



# Deaths during or following police contact:

Statistics for England and Wales  
2012/13

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## Statistical note

In the percentage column presented in the tables, ‘-’ denotes zero and 0 denotes less than 0.5%. Some percentages may add up to more or less than 100% due to rounding.

## National Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- 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.

# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Overall findings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Road traffic fatalities</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Deaths in or following police custody</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. Apparent suicides following police custody</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. Other deaths following police contact – IPCC independent investigations only</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Background note</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendix A: Additional tables</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>List of tables and figures</b>	
<i>Table 2.1</i> Incidents by type of death and investigation type, 2012/13	<b>3</b>
<i>Table 2.2</i> Fatalities by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2012/13	<b>4</b>
<i>Table 2.3</i> Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2012/13	<b>4</b>
<i>Table 3.1</i> Type of road traffic incident, 2004/05 to 2012/13	<b>7</b>
<i>Table 3.2</i> Type of road traffic fatality, 2004/05 to 2012/13	<b>7</b>
<i>Table 4.1</i> Deaths in or following police custody: reason for detention, 2012/13	<b>8</b>
<i>Table 4.2</i> Deaths in or following police custody: cause of death, 2012/13	<b>10</b>
<i>Table 5.1</i> Apparent suicides following police custody: reason for detention, 2012/13	<b>11</b>
<i>Table 6.1</i> Other deaths following police contact: reason for contact, 2012/13	<b>13</b>
<i>Table A1.1</i> Type of death by gender, 2012/13	<b>18</b>
<i>Table A1.2</i> Type of death by age group, 2012/13	<b>18</b>
<i>Table A1.3</i> Type of death by ethnicity, 2012/13	<b>19</b>
<i>Table A1.4</i> Type of death by force, 2012/13	<b>20</b>

# 1. Introduction

This report presents figures on deaths during or following police contact that occurred between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013. 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 ninth 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. Deaths are reported only if they meet the criteria for inclusion in one of the following 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 2012/13, the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- **30 road traffic fatalities**
- **No fatal police shootings**
- **15 deaths in or following police custody**
- **64 apparent suicides following police custody**
- **21 other deaths following police contact (*IPCC independent investigations only*)**

This year is a mixed picture. There has been a notable increase in the number of *apparent suicides following custody*, following a recorded decrease over the three preceding years. *Road traffic fatalities* have also increased, although this figure is in line with numbers recorded in previous years. The number of *deaths in or following police custody* has remained the same as in the previous year and for the first time since the IPCC's inception there have been no *fatal shootings*. Finally, the IPCC has independently investigated fewer *other deaths following contact* with the police. The following sections consider the categories in detail.

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

For more detailed definitions and for information on 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. Deaths of police personnel or incidents that involve off-duty police personnel are not included in the report.

- **Road traffic fatalities** include 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 persons 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 of individuals who have been transferred to the care of another agency and subsequently die while in their care of injuries or illness not identified or sustained while in 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. It 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 have serious implications for the reputation of the police service. The criteria to include only deaths subject to an IPCC independent investigation have been applied since 2010/11 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 are in attendance at 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.

## 2. Overall findings

In 2012/13 the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- **30 road traffic fatalities**
- **No fatal police shootings**
- **15 deaths in or following police custody**
- **64 apparent suicides following police custody**
- **21 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 the deaths and a summary of trend data. [Appendix A](#) 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 are 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 2012/13. The figures show the number of incidents; an incident can involve multiple fatalities, but will form one investigation and therefore the totals for some categories will differ from those

Table 2.1 Incidents by type of death and investigation type, 2012/13

Type of investigation	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Apparent suicides following custody		Other deaths following police contact*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Independent	10	43	0	-	9	60	4	6	19	100
Managed	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Supervised	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Local	12	52	0	-	6	40	15	23	0	-
Back to force	1	4	0	-	0	-	45	70	0	-
<b>Total incidents</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</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.

presented above. A total of 42 incidents were subject to an independent investigation. Across all death categories, no incidents were subject to a managed investigation. There were also no supervised investigations, which is similar to previous years.

since 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

Table 2.3 shows the number of separate incidents that resulted in fatalities. There are more fatalities than incidents because a single incident, for example, a road traffic collision, can result in

Table 2.2 Fatalities by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2012/13

Category	Fatalities								
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Road traffic fatalities	44	48	36	24	40	29	26	19~	30
Fatal shootings	3	5	1	5	3	2	2	2	0
Deaths in or following police custody	36	28	27	22	15	17	21	15	15
Apparent suicides following custody	46	40	47	45^	56	54	46	39	64
Other deaths following police contact	24	40	22	30	35	38	52*	47	21

^ Operational advice note issued in 2007 on the referral of these deaths.

