



Deaths during or following police contact:



Statistics for England and Wales
2015/16

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- meet identified user needs
- are well explained and readily accessible
- are produced according to sound methods
- 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 continues to be followed.

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1. Introduction

This report presents figures on deaths during or following police contact that happened between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016. 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 twelfth in a series of statistical reports on this subject published annually by the IPCC. To produce these statistics, the circumstances of all deaths referred to the IPCC are examined. We decide whether they meet the criteria for inclusion in the report under 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 that were subject to an IPCC independent investigation

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

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](#) on the IPCC website.

In this report the term 'police' includes police civilians, police officers and staff from the other organisations under IPCC jurisdiction¹. 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 happen 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 happen:

- during or following police custody where injuries that contributed to the death happened during the period of detention
- in or on the way to hospital (or other medical premises) following or during transfer from scene of arrest or police custody.
- as a result of injuries or other medical problems that are identified or that develop while a person is in custody
- 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 happen where the police are called to help medical staff to restrain individuals who are not under arrest

Apparent suicides following police custody includes apparent suicides that happen 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 time spent in custody may be relevant to the 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 happen:

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

¹ See [background note 2](#).

2. Overall findings

In 2015/16, the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- 21 road traffic fatalities
- three fatal police shootings
- 14 deaths in or following police custody
- 60 apparent suicides following police custody
- 102 other deaths following police contact that were independently investigated by the IPCC

Demographic information about those who died is presented in the following chapters, along with details about the circumstances of the deaths and a summary of trend data. The appendix contains additional information such as their age, gender, ethnicity, and the associated police force or appropriate authority. 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 told of a fatality, it considers the circumstances of the case and decides whether to investigate independently, or to manage or supervise a police investigation. In some circumstances, it is decided that the police Professional Standards Department (PSD) or other equivalent department is best placed to investigate a case locally. [Box B](#) on page five 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 2015/16. 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 may be lower than the total fatalities presented above. In total, 130 incidents were independently investigated. This is higher than previous years due to the increase in the IPCC's resources and capacity to investigate independently, where it is appropriate to do so, more 'other deaths following police contact'. Across all death categories, and as in recent years, no incidents were subject to a managed or supervised investigation.

Table 2.1 Incidents by type of death and investigation type, 2015/16

| Type of investigation | Road traffic incidents | Fatal shootings | Deaths in or following police custody | Apparent suicides following custody | Other deaths following police contact* |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Independent | 12 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 99 |
| Managed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Supervised | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Back to force | 4 | 0 | 1 | 40 | 0 |
| Total incidents | 20 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 99 |

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.

Trends

The figures presented in Table 2.2 show the number of fatalities across the different categories since 2005/06². It would not be meaningful to produce trend analysis across all five categories. This is due to the wide

variation in the circumstances and the change in definition in the category of ‘other deaths following police contact’.

Table 2.2 Fatalities by type of death and financial year, 2005/06 to 2015/16

| Category | Fatalities | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
| Road traffic fatalities | 48 | 36 | 24 | 40 | 29 | 26 | 19 | 31 | 12 | 14 | 21 |
| Fatal shootings | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Deaths in or following police custody | 28 | 27 | 22 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| Apparent suicides following custody | 40 | 47 | 45 [^] | 56 | 54 | 46 | 39 | 65 | 70 | 70 [~] | 60 |
| Other deaths following police contact [*] | 40 | 22 | 31 [~] | 35 | 39 | 57 ^{**~} | 47 | 22 | 44 [~] | 43 [~] | 102 ^{**} |

[^] 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.

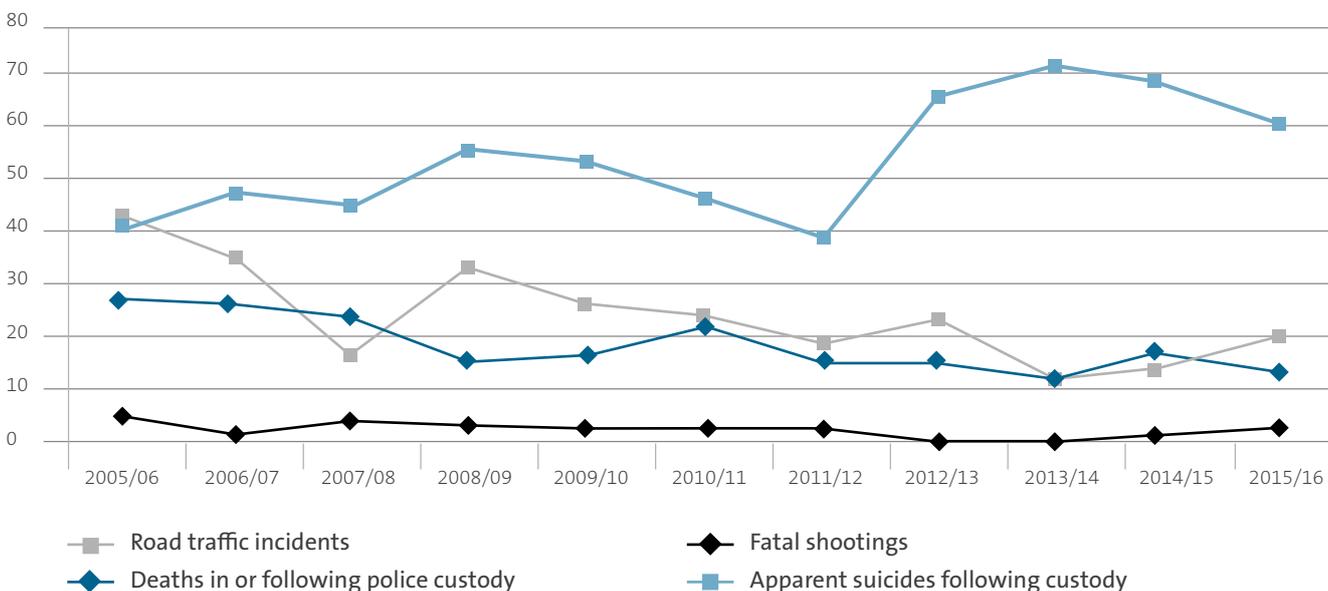
^{**} Expansion of IPCC investigative resource and capacity to conduct more independent investigations into serious and sensitive matters – this has a direct impact on the number of other contact deaths that are reported.

