

**Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003:
Supplementary Volume 1:
Homicide and Gun Crime**

01/04

Editor: David Povey

January 2004

Acknowledgements

This bulletin has been prepared by members of the Police Statistics section, which forms part of the Crime and Policing Group in the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS).

The editor and chapter authors are grateful for the support and assistance of other members of section, including Paul Taylor, Olivia Christophersen, Paul Robb, Duncan Lavin, Richard Woodward, Jason Lal and Richard Barrett.

They would also like to thank their colleagues in the Home Office's Data Collection Group, for the collection, processing and validation of the homicide and firearms data.

Finally, thanks go to the Force Crime Registrars and statistics officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales for providing the data, and ensuring that it complies with recording standards.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Home Office (nor do they represent Government policy).

Copies of this and other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the Communications and Development Unit, Room 264, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT (Tel. 020 7273 2084).

Or by internet e-mail: publications@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

RDS Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

For further information about recorded crime and other police statistics, please contact David Povey, Judith Cotton or Alan Gray, at the Crime and Policing Group, Room 844, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (Tel. 020 7273 2841).

Contents

	Page
Contents	
List of tables and figures	
Summary	1
Chapter 1 Homicide	3
<i>Judith Cotton</i>	
1.1 Offences initially recorded as homicide	4
1.2 Victims.....	4
1.3 Suspects.....	7
Chapter 2 Recorded crimes involving firearms	25
<i>Tricia Dodd, Alan Gray, Jonathan Smith and Corrine Charles</i>	
2.1 Firearm offences in 2002/03.....	26
2.2 How firearms were used	27
2.3 The type of weapon used.....	28
2.4 Injuries in crimes involving firearms.....	29
2.5 The types of crimes where firearms are used	31
2.6 Geographical distribution of firearms offences.....	32
2.7 Robberies.....	33
2.8 Misappropriated (stolen) firearms.....	34
2.9 Firearms Acts offences in 2002	35
2.10 Further analysis of gun crime in selected areas	35

List of tables and figures

Chapter 1

Figure 1.1	Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales 1951 to 2002/03
Figure 1.2	Offences currently recorded as homicide, by apparent method of killing and sex of victim
Figure 1.3	All victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect
Figure 1.4	Victims under 16 years of age, by relationship of victim to suspect
Figure 1.5	Offences currently recorded as homicide, by age of victim
Figure 1.6	Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.01	Offences initially recorded by the police as homicide by current classification England and Wales 1951 to 2002/03
Table 1.02	Offences initially recorded as homicide by outcome England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.03	Offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.04	Homicides currently recorded for victims under 16 years by relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.05	Homicides currently recorded for all victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.06	Offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.07	Offences currently recorded as homicide by age and sex of victim England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.08	Suspects convicted of homicide by type of homicide England and Wales 1965 to 2002/03
Table 1.09	Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03
Table 1.10	Suspects convicted of homicide by type of homicide and sentence England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Table 1.11 Suspects convicted of homicide by previous homicide convictions England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Table 1.12 Suspects convicted of homicide who had previously been convicted of homicide by type of homicide England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Chapter 2

Figure 2.1 Crimes reported to the police in which a firearm has been used

Figure 2.2 How firearms were used, 2002/03

Figure 2.3 Types of weapon used in non-air weapon firearm crimes; England and Wales 2002/03

Figure 2.4 Firearm offences by type of principal weapon

Figure 2.5 Crimes in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence type

Figure 2.6 Firearm offences by crime type as a percentage of all firearm crime for air weapons and non-air weapons; 2002/03

Figure 2.7 Firearm offences in police force areas; 2002/03

Figure 2.8 The location of firearm robberies in 2001/02 and 2002/03: number of offences

Figure 2.9 Age of victim for offences believed to involve a firearm or air weapon: April 2002-March 2003 (8 police force areas)

Figure 2.10 Proportion of victims by age involved in firearms or air weapon-related offences April 2002 to March 2003 (8 police force areas)

Figure 2.11 Offences believed to involve a firearm or air weapon by time of offence: April 2002 to March 2003 (8 police force areas)

Figure 2.12 Age of persons charged with offence involving firearm or air weapon: 7 police force areas 2002/03

Figure 2.13 Persons charged with offence involving firearm or air weapon by age and type of offence: 7 police force areas 2002/03

Figure 2.14 Proportion of victims by age group: 2000/01 to 2002/03 (6 police force areas)

Table 2a Crimes in which firearms were used, by type of firearm, whether fired, and degree of injury caused in 2002/03

Table 2b Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were used by degree of injury

Table 2c	Crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm
Table 2d	Weapons fired or discharged by offence in five police force areas in 2002/03 (Metropolitan, West Midlands, GMP, Merseyside and South Yorkshire)
Table 2e	Persons accused of offence involving firearm between 2000/01 and 2002/03: weapon type and age of accused person (6 police force areas)
Table 2.01	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, by offence group
Table 2.02	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, as a percentage of all notifiable offences in particular offence groups
Table 2.03	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon
Table 2.04	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence group and principal weapon, 2002/03
Table 2.05	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by how involved and principal weapon, 2002/03
Table 2.06	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury by type of principal weapon
Table 2.07	Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury by degree of injury and type of principal weapon, 2002/03
Table 2.08	Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon
Table 2.09	Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by location of offence
Table 2.10	Firearms misappropriated in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by type of weapon
Table 2.11	Firearms misappropriated in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by type of weapon and location, 2002/03
Table 2.12	Persons found guilty at all courts or cautioned for offences under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 by type of offence, England and Wales
Table 2.13	Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area

Summary

HOMICIDE

Chapter 1 draws on information provided by the police on every case initially recorded as a homicide in England and Wales. It includes information about the victim, any suspect(s) and the outcome of any prosecution.

- There were 1,045 deaths initially recorded as homicides in England and Wales based on cases recorded by the police in 2002/03. This includes 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman (see note 1 on page 3) all of which relate to offences committed in previous years. The total is an increase of 21 per cent on 2001/02 (or 1% excluding the Shipman cases).
- The most common method of killing at 27 per cent (33% excluding Shipman) involved a sharp instrument. Firearms were used in eight per cent of homicides.
- Thirty-seven per cent (40% excluding Shipman) of male victims and 45 per cent (66% excluding Shipman) of female victims knew the main suspect.
- Overall the risk of being a victim of homicide was 19 per million population. Children under one year old were most at risk at 58 per million population.

RECORDED CRIMES INVOLVING FIREARMS

Chapter 2 reports on crimes recorded by the police that have involved the use of a firearm, whether through being fired, used as a blunt instrument or as a threat. It includes information on type of weapon, how it was used, the location, and information on the victim and the severity of injury suffered (if any).

- Firearms other than air weapons were reported to have been used in 10,248 recorded crimes in 2002/03. This was a two per cent increase over the previous year, following a much larger increase of 34 per cent in the previous year.
- Air weapons were reported to have been used in 13,822 recorded crimes, a rise of 12 per cent compared with 2001/02. This rise may have been inflated by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard.
- Weapons were fired in 28 per cent of firearm crimes (excluding those involving air weapons). In most (68%) non-air-weapon offences, the weapon was used as a threat and was neither fired nor used as a blunt instrument. Handguns were fired in 11 per cent of the offences where they were involved.
- About two per cent of firearm crime resulted in a serious injury. There were 572 serious injuries resulting from crimes that involved firearms (including air weapons) in 2002/03, up three per cent from 2001/02.

1 Homicide

Judith Cotton

SUMMARY

In 2002/03, 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman¹ have been recorded, all of which relate to offences committed in previous years. This has the effect of distorting previous trends in homicide. Where these figures have an impact, the effect excluding victims of Shipman is given.

- There were 1,045 deaths initially recorded as homicides in England and Wales based on cases recorded by the police in 2002/03. As previously reported², this is an increase of 21 per cent on 2001/02 (however, excluding the Shipman cases, the increase is 1%).
- Fifty-eight per cent of homicide victims were male (65% excluding Shipman).
- The most common method of killing at 27 per cent (33% excluding Shipman) involved a sharp instrument.
- Firearms were used in eight per cent of homicides, a decrease of 18 per cent (18 cases) on 2001/02.
- Thirty-seven per cent (40% excluding Shipman) of male victims and 45 per cent (66% excluding Shipman) of female victims knew the main suspect.
- Overall the risk of being a victim of homicide was 19 per million population. Children under one year old were most at risk at 58 per million population.

