

Deaths during or following police contact:

Statistics for England and Wales
2011/12

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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.

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Introduction

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 which 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 death¹. 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)² and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). From April 2007, UK Border Agency (UKBA)³ has also been subjected to the same statutory duty. Therefore, any deaths which have occurred during or following contact within these organisations will also be presented here.⁴

This report presents figures on deaths during or following police contact which occurred between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012. It provides a definitive set of figures for England and Wales and an overview of the nature and circumstances in which these deaths occurred. Some of the investigations into the deaths are ongoing. Details about the nature and circumstances of these cases are therefore based on information available at the time of analysis.

This publication is the eighth in a series of statistical reports on this subject published

annually by the IPCC. 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. For copies of these related studies please visit the IPCC website at www.ipcc.gov.uk.

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
- other deaths following police contact
- apparent suicides following police custody

Box A provides a definition for each of these categories⁵. For more detailed definitions, and for information on how the death cases are categorised and recorded please see the 'Guidance: IPCC Annual Death Report' published on the IPCC website.

1 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.

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

3 Regulation 25 of the UK Border Agency (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2009.

4 There are no recorded fatalities for these organisations this year.

5 Please note that in 2010/11 there was a change to the definition of other deaths following police contact to include only independent investigations. Apparent suicides following release from custody were presented in the main tables of the report for the first time in 2010/11; in the past, these deaths were included in the report but were reported on separately.

Box A Definitions of deaths during or following police contact categories

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 these categories.

- **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 would not include:

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

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- **Fatal shootings** include fatalities where police officers fired the fatal shot.

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

This would include:

- 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 would 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.

-
- **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 when an incident could 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 only include independent investigations 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 regarding a person's welfare and there is some 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.

-
- **Apparent suicides following police custody** includes all 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.

National Statistician’s review of IPCC statistics on deaths during or following police contact

In February 2012 the IPCC approached the National Statistician to request an independent statistical review into the collation, analysis and presentation of IPCC annual statistics on deaths during or following police contact and a one-off study into deaths in or following police custody.⁶ This request followed public criticism of the figures produced by the IPCC.

The National Statistician conducted this review and her report was published in March 2012⁷. She concluded that the criticisms made about the publications - that some specific, high profile cases were not properly classified in the figures as

deaths in custody and that the figures involving police restraint were incorrect - were unsupported. She stated that the statistics had been collated conscientiously and with a consistent process but made some recommendations about how future publications could be improved to increase public confidence in their use.

Following the review the National Statistician made five recommendations. The IPCC has responded to each of these recommendations which are outlined in Box B.

Box B Recommendations and responses to the National Statistician’s review

Recommendation	Response
1. Make clear from the outset where future research studies are one off publications and how they relate to the regular statistical publications.	We have ensured that an explanatory commentary regarding the nature and content of the report is given prominence in order to avoid any potential misinterpretation by users.
2. Provide users with more information on the process for compiling the statistics – to improve trust in the statistics and how they are produced.	We have produced a stand-alone document, ‘Guidance: IPCC Annual Death Report’ which provides additional detailed information on how the IPCC collates and categorises deaths for inclusion in the annual report. This is available on the IPCC website.
3. Consider including in the annual statistics more detail on cause of death, including figures for secondary cause of death.	We have reviewed how we report on cause of death and where applicable, have included information on secondary cause of death.
4. Consider putting the annual statistics forward for an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.	We are currently consulting with the UK Statistics Authority with regard to making the deaths statistics a UK Official Statistic. It is anticipated that this process will be completed in time for publication of the 2012/13 figures.
5. The research team should also further develop its working relationship with the Home Office Head of Profession for Statistics, whilst being mindful of the IPCC’s independence from the Home Office.	This process has already been initiated and we intend the relationship to be established further in the future in order to help safeguard the professional integrity of the statistics.

6 www.ipcc.gov.uk/deathscustodystudy

7 National Statistician’s Review of IPCC statistics on deaths during or following police contact, March 2012. http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/reports_polcustody.aspx

Findings

In 2011/12, the following number of fatalities occurred within each category:

- **18 road traffic fatalities**
- **2 fatal police shootings**
- **15 deaths in or following police custody**
- **47 other deaths following police contact**
- **39 apparent suicides following police custody.**

Demographic information about those who died is presented below, along with details of the nature of their death. Appendix A contains additional information such as their age, gender, ethnicity and associated police force.

