



Institute For
Addressing
Strangulation

Strangulation and Suffocation Offences: June 2023 – June 2024 (Year 2)

An Analysis of Police Report Data



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Introduction and Methodology

Strangulation and suffocation became stand-alone offences in England and Wales on 7th June 2022 under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), and the Serious Crime Act (2015).

At the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS), we requested data from the Home Office in 2023 pertaining to the number of these offences recorded by the police in the first year of legislation (7th June 2022 – 6th June 2023). This request was made via the Freedom of Information (FOI) process. The report containing those data can be found in Reference 1.

Following the same FOI process, this report contains the data we have received from Year 2 of legislation (7th June 2023 – 6th June 2024).

Notes

The data provided by the Home Office 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 comes from how the data were provided to us, unless stated otherwise. For instance, missing data has been labelled as both “Unknown” and “Not Reported”, and it is not clear at which point these gaps appeared. Similarly, the terms for ‘Victim’ and ‘Suspect’ have been directed the Home Office’s use of those terms in their response to the FOI request.

If percentages in this report do not add up in a way that would be expected, this is due to rounding the percentages to the nearest whole number which has been done throughout (unless specified otherwise).

Given the length of time that cases can take to proceed through the criminal justice system, we sought to confirm that there was no risk of double counting data. For example, if a recorded offence in January 2023 had not yet been actioned by July 2023, could it have been included in both the 2022–2023 report (Reference 1) and this report (for 2023–2024)? The Home Office have confirmed that there is only one recorded date for each crime, therefore all offences noted in this report are independent from those presented in the earlier publication.

Where frequencies are presented, 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 Home Office from corresponding police forces.



Findings

Offences by Police Force Area

Out of the 43 police force areas across England and Wales, 40 forces returned their data to the Home Office. These data represent “The number of ‘8N: Non-fatal strangling and suffocation’ offences recorded by the Police in England and Wales, 7 June 2023 to 6 June 2024” (Home Office response).

The number of forces providing data in 2023–2024 increased from the 33 police force areas who provided data in 2022–2023. Narrative around why specific force data was not included was given for only one area: “*Humberside Police have been unable to provide data to the Home Office Data Hub, therefore have been excluded from these data.*” (Home Office response).

Frequency data from the 40 forces are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Frequency data for the number of strangulation and suffocation offences by police force area in Year 2: 7th June 2023 – 6th June 2024, and Year 1: 7th June 2022 – 6th June 2023, respectively, presented alphabetically by area

Police Force Area	2023-2024 Number of Offences (% of total offences) (n=39,360)	2022-2023 Number of Offences (% of total offences) (n=23,817)
Avon & Somerset	1443 (4%)	782 (3%)
Bedfordshire	410 (1%)	212 (1%)
Cambridgeshire	406 (1%)	437 (2%)
Cheshire	788 (2%)	620 (3%)
Cleveland	348 (1%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Cumbria	204 (1%)	223 (1%)
Derbyshire	553 (1%)	241 (1%)
Devon & Cornwall	1448 (4%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Dorset	610 (2%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Durham	485 (1%)	344 (1%)
Dyfed-Powys	503 (1%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Essex	1155 (3%)	1162 (5%)
Gloucestershire	221 (1%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Greater Manchester	2497 (6%)	1867 (8%)
Hampshire	1099 (3%)	743 (3%)
Hertfordshire	660 (2%)	468 (2%)
Kent	1161 (3%)	855 (4%)
Lancashire	1034 (3%)	758 (3%)
Leicestershire	609 (2%)	539 (2%)
Lincolnshire	532 (1%)	367 (2%)
London, City of	6 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
Merseyside	950 (2%)	667 (3%)
Metropolitan Police	6257 (16%)	3279 (14%)
Norfolk	914 (2%)	713 (3%)
Northamptonshire	838 (2%)	522 (2%)
Northumbria	1362 (4%)	1272 (5%)
North Yorkshire	196 (1%)	335 (1%)
Nottinghamshire	859 (2%)	522 (2%)
South Wales	953 (2%)	561 (2%)
South Yorkshire	1245 (3%)	947 (4%)
Staffordshire	664 (2%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
Suffolk	718 (2%)	593 (2%)
Surrey	522 (1%)	292 (1%)
Sussex	1142 (3%)	700 (3%)
Thames Valley	1021 (3%)	718 (3%)
Warwickshire	504 (1%)	571 (2%)
West Mercia	819 (2%)	796 (3%)
West Midlands	2135 (5%)	No data provided in 2022-2023
West Yorkshire	1778 (5%)	1373 (6%)
Wiltshire	311 (1%)	264 (1%)
Total	39,360 (100%)	23,817 (100%)

Findings (Continued) Offences by Police Force Area

As shown by the percentages in Table 1 above, the proportion of strangulation and suffocation offences reported to each force, out of the total number of strangulation and suffocation offences reported to all police forces who have provided data, have remained relatively steady.