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

Figure 2.1 shows the number of separate incidents that resulted in fatalities. There are fewer incidents than fatalities. This is because

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

Figure 2.1 Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2005/06 to 2015/16



² Information on fatalities from 2004/05 is available in the time series tables on the IPCC website.

2. Overall findings

The number of fatal road traffic incidents (RTIs) has increased this year from 13 to 20. This figure is subject to fluctuation, and the numbers in recent years remain in general lower than figures recorded before 2011/12.

This year there were three fatal police shootings, compared to one recorded last year. The number of deaths in or following police custody has decreased to 14, similar to the levels observed in the three years before 2014/15.

The number of recorded apparent suicides following custody has decreased to 60 compared to 70 recorded in the previous year. This is the lowest figure recorded since 2012/13 when there was a notable increase in this category. However, it remains considerably higher than the average before 2012/13. Reporting of these deaths relies on police forces making the link between an apparent suicide and a recent period in custody. The overall increase in these deaths

over the 11 year period may therefore be influenced by improved identification and referral of such cases.

The category of 'other deaths following police contact' is not included in Figure 2.1. Including a death in this category is dependent on the IPCC deciding to investigate a death independently. The criteria for making this decision may vary over time, for example in response to current public and community concerns. In addition, over the past year, the IPCC has increased its capacity to conduct independent investigations³; this has had a direct impact on the number of deaths reported on in this category. Therefore, trend analysis of deaths recorded in this category would not be meaningful.

Figures on all fatal *incidents* are provided in Table A1 in the [appendix](#). Trend data on ethnicity, age, gender, police force, and category of death since 2004/05 is on the [IPCC website](#).

Box B Type of investigation

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

Managed investigations are carried out by police, usually by 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.

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

³ See the [IPCC's Corporate Plan 2015-18](#) for more information about expansion.

3. Road traffic fatalities

Demographics

In 2015/16, there were 20 fatal police-related road traffic incidents (RTIs), resulting in 21 fatalities. All of those who died were men. Nine people who died were aged between 18 and 29; the eldest was 62. Fifteen people were reported to be White, three were Asian, two were Black, and one was from a Mixed ethnic group.

Circumstances of death

Incidents are classified as 'pursuit-related' if they involved a pursuit, or where the police were driving in the same direction as a suspect vehicle. Not all of these incidents will have entered an official pursuit phase as defined in the Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on police pursuits⁴. Incidents where there was a collision involving a vehicle that had recently been pursued by the police, but where the police had lost sight of the vehicle, are included. Incidents where the police are driving in the direction of a vehicle before obtaining permission to pursue are also included as pursuit-related.

Pursuit-related

There were 12 police pursuit-related incidents, in which 13 people died. Of these:

- Nine people were the driver of a vehicle being pursued by the police when it crashed. Of these, one person was riding a motorbike, and another a moped.
- Two people, who were passengers in the car that was being pursued by the police, crashed into an unrelated vehicle. They both died at the scene.
- One person was the driver of an unrelated vehicle that was hit by the pursued car.
- One was a pedestrian who was hit by a vehicle that had failed to stop following a request by the police. The police were not pursuing at the time of the incident.

Nine of the pursuit-related incidents were investigated independently by the IPCC. The remaining three are being dealt with locally by the relevant police force.

Emergency response-related

This category includes all incidents that involve a police vehicle responding to a request for emergency assistance. There were two emergency response-related incidents resulting in two fatalities. In one of these the police were directly involved in the collision, the first such incident in two years.

- A police van was responding to an emergency call requiring an immediate response. A pedestrian stepped into the road and was struck by the police vehicle. This incident is being independently investigated.
- An officer in a police vehicle responding to an emergency call activated the lights and sirens to manoeuvre around traffic. This caused occupants of a car to reportedly throw something out of the window, flee from the

⁴ See College of Policing (2015) [Authorised Professional Practice on police pursuit](#). The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued guidance in 2011 as a statutory code of practice for police pursuits. ACPO was replaced by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in April 2015. The [College of Policing](#) now owns [Authorised Professional Practice](#).

3. Road traffic fatalities

police vehicle at speed, turn the car lights off, and drive on the wrong side of a carriageway. The car hit another vehicle and the driver of the fleeing car suffered fatal injuries. The officer had continued his journey and was not present when the collision occurred.

Other police traffic activity

This category includes RTIs that did not happen during pursuit-related activity or an emergency response. There were six such incidents resulting in six fatalities. Two are being investigated independently; the remaining four are being dealt with locally by the police force.

- A van was in a head-on collision with a police car. The driver of the van died at the scene. This incident is being investigated independently.
- A motorbike was seen allegedly being driven erratically and at speed by a police officer in stationary traffic. The officer indicated to the driver that he was a police officer by pointing to his shirt, but made no official indication for the motorcyclist to stop. The motorcyclist responded by accelerating off at speed. Soon after, he collided with a central reservation and died at the scene.
- Two incidents involved a vehicle fleeing from the police after being stopped. In one incident, officers indicated to a speeding vehicle to stop. The driver of the vehicle initially pulled over but then drove off at speed. The police did not pursue the vehicle but were informed minutes later that the vehicle had collided with a wall, and the driver had suffered fatal injuries. This incident is being investigated independently. In a similar incident, an officer pulled a vehicle over for suspected speeding. As the officer approached the car on foot, the driver of the vehicle drove away at speed. The officer made his way to the address of the vehicle owner and found the car had crashed. The driver died in an ambulance at the scene.
- Two incidents took place after the police spotted a vehicle in suspicious circumstances or activity. In one incident, police were called

to reports of intruders where the suspects were seen to leave in a vehicle. The suspect vehicle passed a police van travelling in the opposite direction. As the police began to turn around, the vehicle drove off at speed, turned its lights off, and turned down the wrong side of a dual carriageway. It shortly collided head on with another vehicle. The driver of the fleeing vehicle received fatal injuries and died at the scene. In another incident, officers attended a report of a suspicious incident. While searching the area, they noticed a parked vehicle with the driver present. After passing the vehicle, the police began to turn around. The suspect vehicle then made off at speed, initially with no lights on, out of sight of the officers. The police continued in the same direction of the vehicle. They found the car had collided with a telegraph pole. The driver died at the scene.

