



Ministry  
of Justice

# **Deaths of Offenders in the Community 2015/16 Annual Statistics Bulletin**

**England and Wales**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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## Introduction

Deaths of Offenders in the Community statistics cover deaths of offenders in England and Wales that occurred while under probation supervision during the time they were:

- serving their court order sentences in the community (including [community orders](#), [suspended sentence orders](#))
- on [post-release supervision](#) after completion of a custodial sentence.

This publication represents the first time these figures have been published by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), covering the period from 2010/11 to 2015/16 by financial year. Subsequent publications will continue on an annual basis.

Every death is a tragedy. Although this publication concerns statistics, the incidents described in this report are, by their nature, tragic and distressing to the families and friends of offenders, and to staff.

### Users and uses of these statistics

These figures refer to deaths of offenders occurring in the general public, with the possible exception of the small numbers of cases occurring to those residing in [approved premises](#). Approved premises deaths are included in this publication, with figures broken down separately also. Offenders under supervision in the community (other than, to an extent, those occurring in approved premises) are not in the care of NOMS in the way they are when in custody. The influence probation officers have on offenders, in terms of their health and well-being, cannot be compared meaningfully to the influence staff working in prison have in relation to deaths in custody. As such, the ability that NOMS has to intervene or influence the likelihood of these deaths occurring is limited, and the responsibility and accountability that can be held is inherently different to deaths occurring in prison custody.

Deaths in custody statistics are published separately in *Safety in Custody*<sup>1</sup>. There is no comparison that can be made between these sets of figures and any attempt to compare these figures would be not be meaningful.

The statistics included in this publication have a wide range of uses, and this report adds to the body of learning in this area. It supports work to help identify possible means to reduce the risk of such tragedies occurring in future, meeting a broad spectrum of user needs as shown below:

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<sup>1</sup> Safety in Custody Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>

User	Summary of main statistical needs
<b>MOJ Ministers</b>	Use the statistics to monitor the safety and wellbeing of the offenders in the community; and to assess policy impacts (e.g. changes to managing vulnerable offenders)
<b>MPs and House of Lords</b>	Statistics may be used to answer parliamentary questions
<b>Monitoring and Accountability</b>	E.g. Justice Select Committee. Deaths of Offenders in the Community may be used as a primary data source for monitoring and for public accountability.
<b>Policy teams</b>	Statistics are used to inform policy development, to monitor impact of changes over time and to consider future changes and their impact on the system
<b>Agencies responsible for offender management</b>	Current and historical administrative data are used to support performance management information at national and local levels to complement their understanding of the current picture and trends over time
<b>Academia, students and businesses</b>	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences
<b>Journalists</b>	Used as a compendium of data on deaths of offenders in the community so that an accurate and coherent story can be told on rehabilitation and events occurring to offenders in the community
<b>Voluntary sector</b>	Data may be used to monitor trends of the safety and wellbeing of offenders, to reuse the data in their own briefing and research papers and to inform policy work and responses to consultations.
<b>General public</b>	Data may be used to respond to ad-hoc requests made under the Freedom of Information Act.

NOMS regularly receives requests for statistics for more recent date periods than those covered in published statistics. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, NOMS is unable to release figures for periods in advance of those published in Official Statistics publications. Furthermore, the figures appearing in this publication are received by NOMS in annual returns during August and September of each year, meaning the publication date is the earliest that collated figures for the financial year are held and available for internal use also, meaning these figures are the most timely available held data.

### Related publications

This bulletin is published alongside other inter-related bulletins:

*Safety in Custody Statistics Quarterly Bulletin*<sup>2</sup>: This covers deaths, assaults and self-harm occurring in prison custody. Although death in custody statistics will be published on the same day as deaths of offenders in the community, no attempt to compare these figures would be meaningful and such comparisons should not be made.

*Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin*<sup>3</sup>: This provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It covers flows into

<sup>2</sup> Safety in Custody Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>

<sup>3</sup> Offender Management Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time.