In addition to the data provided above, we have considered these figures in the context of the population of each police force area. Population data for each area was sourced from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) website (see Appendix 1 for links to respective web pages).

Table 2 (below) shows the incidence rate of reported offences per 100,000 people in each area for 2023-2024 (highlighted in pale blue). We have also included the 2022-2023 data (using the same population data) within this table as a comparison.

Table 2: Number of offences per 100,000 people in the respective populations of each police force area, rounded to the nearest whole number

Police Force Name	Number of Offences per 100,000 (2023-2024)	Number of Offences per 100,000 (2022-2023)	Difference between 2023-24 and 2022-23 per 100,000
Avon & Somerset	83	45	38 ↑
Bedfordshire	60	31	29 ↑
Cambridgeshire	47	51	4 ↓
Cheshire	74	58	16 ↑
Cleveland	61	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Cumbria	41	45	4 ↓
Derbyshire	52	23	29 ↑
Devon & Cornwall	81	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Dorset	79	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Durham	76	54	22 ↑
Dyfed-Powys	96	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Essex	62	62	0 =
Gloucestershire	34	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Greater Manchester	88	66	22 ↑
Hampshire	55	37	18 ↑
Hertfordshire	55	39	16 ↑
Kent	62	46	16 ↑
Lancashire	68	50	18 ↑
Leicestershire	55	49	6 ↑
Lincolnshire	69	48	21 ↑
London, City of*	1	1	0 =
Merseyside	66	47	19 ↑
Metropolitan Police	70	36	34 ↑
Norfolk	100	78	22 ↑
Northamptonshire	111	69	42 ↑
Northumbria	93	87	6 ↑
North Yorkshire	24	41	17 ↓
Nottinghamshire	73	51	22 ↑
South Wales	71	42	29 ↑
South Yorkshire	88	67	21 ↑
Staffordshire	58	No data provided in 2022-2023	
Suffolk	94	78	16 ↑
Surrey	44	24	20 ↑
Sussex	66	41	25 ↑
Thames Valley	42	30	12 ↑
Warwickshire	86	98	12 ↑
West Mercia	63	61	2 ↑
West Midlands	73	No data provided in 2022-2023	
West Yorkshire	76	58	18 ↑
Wiltshire	43	36	7 ↑

The range of offence rate per 100,000 people, excluding the City of London, was 24-111 in 2023-2024 and 23-98 in 2022-2023. The mean offence rate per 100,000 people was 66 in 2023-2024 and 50 in 2022-2023. Arrows in the fourth column in Table 2 show the direction of change between the incidence rates per 100,000 people in each police force area between Year 1 (2022-2023) and Year 2 (2023-2024).

(* Note: this is reported on the basis of workday population i.e. the population of the City of London on a typical working day. See Appendix 1 for a link to where this information has been provided from.)

Findings

Victim Demographics

The demographics of the victims of the 39,360 strangulation and suffocation offences recorded in 2023-2024 are presented in Tables 3-5 below (highlighted in pale blue). Comparison data are provided based on the 23,817 offences recorded in 2022-2023.

Table 3: Recorded sex of victim for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respectively

Recorded Sex	2023-2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022-2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Female	24,987 (65%)	15,878 (67%)
Male	7310 (19%)	3647 (15%)
Unknown	7063 (18%)	4292 (18%)

For the 2023-2024 data, of the offences where victim sex was known (n=32,297), 77% were female and 23% were male. This is compared with 81% females and 19% males where victim sex was known in 2022-2023.