Trends

This year there were 21 deaths from 20 separate incidents. While this figure is more than in the past two years, when the lowest figures were reported, it is the fourth lowest figure recorded over the 12-year period since 2004/05. These figures are subject to fluctuation and therefore caution should be taken when making year on year comparisons.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 provide details of the type of road traffic fatalities and incidents over the past 11 years⁵. The tables show the incidents in the three categories previously described: pursuit-related, emergency response-related, and other police traffic activity. This year, while the number of pursuit-related incidents has doubled compared to last year, overall it is the fourth lowest number of pursuit-related incidents recorded since 2005/06. The number of incidents resulting from other police traffic activity is similar to last year and accounts for more than a third of all incidents⁶. There were two emergency response-related incidents, following no fatalities in the previous two years. This is the second lowest figure of the 11-year period.

⁵ Information on fatalities and incidents from 2004/05 are available in the time series tables on the [IPCC website](#).

⁶ Proportions should be treated with caution given the small numbers described.

3. Road traffic fatalities

Table 3.1 Type of road traffic fatality, 2005/06 to 2015/16

| RTI type | Fatalities | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
| Pursuit-related | 32 | 19 | 17 | 22 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 27 | 10 | 7 | 13 |
| Emergency response-related | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 12 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Total fatalities | 48 | 36 | 24 | 40 | 29 | 26 | 19 | 31 | 12 | 14 | 21 |

Table 3.2 Type of road traffic incident, 2005/06 to 2015/16

| RTI type | Incidents | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
| Pursuit-related | 27 | 19 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 6 | 12 |
| Emergency response-related | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 11 | 13 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Total incidents | 42 | 35 | 18 | 33 | 26 | 24 | 19 | 23 | 11 | 13 | 20 |

4. Fatal shootings

This year there were three fatal police shootings. This figure is the second highest recorded since 2004/05. The circumstances of the three fatal police shootings are described below. All incidents are subject to ongoing independent investigations.

In one incident, armed officers from the Metropolitan Police went to a block of flats after reports were made of an armed White man, aged 43, threatening to shoot someone. He was known to be potentially emotionally or mentally distressed. Two officers fired five shots, fatally injuring the man at the entrance to his flat. A non-police firearm was recovered from the scene.

Cambridgeshire armed police went to a report of a domestic dispute. It was reported that a 41 year old White man was armed with a knife. The man fired shots at the police when they arrived. The police fired a single shot hitting the man in the chest. He received medical attention but died at the scene. A non-police firearm and two knives were found inside the man's property.

Armed officers from the Metropolitan Police Service were involved in stopping an attempt to intercept a secure van transporting prisoners. A 28 year old man of Mixed race received a single gunshot wound from police during the operation. Medical treatment was given but the man died at the scene. The deceased was in a vehicle when he was shot, where what appeared to be a non-police issue firearm was found. This incident is now the subject of a criminal investigation into the actions of the police officer involved.

5. Deaths in or following police custody

Demographics

Fourteen people died in or following police custody; 12 were men and two were women. Their ages ranged from 25 to 74. Ten people were reported to be White, three were Asian⁷, and one was Black.

Seven people were identified as having mental health concerns. The types of mental health concern identified included bipolar disorder, depression and paranoia and self-harm or suicide tendency. One man had been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Twelve people were known to have a link to alcohol and / or drugs in that they had recently consumed, were intoxicated from, were in possession of, or had known issues with drugs or alcohol at the time of their arrest. Where cause of death was known, for six people a pathologist stated that alcohol or drug toxicity or long-term abuse was likely to be a contributing factor in their death.

Circumstances of detention

Table 5.1 shows the reasons why people were arrested or detained by the police. Three people were detained for an alleged assault or affray. Two people were detained for suspected theft or burglary, and two people for an offence relating to alcohol or drugs: one for being drunk and disorderly, and the other for alleged possession of drugs and theft. Other reasons for detention included suspected criminal damage, breach of the peace or anti-social behaviour, sexual offences against a child, detention under the Mental Health Act, and driving offences.

Table 5.1 Deaths in or following police custody: reason for detention, 2015/16

| Reason for detention | Number of fatalities |
|---|----------------------|
| Violence-related (non-sexual or murder) [~] | 3 |
| Theft / burglary | 2 |
| Drug / alcohol-related (excl. drink driving) [^] | 2 |
| Criminal damage | 2 |
| Breach of peace / anti-social behaviour | 2 |
| Sexual offences – children | 1 |
| Detained under the Mental Health Act | 1 |
| Driving offence, including drink driving | 1 |
| Total fatalities | 14 |

[~] One person was also arrested for alleged criminal damage.

[^] One person was also arrested for alleged theft.

⁷ Following changes to ethnicity classification by the Office for National Statistics, the Asian ethnic group now includes Chinese. This was previously recorded under the 'Other' ethnic group.

Table 5.2 Deaths in or following police custody: type of force, 2015/16

| Type of force [^] | Number of fatalities |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Physical and leg restraints* | 3 |
| Physical restraint [~] | 2 |
| Knee strike | 1 |
| Total fatalities | 6 |

[^] The following types of force are recorded: restraint, restraint equipment, Taser, incapacitant spray, police dog.

* One person was also held by store staff.

[~] One hold was in the prone position and one on the person's side, who was also restrained by security staff.

