



Institute For
Addressing
Strangulation

Strangulation and Suffocation Offences: June 2022 – June 2023

An Analysis of Police Report Data



Lead Author: Harriet Smailes, IFAS
Published: February 2024

Contents

Introduction	1
Offences by Police Force Area	2
Victim Demographics	3
Victim Age	
Victim Sex	
Victim Ethnicity	
Suspect Demographics	6
Suspect Age	
Suspect Sex	
Cases by Relationship	7
Intimate Partner	
Family/Relative	
Other Relationship	
Criminal Justice Outcomes	12
Six Months versus Twelve Months	13
Conclusions and Recommendations	16



Introduction

Strangulation and Suffocation have been stand-alone offences across England and Wales since 7th June 2022, according to the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and the Serious Crime Act (2015).

At the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS), we have requested data from police forces across England and Wales to provide information surrounding strangulation and suffocation cases that have been recorded by the police within the first year of the new legislation (up to 6th June 2023).

IFAS conducted the same data request and produced a report from the first six months of data (<https://ifas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ONS-Data-on-Non-Fatal-Strangulation-Suffocation.pdf>). A comparison of key findings will be presented within this report.

Please note, the data provided to us at IFAS does not differentiate between type of offence so the below reported findings contain all cases of non-fatal strangulation and non-fatal suffocation. The labelling of categories used in this report is based on that of the data we were provided, unless stated otherwise.

Additionally, where the 'Number of Offences' are reported, it is acknowledged that this will not reflect the entirety of strangulation and suffocation offences that are perpetrated across England and Wales. They merely represent the number of offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police.

All percentages stated in this report have been rounded to the nearest whole number, and percentages less than 0.5% are recorded as <1%.

Offences by Police Force Area

Provided here is the breakdown of offences by police force area.

Specifically, Devon and Cornwall, Humberside, Staffordshire and West Midlands Police were 'unable to provide data to the Home Office Data Hub', therefore have been excluded from these data.

No further information regarding this missing data was provided by the Home Office. Six other police force areas have not provided data, and no commentary was provided around these missing areas.

All analyses presented throughout this report are informed by data from 33 out of 43 police force areas. True figures on reports of strangulation and suffocation across England and Wales will therefore be higher.

Table 1: Number of offences by police force area.

Police Force Area	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Avon & Somerset	782 (3%)
Bedfordshire	212 (1%)
Cambridgeshire	437 (2%)
Cheshire	620 (3%)
Cumbria	223 (1%)
Derbyshire	241 (1%)
Durham	344 (1%)
Essex	1162 (5%)
Greater Manchester	1867 (8%)
Hampshire	743 (3%)
Hertfordshire	468 (2%)
Kent	855 (4%)
Lancashire	758 (3%)
Leicestershire	539 (2%)
Lincolnshire	367 (2%)
London, City of	4 (<1%)
Merseyside	667 (3%)
Metropolitan Police	3279 (14%)
Norfolk	713 (3%)
North Yorkshire	335 (1%)
Northamptonshire	522 (2%)
Northumbria	1272 (5%)
Nottinghamshire	592 (2%)
South Wales	561 (2%)
South Yorkshire	947 (4%)
Suffolk	593 (2%)
Surrey	292 (1%)
Sussex	700 (3%)
Thames Valley	718 (3%)
Warwickshire	571 (2%)
West Mercia	796 (3%)
West Yorkshire	1373 (6%)
Wiltshire	264 (1%)

On the basis of the data from the 33 police force areas, there were a total of **23,817 offences** of strangulation and suffocation recorded in the first year of legislation (June 2022–June 2023).

Victim Demographics

For the 23,817 offences recorded between June 2022 and June 2023, the identified victim demographics (age, sex, and ethnicity) are reported below.

Where there are high proportions of 'Not Stated' or 'Unknown' data, a third column has been provided to report the percentages of each category with the missing data removed. Therefore, these data provided the percentages of each demographic characteristic compared to the total number of cases where the full information is known and reported, without the skew of the missing data.

Victim Age

Table 2: Number of offences by victim age group.

