



# Deaths during or following police contact:

Statistics for England and Wales  
2013/14

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Paper 27  
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- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics are designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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# 1. Introduction

This report presents figures on deaths during or following police contact that occurred between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. It provides a definitive set of figures for England and Wales and an overview of the nature and circumstances in which these deaths occurred.

This publication is the tenth in a series of statistical reports on this subject published annually by the IPCC. To produce the IPCC annual statistics on deaths, the circumstances of all deaths referred to the IPCC are examined to determine whether they meet the criteria for inclusion in the report under one of the following five categories:

- road traffic fatalities
- fatal shootings
- deaths in or following police custody
- apparent suicides following police custody
- other deaths following police contact (*IPCC independent investigations only*)

[Box A](#) provides a definition for each of these categories. For more detailed definitions please see the [Guidance document](#) published on the IPCC website. Further supporting information about the report can be found in the [background note](#).

In 2013/14, the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- **12 road traffic fatalities**
- **No fatal police shootings**
- **11 deaths in or following police custody**
- **68 apparent suicides following police custody**
- **39 other deaths following police contact (*IPCC independent investigations only*)**

The number of road traffic fatalities and deaths in or following police custody has fallen to the lowest

number recorded since the IPCC began reporting the figures. For the second consecutive year, there have been no fatal police shootings. The number of apparent suicides following police custody recorded increased slightly this year following a notable rise in 2012/13. The number of deaths that met the criteria for inclusion in the other deaths following police contact category is higher than in 2012/13, but is more in line with the preceding years. Deaths are included in this category only when there is an IPCC independent investigation. The following sections consider the categories in more detail.

## Box A Definitions of deaths during or following police contact categories

For more detailed definitions and for information about how the death cases are categorised and recorded please see the [‘Guidance’ document published on the IPCC website](#).

In this report the term ‘police’ includes police civilians, police officers and staff from the other organisations under IPCC jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>. Deaths of police personnel or incidents that involve off-duty police personnel are not included in the report.

- **Road traffic fatalities** includes deaths of motorists, cyclists or pedestrians arising from police pursuits, police vehicles responding to emergency calls and other police traffic-related activity.

***This does not include:***

- Deaths following a road traffic incident (RTI) where the police have attended immediately after the event as an emergency service.

- **Fatal shootings** include fatalities where police officers fired the fatal shot using a conventional firearm.

- **Deaths in or following police custody** includes deaths that occur while a person is being arrested or taken into detention. It includes deaths of people who have been arrested or have been detained by police under the Mental Health Act 1983. The death may have taken place on police, private or medical premises, in a public place or in a police or other vehicle.

***This includes:***

- Deaths that occur during or following police custody where injuries that contributed to the death were sustained during the period of detention.
- Deaths that occur in or on the way to hospital (or other medical premises) following or during transfer from scene of arrest or police custody.
- Deaths that occur as a result of injuries or other medical problems that are identified or that develop while a person is in custody.
- Deaths that occur while a person is in police custody having been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 or other related legislation.

***This does not include:***

- Suicides that occur after a person has been released from police custody.
- Deaths that occur where the police are called to assist medical staff to restrain individuals who are not under arrest.

- **Apparent suicides following police custody** includes apparent suicides that occur within two days of release from police custody. This category also includes apparent suicides that occur beyond two days of release from custody where the period spent in custody may be relevant to the subsequent death.

- **Other deaths following police contact** includes deaths that follow contact with the police, either directly or indirectly, that did not involve arrest or detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 and were subject to an IPCC independent investigation. An independent investigation is determined by the IPCC for the most serious incidents that cause the greatest level of public concern, have the greatest potential to impact on communities or that have serious implications for the reputation of the police service. Since 2010/11, this category has included only deaths that have been subject to an IPCC independent investigation. This is to improve consistency in the reporting of these deaths.

***This may include:***

- Deaths that occur after the police are called to attend a domestic incident that results in a fatality.
- Deaths that occur while a person is actively attempting to evade arrest; this includes instances where the death is self-inflicted.
- Deaths that occur when the police attend a siege situation, including where a person kills themselves or someone else.
- Deaths that occur after the police have been contacted following concerns about a person's welfare and there is concern about the nature of the police response.
- Deaths that occur where the police are called to assist medical staff to restrain individuals who are not under arrest

<sup>1</sup> See Background note 2

## 2. Overall findings

In 2013/14 the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- 12 road traffic fatalities
- no fatal police shootings
- 11 deaths in or following police custody
- 68 apparent suicides following police custody
- 39 other deaths following police contact  
(*IPCC independent investigations only*)

Demographic information about those who died is presented in the following chapters, along with details of the circumstances of their death and a summary of trend data. The [Appendix](#) contains additional information such as their age, gender, ethnicity and the associated police force. Some of the investigations into the deaths recorded in this report are ongoing. Details about the nature and circumstances of these cases is therefore based on information available at the point of analysis.