Coverage

The term 'homicide' covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Murder and manslaughter are common law offences, which have never been defined by statute, although they have been modified by statute. Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of another without any malice either expressed or implied. A particular category is 'Section 2' manslaughter which refers to the provisions of section 2 of the Homicide Act 1957, which allowed for the defence of diminished responsibility. The Infanticide Act of 1922 (amended 1938) created the offence of infanticide in the case of a woman who caused the death of a child under 12 months while 'the balance of her mind was disturbed by reason of her not having fully recovered from the effects of giving birth to the child or by reason of the effect of lactation consequent upon the birth of the child'.

¹ Dr Harold Shipman was convicted in January 2000 of murdering 15 of his patients while he was a general practitioner in Hyde, Greater Manchester. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The independent public enquiry produced its first report in July 2002, in which it identified a further 172 victims. These extra homicides were then recorded by Greater Manchester Police and thus appear in the 2002/03 homicide figures, although no further court action was taken.

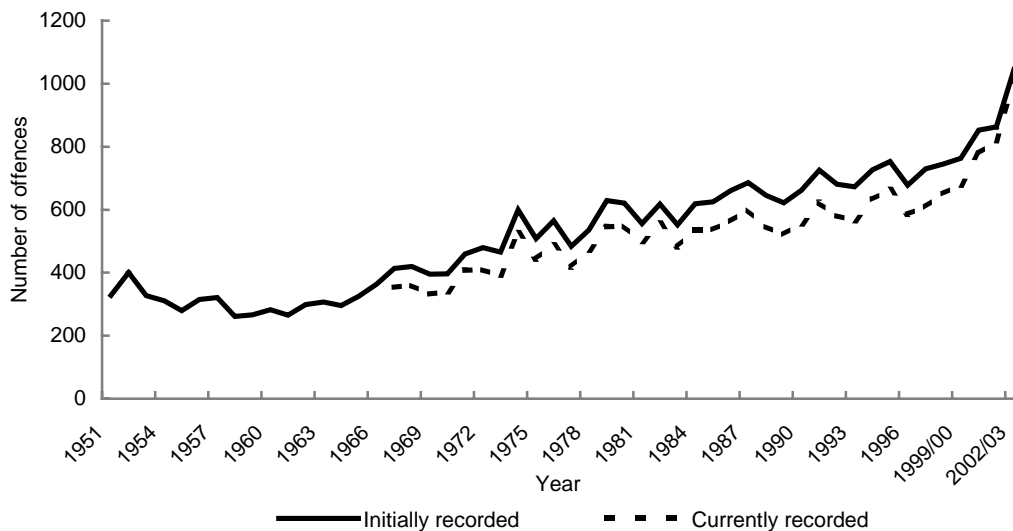
² In *Crime in England and Wales 2002-03* (ed. Simmons and Dodd). The total number reported here has been revised slightly from the provisional number published in the earlier volume.

1.1 OFFENCES INITIALLY RECORDED AS HOMICIDE

Homicide offences are shown in the tables according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place, or the year in which any court decision was made. The data refer to the position as at 13 November 2003 when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis. Subsequent court hearings or other information received will change the figures given. Where the police initially record an offence as homicide, it remains so classified unless the police or the courts decide later that no homicide took place. Because of differences in recording practice with respect to 'no crimes', data from the homicide index do not necessarily agree with the recorded crime data.

In 2002/03, 1,045 deaths were initially recorded as homicide, an increase of 21 per cent (1% excluding Shipman) on the previous year. Of these offences, 38 were no longer recorded as homicides by 13 November 2003. Court proceedings had resulted in findings of guilt in respect of 239 victims and proceedings were pending for a further 373. The suspects responsible for the deaths of 32 victims had committed suicide or died. For 183 victims, no suspects had been identified. In the remaining 180 offences, proceedings were discontinued or not initiated; most of these relate to Dr Shipman.

Figure 1.1 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales 1951 to 2002/03



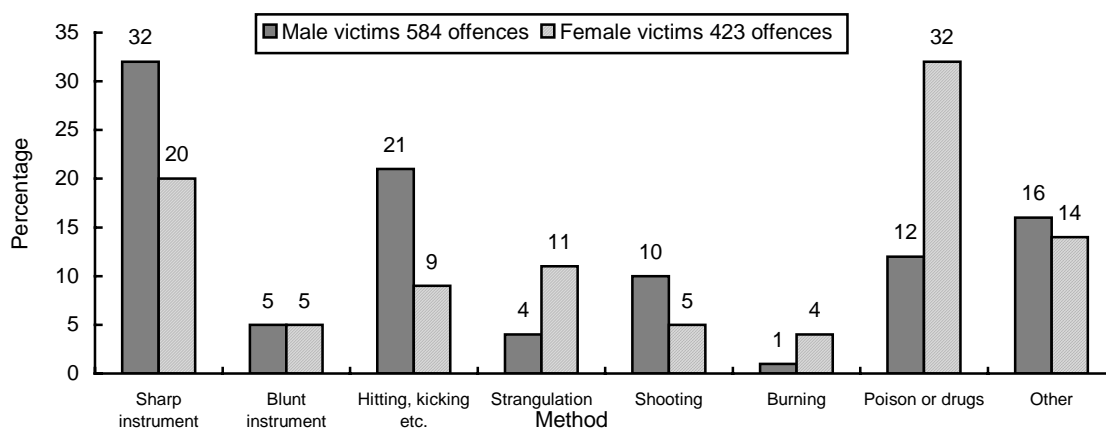
1.2 VICTIMS

Method of killing

As in previous years, the most common method of killing was with a sharp instrument. Twenty-seven per cent of all victims were killed by this method. In 2002/03, the effect of including victims of Dr Shipman meant that the second most common method at 20 per cent involved the use of

poison or drugs i.e. 12 per cent of male victims and 32 per cent of female victims. If victims of Dr Shipman were excluded, the method of killing would have followed the more usual trend with the second most common method used against men (23%) involving hitting or kicking whereas female victims were more likely to be strangled or asphyxiated (16%). In 2002/03, shootings accounted for ten per cent of male and five per cent of female homicides. Overall, compared with the previous year, the number of shootings has fallen by 18, a decrease of 18 per cent.

Figure 1.2 Offences currently recorded as homicide, by apparent method of killing and sex of victim



Relationship between victims and suspect

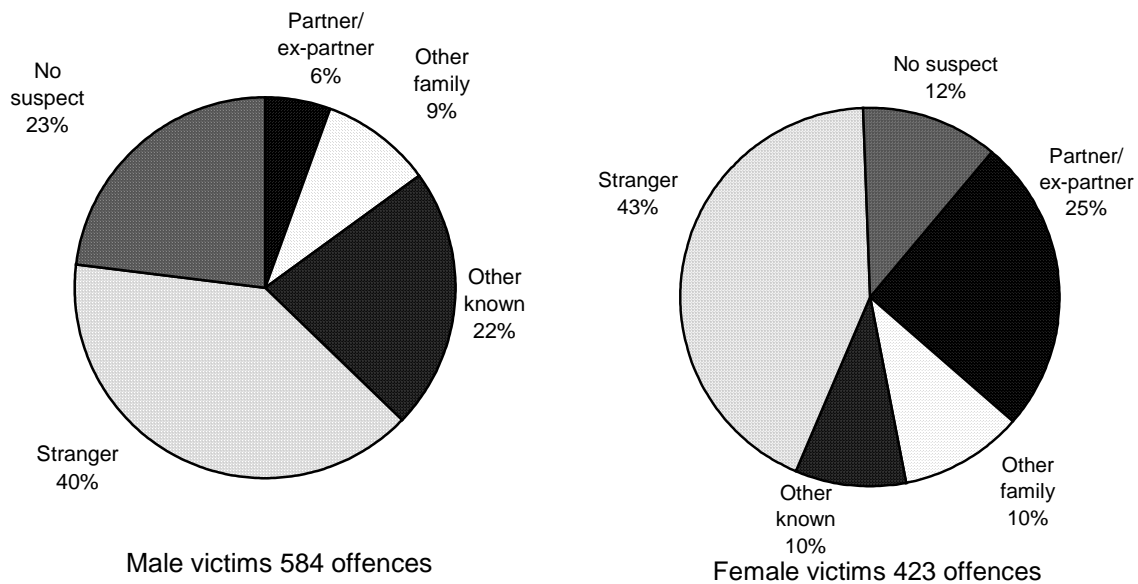
In 2002/03, for the 172 victims of Dr Shipman, the relationship of victim to suspect was classified as 'commercial, business or professional relationship, where the suspect killed a customer or client in the course of carrying out their occupation'. This classification is included in the category of stranger (see box below).