Victim Age	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'not stated' removed
Under 18	2130 (9%)	11%
18-24	3502 (15%)	18%
25-34	5774 (24%)	30%
35-44	4432 (19%)	23%
45-54	2239 (9%)	11%
55-64	952 (4%)	5%
65-74	311 (1%)	2%
75+	171 (1%)	1%
Not Stated	4306 (18%)	
Total	23,817	19,511

The victim ages appear to be normally distributed, meaning the age groups 25-34 and 35-44 (highlighted in blue) represented the highest proportion of victim ages, and there are then fewer victims in the lower and higher age groups. The data is, however, skewed slightly toward the lower age groups, with the most common victim age represented as 25-34 years.

Victim Sex

Table 3: Number of offences by victim sex.

Victim Sex	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Female	15,878 (67%)	81%
Male	3647 (15%)	19%
Unknown	4292 (18%)	
Total	23,817	19,525

The majority of victims of reported strangulation and suffocation are female. When adjusted to remove unknown cases, however, the data show just under a fifth of victims reporting a male which is not insignificant.

Victim Ethnicity

Table 4: Number of offences by victim ethnicity.

Victim Ethnicity	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Arab	5 (<1%)	<1%
Bangladeshi	124 (1%)	1%
Black African	256 (1%)	2%
Black Caribbean	116 (<1%)	1%
Chinese	39 (<1%)	<1%
Indian	172 (1%)	1%
Pakistani	187 (1%)	2%
White and Asian	30 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black African	30 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black Caribbean	79 (<1%)	1%
White British	8926 (37%)	75%
White Irish	65 (<1%)	1%
Any Other Asian Background	298 (1%)	2%
Any Other Black Background	345 (1%)	3%
Any Other Ethnic Group	281 (1%)	2%
Any Other Mixed Background	138 (1%)	1%
Any Other White Background	842 (4%)	7%
Unknown	11,884 (50%)	
Total	23,817	11,933

When considering the known ethnicity data, victims of strangulation and suffocation offences were overwhelming White British. However, half of the reported offences did not record ethnicity data and therefore the true figures could be significantly different. These data must also be seen within the context of police reported offences only, and may therefore not be a true reflection of the ethnicity of all victims of strangulation, particularly where cases may go unreported.

Suspect Demographics

For the 23,817 offences recorded between June 2022 and June 2023, the identified suspect demographics (age, sex, and ethnicity) are reported below.

Where there are high proportions of 'Not Stated' or 'Unknown' data, a third column has been provided to report the percentages of each category with the missing data removed. Therefore, these data provided the percentages of each demographic characteristic compared to the total number of cases where the full information is known and reported, without the skew of the missing data.

Suspect Age

Table 5: Number of offences by suspect age.

Suspect Age	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'not stated' removed
Under 18	819 (3%)	6%
18-24	1823 (8%)	13%
25-34	4306 (18%)	31%
35-44	3785 (16%)	27%
45-54	2003 (8%)	14%
55-64	883 (4%)	6%
65-74	224 (1%)	2%
75+	126 (1%)	1%
Not Stated	9848 (41%)	
Total	23,817	13,969

The most common age ranges of reported suspects in strangulation and suffocation cases mirrored those of the victim age ranges. The distribution of data across age ranges is also similar, perhaps suggesting a likelihood of these offences taking place between similarly aged suspects and victims. There are, however, a much higher proportion of Not Stated data points for suspects (41% compared to 18% for victims). This may be reflective of whether or not a suspect has been identified.

Suspect Sex

Table 6: Number of offences by suspect sex.

Suspect Sex	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Female	1600 (7%)	12%
Male	12,288 (52%)	88%
Unknown	9929 (42%)	
Total	23,817	13,888

The suspect sex data reflects the inverse of the victim data, with suspects more likely to be recorded as male. However, as per suspect age, the high proportion of Unknown data makes difficult the drawing of conclusions across all 23,817 cases.

Note: suspect ethnicity was not provided as part of the data request.

Cases by Relationship

The 23,817 cases were grouped into three relationship categories. Presented here is the data separated by relationship.

Unfortunately, the suspect information provided as part of this data request is not grouped by relationship and therefore not included.

Table 7: Number of offences by relationship category.