\* Change in definition of *other deaths following 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. One fatality has been added to the 2011/12 figures published previously in the *road traffic fatality* category.

Table 2.3 Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2012/13

Category	Incidents								
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Road traffic incidents	43	42	35	18	33	26	24	19~	23
Fatal shootings	3	5	1	4	3	2	2	2	0
Deaths in or following police custody	36	28	27	22	15	17	21	15	15
Apparent suicides following custody	46	40	47	45^	56	54	46	39	64
Other deaths following police contact	23	38	21	29	33	36	47*	37	19

^ Operational advice note issued in 2007 on the referral of these deaths.

\* Change in definition of *other deaths following 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. One fatality has been added to the 2011/12 figures published previously in the *road traffic incident* category.

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

For the first time since 2004/05, when the IPCC started collating the figures, this year no **fatal police shootings** have been reported. Over the nine-year reporting period the highest number of deaths as a result of police shootings was five in 2005/06 and 2007/08.

## 3. Road traffic fatalities

### Demographics

In 2012/13 there were 23 fatal police-related road traffic incidents (RTIs), which resulted in 30 fatalities. Twenty-four were males and six were females. The average age of those who died was 29 years; four people were under the age of 16 years. The youngest driver in a pursuit-related incident was 15 years and two further drivers who died were 19 years old. The majority of the individuals were reported to be White (22). Eight were known to be from a minority ethnic background: four were Asian; three were Black; and one was Chinese.

### 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>1</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 19 police pursuit-related incidents, in which 26 people died. Of these:

- 18 individuals were the driver or a passenger in a pursued vehicle and died when their vehicle crashed, for example, into a lamp post or another vehicle.
- Four people died after their vehicle was hit by a car being pursued by the police.

- Four pedestrians/cyclists were fatally injured after being hit by a pursued car.

Six pursuit-related incidents resulted in multiple fatalities; one incident resulted in three fatalities and a further five each led to two fatalities.

Eight of the 19 pursuit-related incidents were subject to an independent investigation.

#### Emergency response related incidents

This category includes all incidents that involved a police vehicle responding to a request for emergency assistance. There were two emergency response related incidents. One occurred when a police car collided with a pedestrian who was using a lighted crossing. The officer(s) was responding to reports of a vehicle in the area that had failed to stop for another police car. In the other incident the police car was responding to reports of an intruder and collided with a pedestrian on a dual carriageway resulting in fatal injuries. Both of these incidents were subject to an independent investigation.

#### Other police traffic activity

This category includes RTIs in which there was no pursuit or emergency response, but where incidents occurred during standard police patrol or where drivers apparently responded to seeing a police vehicle by fleeing the location.

Two incidents occurred during other police traffic activity. One pedestrian was fatally injured by a car that was apparently fleeing the scene of an earlier collision where the police were present. In the other incident, a number of police motorbikes were escorting a large convoy of taxis as part of a planned charity event; one of the police

<sup>1</sup> See 'The management of police pursuits guidance'. In 2011 the ACPO guidance on police pursuits was issued as a [statutory code of practice](#).

motorbikes collided with a pedestrian as she crossed the road.

## Trends

The number of RTI *fatalities* increased to 30 from 19 last year. This increase is partly accounted for by the increase in the number of incidents that resulted in multiple fatalities. Last year, no incidents resulted in multiple fatalities; this year six incidents accounted for 13 fatalities. This year's figure is more in line with the numbers recorded in previous years (26 in 2010/11, 29 in 2009/10, Table 2.2).

Table 3.1 shows the types of fatal RTIs over the past nine years. The table breaks down the incidents into the three broad categories described overleaf.

Over the past eight years, the *proportion* of pursuit-related incidents has remained fairly consistent, accounting for around half to two-thirds of incidents. However, this year there is an increase in the *proportion* of pursuit-related incidents, with 19 of the 23 (83%) incidents being pursuit-related. The *number* of incidents resulting from other police traffic activity has continued to fall.

Table 3.1 Type of road traffic incident, 2004/05 to 2012/13

RTI type	Incidents								
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Pursuit related	22	27	19	11	16	17	13	12*	19
Emergency response related	6	4	3	2	6	3	3	2	2
Other	15	11	13	5	11	6	8	5	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>

\*This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures. One incident has been added to the 2011/12 figures published previously in the pursuit related category.