Road traffic fatalities

Demographics

In 2011/12 there were 18 police-related road traffic *incidents* (RTIs), which resulted in the deaths of 18 males. The average age of those who died was 34 years. Three people were under the age of 18 years, and the youngest two were both 16 years old. The majority of the individuals were reported to be White (12). Four were known to be from a minority ethnic background: two were Black; one was of Mixed heritage; and one was Asian. The ethnicity of two people was not recorded.

Circumstances of death

Eleven people died during or shortly after a *police pursuit*. Of these:

- Eight individuals were the driver of, or a passenger in a pursued vehicle and died when their vehicle crashed – for example, into a lamp

post, a tree or wall.

- One person died after their vehicle was hit by a car being pursued by the police.
- Two pedestrians were fatally injured in separate incidents after being hit by a pursued car.

Two fatalities involved a police vehicle that was *responding to an emergency call*. In one incident the police car collided with another vehicle resulting in fatal injuries to the driver and in the other, a pedestrian in the road was hit by a police car responding to an emergency call.

Five fatalities occurred during *other police traffic activity*. All of these incidents occurred when an individual apparently fled when they saw a police vehicle. Three of these fatalities were the driver of the fleeing vehicle, and two who died were passengers.

Fatal shootings

Of the two fatal shootings that occurred in 2011/12, one involved officers from the Metropolitan police and the other involved officers from Greater Manchester police. IPCC investigations are currently ongoing into both of these cases.

In the case involving the Metropolitan Police, a pre-planned operation was carried out by a specialist unit. During the operation, police stopped a mini cab containing a 29-year-old man of 'other' Black ethnic origin. Two shots were fired by an officer. One of the shots struck the man in his chest causing fatal injuries and he died at the scene.

In the case involving Greater Manchester police, a 36-year-old White man was shot through the windscreen of the car he was in by officers from a

specialist firearm’s unit during a pre-planned operation. He died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Deaths in or following police custody

Demographics

Fifteen people died in or following police custody. Of those, 13 were male and two were female. Eleven individuals were reported to be White British and two were of ‘Other’ White ethnic origin. One person was identified as White and Black African and another was identified as of ‘Other’ Black ethnic origin. The average age of those who died was 39 years, with the youngest person reported to be 25 and the oldest to be 55 years old.

Circumstances of death

Five individuals were taken ill or were identified as being unwell at the point of arrest or detention. Of these:

- One person became ill while at the scene of the arrest and was taken to hospital by ambulance where he died within an hour of arrival.
- One individual was arrested at their own property where they were taken ill; the police transported the individual to hospital and they died some time later.
- One person died after police were called to a public house following a report of an intoxicated man armed with a knife. Police and staff restrained the man who was then escorted to hospital for immediate medical attention, where he later died.
- One person was arrested on a hospital ward after allegedly assaulting a member of medical staff. His condition deteriorated immediately after and he remained in a medically induced coma until he died nearly two weeks later.
- One individual with known mental health issues was escorted to hospital by officers. On arrival he was reported to have become increasingly agitated and was restrained by officers and detained under the Mental Health Act. He died the following day.

Table 1.1 Deaths in or following police custody: reason for detention, 2011/12

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Theft / burglary	3
Breach of peace / criminal damage / public order	3
Violence related (non sexual or murder)/ threatening behaviour	2
Detained under the Mental Health Act	2
Drug / alcohol related, exc. drink driving	1
Driving offence, including drink driving	1
Sexual offence	1
Failure to appear in court / breach of bail / recall to prison	1
Possession of weapon	1
Total fatalities	15

Ten people were taken ill or were identified as being unwell while at a police station or in a police vehicle; one of these individuals was pronounced dead at the police station. The investigation into the death of this individual is still ongoing and the cause of death is not known at this stage.

Of the other nine people who fell ill or were identified as being unwell at the police station, five were taken to hospital but declared dead within an hour of arrival, and four died in hospital some time later.

