

Annual deaths during or following police contact: Statistics for England and Wales 2024/25

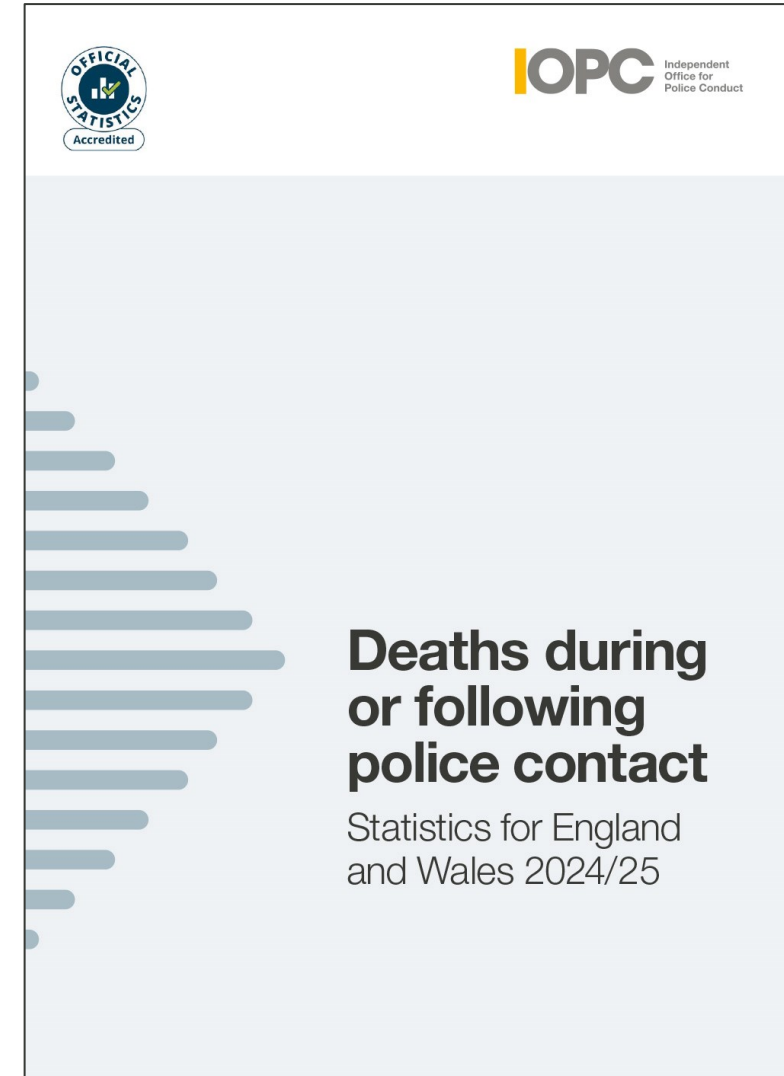
Report summary
31 July 2025

About this report

This report sets out the figures on deaths during or following police contact that happened between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

It covers the figures for England and Wales, and gives an overview of the nature and circumstances in which these deaths occurred.

It is the **twenty-first** annual report on deaths during or following police contact published by the IOPC, formerly the Independent Police Complaints Commission.



Introduction

To produce these statistics, we examine the circumstances of all deaths that are referred to us. We decide whether the deaths meet the criteria for inclusion in this 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 independent investigation

National statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics.

This designation means that the statistics:

