

DEATHS REPORTED TO CORONERS

England and Wales, 2000

7/01

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MAIN POINTS

- 201,000 deaths were reported to coroners in 2000, almost the same number as in 1999, despite a fall by 15,700 in the number of registered deaths between 1999 and 2000 (*paragraph 2*)
- The proportion of all registered deaths reported to coroners rose by one percentage point to 37 per cent in 2000 (*paragraph 2*)
- Post-mortem examinations as a proportion of deaths reported fell slightly to just below 62 per cent in 2000 in line with the long-term downward trend (*paragraph 3*)
- Inquests were held on just under 24,900 deaths, representing over 12 per cent of all deaths reported to coroners (*paragraph 4*)
- As in previous years, the most common verdicts returned at inquests were deaths by accident or misadventure (42 per cent), natural causes (16 per cent) and suicide (16 per cent) (*paragraph 6*)
- Verdicts of death from drug misuse, and industrial diseases both rose in 2000, as did those for accident and misadventure, and natural causes (*paragraphs 5-7*)

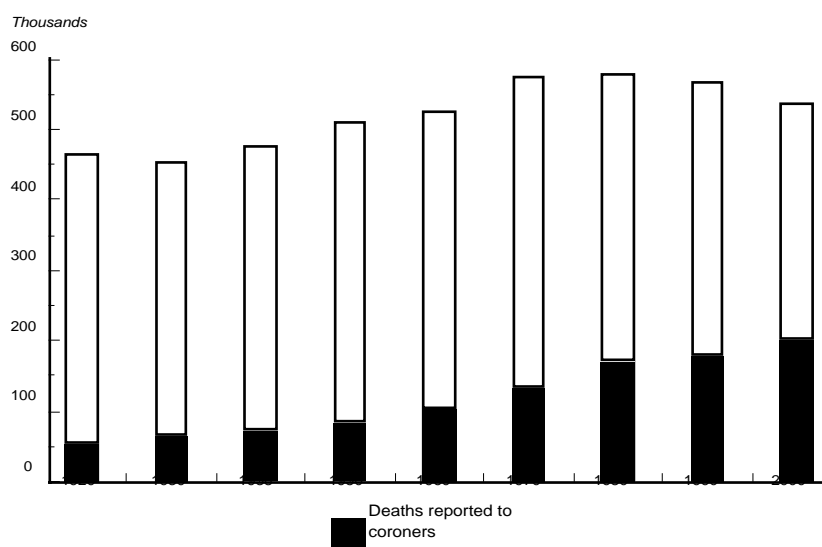


Figure 1: Registered deaths, and deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1920-2000

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Introduction

1. This bulletin presents statistics of deaths reported to coroners in England and Wales in 2000 in accordance with section 28 of the Coroners Act 1988. Information is provided on deaths reported to coroners, post-mortem examinations and inquests held, and verdicts returned at inquests.

Deaths reported (Tables 1, 3 and 4, figure 2)

2. The long-term trend in the number of deaths reported to coroners continues upwards (see figure 2 and table 3 below); although the number of registered deaths in England and Wales in 2000 fell by 15,700 (2.8 per cent) from the previous year, the number of deaths reported to coroners remained almost static at just over 200,000, and as a result the proportion of all registered deaths which were reported to coroners rose by one percentage point to over 37 per cent. The long-term upward trend in the number of deaths reported to coroners is probably due in part to the growing use over at least the last twenty years of deputising services by general practitioners. In these cases the doctor attending at or after death cannot legally give a medical certificate showing the cause of death.

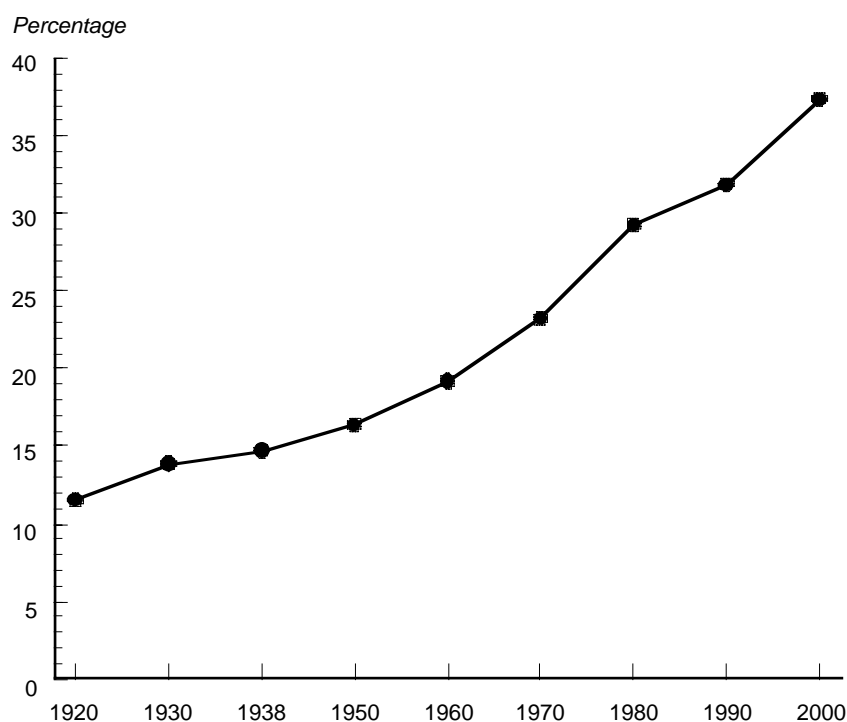


Figure 2: Deaths reported to coroners as a percentage of registered deaths, England and Wales, 1920-2000