Forty-five per cent of female victims knew the main or only suspect at the time of the offence in a personal rather than professional capacity (66% excluding victims of Dr Shipman). Their partner, ex-partner or lover killed more than half (56%) of female victims acquainted with the suspect. By comparison, 37 per cent of male victims knew the main or only suspect of whom their partner or ex-partner killed only 15 per cent. In 2002/03, 232 men and 182 women were killed by strangers. Due to the distorting effect of the Shipman cases, a higher proportion of female victims at 43 per cent (18% excluding Shipman victims) did not know the suspect compared with 40 per cent (35% excluding Shipman victims) of male victims. No suspect had been identified for 18 per cent of homicide victims when data collection closed on 13 November 2003 for the purpose of analysis.

Stranger category includes:

1. Commercial, business or professional relationship, where the victim was killed in the course of carrying out their occupation.
2. Commercial, business or professional relationship, where the suspect killed a customer or client in the course of carrying out their occupation.
3. Police officer or prison officer killed in the course of their duty.
4. Stranger – terrorist killing, contract killing and other.
5. Not known – insufficient information.

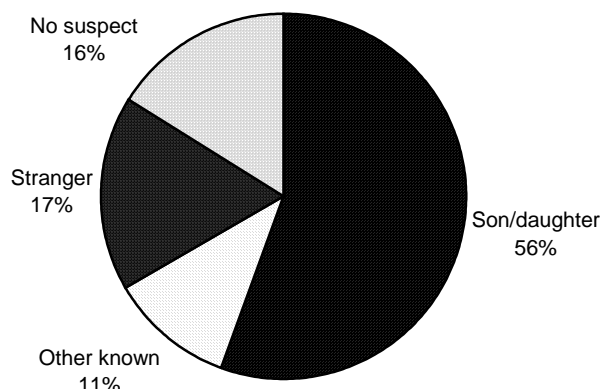
Figure 1.3 All victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect



Victims under 16 years of age

In 2002/03, there was a total of 99 victims under 16 years of age, an increase of 55 per cent on the previous year. Fifty-five of these victims (and 56% of the total) were killed by their parents and a further 11 (11%) were the victims of suspects known to them. Only 17 (17%) of the victims were known to have been killed by strangers and as of 13 November 2003 there were no suspects for 16 (16%) of the victims. The number of deaths of those under 16 varies considerably from year to year, and though the numbers in 2002/03 showed a large increase from 2001/02, they were the same number as had been recorded in 2000/01.

Figure 1.4 Victims under 16 years of age, by relationship of victim to suspect 99 offences



Circumstances of the homicides

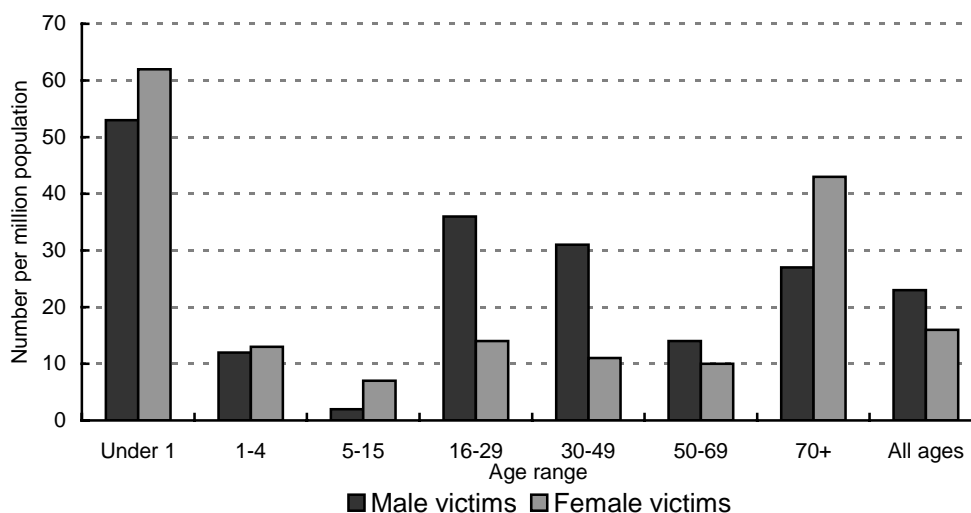
A quarrel, revenge or loss of temper reportedly accounted for 30 per cent of homicides in 2002/03 (35% excluding the Shipman cases). Where the suspect (or suspects) was known to the victim, around half the homicides resulted from a quarrel, an act of revenge or a loss of temper,

whereas when the suspect was unknown to the victim this was the circumstance for less than a fifth of the homicides. About five per cent of homicides occurred during robberies or burglaries and four per cent were attributed to suspects with no apparent motive who appeared to be mentally disturbed.

Risks for different age groups

As in previous years, those children under one year were most at risk of homicide at 58 per million population in 2002/03. However, for this age group and children generally, numbers are small and considerable year-on-year variation in the rate is to be expected. As a result of the age of Dr Shipman's victims, for the first time those over 70 years of age are shown as the second most at risk group at 37 per million population. By comparison, the risk for those over 70 years of age in 2001/02 was 11 per million population.

Figure 1.5 Offences currently recorded as homicide, by age of victim



1.3 SUSPECTS

A suspect in a homicide case is defined as (i) a person who has been arrested in respect of an offence initially classified as homicide and has been charged with homicide or (ii) a person who is suspected by the police of having committed the offence but is known to have died or committed suicide prior to arrest. More than one suspect may be tried for one offence and sometimes no suspect is ever brought to trial. Hence the number of suspects is not the same as the number of offences.

By 13 November 2003, at least one suspect had been identified in 824 of the currently recorded homicides (82% of the total). In total there were 994 suspects (172 of these were Dr Shipman). Court proceedings had concluded for 335 suspects and 459 had court proceedings pending against them. Of the remaining 200 suspects, 24 had either died or committed suicide. For four suspects, either no proceedings took place or they were tried for a lesser offence. The remaining 172 are attributable to Dr Shipman, who had already been convicted of murder (see footnote 1).

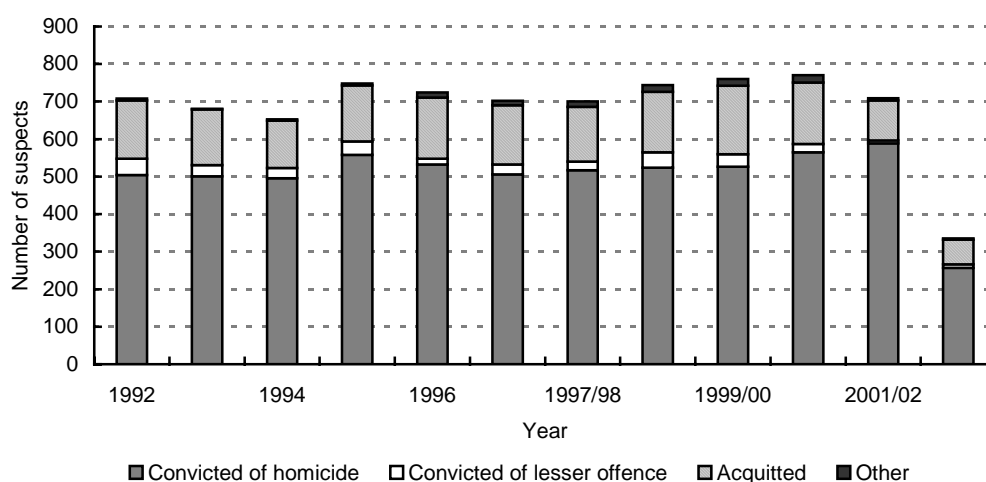
Outcome all suspects

Outcome	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Convicted of homicide	524	526	565	589	257
Both indicted and not indicted for homicide					
Convicted of lesser offence	45	38	23	9	9
Unfit to plead or insane	6	6	5	3	0
Acquitted/discontinued etc.	190	225	203	119	66
Proceedings other outcome	10	10	13	4	2
Committed suicide or died	31	32	29	25	25
No proceedings taken	23	35	2	4	176 ⁽¹⁾
Proceedings pending	43	62	114	190	459
Total	872	934	954	943	994

(1) Includes 172 cases in relation to Dr Shipman.