As shown in Table 5.2, it is known that six of the 14 people had some force used against them by officers before their death. It is important to note, that the use of restraint⁸, or other types of force, did not necessarily contribute to the death. There was no use of incapacitant spray, Taser, or a police dog in any of the incidents. In one incident, the person received a single knee strike to their leg by an officer.

Five people were physically restrained; two people also had leg restraints⁹ used on them. In two incidents, security or store staff were restraining the person when the police arrived. The police then also restrained the individual.

Circumstances of death

In the circumstances of the deaths described below, cause of death according to the pathologist's report following a post-mortem¹⁰ is reported for nine of the 14 people who died. At the time of reporting, the cause of death was pending for five people. An inquest has been held in one case. At an inquest, the cause of death will be finally determined and may change from that reported by the pathologist. All but one of these 14 deaths are being independently investigated by the IPCC.

Eight people were taken ill, or were identified as being unwell in a **police cell**. Three of these people died in a police cell and five were taken to hospital where they died on arrival or some time later. Of these eight:

- Following her arrest, one woman was held in custody for production at court. During her stay in custody, following a number of welfare checks, she was sent to hospital to be assessed and was returned a few hours later. She continued her stay in custody for approximately 36 hours, when she was identified as 'unresponsive'. Her cause of death is awaited.
- One man was taken into custody and searched. During a welfare check on detainees approximately three hours later, the man needed medical assistance. Officers and a health care professional administered first aid. Paramedics and an air ambulance attended, but the man was pronounced dead in the cell. His cause of death was recorded as *cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy), and alcohol toxicity*.

⁸ The term restraint refers to a range of actions including physical holds and pressure compliance. It does not include the routine use of handcuffs unless another use of restraint was also used.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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'.

5. Deaths in or following police custody

- One man was placed into a cell on his arrival in custody. He was pronounced dead in his cell approximately six hours later.
- One man told custody staff that he had recently taken drugs. He was found unresponsive in his cell during a welfare check. An ambulance was called and the detainee was taken to hospital where he died shortly after arrival. His cause of death was recorded as *post-seizure cardiac arrest: cause for seizure unascertained*.
- One man who was already known to the police for drug use admitted to taking cocaine before his arrest. He was strip searched on arrival in custody and no drugs were found. He was found unwell in his cell almost two hours later. He was transported to hospital where he died shortly after arrival. His cause of death was reported as *cocaine toxicity*.
- One man was acting in an erratic manner and was believed to be under the influence of drugs. On arrival at custody, he was taken straight to a cell and placed on the floor so he could be searched and have wet clothing removed. He was positioned face down on his stomach when officers noticed he had become unresponsive. Medical assistance was given and he was transported to hospital where he died the following day. His cause of death is awaited.
- One man was being physically restrained on the floor by shop staff when the police arrived. A drugs package was believed to be in the man's pocket. A struggle continued with the police, who placed him on the ground and put leg restraints on him. He was searched following his arrest, and the suspected package of drugs was not found. On arrival at custody, the man was searched again and nothing was found. The man soon became unsteady on his feet and said he had swallowed cocaine. Officers took him in a police vehicle to hospital where he died shortly after arrival. His cause of death was reported as *cocaine toxicity*.
- One man suffering from a fatal health condition went to hospital twice while in custody to be assessed about his fitness for detention. On the second visit, he stayed in hospital where he died the following day. His cause of death was associated with his health condition and reported as *ischaemic bowel*. This incident was referred back to the local police force to deal with.

Two people were taken ill at the **scene of arrest**. They died later after they had been taken to hospital:

- One man was being restrained by security staff. A police officer arrived, arrested the man, and placed him in handcuffs. The man continued to be held by a member of security staff and the police officer when they noticed that he had become unresponsive. He was taken to hospital where he died three days later. His cause of death is awaited.
- In one case, police officers went to execute a warrant to search a man's home for suspected drug offences. Officers stated that the man answered the door but immediately tried to close it before making his way to the kitchen, where the officers arrested him. They said that the man became disruptive and he was brought outside the property. He was placed in leg restraints and physically restrained. He said that he had swallowed cocaine and officers called an ambulance. While waiting, the man became unwell and was put in the recovery position. When paramedics arrived, the man appeared to be in a more stable condition. During transportation, the man again became unwell and was put in an induced coma on arrival at hospital. His condition stabilised but then deteriorated. He died two days after the initial incident. His cause of death is awaited.

5. Deaths in or following police custody

Four people died following their **release from police custody**:

- A man was found unresponsive at his home four days after release from police custody. He was taken to hospital and died shortly after arrival. There was resistance from the man during his arrest. In order to gain compliance, a police officer used a single knee strike to the man's leg. The leg strike has been attributed as a causal factor in the man's cause of death. The investigation is considering the justification for the use of force. His cause of death is reported as *multiple organ failure, trauma to left thigh with advanced liver disease and left ventricular hypertrophy, acute alcohol intoxication*.
- A woman was found unresponsive at home the day after being released from custody. The evidence suggests that during her time in custody the woman consumed a number of tablets that she had concealed. It is unclear what the woman took while in police custody and whether this contributed to her death. Her cause of death was reported as *la respiratory failure, lb opiate and cocaine poisoning and ll Hepatitis C*.
- A man was found collapsed in a court cell after being transferred there from police custody approximately four hours before. He died in the court cell. The investigation to date has found that there were some failings in the medical care provided to the man while held in custody. He suffered from illnesses linked to alcohol dependency. Evidence also suggests that key information about his health was not shared when he was transferred into the care of Serco¹¹. His cause of death was reported as *1. Alcohol related seizure and coronary artery atherosclerosis 2. Chronic traumatic head injury, chronic pancreatitis and liver cirrhosis*.
- A man who was detained under the Mental Health Act was taken directly to hospital. However, on arrival the officers were informed that there was no space to admit him at that time. The officers transported him to another hospital and waited with him there. At the second hospital, the man became aggressive and assaulted a police officer. He was restrained with the use of leg restraints, and arrested. He was then taken to a police custody suite. At the custody suite the man was assessed and further sectioned. He remained there for some hours before being transported by police to a psychiatric ward. Approximately four hours later the man died. The cause of death is unattributed.