Table 1.1 shows the reason why the person was arrested or detained by the police. The most common reason was for theft or burglary, or offences related to breach of the peace, criminal damage or public order. Other reasons included arrests relating to violence or individuals being detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

Seven people were identified as having mental health issues – of these, two people had been detained under the Mental Health Act. Thirteen 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

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alcohol at the time of their arrest. In nine of these cases, alcohol or drugs was stated by a pathologist to have been a factor in the cause of death.

Of these 15 cases, eight involved some form of restraint by the arresting officers. That is, that the person was physically restrained by officers at some point between the initial contact and the death. This does not mean that the restraint contributed to the death. In one of these eight cases, an incapacitant spray was also used and in another incident, both a Taser stun gun and an incapacitant spray were discharged. Both of the individuals who were detained under the Mental Health Act were known to have been restrained by officers.

Table 1.2 shows the cause of death for those who died in or following police custody. Cause of death is taken from the pathologist's report as recorded during a post mortem or at inquest⁸. In five cases the pathologist mentions 'excited delirium'⁹ as a cause of death and in all of these cases the individual had been restrained at some point by officers. In one of these deaths, the pathologist specifically stated that the restraint was a contributory factor in the cause of death.

Two individuals died of drug or alcohol poisoning. In another two cases long-term drug or alcohol misuse was recorded as a secondary cause of death; the primary cause of death for these two individuals was liver disease and a hypoxic brain injury. One person died of a stroke.

One person died from external head injuries sustained prior to the arrest, which developed whilst in custody. One individual died after collapsing with a drugs package lodged in their airway, cutting off their air supply. Although there were no apparent suicides

8 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'

9 Excited delirium is listed as a cause of death by some pathologists. It is a condition which can be caused by drugs, alcohol, a psychiatric illness or a combination of these. It manifests as a combination of delirium, agitation, excitability, paranoia, great strength, numbness to pain and elevated body temperature. It is sometimes associated with physical control measures such as restraint. Although it has been listed as a cause of death by some medical examiners for several years, excited delirium has proved a contentious topic and is not widely recognised across the medical profession. (Mash et al, 2009, noted in OHRN, 2009; Di Maio and Di Maio, 2005; Blaho et al 2000).

Table 1.2 Deaths in or following police custody: primary cause of death, 2011/12

Cause of death	Number of fatalities
Excited delirium related	5
Drug / alcohol overdose	2
Disease of the digestive system*	1
Disease of the nervous system*	1
Disease of the circulatory system	1
External injuries	1
Asphyxiation	1
Poisoning	1
Awaited / no post mortem	2
Total	15

* Two individuals also had a secondary cause of death recorded on the post-mortem; in both cases this related to long-term drug or alcohol misuse. Note: the cause of death as established at post mortem or Inquest.

in custody, one man consumed anti-freeze prior to his arrest which later led to his death. The cause of death is currently unknown for two cases.

Other deaths following police contact

Last year there was a change in the definition of this category. It now only includes deaths following police contact which were determined as an IPCC *independent investigation*.

Demographics

Forty-seven people died during or following other contact with the police. Twenty-five of the individuals who died were female and 22 were male. Thirty-eight people were White, eight were from a minority ethnic group, and one person's ethnicity was unknown. The average age of those who died was 38 years old. Four people were under 18 years of age, the youngest being two years old.

Circumstances of death

This category includes deaths that have occurred across a diverse range of circumstances. The police contact does not have to be directly with the

deceased and in some instances, may be with a third party.

As shown in Table 1.3, the most common reason for contact with the police relates to ‘*Concern for Welfare*’, that is, concerns raised regarding an individual’s safety or wellbeing, with 40 fatalities falling into this group.

Eighteen cases occurred within a domestic setting, where the circumstances of the contact with the police involved a history of domestic violence or threats which had been made directly or indirectly against the deceased and associated family members. In the vast majority of instances these deaths were alleged murders committed by an individual’s partner, ex-partner or parent. There were four cases that accounted for 11 fatalities; in three of these cases the perpetrator apparently committed suicide after the alleged murders were committed. In the other case, the perpetrator allegedly shot his ex-partner and two-year-old daughter.

