



HOME OFFICE

Deaths in Police Custody

**Statistics for
England & Wales, April 1999 to March
2000**

POLICE LEADERSHIP & POWERS UNIT

POLICING & CRIME REDUCTION GROUP

MAIN POINTS

- In 1999/00, 7 people died in police stations, a reduction of 9 (56%) from 1998/99
- In 1999/00, an overall total of 70 people died in police custody or otherwise following contact with the police, an increase of 3 (4%) from 1998/99
- The growth in that overall total is largely explained by an increase of 18 (300%) in the number of people dying in road accidents while attempting to avoid arrest
- The number of people from ethnic minorities who died in police custody or otherwise following contact with the police was 9, a reduction of 3 (25%) from the previous year
- Of the 70 deaths :

30	involved people who were intoxicated by alcohol and/or controlled drugs (29 in 1998/99)
24	resulted from car or motorcycle crashes (6 in 1998/99)
14	resulted from deliberate self harm (25 in 1998/99)


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Current Initiatives in the Prevention of Deaths in Police Custody

- 1 A great deal of positive work is already taking place in forces in relation to reducing the risk of such deaths and this has been documented recently by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). However, there is more to be done to ensure that best practice is taken up in all areas so that the benefits from effective local and national initiatives can be felt throughout England and Wales.
- 2 We think it would be useful and timely to set out the key actions taking place in a range of areas relevant to deaths in custody. This bulletin is an opportunity to do that and to raise forces' awareness of additional measures they could take or procedures they could adopt. The emphasis must be on practical steps which can be taken rather than theoretical concepts.

Organisation of custody facilities

- 3 A number of forces already concentrate custody facilities at a smaller number of police stations where superior provision for detention and care is available. This is certainly a positive development in terms of reducing deaths in custody and merits wider consideration. Some forces are also creating a custody specialism with its own management and command structures. This also deserves further attention as a means of increasing the professionalism, knowledge and skills of those responsible for the custody of detainees. A number of forces now operate custody user groups where officers involved in this area of work can share experience, learning and skills amongst themselves and with other professionals involved in the custody environment. This is an excellent way of spreading good practice, particularly in relation to critical issues linked to deaths in custody.
- 4 Studies by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the PCA have revealed problems in custody officer training. For example, insufficient training before taking up duties, lack of refresher training and inadequate coverage of key issues such as first aid. However, the position is improving. Custody officer training is delivered locally based on a national package from National Police Training (NPT) which is reviewed and updated every six months. Many forces now provide two or three weeks training before officers are appointed to custody duties and refresher training is becoming much more common. Input into the central framework comes from bodies such as the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) Medical Working Group, which is developing recommendations for first aid training, including a specific module for custody staff covering self harm and other deaths related issues. The key areas regarding deaths in custody are: risk assessment, adequate checking on vulnerable prisoners, first aid, liaison with medical personnel, searching, hazard awareness, record keeping, and conflict resolution. It is imperative that all new custody staff are trained appropriately (and given refresher training as necessary). Forces need to be proactive in seeking custody staff's views on where they would benefit from additional training on deaths related issues.

Training for police officers on restraint techniques

- 5 The ACPO/NPT Personal Safety Programme is the core curriculum for restraint training. It is important to ensure that its contents deal adequately with all the long standing and emerging issues relating to restraint. For example, much attention in recent years has focused on positional asphyxia and excited delirium. Similarly there are issues such as the influence of a detainee's size, medical condition, earlier physical exertion or consumption of drugs/alcohol on the suitability of various restraint techniques. Also, how to diffuse potential conflicts and how to handle situations where a detainee attempts to escape. Recent cases have highlighted a possible weakness in terms of specific training linked to restraining someone suffering from some form of mental disorder. Equally important is the way in which forces make use of this training material. Training on restraint techniques must take full account of current experience and research relevant to deaths in custody.

Provision of medical services at police stations

- 6 The quality of medical services at police stations is inextricably bound up with the delivery of the police surgeon service. The Home Office Working Group on Police Surgeons is due to report in the near future. It will make a large number of recommendations about the organisation of the service and connected issues such as training, accreditation and the delivery of care. Linked to that, the scope to improve the availability and timeliness of medical services by enabling nurses to take a broader role in the custody suite is being assessed. The Home Office has funded a trial examining the use of nurses in custody suites in Kent and the final output from that work will help in the consideration of what amendment may be appropriate to the Code of Practice under the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Code C, which covers detention procedures at police stations.

Reviewing the PACE Codes

- 7 A comprehensive review of the Codes of Practice issued under PACE is currently in progress. This will provide an opportunity to deal with several critical issues linked to deaths in custody. For example, Code C can be extended to include guidance on risk assessment procedures and the existing references to rousing drunken detainees can be improved and extended. Indeed, there may need to be a generally increased emphasis on effective care of vulnerable detainees and a significant reworking of many of the provisions relating to medical care. The Codes currently require virtually the whole range of medical services at police stations to be provided by police surgeons. Work by the Audit Commission and the conclusions of the Home Office Working Group suggest that this may not always be the speediest, most efficient and most cost effective alternative.

Risk assessment and transmission of records

- 8 New procedures and forms for recording medical issues at the police station have been developed by ACPO in conjunction with the Association of Police Surgeons and other interested parties. These will offer an improved means of documenting medical issues relating to detainees and ensuring that full and accurate information is available to medical and custody staff.
- 9 Prisoner risk assessment has historically been a difficult issue within the police service, but many forces are making rapid strides to improve their procedures and ensure that structured processes are in place to assess and document specific risks presented by detainees coming into custody. Home Office guidance on that subject has been issued this year and sets out the type of questions and issues which custody staff should be considering in relation to every detainee. The guidance is linked to the revised version of the Prisoner Escort Record (PER) form. This form is designed to convey information about detainees between persons successively responsible for their custody. It represents a national system, for use by the police, the prison service, the courts and prisoner escort staff and ensures that every agency in whose custody a person is held will have details of the prisoner available. The form provides an audit trail of all detainee/prisoner movements. More importantly, it indicates any risk factors - whether security, medical or mental - associated with the detainee.

Diverting people who are drunk from police custody towards other (detoxification) facilities

- 10 There has been a recognition for many years that people who are incapable through drink would usually be better and more safely cared for in dedicated facilities than at a police station. The Audit Commission, the PCA and the Home Office have all proposed in recent reports that the provision of detoxification facilities should be re-considered. A significant proportion of deaths in police custody continue to be linked to alcohol abuse, but only a limited amount has been done to establish alternative facilities. We are aware of islands of good practice. For example, the St Ann's Centre in Leeds and units in Southampton and Manchester. We have recently been in touch with a new project in Watford and we are already collaborating in a pilot under the auspices of St Mungo's in London.
- 11 There is scope for broader action in this area across the police service, particularly in terms of pilot projects. Some forces have established policies of taking such people straight to hospital and it may be that a range of options needs to be developed, tailored to the specific circumstances of each case.

Use of CCTV to monitor (vulnerable) detainees in custody suites

- 12 CCTV is becoming common in new and updated custody suites and many forces are including cameras in a limited number of cells suitable for

vulnerable persons. CCTV does not remove the need for effective monitoring and checking and there are also issues of privacy and cost. In addition, effective use of CCTV equipped cells for vulnerable prisoners presupposes early and accurate identification of such persons by custody staff. However, there is clearly considerable scope for these systems to reduce the overall level of risk and forces are encouraged to consider how they can most usefully be applied.