*Proven Re-offending Statistics Quarterly*<sup>4</sup>: This provides proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution or received a reprimand or warning.

*Community Performance Management Information release*<sup>5</sup>: A quarterly release of performance management information for the National Probation Service (NPS), Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs).

*Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual report*<sup>6</sup>: Presents statistics on the number of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders in England and Wales, and information related to these offenders.

Taken together, these publications present users with a more coherent overview of offender management, re-offending among both adults and young people and the safety of offenders whilst in prison custody.

## **Release Schedule**

This bulletin was published on 27 October 2016, and includes statistics covering financial year periods from 2010/11 to 2015/16 for deaths of offenders in the community. 2010/11 is the earliest period for which data are held across probation. As such, this represents the complete available time series.

Financial year figures are collected on an annual basis during August and September of each year, and collated for publication during October. The next publication of Deaths of Offenders in the Community statistics is scheduled to be published on 26 October 2017, adding figures for the financial year 2016/17.

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<sup>4</sup> Proven Reoffending Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>

<sup>5</sup> Community Performance MI: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-performance-quarterly-management-information-release>

<sup>6</sup> Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-mappa-annual-reports>

## Key findings

**Table 1: Deaths of offenders in the community by apparent cause<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Males and Females</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>725</b>
Self-inflicted	148	162	190	189	189	264
Natural Causes	238	222	240	214	197	235
Homicide	27	28	28	17	14	22
Accident	68	49	49	37	48	68
Other	31	42	29	25	15	11
Unclassified <sup>3</sup>	192	150	98	78	94	125

(1) Apparent cause is as reported in annual returns and has not been independently verified

(2) The Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) was introduced on 1 February 2015 and corresponded with an increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision. Caution should be used when comparing with earlier periods.

(3) Unclassified deaths refer to those deaths for which a cause was unknown at the time of reporting.

- In 2015/16, there were **725** deaths of offenders in the community, a **30% increase** from **557** deaths in the previous year. These deaths comprise of:
  - **264** self-inflicted deaths, up 40% from 189 in 2014/15;
  - **235** deaths due to natural causes, up 19% from 197 in 2014/15;
  - **68** accidental deaths, up 42% from 48 in 2014/15;
  - **22** apparent homicides, up<sup>7</sup> from 14 in 2014/15;
  - **11** other deaths<sup>8</sup>;
  - **125** deaths which remain unclassified<sup>8</sup>.
- Self-inflicted death was the predominant classification of deaths in the [Community Rehabilitation Companies](#) in 2015/16 (41%), while natural cause deaths predominate in the [National Probation Service](#) (43%).
  - This is consistent with expectation based on the differing age distributions of these offenders.
- **296** of the deaths in 2015/16 were accounted for by offenders on post-release supervision, up 73% from 171 in the previous year. This increase in deaths of offenders during post-release supervision from the previous year accounts for around 75% of the overall increase of deaths of offenders in the community on the previous year.
  - This increase corresponds with the introduction of the [Offender Rehabilitation Act](#) (ORA) on 1 February 2015, and the corresponding large increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision in 2015/16.

<sup>7</sup> Percentage comparisons for homicides are not presented due to low numbers.

<sup>8</sup> Comparisons are not meaningful for 'other' and 'unclassified' deaths, as what these comprise of will vary.

## Commentary

Deaths of offenders in the community is defined as any death of an offender that occurred while under probation supervision during the time they were:

- serving their court order sentences in the community (including community orders, suspended sentence orders)
- on post-release supervision after completion of a custodial sentence.

Deaths of offenders supervised by the probation services prior to release from prison custody (pre-release supervision) are not included as part of this publication. These are deaths in custody, published separately as National Statistics in the Safety in Custody statistics bulletin<sup>9</sup>.

