



Ministry of
JUSTICE



Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

IAP Research Directory on Deaths and Near Deaths

This directory provides a summary of research that has been completed, is currently underway or planned in relation to deaths and near deaths in all forms of state custody. If you are aware of any research, which is not listed below or if you would like further information about a particular study, please email the Secretariat via the Contact page on the IAP website, or by emailing: iapdeathsincustody@noms.gsi.gov.uk.

The directory also includes the findings of a Home Office library trawl conducted by the Secretariat, of relevant research papers and studies. The results can be found at the end of the directory.

Organisation	Peninsula Medical School
Name of Research contact	Richard Byng
Scale of the Study	Regional
Title	'The Origins of Offender Suicide'
Research timescale	2006-2008
Description of the Study	The objective of this study was to explore the factors that influence distressed offenders seeking help. This was done through a qualitative study involving interviews with 35 offenders in a local category B prison in England, half of whom

	had attempted suicide to examine how past experience, agency, mastery emotional, psychological and social factors result in different pathways towards and away from suicide.
Organisation	Salford University
Name of Research contact	Ian Cummins
Scale of the Study	National/Regional/Local
Title	'Self Harm in Police Custody'
Research timescales	July 2009 – June 2010
Description of the Study	<p>This study is based on research carried out with two North-West police forces. The research has examined two key areas the mental health awareness training that custody officers received and an analysis of incidents of self-harm that too place in a custody setting over a six month period.</p> <p>The aims of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the number of incidents where detained persons are assessed by FMEs because of concerns about their mental health • Collect a range of information including – the initial concerns/reason for referral /outcome of the assessment • Collect information about the contacts that detained persons have had with community –based mental health services • These cases will then be mapped against the relevant custody records including the police records of adverse incidents in custody.

Organisation	Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)
Name of Research contact	Maria Docking
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Deaths in or following police custody: an examination of cases from 1998 – 2009'
Research timescales	July 2009 – June 2010
Description of the Study	This study examines the nature and circumstances of deaths in or following police custody (IPCC Category 3 deaths) which occurred in England and Wales between 1998-99 and 2008-09 (approximately 330 cases). It uses completed investigations reports to identify trends. In particular, it examines issues such as the demographics of the deceased, mental health, alcohol and drug use, restraint, risk assessment and medical provision. It seeks to identify the issues arising from the cases, lessons that can be learnt and make recommendations to help prevent further deaths from occurring.
Organisation	Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)
Name of Research contact	Kerry Grace
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Deaths during or following police contact: statistics for England and Wales'
Research timescales	April 2009 – Summer 2010
Description of the Study	The Police Reform Act 2002 gave police forces in England and Wales a statutory duty to refer to the IPCC any incident involving a death that has arisen from police contact. The IPCC considers the circumstances of all the cases referred to it and decides whether to investigate the death. The latest report presents the figures on deaths during or following police contact between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 (this is an annual publication). The report provides a definitive set of figures for England and Wales and an overview of the nature and circumstances in which these deaths occurred. To

	produce these statistics, the circumstances of all deaths referred to the IPCC were examined to determine whether they met the criteria for inclusion in one of the following categories; fatal Road Traffic Incidents; fatal shootings; deaths in or following police custody; and other deaths following police contact.
Organisation	Radboud University, Nijmegen, Holland
Name of Research contact	Dr Wilma Duijst
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Death in Detention'
Research timescales	September 2010 – June 2011
Description of the Study	<p>The research covers the period from January 2005 – December 2009. The study is looking at all forms of state custody in Holland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After criminal conviction or waiting for a conviction; in a police cell, in a prison and in secure mental hospitals • commendatory placement in a mental institution • Immigration removal centres <p>The key focus will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health care in prison • The post death investigation • The protocols in place during the investigation • The way family is informed <p>The aims of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register the number and rate of deaths in custody • Evaluate the circumstances in which the detainee died (with particular attention on the medical care in detention)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether the deaths could have been prevented
Organisation	Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO)
Name of Research contact	Sue Gauge
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Analysis of PPO fatal incident investigations'
Research timescales	April 2009 – ongoing
Description of the Study	<p>Developing a comprehensive database of PPO fatal incident investigations, looking closely at the care received by the deceased in the years/months/weeks/days/hours before death. Scale: all PPO investigations (Currently 286 on database of over 1100 PPO investigations opened so far).</p> <p>Aim: to collect learning from the PPO investigations.</p> <p>Areas of focus: An initial report based on one year's reports has been published and is available on the PPO website. The next report will be focusing on deaths by heart attacks. There will be several thematic reports to follow.</p>
Organisation	Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO)
Name of Research contact	Sue Gauge
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Survey of Bereaved Families'
Research timescales	July 2009 – February 2010
Description of the Study	Survey of families who have been bereaved by a death in custody investigated by the PPO.

