



UK DRINK SPIKING: VERIFIED STATISTICS

Last updated: May 2026

A national campaign for the prevention of drink spiking, through an amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 making anti-spiking drink covers a mandatory licence condition for all venues serving open drinks in England and Wales.

Founder: With Love, Bets.
Advocate. Cultural Commentator. Speaker

Petition Link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767851>

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1. 2.2% of UK adults reported having their drinks spiked in the previous 12 months, equating to approximately 1.2 million people
Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University, based on the Drinkaware Monitor survey conducted by YouGov (UK-wide sample: 10,473 adults in 2023)
2. Approximately 1 million UK adults were spiked in the year to summer 2025 (2% of UK adults), based on a survey of 7,256 UK adults via YouGov.
Study: Drink spiking prevalence survey, Anglia Ruskin University and Drinkaware, 2025
3. 11% of UK adults report having been spiked at some point in their lifetime (13% women, 9% men)
Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University, based on Drinkaware Monitor survey (UK-wide, YouGov)
4. 10% of women and 5% of men report having been spiked (YouGov poll, December 2022, UK)
UK Government Spiking Factsheet, UK Home Office, 2023
5. 6,732 spiking incidents were reported to police in England and Wales between May 2022 and April 2023
UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023
6. 957 of those 6,732 police reports involved needle spiking
UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023
7. Police receive an average of 561 spiking reports per month in England and Wales
Understanding and Tackling Spiking Report, Home Office, December 2023
8. UK police forces recorded 19,347 spiking reports between January 2021 and June 2023. The same Hansard answer notes that spiking offences linked to other crimes are recorded under the principal offence rule and so the figure is likely an undercount.
Hansard, written answer to Parliamentary Question UIN 90349, answered by Jess Phillips MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Home Office), 20 November 2025

9. Some regional police forces have recorded substantial rises in spiking incidents since 2019. Greater Manchester Police recorded a 261% rise (463 incidents in 2024). West Yorkshire Police recorded a 210% rise (444 cases in 2024, up from 143 in 2019). West Midlands Police recorded a 632% rise in incidents against women (183 in 2024, up from 25 in 2020).

Regional police force FOI data

10. Around 80% of spiking incidents occur in public places such as bars and nightclubs

UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023

11. Almost half of reported spiking incidents occur in bars, with nightclubs the next most common location

UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023

12. 41% of incidents occur in bars, 28% in clubs, and 9% in private homes
- Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University, 2024*

13. Only 23% of those who experienced drink spiking reported the incident to police, meaning around three-quarters of cases go unreported

Drink spiking prevalence study, Anglia Ruskin University and Drinkaware, 2025

14. The most common reasons for not reporting include not believing police would act (39%) and not remembering clearly what happened (38%)

Drink spiking prevalence study, Anglia Ruskin University and Drinkaware, 2025

15. Average age of spiking victims is 26

UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023

16. 74% of spiking victims are female (based on reported cases)

UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023

17. LGBTQ+ individuals are significantly more likely to report having been spiked (18% vs 11% cis-heterosexual individuals)
2022 Drinkaware Monitor survey data, analysed in Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University
18. 0.7% of UK adults reported needle spiking in the past year and 1.4% over their lifetime
Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University, 2024
19. 14% of victims reported physical or mental health impacts following a spiking incident
Drink Spiking Report 2024, Drinkaware and Anglia Ruskin University, 2024
20. In a UK survey of 7,256 adults, bars (41%), social events (26%), and nightclubs (25%) were the most common locations for spiking
Drink spiking prevalence study, Anglia Ruskin University and Drinkaware, 2025
21. 2,700 allegations of spiking were recorded by the Metropolitan Police between December 2024 and November 2025
Metropolitan Police data, news release December 2025
22. Of the 6,732 reported spiking cases in England and Wales between May 2022 and April 2023, only four (0.05%) resulted in a charge. Where survivors did report spiking to the police, only 29% of cases were followed up promptly.
Tackling Spiking debate, House of Commons Hansard, 18 December 2023; Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025
23. Over 90% of spiking incidents occur in licensed premises (38% in nightclubs, 27% in pubs, 17% in restaurants, 2% at festivals)
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research (survey conducted March 2023 to June 2024, 1,534 respondents including 619 survivors and 138 witnesses; report launched at a briefing at the Houses of Parliament, October 2025)
24. 55% of spiking victims in surveyed data were aged 18–25
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025

25. 17 prosecutions resulted in conviction across the most recent five and a half years for the primary spiking offence under Section 61 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (5 in 2018, 3 in 2019, 3 in 2020, 3 in 2021, 2 in 2022, 1 in January-September 2023). The CPS notes the figure is offence-based, not defendant-based, and does not show the number of cases

Crown Prosecution Service Freedom of Information response 11878, 16 February 2024

26. Approximately 5,000 cases of needle and drink spiking incidents reported to police forces across England and Wales between September 2021 and September 2022

National Police Chiefs' Council, December 2022, cited in House of Commons Library research briefing

27. 1,032 reported cases of needle injection across England and Wales since the beginning of September 2021, most of which occurred in October 2021

National Police Chiefs' Council written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee Spiking Inquiry, 2022

28. The force areas with the most reported needle spike cases were Nottinghamshire (154), Merseyside (92) and Northumbria (85)

National Police Chiefs' Council written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee Spiking Inquiry, 2022

29. 81% of needle spiking victims (where occupation was recorded) were students, with 94% of student incidents occurring in October 2021

National Police Chiefs' Council written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee Spiking Inquiry, 2022