Relationship	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Intimate Partner	6496 (27%)
Family/Relative	2131 (9%)
Other	15,190 (64%)
Total	23,817

Intimate Partner

There were a total of **6496** offences recorded where the victim-suspect relationship was 'intimate partner' – it is unclear whether this includes ex-intimate partners/ex-spouses.

Victim Age

Table 8: Number of offences between intimate partners by victim age.

Victim Age	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Under 18	195 (3%)
18-24	1209 (19%)
25-34	2267 (35%)
35-44	1661 (26%)
45-54	755 (12%)
55-64	261 (4%)
65-74	78 (1%)
75+	42 (<1%)
Not Stated	28 (<1%)
Total	6496

Victim Sex

Table 9: Number of offences between intimate partners by victim sex.

Victim Sex	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Female	5927 (91%)
Male	504 (5%)
Unknown	65 (1%)
Total	6496

Note: as the percentage of 'not stated' or 'unknown' data is low, the adjusted percentages have not been reported for victim age and sex in the Intimate Partner category

Victim Ethnicity

Table 10: Number of offences between intimate partners by victim ethnicity.

Victim Ethnicity	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Arab	1 (<1%)	<1%
Bangladeshi	14 (<1%)	<1%
Black African	37 (<1%)	<1%
Black Caribbean	14 (<1%)	<1%
Chinese	4 (<1%)	<1%
Indian	33 (<1%)	<1%
Pakistani	23 (<1%)	<1%
White and Asian	5 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black African	10 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black Caribbean	15 (<1%)	<1%
White British	3242 (50%)	85%
White Irish	12 (<1%)	<1%
Any Other Black Background	91 (1%)	2.5%
Any Other Ethnic Group	19 (<1%)	<1%
Any Other Mixed Background	40 (<1%)	1%
Any Other White Background	242 (4%)	6%
Unknown	2693 (42%)	
Total	6496	3803

These data reflect the combined data reported above (not split by relationship type) where there is a far higher proportion of female, compared to male, victims. The small proportion of unknown victim sex data also strongly supports the notion of a majority female victim cohort, particularly with intimate partner cases.

The most common age ranges of victims and most common ethnicity are also in line with that of the combined data as stated earlier in this report.

Family/Relative

There were a total of **2131** offences recorded where the victim-suspect relationship was 'other – family/relative'.

Victim Age

Table 11: Number of offences between family/relatives by victim age.

Victim Age	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Under 18	625 (29%)
18-24	311 (15%)
25-34	314 (15%)
35-44	303 (14%)
45-54	255 (12%)
55-64	199 (9%)
65-74	74 (3%)
75+	37 (2%)
Not Stated	13 (1%)
Total	2131

Table 12: Number of family/relative offences by victim sex and victim ethnicity, specifically for victims under the age of 18.

Victim Sex	Victim Ethnicity	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Female	White British	139 (22%)
Male	White British	129 (21%)
Female	Unknown	154 (25%)
Male	Unknown	160 (26%)
Unknown	Unknown	9 (1%)

The high proportion of Under 18s in this relationship category prompted further consideration. Highlighted above are the highest percentage groups within the Under 18s category from this data set, with regards to victim sex and victim ethnicity. These are discussed further below.

Victim Sex

Table 13: Number of offences between family/relatives by victim sex.

Victim Sex	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Female	1401 (66%)
Male	699 (33%)
Unknown	31 (1%)
Total	2131

Victim Ethnicity

Table 14: Number of offences between family/relatives by victim ethnicity.

Victim Ethnicity	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Bangladeshi	7 (<1%)	<1%
Black African	19 (<1%)	2%
Black Caribbean	7 (<1%)	<1%
Indian	17 (<1%)	1%
Pakistani	8 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black Caribbean	7 (<1%)	<1%
White British	918 (43%)	83%
White Irish	8 (<1%)	<1%
Any Other Asian Background	18 (<1%)	2%
Any Other Black Background	23 (1%)	2%
Any Other Ethnic Group	14 (<1%)	1%
Any Other Mixed Background	17 (<1%)	1%
Any Other White Background	49 (2%)	4%
Unknown	1019 (48%)	
Total	2131	1112

Victim sex and ethnicity data follow similar patterns to data not split by relationship type, however, the victim age data present a different distribution. These data show that younger victims are more common in familial cases, with the proportion of victims decreasing with an increase in age. In addition, although victims are more likely to be female, the contrast between female and male percentages is less stark.