For those suspects where proceedings had concluded, 297 were male and 38 female. Thirty-nine per cent of males indicted were convicted of murder, 38 per cent were convicted of manslaughter and 19 per cent were acquitted. For females indicted, 21 per cent were convicted of murder, 53 per cent of manslaughter and 24 per cent were acquitted. More complete data from recent years are a better guide to the outcome of court proceedings. Too much importance should not be placed on year 2002/03 when nearly half of suspects had not been before the courts at the time of this analysis. Between 1992 and 2001/02 approximately three-quarters of suspects indicted for homicide were found guilty of homicide and around a fifth were acquitted.

Figure 1.6 Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings 1992 to 2002/03



Previous homicide convictions

There were no known convictions for homicides recorded in 2002/03 or the previous year where the suspect had been convicted of a homicide on a previous occasion. There were two such suspects convicted of homicides recorded in 2000/01. Among those who had been convicted of homicides which took place between 1992 and 2002/03, 32 had previously been convicted of homicide, 11 of which were convictions for murder. Six were still serving a custodial sentence when they were convicted of their subsequent offence. The data include all previous homicide convictions (where known) wherever they took place but the second offence must have occurred in England and Wales to be included in this analysis.

**Table 1.01 Offences ¹ initially recorded by the police as homicide by current classification ²
England and Wales 1951 to 2002/03**

Year	Numbers and rates per million population			Recorded crime
	Number of offences initially recorded as homicide	Number of offences no longer recorded as homicide	Number of offences currently recorded as homicide	Offences currently recorded as homicide per million population
1951	328	..	..	..
1952	400	..	..	..
1953	327	..	..	..
1954	311	..	..	..
1955	279	..	..	..
1956	315	..	..	..
1957	321	..	..	..
1958	261	..	..	..
1959	266	..	..	..
1960	282	..	..	..
1961	265	..	..	..
1962	299	..	..	..
1963	307	..	..	..
1964	296	..	..	..
1965	325	..	..	..
1966	364	..	..	..
1967	414	60	354	7.3
1968	420	60	360	7.4
1969	395	63	332	6.8
1970	396	57	339	7.0
1971	459	52	407	8.3
1972	480	71	409	8.3
1973	465	74	391	8.0
1974	599	73	526	10.7
1975	508	65	443	9.0
1976	565	77	488	9.9
1977	484	66	418	8.5
1978	535	64	471	9.6
1979	629	83	546	11.1
1980	621	72	549	11.1
1981	556	57	499	10.1
1982	618	61	557	11.2
1983	552	70	482	9.7
1984	619	82	537	10.8
1985	625	89	536	10.7
1986	660	97	563	11.2
1987	686	87	599	11.9
1988	645	98	547	10.9
1989	622	101	521	10.3
1990	661	106	555	10.9
1991	725	102	623	12.3
1992	681	100	581	11.4
1993	673	108	565	11.1
1994	727	95	632	12.4
1995	753	90	663	13.0
1996	678	93	585	11.4
1997	735	125	610	11.9
1997/98	730	121	609	11.8
1998/99	745	95	650	12.6
1999/00	763	85	678	13.1
2000/01	852	74	778	15.0
2001/02	863	45	818	15.7
2002/03	1,045	38	1,007	19.3

1. A separate offence is recorded for each victim of homicide, so that in an incident in which several people are killed, the number of homicides counted is the total number of persons killed.

2. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Table 1.02 Offences initially recorded as homicide by outcome England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Outcome												
Offences initially recorded as homicide	681	673	727	753	678	735	730	745	763	852	863	1,045
Offences no longer recorded as homicide ¹	100	108	95	90	93	125	121	95	85	74	45	38
Offences currently recorded as homicide ¹												
Decided at court to be homicide:												
Murder	191	210	218	252	228	216	207	226	244	245	254	118
Sec 2 Manslaughter	84	66	75	58	50	47	50	40	26	20	15	6
Other Manslaughter	182	180	189	194	173	182	188	214	185	286	244	115
Infanticide	6	5	2	3	4	3	4	7	1	5	1	-
Total	463	461	484	507	455	448	449	487	456	556	514	239
Court decision pending	-	-	2	1	8	15	21	28	40	65	114	373
Proceedings not initiated or concluded without conviction or acquittal:												
Suspect found by the court to be insane	6	1	4	3	1	4	6	6	6	5	2	-
Suspect died	1	4	1	10	9	3	3	4	4	6	5	3
Suspect committed suicide	40	30	42	41	35	36	30	36	34	33	24	29
Proceedings discontinued or not initiated	7	9	14	15	22	24	23	18	44	15	12	180
Total	54	44	61	69	67	67	62	64	88	59	43	212
Currently no suspect:												
All suspects acquitted	27	23	29	34	20	30	26	23	37	31	10	-
No suspects charged	37	37	56	52	35	50	51	48	57	67	137	183
Total	64	60	85	86	55	80	77	71	94	98	147	183
Total offences currently recorded as homicide	581	565	632	663	585	610	609	650	678	778	818	1,007

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

**Table 1.03 Offences currently ¹ recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim
England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03**

Apparent method	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male victims												
Sharp instrument	148	122	159	184	139	133	137	152	153	156	195	187
Blunt instrument	32	37	33	48	49	48	47	41	44	50	36	27
Hitting, kicking, etc.	73	67	62	89	64	76	79	76	81	87	121	122
Strangulation ²	21	27	28	25	20	10	12	30	20	86	18	21
Shooting ³	38	51	49	55	38	52	45	42	52	63	92	58
Explosion	3	3	-	1	2	1	1	2	3	-	-	4
Burning	11	7	22	16	13	15	15	13	9	9	15	7
Drowning	6	4	8	1	4	7	5	3	3	7	8	4
Poison or drugs ⁴	7	7	6	9	15	12	12	24	20	21	21	68
Motor vehicle ⁵	6	6	4	4	2	11	12	11	10	10	15	20
Other	2	9	3	9	29	24	26	27	26	50	26	31
Not known	1	3	3	3	-	6	9	12	28	9	18	35
Total	348	343	377	444	375	395	400	433	449	548	565	584
Female victims												
Sharp instrument	70	60	72	59	58	67	65	50	60	58	67	85
Blunt instrument	18	29	22	30	19	23	21	24	26	26	24	20
Hitting, kicking, etc.	44	30	32	17	17	23	24	13	13	16	25	38
Strangulation ²	58	62	76	58	57	54	49	50	36	63	61	47
Shooting ³	14	20	14	11	9	6	7	4	9	9	6	22
Explosion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Burning	10	7	17	17	11	14	13	19	4	9	14	16
Drowning	8	2	5	2	5	-	1	3	3	1	5	4
Poison or drugs ⁴	4	2	11	7	13	5	5	23	33	11	15	136
Motor vehicle ⁵	3	3	1	2	-	1	1	3	1	8	5	5
Other	2	5	1	10	15	14	13	17	18	23	14	21
Not known	1	2	4	6	6	8	10	11	25	6	16	29
Total	233	222	255	219	210	215	209	217	229	230	253	423
Total victims												
Sharp instrument	218	182	231	243	197	200	202	202	213	214	262	272
Blunt instrument	50	66	55	78	68	71	68	65	70	76	60	47
Hitting, kicking, etc.	117	97	94	106	81	99	103	89	94	103	146	160
Strangulation ²	79	89	104	83	77	64	61	80	56	149	79	68
Shooting ³	52	71	63	66	47	58	52	46	61	72	98	80
Explosion	4	3	-	1	2	1	1	2	4	-	1	4
Burning	21	14	39	33	24	29	28	32	13	18	29	23
Drowning	14	6	13	3	9	7	6	6	6	8	13	8
Poison or drugs ⁴	11	9	17	16	28	17	17	47	53	32	36	204
Motor vehicle ⁵	9	9	5	6	2	12	13	14	11	18	20	25
Other	4	14	4	19	44	38	39	44	44	73	40	52
Not known	2	5	7	9	6	14	19	23	53	15	34	64
Total	581	565	632	663	585	610	609	650	678	778	818	1,007

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Including asphyxiation. Year 2000/01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.