Table 4: Recorded age of victim for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respectively

Recorded Age	2023-2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022-2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Under 18	3759 (10%)	2130 (9%)
18-24	5312 (14%)	3502 (15%)
25-34	9033 (23%)	5774 (24%)
35-44	7558 (19%)	4432 (19%)
45-54	3902 (10%)	2239 (9%)
55-64	1717 (4%)	952 (4%)
65-74	585 (2%)	311 (1%)
75+	388 (1%)	171 (1%)
Not stated	7106 (18%)	4306 (18%)

Table 5: Recorded ethnicity of victim for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023-2024 and 2022-2023 respectively

Recorded Ethnicity	2023-2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022-2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Arab	17 (<1%)	5 (<1%)
Bangladeshi	177 (<1%)	124 (1%)
Black African	378 (1%)	256 (1%)
Black Caribbean	232 (1%)	116 (<1%)
Chinese	53 (<1%)	39 (<1%)
Indian	289 (1%)	172 (1%)
Pakistani	348 (1%)	187 (1%)
White and Asian	50 (<1%)	30 (<1%)
White and Black African	43 (<1%)	30 (<1%)
White and Black Caribbean	152 (<1%)	79 (<1%)
White British	13,616 (35%)	8926 (37%)
White Irish	99 (<1%)	65 (<1%)
Other Asian Background	478 (1%)	298 (1%)
Other Black Background	479 (1%)	345 (1%)
Other Mixed Background	210 (1%)	138 (1%)
Other White Background	1192 (3%)	842 (4%)
Any Other Ethnic Group	454 (1%)	281 (1%)
Unknown	21,093 (54%)	11,884 (50%)

Of the offences where victim ethnicity was known (n=18,267), 75% of victims were recorded as White British. For comparison, in the ethnicity census data from 2021 (see Reference 2), with regard to ethnicity categories defined by the Office for National Statistics, 81.7% of residents in England and Wales identified as White, 9.3% identified as Asian, 2.5% identified as Black.

Findings

Suspect Demographics

The demographics of the suspects of the 39,360 strangulation and suffocation offences recorded in 2023–2024 are presented in Tables 6–8 below (highlighted in pale blue). Comparison data are provided based on the 23,817 offences recorded in 2022–2023.

Table 6: Recorded sex of suspect for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023–2024 and 2022–2023 respectively

Recorded Sex	2023–2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022–2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Female	3006 (8%)	1600 (7%)
Male	20,962 (53%)	12,288 (52%)
Unknown	15,392 (39%)	9929 (42%)

For the 2023–2024 data, of the offences where suspect sex was known (n=23,968), 13% were female and 87% were male. This is compared with 12% females and 88% males where suspect sex was known in 2022–2023.

Table 7: Recorded age of suspect for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023–2024 and 2022–2023 respectively

Recorded Age	2023–2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022–2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Under 18	1532 (4%)	819 (3%)
18–24	2893 (7%)	1823 (8%)
25–34	6954 (18%)	4306 (18%)
35–44	6600 (17%)	3785 (16%)
45–54	3467 (9%)	2003 (8%)
55–64	1566 (4%)	883 (4%)
65–74	420 (1%)	224 (1%)
75+	276 (1%)	126 (1%)
Not stated	15,652 (40%)	9848 (41%)

Table 8: Recorded ethnicity of suspect for strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023–2024

Recorded Ethnicity	2023–2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)
Arab	13 (<1%)
Bangladeshi	150 (<1%)
Black African	373 (1%)
Black Caribbean	292 (1%)
Chinese	34 (<1%)
Indian	254 (1%)
Pakistani	238 (1%)
White and Asian	43 (<1%)
White and Black African	46 (<1%)
White and Black Caribbean	143 (<1%)
White British	10,262 (26%)
White Irish	75 (<1%)
Other Asian Background	324 (1%)
Other Black Background	419 (1%)
Other Mixed Background	148 (<1%)
Other White Background	832 (2%)
Any Other Ethnic Group	214 (1%)
Unknown	25,500 (65%)

(Note: suspect ethnicity was not provided in the 2022–2023 request.)

Of the offences where suspect ethnicity was known (n=18,267), 75% were recorded as White British. As mentioned above, for context, census ethnicity data can be accessed from Reference 2.

Findings

Relationship Type

The relationship data for the 39,360 strangulation and suffocation offences recorded in 2023–2024 are presented in Table 9 below (highlighted in pale blue). Comparison data are provided based on the 23,817 offences recorded in 2022–2023.

The 'Other' relationship category includes those where the relationship was not known, as well as relationships that did not fit into either the 'Intimate Partner' or 'Family/Relative' categories. Further details relating specifically to type of relationship included within this 'Other' category (for example, possibly where victim and suspect were strangers) were not provided in the Home Office response to the FOI request.