Designing out suicide/self harm risks from cells

- 13 The Home Office Building and Estate Management Unit (BEMU) is a source of expertise in the area of designing out flaws in custody suite (including cells) and police station specifications. Police forces are encouraged to consult BEMU and should also be ready to alert the Home Office to design issues that would merit consideration at national level. Unfortunately, specific design issues appear repeatedly as factors in deaths in custody. An example from the past is the number of cases where detainees have hanged themselves using open cell hatches

Encourage the use of innovative new technology

- 14 We are overseeing a trial of a breathing/life signs monitor which is based on microwave technology - progressive warnings are sounded if an occupant's breathing becomes very low or ceases altogether - and similar facilities have been installed by several other forces. The long term usefulness of this type of equipment remains to be assessed, but forces need to be aware of such technological options and opportunities. There are also broader design and technology issues to take account of in establishing good practice. For example, one force recently developed a new style of cutlery which cannot be used to inflict injury.

Breakdown of the tables and statistics

- 1 Between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000, 70 people died in police custody or otherwise in the hands of the police, an increase of 4% on the previous year. Verdicts have been given for 35 of the 70 deaths and these are as follows:
 - ◆ 16 cases of accidental death (including 1 case of death by accident *or* misadventure);
 - ◆ 1 case of lawful killing;
 - ◆ 4 cases of misadventure;
 - ◆ 5 cases of natural causes;
 - ◆ 2 open verdicts;
 - ◆ 7 cases of suicide;
 - ◆ 4 cases where no inquest was held; and,

31 verdicts are awaited.
- 2 Table 1 gives a more detailed breakdown of the individual circumstances in all 70 cases.
- 3 Since 1 April 1996, police forces have been required to record the ethnic origin of all those who die in police custody. Table 2 gives a breakdown of the ethnic origin. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000, there were nine deaths (13%) of persons from ethnic minorities: three Asian, three Black and three Other. This compares with 12 the previous year - a reduction of 25%.
- 4 Of the total number of deaths, seven (10%) occurred within police stations, compared with 16 the previous year - a reduction of 56%. Table 3 gives a breakdown by police force area of the place of death.
- 5 Of the 70 deaths in total, 27 were in police custody as defined in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (category A) (see note 2 below) and 43 were otherwise in the hands of the police or death resulted from the actions of a police officer in the purported execution of his duty (category B).
- 6 Table 4 gives a breakdown by the result of the inquest and the cause of death.
- 7 Table 5 gives details of the 31 inquests from 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999 which were outstanding in the previous bulletin. The results were as follows:

- ◆ 5 cases of accidental death;
- ◆ 5 cases of misadventure;
- ◆ 2 cases of natural causes;
- ◆ 2 open verdicts;
- ◆ 5 cases of suicide;
- ◆ 1 case of unlawful killing; and,

11 verdicts still awaited.

8 Table 6 provides details of the 5 inquests from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 which were outstanding in the previous bulletin. The results were as follows:

- ◆ 2 cases of accidental death; and,

3 verdicts still awaited.

9 Table 7 provides details of the 6 inquests from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997 which were outstanding in the previous bulletin. The results were as follows:

- ◆ 1 case of lawful killing;
- ◆ 1 case of misadventure;
- ◆ 1 case of natural causes;
- ◆ 1 case of suicide; and,

2 verdicts still awaited.

10 Table 8 provides details of 2 inquests from 1 April 1995 to 31 March 1996, which were held since the publishing of the previous bulletin. The results were as follows:

- ◆ 1 case of misadventure; and,
- ◆ 1 case of suicide.

11 Table 9 provides details of the total number of deaths in police custody from the calendar year 1981 to the financial year ending 1 April 2000.

**TABLE 1 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
2000**

Verdicts in cases for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
4 4 99	Northumbria	Police station	25	M	White	1 Hanging 2 Misadventure	The deceased was in custody at the police station having been arrested at 1135 hrs for breach of bail conditions. When checked at 2205 hrs, he was found hanging by the neck from the cell door.
8 4 99	Warwickshire	Hospital	31	M	White	1 Head injuries 2 Open verdict	On 25 March, the deceased suffered a fit whilst shopping. He was conveyed to hospital by ambulance where he later discharged himself. Due to his suspicious behaviour in the hospital grounds he was detained by police on suspicion of possession of controlled drugs. A search at the police station having proved negative, he was conveyed home in a police vehicle when his condition worsened. He was immediately conveyed to hospital where he was placed on a life support machine. He died on 8 April without regaining consciousness.
9 4 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	35	M	Other	1a Acute airway obstruction 1b Concealment of drug package 2 Misadventure	Police officers stopped a vehicle in which the deceased was a passenger. The deceased was asked to step out of the vehicle so that they could speak to him. As he was leaving the vehicle, the deceased then collapsed; it was apparent that he had an obstruction in his throat. First aid was rendered and an ambulance was called; he was conveyed to hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.
10 4 99	Devon & Cornwall	Hospital	20	M	White	1 Multiple injuries resulting from gunshot 2 Awaited	At 0230 hrs, the police received an anonymous report that an armed man was in the centre of Falmouth. Officers, including trained firearms officers, were called to the scene. The deceased pointed a rifle at police officers and a firearms officer fired two shots. The deceased was conveyed to hospital where he died a few hours later.
27 4 99	Essex	Police station	49	M	White	1 Hypertensive heart failure 2 Natural causes	The deceased was detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. While in his cell he collapsed and was found lying with his head down. An ambulance was called but he was pronounced dead at the police station.
1 5 99	Cambridgeshire	Police station	44	M	White	1 Severe trauma to the head 2 Took his own life whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed	The deceased walked into police station and admitted to having committed a burglary and was arrested. He was later released from custody. Some hours later he was seen on the roof of the police station. After several hours of negotiation he threw himself from the roof.
5 5 99	West Yorkshire	Hospital	27	M	White	1a Multiple injuries 1b Cardiac arrest 2 Accidental death	At 1030 hrs on 2 May, officers attended an address to arrest persons on suspicion of burglary. To evade arrest, two people exited a fourth floor flat via the window. The deceased fell to the ground and sustained serious injury. He was conveyed to hospital by ambulance. He died on 5 May following a cardiac arrest.

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15 5 99	Sussex	Hospital	28	M	White	1a Suspension 1b Alcohol intoxication 2 Deceased killed himself whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed	After a 999 call by the deceased's common law wife, police officers attended the house. The deceased had decamped with the couple's nine month old child. The police began a search but the deceased returned to the house. He then threatened to harm himself and the child. The police remained distant from the situation and allowed the deceased to enter the property. A siege situation subsequently occurred but the deceased refused to negotiate with the police. Fearing for the child's safety, police officers entered the property at 0130 hrs to find the deceased hanging from a leather belt and the child safe.
20 5 99	Dyfed Powys	Hospital	27	M	White	1 Undetermined 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested at 0430 hrs on suspicion of having committed a burglary at a local pharmacy. He was detained at the police station where he was observed to be under the influence of a substance other than alcohol. At 0710 hrs, he was examined by the police surgeon and declared fit to be detained. At 1210 hrs, after regular visits, there was concern about his condition and an ambulance was requested. He was conveyed to hospital where he subsequently died.
25 5 99	Greater Manchester	Hospital	59	M	White	1 Heart failure 2 Inquest not held	The deceased attended the police station voluntarily after positive analysis following a blood alcohol test; he was not arrested. Enquiries were conducted into motoring offences and it was agreed to interview him at a later date. He complained of feeling unwell whilst at the police station, then intermittently lost consciousness. An ambulance was called and first aid rendered during his removal to hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.
9 6 99	Hampshire	Hospital	55	M	White	1 Stroke 2 Natural causes	The deceased was arrested on 31 March at 2335 hrs for being drunk and incapable. He was conveyed to the police station and placed in custody. At 1020 hrs on the 1 April, he was examined by the police surgeon who advised that he required hospitalisation. He was conveyed by ambulance to hospital, where he subsequently died.
11 6 99	Thames Valley	Hospital	46	M	White	1 Gunshot wound 2 Took his own life	Having handed his estranged wife a suicide note, the deceased went to fields near his home and was observed by a police helicopter crew and armed response officers to shoot himself with a shotgun.
13 6 99	South Yorkshire	Hospital	19	M	White	1 Haemothorax caused by laceration to the left ventricular myocardium 2 Inquest not held	Officers in a marked police vehicle observed a vehicle failing to stop at a give way sign. The police then followed this vehicle which sped off and crashed shortly thereafter. The rear passenger was thrown from the vehicle and died. The driver was subsequently found to be above the legal blood-alcohol limit.