Looking specifically at the under 18s data, where victim sex and ethnicity are both known, female and male White British victims are the most prevalent victim identities, and at almost identical rates (22% compared to 21%). Taking these points together, these data may reflect the power dynamics within strangulation and suffocation cases between, typically, younger adult/ child victims (of any gender) and perhaps older perpetrators within the family.

Other Relationship

There were a total of **15,190** offences recorded where the victim-suspect relationship was 'other'. This category contains cases whereby the relationship was not known, as well relationships that do not fit into the above categories of Intimate Partner or Family/Relative.

Victim Age

Table 15: Number of offences in other relationships by victim age.

Victim Age	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'not stated' removed
Under 18	1310 (9%)	12%
18-24	1982 (13%)	18%
25-34	3193 (21%)	29%
35-44	2468 (16%)	23%
45-54	1229 (8%)	11%
55-64	492 (3%)	5%
65-74	159 (1%)	1%
75+	92 (1%)	1%
Not Stated	4265 (28%)	
Total	15,190	10,925

Victim Sex

Table 16: Number of offences in other relationships by victim sex.

Victim Sex	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Female	8552 (56%)	78%
Male	2444 (16%)	22%
Unknown	4196 (28%)	
Total	15,190	10,994

Victim Ethnicity

Table 17: Number of offences in other relationships by victim ethnicity.

Victim Ethnicity	Number of Offences (% of total offences)	% of offences with 'unknown' removed
Arab	4 (<1%)	<1%
Bangladeshi	103 (1%)	1%
Black African	200 (1%)	3%
Black Caribbean	95 (1%)	1%
Chinese	35 (<1%)	<1%
Indian	122 (1%)	2%
Pakistani	156 (1%)	2%
White and Asian	24 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black African	19 (<1%)	<1%
White and Black Caribbean	59 (<1%)	1%
White British	4766 (31%)	68%
White Irish	45 (<1%)	1%
Any Other Asian Background	231 (2%)	3%
Any Other Black Background	279 (2%)	4%
Any Other Ethnic Group	248 (2%)	4%
Any Other Mixed Background	81 (1%)	1%
Any Other White Background	551 (4%)	8%
Unknown	8172 (54%)	
Total	15,190	7018

Despite the high proportion of unknown data – including the nature of the relationship in which the offence occurred – the provided data do reflect that of the overall data (not split by relationship) with regards to the victim demographics. That is, victims are most likely female, aged 25-44 and White British.

Criminal Justice Outcomes

Provided below are the outcomes recorded by the police for each of the 23,817 strangulation and suffocation cases between June 2022 and June 2023.
These are ordered by outcome code.

Table 18: Number of offences by assigned criminal justice outcome code.

Offence Outcome Description (Outcome Code)	Number of Offences (% of total offences)
Charged/Summoned (1)	3100 (13%)
Caution – youths (2)	9 (<1%)
Caution – adults (3)	289 (1%)
Offender Died (5)	10 (<1%)
Community Resolution (8)	171 (1%)
Not in public interest (CPS) (9)	20 (<1%)
Not in public interest (Police) (10)	21 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (11)	42 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (12)	103 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/ill (13)	29 (<1%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (14)	410 (2%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim supports police action (15)	4825 (20%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim does not support police action (16)	10798 (45%)
Prosecution time limit expired (17)	68 (<1%)
Investigation complete – no suspect identified (18)	538 (2%)
Action undertaken by another body/agency (20)	436 (2%)
Further investigation is not in the public interest – police decision (21)	108 (<1%)
Further action is not in the public interest – diversionary, educational or intervention activity (22)	175 (1%)
Not yet assigned an outcome	2665 (11%)
Total	23,817



Over half of the cases (67%) were not progressed further due to evidential difficulties. Although some of these decisions would have been due to not being able to pursue a prosecution without a victim supporting this action (outcome codes 14 and 16), a large proportion of cases (20%) were not progressed even with a victim who was supportive of further action (outcome code 15).