Statistics in this publication are based on annual returns from probation providers but may not always capture all offenders that died during supervision in the community. The death of an offender may only come to light when they are informed by third parties such as the police, the medical profession or friends and family of the deceased. At the time of reporting, probation staff may not have sufficient information regarding the circumstances of the death to assign an apparent cause. And results of any investigations or inquests following the death are not always circulated back to the probation providers. As such, between 14% and 27% of deaths remain unclassified in each year between 2010/11 to 2015/16, and these are unlikely to be subsequently updated. Accordingly, caution is advised in comparison of categories of deaths across time.

The main responsibilities of offender managers in the community are to assess, supervise and rehabilitate offenders. While they can encourage offenders to address issues affecting their health and wellbeing, their ability to manage the health of the offender are more limited than those provided by staff in the prisons. Offenders in the community have a greater responsibility for their own healthcare.

### All Deaths

There were 725 deaths of offenders in the community in 2015/16, a 30% increase from 557 in the previous year.

Around 75% of this increase is due to an increase in deaths of offenders under post-release supervision, which increased from 171 in 2014/15 to 296 in 2015/16, thus accounting for 125 of the 168 additional deaths overall in 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

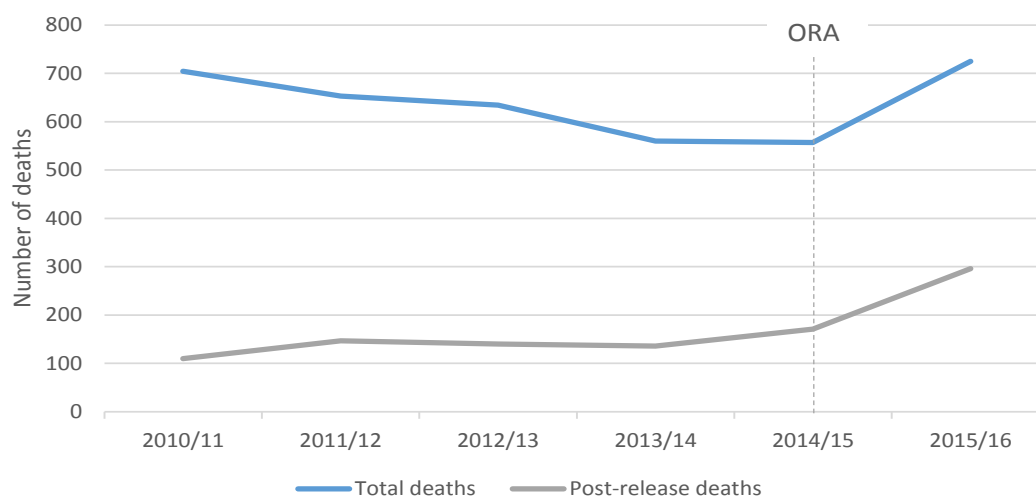
This increase corresponds with the introduction of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) on 1 February 2015, and the corresponding substantial increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision in 2015/16. Under ORA, all offenders given custodial sentences are now subject to a minimum of 12 months supervision in the community upon release from prison. This consists of a period spent on [licence](#), and, depending on the length of custodial

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<sup>9</sup> Deaths in custody are published in the Safety in Custody statistics bulletin on a quarterly basis at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>. Figures should not be compared between these two publications as deaths of offenders in the community occur while part of the general population, and the responsibility of NOMS differs accordingly.

sentence, a period on [post-sentence supervision](#). Previously only adults sentenced to over 12 months in custody and all young offenders were subject to statutory supervision.

**Figure 1: Death of offenders in the community and deaths occurring during post-release supervision, England and Wales**



The Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) was introduced on 1 February 2015 and corresponded with an increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision. Caution should be used when comparing periods prior to and after the introduction.