Post-mortem examinations (Tables 1 and 4, figure 3)

3. Of the total deaths reported in 2000, post-mortem examinations were ordered by coroners in 124,500 cases, 200 fewer than in 1999. Other than 1997 and 1998 this was the lowest since 1971. In total, post-mortems were carried out on 62 per cent of deaths reported to coroners in 2000, the same proportion as in 1999. This proportion has been declining slowly since the 1970s when it was about 88 per cent. Post-mortem examinations were

carried out in nearly all deaths where inquests were held, as well as for 57 per cent of deaths reported where there was no inquest; again the same proportions as in 1999. In 2000 there were about 76,000 deaths where there was neither an inquest nor a post-mortem. This is only very slightly fewer than in 1999 and is in line with a steady increase in recent years, compared with 47,600 ten years earlier.

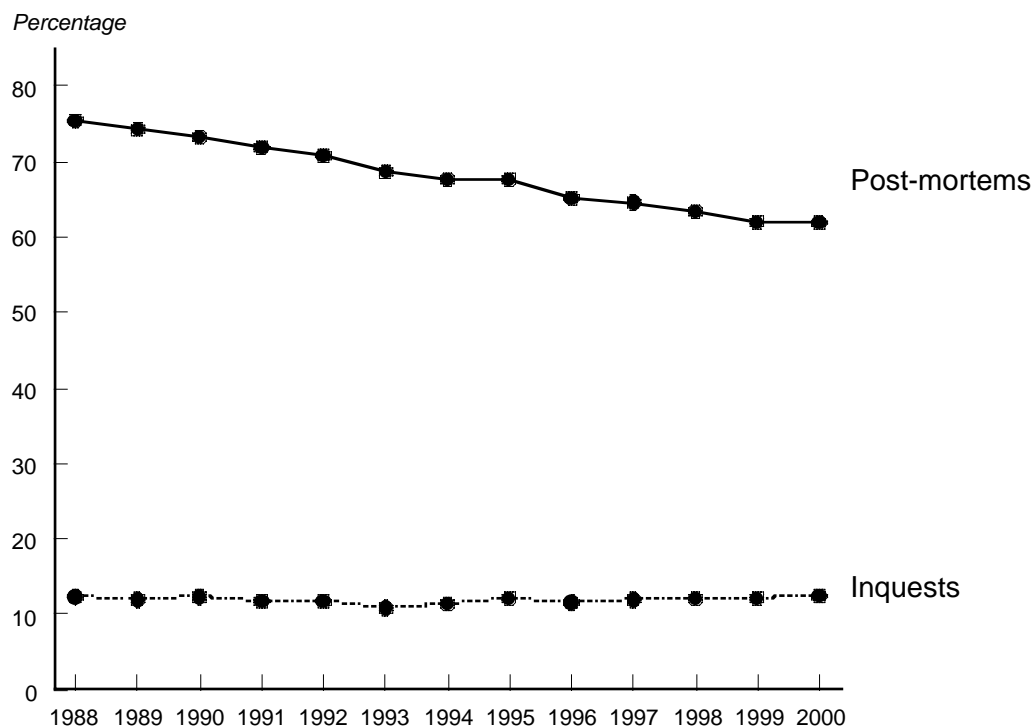


Figure 3: Post-mortems and inquests as a percentage of deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1988-2000

Inquests (Tables 1, 3 and 4, figure 3)

4. Inquests were held on 24,900 deaths reported to coroners in 2000, 500 more than in 1999 and the highest for about thirty years. Inquests were held for over 12 per cent of deaths reported to coroners in 2000, a slightly higher proportion than in 1999. This proportion was declining until the early 1990s but the trend has reversed and the proportion of such deaths has been creeping slowly upwards in recent years.

Verdicts (Tables 2, 5 and 6, figures 4 to 6)

5. Verdicts were returned at over 23,100 inquests in 2000, 900 more than in 1999, which reflects the upturn in inquests held. There were rises in most categories, including deaths from industrial disease (up 300 to 2,600), drug-related deaths (up 30 to 600), and accidents (up 200 to 9,800). The largest rise was in verdicts of natural causes, up 350 to 3,600, the highest for at least thirty years. Other categories of verdict, including suicide (down 70 to 3,630) recorded slight falls.