Of those assigned an outcome (n=21,152), 19% of the cases amounted in steps towards punitive action such as a charge or caution, and 81% amounted in no further criminal justice action such as the case being deemed not in the public interest, or the case not progressing due to evidential difficulties.

An important caveat to consider for any data from criminal justice proceedings is that it will only reflect what has been reported to the police, not necessarily the full extent of the issue. Even within this, there may be under-reporting whereby strangulation could have been reported to the police as a feature of another offence and therefore perhaps not recorded in its own right. Likewise, there could be instances of over-reporting whereby a victim is disclosing an incident of strangulation as part of another report, with no wish or intention of formally taking the case any further (a situation, perhaps, of 'telling not reporting' (e.g. see Operation Soteria*)). Even with these considerations, the data are helpful in providing a broad understanding of the progression of strangulation cases through criminal justice proceedings.

Six Months versus Twelve Months

Data from the first six months of legislation (June–December 2022, N=8375) included victim age, victim sex, and outcomes data. Ethnicity data for victims and suspect data were not reported, compared to what is available and displayed in this report from 12 months of data (June 2022–June 2023, N=23,817). Fewer police force areas provided data for the 6 months data (N=27 force areas) compared with the 12 months data (N=33 force areas). That all being said, there were almost twice as many offences recorded in the second half of the year compared to the first 6 months. Further comparisons for these data are presented below.

Victim Age Comparison

Table 19: Comparison of the number of offences in 6 vs 12 months by victim age.

Victim Age	Number of Offences in 6 months (% of total offences)	Number of Offences in 12 months (% of total offences)
Under 18	802 (10%)	2130 (9%)
18–24	1350 (16%)	3502 (15%)
25–34	2240 (27%)	5774 (24%)
35–44	1805 (22%)	4432 (19%)
45–54	890 (11%)	2239 (9%)
55–64	349 (4%)	952 (4%)
65–74	126 (2%)	311 (1%)
75+	70 (1%)	171 (1%)
Not Stated	743 (9%)	4306 (18%)
Total	8375	23,817

Victim Sex Comparison

Table 20: Comparison of the number of offences in 6 vs 12 months by victim sex.

Victim Sex	Number of Offences in 6 months (% of total offences)	Number of Offences in 12 months (% of total offences)
Female	6265 (75%)	15,878 (67%)
Male	1334 (16%)	3647 (15%)
Unknown	776 (9%)	4292 (18%)
Total	8375	23,817

Note: victim ethnicity was not provided in the first six months' data and therefore the comparison has not been included here.

Criminal Justice Outcome Comparison

Table 21: Comparison of the number of offences in 6 vs 12 months by criminal justice outcome.

Offence Outcome Description (Outcome Code)	Number of Offences in 6 months (% of total offences)	Number of Offences in 12 months (% of total offences)
Charged/Summoned (1)	971 (12%)	3100 (13%)
Caution – youths (2)	3 (<1%)	9 (<1%)
Caution – adults (3)	114 (1%)	289 (1%)
Offender Died (5)	2 (<1%)	10 (<1%)
Community Resolution (8)	46 (1%)	171 (1%)
Not in public interest (CPS) (9)	3 (<1%)	20 (<1%)
Not in public interest (Police) (10)	6 (<1%)	21 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (11)	20 (<1%)	42 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (12)	33 (<1%)	103 (<1%)
Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/ill (13)	16 (<1%)	29 (<1%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect not identified; victim does not support further action (14)	115 (1%)	410 (2%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim supports police action (15)	1342 (16%)	4825 (20%)
Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim does not support police action (16)	3638 (43%)	10798 (45%)
Prosecution time limit expired (17)	20 (<1%)	68 (<1%)
Investigation complete – no suspect identified (18)	160 (2%)	538 (2%)
Action undertaken by another body/agency (20)	131 (2%)	436 (2%)
Further investigation is not in the public interest – police decision (21)	24 (<1%)	108 (<1%)
Further action is not in the public interest – diversionary, educational or intervention activity (22)	108 (1%)	175 (1%)
Not yet assigned an outcome	1623 (19%)	2665 (11%)
Total	8375	23,817



Conclusions and Recommendations

Being able to analyse 12 months of data from the introduction of new legislation is incredibly beneficial in considering some of the impact of criminal justice responses.