Table 9: Relationship type of strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023–2024 and 2022–2023 respectively

Relationship	2023–2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022–2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
Intimate Partner	8891 (23%)	6496 (27%)
Family/Relative	3742 (10%)	2131 (9%)
Other	26,727 (68%)	15,190 (64%)

Criminal Justice Outcomes

The criminal justice outcomes of the 39,360 strangulation and suffocation offences recorded in 2023–2024 are presented in Table 10 below (highlighted in pale blue). Comparison data are provided based on the 23,817 offences recorded in 2022–2023. The Outcome Codes presented are those reported by the Home Office in the data they provided and can be found in Reference 3.

Table 10: Criminal justice outcomes of strangulation and suffocation offences in 2023–2024 and 2022–2023 respectively

Outcome Code	Outcome Description	2023–2024 Frequency (%) (n=39,360)	2022–2023 Frequency (%) (n=23,817)
1	Charged/Summoned	4613 (12%)	3100 (13%)
2	Caution – youths	27 (<1%)	9 (<1%)
3	Caution – adults	455 (1%)	289 (1%)
5	Offender Died	13 (<1%)	10 (<1%)
6	Penalty Notices for Disorder	1 (<1%)	(Not provided)
8	Community Resolution	305 (1%)	171 (1%)
9	Not in public interest (CPS)	23 (<1%)	20 (<1%)
10	Not in public interest (Police)	46 (<1%)	21 (<1%)
11	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age	96 (<1%)	42 (<1%)
12	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill	170 (<1%)	103 (<1%)
13	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/ ill	36 (<1%)	29 (<1%)
14	Evidential difficulties – suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	813 (2%)	410 (2%)
15	Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim supports police action	7494 (19%)	4825 (20%)
16	Evidential difficulties – suspect identified; victim does not support police action	19,207 (49%)	10,798 (45%)
17	Prosecution time limit expired	76 (<1%)	68 (<1%)
18	Investigation complete – no suspect identified	1140 (3%)	538 (2%)
20	Action undertaken by another body/agency	698 (2%)	436 (2%)
21	Further investigation is not in the public interest-police decision	225 (1%)	108 (<1%)
22	Further action is not in the public interest-diversionary, educational or intervention activity	150 (<1%)	175 (1%)
	Not yet assigned an outcome	3772 (10%)	2665 (11%)

Conclusion

The consistency of figures between June 2022–June 2023 and June 2023–June 2024 is striking. This is both in relation to the proportion of offences reported across different police force areas in England and Wales, and the make-up of those offences, relating to victim and suspect demographics, and criminal justice outcomes.

Numbers of reports

One considerable difference, however, is the total number of offences reported over each 12-month period. There was a 65% increase in the number of reports across Year 1 and Year 2 of legislation, with most police force areas seeing increases in their total reported offences in 2023–2024. Of the 33 forces who provided data across two consecutive years, 27 (82%) reported an increase in recorded offences. It is important to note, however, that no one direction of change is necessarily preferable over the other. It may be that offence rate has increased due to more strangulation and suffocation offences being committed. Additionally or alternatively, an increase in offence rate may signify more cases being identified by, or reported to, the police following the change in legislation – not necessarily that the experiences of those subjected to strangulation and suffocation has changed in that time. Data are required from other sources to continue to build a picture of what is happening for victims and their experiences through criminal justice proceedings as police forces continue to implement this relatively new legislation.

Criminal justice outcomes

One way to support individuals considering pursuing criminal resolution is to demonstrate the possibility of what could be deemed as ‘successful’ outcomes. Although success should be defined by the individual, traditional criminal justice would consider charging, prosecuting, convicting, and sentencing guilty perpetrators as a success. This report only covers the actions of the police up to a potential charging decision, but these outcome decisions still tell an important story in how individuals reporting strangulation and suffocation might see their report being pursued.

IFAS would encourage all police forces to interrogate the information they hold on the progress of strangulation and suffocation reports and question where some of the barriers may be. Closely considering progression through criminal proceedings requires not just looking at outcome data but following the cases back to the time of reporting and identifying points of, and reasons for, attrition. From the outcome data, we can see that ‘Evidential Difficulties’ make up 70% of the reasons cases are not progressing. This can and should be explored further through research directly with police forces.

Limitations

The limitations of these data should be noted. As reflected upon in the Year 1 report (Reference 1), conclusions drawn from data are always limited when data sets are incomplete. When over half of victim ethnicity data are unknown, we are unable to even begin to understand who might be affected by this type of offence, and who might be more or less likely to report. Strangulation, in particular, can be complex in its presentation across different contexts. Without better understanding the relationships between suspect and victim, including – for example – the sex/age of the suspect and victim in any one particular offence, and the context of offences, we are limited in the way we can understand these behaviours. We don’t necessarily know from these data who is strangling who. Finally, not being able to extract data specifically relating to either strangulation or suffocation is a considerable limitation. These are two separate offences and being able to report on them separately is essential for developing evidence-based approaches to tackling these crimes.



