent data indicating a 20 percent rise over the past year alone. Official stat sheets document 14,626 knife offences and 1,208 gun crimes in 2023, painting a bleak picture of ongoing violent disorder. While some defenders attempt to attribute these figures to broader social issues like deprivation, the reality is clear: Khan’s policies have failed to stem the tide of violent crime, demonstrating his incapacity or unwillingness to prioritize public safety.

On the transport front, the situation has deteriorated further, with crime on London’s transport network rising 58 percent from 2016 to 2023—an indictment of Khan’s neglect of policing and reliability efforts. Offences surged from 29,413 to 46,531, further endangering daily commuters. Sadiq Khan blames austerity measures and pandemic-related disruptions, but serious questions remain about his ability to enforce law and order in critical infrastructure.

Despite this bleak overview, some recent statistics suggest a glimmer of progress, with mid-2025 data indicating only a slight decline in overall crime—dropping from approximately 237,000 incidents to 234,000. Yet, this marginal improvement masks the widespread failures of the Khan administration, which continues to grapple with rising thefts, violent attacks, and armed robberies. Khan’s own admissions that “more work is needed” betray a recognition of his own shortcomings, but they offer little reassurance to Londoners who are living in fear.

Furthermore, while certain crimes such as knife offences have continued to increase—by around 40 percent—the murder rate surprisingly shows a decline, adding to the confusing and contradictory nature of crime reporting in London. Critics argue that such mixed statistics only serve to obfuscate the scale of the catastrophe, while Khan’s inability to deliver real security solutions proves that his leadership is utterly inadequate.

In sum, the narrative of London’s crime crisis under Sadiq Khan is one of failure, chaos, and broken promises. Far from safeguarding citizens, Khan has presided over a city increasingly marred by lawlessness, armed robberies, violent assaults, and a clear decline in public safety. As residents face an uncertain future, only urgent, decisive action—something notably absent from Khan’s tenure—can begin to restore order and confidence in London’s streets. The city deserves leadership that values safety and the rule of law, not one satisfied with cosmetic statistics and political spin.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/comment/crime-mayor-sadiq-khan-theft-dangerous-b1244011.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/04/06/sadiq-khan-losing-control-of-crime-in-london-thefts-soar/> - An article from The Telegraph dated April 6, 2024, reports that Sadiq Khan has been accused of losing control over crime in London, with thefts and robberies involving knives nearly doubling during his tenure. Conservative mayoral candidate Susan Hall highlighted a 96% increase in 'theft from person' incidents since Khan took office in 2016, and a 97% rise in knife-related robberies. The piece underscores concerns about the rising crime rates under Khan's leadership.
3. <https://new.chiswickw4.com/page/shared/common/ldrscrime028.htm> - This article from ChiswickW4.com, published on April 26, 2024, discusses the 20% rise in knife and gun crime in London over the past year. Official statistics reveal 14,626 knife offences and 1,208 gun crimes in 2023. The piece includes comments from Sadiq Khan defending his record and addressing the complex causes of crime, such as deprivation and lack of opportunity, while acknowledging the need for continued efforts to tackle violence.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/26/fact-check-has-sadiq-khan-really-overseen-a-surge-in-london> - An article from The Guardian dated February 26, 2024, examines claims about a surge in crime under Sadiq Khan's mayoralty. It presents data showing a 40% increase in knife crime since Khan took office in 2016, with 14,000 knife-related offences recorded in the year ending September 2023. The piece also highlights a decline in the murder rate and discusses the complexities of interpreting crime statistics, noting that while some crimes have risen, others have decreased.
5. <https://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/2025/08/12/crime-down-in-london-but-still-a-long-way-to-go-admits-khan/> - An article from Haringey Community Press, published on August 12, 2025, reports on a slight decrease in reported crimes across London, from 236,972 to 234,523 compared to the same period last year. Despite this, Mayor Sadiq Khan acknowledges that there is still a 'long way to go' in addressing crime. The piece highlights reductions in knife crime, residential burglary, personal theft, and personal robbery, while noting that Khan has admitted more efforts are needed to combat crime effectively.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-london-armed-shoplifting-mayor-crime-election-rob-blackie-b1154165.html> - An article from The Standard, dated April 26, 2024, reveals a 91% increase in armed shoplifting in London compared to the period before Sadiq Khan took office. Data shows that shoplifting involving weapons or tools rose from 456 recorded instances in 2015 to 874 in 2023. The piece includes criticism from Liberal Democrat mayoral candidate Rob Blackie, who describes the trend as an 'epidemic' and calls for more police presence to address the issue.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/sadiq-khan-public-transport-london-crime-offences-rob-blackie-mayor-tube-bus-b1144891.html> - An article from The Standard, published on March 12, 2024, reports a 58% rise in crime on London's public transport network since Sadiq Khan took office in 2016. Figures obtained by Liberal Democrat mayoral candidate Rob Blackie show that reported offences increased from 29,413 in 2016 to 46,531 in 2023. The piece includes comments from Khan attributing the rise to government austerity measures and the return of passengers post-pandemic, while Blackie expresses concern over the trend.