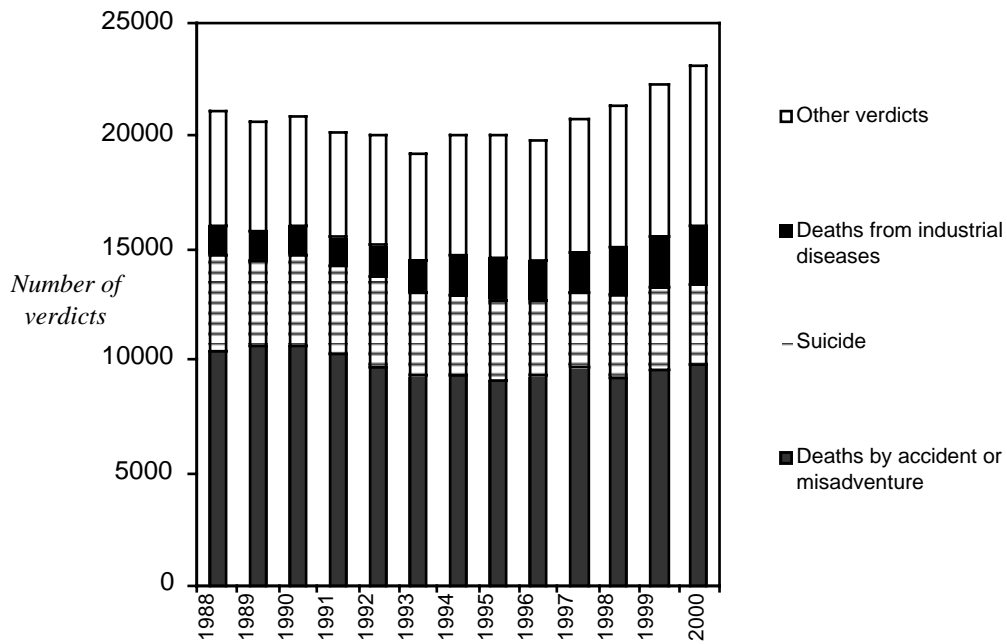


Figure 4: Verdicts returned at inquests, England and Wales, 1988-2000

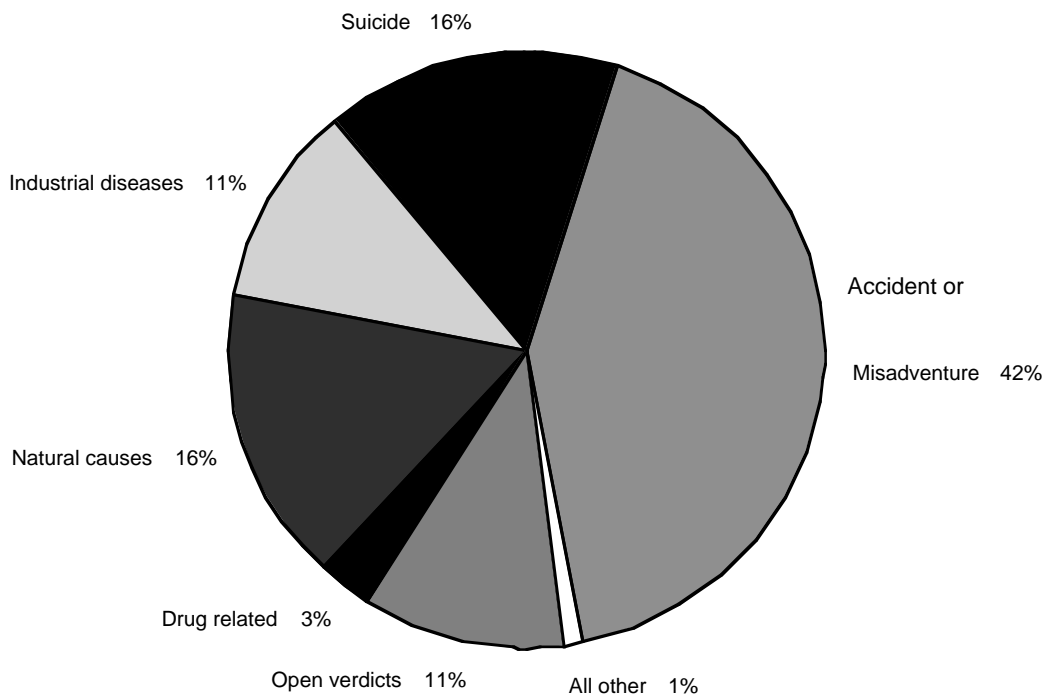


Figure 5: Verdicts returned at inquests, England and Wales, 2000

6. As in previous years the most common verdicts in 2000 were death by accident or misadventure (9,800, 42 per cent), natural causes (3,600, 16 per cent) and suicide (3,600, 16 per cent). The proportion of verdicts of death from industrial diseases has risen in the last ten years from 6 per cent in 1990 to 11 per cent in 2000 (2,600 verdicts). Verdicts of death from drugs (dependence on, or non-dependent abuse of drugs) also increased, to 600 compared with 400 in 1997 and 300 in 1995.

7. By sex the picture by cause of death is slightly different, with males (as in previous years) making up around 71 per cent of all verdicts but 96 per cent of verdicts of death from industrial disease, 76 per cent of verdicts of suicide and 86 per cent of verdicts of death from drugs. For females, the second most common verdict after death by accident or misadventure (52 per cent of all female verdicts) was death from natural causes (19 per cent).