However, the lack of data from some police force areas, and the proportion of missing and unknown data across the board is concerning, and does somewhat limit the conclusions which can be drawn. Although it will most likely not be possible to record all data for all cases (e.g. where a suspect hasn't been identified), it should be an expectation that data are collated and recorded in all possible circumstances. This allows analysts and criminal justice professionals to assess the impact, and dynamics around perpetration/victimisation, of particular offences on and by different demographic groups. This should then be considered amongst other ongoing work around the recording of, particularly, ethnicity data*, and conversations regarding confidence (or lack thereof) in the police by individuals of different identities**.

As well as considering what could be established as 'high risk' demographic groups, the data broken down by relationship type tells us more about the nuances of the presentations of these offences. For instance, the distribution of common age groups of victims changes considerably between intimate partner and familial offences. In addition, these relationship categories remind us that strangulation is happening outside of intimate relationships, and outside of adult relationships entirely (i.e. with children). The representation of children in familial abuse, in particular, should raise questions about safeguarding responses specific to this issue. However, additional relationship dynamics may currently be hidden in the 'Other' relationship category, thus demonstrating again the need for more consistent recording of information in all cases where possible.

Consistently and significantly, the lack of progression due to evidential difficulties is proving to be the most common outcome for criminal justice cases of strangulation and suffocation. More work needs to be done to understand where these challenges lie, particularly where victims are supporting the furthering of cases and therefore, presumably, in many instances, willing to provide available evidence.

These next steps may be informed by: awareness-raising for victim/survivors around their options for support and criminal justice intervention post-strangulation/suffocation; awareness-raising for criminal justice professionals regarding the varied presentations of strangulation and suffocation in terms of physical and psychological impacts; clearly and consistently applied application of legal processes with particular respect to the evidential requirements for strangulation and suffocation cases.

Taken together, these data provide a helpful overview as to the makeup of strangulation and suffocation police reports at this point in time. However, they also demonstrate there is progress yet to be made in the criminal justice response to these cases.

*e.g. [https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/news/news-feed/police-forces-still-failing-to-record-and-publish-data-on-ethnicity/#:~:text=Get%20the%20reports&text=His%20Majesty's%20Inspectorate%20of%20Constabulary%20and%20Fire%20%26%20Rescue%20Services%20\(HMICFRS,the%20age%20wasn't%20stated.](https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/news/news-feed/police-forces-still-failing-to-record-and-publish-data-on-ethnicity/#:~:text=Get%20the%20reports&text=His%20Majesty's%20Inspectorate%20of%20Constabulary%20and%20Fire%20%26%20Rescue%20Services%20(HMICFRS,the%20age%20wasn't%20stated.)

** e.g. <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/police-standards-and-culture-restoring-public-trust/#heading-2>

Summary of Recommendations

- Data to be more routinely captured and recorded to reduce the proportion of missing or unknown data.
 - Within this, there should be a clearer separation of data where appropriate e.g. separating strangulation from suffocation cases.
- The 'Other' relationship category to be clarified to separate 'unknown' and 'other' with regard to what is known about the relationship type.
- Explore the nature of the evidential difficulties preventing strangulation and suffocation cases from continuing through to conclusion.

Acknowledgements

Funded by the Home Office, the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) was established in 2022 to raise awareness of strangulation and suffocation. This includes highlighting the associated risks and dangers, and establishing best practice for professionals working with victims, survivors and their families. Although our work primarily focuses on strangulation, we see the parallels between this and suffocation, and are therefore developing our research and understanding of this area.

IFAS would like to acknowledge the hard work and input from the whole team in their contributions to all research outputs; Professor Cath White, Harriet Smailes, Marianne McGowan, Bernie Ryan, Beth Threfall-Rodgers and Boma Wokoma.

Lastly, IFAS acknowledges that behind every statistic is a person who has friends, family, thoughts, feelings, dreams and hopes. We hope that all readers accessing our report will recognise the individual impact associated with the statistics we present.





Institute For
Addressing
Strangulation

contact@ifas.org.uk
www.ifas.org.uk

Charity Registration No: 1119599