3. These figures may not agree with those in the firearms chapter because (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) homicide figures include shooting by crossbows and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

4. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Shipman.

5. Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Table 1.04 Homicides currently ¹ recorded for victims under 16 years by relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	27	24	17	29	34	31	27	32	29	46	30	29
Other family/friend/acquaintance	4	6	7	9	5	9	8	7	3	5	6	1
Total known	31	30	24	38	39	40	35	39	32	51	36	30
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	2	4	3	5	2	7	5	3	4	5	4	5
No suspect	0	1	3	1	2	4	2	5	3	3	6	5
Total not known	2	5	6	6	4	11	7	8	7	8	10	10
TOTAL	33	35	30	44	43	51	42	47	39	59	46	40
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	24	25	36	23	24	19	17	25	19	34	11	26
Other family/friend/acquaintance	4	5	4	7	7	8	7	10	1	2	3	10
Total known	28	30	40	30	31	27	24	35	20	36	14	36
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	2	3	4	3	5	1	1	2	5	4	3	12
No suspect	5	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	1	0	1	11
Total not known	7	4	6	6	6	4	5	3	6	4	4	23
TOTAL	35	34	46	36	37	31	29	38	26	40	18	59
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	51	49	53	52	58	50	44	57	48	80	41	55
Other family/friend/acquaintance	8	11	11	16	12	17	15	17	4	7	9	11
Total known	59	60	64	68	70	67	59	74	52	87	50	66
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	4	7	7	8	7	8	6	5	9	9	7	17
No suspect	5	2	5	4	3	7	6	6	4	3	7	16
Total not known	9	9	12	12	10	15	12	11	13	12	14	33
TOTAL	68	69	76	80	80	82	71	85	65	99	64	99

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Table 1.04 (continued)

Percentages	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	82	69	57	66	79	61	64	68	74	78	65	73
Other family/friend/acquaintance	12	17	23	20	12	18	19	15	8	8	13	3
Total known	94	86	80	86	91	78	83	83	82	86	78	75
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	6	11	10	11	5	14	12	6	10	8	9	13
No suspect	0	3	10	2	5	8	5	11	8	5	13	13
Total not known	6	14	20	14	9	22	17	17	18	14	22	25
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	69	74	78	64	65	61	59	66	73	85	61	44
Other family/friend/acquaintance	11	15	9	19	19	26	24	26	4	5	17	17
Total known	80	88	87	83	84	87	83	92	77	90	78	61
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	6	9	9	8	14	3	3	5	19	10	17	20
No suspect	14	3	4	8	3	10	14	3	4	0	6	19
Total not known	20	12	13	17	16	13	17	8	23	10	22	39
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	75	71	70	65	73	61	62	67	74	81	64	56
Other family/friend/acquaintance	12	16	14	20	15	21	21	20	6	7	14	11
Total known	87	87	84	85	88	82	83	87	80	88	78	67
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	6	10	9	10	9	10	8	6	14	9	11	17
No suspect	7	3	7	5	4	9	8	7	6	3	11	16
Total not known	13	13	16	15	13	18	17	13	20	12	22	33
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Table 1.05 Homicides currently ¹ recorded for all victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	27	24	19	31	34	32	29	34	31	48	32	31
Parent	7	11	7	15	9	6	7	8	9	8	9	11
Partner/ex-partner	31	18	33	38	24	31	31	28	24	25	30	33
Other family/friend/acquaintance	147	136	143	157	137	143	153	176	156	162	157	143
Total known	212	189	202	241	204	212	220	246	220	243	228	218
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	93	115	112	139	131	119	120	133	154	221	218	232
No suspect	43	39	63	64	40	64	60	54	75	84	119	134
Total not known	136	154	175	203	171	183	180	187	229	305	337	366
TOTAL	348	343	377	444	375	395	400	433	449	548	565	584
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	26	29	39	24	25	19	18	27	19	38	12	29
Parent	6	11	14	9	7	19	13	7	6	5	13	9
Partner/ex-partner	106	93	98	93	94	99	100	76	88	98	120	107
Other family/friend/acquaintance	53	52	49	44	35	34	34	48	30	33	39	47
Total known	191	185	200	170	161	171	165	158	143	174	184	192
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	26	21	33	27	34	28	27	42	67	42	41	182
No suspect	16	16	22	22	15	16	17	17	19	14	28	49
Total not known	42	37	55	49	49	44	44	59	86	56	69	231
TOTAL	233	222	255	219	210	215	209	217	229	230	253	423
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	53	53	58	55	59	51	47	61	50	86	44	60
Parent	13	22	21	24	16	25	20	15	15	13	22	20
Partner/ex-partner	137	111	131	131	118	130	131	104	112	123	150	140
Other family/friend/acquaintance	200	188	192	201	172	177	187	224	186	195	196	190
Total known	403	374	402	411	365	383	385	404	363	417	412	410
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	119	136	145	166	165	147	147	175	221	263	259	414
No suspect	59	55	85	86	55	80	77	71	94	98	147	183
Total not known	178	191	230	252	220	227	224	246	315	361	406	597
TOTAL	581	565	632	663	585	610	609	650	678	778	818	1,007

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Table 1.05 (continued)

Percentages	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	8	7	5	7	9	8	7	8	7	9	6	5
Parent	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Partner/ex-partner	9	5	9	9	6	8	8	6	5	5	5	6
Other family/friend/acquaintance	42	40	38	35	37	36	38	41	35	30	28	24
Total known	61	55	54	54	54	54	55	57	49	44	40	37
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	27	34	30	31	35	30	30	31	34	40	39	40
No suspect	12	11	17	14	11	16	15	12	17	15	21	23
Total not known	39	45	46	46	46	46	45	43	51	56	60	63
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Female victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	11	13	15	11	12	9	9	12	8	17	5	7
Parent	3	5	5	4	3	9	6	3	3	2	5	2
Partner/ex-partner	45	42	38	42	45	46	48	35	38	43	47	25
Other family/friend/acquaintance	23	23	19	20	17	16	16	22	13	14	15	11
Total known	82	83	78	78	77	80	79	73	62	76	73	45
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	11	9	13	12	16	13	13	19	29	18	16	43
No suspect	7	7	9	10	7	7	8	8	8	6	11	12
Total not known	18	17	22	22	23	20	21	27	38	24	27	55
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All victims												
Victim acquainted with suspect												
Son or daughter	9	9	9	8	10	8	8	9	7	11	5	6
Parent	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	2	3	2
Partner/ex-partner	24	20	21	20	20	21	22	16	17	16	18	14
Other family/friend/acquaintance	34	33	30	30	29	29	31	34	27	25	24	19
Total known	69	66	64	62	62	63	63	62	54	54	50	41
Victim not acquainted with suspect												
Stranger ²	20	24	23	25	28	24	24	27	33	34	32	41
No suspect	10	10	13	13	9	13	13	11	14	13	18	18
Total not known	31	34	36	38	38	37	37	38	46	46	50	59
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