Conclusion

Recommendations

- Police forces to consider their own data on strangulation and suffocation for the purposes of:
 - Identifying barriers to reporting and progression,
 - Identify reasons for attrition,
 - Identify missed opportunities, and examples of good practice, through – for example – multi-agency scrutiny panels, and
 - Ultimately, work to build public confidence in the police response.
- Those who gather, input, and process data to be considerate of the impact of missing data. Consider:
 - More consistently gathering data across all data fields,
 - Introducing additional fields or sub-categories where required to, for example, better understand relationships and contexts of strangulation between individuals involved, and
 - Processing data in a way that allows for easier and clearer extraction of key information, i.e. reporting on strangulation and suffocation separately, and – where possible – reporting individual level data per offence, to better understand interactions between demographic information and offence perpetration/victimisation.
- Further research to be conducted – dependent on the changes to data capture suggestions provided above – to better understand:
 - Who is strangling who? What are the ages, sexes, relationships of the victim and perpetrator in individual offences?
 - How strangulation is being perpetrated in relation to other crime types, considering different data sources to build a more holistic understanding of the behaviour.

We are keen to encourage contact from police forces in England and Wales who would like to develop and better understand the data they hold on strangulation reports: contact@ifas.org.uk.



References

- Reference 1: Strangulation and Suffocation Offences: June 2022 – June 2023 An Analysis of Police Report Data, Institute for Addressing Strangulation. <https://ifas.org.uk/police-data-reports-2024/>
- Reference 2: Ethnicity Census Data, Office for National Statistics. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>
- Reference 3: Criminal Justice Outcome Codes, Home Office. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d2ed6d140f0b64a7b5d4138/crime-outcomes-technical-annex-july19.pdf>



Appendix

Appendix 1: Population data sources and population size used to calculate incidence rates in Table 2

Police Force	Population source	Population size (millions)
Avon & Somerset	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/avon-and-somerset/	1.73
Bedfordshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/bedfordshire/	0.68
Cambridgeshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire/	0.86
Cheshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Cheshire/	1.07
Cleveland	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Cleveland/	0.57
Cumbria	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/cumbria/	0.5
Derbyshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Derbyshire/	1.06
Devon & Cornwall	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Devon-and-Cornwall/	1.79
Dorset	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Dorset/	0.78
Durham	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Durham/	0.64
Dyfed-Powys	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Dyfed-Powys/	0.52



(Continued) Appendix 1: Population data sources and population size used to calculate incidence rates in Table 2

Police Force	Population source	Population size (millions)
Essex	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Essex/	1.86
Gloucestershire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Gloucestershire/	0.64
Greater Manchester	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Greater-Manchester/	2.85
Hampshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Hampshire/	2
Hertfordshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Hertfordshire/	1.2
Kent	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Kent/	1.87
Lancashire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Lancashire/	1.52
Leicestershire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Leicestershire/	1.11
Lincolnshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Lincolnshire/	0.77
London, City of	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/city-of-London/	0.43 (“Workday population”)
Merseyside	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Merseyside/	0.14

(Continued) Appendix 1: Population data sources and population size used to calculate incidence rates in Table 2

Police Force	Population source	Population size (millions)
Metropolitan Police	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Metropolitan/	8.99
Norfolk	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Norfolk/	0.91
Northamptonshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Northamptonshire/	0.76
Northumbria	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Northumbria/	1.47
North Yorkshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/North-Yorkshire/	0.82
Nottinghamshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Nottinghamshire/	1.17
South Wales	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/South-Wales/	1.35
South Yorkshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/South-Yorkshire/	1.42
Staffordshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Staffordshire/	1.14
Suffolk	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Suffolk/	0.76
Surrey	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Surrey/	1.2



(Continued) Appendix 1: Population data sources and population size used to calculate incidence rates in Table 2

Police Force	Population source	Population size (millions)
Sussex	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Sussex/	1.72
Thames Valley	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Thames-Valley/	2.43
Warwickshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Warwickshire/	0.58
West Mercia	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/West-Mercia/	1.3
West Midlands	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/West-Midlands/	2.94
West Yorkshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/West-Yorkshire/	2.35
Wiltshire	https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/Wiltshire/	0.73





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 Thaira Mhearban.

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.