Table 3.2 Type of road traffic fatality, 2004/05 to 2012/13

RTI type	Fatalities								
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Pursuit related	23	32	19	17	22	19	13	12*	26
Emergency response related	6	4	3	2	6	3	4	2	2
Other	15	12	14	5	12	7	9	5	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>30</b>

\*This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures. One fatality has been added to the 2011/12 figures published previously in the pursuit related category.

## 4. Deaths in or following police custody

### Demographics

Fifteen people died in or following police custody in 2012/13. Of those, 14 were male and one was female. Twelve people were reported to be White British and two were of 'Other' White ethnic origin. One person was identified as White and Black African. The average age of those who died was 40 years; the oldest person was reported to be 66 years old and the two youngest people were aged 18 and 19 years.

Almost half (seven individuals) were identified as having mental health concerns<sup>2</sup>. The types of mental health concern identified included previous suicide attempts, depression and long-term mental health disorders. Nine people were known to have a link to alcohol or drugs in that they were known to have recently consumed, were intoxicated from, or were in possession of drugs or alcohol at the time of their arrest. In one of these cases where a cause of death was known, a pathologist stated that alcohol or drugs was a factor in the death.

### Circumstances of detention

Table 4.1 shows the reason why the person was arrested or detained by the police. The most common reason related to anti-social behaviour / public order offences (three), or a failure to appear in court / wanted on a recall to prison (three). The 'Other' reasons included immigration detention and non-payment of council tax. One person had been detained by the police under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

*Table 4.1 Deaths in or following police custody: reason for detention, 2012/13*

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Antisocial behaviour / public order	3
Failure to appear in court / recall to prison	3
Burglary / armed robbery	2
Sexual offence – children	1
Drug / alcohol related (exc. drink driving)	1
Detained under the Mental Health Act	1
Fraud	1
Driving offence, including drink driving	1
Other	2
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>15</b>

Of the 15 fatalities in or following custody, four involved some form of restraint by the arresting officers and in a further incident the deceased was restrained by members of the public prior to the arrival of the police. This does not necessarily mean that the restraint contributed to the death. In one incident, a Taser stun gun was discharged at a man. In another case, a man was physically restrained with fast straps<sup>3</sup> and an emergency response belt<sup>4</sup>. The man who had been detained under the Mental Health Act was known to have been restrained by officers with leg straps and incapacitant spray. Three of the five incidents

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Soft style restraining belt made from strengthened fabric and straps secured with Velcro. Its intended purpose is to provide a protective and restraining device to handle, control, restrain, and move violent or injured subjects. It is intended to be used on the legs and arms.

<sup>2</sup> Information on mental health may have been self-reported, documented by the force or based on the views of a medical practitioner or family member.

involving restraint were subject to an independent investigation.

## Circumstances of death

Four people were identified as being *unwell or died during the arrest or detention*. Of these:

- One individual was arrested at his own property; on the way to the police vehicle he had a seizure. An ambulance transported him to hospital and he died shortly after arrival. The medical cause of death is currently recorded as inconclusive.
- One person died after police were called to a betting shop following reports of an armed robbery. On arrival, the officers found that shop staff and members of the public were restraining the suspect on the floor. The officers arrested and handcuffed him. After noting a concern for his health, an ambulance was called and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was recorded in the post-mortem as asphyxiation relating to restraint.
- One person was arrested and interviewed by officers upon arrival in the UK. During interview the man became unwell and was transferred to hospital where he died almost two days later. A number of drugs packages were found inside the man's body, but the medical cause of death is pending further toxicology results.
- One young woman, following her arrest in a flat, fell from a window causing fatal injuries while unsupervised by police officers.

Two people died of *self-inflicted wounds received during or prior to arrest*. In these incidents:

- One man shot himself following his arrest with a gun he had retrieved from his car while an officer was waiting to escort him to a police station.
- One man, prior to arrest, had taken a large quantity of paracetamol, had self-inflicted wounds to his wrists and had not eaten for a number of days. After arrest, he was taken by ambulance to hospital and he died a number of days later.