Trends

Between 2004/05 and 2008/09, there was a year-on-year reduction in the number of deaths in or following custody. It reduced from 36 deaths 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. There was a further reduction, to 11, in 2013/14. In 2014/15, the number rose again to 17. This year has seen a decrease to 14 fatalities, the second lowest recorded number over the past 12 years.

This year no one died after making an apparent suicide attempt while being held in police custody. Since 2004/05, six people are known to have made a fatal suicide attempt in a police cell. The last incident was in 2014/15, and before that in 2008/09.

¹¹ Serco is a private company contracted by the Ministry of Justice to transfer and escort detainees from police custody to court. The IPCC has no jurisdiction over these staff.

6. Apparent suicides following police custody

Apparent suicides following police custody are reported if they happen within two days of a person being released from police custody. They are also reported if the time spent in custody may have been relevant to the subsequent death, and the death has been referred to the IPCC. The police may not always be told of an apparent suicide that happens after time spent in custody, as this association may not always be clear. Therefore, there may be additional deaths in these circumstances that are not reported here.

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 60 apparent suicides following police custody. Of these, 56 were male and four were female. The average age of those who died was 43. The most common age group was 41 to 50 (20 people), followed by 31 to 40 (15 people). The youngest was 16 years old. Fifty-eight people were reported to be White and two people were Asian.

More than half of the individuals (33) had known mental health concerns. Of these, one had been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Other mental health concerns included depression, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, or previous

thoughts or incidents of suicide attempts or self-harm. Twenty-eight people were reported to be intoxicated with drugs and / or alcohol at the time of the arrest, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle: 21 of these related to alcohol and 14 to drugs.

Circumstances of death

Eighteen apparent suicides occurred on the day of release from police custody, 24 occurred one day after release, and 16 occurred two days after release.

There were two cases where the apparent suicide took place longer than two days after release from police custody – one was five days and the other one was 27 days after release. Both of these cases are being independently investigated:

- In one incident, there was concern with the level and recording of information about the detainee's risk on the prisoner escort form that was shared with prison staff when the detainee was released from police custody. The apparent suicide took place in prison five days later.
- In the other incident, there was some concern about police conduct during the time a young man was in custody and the level of safeguarding provided when released, as he was a minor.

6. Apparent suicides following police custody

Table 6.1 Apparent suicides following police custody: reason for detention, 2015/16

| Reason for detention | Number of fatalities |
|--|----------------------|
| Sexual offences* | 22 |
| Violence-related (non-sexual or murder) | 7 |
| Criminal damage | 5 |
| Driving offences, including drink driving | 5 |
| Failure to appear in court / breach of bail or other court order | 4 |
| Breach of peace^ | 4 |
| Theft / burglary / shoplifting | 4 |
| Harassment / threatening behaviour | 4 |
| Drug / alcohol-related (excl. drink driving)~ | 3 |
| Detained under the Mental Health Act | 1 |
| Arson | 1 |
| Total fatalities | 60 |

* Two men also arrested for possession of drugs.

^ One man also arrested for violence-related offences.

~ One man also arrested for threats to commit arson and one man for concealing stolen property.

Table 6.1 shows why these people had been detained. Twenty-two of those who died had been arrested for a sexual offence. Of these, 17 were in connection with sexual offences or indecent images involving children. Other common reasons for detention included: violence related offences (seven), criminal damage (five), and driving offences (five).

The majority of recorded apparent suicides following custody were dealt with locally by the police force (57); three are being investigated independently. In addition to the two cases on page 14, the third independent investigation was concerned with the level of risk assessments conducted. All three independent investigations are ongoing.

Trends

The number of apparent suicides following custody is lower than the 70 recorded last year, which was the highest number recorded in this category since 2004/05. While the reported figure this year is lower than the past few years, it is the fourth highest recorded over the 12-year period since 2004/05. Reporting of these deaths relies on police forces making the link between an apparent suicide and a recent period of custody. Increases in these deaths may therefore be influenced by improved identification and referral of such cases.

7. 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 **investigated independently by the IPCC**.

During 2014/15, the IPCC started a significant period of change and expansion. This was in response to the Home Secretary's announcement that there should be more independent investigations into serious and sensitive matters¹². This has a direct impact on the number of deaths that will be recorded as '*other deaths following police contact*', as inclusion of these types of case into this annual report is based on there being an independent investigation.

The increase in this category does not therefore indicate an increase in the number of people who have died following some form of contact with the police. It is worth noting that over the past few years, on average, the IPCC was referred around 430 incidents each year where someone had died following police contact. In 2013/14 and 2014/15, the IPCC investigated independently around one in ten (10%) of these referrals. This year, in line with the increase in IPCC resource, one in four (25%) referrals were investigated independently.

Overall demographics

The IPCC independently investigated the deaths of 102 people who died during or following other contact with the police. Of these:

- Seventy-four people were men and 28 were women.
- Eighty-one people were White, 11 were Asian, seven were Black, two were from an Other ethnic group, and one was of Mixed heritage.
- Five people were aged under 18, and 16 people were young adults aged between 18 and 24. The average age was 42.

Almost half the people who died (50) were reported to be intoxicated with drugs and / or alcohol at the time of the incident, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle. More than half of people who died (55) were reported to have mental health concerns – information on mental health was not identified or known for 15 people.

¹² See the [IPCC's Corporate Plan 2015-18](#) for more information.

Table 7.1 Other deaths following police contact: reason for contact, 2015/16

| Reason for contact | | Number of fatalities |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Concern for welfare | Missing person | 32 |
| | Health / injuries / intoxication / general | 22 |
| | Domestic related | 15 |
| | Self-harm / suicide risk / mental health | 14 |
| | Threatening behaviour / harassment | 5 |
| | Other | 4 |
| | Subtotal | 92 |
| Other contact | Execute search / arrest warrant / investigation enquires | 3 |
| | Assist medical staff | 2 |
| | Siege | 2 |
| | Attending a disturbance | 1 |
| | Other | 2 |
| | Subtotal | 10 |
| Total fatalities | | 102 |

Circumstances of death

This category includes deaths that have happened across a diverse range of circumstances. The police contact may not have been directly with the deceased, but with a third party, as demonstrated in some of the case examples below. Where stated, the cause of death is taken from the pathologist's report following a post-mortem¹³.