The introduction of the ORA resulted in a sizeable increase in the caseload of offenders under post-release supervision, from 39,669 as at 31 March 2015 to 64,441 as at 31 March 2016<sup>10</sup>. This 62% year on year increase in caseload of offenders on post-release supervision, coinciding with the introduction of ORA, provides context to the corresponding increase of deaths among those on post-release supervision, and the majority of the increase of deaths of offenders in the community overall.

The number of offenders who died in the community while on probation supervision reduced year on year between 2010/11 to 2013/14, from 704 to 560 deaths (a drop of 20%). The figure remained relatively stable in 2014/15 with 557 deaths, followed by the aforementioned notable increase to 725 in 2015/16. Some caution is advised in viewing these comparisons due to possible underreporting resulting from the changes to the delivery of probation in June 2014. As part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reform programme, [Probation Trusts](#) were replaced by the National Probation Service (NPS), which manages the most high-risk offenders across seven divisions; and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), who manage medium and low-risk offenders. Figures for 2014/15 would include some deaths that occurred when the Probation Trusts existed but were reported by the NPS or CRCs that had been allocated responsibility for these offenders prior to their deaths.

As seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the trend in the deaths of offenders in the community follows a similar pattern to the overall caseload of offenders supervised in the community at the end of each financial year, as published in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly<sup>11</sup>. The combined caseload of all court orders (including community orders and

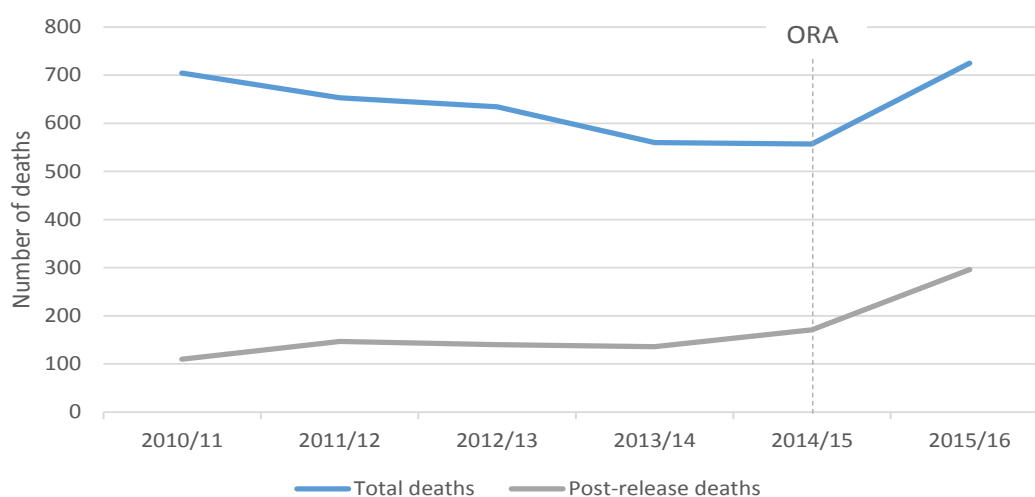
<sup>10</sup> Caseload of offenders under post-release supervision from the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

<sup>11</sup> Probation caseload statistics are published in the Offender management statistics quarterly at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>



suspended sentence orders) and post-release supervision – largely representing the overall offender population from which deaths in this publication are concerned – showed an increase of 20% from 149,604 as at 31 March 2015 to 180,050 as at 31 March 2016. As previously noted, due to the introduction of ORA, most of this increase was among caseload of post-release supervision (62% year on year caseload increase), compared to only 5% year on year caseload increase of court orders from 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2016.

**Figure 2: Number of offenders supervised by the probation service at the end period by type, England Wales**



Some caution should be used when considering caseload figures as offenders may appear both within the caseload figures of court orders and post-release supervision. In addition, the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) was introduced on 1 February 2015 and corresponded with an increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision. Caution should be used when comparing periods prior to and after the introduction.

No change was seen in the proportional split of deaths of offenders in the community from 2014/15 to 2015/16 between the NPS and CRCs. While NPS represent around a quarter of the caseload of court orders and post-release supervision, they account for around a third of deaths of offenders in the community.