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14 6 99	Thames Valley	Street	36	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	A member of the public reported that he was witnessing a possible drunken driver. The member of the public followed the suspect while the passenger gave details over a mobile telephone. They were joined by a police vehicle and on seeing this, the deceased stopped his vehicle. As the police officer went towards the vehicle, in order to carry out a blood-alcohol test, the deceased drove off at speed. The officer returned to his vehicle and started following. The civilian witnesses also followed the two vehicles. After a short distance, the deceased's vehicle was seen to leave the road and the deceased was thrown from his vehicle. He was subsequently certified dead at the scene.
18 6 99	Devon & Cornwall	Hospital	41	M	White	1 Gunshot wound to abdomen 2 Awaiting	At 1047 hrs a report was received that a male had threatened a female with a shotgun. Attending police officers found the deceased sitting in his vehicle and, despite negotiation with trained officers, he was observed to shoot himself in the abdomen at 1236 hrs. He was certified dead at hospital at 1259 hrs.
20 6 99	Merseyside	Hospital	19	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaiting	A man was spotted acting suspiciously beside a vehicle, then he drove off in another. Police officers requested him to stop but he pulled away at speed. The officers pursued him and soon after found his crashed vehicle.
22 6 99	Surrey	Private dwelling	47	M	White	1 Gunshot wound 2 Lawful killing	At 1423 hrs police officers were called to a domestic dispute where it was alleged that the deceased had threatened his partner and himself with a handgun. Two armed response vehicles attended and the deceased was contained within his home. At 1552 hrs a shot was heard from within the premises whereupon the deceased was shot by a police marksman.
23 6 99	Dyfed Powys	Police station	38	M	White	1 Death (Asphyxiation) by strangulation by means of ligature 2 Awaiting	On 22 June at 0015 hrs, the deceased was arrested for being in possession of a firearm and ammunition. He was detained at the police station whilst further enquiries were made. The deceased was allowed to retain two arm braces whilst detained in a cell as he had a medical condition. He used strips of metal from these braces to jam into the door-hatch aperture and made a ligature from a blanket with which he hanged himself. He was certified dead at 0545 hrs.
24 6 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	53	M	White	1 Severe head injury (Fractured skull) 2 Accidental death	On 10 May, following examination by ambulance personnel at the scene, police officers arrested the deceased for being drunk and incapable, and took him to the police station. On arrival, the custody officer directed that he should go straight to hospital; he was immediately conveyed to hospital in a police vehicle. He remained in hospital until he died on 24 June.
30 6 99	Greater Manchester	Hospital	27	M	White	1 Head injury 2 Accidental death	At about 0200 hrs, police officers attempted to stop the deceased who was riding a stolen motor-cycle; however, he accelerated away. The deceased lost control and crashed the motor-cycle whilst trying to evade police. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at hospital at 0241 hrs.

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12 7 99	Metropolitan	Police station	41	M	White	1a Pulmonary oedema 1b Fatty infiltration of the liver 1c Alcohol withdrawal 2 Natural causes	Police arrested the deceased on a warrant and took him to the police station and placed him in a cell. At approximately 1820 hrs he was found lying on the cell floor. The custody officer was unable to rouse him. He was pronounced dead by the police surgeon in the cell.
14 7 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	32	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Suicide whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed	Police officers were called to multi-storey car-park and found the deceased on the top floor threatening to jump. After talking to the police for an hour, he jumped to the ground and was attended by ambulance personnel, who were on the scene. The deceased was conveyed to hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.
15 7 99	West Midlands	Hospital	24	M	Black	1 Cocaine poisoning 2 Awaited	The deceased was stopped and questioned by police officers but he refused to reveal the contents of his mouth. He was arrested on suspicion of possession of controlled drugs and conveyed to the police station where he admitted he had swallowed 'crack' Cocaine. He began to feel unwell and was conveyed by ambulance to hospital, where his condition became critical. He subsequently died at 1955 hrs.
24 7 99	Sussex	Hospital	45	M	White	1 Head injuries 2 Accidental death	On 22 July, a patrolling beat officer encountered the deceased who appeared drunk and incapable and had sustained what seemed minor head injuries. The deceased was known to abuse alcohol and to frequent the streets. He was arrested as drunk and incapable and taken to a police station where he appeared to be unconscious. He was then taken to hospital where he remained until he died two days later. It later transpired that he had been assaulted and kicked about the head; the assailant was successfully prosecuted for ABH.
27 7 99	Cheshire	Hospital	25	M	White	1 Asphyxia caused by a blockage of the lower trachea by a ball of plastic film 2 Accidental death	At about 1330 hrs, the deceased was challenged by security staff at a hospital. He was believed to be in possession of controlled drugs. He tried to run away, was caught and after a struggle the police were called, arriving at 1400 hrs. The deceased was arrested on suspicion of possession of controlled drugs. Both the police and medical staff attempted to remove a plastic package (later found to contain 'crack' Cocaine) from the deceased's mouth/throat with surgical forceps. The deceased stopped breathing, resuscitation was attempted but to no avail and he was pronounced dead at 1515 hrs.
27 7 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	17	M	White	1 Head injury 2 Accidental death	On 17 July, officers in an unmarked police vehicle saw a vehicle which was believed to have been used in criminal offences that morning. They followed the vehicle and two marked police vehicles joined them. The suspect vehicle drove through a red traffic light at a junction, collided with an HGV lorry and then crashed into a wall. The driver collapsed at the scene and was conveyed to hospital by ambulance where he remained until he died on 27 July.

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6 8 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	34	F	Other	1a Irreversible cerebral anoxia 1b Cocaine poisoning 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested on 4 August for a criminal offence and conveyed to the police station. She was placed in a detention room and, when checked upon, could not be roused. An ambulance was called and she was conveyed to hospital where she remained until she died on 6 August.
2 9 99	Greater Manchester	Hospital	35	M	White	1 Head injury 2 Accidental death	At 2230 hrs on 31 August, the deceased fell from his pedal-cycle and struck his head on the pavement. Police officers and an ambulance attended, but he refused medical examination and treatment. He was arrested by the police for being drunk in charge of a pedal-cycle. Following detention, the deceased was examined by a police surgeon who directed that he be admitted to hospital, where he later died from his injuries.
14 9 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	46	M	Asian	1a Ischaemic heart disease 1b Coronary artery disease 1c Acute alcoholic intoxication 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for breach of the peace and conveyed to a police station where he was placed in a cell. He was checked regularly, and during one of the checks was found to have stopped breathing. An ambulance was called and he was conveyed to hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.
19 9 99	Lincolnshire	Street	15	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	Police were called after a vehicle was spotted driving erratically. The vehicle sped off and crashed into an oncoming lorry. Two of the vehicle's eight occupants died; the deceased was driving.
19 9 99	Lincolnshire	Street	13	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	Police were called after a vehicle was spotted driving erratically. The vehicle sped off and crashed into an oncoming lorry. Two of the vehicle's eight occupants died; the deceased was one of the passengers.
21 9 99	West Mercia	Hospital	41	M	White	1 Traumatic asphyxia 2 Awaited	Police were informed that the deceased, who had a history of mental disorder, was jumping in front of moving vehicles and had assaulted an elderly man. Police officers and an ambulance attended; an officer was assaulted and, consequently, the deceased was arrested. During a violent struggle rigid handcuffs were applied; the deceased's hands were placed behind him and he was made to lie face down. It was subsequently noted that his lips had turned purple and that he was no longer breathing. Resuscitation was attempted and an ambulance was called but the deceased failed to regain consciousness. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at hospital at 1644 hrs.
22 9 99	Metropolitan	Street	46	M	White	1 Gunshot to head 2 Awaited	The deceased, who was believed to be armed, was challenged twice by armed police officers. He raised a bag believed to contain a firearm and was shot by the police. The deceased was fatally wounded and was pronounced dead at the scene.

