

# Knife Crime

Youth Offending data – Kent  
April 2019



# Definitions of knife crime

## **1. Possession**

It is prohibited to possess in any public place an offensive weapon without lawful authority or excuse. It is also a specific offence to have such an item on school premises

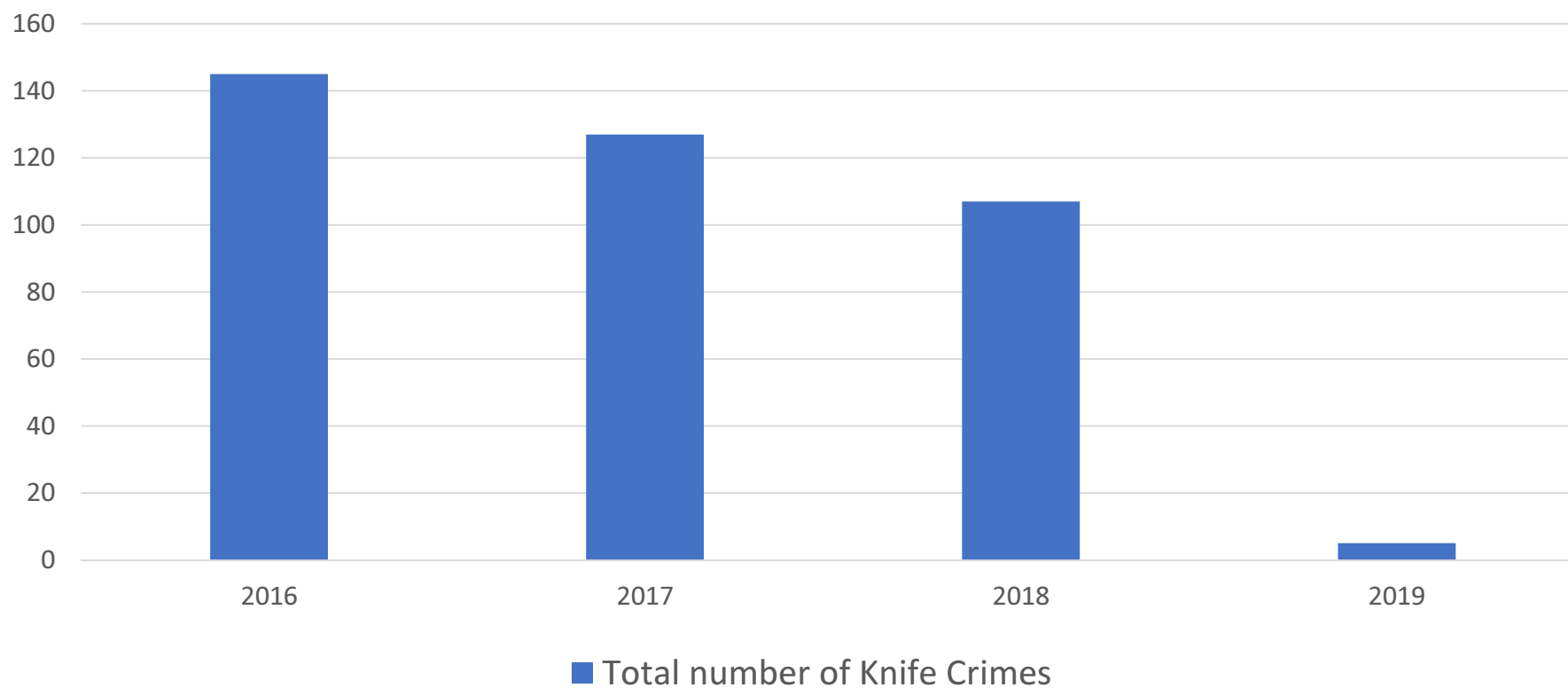
## **2. Robbery & Theft from a person**

Includes all offences of theft from a person with the use, or threat, of force