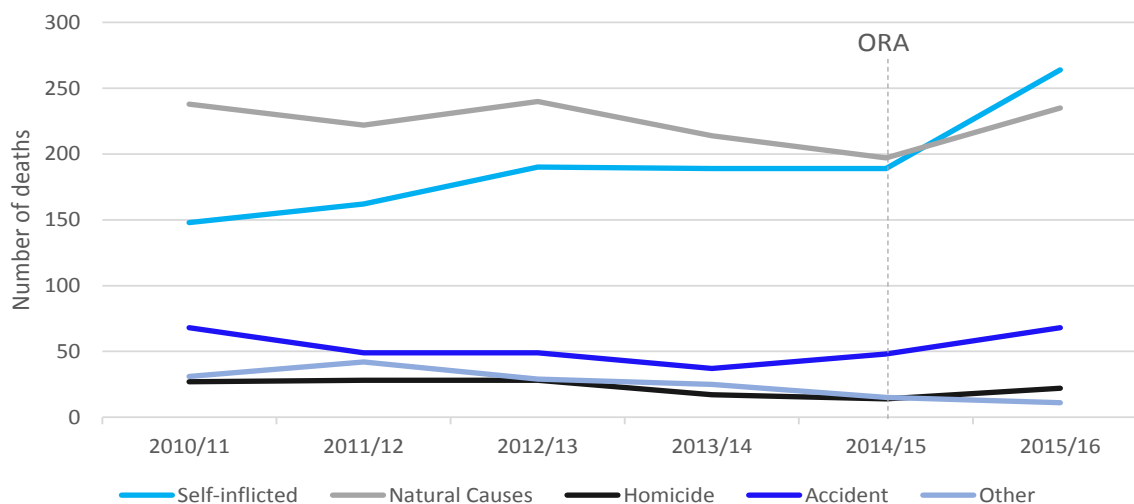
Some caution should be used when considering caseload figures in conjunction with deaths. Offenders may appear both within the caseload figures of court orders (including community orders and suspended sentence orders) and post-release supervision. Furthermore, published caseload figures are snapshots of moments in time, which may not fully represent the overall caseload during the 12 month periods for which deaths are presented in this publication. Accordingly rates of deaths have not been calculated, and comparisons of trends in caseload to trends in deaths of offenders in the community should be seen as indicative. However, these changes to overall probation caseload figures can be viewed as context to the corresponding changes in deaths across the time series. This suggests that the overall trend of both the probation caseload and the number of deaths of offenders in the community follow a similar trend.

### Apparent cause of death

Figure 3 overleaf shows the breakdown of classification of deaths across the available time series.

There were 22 apparent homicides in 2015/16, 6 in NPS and 16 in CRCs. Homicides ranged from 14 to 28 since 2010/11, accounting for 3% of all deaths in the most year, which is broadly consistent with previous years.

**Figure 3: Death of offenders in the community by apparent cause, England and Wales**



The Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) was introduced on 1 February 2015 and corresponded with an increase in the number of offenders on post-release supervision. Caution should be used when comparing periods prior to and after the introduction.