### Investigations

Once the IPCC is notified of a fatality, it considers the circumstances of the case and decides whether to investigate independently or, alternatively, to manage or supervise a police investigation. In some circumstances it is decided that a case is best dealt with locally by the police Professional Standards Department (PSD). [Box B](#) provides a description of each type of investigation.

Table 2.1 shows the type of investigation at the time of analysis for all incidents involving a fatality recorded in 2013/14. The figures show the number of incidents; an incident leading to a single investigation can involve more than one death and so the totals for some categories will be lower than the total fatalities presented above.

A total of 54 incidents were subject to an independent investigation and three investigations

**Table 2.1 Incidents by type of death and investigation type, 2013/14**

Type of investigation	Road traffic incidents	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact*
Independent	3	0	10	4	37
Managed	0	0	0	0	0
Supervised	2	0	0	1	0
Local	6	0	0	36	0
Back to force	0	0	1	27	0
<b>Total incidents</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>37</b>

Note: Investigation type as recorded on the IPCC case system at the time of analysis.

\* This category includes only cases subject to an IPCC independent investigation.

were supervised by the IPCC. Across all death categories, and similar to previous years, no incidents were subject to a managed investigation.

2004/05. Due to the definitional change to the category of other deaths following police contact and the wide variation in the circumstances of deaths reported, it would not be meaningful to produce trend analysis across the total of all five categories.

## Trends

The figures presented in Table 2.2 show the number of fatalities across the different categories since

Figure 2.1 shows the number of separate incidents that resulted in fatalities. There are fewer incidents than fatalities because a single incident, for

Table 2.2 Fatalities by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2013/14

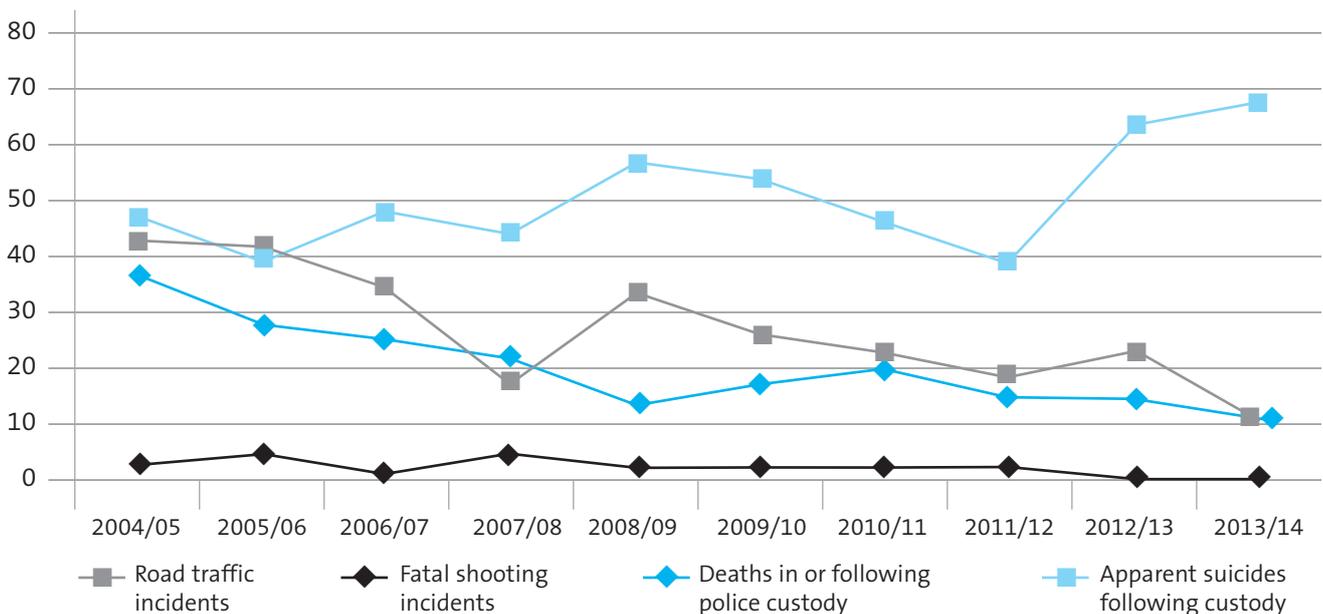
Category	Fatalities									
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Road traffic fatalities	44	48	36	24	40	29	26	19	31~	12
Fatal shootings	3	5	1	5	3	2	2	2	0	0
Deaths in or following police custody	36	28	27	22	15	17	21	15	15	11
Apparent suicides following custody	46	40	47	45^	56	54	46	39	65~	68
Other deaths following police contact	24	40	22	30	35	39~	56~*	47	22~	39

^ In 2007, we issued an Operational Advice Note<sup>2</sup> on the referral of these deaths.