As shown in Table 7.1, the most common reason for contact with the police related to a **concern for welfare**. That is, 92 people died after concerns were raised with the police either directly or indirectly about the safety or wellbeing of the deceased before their death. There were a further 10 fatalities recorded as relating to **other** types of contact with the police.

In total, three people who died following police contact were known to have been restrained by officers; in two of these instances, leg restraints were also applied. There were two further people who had been restrained by members of the public. In one incident, armed police officers used Taser and baton rounds on a man.

Concern for welfare

Of the 92 fatalities that followed contact with the police about a concern for welfare, 32 were about a report of a **missing person**. For 25 people, they were also identified as a self-harm or a potential suicide risk. In these 25 incidents:

- Nineteen people who died were men and six were women.
- Twenty people were White, three were Asian, and two were from an Other ethnic group.
- The most common age group was 41 to 50 (eight people), followed by 31 to 40 (six people), and 21 to 30 (five people). Two people were aged under 18.
- The average age was 37 years, slightly younger than the overall average age of people included in this category.
- In the majority of instances (19), the person's death was from a self-inflicted act. Two were believed to be an accident, one from natural causes, and one was an alleged murder. The classification of death is not known for two people.

For the remaining seven people who were **reported missing** to the police, there was no specific risk of self-harm or suicide. In these cases:

- Five people were women. Four people were White and three were Asian. Both women and Asian people accounted for a higher proportion in this category than in the other deaths in or following police contact that were investigated independently.

¹³ 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'.

7. Other deaths following police contact – IPCC independent investigations only

- The average age was 29; this is younger than the average age of all the other deaths following contact.
- Three people died following an alleged murder and one was accidental. The cause of death for two people is currently awaited.

In 22 incidents there was a concern raised to the police about the person's **health, possible injuries, intoxication, or general well-being**.

In most incidents, a third party raised the concern. The police generally did not have direct contact with the deceased in these circumstances, although they did in some cases. Within this category:

- Twenty people were men and two were women. The proportion of men was higher in this 'concern for welfare' type than in all the other deaths following police contact that were investigated independently.
 - The majority of people were aged over 31. The average age was 46, slightly older than all the other deaths following police contact.
 - More than half (12 people) of those who died were reported to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, or alcohol featured heavily in their lifestyle.
 - The most common form of death classification was either accidental or from natural causes.
 - One man was described as acting in an erratic manner. When the police arrived, members of the public were restraining the man in an attempt to prevent him from hurting himself. The police decided to transport him to hospital as an ambulance had not yet been sent to the scene. On their way to the hospital, the man's condition deteriorated and the police administered first aid. An ambulance arrived and transported him to hospital. His cause of death was reported as *cocaine toxicity with acute behavioural disturbance*.
- Fifteen fatalities were **domestic-related**. This means that the police were responding to a domestic incident or the circumstances of the contact involved a history of domestic violence or threats made against the deceased and / or associated family members. Within this category:
- Seven people who died were women and eight were men. Women account for a higher proportion in this category than in all the other deaths in or following police contact that were investigated independently.
 - Eight people were White and seven were from a BME group; four were Black, and three were Asian. The proportion of BME people in this category is higher than in all the other deaths in or following police contact.
 - The most common age group was 51 to 60 (five people), followed by 41 to 50 (four people). The average age was 41.
 - In 13 instances, the classification of death was an alleged murder. One was apparently self-inflicted and one is not known pending further investigation. Of those who were allegedly murdered, seven were women and six were from a BME group.
 - One incident resulted in three fatalities, including two children, who were the alleged victims of a murder by the father/partner.

Fourteen fatalities related to concern regarding a person's risk of **self-harm, suicide, or mental health**. In these instances, the concern is most often raised to the police by a third party, about a person with known mental health concerns. These people may, for example, fail to attend an appointment or welfare check, or make an indication of self-harm or suicide. The person is not reported or considered missing. Of these:

- Ten people were men and four were women.
- Twelve people who died were White, one was Asian, and one was Black.
- The ages of the people who died ranged from 21 to 66. The most common age group was 21 to 30 (five people). The average age was 40.
- The most common form of death classification was from self-inflicted means (10 people). The remaining fatalities were deemed to be from natural causes and one is awaited.

Five people died following concern about **threatening behaviour**. These incidents involve threatening behaviour or harassment among people in non-domestic situations, such as between neighbours or strangers. Within this category of concern:

- Three people who died were men and two were women.
- All those who died were White and the average age was 54, ranging from 37 to 85.
- Four deaths were an alleged murder. In two of these incidents, the circumstances related to reports to the police of an attempted or actual burglary. In the other, the police were notified that a man had threatened to harm a person. The police had stopped and searched the man, who then went on to murder another individual. In the fourth case, a number of non-domestic confrontations and arguments between two families had been reported to the police. One of these reports allegedly involved threats

with a knife. Soon after, a woman who had been involved in the earlier reported confrontations was stabbed in the chest. She died shortly after from her injuries in hospital.

- One classification of death was from natural causes. In this incident, the deceased reported to the police that there were people in his property who were threatening him. The evidence suggests that the man was suffering from hallucinations, and that there were no other people involved. The man died of complications from long-term alcohol abuse.

Four people died following **other types of concern for welfare** that are not covered by the above categories. The circumstances within this category are varied and included:

- The police had contact with a man about his alleged erratic driving over several months. This included reports that he had driven over kerbs, swerved across lanes, and backed into bushes. There was also some concern about his health while driving. The day after the last report to the police about his driving, the man drove off the road and crashed. His wife was a passenger in the car. They both died at the scene.
- A car was reported to the police for being driven in a careless and reckless manner. It had caused a number of road traffic collisions. When the police found the car, the driver was sitting in the back behaving in an erratic and incoherent manner. They immediately requested an ambulance. He was believed to have taken drugs. The police physically restrained the man and applied leg straps. The man became unwell and was taken to hospital. He died the following day from a *cardiac arrest from accidental cocaine overdose*.

