

Americans Are Moving To London To Avoid Gun Crimes, But Knife Crimes Are The Leading Cause Of Homicides In England And Wales

American buyers have revitalised London's luxury property market



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Some Americans, seeking refuge from the escalating gun violence and political turmoil in their country, have chosen to relocate to the United Kingdom. However, they have found themselves facing a different kind of threat: the soaring rates of knife crime in England and Wales.

Knife-related offences in England and Wales increased by seven percent in 2023, reaching 49,489 incidents. While this figure is still below the pre-pandemic peak, the upward trend, especially in robberies involving knives, is alarming. Regional disparities exist, with the West Midlands and Metropolitan Police areas reporting significantly higher rates of knife crime compared to other regions.

Knife Crime As A Deadly Threat

Knife crime is a major contributor to homicides in England and Wales. According to Dr Iain Overton, addressing the underlying societal issues of poverty, lack of opportunity, and community breakdown is crucial for long-term solutions.

Data shows that 41 percent of homicides in 2023 were knife-related, with a total of 244 stabbing deaths. Over the last decade, 38 percent of all homicides were due to sharp instruments. While the number of knife murders has fluctuated, knives consistently account for a significant proportion of homicides, highlighting the persistent threat posed by knife violence.

Towards A Safer Future

Addressing knife crime requires a comprehensive approach. This includes stricter enforcement, investment in prevention, and providing positive alternatives for young people. By understanding the causes and implementing coordinated solutions, the UK can reverse the trend and create safer communities.

The tragic deaths of Bebe King, Elsie Dot Stancombe, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar in Southport underscore the human cost of knife crime. Continued efforts and collaboration are essential to reduce knife crime and prevent future tragedies.

While the UK grapples with a surge in knife crime, wealthy Americans are still flocking to its posh neighbourhoods, seeking refuge from the escalating gun violence and political turmoil back home.

Wealthy Americans Seek Refuge In London

A recent [Bloomberg](#) report reveals a surge in investments from wealthy foreign expatriates in London's luxury real estate market. Sales have doubled in just six months, driven by a strong dollar and the social and political challenges facing the United States.

These factors have prompted American citizens to seek refuge in the British capital and acquire its most exclusive properties. "Americans are being much more decisive with purchases, partly because they don't want to return to the US due to issues such as gun crime," Jo Eccles, the managing director of London property search service Eccord, told the outlet.

The expert noted that favourable exchange rates had prompted Americans to carefully calculate their finances and prepare offers, considering tax implications before relocating. This behaviour marks a significant departure from three years ago, when American clients often rented before purchasing, delaying their establishment in London.

Eccles recently represented a \$42 million luxury home sale in Notting Hill to an American buyer. While such high-priced transactions were rare, they have become commonplace in London. This trend is particularly striking given the decline in local and UK buyers due to increased taxes on the wealthy.

A Surge In Luxury Property Investments

According to a Bloomberg report citing a survey by LonRes, numerous luxury brokers note that Americans are their primary buyers in the current market. In just nine months, the percentage of American buyers in London increased from 3.3 percent in the second half of 2023 to 6.1 percent in the first half of 2024.

"Whenever there has been a financial or political upheaval over the last 50 years, the rich bees have always flown to the honey pot of London," luxury real estate firm Glentree's managing director, Trevor Abrahmsohn, explained to the outlet.

"We're nursing three inquiries at the moment, up to [over \$131 million], where clients are looking for trophy properties in London to house their families in their new British guise," Abrahmsohn added. Notably, this influx of American buyers seeking refuge from domestic challenges has coincided with a surge in another alarming trend in the UK: rising knife crime rates.

Earlier this year, the Labour Party accused the Conservatives of stalling efforts to curb knife crime, citing [recent statistics](#) that reveal a 20 percent increase in London's knife crime rates. In 2023 alone, roughly 50,000 offences involving sharp instruments were reported.

Mayor Sadiq Khan has also [come under fire](#) for his perceived ineffectiveness in addressing the city's escalating knife crime problem. The surge in knife crime in the UK has become a pressing national issue, with recent [ONS data](#) showing a 7 percent increase in offences involving knives or sharp instruments in 2023.

This alarming trend has reignited public debate, particularly following the tragic deaths of three young girls in Southport. The horrific incident has sent shockwaves across the nation and highlighted the urgent need for effective measures to address knife crime.