\* Change in definition of *other deaths following police contact* in 2010/11 to include only cases subject to an independent investigation.

~ This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures for these categories; any additions to previously published data are indicated.

Figure 2.1 Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2013/14



2. An Operational Advice Note was issued in April 2007 and asked forces to refer to the IPCC all apparent suicides that occur within two days of release from custody, or those where the period in custody may have been relevant to the death.

example, a road traffic collision, can result in multiple fatalities.

Over the ten-year period, there has been an overall fall in the number of fatal Road Traffic Incidents (RTIs) as well as a fall in deaths in or following police custody. For the second consecutive year, there have been no fatal police shootings.

The number of apparent suicides following custody recorded has generally increased over the period. However, there was a notable fall in the number of these deaths reported in 2010/11 and 2011/12. Reporting of these deaths relies on police forces making the link between an apparent suicide and a recent period of custody. The overall increase in these deaths may therefore be influenced by improved identification and referral of such cases.

Other deaths following police contact are not included in Figure 2.1 on page 4. The inclusion of a death in this category is dependent on the IPCC deciding to independently investigate a death. The criteria for making this decision may fluctuate over time, for example in response to current public and community concerns, which means that trend analysis would not be meaningful. Figures on all fatal incidents are provided in Table A1 in the Annex.

Data on ethnicity, age, gender, police force and category of death since 2004/05 can be found on the [IPCC website](#).

## 3. Road traffic fatalities

### Demographics

In 2013/14 there were 11 fatal police-related RTIs, resulting in 12 fatalities. All those who died were men aged over 21 years; two people were over 80 years when they died. Ten people were reported to be White; the ethnicity of two individuals was not stated.

### Circumstances of death

#### Pursuit-related incidents

Incidents are classified as pursuit-related if they involved a pursuit or a 'follow'. Not all of these incidents will have entered an official pursuit phase as defined by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)<sup>3</sup>. Incidents that involved a collision of a vehicle that had recently been pursued by police, but where the police had lost sight of the vehicle, will be included. Incidents where police are 'following' a vehicle before obtaining permission to pursue will also be included as pursuit related.

There were nine police pursuit-related incidents, in which ten people died. Of these:

- Five people were the driver or a passenger in a pursued vehicle and died when their vehicle crashed – for example, into a wall or another vehicle. One of these men was riding a motorcycle.
- One man died following a police pursuit in which Stingers™<sup>4</sup> were used in an attempt to stop his vehicle. While being observed by a police helicopter, he left his vehicle and walked

into the middle of the motorway where he was struck by an oncoming vehicle.

- An elderly driver died after colliding with a police vehicle that was driving at speed with its lights and sirens activated. In another incident, a pedestrian was knocked over by a police vehicle after apparently stepping in front of the vehicle, which had its blue lights activated. In both incidents, the officer had sighted a suspect vehicle.
- In one incident, two cyclists died after they were hit by a vehicle which police officers had sighted moments before and had started to follow.

Two of the pursuit-related incidents were subject to an independent investigation and two were supervised. The remaining five were investigated locally by the relevant police force.

#### Emergency response related incidents

This category includes all incidents that involve a police vehicle responding to a request for emergency assistance. For the first time in the ten-year reporting period, there were no emergency-response related incidents.

#### Other police traffic activity

This category includes RTIs that did not occur during pursuit-related activity or an emergency response. There were two such incidents this year:

- A pillion passenger died after the motorbike he was on failed to stop when requested to do so by officers. The rider and the passenger were suspected of having been involved in an assault.
- An elderly man died after being hit by a police van which rolled away after the driver alighted from the vehicle.

<sup>3</sup> See 'The management of police pursuits' guidance'. In 2011 the ACPO guidance on police pursuits was issued as a statutory code of practice.

<sup>4</sup> A Stinger™ is a device consisting of a spiked metal ribbon that is placed across a road to stop vehicles by puncturing their tyres.

## Trends

There was a notable fall in the number of RTI fatalities this year from 31 to 12. This is the lowest number of road traffic fatalities recorded over the ten-year reporting period and is seven fewer than the previous low of 19 deaths in 2011/12. This reflects the overall downward trend in deaths of this type.

When looking at the difference in incidents rather than fatalities, the fall, while still notable, is less marked (11 in 2013/14 compared to 23 in 2012/13). This is because last year saw a higher number of incidents resulting in multiple fatalities; six incidents accounted for 13 fatalities. This year, one incident

resulted in two fatalities.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 provide details of the type of road traffic fatalities and incidents over the past ten years. The tables break down the incidents into the three broad categories previously described. Each year, the proportion of pursuit-related incidents remains fairly consistent, accounting for around half to two-thirds of incidents. This year nine of the 11 incidents were pursuit-related.