	Aim: to find out what bereaved families think of PPO investigations and reports and the PPO family liaison service.
Organisation	North West Region Offender Health Team
Name of Research contact	Mike Gledhill
Scale of the Study	Regional
Title	'Health screening in the Criminal Justice System as a part of an early intervention programme'
Research timescales	February 2010 – December 2010
Description of the Study	Following on from a screening exercise of 400 suspects in police Custody/ Probation/ Neighbourhoods across the NW Region (2009) issues were raised around signposting, effective screening methods etc. There are early discussions taking place about widening the screening scheme and building on the recommendation of the Bradley Review and evaluation of the National pilot in police Custody in Dorset with the installation of the health SYSTEM1 (due to be published in February 2010). The discussions are exploring screening as a part of early intervention methods for ABC Contracts and other methods of diversion but are at the earliest stage. There will be an intention to carry out research on the effectiveness of these methods once they are planned and adopted as pilot in the Region.
Organisation	Centre for Suicide Research, University of Oxford
Name of Research contact	Professor Keith Hawton
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Risk factors for suicide in <u>female prisoners</u> : a study of near-lethal suicide attempts'
Research timescales	1 March 2007 – 30 September 2009
Description of the Study	The key aim of this research is to examine the factors contributing to suicide in prison by carrying out the first

	<p>comprehensive study of near-lethal suicide attempts in a forensic setting in order to inform suicide prevention initiatives in prison. The specific objectives are to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broader understanding of contributory and risk factors for suicide amongst prisoners. • Investigate psychiatric disorder and personality characteristics amongst prisoners who have survived a serious suicide attempt. • Identify the important psychological characteristics of serious suicide attempters, such as depression and anxiety, hopelessness, self-esteem and impulsivity. • Gain an understanding of the cognitive processes that lead up to a decision to attempt suicide. • Examine the social influences on the decision to attempt suicide. <p>It is a matched case-control study of <u>60 female prisoners</u> who have near-lethal suicide attempts (cases) and 60 prisoners who had never carried out near-lethal suicide attempts in prison (controls).</p>
Organisation	Centre for Suicide Research, University of Oxford
Name of Research contact	Professor Keith Hawton
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Risk factors for suicide in <u>male prisoners</u> : a study of near-lethal suicide attempts'
Research timescales	1 March 2007 – 30 September 2009
Description of the Study	<p>The key aim of this research is to examine the factors contributing to suicide in prison by carrying out the first comprehensive study of near-lethal suicide attempts in a forensic setting in order to inform suicide prevention initiatives in prison. The specific objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broader understanding of contributory and risk factors for suicide amongst prisoners. • Investigate psychiatric disorder and personality characteristics amongst prisoners who have survived a serious suicide attempt. • Identify the important psychological characteristics of serious suicide attempters, such as depression and anxiety,

	<p>hopelessness, self-esteem and impulsivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an understanding of the cognitive processes that lead up to a decision to attempt suicide. • Examine the social influences on the decision to attempt suicide. <p>It is a matched case-control study of <u>60 male prisoners</u> who have near-lethal suicide attempts (cases) and 60 prisoners who had never carried out near-lethal suicide attempts in prison (controls).</p>
Organisation	Offender Health Research Network, University of Manchester
Name of Research contact	Jane Senior
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Suicide in the English Criminal Justice System: Nested Case-control study'
Research timescales	January 2008 – June 2011
Description of the Study	Individuals in contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) are identified as a high-risk population. The increased risk of suicide among prisoners' has been widely reported. Few studies have examined suicidal risk among non-custodial groups dealt with by the CJS. This study aims to identify risk factors for suicide within the offender pathway and thus throughout the CJS. A nested case-control study of all individuals dying by suicide within 12 months of police arrest, matched on gender, age, postcode outcode to living controls will be conducted. Findings will provide accurate relative risk estimations for all groups within the offender pathway and detailed analysis of suicide case.
Organisation	Keele University
Name of Research contact	Evelyn Liston
Scale of the Study	Regional
Title	'The Samaritans Listener Scheme in Prisons and its impact on the prison community'