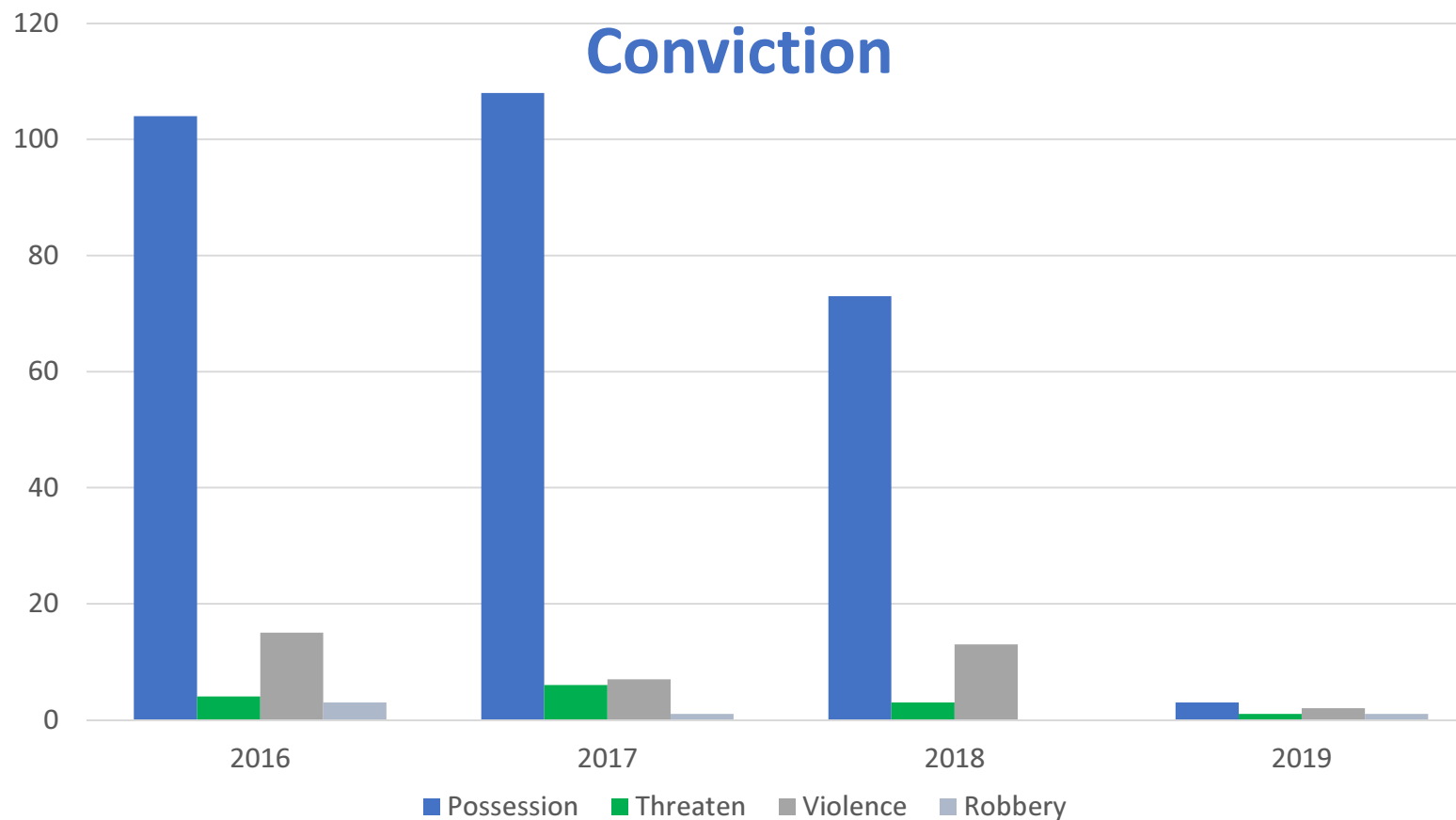
## **3. Serious violence & assault with injury**

Includes Murder, Attempted Murder, Wounding or other act endangering life, Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Assault with injury: Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and other injury, and racially or religiously aggravated ABH and other injury