Over the period there has been a broadly downward trend in the number of incidents resulting from other police traffic activity. This year, for the first time, no incidents were emergency-response related.

**Table 3.1 Type of road traffic fatality, 2004/05 to 2013/14**

RTI type	Fatalities									
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Pursuit related	23	32	19	17	22	19	13	12	27~	10
ER related	6	4	3	2	6	3	4	2	2	0
Other	15	12	14	5	12	7	9	5	2	2
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31~</b>	<b>12</b>

~ This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures for these categories; any additions to previously published data are indicated.

**Table 3.2 Type of road traffic incident, 2004/05 to 2013/14**

RTI type	Incidents									
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Pursuit related	22	27	19	11	16	17	13	12	19	9
ER related	6	4	3	2	6	3	3	2	2	0
Other	15	11	13	5	11	6	8	5	2	2
<b>Total incidents</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>

## 4. Deaths in or following police custody

### Demographics

Eleven people died in or following police custody in 2013/14; all were men aged between 31 and 70 years. Ten people were reported to be White and one person as White and Black Caribbean.

Four people were identified as having mental health concerns. The types of mental health concern identified included post traumatic stress disorder, dementia, or erratic behaviour, which led to officers detaining two of them under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Eight people were known to have a link to alcohol or drugs in that they had recently consumed, were intoxicated from, or were in possession of drugs or alcohol at the time of their arrest. In three of these cases, a pathologist stated that alcohol or drugs toxicity was a factor in the cause of death.

### Circumstances of detention

Table 4.1 shows why the person was arrested or detained by the police. Three people were arrested for a non-driving offence relating to alcohol or drugs, which included being drunk and incapable or being in possession of, or intending to supply, an illegal substance. Two people were arrested for driving offences: one for drink-driving and the other for driving while disqualified. Two people were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. Other alleged offences included theft, shoplifting, criminal damage and threats to kill.

Of the 11 fatalities in or following custody, it is known that three involved some form of restraint<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> The term *restraint* refers to a range of actions including the use of physical restraint, such as arm locks and pressure compliance. It does **not** include the routine use of handcuffs, unless another form of equipment was also used.

Table 4.1 Deaths in or following police custody: reason for detention, 2013/14

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Drug / alcohol related (exc. drink driving)	3
Driving offence, including drink driving	2
Detained under the Mental Health Act (MHA)*	2
Theft / shop lifting	2
Criminal damage	1
Threats to kill	1
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>11</b>

\* One of the men detained under the MHA was later arrested on suspicion of possession of controlled drugs.

This does not necessarily mean that the restraint contributed to the death. In one incident, hand cuffs and leg restraints were applied to the detained person. In another, a spit hood, handcuffs and leg restraints were used, which were later replaced by a body cuff<sup>6</sup>. In another incident, a man was taken to the ground by officers in order for them to apply handcuffs. All incidents are subject to an independent investigation.

### Circumstances of death

In the circumstances of the deaths reported below, cause of death, as taken from the pathologist's report following a post-mortem<sup>7</sup>, is reported for six of the 11 people who died. At the time of

<sup>6</sup> This device is designed and used to restrict the movements of limbs. Its application should prevent a person from kicking and punching and allow for safe transportation of the person.

<sup>7</sup> In a minority of cases a post-mortem may not be conducted. In these instances the cause of death will be taken from the records of the certifying doctor. If the cause of death is being formally disputed at the time of analysis, the cause of death will be recorded as 'awaited'.

reporting, cause of death was still awaited for five people. Ten of the eleven cases are awaiting an Inquest where cause of death can be revised.

Seven people were taken ill, or were identified as being unwell, in a *police cell*. Three of these people died in the police custody suite and four were transferred to hospital where they died shortly after. Of these seven:

- Three men, all of whom were apparently intoxicated on arrest, died after becoming unresponsive while in a police cell. In each case, an ambulance was called, but they all died at the police station with medics in attendance. Causes of death for these men were: respiratory failure; acute alcohol toxicity with alcoholic steatohepatitis, hypertensive heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus; and suspected sudden seizure.
- Two men died after they had been taken to a police custody suite having been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act<sup>8</sup>. Both men had been restrained by police. One man was restrained using handcuffs, leg restraints and a spit hood, which was later replaced by a body cuff. The other man was physically restrained and had handcuffs and leg restraints applied. Both were taken ill while in custody and were transferred to hospital by ambulance where they died later that day. The cause of death is awaited for both men.
- One man was taken ill following his arrival in custody. He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he died two days later; the cause of death was cocaine, amphetamine and butylone toxicity.
- One man, who was intoxicated, was arrested for threats to kill and taken into custody. During a cell check, officers raised concerns about his breathing and an ambulance was called. He was taken to hospital where his death was subsequently confirmed. The cause of death is currently awaited.