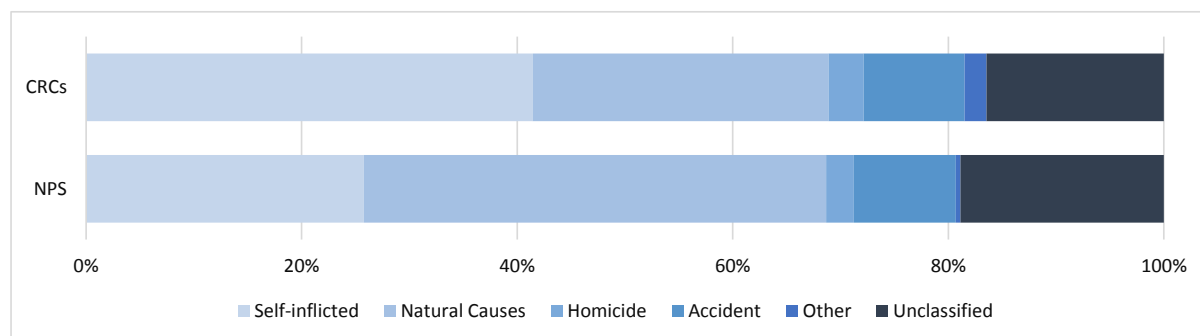
There were 235 natural cause deaths in 2015/16, a 19% increase compared to 2014/15. Deaths due to natural causes have accounted for around a third of all deaths in the community across the time series, although natural cause deaths account for a higher proportion of all deaths of offenders supervised by NPS (43% in 2015/16) compared to CRCs (27% in 2015/16). This is consistent with expectation based on the age of offenders. For 2015/16, around 38% of offenders supervised by NPS were aged 50 or over when they died. Offenders in this age group are more likely to die of natural causes than any other reason. In contrast, 19% of offenders supervised by the CRCs were aged 50 or over when they died.

There were 264 self-inflicted deaths in 2015/16, a 40% increase since 2014/15. Despite a fall in overall deaths between 2010/11 to 2012/13, self-inflicted deaths rose from 148 deaths in 2010/11 to 190 in 2012/13. The number of self-inflicted deaths remained stable until 2014/15, prior to the increase seen in 2015/16. This is the only year in the time series where the number of self-inflicted deaths is higher than those due to natural causes. Accordingly, the proportion of deaths that were self-inflicted has also gradually increased over time, rising from 21% in 2010/11 to 36% in 2015/16.

The proportion of all deaths in the NPS that were self-inflicted for both 2014/15 and 2015/16 was lower than the proportion of deaths due for natural causes. The opposite is true of the CRCs, where self-inflicted deaths account for a higher proportion of deaths than natural causes in both years. This is partly reflected by expectation relating to the age of the offender at the time of their death.

As seen in Figure 4, self-inflicted death was the predominant classification of deaths in the CRCs in 2015/16, while natural cause deaths predominate in the NPS.

**Figure 4: Relative distribution of deaths by classification in NPS and CRCs, 2015/16**



Note: Caution should be used comparing percentages of apparent cause of death for CRCs and NPS due to the high proportion of deaths that are as yet unclassified.

### Post-release supervision

There were 296 deaths of offenders under post-release supervision in the community after a custodial sentence in 2015/16, representing 41% of all deaths of offenders in the community. Although in absolute terms these were evenly split between NPS and CRCs (150 and 146 deaths respectively), in relative terms these deaths under post-release supervision represented 30% of all deaths in the community while supervised by CRCs, but 64% of all deaths while supervised by the NPS. The sizeable increase, from 171 deaths in the previous financial year, corresponds with the introduction of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA).

The relative distributions of deaths by classification among deaths under post-release supervision in NPS and CRCs correspond closely to those seen in deaths of offenders in the community in general in 2015/16. These comparisons of distributions of death classifications for offenders on post-release supervision and offenders in the community in general have remained relatively similar across the time series. Natural cause deaths predominate for those supervised by NPS and self-inflicted death was the predominant classification of deaths in CRCs in both 2014/15 and 2015/16.

### Approved Premises

Approved Premises (formerly known as probation/bail hostels) provide accommodation for offenders on post-release supervision (released from prison on licence) and those directed by the courts to live there as a condition of their court order. Staff provide supervision, support and ensure that residents comply with conditions of their licence or court order. Some of the deaths while resident in Approved Premises occurred away from the premises.