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29 9 99	Greater Manchester	Hospital	19	M	White	1 Haemothorax 2 Inquest not held	The deceased was a passenger in a stolen motor vehicle which was being followed by a marked police patrol vehicle. The driver of the stolen vehicle subsequently lost control and collided with a stone pillar causing fatal injuries.
12 10 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	48	M	Other	1a Multiple-organ failure 1b Stab wound to the heart 2 Suicide	On 12 June, police officers were called to the home address of the deceased by ambulance personnel. The police forced entry to the premises and the deceased, who was clearly seriously injured, was conveyed to hospital. When he regained consciousness he was arrested for a criminal offence. He remained in hospital until his death on 12 October.
13 10 99	North Wales	Street	21	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Death by accident or misadventure	The deceased accelerated away from the following police vehicle reaching speeds of 90-100 mph. On reaching a roundabout, the deceased failed to reduce speed to negotiate it safely and collided with large boulders on the roundabout causing his vehicle to somersault.
14 10 99	Humberside	Street	19	M	White	1 Gunshot wound to head 2 Suicide	On 13 October, the police began enquiries to trace the deceased who had travelled to Hull from his Army barracks with a loaded rifle and had threatened to kill himself. He was contained by armed police officers and trained negotiators attempted to persuade him - over several hours - to give up the weapon but he subsequently put the rifle to his head and fatally shot himself.
16 10 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	16	M	White	1a Broncho-pneumonia 1b Head injury 2 Awaited	On 15 October, police officers approached a vehicle in order to speak to the occupants. As they did so the vehicle sped off. The police followed the vehicle over a canal bridge, where it crashed into a stationary lorry. The driver was conveyed to hospital by ambulance where he remained until he died on 16 October.
16 10 99	Kent	Hospital	21	M	White	1 Ingestion of Cocaine 2 Awaited	At 0907 hrs, an emergency call was made by the deceased's mother who stated that her son had taken an overdose. Police officers attended with ambulance personnel and the deceased had to be forcibly restrained in order that medical treatment could be administered to him. He was handcuffed and placed in ankle restraints and subsequently conveyed to hospital, still struggling violently and restrained by police officers and the ambulance personnel. The deceased was pronounced dead at hospital at 1101 hrs.
19 10 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	56	M	Asian	1 Head injury 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested on 15 October for being drunk and incapable and was conveyed to a police station. He was seen by a police surgeon who declared him fit to be detained. During a check it was found that the deceased's condition had deteriorated and the police surgeon was recalled and directed that he should go immediately to hospital. An ambulance was called and he was conveyed firstly to a general hospital and then to a neurosurgical hospital where he died on 19 October.

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26 10 99	Wiltshire	Hospital	44	M	White	1 Ingestion of Diazepam and/or Chlormethiazole and/or alcohol causing respiratory failure 2 Awaited	At 0103 hrs, police officers attended the deceased who had been found unconscious in the street. Whilst attempting to rouse him, and suspecting that he was intoxicated, they called for transport to convey him into custody or a place of safety. The deceased was placed in the recovery position but no vital signs were detected. Ambulance personnel attended at around 0117 hrs and believed the deceased had died; he was conveyed to hospital and death was certified at 0200 hrs.
21 11 99	Lancashire	Hospital	43	F	White	1 Asphyxiation due to inhalation of own vomit 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested at 1430 hrs on 19 November for a public order offence and detained at a police station. She was found collapsed in her cell and conveyed to hospital at 1630 hrs on the same day. She died later in hospital at 1215 hrs on 21 November.
26 11 99	Sussex	Street	18	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Inquest not held	Whilst on patrol in a marked police vehicle, police officers spotted a vehicle where the door had been forced. The vehicle sped off and collided with another vehicle which, in turn, hit other vehicles. One passenger in the suspect vehicle died and another passenger and 1 pedestrian were seriously injured. Two other passengers sustained minor injuries. The driver of the suspect vehicle was convicted of dangerous driving.
1 12 99	Devon & Cornwall	Private dwelling	68	M	White	1a Acute myocardial ischaemia 1b Coronary atheroma 2 Awaited	The deceased was escorted home from a nearby Marine camp by police officers, accompanied by Ministry of Defence police officers, as he was suspected of having stolen items from the camp. A search was instigated under a search warrant, during which the deceased collapsed. All attempts to resuscitate the deceased, who had a heart condition for which he was receiving treatment, failed.
2 12 99	Warwickshire	Street	22	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	The deceased was the driver of a vehicle with two other occupants, one of whom was his younger brother, which was being followed by the police, suspected of involvement in a crime. Attempts were made by police officers to stop the vehicle but, whilst actively seeking to evade arrest, the vehicle collided with a tree.
2 12 99	Warwickshire	Hospital	13	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	The deceased was the passenger in a vehicle driven by his elder brother and with one other occupant, which was being followed by the police, suspected of involvement in a crime. Attempts were made by police officers to stop the vehicle but, whilst actively seeking to evade arrest, the vehicle collided with a tree. The deceased was thrown out of the vehicle by the force of the impact.
3 12 99	Metropolitan	Private dwelling	54	M	White	1 Severe head, chest and abdominal injuries 2 Suicide	Police were called to the deceased's home address by his daughter, who was concerned for his safety. Whilst trying to gain access to the deceased, he jumped from the window, killing himself.

**TABLE 1 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
2000**

Verdicts in cases for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
5 12 99	Warwickshire	Hospital	18	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Accidental death	On 2 December, the deceased was the passenger in a vehicle driven by a friend and with one other occupant, which was being followed by the police, suspected of involvement in a crime. Attempts were made by police officers to stop the vehicle but, whilst actively seeking to evade arrest, the vehicle collided with a tree. The deceased was thrown out of the vehicle by the force of the impact and died three days later in hospital.
14 12 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	42	M	Black	1 Acute hepatitis 2 Open verdict	On 12 December, the police were called by a hotel manager to the deceased who was found comatose in a hotel room other than his own. Police officers attended and arrested the deceased for suspected burglary. Because of his condition, an ambulance was called and he was conveyed to hospital, where he remained until he died two days later.
19 12 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	26	M	White	1 Cocaine toxicity 2 Misadventure	The police were called by a member of the public to a man armed with a knife. Police officers attended and eventually located the man. After a violent struggle, the deceased was arrested and conveyed to a police station. He was placed in a cell and was seen to hit his head on a wall and on the floor. Officers entered the cell and restrained him to prevent further injury. An ambulance was called and he was conveyed to hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.
26 12 99	Humberside	Hospital	27	M	White	1 Serious head injuries 2 Accidental death	At 2316 hours on 17 December, the deceased was seen by police officers urinating in a public place. One police officer shouted to him which resulted in a retort from the deceased who then attempted to run away. He was pursued by two police officers down an alleyway, at the end of which the deceased ran into the path of a moving vehicle. He was conveyed to hospital by ambulance and died on 26 December at 1545 hours.
26 12 99	Durham	Hospital	2	F	White	1 Head injuries 2 Awaited	At 1128 hours on 26 December, the mother of the deceased, along with two other children, sought assistance from the police after a domestic incident. Due to non-availability of Social Services, the family were being transported in a police vehicle to a refuge, when it was involved in a road traffic accident. The child suffered head injuries and was removed to hospital where she died.
26 12 99	Durham	Hospital	4	M	White	1 Head injuries 2 Awaited	At 1128 hours on 26 December, the mother of the deceased, along with two other children, sought assistance from the police after a domestic incident. Due to non-availability of Social Services, the family were being transported in a police vehicle to a refuge, when it was involved in a road traffic accident. The child suffered head injuries and was removed to hospital where he died.