Two people were taken ill at the *scene of arrest*:

- One man was arrested for being drunk and

incapable. The man appeared unresponsive to officers' instructions and they were unable to rouse him. Officers called for an ambulance and he was pronounced dead at the scene. His cause of death is awaited.

- An ambulance was called to attend a road traffic incident where an elderly man was found unwell in the driver's seat of a car. Police were called to assist as the man was refusing medical treatment; he was then arrested for road traffic related offences. Due to concerns about his health, he was transported by ambulance to hospital where he died the following morning. The pathologist reported the cause of death to be bronchopneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and dementia. The inquest determined the cause of death to be natural causes.

Two people were taken ill or were identified as being unwell while in a *police vehicle*:

- One man was a passenger in a car that was stopped by police officers as part of a pre-planned operation. The man was arrested and, following a struggle, he was physically restrained by officers and placed in a police van. En route to the police station the man became unwell and the vehicle was diverted to hospital where he died. The cause of death was recorded as cocaine toxicity.
- One man was arrested for theft after being detained by security guards. Officers became concerned about his health while he was in the back of a police vehicle. An ambulance was called and he was taken to hospital where he later died. The cause of death is awaited.

## Trends

Between 2004/05 and 2008/09 there was a year-on-year reduction in the number of deaths in or following custody from 36 in 2004/05 to 15 deaths in 2008/09. Over the next two years the number of deaths in custody increased to 21 in 2010/11 before falling back to 15 in 2011/12 and 2012/13 with a further fall to 11 in 2013/14.

<sup>8</sup> One of these men was later arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled drug

Over the ten-year reporting period, five people are known to have made a fatal suicide attempt in a police cell; the most recent occurred in 2008/09.

## 5. Apparent suicides following police custody

Police forces were issued with guidance in 2007 requiring them to refer to the IPCC all apparent suicides that occur within two days of a person being released from police custody, or where the period spent in custody may have been relevant to the subsequent death. The police may not always be notified of an apparent suicide that occurs after time spent in custody as this association may not always be evident.

The term 'suicide' does not necessarily relate to a coroner's verdict as, in most cases, verdicts are still pending. In these instances, the case is only included if, after considering the nature of death, the circumstances suggest that death was an intentional self-inflicted act – for example, a hanging, or where there was some evidence of 'suicidal ideation', such as a suicide note.

### Demographics

There were 68 apparent suicides following police custody. Of these, 63 were male and five were female. Half of those who died were aged between 31 and 50 years; the youngest was 17 years of age and a further three people were under 21. Sixty-five people were reported to be White, two were from a Black ethnic group and one was of Asian origin.

Two-thirds of individuals (45) were reported to have mental health concerns and three of these had been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 prior to their death. Other mental health concerns included previous suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, personality disorders or depression.

Thirty people were reported either to be intoxicated through alcohol at the time of the

arrest, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle. Sixteen people were identified as being under the influence of drugs or were known drug users at the time of their arrest.

### Circumstances of death

Thirty-two apparent suicides occurred on the day of release from police custody, 24 occurred one day after release and 12 occurred two days after release.

Table 5.1 shows why these people had been detained. Twenty people were arrested in relation to violence against a partner or parent, most of these were detained for common assault. Thirteen

*Table 5.1 Apparent suicides following police custody: reason for detention, 2013/14*

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Violence related (non sexual) – domestic	20
Sexual offences	13
Breach of peace / criminal damage	9
Driving offence, including drink driving	9
Drug / alcohol related (exc. drink driving)	4
Harassment - domestic	3
Detained under the Mental Health Act	3
Theft / shoplifting	3
Other violence related (non sexual)	2
Other	2
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>68</b>

of those who died were arrested for a sexual offence – in the majority of cases, these arrests were in connection with sexual offences or indecent images involving children. Other common reasons for detention included criminal damage / breach of the peace (nine) and driving offences (nine).

The majority of recorded apparent suicides following custody were dealt with locally by the police force (63); four were subject to an independent investigation and one was supervised.

## Trends

The number of apparent suicides following custody has increased from 65 fatalities in 2012/13 to 68 this year. This is the highest figure recorded in this category since 2004/05. Reporting of these deaths relies on police forces making the link between an apparent suicide and a recent period of custody. The overall increase in these deaths may therefore be influenced by improved identification and referral of such cases.

## 6. Other deaths following police contact – IPCC independent investigations only

In 2010/11, a change was made to the definition of this category. It now includes only those deaths following police contact that were subject to an IPCC independent investigation.

### Demographics

Thirty-nine people in this category died during or following contact with the police in 37 separate incidents. Twenty-two of the people who died were female and 17 were male. Twenty-seven people were White, eight were of an Asian background, three were from a Black ethnic group and one was from a Mixed heritage. Five people were under 18 years of age, of whom three were babies aged one or under and two were teenage girls who were involved in domestic incidents.

