From suicide prevention to homicide prevention: how situational crime reduction helped tackle Scotland’s knife culture and its use managing those in mental health services with histories of violence.

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Homicide rates Scotland compared to England and Wales
Sharp Instrument Homicide Scotland Public v Private

Graph showing the trend of Sharp Instrument Homicide cases in Scotland comparing public and private sectors from 1996 to 2016. The graph indicates a generally decreasing trend over the years with a slight increase in the public sector from 2000 to 2003.
Kidd, Hughes & Crichton (2013)

- All Homicides in Lothian and Borders over 5 years 2006-2011
- Of the 55 homicides, 34 were by sharp object
- Kitchen knives were used in 32 cases (58%), representing 94% of sharp object homicide
- Kitchen knives were used by every perpetrator in contact with mental health services (but numbers small: n=8)
Knife use in HSG(94)27 homicides

• Homicide inquiries in England written in accordance with DoH guidance 94 -2010
• 236 inquiries identified and reviewed characteristics of homicide method, perpetrator and victim noted
• 107 inquiries in which users of mental health services killed someone with a knife (45%)
• Knife type identified in 69 cases (64%)
• 58 of these 69 homicides involved kitchen knives
• 84% of ‘Sharp Instrument homicides’ involved a kitchen knife
‘Newpoint’ knife design
@JohnHMCrichton
#pointyknivescostlives

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