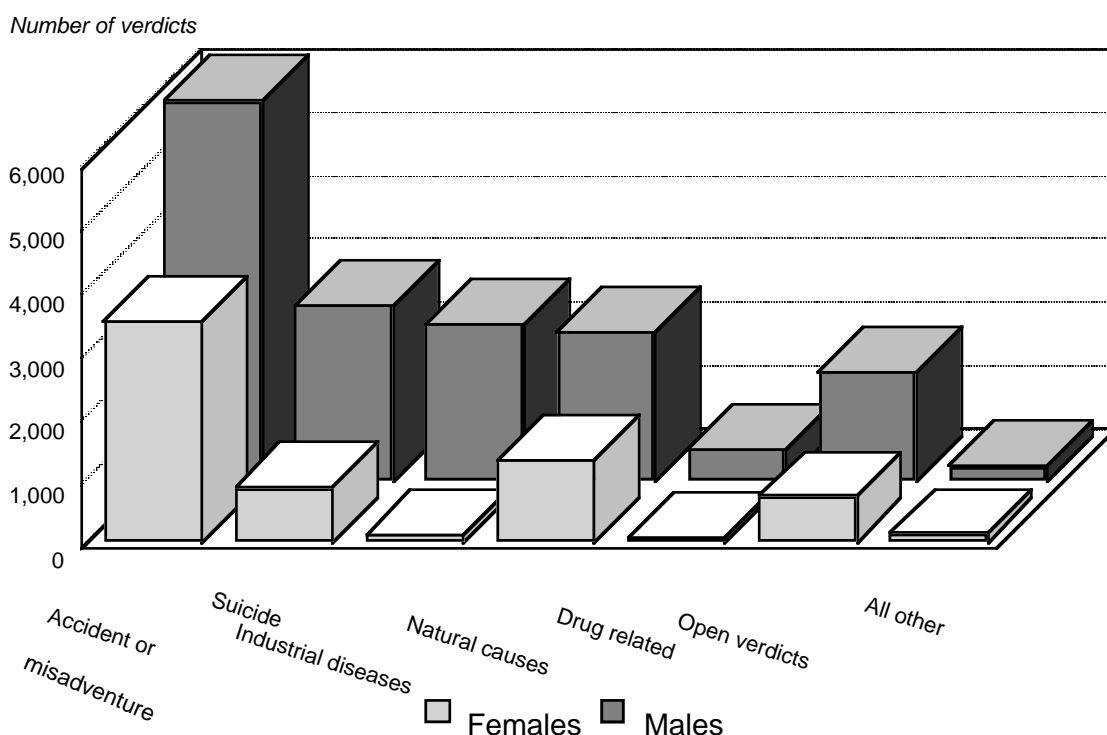


Figure 6: Number of verdicts returned at inquests, by sex, England and Wales, 2000

8. As in previous years, the overwhelming majority (23,200 or 97 per cent) of inquests in 2000 were held without juries. The number of inquests held with juries in 2000 was around 820, similar to 1999. Around 980 inquests were adjourned by the coroner and not resumed, somewhat more than in recent years.

9. On 24 September 1997, the Treasure Act 1996 came into force and replaced the common law of Treasure Trove in England and Wales. The 1996 Act introduced new requirements for reporting and dealing with finds, not all of which will need to be the subject of an inquest. In 2000, 210 finds were reported; 240 inquests were held, at about half of which a verdict of treasure was returned. The number of inquests into treasure trove will eventually fall away to zero, but there were 17 during 2000. (See note 4 on page 13).

Table 1: Deaths reported to Coroners, 2000

England and Wales	Number of deaths		
	Males	Females	Total
Inquest held:			
with post-mortem	17,010	7,107	24,117
without post-mortem	422	318	740
Total	17,432	7,425	24,857
No inquest held:			
with post-mortem	55,542	44,877	100,419
without post-mortem	36,152	39,818	75,970
Total	91,694	84,695	176,389
Total deaths reported to Coroners	109,126	92,120	201,246

Table 2: Verdicts returned at inquests, 2000

England and Wales	Number of verdicts			
	Males	Females	Total	Number per 10,000 registered deaths
Homicide, of which:				
killed unlawfully	114	64	178	3.3
killed lawfully	3	1	4	0.1
Suicide	2,772	854	3,626	67.4
Attempted or self-induced abortion	0	0	0	0.0
Cause of death aggravated by lack of care or self neglect	16	17	33	0.6
Dependence on drugs	281	42	323	6.0
Non-dependent abuse of drugs	242	40	282	5.2
Want of attention at birth	3	1	4	0.1
Death from industrial diseases	2,490	101	2,591	48.2
Death by accident or misadventure	6,333	3,463	9,796	182.1
Stillborn	1	3	4	0.1
Deaths from natural causes	2,359	1,283	3,642	67.7
Open verdicts	1,728	721	2,449	45.5
Disasters	0	0	0	0.0
All other verdicts	112	44	156	2.9
Total	16,454	6,634	23,088	429.3

Table 3: Registered deaths, deaths reported to Coroners, and inquests held, 1920-2000

England and Wales		Thousands and percentages			
Year	Registered deaths (thousands)	Deaths reported to Coroners		Inquests held	
		Number (thousands)	As a percentage of registered deaths	Number (thousands)	As a percentage of reported deaths
1920	466.1	53.7	11.5	31.5	58.7
1930	455.4	63.2	13.9	31.7	50.2
1938 ⁽¹⁾	479.0	70.6	14.7	31.5	44.6
1950	510.3	83.6	16.4	25.8	30.9
1960	526.3	101.1	19.2	26.3	26.0
1970	575.2	133.4	23.2	24.9	18.6
1979	593.0	171.3	28.9	23.8	13.9
1980	581.4	170.2	29.3	23.1	13.6
1981	577.9	173.6	30.0	22.9	13.2
1982	581.9	174.3	30.0	23.0	13.2
1983	579.6	177.2	30.6	22.9	12.9
1984	566.9	174.7	30.8	22.4	12.8
1985	590.7	182.1	30.8	22.5	12.3
1986	581.2	181.3	31.2	22.2	12.3
1987	567.0	175.8	31.0	22.0	12.5
1988	571.4	178.1	31.2	21.9	12.3
1989	576.9	182.8	31.7	21.7	11.9
1990	564.8	180.1	31.9	22.1	12.3
1991	570.0	181.6	31.9	21.3	11.7
1992	558.3	179.3	32.1	20.9	11.7
1993	578.2	188.3	32.6	20.4	10.8
1994	551.5	185.0	33.5	20.8	11.3
1995	565.9	186.6	33.0	22.7	12.1
1996	563.0	193.6	34.4	22.3	11.5
1997	558.1	190.3	34.1	22.7	11.9
1998	553.4	196.2	35.4	23.6	12.0
1999	553.5	201.3	36.4	24.4	12.1
2000	537.8 ⁽²⁾	201.2	37.4	25.0	12.4

(1) Data were not available for 1940.