# Kent Knife Crime Offences which resulted in an Out of Court Disposal or Court Conviction



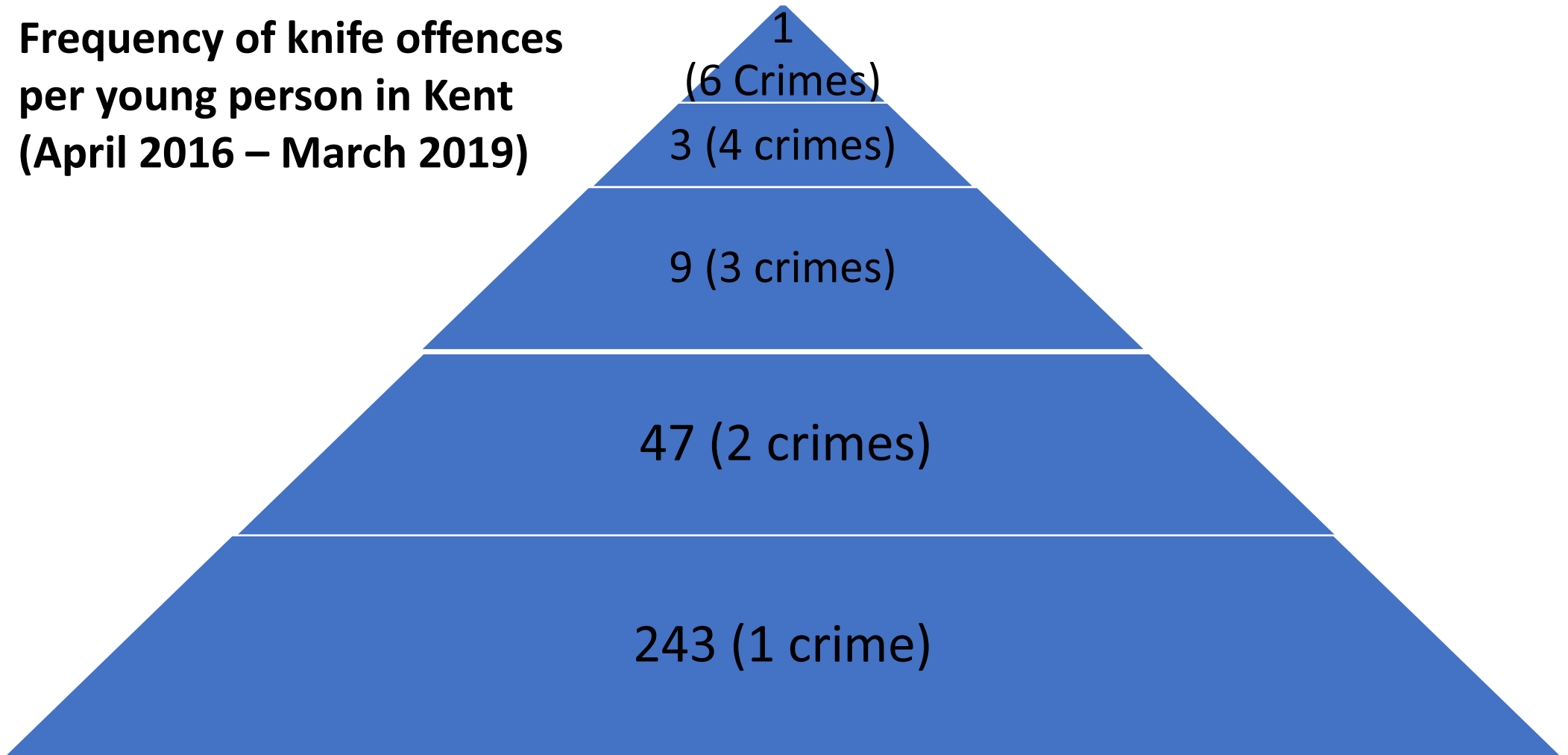
## Kent Summary of Offences resulting in an Out of Court Disposal or Court Conviction