30. 93% of needle spiking incidents (where venue was recorded) occurred in the evening and night-time economy, with pubs and clubs being the most frequently identified venues

National Police Chiefs' Council written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee Spiking Inquiry, 2022

31. Spiking reports peaked in Q4 2021 at 4,861 reports (compared to 316 in Q1 2021 and 918 in Q3 2021)

Understanding and Tackling Spiking Report, Home Office, January 2024

32. Drink spiking offences in London more than quadrupled in five years according to Metropolitan Police data: 497 recorded offences in 2018 rising to 2,066 by the end of 2022
Metropolitan Police data, cited in SARSAS What is Spiking
33. The most commonly detected controlled drugs in forensic samples from suspected spiking victims were cocaine, ketamine and MDMA
Understanding and Tackling Spiking Report, Home Office, January 2024
34. Police data shows that in around 1 in 6 cases (year to October 2022), spiking was associated with a secondary offence such as sexual assault, theft or other crime, more often with drink spiking and more often when the victim was female
UK Government Spiking Factsheet, Home Office, 2023
35. £250,000 in government funding was allocated to specialist spiking awareness training for 10,000 hospitality workers across the UK, with training rolling out from December 2024.
GOV.UK and SARSAS What is Spiking
36. 17% of spiking survivors in a Cardiff University study were subsequently sexually assaulted, and 13% were taken somewhere against their will
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025
37. Over 60% of spiking survivors in the Cardiff University study experienced loss of consciousness
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025
38. 91% of spiking survivors in the Cardiff University study were female, with 84% reporting drink spiking
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025
39. 88% of spiking survivors in the Cardiff University study had consumed six or fewer units of alcohol (less than three medium glasses of wine) at the time of being spiked, while 94% were drinking alcohol at the time
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025

41. 60% of Cardiff University study survivors experienced disbelief or victim blaming, including 24% experiencing disbelief or victim blaming from police or other emergency services
Cardiff University and Stamp Out Spiking research, 2025
42. 87% of UK adults surveyed think people spike drinks to commit sexual assault or rape, while 69% think they do so to steal, 64% for physical assault, and 35% believe people spike drinks for fun
Drinkaware Monitor 2025
43. More than 80% of UK adults correctly recognised that adding illegal or pharmaceutical drugs to a drink constitutes spiking, while 75% knew that adding alcohol to a non-alcoholic drink also counts
Drinkaware Monitor 2025
44. Between December 2024 and November 2025, the Metropolitan Police received around 230 spiking allegations every month, with 63% of victims being female. 126 spiking offences resulted in positive outcomes including charges, supported by a 9% rise in reporting
Metropolitan Police news release, 11 December 2025
45. Between March 2024 and March 2025, the Metropolitan Police received over 2,000 allegations of spiking, around 150 per month, with 17% of reports linked to Westminster and the West End
Metropolitan Police news release, 25 September 2025
46. Adults aged 18 to 34 reported a higher prevalence of spiking in the previous 12 months at 3%, compared to 2% across all adults
Drinkaware Monitor 2025
47. In the 2025 Drinkaware Monitor, men (1.5%) and women (2%) were equally likely to report being spiked in the previous 12 months, and LGB+ adults (2.3%) were just as likely as heterosexual adults (1.7%)
Drinkaware Spiking Statistics, 2025 Monitor
48. In the 2022 Global Drug Survey, 18.2% of UK respondents reported they thought their drink had ever been spiked, with 1.8% reporting it in the last 12 months. 40% of those reporting an episode in the last 12 months were male
Global Drug Survey 2022, cited in Understanding and Tackling Spiking Report, Home Office, January 2024

49. In a multi-country analysis of the Global Drug Survey 2022 (7,697 total respondents, of whom 167 reported recent drink spiking), only 7.2% of those spiked reported the incident to police, and approximately one-fifth (19.3%) experienced sexual assault as a result of the spiking incident
Davies et al, 2025, Journal of Drug Issues
50. The Crime and Policing Bill 2025 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026, becoming the Crime and Policing Act 2026, which introduces a new specific criminal offence of administering a harmful substance, including spiking
Crime and Policing Act 2026, GOV.UK
51. Pre-Crime and Policing Act 2026, spiking was prosecuted under a patchwork of older offences including Section 61 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 23 and 24 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and several other sections of the Offences Against the Person Act and the Criminal Justice Act 1988
House of Commons Library Spiking briefing
52. Avon and Somerset Police recorded 41 reported incidents of spiking in 2015, 67 in 2016 and 78 in 2017, a 90% increase over three years. Between 2016 and March 2021, the same force recorded 486 incidents of suspected drink spiking
Avon and Somerset Police FOI response, 2018, cited in SARSAS What is Spiking
53. Operation Lester was established by the National Police Chiefs' Council in Autumn 2021 in response to the spiking surge, requiring all police forces to appoint dedicated spiking leads. It was transferred to the National Policing Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls in May 2022
Understanding and Tackling Spiking Report, Home Office, January 2024
54. Women accounted for 58% of drink spiking victims in the most recent national survey, with around 4 in 10 victims being men
Anglia Ruskin University and Drinkaware drink spiking survey, part of the 2025 Drinkaware Monitor, YouGov survey of 7,256 UK adults, September 2025

55. 70% of 18- to 24-year-olds have either experienced or witnessed drink spiking, with over half of women (51%) and 69% of LGBTQ+ individuals affected. 87% of victims did not report it to police
LADbible Group and Stamp Out Spiking, End Spiking Now report, LADnation youth panel survey of 2,063 people aged 16 to 24, April 2024