(2) Provisional.

Table 4: Deaths reported to Coroners and post-mortem examinations and inquests held, 1988-2000

England and Wales													Thousands and percentages	
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
<u>Deaths reported to Coroners</u>														
<u>Inquest held</u>														
With post-mortem	21.5	21.3	21.7	20.9	20.5	20.0	20.5	22.2	21.9	22.3	23.1	23.9	24.1	
Without post-mortem	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	
<u>No inquest held</u>														
With post-mortem	113	114.5	110.3	109.6	106.4	109.2	104.7	104.2	104.3	100.7	100.7	100.9	100.4	
Without post-mortem	43.2	46.6	47.6	50.7	51.9	58.7	59.5	59.8	67.0	67.0	71.4	76.1	76.0	
Total deaths reported	178.1	182.8	180.1	181.6	179.3	188.3	185.0	186.6	193.6	190.3	196.1	201.3	201.2	
<u>Post-mortem examinations held</u>														
Total post-mortem examinations held	134.5	135.8	132.1	130.5	126.9	129.1	125.2	126.4	126.2	123.0	124.4	124.8	124.5	
Percentage of deaths reported	75.5	74.3	73.3	71.9	70.8	68.6	67.7	67.7	65.2	64.6	63.4	62.0	61.9	
<u>Inquests held</u>														
Total inquests held	21.9	21.7	22.1	21.3	21.0	20.4	20.8	22.7	22.3	22.7	23.6	24.4	24.9	
Percentage of deaths reported	12.3	11.9	12.3	11.7	11.7	10.8	11.3	12.1	11.5	11.9	12.0	12.1	12.4	

Table 5: Verdicts returned at inquests, 1988-2000

England and Wales												Number of verdicts	
Verdict	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Homicide, of which:													
killed unlawfully	147	133	165	162	177	143	162	217 ⁽¹⁾	169	165	142	165	178
killed lawfully	3	2	1	13	11	1	4	6	1	2	3	2	4
Suicide	4,242	3,757	3,977	3,838	3,991	3,740	3,537	3,579	3,399	3,355	3,756	3,697	3,626
Attempted or self-induced abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cause of death aggravated by lack of care or self neglect	51	47	37	55	47	53	58	35	59	59	47	44	33
Dependence on drugs ⁽²⁾	68	81	70	81	121	108	124	139	156	177	258	289	323
Non-dependent abuse of drugs ⁽²⁾	63	60	83	78	112	84	131	162	199	220	237	284	282
Want of attention at birth	11	12	8	12	4	6	6	9	5	4	5	1	4
Death from industrial diseases	1,345	1,314	1,342	1,347	1,372	1,460	1,839	1,878	1,784	1,836	2,091	2,284	2,591
Death by accident or misadventure	10,479	10,692	10,711	10,303	9,774	9,273	9,347	9,142	9,286	9,646	9,199	9,558	9,796
Stillborn	7	6	10	5	4	5	1	8	6	6	12	4	4
Deaths from natural causes	2,192	2,020	2,032	1,952	2,085	2,138	2,388	2,483	2,498	2,756	2,852	3,286	3,642
Open verdicts	2,379	2,424	2,394	2,260	2,178	2,112	2,221	2,257	2,151	2,319	2,571	2,497	2,449
Disasters													-
All other verdicts	69	81	86	123	154	105	162	136	142	154	160	119	156
Total	21,056	20,629	20,916	20,229	20,030	19,228	19,980	20,051	19,855	20,699	21,333	22,230	23,088

(1) Includes 48 inquests arising from the Marchioness pleasure boat accident

Table 6: Inquests held, by type of inquest, 1988-2000

England and Wales											Number of inquests		
Type of inquest	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Verdicts returned	21,056	20,629	20,916	20,229	20,030	19,228	19,980	20,051	19,855	20,699	21,333	22,230	23,088
Ajourned - not resumed	895	1,028	1,070	1,009	872	899	837	899	892	849	836	762	979
Total	21,951	21,657	21,986	21,238	20,902	20,127	20,817 ⁽¹⁾	20,950	20,747	21,548	22,169	22,992	24,067
Of which:													
with juries	1,331	1,111	1,283	1,018	922	1,051	878	868	903	774	1,007	819	824
without juries	20,620	20,546	20,703	20,220	19,980	19,076	19,935	20,083	19,844	20,770	20,768	22,161	23,231
Inquests held on treasure trove	44	54	63	60	38	40	59	66	45	35	25	62	17
Treasure Act 1996:													
Number of finds reported	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	147	170	213
Number of inquests concluded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	53	90	236
Verdicts of treasure returned	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	42	86	123
Inquests held by order of the High Court	2	3	2	6	1	-	-	50 ⁽²⁾	7	3	2	0	1
Inquisitions quashed or amended by the High Court	3	1	2	2	2	3	6	2	1	2	0	2	1
Exhumations ordered by the Coroner	12	4	3	5	2	5	4	4	3	1	5	2	7

(1) Includes 4 inquests in 1994 for which information about juries is not known.