- 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

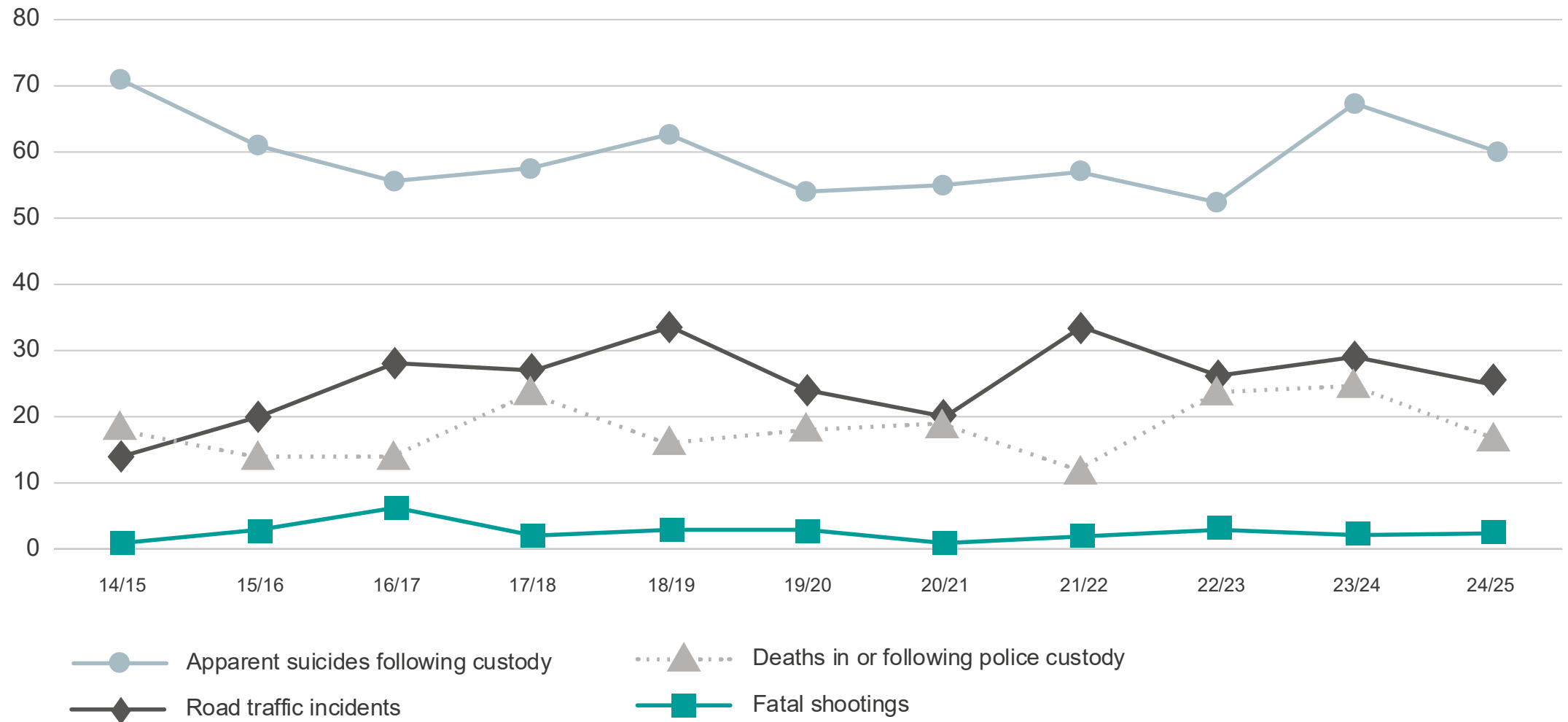


Overall findings

During 2024/25 there were:

- 26 road traffic fatalities
- 2 fatal police shootings
- 17 deaths in or following police custody
- 60 apparent suicides following police custody
- 50 other deaths following police contact that were independently investigated by the IOPC

Fig 2.1: Incidents by type of death and financial year, 2014/15 to 2024/25



Key findings

Deaths in or following police custody

This year, the number of deaths in or following police custody has decreased to 17. The average number of deaths in or following police custody recorded since figures began in 2004/05 is 19.

- Five people had some force used against them by officers or by non-police people before their deaths, although the use of force did not necessarily contribute to their deaths.
- Of the 17 deaths in or following police custody, fifteen people were White, two people were Black.
- Three people were pronounced dead in a police cell, one fewer than in 2023/24.

