

9th August 2023

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 23.009623

Thank you for your request for recorded data held by South Yorkshire Police

Request

1) How many incidents of drink-spiking were recorded by your force in the calendar year 2022? Please search for this data by means of keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, using the terms 'spike', 'spiking', 'drink-spike', 'drink spiked', 'spiked drink', while checking to make sure that they don't refer to some other context (e.g. 'a spiked fence' or 'spiked hair').

2) Please tell me separately how many cases of so-called 'injection/needle spiking' were recorded in 2022. That is, reported incidents in which a perpetrator allegedly spiked someone by means of an injection, instead of using a pill.

Please search for this data using keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, focusing on the terms 'injection' and 'needle', while checking to make sure they do not refer to needles/injections in an unrelated context.

3a) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of drink-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

3b) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of injection/needle-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

Response

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crime'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

They provided me with the attached Offence data and the following explanation of their search criteria:

Please find attached the dataset for FOI 23.009623.

South Yorkshire Police

In an emergency: 999

Non-emergency: 101

[southyorks.police.uk](https://www.southyorks.police.uk)



It's worth noting that whilst we believe these methods are the most efficient in looking for spiking incidents there are overlaps when looking at just drink or just injection spiking. Without full manual review we cannot guarantee that these are distinctly injection/needle spiking and absolutely do not contain anything else. This is due to some of the criteria (MO Desc 1 equal to "Means employed" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Drugged") being present in the capture of both drink and injection spiking. Of the data available to us this is as accurate as we could provide without manual review of each crime.

Criteria Used -

SYP & Crime only filter, Incident Created Date between 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022, Initial MO contains any "%spiking%; %needle spiking%; %spiked by needle%; %injection spiking%; %spiked by injection%; %spiking by injection%; %spiked via injection%; %spiked via needle%". OR MO Desc 1 equal to "Means employed" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Drugged". OR MO Desc 1 equal to "Means employed" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Spiking By Needle". OR MO Desc 1 equal to "Trademarks" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Spiking By Needle".

OR

SYP & Crime only filter, Incident Created Date between 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022 OR Initial MO contains any "%spiking%; %drink-spike%; %drink spiked%; %spiked drink% OR MO Desc 3 being equal to 'Drink Interfered With - Spiked' OR MO Desc 1 equal to "Means employed" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Drugged".