(2) Includes 48 inquests arising from the Marchioness pleasure boat accident.

Table 7: Inquests and post-mortems, by jurisdiction, 2000

County & District	Deaths where there was no inquest				Deaths where an inquest was held				TOTAL
	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total no inquest	% no inquest	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total inquests	% inquests	
The Royal Household	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0
ENGLAND									
AVON	1,464	2,585	4,049	90%	9	441	450	10%	4,499
BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON	900	712	1,612	90%	12	165	177	10%	1,789
BERKSHIRE									
EAST BERKSHIRE	451	673	1,124	89%	0	134	134	11%	1,258
READING	456	389	845	88%	9	111	120	12%	965
WEST BERKSHIRE	101	86	187	84%	0	35	35	16%	222
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE									
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	636	618	1,254	87%	5	181	186	13%	1,440
CAMBRIDGESHIRE									
NORTH AND EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	8	252	260	72%	0	100	100	28%	360
SOUTH AND WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	659	759	1,418	88%	7	190	197	12%	1,615
PETERBOROUGH	403	288	691	89%	1	84	85	11%	776
CHESHIRE	1,846	1,882	3,728	89%	8	472	480	11%	4,208
CORNWALL									
EAST CORNWALL	134	599	733	88%	1	95	96	12%	829
WEST CORNWALL	520	965	1,485	93%	1	114	115	7%	1,600
ISLES OF SCILLY	6	2	8	100%	0	0	0	0%	8
CUMBRIA									
FURNESS	146	288	434	80%	0	107	107	20%	541
NORTH EAST CUMBRIA	150	477	627	85%	0	107	107	15%	734
SOUTHERN CUMBRIA	40	199	239	86%	0	40	40	14%	279
WESTERN CUMBRIA	186	285	471	89%	2	57	59	11%	530
DERBYSHIRE									
DERBY AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE	301	1,046	1,347	84%	1	262	263	16%	1,610
HIGH PEAK	52	181	233	81%	0	56	56	19%	289
SCARSDALE	810	530	1,340	87%	0	207	207	13%	1,547
DEVON									
EXETER AND GREATER DEVON	1,217	1,203	2,420	90%	7	253	260	10%	2,680
PLYMOUTH AND SOUTH WEST DEVON	613	841	1,454	90%	0	167	167	10%	1,621
TORBAY AND SOUTH DEVON	634	557	1,191	90%	0	139	139	10%	1,330
DORSET									
BOURNEMOUTH POOLE AND EASTERN DORSET	1,283	795	2,078	93%	3	144	147	7%	2,225
WESTERN DORSET	431	537	968	93%	2	73	75	7%	1,043
DURHAM									
DARLINGTON AND SOUTH DURHAM	134	787	921	91%	0	95	95	9%	1,016
NORTH DURHAM	96	733	829	87%	1	128	129	13%	958
EAST RIDING AND HULL	1,818	705	2,523	93%	7	180	187	7%	2,710
ESSEX									
NO. 1 DISTRICT ESSEX	983	1,509	2,492	86%	15	388	403	14%	2,895
NO. 2 DISTRICT OF ESSEX / SOUTHEND	125	716	841	88%	4	109	113	12%	954
GLOUCESTERSHIRE									
CHELTENHAM AND COTSWOLDS	338	437	775	89%	3	90	93	11%	868
GLOUCESTER	129	490	619	84%	1	118	119	16%	738
GREATER MANCHESTER									
MANCHESTER	704	1,463	2,167	84%	20	401	421	16%	2,588
MANCHESTER NORTH	178	1,096	1,274	84%	5	229	234	16%	1,508
MANCHESTER SOUTH	636	1,804	2,440	86%	13	391	404	14%	2,844
MANCHESTER WEST	170	1,226	1,396	84%	7	250	257	16%	1,653
HAMPSHIRE									
CENTRAL HAMPSHIRE	301	485	786	82%	1	166	167	18%	953
NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE	297	575	872	88%	1	121	122	12%	994
PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE	1,355	949	2,304	95%	1	119	120	5%	2,424
SOUTHAMPTON AND NEW FOREST	739	1,136	1,875	92%	2	160	162	8%	2,037
HARTLEPOOL	258	138	396	90%	0	45	45	10%	441
HEREFORD AND WORCESTER									
HEREFORDSHIRE	353	220	573	90%	2	65	67	10%	640
WORCESTERSHIRE	738	995	1,733	88%	47	193	240	12%	1,973
HERTFORDSHIRE									
HERTFORD	71	166	237	86%	1	36	37	14%	274
HITCHIN	176	704	880	89%	5	103	108	11%	988
ST. ALBANS / WATFORD	683	855	1,538	89%	5	181	186	11%	1,724
ISLE OF WIGHT	270	451	721	92%	1	62	63	8%	784
KENT									
ASHFORD / SHEPWAY	288	552	840	88%	5	108	113	12%	953
EAST KENT	674	702	1,376	86%	0	223	223	14%	1,599
MID KENT AND MEDWAY	783	1,212	1,995	92%	5	173	178	8%	2,173
THANET	171	559	730	93%	0	57	57	7%	787
NORTH WEST KENT	567	1,074	1,641	91%	1	164	165	9%	1,806