7. Other deaths following police contact – IPCC independent investigations only

- One woman called the police and asked for their assistance in going to a property to recover a debt. During this discussion, the woman disclosed that she had attempted to commit suicide the previous day but that her neighbour had intervened. Advice was provided about the recovery of the debt but no further action was taken about the disclosure of self-harm. The following day, the woman was found dead at home from an apparent suicide.

Other contact

The 10 deaths recorded as relating to **other types of contact** occurred in the following circumstances.

Three deaths occurred after or during contact with the police who were **executing a search, an arrest warrant, or conducting investigation enquiries**. All the deceased were White men, aged over 30 years. In two incidents, the deaths were self-inflicted. The other incident was an accidental overdose after the man consumed a large amount of cocaine on the arrival of the police at his home.

Two men, both White, in their mid-20s, died after police were called to **assist medical staff**.

- In one incident, the police were called to assist with a person who had self-harmed. At the request of the paramedics, he was physically restrained by officers and had handcuffs and leg restraints applied for a short time. The man died later in hospital from the self-inflicted injuries.
- In the other incident, the police helped to physically restrain a man believed to be suffering from acute behavioural disturbance while he received medical care. His cause of death was reported as *Hyperpyrexia and pulmonary oedema as a result of ingesting Methoxymethamphetamine*.

Two men died during a **siege** situation with the police.

- In one incident, armed officers went to an address where there were reports of people entering with firearms. One occupant surrendered to the police but one man, White, aged 41, remained in the loft. During attempted negotiations with the man, he took his own life.
- In the second incident, the police were called to the home of a White man in his early 50s, following reports of an altercation involving a firearm. The man left his house shortly after the police were called. The man later identified himself to a police officer near his home, who confirmed that the man was armed. Armed officers arrived a short time later. They fired a Taser at the man followed by two baton rounds. These were both ineffective as he was wearing body armour under his clothing. A short time later, the man took his own life. He died in hospital the following morning from a single gunshot to his head.

One man, White, in his mid-30s, died after police officers attended a **report of a disturbance**. When the police arrived at the scene, members of the public were restraining the man, as they believed he had committed an offence against another person. The officers noticed the man was unwell. He received medical attention and was taken to hospital but died shortly after arrival. His cause of death was reported as *multi-factorial*¹⁴.

Two deaths occurred following **other contact** with the police:

- One man, aged over 60 and White, went to a police station to request information about his dog that had apparently been taken while he was in hospital. The man, who was homeless, remained inside the station for about six hours until he

¹⁴ Ia. Restraint and struggling in an individual with truncal obesity, exhibiting features of acute behavioural disturbance II. Moderate atherosclerotic stenosis of the major epicardial coronary arteries.

was forcibly removed after lighting a cigarette. He remained outside in freezing temperatures and unable to re-enter as the 24-hour station doors were locked. Approximately five hours later, the officers went outside to speak to the man and found him to be unresponsive. The man was taken to hospital but died shortly after arrival. His preliminary cause of death was reported as *perforated peptic stomach ulcers*, a long-term chronic condition.

- One man of Black ethnicity, aged 49, was stopped in his vehicle at passport control for further checks as his details linked him to an individual who had been convicted of smuggling drugs inside his body. The man collapsed while UK Border Force staff were examining his car. Medical assistance was provided and an ambulance called, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. While a number of drug packages were found inside his body, his cause of death was reported as *arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy*, a genetic heart disease that can be fatal in stressful situations.

The number of cases that fall into this category has increased due to more independent investigations being conducted into these matters. The overall proportion of cases relating to a concern for welfare accounted for 90% of the deaths following police contact that were independently investigated – last year the proportion was 63%. This year, almost a third of investigations into deaths following police contact related to incidents of a missing person, in the majority of which the person was identified as a suicide or self-harm risk. The proportion of incidents relating to someone's health, injury, intoxication, or general well-being, or those related to a concern for welfare in domestic circumstances, was similar to last year.

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 investigated independently by the IPCC. 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 account for changes in the number of fatalities.

8. Background

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 happened 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 death¹⁵. 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 and Customs (HMRC)¹⁶, 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)¹⁷ until March 2013, when UKBA's 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. Therefore, any deaths that have happened during or following contact with these organisations or individuals will also be presented in this report.
3. The IPCC is currently undergoing a significant period of change. This runs from 2014 to 2017 and will see the IPCC carry out significantly more independent

investigations of serious and sensitive cases. As seen in this year's figures, this has had an impact on the number of deaths recorded in the category of '*other deaths following police contact that were subject to an independent investigation*'. This has meant that the approach to how this category is presented in the report has been changed.

Changes and revisions

4. 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 investigated independently by the IPCC. 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.
5. In 2007, the IPCC issued an operational advice note to forces to address inconsistencies in the referral of '*apparent suicides following release from police custody*'. Forces were asked to refer to the IPCC any suicides that occur within two days of release from police custody, or apparent suicides that occurred more than two days after release but where there was a possible link between the time spent in custody and the death.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Regulation 34 of the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005.

¹⁷ Regulation 25 of the UK Border Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2010.

6. This report presents the most up-to-date set of figures for each death category. In this release, six fatalities have been added to previous years' figures. Within the category '*other deaths following other police contact*', one fatality has been added for each of the years 2007/08, 2010/11, and 2013/14, and two have been added in 2014/15. One *apparent suicide following police custody* has been added to the 2014/15 figures. These deaths were not subject to an IPCC investigation or they had not been referred to the IPCC at the time the previous report was released.

Methods and definitions

7. 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

8. A number of [policies and statements](#) are produced in relation to this report. These are available on the IPCC website. They include 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

9. 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. This 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.