**TABLE 1 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
2000**

Verdicts in cases for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
29 12 99	West Midlands	Hospital	32	M	White	1a Multiple organ failure originating from aspiration of vomit 1b Pneumonia 2 Natural causes	On 26 December, the deceased was involved in a road traffic accident. He was examined by ambulance personnel but did not require treatment. He was unable to give a breath specimen and was consequently arrested. At the station he provided a negative specimen but was suspected unfit to drive through drugs. A search revealed a substance suspected to be Cannabis, together with forged money. He was arrested and placed in a cell to await the police surgeon. He was visited several times and then found lying on the floor, having vomited; he was not breathing. First aid was administered and an ambulance called. The deceased was placed on life support but did not respond to treatment and was certified dead at hospital at 0130 hrs on 29 December.
31 12 99	Devon & Cornwall	River	21	M	White	1 Death by drowning 2 Awaiting	A vehicle failed to stop for a routine police road check and was driven into a cul-de-sac whereupon the four occupants decamped from the vehicle. Two were immediately detained by the police whilst the other two were able to escape. A search was begun with police dogs and a police helicopter and after about 30 minutes the deceased was found lying face down in a small brook at the bottom of a 25 foot wall which was at the rear of the gardens in the cul-de-sac.
5 1 00	West Yorkshire	Police station	36	M	White	1 Death consistent with hanging by ligature 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested at 0908 hrs on 5 January for being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle. The deceased was placed in custody and around noon he was conveyed to hospital for treatment to injuries which were believed to be self-inflicted; he was later returned to custody. At 2030 hrs officers found him with a ligature around his neck. He had hanged himself with an arm bandage applied at the hospital. He was examined by a police surgeon and declared dead at the scene.
16 1 00	Essex	Hospital	26	M	Asian	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	At 0034 hrs, the police responded to calls from members of the public that a male was causing a disturbance. Having been restrained and handcuffed by police officers, the deceased ceased to struggle and officers detected that he was unconscious and had a weak pulse. Paramedics were called to the scene and attempts were made to revive the deceased at the scene and subsequently at hospital but were unsuccessful. Life was pronounced extinct at 0205 hrs.
20 1 00	Metropolitan	Hospital	59	M	Black	1 Cranio-cerebral injury 2 Accidental death	Police were called by ambulance personnel to a male who was drunk and had fallen over and banged his head. Officers attended and arrested the male for being drunk and incapable and conveyed him to a police station. On arrival the custody officer judged that he required medical attention and an ambulance was called. He was conveyed to hospital on 16 January where he remained for the next four days until he died.
23 1 00	Staffordshire	Street	54	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaiting	The deceased failed to stop for a police traffic patrol. He was pursued by officers in the patrol vehicle which made no effort to overtake. Within one minute and for no apparent reason the driver swerved off the road and collided with a tree.

**TABLE 1 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
2000**

Verdicts in cases for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
31 1 00	Greater Manchester	Hospital	64	M	White	1 Head injury 2 Awaited	On 13 January at 0245 hrs, the deceased was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. He was conveyed to the police station where he was seen by a police surgeon who declared him fit to be detained. By 1945 hrs it had become apparent that his behaviour could not be entirely attributed to the effects of alcohol and he was referred to hospital for investigation. A brain scan revealed evidence of brain damage that was not amenable to surgery. It also showed he had undergone previous neurosurgical treatment. His condition continued to deteriorate and he died at 1430 hrs on 31 January.
1 2 00	Metropolitan	Police station	48	M	White	1 Cocaine intoxication 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested on 31 January for a criminal offence and conveyed to a police station and placed in a cell. At 0450am on 1 February, he was found collapsed in the cell. An ambulance was called and first aid was rendered by police officers and ambulance personnel to no avail. The deceased was pronounced dead in the cell by the police surgeon.
15 2 00	Devon & Cornwall	Hospital	41	M	White	1 Asphyxiation linked to possible consumption of a controlled drug 2 Awaited	At 1418 hrs on 7 February, the deceased was stopped by police officers whilst driving his vehicle. He was spoken to and he gave his details; he then collapsed and had breathing difficulties. Ambulance personnel arrived and, whilst attempting resuscitation, removed a condom with powder inside from his throat. The deceased died eight days later in hospital.
23 2 00	West Yorkshire	Hospital	56	M	White	1 Fractured skull – consistent with falling backwards from a standing position 2 Awaited	At about 2000 hrs on 22 February, police officers and ambulance personnel attended the deceased, who was sitting by the side of the road. There were no apparent injuries so the ambulance crew left. The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable and conveyed to a police station. At 2346 hrs the deceased could not be roused and he was conveyed to hospital, where he died the following day.
29 2 00	Cleveland	Hospital	18	M	White	1 Asphyxiation 2 Awaited	On 14 February, police officers stopped and spoke to the deceased in relation to motoring offences; he was placed in police vehicle and searched. Controlled drugs were found in his trouser pocket. The deceased then stuffed something into his mouth and attempted to escape. During a struggle the deceased spat out what was in his mouth. He was arrested and conveyed to the station. As the custody officer was talking to him, he noticed the deceased slip to the floor and his pallor change and so he was immediately conveyed to hospital in a police vehicle. Hospital staff recovered a piece of paper and a condom containing powder heroin. He was resuscitated and placed on life support but died on 29 February.

**TABLE 1 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
2000**

Verdicts in cases for the period 1 April 1999 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
3 3 00	West Mercia	Street	20	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	A police motor-cyclist pursued the vehicle driven by the deceased, who failed to stop. The vehicle was reversed into the motorcyclist, knocking the police officer off. A police vehicle then took up pursuit; the deceased was now driving erratically and very fast. The police vehicle broke down and the pursuit was then taken up by two police officers on motor-cycles. They subsequently witnessed the deceased's vehicle in a head-on collision with a lorry.
8 3 00	Norfolk	Street	17	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police officers were called by a member of the public to attend a suspected burglary. On arrival, they saw three persons decamp in a vehicle stolen earlier that evening. The police gave pursuit and later observed the suspects' vehicle leave the road and collide with a tree. All three occupants died in the crash.
8 3 00	Norfolk	Street	16	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police officers were called by a member of the public to attend a suspected burglary. On arrival, they saw three persons decamp in a vehicle stolen earlier that evening. The police gave pursuit and later observed the suspects' vehicle leave the road and collide with a tree. All three occupants died in the crash.
8 3 00	Norfolk	Street	15	M	White	1 Multiple injuries 2 Awaited	Police officers were called by a member of the public to attend a suspected burglary. On arrival, they saw three persons decamp in a vehicle stolen earlier that evening. The police gave pursuit and later observed the suspects' vehicle leave the road and collide with a tree. All three occupants died in the crash.
29 3 00	Avon & Somerset	Hospital	53	M	White	1a Respiratory failure 1b Purulent bronchitis – severe chronic obstructive airways disease 2 Natural causes	At 0135 hrs, a telephone call was received that a male was acting in a drunk and aggressive manner and police officers attended the scene. The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable. He was conveyed to a police station where he was examined by the custody sergeant - whilst still in the police vehicle – who directed that he be conveyed straight to hospital. At the hospital he was assessed by medical staff and shortly afterwards no pulse could be felt. The attending police officer assisted in cardiac massage and full resuscitation was attempted but with no success. At 0235 hrs life was pronounced extinct.
31 3 00	Staffordshire	Hospital	23	M	White	1a Extensive self-inflicted lacerations to throat 1b Severe loss of blood 2 Awaited	A neighbour alerted police with a 999 call. When police officers arrived, they noticed that the deceased was holding a knife and had sustained a large gash on his arm. The deceased then attempted to cut his throat with a pair of scissors. The officers tried to prevent further self-harm but the deceased was able to slash his throat. Paramedics attended and took the deceased to hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