Table 1.06 Offences currently¹ recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Apparent circumstances ²												
	Acquaintance											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	292	215	229	274	251	245	252	253	176	223	222	199
In furtherance of theft or gain	12	16	13	19	12	15	11	14	7	8	14	12
Attributed to acts of terrorism ^{4,5}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
While resisting or avoiding arrest ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attributed to gang warfare, feud or faction fighting	1	5	3	2	-	4	4	4	2	-	5	1
The result of offences of arson	1	3	6	10	6	1	1	1	1	2	4	1
Other circumstances ⁷	32	40	41	25	34	35	36	31	43	61	59	58
Not known:												
Suspect committed suicide ⁸	36	30	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suspect mentally disturbed	11	31	38	29	27	34	30	22	18	13	21	28
Other ⁹	18	34	34	52	35	49	51	79	116	110	87	111
Total	403	374	402	411	365	383	385	404	363	417	412	410
	Stranger ³											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	60	51	57	84	77	62	65	73	69	82	112	106
In furtherance of theft or gain	30	25	34	35	27	35	32	30	26	81	49	36
Attributed to acts of terrorism ^{4,5}	5	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
While resisting or avoiding arrest ⁶	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	4
Attributed to gang warfare, feud or faction fighting	-	4	6	10	9	10	8	2	6	10	10	5
The result of offences of arson	2	2	2	6	4	2	2	-	3	4	6	10
Other circumstances ⁷	13	15	18	22	21	33	31	46	52	51	59	237
Not known:												
Suspect committed suicide ⁸	3	-	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suspect mentally disturbed	1	3	8	10	9	8	9	6	4	2	11	13
Other ⁹	63	86	100	84	71	76	76	89	150	129	159	186
Total	178	191	230	252	220	227	224	246	315	361	406	597
	All relationships ³											
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	352	266	286	358	328	307	317	326	245	305	334	305
In furtherance of theft or gain	42	41	47	54	39	50	43	44	33	89	63	48
Attributed to acts of terrorism ^{4,5}	5	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
While resisting or avoiding arrest ⁶	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	4
Attributed to gang warfare, feud or faction fighting	1	9	9	12	9	14	12	6	8	10	15	6
The result of offences of arson	3	5	8	16	10	3	3	1	4	6	10	11
Other circumstances ⁷	45	55	59	47	55	68	67	77	95	112	118	295
Not known:												0
Suspect committed suicide ⁸	39	30	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suspect mentally disturbed	12	34	46	39	36	42	39	28	22	15	32	41
Other ⁹	81	120	134	136	106	125	127	168	266	239	246	297
Total	581	565	632	663	585	610	609	650	678	778	818	1,007

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available
2. In a very small number of cases, the circumstances of a homicide could be classified in more than one row in the table and an assessment has been made of the principal circumstances, against which the offence is shown.
3. Including cases where there is no suspect.
4. Offences 'attributed to acts of terrorism' include all bombings and political assassinations so attributed even where there is no individual suspect and also other homicides where there are strong grounds for believing that the killers were terrorists.
5. Of which, attributed to acts of terrorism connected with Northern Ireland
1992 1993 1996 1999/00
5 3 2 -
6. Homicides 'while resisting or avoiding arrest' only include cases where a police officer or a person actively assisting a police officer was killed. Cases in which an innocent bystander was killed during an arrest, or where it is thought that a member of the public may have been killed while attempting to apprehend the killer for some offence when no police officer was present, are included in 'other circumstances'.
7. It is not possible to show separately offences committed in the course of furtherance of a sexual attack as there is often insufficient information available.
8. Prior to 1995, if a suspect committed suicide the circumstances were automatically classified as unknown. For 1995 on, apparent circumstances have been coded, where known.
9. Where no suspect has been found it is not always possible to establish the circumstances in which a homicide was committed or the reason for its commission.

Table 1.07 Offences currently ¹ recorded as homicide by age and sex of victim England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers		Recorded crime											
Age	Sex	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01 ²	2001/02	2002/03
Under 1 year	Male	15	15	9	9	17	22	19	20	18	26	11	16
	Female	12	12	15	8	10	10	10	19	13	24	5	18
	Total	27	27	24	17	27	32	29	39	31	50	16	34
1 and under 5 years	Male	11	13	9	13	11	11	7	14	7	14	15	15
	Female	10	14	15	6	9	9	9	7	4	6	6	16
	Total	21	27	24	19	20	20	16	21	11	20	21	31
5 and under 16 years	Male	7	7	12	22	15	18	16	13	14	19	20	9
	Female	13	8	16	22	18	12	10	12	9	10	7	25
	Total	20	15	28	44	33	30	26	25	23	29	27	34
16 and under 30 years	Male	106	110	113	131	129	122	117	133	149	161	184	168
	Female	56	67	86	56	56	49	55	49	49	62	64	62
	Total	162	177	199	187	185	171	172	182	198	223	248	230
30 and under 50 years	Male	137	134	156	172	136	153	163	159	182	197	231	232
	Female	88	73	69	71	77	75	73	57	76	82	95	87
	Total	225	207	225	243	213	228	236	216	258	279	326	319
50 and under 70 years	Male	57	50	59	85	53	54	64	73	60	59	77	79
	Female	31	21	30	33	23	28	28	37	33	19	36	59
	Total	88	71	89	118	76	82	92	110	93	78	113	138
70 years and over	Male	15	14	19	12	14	15	14	21	19	17	27	65
	Female	23	27	24	23	17	32	24	36	45	23	40	156
	Total	38	41	43	35	31	47	38	57	64	40	67	221
Total all ages	Male	348	343	377	444	375	395	400	433	449	548	565	584
	%	60	61	60	67	64	65	66	67	66	70	69	58
	Female	233	222	255	219	210	215	209	217	229	230	253	423
	%	40	39	40	33	36	35	34	33	34	30	31	42
	TOTAL	581	565	632	663	585	610	609	650	678	778	818	1,007
Rates per million population													
Under 1 year	Male	42	44	26	27	52	66	57	62	56	84	37	53
	Female	35	37	46	25	32	32	32	62	43	82	17	62
	Total	39	40	36	26	43	50	45	62	50	83	27	58
1 and under 5 years	Male	8	9	6	9	8	8	5	11	5	11	12	12
	Female	7	10	11	5	7	7	7	6	3	5	5	13
	Total	8	10	9	7	7	8	6	8	4	8	8	12
5 and under 16 years	Male	2	2	3	6	4	5	4	3	4	5	5	2
	Female	4	2	5	6	5	3	3	3	2	3	2	7
	Total	3	2	4	6	5	4	4	3	3	4	4	5
16 and under 30 years	Male	20	21	23	27	27	26	25	29	32	35	41	36
	Female	11	13	17	12	12	10	12	11	11	14	14	14
	Total	15	17	20	19	19	18	18	20	21	24	27	25
30 and under 50 years	Male	20	19	22	24	19	21	22	22	25	27	31	31
	Female	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	10	11	12	11
	Total	16	15	16	17	14	16	16	15	17	19	22	21
50 and under 70 years	Male	11	10	12	17	10	10	12	14	11	11	14	14
	Female	6	4	6	6	4	5	5	7	6	3	6	10
	Total	9	7	9	11	7	8	9	10	8	7	10	12
70 years and over	Male	7	6	9	5	6	7	6	9	8	7	11	27
	Female	6	7	7	6	5	9	7	10	12	6	11	43
	Total	7	7	7	6	5	8	6	10	11	7	11	37
Total all ages	Male	14	14	15	18	15	16	16	17	18	22	22	23
	Female	9	8	10	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	16
	TOTAL	11	11	12	13	11	12	12	13	13	15	16	19

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. For the year 2000/01 there were 59 victims (55 male and 4 female) where the age was not known.

Table 1.08 Suspects convicted of homicide¹ by type of homicide England and Wales 1965 to 2002/03

Year offence initially recorded	Total indicted for homicide	Recorded crime				
		Convicted of homicide				
		Total	Murder	Section 2 manslaughter	Other manslaughter	Infanticide
1965	247	205	57	47	84	17
1966	303	254	72	51	109	22
1967	346	251	64	47	122	18
1968	374	272	76	50	120	26
1969	367	271	78	58	122	13
1970	386	299	99	65	120	15
1971	418	327	91	72	146	18
1972	450	337	85	85	150	17
1973	427	321	83	77	152	9
1974	537	424	125	96	188	15
1975	503	383	99	77	203	4
1976	530	394	108	92	188	6
1977	457	362	116	94	146	6
1978	529	424	137	90	189	8
1979	595	475	169	109	190	7
1980	537	423	140	88	186	9
1981	543	448	167	87	187	7
1982	525	441	161	102	172	6
1983	523	417	153	80	174	10
1984	579	451	171	77	201	2
1985	595	457	166	76	207	8
1986	662	506	208	84	211	3
1987	677	515	216	78	220	1
1988	642	493	189	74	222	8
1989	633	458	198	83	176	1
1990	625	443	186	70	183	4
1991	711	502	197	76	224	5
1992	708	504	215	78	205	6
1993	681	501	224	62	210	5
1994	653	496	230	71	192	3
1995	748	558	278	53	224	3
1996	724	532	259	50	219	4
1997	702	506	247	47	209	3
1997/98	700	517	233	49	231	4
1998/99	744	524	252	40	225	7
1999/00	760	526	279	25	221	1
2000/01	770	565	280	20	260	5
2001/02	709	589	289	15	284	1
2002/03 ²	335	257	125	5	127	-

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition there were 459 suspects in 2002/03 for whom court proceedings were not completed by 13 November 2003.