Key findings

Road traffic incidents

- This year, there were 25 fatal police-related road traffic incidents, resulting in 26 fatalities. Last year, there were 29 incidents. This year's figures are below the average of 28 road traffic incident fatalities recorded over the 11-year period since 2014/15.
- Of the 26 fatalities, 18 resulted from pursuit-related activity. The number of pursuit-related fatalities has decreased this year and is lower than the average of 21 deaths over the 11-year period since 2014/15.
- Of the 18 fatalities, fourteen people were the driver or passenger in the pursued vehicle, and three were drivers or passengers of an unrelated vehicle, which was hit by the pursued vehicle. One person was a pedestrian who was hit by a police vehicle in pursuit.
- There was one pursuit-related incident that resulted in two fatalities.

Key findings

Road traffic incidents (continued)

- There was five emergency response-related incidents resulting in five fatalities. This is an increase from the one fatality last year. This is higher than the average of three incidents and three fatalities since 2014/15.
- The number of three incidents resulting from other police traffic activity has halved from the previous year, with the number of deaths decreasing by three. One incident happened when a vehicle responded to the police and two happened while the police were on routine patrol or driving duties.
- The average age of the people who died was 36. This decreased to 25 if the deceased was the driver or passenger in the pursued or fleeing vehicle. It increased to 52 if the deceased was a pedestrian, cyclist, or a driver or passenger in a vehicle hit by either the police or the pursued or fleeing vehicle. Four were under 18, compared to seven in 2023/24.

Key findings

Shootings

- This year there were two fatal shootings. One person was White and one other was Black. Both incidents are subject to ongoing independent investigation.
- This is the same figure as in 2023/24, and lower than the average of three shootings recorded since 2014/15.

Key findings

Apparent suicides following police custody

- The number of recorded apparent suicides following custody was 60, lower than the 68 recorded in 2023/24. The number of deaths are in line with the average of 60 recorded over the 11-year period from 2014/15.
- 38 (63%) of those who died had been arrested for an alleged sexual offence – of these, 27 of the deaths (45%) involved offences against children. These proportions are higher than the figures recorded last year (46% and 38% respectively), and higher than average figures. The average proportions for these alleged offences since 2004/05 are 37% and 30% respectively.

Key findings

Other deaths following police contact – independent investigations only

- The IOPC independently investigated the deaths of 50 people who died during or following other contact with the police, a decrease from 60 in 2023/24.
- The number of deaths that are recorded in this category is directly impacted by our approach to conducting independent investigations. This is because this report category only includes deaths that have been independently investigated. Any change in this category does not necessarily indicate an increase or decrease in the number of people who died following some form of contact with the police.

Key findings

Other deaths following police contact – independent investigations only (cont.)

- There were 44 fatalities following contact with the police, either directly or indirectly, after welfare concerns were raised. Two related to a report of a missing person. The police generally did not have direct contact with the deceased in these circumstances.
- Of these 44 fatalities, 16 were linked to domestic incidents/concerns. For this type of contact with the police, women accounted for 13 deaths and three were men.
- Ten fatalities were related to the person's health, possible injuries, intoxication, or general well-being. A third party contacted the police to raise concern in most incidents.
- Thirteen fatalities related to incidents where someone had reported their concern about a person's risk of self-harm, risk of suicide, or mental health.
- Three 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.

Key findings

Other deaths following police contact – independent investigations only (cont.)

Six (12%) investigations into deaths following police contact related to other types of contact.

- Two people died after contact with the police who were assisting medical staff.
- Two people died after police officers attended a report of a disturbance.
- One person died after contact with the police who were conducting investigation enquiries.
- One people died in one incident during a siege situation with the police.

Key findings

Mental health, alcohol and drugs

As in previous years, mental health and links to drugs or alcohol were common factors among many of those who died.