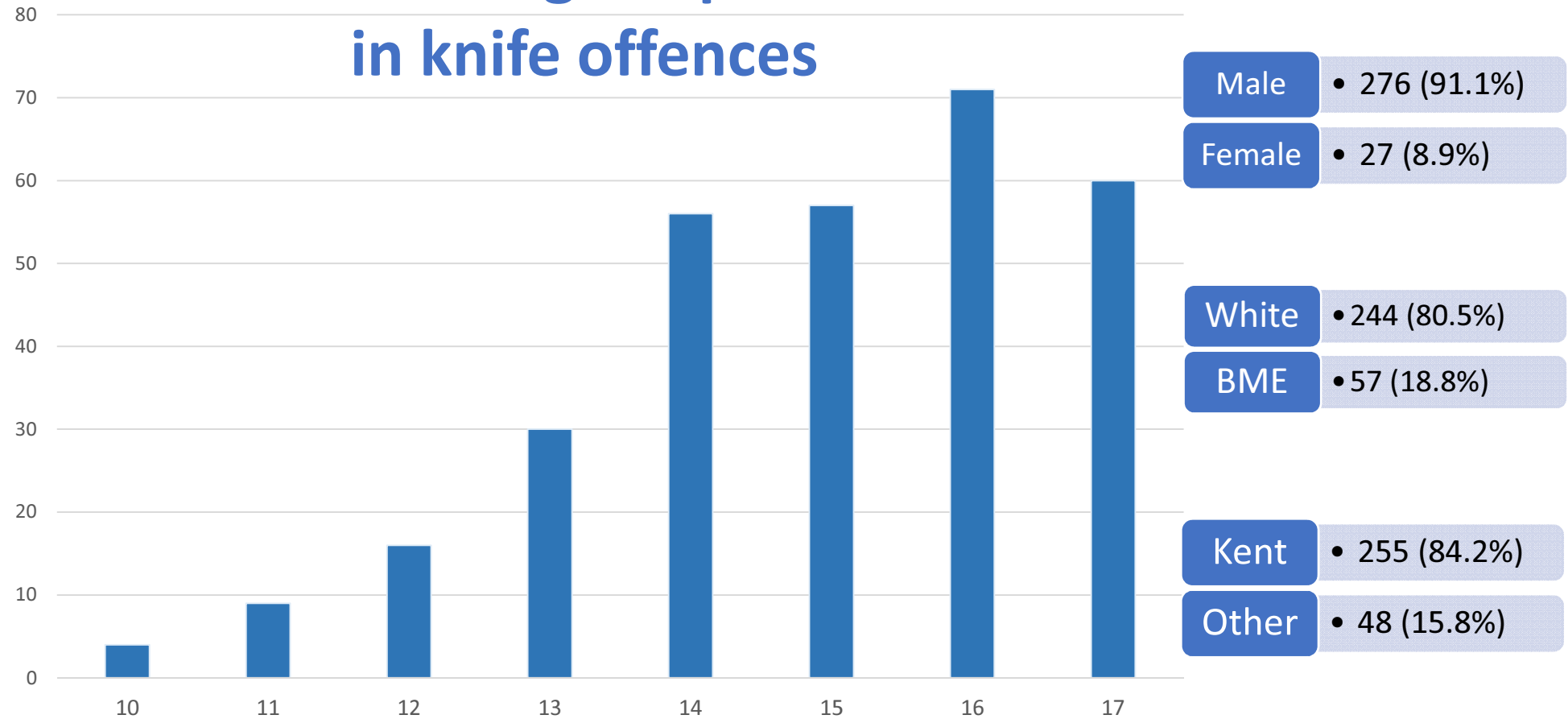
Violence Against the Person and Robbery Offences involving the use of weapons, directly linked to knife crime.

The Violence Against the person offences have been grouped into either Possession, Threaten, or Violence.