In the remaining *Concern for Welfare* cases:

- Seven fatalities involved a member of the public contacting the police after being concerned about an individual’s general health or demeanour.
- Seven fatalities occurred when concern was raised about an individual being at risk to themselves or others with regards to their mental health. Five of these individuals then apparently committed suicide and one apparently murdered an innocent bystander in a public place.
- Three people died after they had been reported missing to the police. In these cases; one individual was murdered; one was an apparent suicide; and one person died from pneumonia linked with a drug overdose.
- Five people died following other types of concern for welfare contact; four of these deaths were from the same incident and were all alleged murders. In the remaining case, the police were called after a man made threats to his neighbour. The man was later found to have fatally stabbed his partner.

The remaining seven ‘*other deaths following police*

Table 1.3 Other deaths following contact: reason for contact, 2011/12

Reason for contact		Number of fatalities
Concern for welfare	Domestic related	18
	Health / injuries / intoxicated / general	7
	Self-harm / suicide risk / mental health	7
	Missing person	3
	Other	5
	Subtotal	40
Other	Avoiding contact / arrest	1
	Other	6
	Subtotal	7
Total		47

contact’ involved various types of contact with the police. The circumstances of these are as follows:

- One death occurred when a man was apparently evading arrest for breach of his curfew order; on leaving the property police discovered the body of the man who had suffered fatal injuries having apparently fallen from a block of flats.
- Six people died following other types of contact with the police. This includes a case where police were called to assess crowd levels at a nightclub and a student was crushed in a charge towards the exit. In another case, police were called to assist hospital staff after a man was reportedly aggressive towards medical staff. The man, who had an existing long term illness, died shortly after being restrained by officers.

Apparent suicides following police custody

To address inconsistencies in the referrals of apparent suicides following release from custody, in 2007 the IPCC issued guidance¹⁰ for police forces on the referral of these cases. The guidance asks forces to refer all apparent suicides that occur

¹⁰ This guidance first came in the form of an Operational Advice Note in 2007 and now forms part of the IPCC Statutory Guidance 2010.

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within two days of release from police custody, or those where the period spent in custody may have been relevant to the subsequent death.

In this category, 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 the intended outcome of a self-inflicted act – for example, a hanging, or where there was some evidence of 'suicidal ideation', such as a suicide note.

Demographics

Of the 39 apparent suicides, 34 individuals were male and five were female. The most common age group was 31 to 40 years (13 people) followed by 41 to 50 years (10 people). Thirty-six individuals were reported to be White, two were of Asian origin and one was of Black ethnic group.

Almost half of the individuals (18) were reported to have mental health issues¹¹ and four of these had been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 prior to their death. Fourteen people were reported either to be intoxicated through alcohol at the time of the arrest, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle. Eleven people were identified as being under the influence of drugs or were known substance users at the time of their arrest.

Circumstances of death

Eleven apparent suicides occurred on the day of release from police custody, 20 occurred one day after release and eight occurred two days after release.

Table 1.4 shows the reason why the individuals were detained. Nine people who died were arrested for a sexual offence – in the majority of cases these were in connection with sexual offences or indecent images involving children. There were a further seven people who were detained in relation to breach of peace, criminal damage or public order offences. The other common reasons for detention included driving

Table 1.4 Suicides following police custody: reason for detention, 2011/12

Reason for detention	Number of fatalities
Sexual offence	9
Breach of peace / criminal damage / public order	7
Driving offence, including drink driving	5
Violence related (non sexual/murder) / threatening behaviour	5
Detained under Mental Health Act	4
Theft / burglary	4
Drug / alcohol related (exc. drink driving)	2
Failure to appear in court / breach of bail / recall to prison	1
Possession of weapon	1
Fraud	1
Total	39

offences and violence or threatening behaviour.

Trends

This section makes some comparisons between deaths in 2011/12 and deaths in the previous seven financial years. Due to the definitional change to the category of *other deaths following police contact* and the wide variation in the types of deaths reported on, it would not be meaningful to produce trend analysis across the total of all five categories.

The figures presented in Table 1.5 show the number of *fatalities* across the different categories. The figures for *road traffic fatalities* and *apparent suicides following custody* are the lowest recorded since the IPCC's inception. The 15 deaths recorded in 2011/12 as occurring *in or following police custody* equals the lowest number reported in this category in 2008/09. With the exception of fatal shootings, there has been a general fall in the number of deaths occurring in each of the categories this year.

¹¹ 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.