There were 12 deaths of offenders with residence in Approved Premises in 2015/16. Deaths of offenders residing in Approved Premises account for 2% of all deaths of offenders in the community in general across the time series, ranging from 9 to 15 deaths a year since 2010/11. All deaths of offenders residing in Approved Premises across the time series were male, barring one female in 2012/13, who died of natural causes. With greater volatility due to low numbers, comparisons across time would not be meaningful.

## References

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO)

- Fatal Incident reports (<http://www.ppo.gov.uk/document/fii-report/>)
- Annual reports (<http://www.ppo.gov.uk/document/annual-reports/>)

World Health Organisation (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

- ICD 10 (<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en>)

Ministry of Justice/NOMS

- Prison and Probation Statistics (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/statistics>)

## List of tables and figures

This is a list of annual Deaths of Offenders in the Community Statistics tables and figures. Figures 1 to 4 are included in this document. The summary tables are available from the website<sup>12</sup>. All tables refer to incidents occurring to offenders in the community in England and Wales and for 2010/11 to 2015/16 unless stated otherwise.

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<b>Table description</b>	
<b>Deaths of Offenders in the Community – Summary tables</b>	
Table 1	Deaths of offenders in the community by gender and apparent cause
Table 2	Deaths of offenders in the community by gender and age band
Table 3	Deaths of offenders in the community by gender and ethnic group
Table 4	Deaths of offenders during post-release supervision in the community after a custodial sentence, by gender and apparent cause
Table 5	Deaths of offenders in the community by CRC, 2014/15 and 2015/16
Table 6	Deaths of offenders in the community by NPS Division, 2014/15 and 2015/16
Table 7	Deaths of offenders in the community by Probation Trust, 2010/11 to 2013/14
Table 8	Deaths of offenders in the community residing in Approved premises by apparent cause
<b>Deaths of Offenders in the Community – Figures</b>	
Figure 1	Death of offenders in the community and deaths occurring during post-release supervision
Figure 2	Number of offenders supervised by the probation service at the end period by type
Figure 3	Death of offenders in the community by apparent cause
Figure 4	Relative distribution of deaths by classification in NPS and CRCs, 2015/16

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/death-of-offenders-in-the-community>

## Glossary

<b>Approved Premises</b>	Approved premises (formerly known as probation and bail hostels) accommodate offenders released from prison on licence, offenders directed to live there as part of their sentence (such as a requirement of a community order) and those directed to live there by the courts as a condition of bail. Their purpose is to provide an enhanced level of residential supervision in the community, as well as a supportive and structured environment.
<b>Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)</b>	A series of organisations established on 1 June 2014, responsible for the delivery of offender management to medium and lower risk offenders in the community.
<b>Community Order</b>	Replaced all pre-Criminal Justice Act community sentences for adults. Under this order, a number of possible requirements must be added, such as supervision, unpaid work and drug treatment.
<b>Community Sentence</b>	This places the offender under the supervision of the probation service and there will be a range of requirements that must be completed.
<b>Licence</b>	The period in which a prisoner is released from prison to serve the remainder of their sentence in the community. Offenders subject to post-release licence are required to adhere to specific conditions as part of their licence. Conditions for offenders released from determinate sentences are set by the governor/controller (on behalf of the Secretary of State) from the releasing prison for determinate sentences. Where the sentence is indeterminate, licence conditions are set by the Parole Board.
<b>National Probation Service (NPS)</b>	An organisation established on 1 June 2014, responsible for the delivery of offender management to higher risk offenders in the community.
<b>Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 (ORA)</b>	An Act passed by parliament that made changes to the current legislative framework to support these reforms including ensuring offenders released from custodial sentences of over 1 day will be subject to spend a minimum of 12 months supervision in the community, and making available a new 'Rehabilitation Activity Requirement' as part of a community order or suspended sentence order.
<b>Post-release supervision</b>	Offenders released from prisons after completing their custodial sentence are subject to supervision in community. This consists of a period spent on licence, and, depending on the length of custodial sentence, a period on post-sentence supervision. Prior to the Offender Rehabilitation Act, the supervision period would just comprise of the licence period.