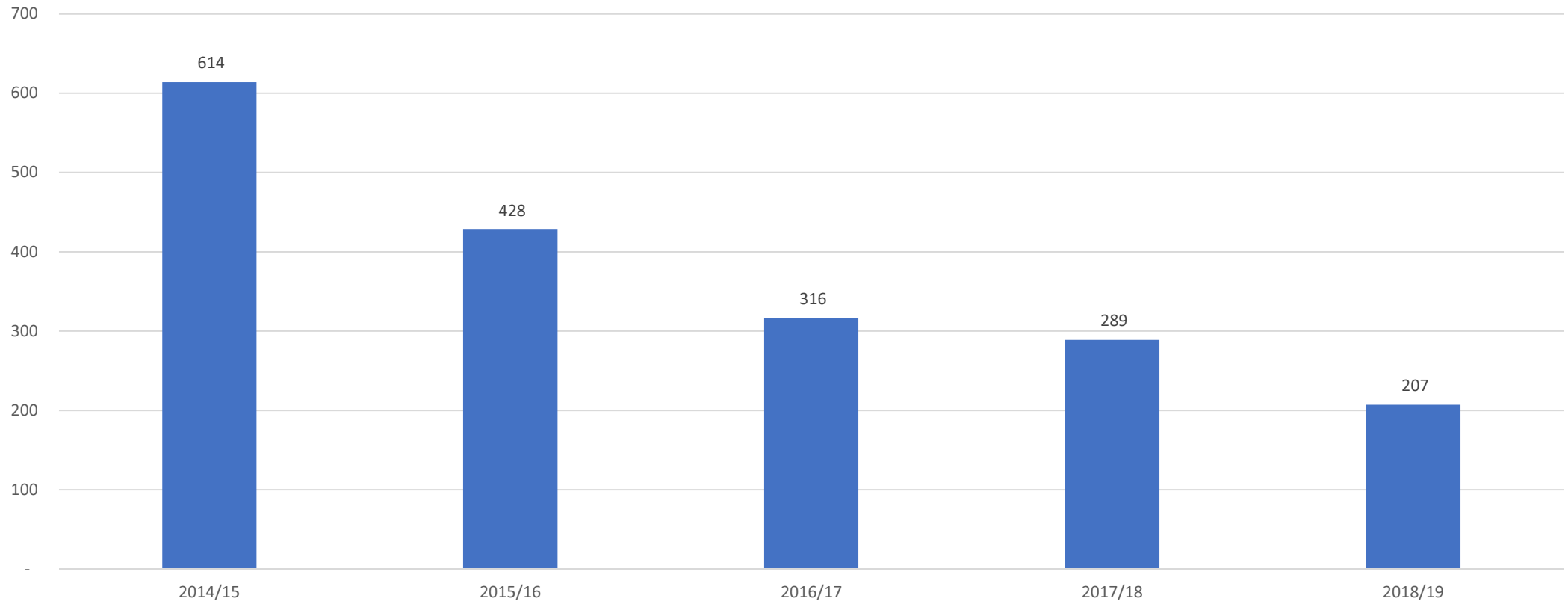
**Frequency of knife offences  
per young person in Kent  
(April 2016 – March 2019)**