### Circumstances of death

This category includes deaths that have occurred across a diverse range of circumstances. The police contact may not have been directly with the deceased, but – as demonstrated in some of the case examples below – with a third party.

As shown in Table 6.1, the most common reason for contact with the police relates to *concern for welfare*: that is, concerns were raised about someone’s safety or wellbeing. This category included 33 fatalities. Two incidents each resulted in two fatalities; both involved the alleged murder of a mother and her child.

Nineteen fatalities (from 17 incidents) were *domestic related*, where the circumstances of the contact with the police involved a history of domestic violence or threats made directly or

Table 6.1 Other deaths following police contact: reason for contact, 2013/14

Reason for contact		Number of fatalities
Concern for welfare	Domestic related	19
	Threatening behaviour / harassment	6
	Self-harm / suicide risk / mental health	5
	Health / injuries / intoxicated / general	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>33</b>
Other contact	Attending a disturbance	2
	Executing a search warrant / arrest	2
	Assist medical staff	1
	Avoiding contact / arrest	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total fatalities</b>		<b>39</b>

indirectly against the deceased and / or associated family members. Nine of the 19 domestic fatalities were of people from minority ethnic groups and 17 were female. All but two were the victim of an alleged murder committed by their current or ex-partner, or by their parent or their parent’s partner. The remaining two cases involved the suicide of a 15-year-old girl following a history of alleged familial child sexual and physical abuse and the friend of a domestic violence victim; who was allegedly murdered by her ex-partner.

In the remaining 14 *concern for welfare* cases:

- Six fatalities are in the *threatening behaviour / harassment* category. Four people died after harassment or threatening behaviour was

reported to the police: two were allegedly murdered; one murdered the alleged assailant; and another apparently fell from a car park roof. Another man was murdered by a neighbour who had previously emailed the police threatening violence. In a further case, an officer deployed a Taser™ at a man who had poured petrol on himself and was holding a lighter. The fuel ignited and the man died of his injuries.

- Five fatalities occurred when concern was raised about someone being a risk to themselves with regard to their *mental health*. All of these people died as a result of self-inflicted acts, which included drug overdose and hanging.
- Three fatalities involved concerns reported to the police about someone's *general health or demeanour*. In one incident, the police received a call stating that a man had been shot. Officers attended and provided first aid. Paramedics arrived and pronounced the man dead shortly after. In another incident, police deployed a Taser™ at a man who they believed was armed and the man collapsed and died shortly after. His cause of death is awaited. The third case involved the death of a man who was hit by a car after members of the public raised concerns about his safety when he was seen walking on a motorway.

The remaining six *other contact deaths* involved various types of police contact:

- In two instances the police *attended a reported disturbance* where someone was restrained and taken ill. One of these men had been restrained using handcuffs and leg restraints; his cause of death is awaited. In the other case, an individual had been restrained by members of the public; the police took over the restraint on their arrival. The pathologist reported his cause of death to be sudden death following appropriate restraint whilst suffering from cocaine induced excited delirium.
- Two men died after officers attended an address to *execute a search warrant or arrest*. In one instance, a man died when his firearm discharged while officers were present and in another, an elderly man fell ill while the police were arresting his sons. The post mortem

reported his cause of death to be acute myocardial insufficiency, coronary artery atheroma and diabetes mellitus.

- One man died when the police were called to *assist medical staff* with a man who was behaving erratically and harming himself. The police helped paramedics restrain him in order for them to administer first aid. He was transferred to hospital where he later died. The post mortem gave the cause of death as a consequence of cardiac arrest arising in close approximation to restraint on a background of combined likely stimulant drug toxicity and drug related cardiomegaly and ischaemic colitis. Further clinical and toxicology results are pending.
- One woman, who had been physically restrained by officers, died after she attempted to swallow drug packages, apparently in an attempt to *avoid arrest*. The post mortem found the cause of death was hypoxic brain injury.

In total, six people who died following police contact were known to have been restrained by officers prior to their death. In two of these instances officers used a Taser™; in another instance leg restraints were used; and three people were physically restrained.

## Trends

In 2010/11, a change was made to the definition of this category. It now includes only those deaths following other police contact that were subject to an IPCC independent investigation. It would therefore not be meaningful to provide any trend analysis for this category. The deaths included in this category involve a diverse range of circumstances, which makes it difficult to identify one specific set of events that accounts for changes in the number of fatalities. Domestic-related concern for welfare cases generally account for the highest proportion of incidents in this category, with incidents relating to concerns for someone's mental or physical health also featuring each year.

## Box B Type of investigation

**Independent investigations** are carried out by the IPCC's own investigators. In an independent investigation, the IPCC investigators have all the powers of the police themselves.

**Managed investigations** are carried out by police Professional Standards Departments (PSDs), under the direction and control of the IPCC.

