

Homicides England and Wales 2014-15

During the year ending March 2015, a total of 518⁽¹⁾ homicides were recorded in England and Wales, 331 males and 186 females. Persons under age 16 accounted for 54 of the total, 32 males and 22⁽¹⁾ females. Infants under 1 year old accounted for 25 of these homicides, giving the highest rate of 36 per million population of all age groups.

Of the 54 persons killed under age 16, the main suspect was family or friend in 35 cases (21 male and 14 female) and someone not acquainted in 18 cases (11 male and 7 female).

For the 299 adult males killed, the main suspects were stranger or not acquainted (149), friend or acquaintance (107), family member (34), and partner/ex-partner (19). In the case of the 165 adult female victims, the main suspects were partner/ex-partner (81), stranger or not acquainted (53), family member (18) and friend or acquaintance (13).

(1) Some larger totals do not tally due to 'rounding up'.

	Male	Female	Total	% Male
Total Homicides				
Under 1 yr	16	8	25	64
1-4	7	6	13	54
5-15	9	7	16	56
16-29	99	33	132	75
30-49	113	59	172	66
50-69	60	41	101	59
70+	27	32	59	46
Total All ages	331	186	518⁽¹⁾	64
Relationships				
Victim acquainted with suspect				
Son or daughter	20	13	33	61
Parent	12	13	25	48
Partner/ex-partner	19	81	100	19
Other family	13	5	18	72
Friend/acquaintance	107	14	121	88
Total known	171	126	297	58
Not acquainted with suspect				
Stranger	104	22	126	83
No suspect	56	38	95	59
Total not known	160	60	221	72
Total	331	186	518⁽¹⁾	64
Location of Homicide				
Residential				
House, dwelling	152	137	289	53
Residential home	9	15	24	38
Total	161	152	313	51
Public places				
Licensed premises	23	1	24	96
Street, footpath, alleyway	82	14	96	85
Open outdoor area	29	4	33	88
Other	14	8	22	64
Total	148	27	175	85
Other	19	6	25	76
Unknown	3	1	5 ⁽¹⁾	60
Total	331	186	518⁽¹⁾	64

Homicides in England and Wales 2014 - 15

Method of killing				
Sharp instrument	116	70	186	62
Blunt instrument	27	15	42	64
Hitting, kicking, etc	83	12	95	87
Strangulation, asphyxiation	19	34	53	36
Shooting	17	4	21	81
Explosion	1	0	1	100
Burning	8	3	11	73
Drowning	3	0	3	100
Poison or drugs	14	13	27	52
Motor vehicle	9	0	9	100-
Other	23	18	41	56
Not known	11	17	29	38
Total	331	186	518⁽¹⁾	64

Source: ONS 11 Feb 16: Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences –year ending March 2015. Appendix Tables 2.03, 2.04a, 2.05a and 2.09a

A sharp instrument was the most likely weapon, followed by hitting/kicking, strangulation, and a blunt instrument. Residential accommodation was a likely location for both sexes, although males were also much more likely than females to be killed in public places, such as the street.

Of the total of 295⁽¹⁾ persons indicted for homicide in the period (266 males and 27 females), 223⁽¹⁾ were convicted (208 males and 14 females).

	Male	Female	Total	% Male
Indictment and Outcome				
Indictment				
Murder	206	18	224	92
Manslaughter	60	9	71 ⁽¹⁾	85
Infanticide	-	0	0	-
Total indicted	266	27	295⁽¹⁾	90
Outcome				
Not convicted of homicide				
Not tried – remain on file	0	0	0	-
Found unfit to plead	0	0	0	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	1	0	1	100
Convicted of lesser offence	11	1	13	85
Acquitted on all counts	30	8	38	79
Committed suicide or died	6	1	7	86
Total not convicted	48	10	59⁽¹⁾	81
Convicted of homicide				
Murder	124	4	128	97
Sectn 2 manslaughter	14	2	16	88
Other manslaughter	70	8	79 ⁽¹⁾	89
Infanticide	-	0	0	-
Total convicted of homicide	208	14	223⁽¹⁾	93
Total Outcome	256	24	282⁽¹⁾	91

Source: ONS 11 Feb 16: Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences - year ending March 2015. Appendix Tables 2.16 and 2.17a

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