# Profile of Young People involved in knife offences



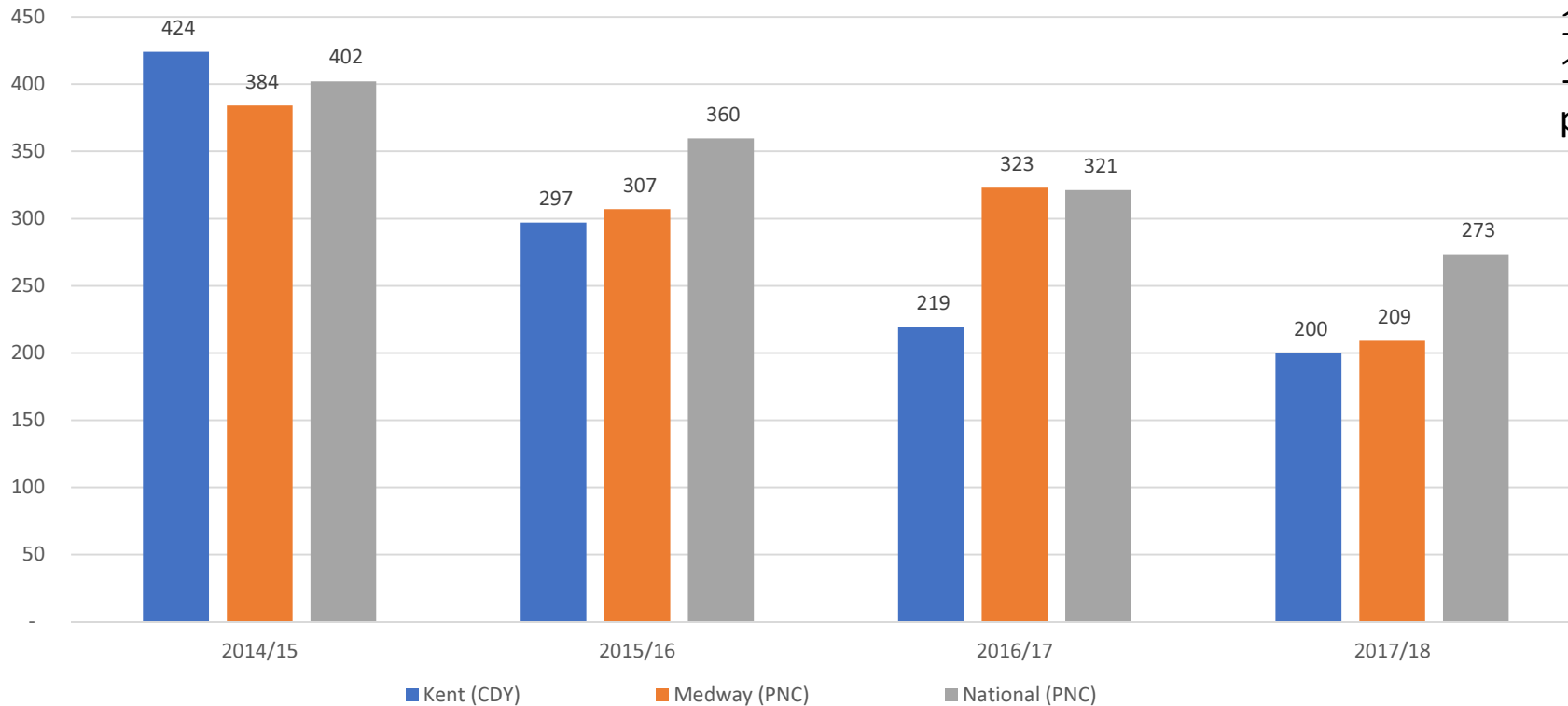
# Kent: First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System



■ Kent Figures extracted from YJ system CareDirector Youth (CDY)