**TABLE 2 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE
BY ETHNIC ORIGIN - ENGLAND AND WALES**

For the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000

Ethnic origin	Number of deaths
White	61
Asian	3
Black	3
Other	3
TOTAL	70

TABLE 3 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE

ENGLAND AND WALES

Place of death by police force area for the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000

Police Force	Place of death		TOTAL
	Police station	Hospital or other	
Avon & Somerset		1	1
Bedfordshire			
Cambridgeshire	1		1
Cheshire		1	1
Cleveland		1	1
Cumbria			
Derbyshire			
Devon & Cornwall		5	5
Dorset			
Durham		2	2
Essex	1	1	2
Gloucestershire			
Greater Manchester		5	5
Hampshire		1	1
Hertfordshire			
Humberside		2	2
Kent		1	1
Lancashire		1	1
Leicestershire			
Lincolnshire		2	2
London, City of			
Merseyside		1	1
Metropolitan	2	14	16
Norfolk		3	3
Northamptonshire			
Northumbria	1		1
North Yorkshire			
Nottinghamshire			
South Yorkshire		1	1
Staffordshire		2	2
Suffolk			
Surrey		1	1
Sussex		3	3
Thames Valley		2	2
Warwickshire		4	4
West Mercia		2	2
West Midlands		2	2
West Yorkshire	1	2	3
Wiltshire		1	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	1	2
Gwent			
North Wales		1	1
South Wales			
TOTAL	7	63	70

TABLE 4 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

By Result of Inquest and Cause of Death for the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000

Cause of death as stated on Death Certificate or established at Inquest	Number of deaths								
	Inquest held and verdict given						Inquest not held	Inquest pending	TOTAL
	Death due to:								
Accidental death	Lawful killing	Misadventure	Natural causes	Open Verdict	Suicide				
Asphyxiation by hanging			1			1		2	4
Asphyxiation by other means	1		1					5	7
Cerebral or internal haemorrhage				1				1	2
Gunshot wound		1				2		3	6
Heart / respiratory related				3			2	2	7
Immersion								1	1
Multiple injuries	7		1	1		3	2	7	21
Poisoning due to drugs / alcohol			2					5	7
Skull and/or brain injury	7				1	1		4	13
Other					1			1	2
TOTAL	15	1	5	5	2	7	4	31	70

TABLE 5 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
1 4 98	Humberside	Police station	37	M	Black	1 Undetermined – probably multi-factorial 2 Unlawfully killed	The deceased was assaulted at a night-club and received treatment at hospital and discharged. Because of his behaviour, he was arrested to prevent a breach of the peace and taken to the police station. Whilst in the charge office he collapsed and died.
21 5 98	Merseyside	Hospital	49	M	Asian	1 Fractured skull & brain haemorrhage 2 Accidental death	At 2300 hrs, the staff at the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital requested police attendance to deal with a report of a drunken male at the hospital. The deceased was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. When seen by the custody officer, he was deemed to be unwell. A doctor was called who directed he should go straight to hospital and an ambulance was summoned. Examination revealed a fractured skull and a brain haemorrhage and he was referred to Walton Hospital for surgery. He died in intensive care, having never regained consciousness.
28 5 98	Northamptonshire	Police station	21	M	White	1 Coproxamol overdose in the presence of Methadone 2 Accidental death	Police attended the address of the deceased's grandmother where the deceased had reported a burglary. Other family members advised police that the deceased admitted to them selling household goods in order to 'feed' his drug habit. As the deceased was wanted for a no bail warrant, he was arrested at 2251 hrs. During routine visits to his cell he was presumed to be asleep. At 0815 hrs the following morning the deceased was found dead.
20 6 98	West Yorkshire	Police station	29	M	White	1 Inconclusive 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested at 0400 hrs to prevent a renewal of a breach of the peace. On arrival at the police station, he was displaying signs of drunkenness, but was not violent. He was routinely checked every half-hour. The deceased was unable to be roused when visited in his cell at 0430 hrs on 20 June.
20 7 98	West Midlands	Hospital	26	M	Other	1 Drugs overdose 2 Accidental death by Cocaine poisoning	A warrant under the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was executed and three men were arrested. Whilst at the police station, the deceased suffered some sort of fit. Officers called an ambulance and tried to resuscitate him until paramedics arrived. He died later in hospital.
27 7 98	Merseyside	Police station	46	M	White	1 Awaiting 2 Awaiting	At 2325 hrs, the deceased was arrested for drink driving offences. During routine visit at 0335 hrs, he could not be roused. The deceased was examined by a doctor who pronounced life extinct at 0505 hrs the same day.
30 7 98	Greater Manchester	Hospital	25	F	White	1 Cardiac arrest 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested near to the scene of an accident for driving whilst unfit through drink/drugs. On arrival at the police station, the custody officer noticed that her condition was deteriorating and he ordered that she be taken to hospital by police vehicle. She was not breathing on arrival but was revived by medical staff and kept in intensive care until her death.

TABLE 5 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
15 8 98	Northumbria	Private dwelling	26	M	White	1 Fatal ingestion of Diamorphine 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested at 0025 hrs on 14 August and an intimate search was authorised, as it was believed he had drugs secreted on his person. The search was carried out at Wansbeck District General hospital and nothing was found. The deceased was released on bail. At 0743 hrs on 15 August, police received word that a male had collapsed at the deceased's home. Officers attended and found the deceased dead in bed. His girlfriend reported that the deceased had told her that he had removed some drugs from his anus whilst at the police station and swallowed them.
17 9 98	Lincolnshire	Hospital	37	F	White	1 Heart condition 2 Awaiting	During a public order incident, a 16-year-old male was brandishing a chair leg and was arrested at the scene. A struggle ensued while police officers tried to restrain the youth, who was resisting arrest. It is alleged that the deceased tried to intervene and fell to the floor. An ambulance was called at 1916 hrs but the deceased was pronounced dead at 1950 hrs at hospital.
22 9 98	Devon & Cornwall	Police station	23	M	White	1 Self-inflicted overdose of drugs 2 Awaiting	At 2055 hrs on 21 September, the deceased, whilst engaged in a fight, was arrested and was taken into custody. Routine checks were undertaken but, at 1255 hrs, he could not be roused. The custody sergeant and a paramedic unsuccessfully attempted resuscitation; the deceased was pronounced dead at 1300 hrs at the police station.
27 9 98	Lincolnshire	Hospital	34	M	White	1 Cerebral asphyxia 2 Suicide whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed	On 21 September, the deceased was arrested for aggravated burglary/robbery and was placed in a cell after interview at 1640 hrs. At 1645 hrs, he was found hanging from cell hatch with string from tracksuit bottoms. Resuscitation was attempted, CPR carried out and an ambulance called. The deceased was taken to hospital and remained there until he died, at 0720 hrs on 27 September.
10 11 98	West Midlands	Hospital	26	M	White	1 Adult respiratory distress syndrome due to aspiration of gastric contents due to cerebral anoxia due to hanging 2 Open verdict	On 17 October, following enquiries, officers visited the family address where the deceased was arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage. He was placed in a cell and when the door was opened he was found hanging by a shoelace which had been attached to the cell hatch. He was resuscitated and taken to City Hospital. Complications occurred and he subsequently died on 10 November.
16 11 98	South Wales	Police station	42	M	White	1 Ligature strangulation 2 Awaiting	At 0040 hrs, the deceased was arrested for an offence of burglary. At 0630 hrs, he was discovered lying on the floor of his cell showing no signs of life with a ligature tied around his neck, which he had made by ripping up his shirt. At 0705 hrs, the police surgeon examined him and certified death.
25 11 98	Cambridgeshire	Hospital	26	M	White	1 Natural causes 2 Natural causes	Police officers were carrying out a speed check and stopped a car with three occupants. The deceased, a rear seat passenger, immediately started to fit. The officers, assisted by a passing nurse, attempted resuscitation; an ambulance was called and paramedics continued with the resuscitation. He was taken to hospital where he died shortly afterwards.