Table 1.09 Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings¹ England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Indictment and outcome												
Male suspects												
Indictment²												
Murder	559	528	510	601	548	527	502	545	589	556	554	248
Manslaughter ³	56	84	74	71	97	99	112	101	103	127	94	49
Infanticide	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	615	612	584	672	645	626	614	646	692	683	648	297
Outcome:												
Not convicted of homicide⁴												
Not tried - count to remain on file ⁵	-	1	-	3	10	7	7	9	9	10	2	1
Found unfit to plead	2	-	4	1	-	1	2	-	3	3	2	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	2	1	-	-	-	3	4	3	2	1	-	-
Convicted of lesser offence	37	25	25	27	15	22	19	32	31	20	6	9
Acquitted on all counts	135	129	111	133	140	142	126	128	161	144	96	57
Committed suicide or died	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	2	1
Total	176	156	140	164	165	176	158	174	208	179	108	68
Convicted of homicide:												
Murder	197	216	210	269	245	236	222	236	267	262	277	117
Sec. 2 manslaughter	68	49	62	43	41	35	38	34	19	17	11	4
Other manslaughter	174	191	172	196	194	179	196	202	198	225	252	108
Infanticide	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	439	456	444	508	480	450	456	472	484	504	540	229
Total	615	612	584	672	645	626	614	646	692	683	648	297
Female suspects												
Indictment²												
Murder	74	57	59	65	67	57	57	78	57	63	47	28
Manslaughter	16	10	10	10	10	19	28	16	11	23	13	9
Infanticide	3	2	-	1	2	-	1	4	-	1	1	1
Total	93	69	69	76	79	76	86	98	68	87	61	38
Outcome:												
Not convicted of homicide⁴												
Not tried - count to remain on file ⁵	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	3	-	1
Found unfit to plead	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convicted of lesser offence	7	5	2	9	1	4	4	9	3	2	1	-
Acquitted on all counts	20	19	15	16	23	16	20	33	21	20	11	9
Committed suicide or died	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	28	24	17	26	27	20	25	46	26	26	12	10
Convicted of homicide:												
Murder	18	8	20	9	14	11	11	16	12	18	12	8
Sec. 2 manslaughter	10	13	9	10	9	12	11	6	6	3	4	1
Other manslaughter	31	19	20	28	25	30	35	23	23	35	32	19
Infanticide	6	5	3	3	4	3	4	7	1	5	1	-
Total	65	45	52	50	52	56	61	52	42	61	49	28
Total	93	69	69	76	79	76	86	98	68	87	61	38

Table 1.09 (continued)

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	Indictment and outcome	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All suspects												
Indictment ²												
Murder	633	585	569	666	615	584	559	623	646	619	601	276
Manslaughter	72	94	84	81	107	118	140	117	114	150	107	58
Infanticide	3	2	-	1	2	-	1	4	-	1	1	1
Total	708	681	653	748	724	702	700	744	760	770	709	335
Outcome:												
Not convicted of homicide ⁴												
Not tried - count to remain on file ⁵	-	1	-	3	12	7	8	10	10	13	2	2
Found unfit to plead	2	-	4	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	2	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	3	1	-	1	-	3	4	3	2	1	-	-
Convicted of lesser offence	44	30	27	36	16	26	23	41	34	22	7	9
Acquitted on all counts	155	148	126	149	163	158	146	161	182	164	107	66
Committed suicide or died	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	2	1
Total	204	180	157	190	192	196	183	220	234	205	120	78
Convicted of homicide:												
Murder	215	224	230	278	259	247	233	252	279	280	289	125
Sec. 2 manslaughter	78	62	71	53	50	47	49	40	25	20	15	5
Other manslaughter	205	210	192	224	219	209	231	225	221	260	284	127
Infanticide	6	5	3	3	4	3	4	7	1	5	1	-
Total	504	501	496	558	532	506	517	524	526	565	589	257
Total	708	681	653	748	724	702	700	744	760	770	709	335

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition there were 459 suspects in 2002/03, for whom court proceedings were not completed by 13 November 2003.

3. Three corporate manslaughter were included in 2000/01 and one in 2001/02.

4. The offences for which these persons were indicted may nevertheless remain currently recorded as homicide.

5. This usually implies that the suspect has been dealt with for some less serious offence.

Table 1.10 Suspects convicted of homicide by type of homicide and sentence¹ England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime												
	Sentence ²	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Male suspects													
Murder													
Life imprisonment ³		197	216	210	269	245	236	222	236	267	262	277	117
Section 2 manslaughter													
Immediate imprisonment ⁴													
Life ³		7	4	8	6	7	1	2	5	3	-	-	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years		19	6	7	6	10	5	8	3	4	6	1	1
4 years and under		7	4	6	4	3	4	2	-	2	1	2	1
Fully suspended sentence		-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order		28	26	35	17	16	22	24	22	7	4	3	1
Hospital Order		2	3	3	8	5	2	1	1	1	3	5	1
Probation/Supervision		5	4	2	1	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	-
Other sentence		-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		68	49	62	43	41	35	38	34	19	17	11	4
Other manslaughter													
Immediate imprisonment ⁴													
Life ³		1	6	8	7	3	7	7	8	14	8	13	2
Over 10 years (excluding life)		3	2	3	7	5	5	6	7	4	4	11	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years		90	99	84	89	112	93	87	85	89	103	111	49
4 years and under		70	77	69	84	63	61	80	85	75	94	82	46
Fully suspended sentence		3	4	3	3	3	4	7	5	1	4	5	1
Hospital/Restriction Order		1	-	-	1	2	1	1	5	6	3	5	4
Hospital Order		-	-	-	1	2	1	2	1	2	5	12	3
Probation/Supervision		5	3	4	4	4	6	5	4	7	2	9	3
Other sentence		1	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	4	-
Total		174	191	172	196	194	179	196	202	198	225	252	108
Infanticide													
Immediate imprisonment ⁴													
4 years and under		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospital/Restriction Order		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospital Order		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Probation/Supervision		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total		439	456	444	508	480	450	456	472	484	504	540	229

Table 1.10 (continued)

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	Sentence ²	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Female suspects												
Murder												
Life imprisonment ³	18	8	20	9	14	11	11	16	12	18	12	8
Section 2 manslaughter												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
Life ³	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
4 years and under	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
Fully suspended sentence	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	4	7	3	2	7	5	6	2	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	2	2	1	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-
Probation/Supervision	1	3	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	1	-	1
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	13	9	10	9	12	11	6	6	3	4	1
Other manslaughter												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
Life ³	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	1
Over 10 years (excluding life)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	14	9	5	8	7	7	9	5	-	10	12	3
4 years and under	6	5	9	16	12	12	14	7	12	16	10	8
Fully suspended sentence	3	1	1	-	2	1	1	2	-	1	1	1
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2
Hospital Order	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Probation/Supervision	7	4	4	2	3	9	10	7	8	4	5	3
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	31	19	20	28	25	30	35	23	23	35	32	19
Infanticide												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
4 years and under	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	4	5	3	3	4	1	2	5	1	4	1	-
Total	6	5	3	3	4	3	4	7	1	5	1	-
Total	65	45	52	50	52	56	61	52	42	61	49	28

Table 1.10 (continued)

Numbers	Recorded crime											
	Sentence ²	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All suspects												
Murder												
Life imprisonment ³	215	224	230	278	259	247	233	252	279	280	289	125
Section 2 manslaughter												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
Life ³	7	4	8	6	8	1	2	6	4	-	1	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	19	7	7	7	10	6	9	3	4	7	1	1
4 years and under	10	4	9	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	4	1
Fully suspended sentence	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	32	33	38	19	23	27	30	24	7	4	3	1
Hospital Order	4	5	4	11	5	3	2	1	2	3	6	1
Probation/Supervision	6	7	4	4	1	5	4	4	5	2	-	1
Other sentence	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	78	62	71	53	50	47	49	40	25	20	15	5
Other manslaughter												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
Life ³	1	6	9	7	3	8	8	9	16	8	14	3
Over 10 years (excluding life)	4	2	3	7	6	5	6	7	4	4	12	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	104	108	89	97	119	100	96	90	89	113	123	52
4 years and under	76	82	78	100	75	73	94	92	87	110	92	54
Fully suspended sentence	6	5	4	3	5	5	8	7	1	5	6	2
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	-	-	1	2	1	1	6	7	4	5	6
Hospital Order	-	-	-	3	2	1	2	1	2	8	14	4
Probation/Supervision	12	7	8	6	7	15	15	11	15	6	14	6
Other sentence	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	4	-
Total	205	210	192	224	219	209	231	225	221	260	284	127
Infanticide												
Immediate imprisonment ⁴												
4 years and under	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	4	5	3	3	4	1	2	5	1	4	1	-
Total	6	5	3	3	4	3	4	7	1	5	1	-
Total	504	501	496	558	532	506	517	524	526	565	589	257

1. As at 13 November 2003 figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The results of appeals, apart from those occurring since the beginning of 1997, have been taken into account in compiling this table.