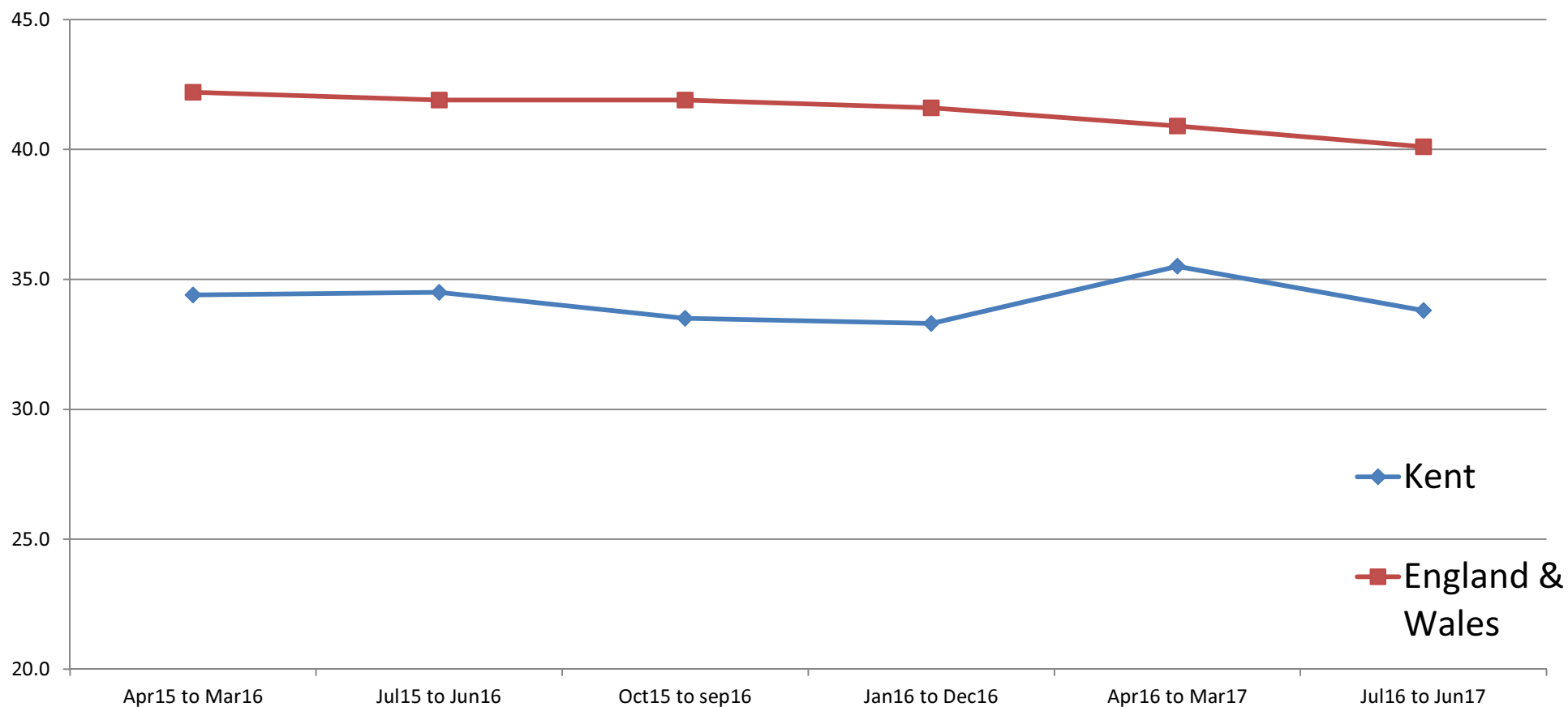
## Kent, Medway and National Rate\* of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

\*Rate of first  
time entrants to  
the youth justice  
system per  
100,000 of the  
10-17 year old  
population