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Table 1.5 *Fatalities by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2011/12*

Category	Fatalities							
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11*	2011/12
Road traffic fatalities	44	48	36	24	40	29	26	18
Fatal shootings	3	5	1	5	3	2	2	2
Deaths in or following police custody	36	28	27	22	15	17	21	15
Other deaths following police contact	24	40	22	30	35	38	55~	47
Apparent suicides following custody	46	40	47	45^	56	54	46	39

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

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

~ This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures for these categories. Three fatalities have been added to the 2010/11 figures published previously in the 'other deaths following contact' category.

Table 1.6 shows the number of separate incidents which resulted in fatalities. There are more fatalities than incidents because a single incident, for example, a road traffic collision, can result in the death of two or more individuals. There have been a high number of multiple death cases in 2011/12 in the *other deaths following police contact* category, where five incidents accounted for 15 fatalities.

Road traffic incidents

The number of *fatal road traffic incidents* (RTIs) has decreased for the fourth consecutive year from 33 in 2008/09, to 18 in 2011/12. This is the first year that there has been no incidents which have

resulted in multiple fatalities.

Table 1.7 shows the types of fatal RTIs over the past eight years. The table breaks down the incidents into three broad categories: pursuit related; emergency response related; and 'other' traffic related activity such as when an individual flees on sight of a police vehicle.

Each year, fatal incidents relating to police pursuits make up the majority of fatal road traffic incidents (around half to two-thirds) and 'other' police traffic activity account for a significant minority (a quarter to a third).

Table 1.6 *Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2004/05 to 2011/12*

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

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

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

~ This table presents the most up-to-date set of figures for these categories. Three incidents have been added to the 2010/11 figures published previously in the 'other deaths following contact' category.

Table 1.7 Type of road traffic incident, 2004/05 to 2011/12

RTI type	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Pursuit related	22	27	19	11	16	17	13	11
Emergency response related	6	4	3	2	6	3	3	2
Other	15	11	13	5	11	6	8	5
Total incidents	43	42	35	18	33	26	24	18

In May 2011, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance on police pursuits was issued as a statutory code of practice¹². It is too early to tell whether this will have an effect on the number of fatal RTIs occurring. The decrease in fatal incidents this year has occurred across all types of RTIs and not just pursuits.

Fatal shootings

There was the same number of fatal shootings in 2011/12 compared to the previous two years. Over the eight year reporting period the highest number of police shootings was five deaths in 2005/06 and 2007/08 and the lowest was one death in 2006/07.

Deaths in or following police custody

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 custody deaths increased to 21 in 2010/11 before falling back down to 15 in 2011/12.

Over the eight year reporting period, five people are known to have apparently attempted suicide in a police cell; the most recent of these occurred in 2008/09. All five incidents involved hanging or self-strangulation using an item of bedding or clothing as a ligature. There were no apparent suicides in custody in 2011/12, although one man died after having consumed anti-freeze prior to his arrest.

In March 2011 ACPO released the second edition of their guidance on the *Safer Detention and Handling*

12 See www.acpo.police.uk for more information

of Persons in Police Custody. 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 contact¹³. The IPCC worked with the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) and ACPO to ensure that recommendations from IPCC investigations, appeals and the IPCC's study of *Deaths in or following police custody*¹⁴ were reflected in this revised guidance. Work is ongoing to monitor the implementations of the recommendations.

Other deaths following police contact

In 2010/11 there was a change in the definition of this category to include only those deaths subject to an independent investigation. It would therefore not be meaningful to provide any trend analysis for this category. As stated in previous reports, the deaths included in this category involve a diverse range of circumstances which make it difficult to identify one specific set of events that accounts for changes in the number of fatalities.

Apparent suicides following release from custody

The number of apparent suicides following custody has decreased from 46 fatalities in 2010/11 to 39 this year. This is again the lowest figure recorded in this category since 2004/05.

13 Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Custody' 2nd Edition, ACPO 2012

14 *Deaths in or following police custody: An examination of the cases 1998/99 to 2008/09* - www.ipcc.gov.uk/deathscustodystudy

Table 1.8 Incidents by type of death and by investigation type, 2011/12

Type of investigation	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Other deaths following police contact*		Apparent suicides following custody	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Independent	7	39	2	100	10	67	37	100	2	5
Managed	1	6	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Supervised	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	3
Dealt with locally	10	56	0	-	5	33	0	-	36	92
Total incidents	18	100	2	100	15	100	37	100	39	100

Note: Investigation type as reported on the IPCC case tracking management system at the time of reporting.