Table 7: Inquests and post-mortems, by jurisdiction, 2000

County & District	Deaths where there was no inquest				Deaths where an inquest was held				TOTAL
	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total no inquest	% no inquest	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total inquests	% inquests	
LANCASHIRE									
BLACKBURN, HINDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY	976	452	1,428	90%	6	149	155	10%	1,583
BLACKPOOL / FYLDE	641	1,081	1,722	92%	2	141	143	8%	1,865
EAST LANCASHIRE	73	593	666	86%	0	107	107	14%	773
NORTH LANCASHIRE	426	530	956	99%	0	14	14	1%	970
PRESTON AND SOUTH WEST LANCASHIRE	271	1,374	1,645	89%	4	206	210	11%	1,855
LEICESTERSHIRE									
LEICESTER CITY AND SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE	285	738	1,023	71%	22	398	420	29%	1,443
RUTLAND AND NORTH LEICESTERSHIRE	101	415	516	80%	6	122	128	20%	644
LINCOLNSHIRE									
BOSTON AND SPALDING	521	231	752	94%	0	46	46	6%	798
GRANTHAM	168	125	293	92%	0	26	26	8%	319
LINCOLN	545	371	916	91%	1	89	90	9%	1,006
LOUTH	108	143	251	90%	0	27	27	10%	278
SLEAFORD	10	76	86	84%	0	16	16	16%	102
SPILSBY	77	126	203	88%	0	28	28	12%	231
STAMFORD	37	86	123	84%	2	21	23	16%	146
LONDON									
CITY OF LONDON	70	48	118	83%	4	20	24	17%	142
EAST LONDON	651	2,025	2,676	89%	7	336	343	11%	3,019
INNER NORTH LONDON*	1,885	1,308	3,193	84%	0	587	587	16%	3,780
INNER SOUTH LONDON	910	2,441	3,351	87%	1	497	498	13%	3,849
INNER WEST LONDON	1,329	1,061	2,390	86%	23	352	375	14%	2,765
NORTH LONDON	1,433	1,789	3,222	87%	16	475	491	13%	3,713
SOUTH LONDON	1,890	1,951	3,841	93%	18	274	292	7%	4,133
WEST LONDON	1,227	2,026	3,253	84%	6	615	621	16%	3,874
MERSEYSIDE									
SEFTON, KNOWSLEY AND ST. HELENS	1,695	706	2,401	92%	0	206	206	8%	2,607
LIVERPOOL	1,613	908	2,521	84%	72	393	465	16%	2,986
WIRRAL	970	351	1,321	90%	0	140	140	10%	1,461
MILTON KEYNES									
	184	330	514	84%	18	81	99	16%	613
NORFOLK									
DEREHAM	38	151	189	82%	1	41	42	18%	231
DISS	13	113	126	84%	0	24	24	16%	150
GREAT YARMOUTH	34	348	382	91%	0	40	40	9%	422
NORWICH AND DISTRICT	202	570	772	82%	2	165	167	18%	939
KING'S LYNN	104	372	476	89%	2	55	57	11%	533
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND GRIMSBY									
	486	182	668	80%	0	167	167	20%	835
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE									
	849	1,005	1,854	88%	3	242	245	12%	2,099
NORTHUMBERLAND									
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND	127	461	588	90%	0	65	65	10%	653
SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND	6	347	353	84%	0	69	69	16%	422
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE									
	3,468	1,691	5,159	91%	2	534	536	9%	5,695
OXFORDSHIRE									
	647	693	1,340	85%	1	233	234	15%	1,574
SHROPSHIRE									
MID AND NORTH SHROPSHIRE	210	574	784	89%	2	93	95	11%	879
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE	53	130	183	83%	0	37	37	17%	220
THE WREKIN	168	397	565	90%	0	64	64	10%	629
SOMERSET									
EASTERN SOMERSET	192	608	800	89%	1	96	97	11%	897
WESTERN SOMERSET	480	462	942	91%	1	87	88	9%	1,030
STAFFORDSHIRE									
STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH	598	875	1,473	84%	6	285	291	16%	1,764
STOKE-ON-TRENT AND NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE	2,056	1,170	3,226	89%	0	394	394	11%	3,620
SUFFOLK									
IPSWICH	108	687	795	88%	6	103	109	12%	904
LOWESTOFT	3	248	251	77%	0	73	73	23%	324
WEST SUFFOLK	93	379	472	72%	61	124	185	28%	657
SURREY									
	564	2,083	2,647	88%	8	346	354	12%	3,001
SUSSEX									
BRIGHTON AND HOVE	533	692	1,225	87%	2	182	184	13%	1,409
EAST SUSSEX	715	1,303	2,018	89%	3	236	239	11%	2,257
WEST SUSSEX	231	1,815	2,046	87%	0	319	319	13%	2,365
TEESIDE									
	1,229	819	2,048	89%	0	256	256	11%	2,304
TYNE AND WEAR									
GATESHEAD AND SOUTH TYNESIDE	362	855	1,217	91%	1	122	123	9%	1,340
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	576	878	1,454	86%	2	225	227	14%	1,681
NORTH TYNESIDE	15	432	447	59%	5	304	309	41%	756
SUNDERLAND	540	492	1,032	88%	0	139	139	12%	1,171