**Supervised investigations** are carried out by police PSDs, under their own direction and control. The IPCC will set the terms of reference for a supervised investigation and receive the investigation report when it is complete.

**Local investigations** are conducted by police officers when the IPCC decides that the force has the necessary resources and experience to carry out an investigation without external assistance.

**Referred back to force** are cases that the IPCC has reviewed the circumstances of, and returned the matter back to the police force to be dealt with as it considers appropriate.

# Background note

1. Under the Police Reform Act 2002, forces in England and Wales have a statutory duty to refer to the IPCC any complaint or incident involving a death that has occurred during or following police contact and where there is an allegation or indication that the police contact, be it direct or indirect, contributed to the death<sup>9</sup>. The IPCC considers the circumstances of all the cases referred to it and decides whether to investigate the death.
2. Since April 2006, the IPCC has also received fatal cases mandatorily referred from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)<sup>10</sup>, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and since October 2013, SOCA's replacement, the National Crime Agency (NCA). It also received cases from the UK Border Agency (UKBA)<sup>11</sup> until March 2013, when its Executive Agency status was ended and its functions were brought back within the Home Office as: UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI); UK Immigration Enforcement (UKIE); and UK Border Force (UKBF). The IPCC has continued to have jurisdiction over those officials and contractors and therefore, any deaths that have occurred during or following contact with these organisations or individuals will also be presented in this report.

## Changes and revisions

3. In 2010/11, a change was made to the definition of the *other deaths following police contact* category. It now includes only those deaths following police contact that were

subject to an *IPCC independent investigation*. Further information about this category can be found in the '[Guidance](#)' document. No other changes have been made to the definitions of the death categories.

4. In 2007 the IPCC issued an Operational Advice Note to address inconsistencies in the referrals of *apparent suicides following release from police custody*. This now forms part of the [IPCC Statutory Guidance 2013](#).
5. This report presents the most up-to-date set of figures for each death category. In this release, five fatalities have been added to previous years' figures. In one instance, a second person died following an RTI that was reported on in 2012/13 and one apparent suicide following release has been added to 2012/13. Three deaths following police contact have been added to the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2012/13. These deaths were not recorded as a death, or were not subject to an IPCC investigation at the time the previous reports were produced.

## Methods and definitions

6. For more detailed definitions and for information on how the death cases are categorised and recorded, see the '[Guidance](#)' document. This document also provides suggestions for further reading on associated themes.

## Policies and statements

7. A number of '[Policies and statements](#)' are produced in relation to this report. These are available on the IPCC website. This includes information on:

- confidentiality and security of data
- statement of administrative sources

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 4(1)(a), 13(1)(a), 14c(1). Schedule 3, Part 1, Police Reform Act 2002 as amended by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, Schedule 12.

<sup>10</sup> Regulation 34 of the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005.

<sup>11</sup> Regulation 25 of the UK Boarder Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2010.

- revisions policies
- announcing changes to methods
- quality assurance
- pre-release access
- user engagement strategy
- pricing policy

## Users, uses and engagement

8. Information about key users of the data contained in this report and how it has been used can be found in the [‘User engagement feedback’](#) document, which also summarises feedback received on the annual deaths report, the IPCC’s response and any impact this may have on the information contained in the report or on the data collection process.
9. The report provides data and information about a highly sensitive topic area. It is used to promote and inform debates and discussions among police forces and other stakeholders and interested parties. It provides users with an opportunity to learn from the cases that appear in the report and identify, take action and/or review policy to help prevent such deaths from happening again where possible.
10. Additional [in-depth studies](#) and [learning bulletins](#) have been conducted and produced by the IPCC to further aid learning.
11. Users of the statistics should be aware that care needs to be taken when looking at the time series of the data as there may be discontinuities due to changes in category definition and the varied nature of the circumstances of the cases. The small numbers involved also means it is not possible to analyse trends as variances can be large.

We make every effort to ensure that all relevant deaths are included in this report through an extensive validation exercise with internal colleagues and police forces. However, at times a case may come to light after the publication date. Read our [‘Revision policies’](#) for information about how we manage routine amendments and errors to published data.

While comparisons to other countries and jurisdictions can be made, care needs to be taken as the data is unlikely to be directly comparable due to differences in death classifications or how other details have been collated.