<b>Post-sentence supervision</b>	Provisions in the Offender Rehabilitation Act created a new supervision period to be served by offenders released from custodial sentences of more than 1 day but less than 2 years. The supervision period will follow the licence period, and tops up the licence so that the total period under supervision in the community is 12 months. For example, an offender subject to a licence period of 4 months would then be subject to a supervision period of 8 months. The purpose of the post-sentence supervision period is the rehabilitation of the offender. As with licence conditions, requirements under the supervision period are imposed by the Secretary of State.
<b>Probation Trusts</b>	Probation Trusts were organisations who managed the delivery of probation services to offenders prior to implementation of the Offender Rehabilitation Act. Probation Trusts ceased to exist on 31 May 2014
<b>Suspended sentence order</b>	A court may give an offender a 'suspended' prison sentence if the time they would otherwise spend in prison is under 12 months. The offender serve their sentence in the community and comply with conditions set out in the order made by the court. These conditions can last for up to two years. If the offender breaks these conditions, or commits another offence, they will usually have to serve the original sentence in prison in addition to the sentence they get for the new offence.

## **Categorisation of Deaths**

Each death has been classified as one of the following apparent causes, as allocated at the time of reporting based on information held and reported by the probation provider (NPS, CRC or Probation Trust) to NOMS:

<b>Accident</b>	Any death of a person arising from external causes, accidental overdose/poisoning and deaths where taking a drug contributed to a death but not in fatal amounts.
<b>Homicide</b>	Any death of a person at the hands of another (includes murder and manslaughter).
<b>Natural causes</b>	Any death of a person as a result of a naturally occurring disease process.
<b>Other</b>	Any death of a person whose death cannot easily be classified as natural causes, self-inflicted, accident or homicide. The cause of death may never be known even after all of the necessary investigations have taken place.

**Self-inflicted**

Any death of a person who has apparently taken his or her own life irrespective of intent.

**Unclassified**

Any death where there is insufficient information to make a judgement about the cause at the time of reporting.



## Data Sources and Data Quality

The data presented in this publication are drawn from manual returns collected annually from each National Probation Service (NPS) Division and each Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) for 2014/15 and 2015/16, and each Probation Trust prior to this time.

Information relating to deaths of offenders in the community is submitted by probation providers. Although it receives close scrutiny, and the data quality is considered to be fit for purpose, some subjectivity is involved in allocation of the apparent cause of death, based on information available at the time.

Death classification figures in this bulletin are based on reports received by probation staff and their interpretation of these reports. These, in many cases, may not be the confirmed cause of death, but represent the apparent cause of death at the time deaths were reported to NOMS. Because NOMS' responsibility for the majority of these figures is predominantly in relation to the termination of the court order or post-release supervision, further information pertaining to the death that may influence subjective assessments of the apparent cause of death may not be subsequently reported to NOMS. Therefore, while apparent cause of deaths in this bulletin reflects the classification made at the time of reporting, it may not reflect the final classification of deaths after inquest. Such reclassifications would not be expected to have a notable effect on reported trends.

Data on deaths of residents staying in Approved Premises may include those directed to reside there as part of their bail conditions. Where known, deaths of residents released on bail have been removed from the figures. Some deaths in Approved Premises occur away from the premises, as such it should not be inferred that all of such deaths were either directly supervised or occurring on the premises themselves.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the information collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as possible, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables.

## Explanatory notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to deaths of offenders in the community in England and Wales.

### Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

..	Not available
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	Not applicable
(p)	Provisional data
(r)	Revised data

## Contact points

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

**Kate Shaw**  
Performance and Analysis Group  
NOMS Agency  
Clive House  
70 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EX

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from <http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system>

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales. Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice>  
<http://www.sps.gov.uk/FreedomofInformation/PrisonerDeaths.aspx>  
<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm>

Alternative formats are available on request from [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)  
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