Six people were taken ill or were identified as being *unwell while at a police station or in a police vehicle*. Of these:

- One man, known to have a number of existing illnesses, was *pronounced dead at the police station* several hours after he had been transferred back there from hospital. The cause of death as recorded in the post-mortem was heart disease.
- One man had been restrained upon arrest with fast straps and an emergency response belt. During his detention he became unresponsive while in his custody cell. An ambulance was called and he died some time later in hospital. The cause of death recorded in the post-mortem was related to asphyxiation.
- In the remaining four cases, each person was identified as unwell while in the custody suite and was escorted to hospital where they later died. The causes of death are awaited in two of these cases. Of the other two, one man died from progressive lung cancer and the other from a number of cardiac arrests.

Three people were identified as being *unwell in other situations* as follows:

- In one instance, officers used incapacitant spray, handcuffs and leg straps on a man who was being detained under the Mental Health Act. He was escorted to a hospital place of safety by officers where he died less than two hours later. The cause of death is awaited.
- One individual became ill while in a holding cell at a magistrate's court and later died in hospital. The man had previously been detained in police custody for around 36 hours and while there had possibly suffered at least two epileptic seizures. The cause of death is awaited.
- One man had a number of existing medical conditions. Force, including Taser was used during his arrest. Upon release from custody he attended hospital and complained that while in custody excessive force was used against him, which had agitated his existing medical conditions. He died some months later; the cause of death is awaited.

**Table 4.2 Deaths in or following police custody: cause of death, 2012/13**

Cause of death	Number of fatalities
Heart disease / cardiac arrest	2
Asphyxiation*	2
Multiple injuries	1
Drug / alcohol overdose	1
Gun shot wound	1
Long-term illness	1
Inconclusive	2
Awaited	5
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>15</b>

Note: This table shows the medical cause of death as recorded in the post-mortem. This can be subject to change following an inquest.

\* One with secondary cause recorded in post-mortem as relating to a period of being held/restrained.

Table 4.2 shows the medical cause of death for people who died in or following police custody. Cause of death is taken from the pathologist's report as recorded during a post-mortem<sup>5</sup>. This can be subject to change following an inquest.

Two people died from disease of the circulatory system; one from a cardiac arrest and the other from ischaemic heart disease.

There were no self-inflicted deaths in a custody suite. One man shot himself during arrest causing fatal injuries and one man died from an overdose of drugs taken prior to arrest.

The cause of death is currently unknown for five cases and recorded as 'inconclusive' for two.

## 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

<sup>5</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'.

before falling back down to 15 in 2011/12 where it has remained in 2012/13.

Over the nine-year reporting period, five people are known to have apparently attempted suicide in a police cell; the most recent of these attempts was in 2008/09. There were two self-inflicted deaths in 2012/13, but none took place in a police custody suite (see circumstances above for details).

## 5. Apparent suicides following police custody

Guidance issued to police forces in 2007 requires that they refer to the IPCC all apparent suicides that occur within two days of a person being released from police custody. In addition, the guidance requires that police forces refer apparent suicides 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 64 apparent suicides following police custody. Of these, 57 were male and seven were female. The most common age group was 41 to 50 years (21 people) followed by 51 to 60 years (15 people). The youngest person was 17 years of age. Fifty-seven were reported to be White and six were from a minority ethnic background: three were of Asian origin; one was from a Black ethnic group; one was Mixed heritage; and one was of Other ethnic origin.

Almost two-thirds of individuals (39) were reported to have mental health concerns and seven of these had been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 prior to their death. Other mental health concerns included previous thoughts or incidents of suicide attempts or self-harm, personality disorders or depression. Twenty-two people were reported

either to be intoxicated through alcohol at the time of the arrest, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle. Twenty people were identified as being under the influence of drugs or were known drug users at the time of their arrest.

### Circumstances of death

Twenty-four apparent suicides occurred on the day of release from police custody, 26 occurred one day after release and 14 occurred two days after release.

Table 5.1 shows the reasons why the individuals were detained. Eighteen of those who died were arrested for a sexual offence – in the majority of cases, these arrests were in connection with sexual

*Table 5.1 Apparent suicides following police custody: reason for detention, 2012/13*

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Sexual offences	18
Violence related (non sexual) / threatening behaviour / harassment	17
Driving offence, including drink driving	8
Detained under the Mental Health Act	7
Theft / shoplifting	5
Breach of peace / public order / criminal damage	4
Drug / alcohol related (exc. drink driving)	2
Breach of bail / orders	2
Other	1
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>64</b>

offences or indecent images involving children. A further 17 individuals were detained in relation to violent / threatening behaviour, such as common assault. The other common reasons for detention included driving offences (eight), being detained under the Mental Health Act (seven) and suspicion of theft / shoplifting (five).