- Nine of 17 people who died in or following police custody had mental health concerns.
- Fifteen people who died in or following police custody had links to drugs and/or alcohol.
- Over half of those who died following other police contact were reported to be intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol, or it featured heavily in their lifestyle (29). A similar proportion of the people who died were reported to have mental health concerns (32).
- Thirteen fatalities following other police contact related to concern about a person's risk of self-harm, suicide, or their mental health.
- Of the 60 apparent suicides, 37 people had known mental health concerns and 28 had links to drugs and/or alcohol.

Key findings

Use of force

- Five of the 17 people who died in or following police custody had some force used against them by the police or others before their deaths. All five of the people were restrained. Three of the restraint incidents also involved use of leg restraints.
- Of the 50 'other deaths following police contact', there were seven that involved restraint or other use of force. Five were restrained. Three of the restraint deaths also involved use of equipment; one person had a spit hood applied, one incident involved leg restraints and another involved leg restraints and cross body restraints. Two involved other use of force; one involved use of a police dog and one involved police use of CS gas canisters and stun grenades. The use of force did not necessarily contribute to the death.

Key findings

Use of force (continued)

- Of the five deaths in or following custody, that involved use of force, three of the deceased were White and two were of Black ethnicity.
- Of the seven 'other contact deaths', that involved use of force, all seven of the deceased were White.

To find out more

Our full report is available on our website.
If you have difficulties accessing our report
please email:

content_design_team@policeconduct.gov.uk

For any questions or comments about our
report or the statistics please email:

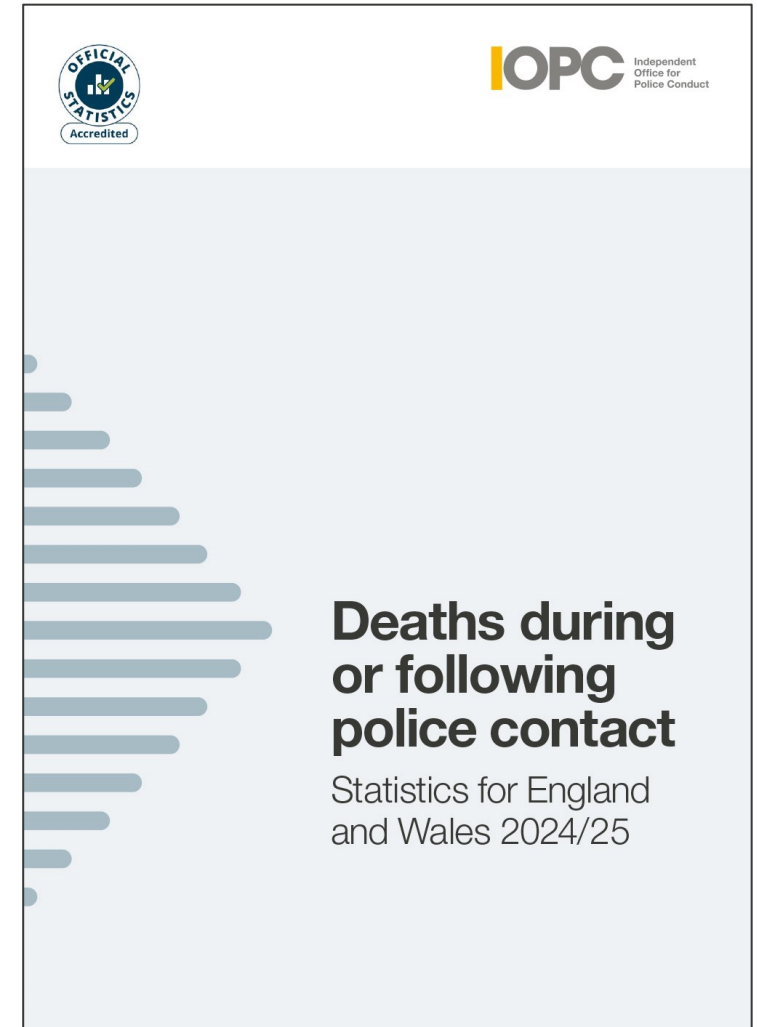
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