Research timescales	1 September 2006 – 31 December 2011
Description of the Study	<p>The aim of this study is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To study the operation of the Listener scheme in prison communities; • To gather data from Listeners in prison about their experience and knowledge of carrying out their roles and activities; • To identify patterns of access to, and usage of the Listener service by prisoners, and to provide quantitative and qualitative data to account for these patterns; • To gather data from staff about the value of the Listener scheme; • To relate the development of civic attitudes held by Listeners to their participation in voluntary activity during imprisonment, and after their release.
Organisation	Cameron Forensic Medical Services, Barts and the London School of Medicine & Dentistry
Name of Research contact	Dr Jason Payne-James
Scale of the Study	Local
Title	The Use of Incapacitant Sprays in London
Research timescales	Due for completion May 2011
Description of the Study	<p>The aim of the study is to:</p> <p>In collaboration with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch, understand the short term medical effects of the various incapacitant sprays, based on discharges by the Metropolitan Police.</p>

Organisation	University of Manchester
Name of Research contact	Dr Daniel Pratt
Scale of the Study	Regional
Title	'Feasibility Study of a Cognitive Behavioural Suicide Prevention Intervention for Male Prisoners'
Research timescales	2010 – 2013 (subject to funding)
Description of the Study	This pilot study will see if existing talking therapy intervention (Cognitive Behavioural Suicide Prevention, CBSP) can be delivered to individuals at risk of suicide, who are currently in prison. Prisons in the northwest of England, they will conduct a pilot randomised controlled trial (RCT) of CBSP delivered to 30 prisoners who have been identified by staff as at risk of suicidal behaviour. Another 30 prisoners, also thought to be at risk, will receive their usual treatment alone. The trial will be nested within a second work package consisting of two stages of interviews to inform and subsequently assess the delivery of CBSP. The researchers will talk with prisoners and staff about how they think CBSP should be adapted for the prison environment, and after the RCT, researchers will re-interview prisoners who received CBSP to assess any problems and how acceptable the intervention was to them. They will also develop a treatment package and manual of the modified CBSP and calculate how many prisoners we would require for a full-scale clinical trial. They will re-assess prisoners 6 months after they received the intervention to see if there are any lasting therapeutic effects.
Organisation	Centre for Suicide Prevention, University of Manchester
Name of Research contact	Dr Jennifer Read
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'National study of self-inflicted deaths in England and Wales'
Research timescales	1999 - 2012

Description of the Study	<p>The study of self-inflicted death by prisoners is a collaborative project between The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (University of Manchester), Offender Health (Dept of Health) and the Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group in the National Offender Management Service.</p> <p>Aims and Objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct a detailed examination of all self-inflicted deaths by prisoners; • To monitor longitudinal trends in the characteristic of prison self-inflicted deaths over time. • To examine sub-groups within the sample, comparing their characteristics to the total self-inflicted death sample. • To make recommendations on the recognition, assessment and management of risk and related issues of mental health care. • To identify the training needs of staff. <p>The key focus of the study is on mental health and the longitudinal trends seen within the prison population.</p>
Organisation	Mannheim Centre for Criminology, London School of Economics
Name of Research contact	Dr Sharon Shalev
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Suicide and self harm in segregated housing'
Research timescales	Research timescales are being confirmed
Description of the Study	Research has shown that many prisoner suicides and other forms of self-harm take place when the prisoner is held in segregation / separation from others. This research project aims to investigate the relationship between placement in segregation housing and incidents of self-harm and suicide, and to suggest ways for reducing the risk of such incidents. The project is currently under development: funding for the project is yet to be sought, and its research particulars (Scope, scale and timing) are yet to be established.

Organisation	University of Manchester
Name of Research contact	Professor Jenny Shaw
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'A National Case-Control Study of Self-Inflicted Deaths in Prisons in England and Wales'
Research timescales	1 March 2005 – 31 March 2009
Description of the Study	This is the first national case-control study in England & Wales to identify and quantify risk factors for suicide among prisoners. Data were collected from central Ministry of Justice records, and from questionnaires completed by prison staff regarding demographic, custodial/behavioural, clinical and service level characteristics of cases and controls. Three independent risk factors for self-inflicted death in prison were found; being from Black and Minority Ethnic group, being on remand and having a history of self-harm. The need for targeted suicide prevention strategies at a service-level for sub-groups of prisoners with particular risk factors has been identified.
Organisation	Offender Health Research Network, University of Manchester
Name of Research contact	Vicky Short
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Self-inflicted Deaths in Segregation Units in E&W between 1999 and 2005'
Research timescales	January 2008 – May 2008
Description of the Study	<p>This project was divided into four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 – described the demographic, clinical and behavioural characteristics of self-inflicted deaths in segregation units in prisons between 1999 and 2005, and compared with the total sample of self-inflicted deaths in prison (based on data previously collected for the National Study of Self-inflicted Deaths by Prisoners).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2 – comprised of an audit and review of all the investigation reports for all self-inflicted deaths in segregation units between 1999 and 2005. • Part 3 – comprised of a thematic review and case studies of the investigation reports into self-inflicted deaths in segregation units in prisons. • Part 4 – aimed to explore and understand prison staff attitudes towards and perspectives on the recognition, assessment and management of suicide risk and related issues of general mental health care within segregation units.
Organisation	City University
Name of Research contact	Duncan Stewart
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'National Patient Safety Agency Data Analysis'
Research timescales	April 2010 – April 2011
Description of the Study	The aim of this study is to identify by what means staff prevent successfully prevent patient suicides. One year's NPSA adverse incident records of inpatient attempted suicide will be examined to see the methods by which these were prevented from becoming completed suicides. A typology of these preventive methods will be determine so that advice can be offered to staff on how these can be done more regularly and consistently.
Organisation	Collaboration between University of Manchester and University of Aarhus, Denmark
Name of Research contact	Dr Roger Webb
Scale of the Study	National
Title	'Suicide Risk and the Danish Criminal Justice System: a Nested Case-control Study'
Research timescales	1 January 2009 – 31 December 2010

