

Research  
'The Truth Behind Drill Music'  
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## **WHAT IS DRILL MUSIC?**

Originating in Chicago, Drill is becoming a popular genre within the UK's urban music scene. With an increase of popularity and drill becoming a hot topic within the UK, the criticisms are on the rise and the police are aware of what is going on. For those who don't know, Drill is a genre known for the emphasis on violence, gang activity and trapping with distinctive trap-infused beats.

Although the lyrics, topics and references may seem absurd to some, it all stems from reality in the hustle and bustle city of London. Everyone wants to achieve success, especially if you're born and raised in London, a city of dreamers and hustlers. So, if your way of reaching success and a luxury lifestyle is through trapping which seems to be a norm, what would you see wrong with this? It's a lifestyle and the artists are just a truthful voice of today's generation.

With aggressive references to the police in almost every song, it's of no surprise that the youngsters listening to drill are against local authorities. With financial struggles of the capital, a lack of youth services and a widespread unemployment, drill is just a way for the youth of London to express their anger which all stems from an unjust society.

## **WHO IS BEHIND DRILL MUSIC?**

Drill music originated in Chicago, US. However, the UK version of drill originated in Brixton, South London. Since then, drill music has become a sporadic music which can be found around the UK, although London is still the main location for artists and producers.

On average, those behind drill music are usually young black males living in deprived areas of London. There are many popular drill music collectives in London including 67 (Brixton), 86 (Tulse Hill), 1011 (Notting Hill), 12World etc. Each of which represent an area of postcode and typically make music to represent their area.

Drill artists usually come from a deprived area and upbringing as a result of many socio-economic factors. Issues including lone parenthood, school exclusion and low income disproportionately affect some ethnic minority groups and have been linked to higher levels of criminality.

## **WHY I DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THIS FOR MY FINAL PROJECT**

Having worked in the urban music scene over the past few years including artist management, PR and working within the media, I found that drill rappers were often portrayed as criminals rather than individuals. Headlines claim them to be backing violence and causing it; however, I saw the other side of this. I saw the artists as individuals who are

using the music as a therapy. They also see it as a means to escape. Often in these cases, at a very young age, boys can be targeted in drug circles meaning that they are not given a fair chance in life from the get go. So, to get away from this, they choose to discuss their experiences in music which allows them to obtain a legal income whilst creating an awareness of the problems in today's societies which are a result of lower funding in youth clubs, police funding and housing.

### **MEDIA QUOTES**

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Quote</b>
The Independent	29.05.18	"The gangs try to outlive each other with the filming and content – what looks like a music video can actually contain explicit language with gangs threatening each other,"
The Guardian	02.08.19	Gang violence claimed another life in <u>London</u> on Wednesday when a drill music rapper was stabbed to death, apparently the victim of an attack by so-called postcode rivals.
The Guardian	10.04.18	They are seen as gang members, hardened criminals, dangerous thugs, even when they are only 13. They are often excluded from school and by 14 are already considered unsalvageable.
Metro	08.08.18	Drill group 1011 were prohibited by court order from mentioning injury or death in their music, and even from mentioning certain postcodes,
Coventry Telegraph	05.09.18	Videos filmed in Coventry and uploaded to the internet show rappers glorifying knife and gun crime, CoventryLive can reveal.
Sunday Express	30.08.18	"The difference between this and other genres is that it is me saying to you: 'I am gonna come, I am gonna attack you, I am gonna stab you.
The Irish News	02.08.18	Drill music has been blamed, at least in part, for fuelling the surge of murders and other violent crimes. Gang disputes and postcode wars are played out online as rappers post videos mocking or threatening their rivals.

### **References:**

- The Independent - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/drill-music-stabbings-london-youtube-violence-police-knife-crime-gangs-a8373241.html> Visited 26/01/19
- The Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/aug/02/london-drill-rapper-killed-in-knife-attack-admitted-musics-effect-on> Visited 26/01/19

- The Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/10/drill-music-police-cuts-knife-crime-teenagers> Visited 26/01/19
- Metro - <https://metro.co.uk/2018/08/08/drill-music-linked-violent-crime-london-7812930/> Visited 26/01/19
- Coventry Telegraph - <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/drill-music-rap-guns-knives-15114481> Visited 26/01/19
- Sunday Express - <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1010469/London-bloodbath-bbc-newsnight-drill-music-london-crime-knife-crime-rise-stabbings> Visited 26/01/19
- The Irish News - <http://www.irishnews.com/magazine/entertainment/2018/08/02/news/what-is-drill-music-and-why-is-it-being-blamed-for-violent-crime--1398085/> Visited 26/01/19

## **RESEARCH**

The media say that drill music is a cause of violence. For this to be said, it would be assumed that young people imitate every action that they say and here. However, previous studies which consider the effect of video games on children show that this is not the case.

For example, The University of York found no evidence to support the theory that video games make players more violent.

In a series of experiments, with more than 3,000 participants, the team demonstrated that video game concepts do not 'prime' players to behave in certain ways and that increasing the realism of violent video games does not necessarily increase aggression in game players.

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180116131317.htm> - Visited 28/01/19

In evidence from an additional study which looked into Chicago's drill music scene and violence. Ben Levey found that it wasn't drill music that was the problem, but the socioeconomic factors which led to this. He found that for there to be a reduction in drill music and violence there would need to be changes within the following factions: A multi-generational approach to providing resident services, meaningful investment in public education, policy that considers the needs of children and the importance of networks, a thoughtful approach to the cities unique architecture of containment.

Source: [https://www.academia.edu/34068653/The\\_Inward\\_Turn\\_of\\_Chicago\\_Drill\\_Rap](https://www.academia.edu/34068653/The_Inward_Turn_of_Chicago_Drill_Rap) - Visited 28/01/19

## **DOCUMENTARIES LOOKED AT FOR INSPIRATION**

Noisey 'Don't Call It Road Rap' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn-70oSrLgA&t=432s>

Noisey 'Birmingham: The Unstoppable Rise of Birmingham Rap' -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tioWaKF0t3w&t=57s>

Noisey 'The Police vs Grime Music' [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW\\_iujPQpys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW_iujPQpys)

Nathan Miller 'LDN' -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i53JKyrUEyk&t=189s&frags=pl%2Cwn>