TABLE 5 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
27 12 98	Derbyshire	Police station	44	M	Asian	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested on a warrant and detained in police custody. Whilst there, the deceased encountered breathing difficulties and was initially taken to hospital and later seen by the police doctor who deemed him fit to be detained. However, some time later the deceased was found in a collapsed state in his cell, and despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead.
1 1 99	Metropolitan	Nursing Home	36	M	White	1a Bronchial pneumonia 1b Extensive cerebral necrosis 1c Global cerebral hypoxia 2 Accidental death	On 10 December 1997, police were called by Sutton Hospital to assist with a patient who had gone missing. Police called at his home address where he was present and, after a struggle, detained him. On the way to the station he was taken ill and, on arriving at the station, the custody officer directed he should go to the hospital. He was taken to St Helier Hospital and later transferred to a nursing home, where he remained until he died.
9 1 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	36	M	White	1 Head injuries 2 Open verdict	Police attempted to stop the deceased, who was riding a pedal-cycle along the high street. He rode off and was pursued by the police. The deceased rode into a multi-storey car park, dropped his bike and jumped off the car park. He was taken to hospital where he died two days later.
19 1 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	30	M	Black	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Police were called by a member of the public to investigate a person acting strangely at an address in Tottenham. Officers attended, restrained the deceased and then conveyed him to St Ann's, a local psychiatric hospital. Whilst there, he collapsed, an ambulance was called, and he was taken initially to the North Middlesex Hospital and subsequently to the Whittington Hospital where he remained until he died.
24 1 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	46	M	White	1 Severe peritonitis caused by ruptured ulcer 2 Natural causes	The deceased was arrested on 15 January as a result of a search at a hostel. He was taken to Belgravia police station and was eventually cautioned for a criminal offence. He collapsed on two occasions after that date, the second being on 24 January when he attended hospital and eventually died.
1 2 99	Lancashire	Police station	25	M	White	1 Death by hanging 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested at 0235 hrs for criminal damage, driving with excess alcohol and breach of bail conditions. At 1500 hrs the deceased was found hanging from a strip of cell blanket in his cell. A tile had been removed from a suspended ceiling in a toilet area. The strip of blanket had been secured around pipe-ducting, from which the deceased hanged himself.
6 2 99	Lancashire	Hospital	59	M	White	1a Ischaemic heart disease 1b Coronary artery arteriosclerosis 2 Awaited	The deceased was stopped whilst driving his car for the purpose of a routine check, at some point during which he sat in the rear of the police car. He became very agitated and complained of feeling hot. He was allowed to alight from the vehicle and return to his own. He was issued with a document requiring him to produce his driving documents but before the officers drove away, the deceased's daughter informed them that her father had suffered a heart attack. He was conveyed to hospital where he subsequently died.

TABLE 5 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
11 2 99	Sussex	Hospital	40	M	White	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	On 8 February, the deceased collapsed at his home and was taken to hospital. The police were called to the hospital as it was considered that the deceased was not ill but drunk and causing a nuisance. He was arrested and conveyed to the police station, arriving at 1740 hrs. The doctor immediately examined him. He stopped breathing at 1829 hrs and was taken to hospital by ambulance. On arrival at hospital he was considered to be clinically dead but was resuscitated and remained on a life-support machine. He was transferred to St George's Hospital, remaining there until he died on 11 February.
11 2 99	Gwent	Hospital	22	M	White	1 Strangulation as a result of ligature to the neck (hanging) 2 Killed himself	The deceased had been arrested for offences of aggravated burglary and was taken to the police station. At 1745 hrs on 11 February, whilst in detention, he was allowed into the exercise yard. When checked at 1810 hrs, he was found hanging from the roof of the exercise yard by his shoelaces. Resuscitation was attempted, re-establishing a heart-beat. He was taken to hospital where he died at 1100 hrs the following day.
14 2 99	West Yorkshire	Hospital	22	M	White	1a Shotgun wound to abdomen 1b Severe liver damage 2 Suicide	A robbery had taken place at a bookmakers in the town at 1200 hrs on 13 February. The deceased, a suspect, was reported in the Sheepridge area at about 1400 hrs on 14 February in possession of a firearm. Armed police were deployed and the deceased was located at 1655 hrs on a football field. Armed officers commenced dialogue with the deceased who turned the gun on himself at 1709 hrs and fired it, causing fatal injuries.
19 2 99	Essex	Police station	49	F	White	1 Alcohol and mixed drug poisoning (Dihydrocodeine & Pholcodeine) 2 Accidental death	The deceased was arrested at 1750 hrs on 18 February for being drunk and disorderly. She was taken to the police station and placed in a cell at 1830 hrs. At 0052 hrs the next morning, she was found showing no signs of life. An ambulance attended but despite attempts at resuscitation, death was confirmed at 0157 hrs.
25 2 99	Sussex	Private dwelling	25	M	Other	1 Awaited 2 Awaited	Police attended the deceased's home address in respect of a possible assault involving the deceased and a neighbour. The deceased was arrested for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and was taken to the police station. He was examined by the doctor and taken to hospital. Examination and X-rays suggested no serious injury. He was de-arrested and taken home. At 2000 hrs the same day, an ambulance was called to the deceased's home where he was found to be in a collapsed state. Despite every effort he was found to be dead on arrival at hospital.
25 2 99	Cambridgeshire	Hospital	24	M	White	1 Asphyxiation 2 Suicide	The deceased had been arrested and taken to the police station. He was found lying in his cell with a ligature made from a blanket tied round his neck in a slipknot and fastened to the toilet bowl. Resuscitation was attempted and he was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was certified dead.

TABLE 5 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1998 - 31 March 1999

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
6 3 99	West Yorkshire	River	28	M	White	1 Drowning 2 Misadventure	The deceased jumped into the river at about 0400 hrs on 31 January having run away from police officers who wished to speak to him about the manner in which a car had been driven in Otley town centre. His body was recovered from the River Wharfe at Kearby, North Yorkshire, some five weeks later.
11 3 99	Metropolitan	Hospital	66	M	Black	1 Hypothermia 2 Awaited	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable and taken to the police station. He was placed in a cell and the doctor was called at 0400 hrs. At 0420 hrs the deceased was found to have stopped breathing. An ambulance was called and the deceased was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.
29 3 99	Cumbria	Police station	53	M	White	1 Acute alcohol poisoning 2 Misadventure	Having been arrested for being drunk and incapable and detention being authorised by the police surgeon, the deceased was left in the rear of a police vehicle awaiting assistance to transport to a police station with a custody suite. He was checked at 1150 hrs and again at 1205 hrs, when he was found not to be breathing. Attempts at resuscitation failed, and he was certified dead shortly afterwards.
31 3 99	West Yorkshire	Hospital	42	M	White	1 Hanging 2 Suicide whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed	The deceased was arrested at 1730 hrs on 30 March following a road accident. He was taken to the police station where intoximeter checks confirmed that he was over the prescribed limit. He was placed in a cell and put on half-hourly visits. At 2055 hrs, he was found hanging from the bars of the cell. He had removed his trousers and used them to form a noose from which he had suspended himself. Attempts at resuscitation were made before he was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary at 2125 hrs. The deceased was subsequently transferred to Airedale Hospital, where he died the next day at 2235 hrs.