Description of the Study	To analyse linked Danish national registers during 1981 to 2006. These large registers, which are unavailable in the UK or any other country, provide a unique resource for conducting truly population-based investigations of all criminal convictions, all psychiatric inpatients admissions and all deaths by suicide and other causes nationally. To use standard epidemiological methods to estimate the relative risk of suicide in various forensic groups versus the general population suicide risk, and assess the how severe mental illness and key demographic/ psychosocial factors modify suicide risk in the forensic population. The findings will provide accurate and precise estimation of gender-specific relative risks in the various groups dealt with by the Danish Criminal Justice System. A key exposure group will be people who have recently received custodial sentences. By identifying subgroups within the wider forensic population with higher(or lower) suicide risk, our anticipated findings will guide researchers, clinicians and service planners, and also inform the appropriate targeting of resources and the development of specific suicide prevention strategies for this high-risk population.
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Home Office Library Trawl

Source	Title of Report	Abstracts	Publication Year
Home Office: Policing & Society	The risk of drug swallowing at the point of arrest: An analysis of 24 cocaine-related deaths following police care or custody in England and Wales	The rise of cocaine use among young people in the UK has been reflected in an increase in the number of deaths in which cocaine is identified post mortem. This increase is evident in relation to police custody deaths. This study focuses on a sample of 43 drug-related deaths in custody in England and Wales occurring from 1997 to 2002. Data were obtained from Police Complaint Authority (PCA) case work files composed of the investigating officer's final report, PCA internal minutes, and correspondence between the PCA and the police force, coroner, Crown Prosecution Service, medical experts, and family. Cocaine was identified in 24 of the post-mortem examinations. Crucially, these deaths contrast with national drug mortality data, as they generally involve cocaine consumed by swallowing at the point of arrest. A total of 18 of 24 cocaine deaths involved oral ingestion, with at least 15 of these possible attempts at drug concealment occurring at the point of arrest. Possible preventative strategies are discussed.	Published in 2004

Home Office	Rates and causes of deaths among prisoners and offenders under community supervision (UK)	The study compares the death rates of 1.250 community offenders (not in prison) and 240 prisoners in England and Wales during 1996 to 1997 with the general population death rates, drawing from the UK office of National Statistics. Violent death, including suicide, accidental death, and homicide, was greater among community offenders than prisoners. Both offender groups were similarly vulnerable to suicide/self-inflicted death; however, accidental death and homicide risks were greater for community offenders (39.5% versus 14%). Furthermore, drugs and alcohol were more of a factor in the death of community offenders than among prisoners (17.1% versus 0.4%). Findings support the argument that although prison has its dangers, it still protects or limits offenders' involvement in antisocial and risky behaviour.	Published in 2001
Winchester, Waterside Press (UK)	Deaths of offenders: the hidden side of justice	Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Deaths in Custody, held at Brunel University in Uxbridge, UK in 1997, include 18 papers. Topics include politics, theory and inquiry; deaths of offenders in police custody; special issues; voices of prisoners, families and support groups; and prevention of deaths in custody.	Published in 1998
Whiting & Birch, UK	Deaths in Custody: caring for people at risk	Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Deaths in Custody, held at New Hall in Cambridge, UK in April 1994, highlights examples of progress and change. The 15 papers explore suicide and other types of deaths in custody in Australia, England, the Netherlands and elsewhere. Among the special populations discussed are mentally ill offenders, women and juveniles.	Published in 1996