12. The ‘User engagement strategy’ is located in Section Eight of the [‘Policies and statements’](#) document.

## Further information

13. In March 2014, the IPCC published the [findings from its review into its work in cases involving a death](#). The purpose of this review was to engage with all of those who have experience of our work investigating deaths, including our critics, to increase public confidence in this important area of our work. Alongside the findings we published an action plan. The actions will deliver changes in approach and procedure, including ensuring effective engagement with families. We are tracking progress and will publish an update later in the year.
14. In July 2014, the IPCC published its [oversight and confidence strategy](#). This recognises the importance of findings from complaints and investigations feeding into better policing practice. It is vital that our recommendations are implemented, and learning is embedded in forces and in the training and standards that are set for policing. This requires partnership between us and other policing bodies: the College of Policing, the Inspectorate of Constabulary and Police and Crime Commissioners, among others. Our work must complement, not duplicate, theirs.
15. As a part of work under this strategy we have established a formal agreement with Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the College of Policing, to set out how we will work together. There are already clear examples of where the IPCC is working with the College of Policing and HMIC to raise standards in policing:

- We are working with the College of Policing on their revision of Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on detention and custody. This provides national policing standards on custody, and covers all stages of detention from the point of arrest. The revised APP document will reflect changes in technology, legislative developments and learning from cases that the IPCC has investigated.
  - We are working with the College of Policing on their review of the training and guidance for police officers responding to victims, witnesses and offenders suffering mental ill-health. This will result in the development of APP and an updated set of learning tools to help officers and staff understand how they can best support vulnerable people in mental health crises.
  - We share information with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) to support HMIP/HMIC joint inspections of custody facilities. These inspections consider the progress the force has made in implementing any relevant IPCC recommendations.
16. [All previous annual deaths in or following police contact reports](#) can be found on our website.
17. Electronic versions of the tables presented in the report are available on our website. In addition, time series tables are available looking at ethnicity, age and gender of the deceased, and police force area by death category from 2004/05 up to the current reporting year.
18. In addition to the annual reports on deaths, the IPCC also periodically produces one-off research studies which examine in more detail some of the issues associated with these cases. To read these related studies please visit the [Research and information pages](#) on our website.
19. Following a recommendation by the [National Statistician](#) in 2012, this annual report was [assessed](#) by the UK Statistics Authority and granted National Statistics designation.
20. If you have any questions or comments about the annual death report, please email the IPCC Research Team at [research@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:research@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk).
21. Estimated publication date for 2014/15 report: July 2015.

# Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A1 Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2013/14

Category	Incidents									
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Road traffic incidents	43	42	35	18	33	26	24	19	23	<b>11</b>
Fatal shootings	3	5	1	4	3	2	2	2	0	<b>0</b>
Deaths in or following police custody	36	28	27	22	15	17	21	15	15	<b>11</b>
Apparent suicides following custody	46	40	47	45 <sup>^</sup>	56	54	46	39	65 <sup>~</sup>	<b>68</b>
Other deaths following police contact	23	38	21	29	33	37 <sup>~</sup>	48 <sup>~*</sup>	37	20 <sup>~</sup>	<b>37</b>

<sup>^</sup> We issued an operational advice note in 2007 on the referral of these deaths.

<sup>\*</sup> Change in definition of *other deaths following contact* in 2010/11 to include only cases subject to an independent investigation.

<sup>~</sup> This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures for these categories; any additions to previously published data are indicated.

Table A2 Type of death by gender, 2013/14

Gender	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact
Male	12	0	11	63	17
Female	0	0	0	5	22
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>39</b>

Table A3 Type of death by age group, 2013/14

Age group (years)	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact
Under 18	0	0	0	1	5
18 - 20	0	0	0	3	1
21 - 30	6	0	0	15	13
31 - 40	2	0	5	14	6
41 - 50	1	0	3	20	8
51 - 60	1	0	2	12	5
61 & over	2	0	1	3	1
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>39</b>

Table A4 Type of death by ethnicity, 2013/14

Ethnic group	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact
White	10	0	10	65	27
Asian	0	0	0	1	8
Black	0	0	0	2	3
Mixed	0	0	1	0	1
Chinese / Other	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>39</b>

Table A5 Type of death by police force, 2013/14

Force	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact
Avon & Somerset	0	0	0	1	3
Bedfordshire	0	0	1	0	1
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	1	0
Cheshire	0	0	2	1	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	2	0
Derbyshire	0	0	1	1	0
Devon & Cornwall	0	0	0	2	3
Dorset	0	0	0	1	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	3	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	2
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	3	5
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1
Hampshire	0	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	2	0
Humberside	1	0	1	0	1
Kent	0	0	1	3	3
Lancashire	2	0	0	5	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan	2	0	0	8	7
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	2	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	2	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	2	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	0
Nottinghamshire	1	0	0	1	0
South Wales	0	0	0	4	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	2	0
Staffordshire	0	0	1	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	1	0
Surrey	0	0	2	1	0
Sussex	1	0	0	4	2
Thames Valley	2	0	1	3	1
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	1	1
West Midlands	0	0	0	3	3
West Yorkshire	3	0	0	1	3
Wiltshire	0	0	0	2	1
British Transport Police	0	0	0	1	0
UK Border Force	0	0	0	0	0
HMRC	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry of Defence	0	0	0	0	0
SOCA / NCA	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>39</b>

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