Table 7: Inquests and post-mortems, by jurisdiction, 2000

County & District	Deaths where there was no inquest				Deaths where an inquest was held				TOTAL
	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total no inquest	% no inquest	No post-mortem	With post-mortem	Total inquests	% inquests	
WARWICKSHIRE	157	854	1,011	81%	3	240	243	19%	1,254
WEST MIDLANDS									
BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL	2,271	2,367	4,638	88%	79	539	618	12%	5,256
COVENTRY	732	720	1,452	91%	6	131	137	9%	1,589
DUDLEY	849	504	1,353	94%	14	76	90	6%	1,443
SANDWELL	582	403	985	90%	0	104	104	10%	1,089
WALSALL	338	409	747	86%	25	92	117	14%	864
WOLVERHAMPTON	133	460	593	84%	15	102	117	16%	710
WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON	295	1,045	1,340	87%	7	193	200	13%	1,540
YORK CITY	310	537	847	94%	0	53	53	6%	900
YORKSHIRE									
NORTH YORKSHIRE EASTERN DISTRICT	345	596	941	90%	1	107	108	10%	1,049
NORTH YORKSHIRE WESTERN DISTRICT	430	397	827	87%	8	112	120	13%	947
SOUTH YORKSHIRE EASTERN DISTRICT	376	1,621	1,997	85%	1	346	347	15%	2,344
SOUTH YORKSHIRE WESTERN DISTRICT	2,040	1,485	3,525	89%	4	434	438	11%	3,963
WEST YORKSHIRE EASTERN DISTRICT	1,723	1,534	3,257	84%	13	629	642	16%	3,899
WEST YORKSHIRE WESTERN DISTRICT	1,198	1,353	2,551	86%	8	422	430	14%	2,981
WALES									
BRIDGEND AND GLAMORGAN VALLEYS	1,151	995	2,146	85%	5	371	376	15%	2,522
CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN	832	660	1,492	80%	3	359	362	20%	1,854
CARMARTHENSHIRE	268	405	673	81%	0	156	156	19%	829
CENTRAL NORTH WALES	507	559	1,066	86%	3	175	178	14%	1,244
CEREDIGION	23	176	199	87%	0	30	30	13%	229
GWENT	469	675	1,144	82%	0	247	247	18%	1,391
NEATH AND PORT TALBOT	138	303	441	87%	0	64	64	13%	505
NORTH EAST WALES	386	521	907	81%	4	214	218	19%	1,125
NORTH WEST WALES	339	449	788	86%	0	128	128	14%	916
PEMBROKESHIRE	228	177	405	85%	1	69	70	15%	475
POWYS	124	118	242	83%	1	47	48	17%	290
CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA	448	491	939	90%	1	102	103	10%	1,042
TOTAL ENGLAND AND WALES	75,970	100,419	176,389	88%	740	24,117	24,857	12%	201,246

* The figures for Inner North London are estimates based on the previous three years' returns.

NOTES

1. In England and Wales, all violent and unnatural deaths, and deaths the causes of which are either unknown or are in serious doubt, and all deaths of persons in custody, are reported to coroners. The coroner's investigation is most often concluded without an inquest being held, usually after a post-mortem has enabled the coroner to determine the medical cause of death and to establish that the death was not one on which he is required by law to hold an inquest. In addition to those cases in which he is required by law to hold an inquest, the coroner will proceed to an inquest if after the initial investigation it appears that the death was not due to natural causes. The holding of an inquest requires the coroner not only to ascertain the medical cause of death but to determine how, when, and where the deceased came by his or her death, and to ascertain the particulars necessary to enable the death to be registered.

2. Verdicts are returned in nearly all coroners' inquests. The exceptions are those inquests adjourned by the coroner which he or she later decides not to resume, and are mainly inquests into deaths by unlawful killing and deaths by dangerous driving or careless driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in which court proceedings have been instituted. This avoids the need for two tribunals to consider the same evidence.

3. Other post-mortem examinations are held which are not ordered by the coroner. Details of these are collected by the Office for National Statistics and information about them can be obtained by writing to: ONS, Medical Statistics Division, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1P 2QQ.

4. In addition to inquiring into certain deaths, H.M. Coroners also have jurisdiction to inquire into any treasure which is found in their districts and to establish who were the finders. With the commencement of the Treasure Act 1996 on 24 September 1997 inquests into finds which previously might have resulted in a verdict of Treasure Trove are supplemented by those now conducted to determine whether finds made on or after that date are Treasure.

5. The following symbols are used in the tables:

- * = not applicable
- .. = not available
- = nil or less than a specified amount

6. The number of deaths reported to coroners and the outcome of the enquiries into those deaths are recorded in annual returns submitted to the Home Office, which has published statistical bulletins on these returns since 1980.

7. This bulletin was prepared by Richard Allen of the Social and regulatory statistics section of the Immigration and Community Unit of the Research Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office. We should also like to acknowledge all the hard work done by Elizabeth Braines, Nigel Poulter, Monique Sy-yan and Vivienne Murray of the Data Collection Group in collecting and assembling the information in the tables. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin you should contact either Richard Allen or Adrian Smith, Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate, Room 260a, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (Telephone 020 7273 3453).

email: richard.allen2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or adrian.smith2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

8. Further copies of this and previous bulletins, or other Home Office statistical bulletins may be obtained from:

Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate, Room 275, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (Telephone 020 7273 2084) email: publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be made to: Home Office Press Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (Telephone 020 7273 4640)

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Therefore RDS exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of Home Office's purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with the information necessary for informed debate and to publish the information for future use.