The majority of apparent suicides following custody were dealt with locally by the police force (60); four were subject to an independent investigation.

## Trends

The number of apparent suicides following custody has increased from 39 fatalities in 2011/12 to 64 this year. This is the highest figure recorded in this category since 2004/05.

## 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 other police contact that were subject to an IPCC independent investigation.

### Demographics

Twenty-one people in this category died during or following other contact with the police in 19 separate incidents. Nine of the individuals who died were female and 12 were male. Eighteen people were White, one was from a Black ethnic group, one was of Asian background and one was Chinese. The average age of those who died was 32 years and the age of one individual was unknown. Three people were under 18 years of age, the youngest being a baby.

### 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 and in some instances was 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 an individual's safety or wellbeing, with 17 fatalities falling into this group.

Nine fatalities (from seven incidents) were domestic related, where the circumstances of the contact with the police involved a history of domestic violence or threats made directly or indirectly against the deceased and associated family members. Seven of the nine domestic related fatalities were alleged murders committed

Table 6.1 Other deaths following police contact: reason for contact, 2012/13

Reason for contact		Number of fatalities
Concern for welfare	Domestic related	9
	Health / injuries / intoxicated / general	4
	Self-harm / suicide risk / mental health	2
	Other concern for welfare	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17</b>
Other contact	Assist with controlling / restraining	1
	All other	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total fatalities</b>		<b>21</b>

by an individual's partner, ex-partner or parent. One case accounted for three fatalities of members of the same family who died after a fire was started at their home allegedly by the ex-partner of one of the deceased.

In the remaining eight *concern for welfare* cases:

- Four fatalities involved a member of the public contacting the police after being concerned about an individual's general health or demeanour. This includes reports from a family member concerned that they could not contact their elderly mother and another where the deceased contacted the police stating he had fallen at home. In two cases, the police were contacted with reports that the deceased had been seen taking a quantity of drugs and or alcohol.
- Two fatalities occurred when concern was raised about an individual being a risk to themselves with regards to their mental health and risk of

self-harm. Both of these individuals died as a result of self-inflicted acts.

- Two men had each been a victim of assault that had been reported to the police. Each man had allegedly been murdered within a few days of that contact. One of the victims had also been reported missing to the police before the fatality.

The remaining four *other deaths following police contact* involved various types of contact with the police. The circumstances were as follows:

- One man died when police were called to assist medical staff with a man who was apparently intoxicated with drugs. The police restrained him with leg straps and handcuffs. They travelled with him in the ambulance; he was not arrested. He suffered a fit during transportation to the hospital and was pronounced dead on arrival. The cause of death was linked to drug use.
- One man was murdered by someone who had seriously assaulted another person about two weeks before and had not been apprehended by the police. There was no known risk or concern that the deceased would be targeted.
- One man allegedly committed suicide after being informed that he was subject to an investigation involving child pornography. The police had seized computer equipment, but had not made any arrests.
- One man engaged plain clothes officers during a pre-planned undercover operation and offered

to facilitate a drugs deal. He died a short time later of an apparent drugs overdose.

## 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 detailed trend analysis for this category. The number of IPCC independent investigations into other deaths following police contact has fallen from 37 to 19. 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, followed by health / injuries / general and then self-harm / suicide risk / mental health.

There have been fewer multiple deaths in a single case this year than in the previous two years. In 2012/13, one incident accounted for three deaths; last year five incidents accounted for 15 fatalities, and in 2010/11 five incidents resulted in 13 fatalities.

### 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 have 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>5</sup>. The IPCC considers the circumstances of all the cases referred to it and decides whether to investigate the death.

Since April 2006, the IPCC has also received fatal cases mandatorily referred from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)<sup>6</sup> and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). From February 2008, UK Border Agency (UKBA)<sup>7</sup> has also been subject to the same statutory duty. Therefore, any deaths that have occurred during or following contact within these organisations have also been presented in this report.

## Changes and revisions

2. 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 on this category can be found in the 'Guidance' document. No other changes have been made to the definitions of the death categories.
3. In 2007 the IPCC issued an Operational Advice Note to address inconsistencies in the referrals

<sup>5</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>6</sup> Regulation 34 of the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Regulation 25 of the UK Boarder Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2010.

of *apparent suicides following release from police custody*. This forms part of the [IPCC Statutory Guidance 2010](#).