10. This report provides data and information about a highly sensitive topic area. It is used to promote and inform debate and discussion 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.

11. Additional [in-depth studies](#) and [learning bulletins](#) have been conducted and produced by the IPCC to further aid learning.

12. Users of the statistics should be aware that care needs to be taken when looking at the time series of the data. 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 make sure 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. This is due to differences in death classifications or how other details have been collated.

13. The user engagement strategy is found in section eight of the [policies and statements](#) document.

Further information

14. In January 2016, the IPCC published its [findings from a review examining current police force practices](#) in referring complaints, conduct matters, and death and serious injury matters to the IPCC. The Home Secretary is clear that the IPCC should be able to independently investigate all serious and sensitive cases. Therefore, the purpose of this work was to assess whether police forces have processes in place to make sure all relevant matters are referred.

From the sample of cases examined, the review found a number that should have been referred to the IPCC. These included allegations of corruption, matters arising from serious case reviews, and several deaths and serious injuries following some form of contact with the police. We did not find that the failure to refer was because of a deliberate attempt to withhold information. Rather, it resulted from fundamental flaws in the systems and processes within forces, and a lack of understanding of the referral criteria.

A number of recommendations were made. These were directed at improving the processes by which these cases reach the professional standards departments of police forces, and then are referred appropriately to the IPCC.

15. In March 2016, the IPCC published the findings from its [research study into use of force by the police](#). The study brought together an evidence base informed by:

- analysis of public complaints recorded by the police
- cases that the IPCC has been involved with
- research into the perceptions and experiences of members of the public, police personnel, and other stakeholders

The purpose of the study was not to provide a representative picture of how force is used nationally. However, the report does identify some issues that emerge from the evidence available. Informed by our findings, we made a number of recommendations designed to improve how force is used and recorded and how its effectiveness is evaluated. The overall aim was to improve public confidence in its use.

We are collating responses to the recommendations made in the report from police forces and will monitor any action taken by individual forces.

16. The IPCC has a formal agreement, known as a [concordat](#), with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the College of Policing. This sets out how these organisations intend to work together to promote best practice. Relevant examples of where the IPCC is working with HMIC and the College of Policing to raise standards are:

- 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 IPCC recommendations relevant to police custody.
- Working with HMIC/HMIP on its revision of '[Expectations of police custody](#)'. This document is used to assess the treatment and conditions of those detained in police custody. The Expectations also offer a guide to senior police officers and police and crime commissioners as to the standards that the two inspectorates expect to find in these settings and the sources of information and evidence on which they rely. The revised document was published in April 2016.

- Working with the College of Policing on its revision of Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on mental health. The revised document is due for publication in summer 2016. It will be accompanied by five training modules, which replicate the content of the APP.
17. Significant changes are due to be made to the police complaints and disciplinary systems. This will impact on the work of the IPCC and the organisation itself. These changes will be given effect by the Policing and Crime Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent in late 2016.
 18. All [previous](#) annual deaths in or following police contact reports can be found on our website.
 19. 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.
 20. In addition to the annual reports on deaths, the IPCC also periodically produces one-off research studies that 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.
 21. Following a recommendation by the [National Statistician](#) in 2012, this annual report was [assessed](#) by the UK Statistics Authority and granted National Statistics designation.
 22. If you have any questions or comments about the annual death reports, please email the IPCC research team at research@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk.
 23. Estimated publication date for 2016/17 report: July 2017.

Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A1 Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2005/06¹⁸ to 2015/16

| Category | Incidents | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
| Road traffic incidents | 42 | 35 | 18 | 33 | 26 | 24 | 19 | 23 | 11 | 13 | 20 |
| Fatal shootings | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Deaths in or following police custody | 28 | 27 | 22 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| Apparent suicides following custody | 40 | 47 | 45 [^] | 56 | 54 | 46 | 39 | 65 | 70 | 70 [~] | 60 |
| Other deaths following police contact* | 38 | 21 | 30 [~] | 33 | 37 | 49 ^{*~} | 37 | 20 | 41 [~] | 43 [~] | 99^{**} |

[^] 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.

** Expansion of IPCC investigative resource and capacity to conduct more independent investigations into serious and sensitive matters – this has a direct impact on the number of other contact deaths that are reported.

[~] 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, 2015/16

| Gender | Road traffic incidents | Fatal shootings | Deaths in or following police custody | Apparent suicides following custody | Other deaths following police contact* |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Male | 21 | 3 | 12 | 56 | 74 |
| Female | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 28 |
| Total fatalities | 21 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 102 |

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

¹⁸ Information on fatalities from 2004/05 is available in the time series tables on the [IPCC website](#).

Table A3 Type of death by age group, 2015/16

| Age group (years) | Road traffic incidents | 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 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 21 - 30 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 17 |
| 31 - 40 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 24 |
| 41 - 50 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 23 |
| 51 - 60 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 15 |
| 61 and over | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 14 |
| Total fatalities | 21 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 102 |

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

Table A4 Type of death by ethnicity, 2015/16

| Ethnic group | Road traffic incidents | Fatal shootings | Deaths in or following police custody | Apparent suicides following custody | Other deaths following police contact* |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| White | 15 | 2 | 10 | 58 | 81 |
| Asian [^] | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 11 |
| Black | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Mixed | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total fatalities | 21 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 102 |

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

[^] Following changes to ethnicity classification by the Office for National Statistics, the Asian ethnic group now includes Chinese. This was previously recorded under the 'Other' ethnic group

Table A5 Type of death by appropriate authority, 2015/16

| Appropriate authority | Road traffic incidents | Fatal shootings | Deaths in or following police custody | Apparent suicides following custody | Other deaths following police contact* |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Dorset | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Durham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Dyfed Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Essex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Humberside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Kent | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Lancashire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Merseyside | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Metropolitan | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 20 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| South Wales | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Surrey | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sussex | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Warwickshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| British Transport | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HMRC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ministry of Defence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NCA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Home Office~ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total fatalities | 21 | 3 | 14 | 60 | 102 |

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

~This includes UKBF, UKIE and UKVI.

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