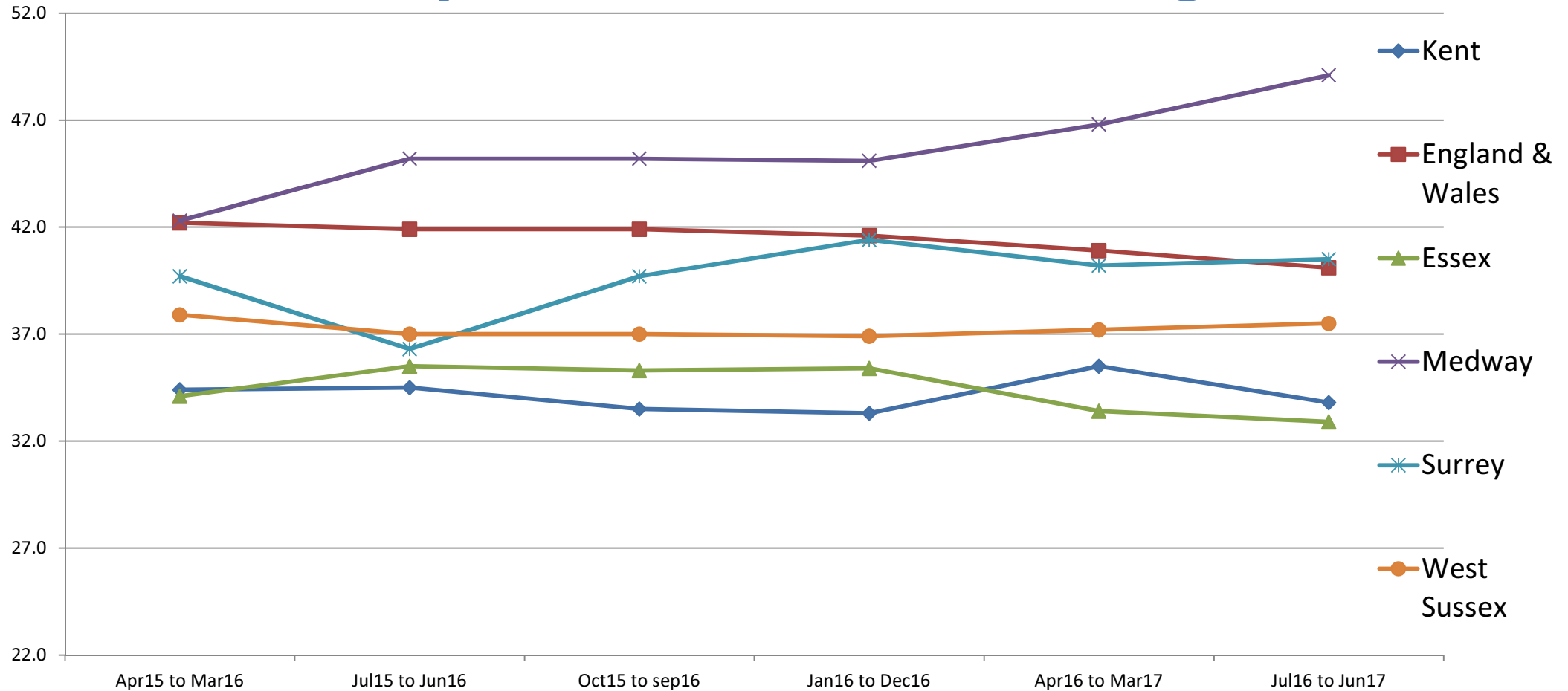


# Ministry of Justice reoffending data



Performance:      England & Wales: 40.1%  
Kent: 33.8%

# Ministry of Justice Reoffending Data



# 3 predominant motivations for carrying weapons:

The College of Policing Research (2019)

- Self protection & fear  
'defensive weapon carrying' particularly for previous victims of crime
- Self-presentation  
particularly for individuals who want 'street credibility' & 'respect'.  
Possession of a weapon to increase status.
- Utility  
'offensive weapon carrying'  
particularly for individuals to facilitate theft, sexual assault, injury and serious harm.

# Is there a link between criminal exploitation & knife crime?

- Evidence suggests that criminal exploitation related knife crime, although more likely to result in injury or fatality, makes up only a small proportion (5% in 2016) of total knife crime with injury
- Analysis suggests a stronger link in London between gangs and knife crime

# Evidence of what works

- **Problem solving and focussed deterrence**
  - multi-agency response that combines swift enforcement with improved access to support for the young person
- **Trauma-informed approaches**
  - understanding impact of trauma on young people. Helping young people who have experienced trauma to feel safe, and identifying how others can support
- **Family Focus**
  - supporting parents to reinforce good behaviour. Building support for the young person from the family
- **Skills Based Training**
  - teaching young people social skills, how to regulate their emotions, how to solve problems

# Evidence of what works

- **Restorative Approaches**
  - evidence shows these have an impact on violent crime
- **Contextual Safeguarding**
  - keeping young people safe within their contexts of social relationships, community and extra familial environments
- **Long term Mentoring**
  - longer than 3 months
- **Community Engagement**
  - structured recreational activities that help the young person see themselves with a positive future, and others to share this view

# National Initiatives & Developments

- Offensive Weapons Bill
- Knife Crime Orders
- Serious Violence Strategy
- Youth Endowment Fund

# What Kent is doing

- Adolescent Services
- Trauma informed approaches
- Contextual Safeguarding
- North Kent & Medway Serious Youth Violence Project
- Skills-based First Aid
- Restorative Approaches