**TABLE 6 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
1998**

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1997 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
28 12 97	Lancashire	Hospital	24	M	White	1 Suspected self-strangulation 2 Awaited	The deceased was detained at 1815 hrs at Lancaster police station after being arrested to prevent a breach of the peace. The deceased was then placed in a cell and visited at half-hourly intervals. The deceased was found at 2027 hrs with a ligature around his neck attached to the cell door. Police officers attempted resuscitation and he was taken to hospital. The deceased was placed on a ventilator but died on 28 December.
15 1 98	Sussex	Private dwelling	39	M	White	1 Gunshot wound to chest 2 Awaited	Armed officers executed a search warrant on premises at 0422 hrs for controlled drugs and associated paraphernalia. Upon entry, an armed officer discharged his weapon, resulting in fatal injury to the occupant.
21 2 98	West Midlands	Hospital	25	M	White	1 Vagal inhibition 2 Awaited	On 21 February at 0215 hrs, the deceased was arrested at his girlfriend's address to prevent re-occurrence of a Breach of the Peace. He was taken to the police station. The deceased removed laces from his shoes and tied them to hatch bolts in cell door, the hatch being left open because of the deceased's asthma. The deceased placed the laces around the neck and committed suicide by hanging. He was taken to hospital at 0632 hrs and died at 0705 hrs on the same day.
13 3 98	Cleveland	River	28	M	White	1 Drowning 2 Accidental death contributed to by neglect	The deceased was arrested for aggravated burglary. He was committed under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 but escaped from custody during transfer from the police station to hospital. He ran into the North Sea and drowned.
15 3 98	Metropolitan	Hospital	49	M	White	1a Haemorrhagic shock 1b Fractured left femur 2 Accidental Death	The deceased was arrested for being drunk and incapable and taken to Holborn police station. He was placed in a cell and after complaining of pains in hips he was examined by the doctor who advised that he be taken to hospital. The deceased was taken to hospital by the ambulance where he was detained and subsequently died.

**TABLE 7 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
1997**

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 April 1996 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
24 7 96	Cleveland	Police station	25	M	White	1 Self-induced hanging 2 Suicide	The deceased was arrested on suspicion of burglary. The deceased tied a bootlace to the open cell hatch and placed it around his neck.
6 8 96	Staffordshire	Hospital	32	M	White	1 Fractured skull 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested in connexion with shoplifting and other offences and was detained overnight. Whilst exercising in the yard the next day, the custody sergeant noticed he was in a trance-like state. He was conveyed to hospital where he lapsed into a deep coma and never recovered.
13 8 96	Metropolitan	Police station	33	M	White	1 Coronary occlusion due to coronary thrombosis 2 Natural causes	The deceased was arrested on 12 August for aggravated burglary, during which he became violent. He was taken to police station and seen by the force medical examiner. He was deemed fit to be detained and was checked regularly. At 0320 hrs he was found naked and apparently dead in the cell. The FME pronounced him dead at 0355 hrs.
23 9 96	Metropolitan	Hospital	27	M	White	1 Multiple gunshot wounds 2 Lawful killing	Officers attended an address to execute search warrants relating to terrorist activity. Whilst gaining entry to the address, shots were fired resulting in injuries to the deceased. He was taken to hospital where he later died.
9 1 97	West Mercia	Police station	31	M	White	1a Cardio-respiratory arrest 1b Ingestion of an overdose of Methadone and Alcohol 2 Awaiting	The deceased was arrested at 0033 hrs for drunk and disorderly behaviour and placed in a police cell. He was checked every half-hour until 0509 hrs when he was found dead.
19 3 97	Northumbria	Police station	22	M	White	1 Toxicity of Methadone with Diazepam 2 Misadventure	The deceased was arrested on suspicion of theft on 18 March at 1415 hrs and taken to the police station. He was under the influence of drink/drugs. The police surgeon declared him fit to be detained. He was checked regularly throughout the night and provided with breakfast at 0800 hrs. He was subsequently found dead at 0958 hrs.

**TABLE 8 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE - ENGLAND AND WALES
1996**

Verdicts in cases *Awaited* for the period 1 January 1995 - 31 March

Date of Death	Force	Place of Death	Age	Sex	Ethnic Origin	1 Cause of Death 2 Inquest Verdict	Circumstances
30 1 95	Greater Manchester	Police station	24	M	Not recorded	1 Self inflicted strangulation 2 Killed himself	Arrested for theft and obstruction and remanded in custody. Used torn strip from his blanket as a ligature to tie to the cell door handle and round his neck.
2 10 95	Merseyside	Hospital	33	M	Not recorded	1 Heroin overdose 2 Misadventure	Arrested for driving whilst under the influence of drugs. During his arrest a fight occurred involving family members. The deceased was examined by the force medical examiner after arrest and pronounced fit for custody. He was later found in his cell having stopped breathing. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

TABLE 9 - DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY OR OTHERWISE WITH THE POLICE

Number of deaths for each year between 1981 and 2000

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MET POLICE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PROVINCES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1981	27	1981	22	49
1982	27	1982	28	55
1983	18	1983	25	43
1984	15	1984	19	34
1985	14	1985	23	37
1986	15	1986	26	41
1987	28	1987	26	54
1988	30	1988	38	68
1989	37	1989	36	73
1990	20	1990	41	61
1991	24	1991	36	60
1991/92 ¹	21	1992	33	-
1992/93	18	1993	18	-
1993/94	16	1994	36	-
1994/95	15	1995	39	-
1995/96	13	1995/96 ²	37	50
1996/97	18	1996/97	39	57
1997/98	12	1997/98	57	69
1998/99	17	1998/99	50	67
1999/00	16	1999/00	54	70

Key:

- ¹ Change to financial year basis includes some figures previously counted in 1991
² Change to financial year basis includes some figures previously counted in 1995

Notes

- 1 Deaths in police custody or otherwise in the hands of the police must be reported to the Home Office, Police Leadership & Powers Unit (PLPU) within 48 hours of the death. Forces are also required to report the outcome of any Coroner's inquest into a death. PLPU maintains a continuous record of all reported deaths and seek confirmation of the details and circumstances of each death with the force concerned prior to publication.
- 2 The definition of a death in police custody was revised on 5 February 1996 in order to clarify it and to distinguish between deaths of those detained in a police station (?), as defined in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (category A), and those otherwise in the hands of the police (category B).

Category A is defined as:

- 3 Where the deceased is in police detention as defined by Section 118 (2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. That is, for the purposes of the Act, if:
 - he has been taken to a police station after being arrested for an offence;or,
 - he is arrested at a police station after attending voluntarily at the station or accompanying a constable to it,
 - and is detained there or is detained elsewhere in the charge of a constable, except that a person who is at a court after being charged is not in police detention for those purposes.
- 4 This category also encompasses deaths of those under arrest who are held in temporary police accommodation and those who have been taken to hospital following arrest. It also includes those who die, following arrest, whilst in a police vehicle.

Category B is defined as:

- 5 Where the deceased was otherwise in the hands of the police or death resulted from the actions of a police officer in the purported execution of his duty. This category includes, for example, deaths which occur:
 - when suspects are being interviewed by the police but have not been detained;
 - when persons are actively attempting to evade arrest;

- when persons are stopped and searched or questioned by the police;
- when persons are in police vehicles (other than whilst in police detention);
- when persons are in police custody having been arrested by officers from a police force in Scotland exercising their powers of detention under section 137(2) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994;
- when persons are in police custody having been arrested under section 3(5) of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993;
- when persons are in police custody having been served a notice advising them of their detention under powers contained in the Immigration Act 1971;
- when persons are convicted or remanded prisoners held in police cells on behalf of the Prison Service under the Imprisonment (Temporary Provisions) Act 1980;
- when there is a siege situation or ambush;
- when persons are in the care of the police having been detained under the Mental Health Act; and,
- when children or young persons are in police protection under the Children Act 1989.

6 The two categories of deaths are designed to distinguish between deaths which occur when a person is detained by the police and those which occur otherwise within the hands of the police.

7 The categories of death to be reported *exclude*:

- those attending police stations as innocent visitors or witnesses who are not suspects;
- those who have left a police station, whether freely or on bail (except when taken to hospital (see Category A));
- those involved in a fatal road accident involving the police; and,
- those which occur in a police vehicle which is being used as an ambulance to transport a dying person to hospital quickly but not under circumstances as described under Category A.

NB None of these lists of examples is exhaustive