4. The figures in this report present the most up-to-date set of figures for each death category. In this release, one fatality has been added to the 2011/12 figures published previously in the 'road traffic incident' category.

## Methods and definitions

5. 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 deaths and associated themes.
6. In the percentage column presented in the Tables, '-' denotes zero and 0 denotes less than 0.5%. Some percentages may add up to more or less than 100% due to rounding.

## 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
  - 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 2012 ACPO released the second edition of their guidance on the [Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody](#), which reflected recommendations made by the IPCC. The guidance aims to provide a definitive guide on how police officers should put in place operational policies to help raise standards of custodial care for those who come into their contact. The IPCC continues to work with the College of Policing in their review of this guidance into 'Authorised Professional Practice' on custody and detention. This aims to provide national policing standards on custody and covers from the first point of interaction between the police and the public.

The Home Office have published a revised version of the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act \(PACE\) codes of practice](#), which came into effect on 10 July 2012. These relate to the detention, questioning and treatment of detainees. The IPCC worked with the Home Office on the revision to the PACE codes and proposed amendments to the Codes to reflect key recommendations from IPCC investigations.

14. All previous annual deaths in or following [police contact reports](#) can be found on the IPCC website.
15. Read about the [IPCC's review into investigations involving a death](#).
16. Electronic versions of the tables presented in the report can be found on the [IPCC website](#). In addition, time series tables are available looking at ethnicity, age and gender of the deceased, and police force area by death category since 2004/05 to the current reporting year.
17. 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 pages](#) on the IPCC website.

18. Following a recommendation by the National Statistician in 2012, this annual report was assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and granted National Statistics designation.
19. If you have any questions or comments about the annual death report, please email the IPCC Research Team at research@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk.
20. Estimated publication date for 2013/14 report: July 2014.

# Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A1.1 Type of death by gender, 2012/13

Gender	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Apparent suicides following custody		Other deaths following police contact	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	24	80	0	-	14	93	57	89	12	57
Female	6	20	0	-	1	7	7	11	9	43
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

Table A1.2 Type of death by age group, 2012/13

Age group (years)	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Apparent suicides following custody		Other deaths following police contact	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 18	4	13	0	-	0	-	1	2	3	14
18 - 20	2	7	0	-	2	13	2	3	3	14
21 - 30	12	40	0	-	1	7	8	13	4	19
31 - 40	9	30	0	-	4	27	13	20	5	24
41 - 50	1	3	0	-	6	40	21	33	2	10
51 - 60	1	3	0	-	1	7	15	23	1	5
61 & over	1	3	0	-	1	7	3	5	2	10
Not known	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	2	1	5
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

Table A1.3 Type of death by ethnicity, 2012/13

Ethnic group	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Apparent suicides following custody		Other deaths following police contact	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	22	73	0	-	14	93	57	89	18	86
Asian	4	13	0	-	0	-	3	5	1	5
Black	3	10	0	-	0	-	1	2	1	5
Mixed	0	-	0	-	1	7	1	2	0	-
Chinese / Other	1	3	0	-	0	-	1	2	1	5
Not known	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	2	0	-
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

Table A1.4 Type of death by force, 2012/13

Force	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Apparent suicides following custody	Other deaths following police contact
Avon & Somerset	2	0	0	2	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	2	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	3	0
City of London	1	0	0	1	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	0	2	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	1	0
Devon & Cornwall	3	0	3	2	2
Dorset	0	0	0	1	0
Durham	1	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	1	0
Essex	0	0	2	2	1
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	4	0	1	4	2
Gwent	0	0	0	1	3
Hampshire	0	0	0	4	2
Hertfordshire	1	0	0	2	0
Humberside	0	0	0	1	0
Kent	1	0	0	2	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	1	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan	4	0	1	8	1
Norfolk	0	0	1	1	0
North Wales	0	0	2	2	0
North Yorkshire	1	0	0	5	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	2	1	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	1
South Wales	1	0	0	1	1
South Yorkshire	1	0	0	1	1
Staffordshire	0	0	1	2	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	2	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	1	1
Thames Valley	1	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	1
West Mercia	0	0	0	3	0
West Midlands	2	0	0	0	1
West Yorkshire	3	0	0	3	2
Wiltshire	1	0	0	0	0
British Transport Police	1	0	0	1	0
UK Border Agency	0	0	1	0	0
HMRC	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry of Defence	0	0	0	0	0
SOCA	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fatalities</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>21</b>

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