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

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 particular case is best dealt with locally by the police Professional Standards Department (PSD). 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. Box C provides a description of each type of investigation decision.

Table 1.8 shows the type of investigation at the time of analysis for all fatal cases. The figures show the number of incidents; each incident can have multiple fatalities but will form one investigation. Across all death categories, only one incident was subject to a managed investigation. This is reflective of the shift away from recommending this type of investigation, towards more independent investigations or cases being dealt with locally.

Due to the definition, all *other deaths following contact* were subject to an independent investigation. Ten of the 15 custody deaths were

independently investigated, as were seven of the 18 RTIs.

The vast majority of *suicides following release from police custody* (36) have been dealt with locally by the force. Two incidents were subject to an independent investigation and one case was supervised.

Box C 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.

Dealt with locally are *local investigations* that 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. Some other cases are *referred back to force*; in these cases the IPCC has reviewed the circumstances of the case and returned the matter back to the force to be dealt with as the force considers appropriate.

For more details on IPCC investigations see IPCC Statutory Guidance (2010) paragraphs 240-243.

Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A1.1 Type of death by gender, 2011/12

Gender	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Other deaths following police contact		Apparent suicides following custody	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	18	100	2	100	13	87	22	47	34	87
Female	0	-	0	-	2	13	25	53	5	13
Total fatalities	18	100	2	100	15	100	47	100	39	100

Table A1.2 Type of death by age group, 2011/12

Age group (years)	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Other deaths following police contact		Apparent suicides following custody	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 18	3	17	0	-	0	-	4	9	0	-
18 - 20	4	22	0	-	0	-	2	4	2	5
21 - 30	5	28	1	50	4	27	8	17	4	10
31 - 40	0	-	1	50	5	33	12	26	13	33
41 - 50	3	17	0	-	1	7	12	26	10	26
51 - 60	0	-	0	-	5	33	5	11	8	21
61 & over	3	17	0	-	0	-	4	9	2	5
Total fatalities	18	100	2	100	15	100	47	100	39	100

Table A1.3 Type of death by ethnicity, 2011/12

Ethnic group	Road traffic fatalities		Fatal shootings		Deaths in or following police custody		Other deaths following police contact		Apparent suicides following custody	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	12	67	1	50	13	87	38	81	36	92
Asian	1	6	0	-	0	-	1	2	2	5
Black	2	11	1	50	1	7	3	6	1	3
Mixed	1	6	0	-	1	7	0	-	0	-
Chinese / Other	0	-	0	-	0	-	4	9	0	-
Not known	2	11	0	-	0	-	1	2	0	-
Total fatalities	18	100	2	100	15	100	47	100	39	100

Deaths during or following police contact: Appendix A

Table A1.4 Type of death by force, 2011/12

Force	Road traffic fatalities	Fatal shootings	Deaths in or following police custody	Other deaths following police contact	Apparent suicides following custody
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	1	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	1
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	3	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	1	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	1	0	2
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	0	1	2
Dorset	1	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	5	2
Dyfed Powys	1	0	1	0	1
Essex	0	0	0	3	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	1	1	0	4	1
Gwent	0	0	0	3	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	1	0	0	1	0
Humberside	1	0	1	1	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	1
Lancashire	0	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	2	1
Metropolitan	2	1	2	7	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	1	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	1	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	6	0
Northumbria	1	0	0	1	4
Nottinghamshire	3	0	0	0	3
South Wales	1	0	1	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1
Staffordshire	1	0	1	1	4
Suffolk	0	0	1	0	0
Surrey	2	0	0	1	2
Sussex	0	0	0	1	1
Thames Valley	1	0	0	2	1
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	1	0	2
West Midlands	1	0	0	3	3
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0
British Transport Police	0	0	0	1	1
HMRC	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry of Defence	0	0	0	0	0
SOCA	0	0	0	0	0
UKBA	0	0	0	0	0
Total fatalities	18	2	15	47	39

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