3. Including detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure under s.53(1) Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and custody for life.

4. Including detention under s.53(2) Children and Young Persons Act 1933, partly suspended sentences and young offender institution.

Table 1.11 Suspects convicted of homicide by previous homicide convictions¹ England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime											
Year offence initially recorded	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total number convicted of homicide	504	501	496	558	532	506	517	524	526	565	589	257
Number previously convicted of homicide:	7 ²	4	3 ³	6	1	1 ²	1 ²	1	6 ^{2,4}	2	-	-
While serving sentence for homicide	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
After release or termination of sentence for previous homicide conviction	6	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	4	2	-	-

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, one suspect of an offence who committed suicide had previously been convicted of homicide.

3. In addition, one suspect was found 'unfit to plead' to their previous homicide.

4. In addition, one suspect of an offence who died had previously been convicted of homicide.

Table 1.12 Suspects convicted of homicide who had previously been convicted of homicide by type of homicide¹ England and Wales 1992 to 2002/03

Numbers	Recorded crime			
Homicide offence of latest conviction	Total	Homicide offence of previous conviction		
		Murder	Section 2 Manslaughter	Other Manslaughter
Murder	24	10	2	12
Section 2 manslaughter	4	1	1	2
Other manslaughter ³	4	-	1	3
Total	32	11²	4^{2,4}	17²

1. As at 13 November 2003; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, for 3 suspects who committed suicide one had previously been convicted for murder, one for Section 2 manslaughter and one for other manslaughter.

3. In addition, one suspect was found 'unfit to plead' to their previous homicide.

4. In addition, one suspect who died had previously been convicted of Section 2 manslaughter.

2 Recorded crimes involving firearms

Tricia Dodd, Alan Gray, Jonathan Smith and Corrine Charles

SUMMARY

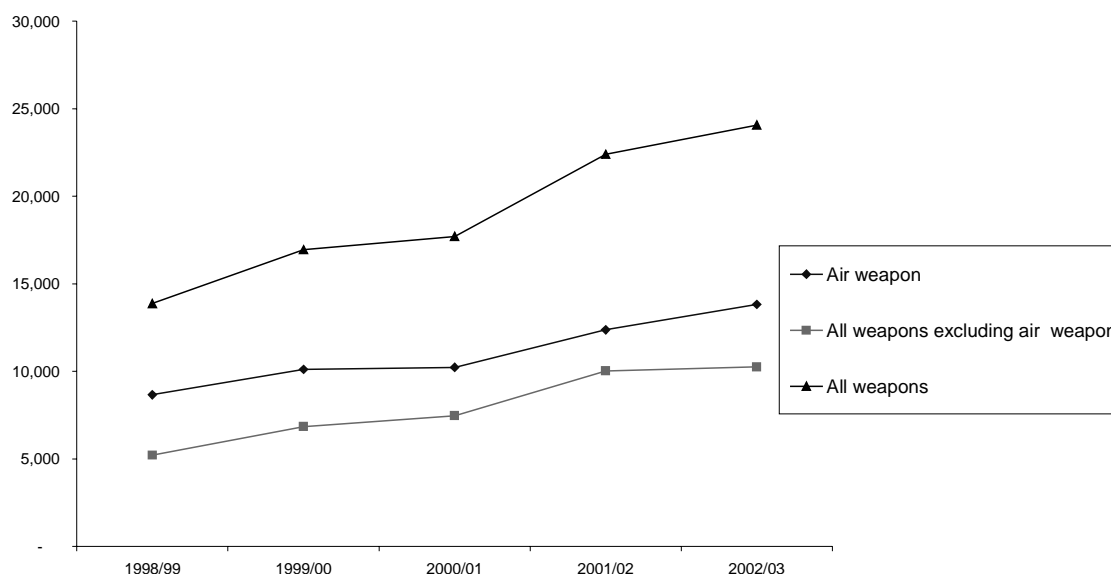
- Firearms other than air weapons were reported to have been used in 10,248 recorded crimes in 2002/03. This was a two per cent increase over the previous year¹, following a much larger increase of 34 per cent in the previous year.
- Air weapons were reported to have been used in 13,822 recorded crimes, a rise of 12 per cent compared with 2001/02. This rise may have been inflated by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard.
- Overall, firearms (including air weapons) were used in 0.41 per cent of all recorded crimes. The proportion excluding air weapons was 0.17 per cent.
- Weapons were fired in 28 per cent of firearm crimes (excluding those involving air weapons). In most (68%) non-air-weapon offences, the weapon was used as a threat and was neither fired nor used as a blunt instrument. Handguns were fired in 11 per cent of the offences where they were involved.
- Handguns were used in 5,549 recorded crimes, a decrease of six per cent on the previous year. The previous year, there had been an increase of 43 per cent.
- There were 1,815 recorded crimes which were believed to involve imitation weapons in 2002/03, an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year.
- There were 81 homicides involving firearms in 2002/03, down 16 per cent from 97 the previous year. Eight per cent of all homicides in 2002/03 involved firearms (see Chapter 1 in this volume for a full breakdown of homicides).
- About two per cent of firearm crime resulted in a serious injury. There were 572 serious injuries resulting from crimes that involved firearms (including air weapons) in 2002/03, up three per cent from 2001/02.
- 3,903 crimes that involved firearms resulted in minor injury, up by 24 per cent from 2001/02. Fifty-seven per cent of these slight injuries were due to air weapons.
- The number of firearm robberies decreased by an eighth (13%) between 2001/02 and 2002/03, after having risen by a third the previous year. The proportion of robberies involving firearms (including air weapons) has remained between four and five per cent for the last six years.
- A separate study in a sample of forces found that just under a third (30%) of victims of firearm-related offences were aged between 15 and 24 years. Around a half (48%) of suspects charged with an offence involving a firearm were in this age group. These proportions have not changed substantially in recent years.

¹ Recording changes have increased the numbers of recorded crimes in 2002/03, and so may have affected some of the year-on-year changes given - see text box.

2.1 FIREARM OFFENCES IN 2002/03

Firearms were used in 24,070 recorded crimes in England and Wales in 2002/03, an increase of seven per cent compared with 2001/02. Just over half (57%) of these offences involved air weapons, with 76 per cent of air weapon offences being crimes of criminal damage, that is crimes against property only.

Figure 2.1 Crimes reported to the police in which a firearm has been used



IMPACT OF CHANGES IN COUNTING RULES FOR RECORDED CRIME

Changes in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998 affected both the methods of counting and the coverage for recorded crime and had the effect of inflating the number of crimes recorded. For some offence groups - homicide, violence against the person endangering life, robbery, and burglary - there was likely to be little effect on numbers of firearm crimes recorded. However, the changes will have had more effect on figures for more minor violence and criminal damage. This would have a particular impact on the number of air weapon crimes recorded.

Similarly, the implementation of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) by police forces on 1 April 2002 will have increased the number of crimes recorded. Again, it was not possible to assess accurately the effect of this change on recorded firearm crimes. This change inflated the overall number of violence against the person and criminal damage offences but had less effect on the number of robberies (see figure 3.7 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003', Home Office Statistical Bulletin 7/03). Many firearm offences are amongst the less serious categories, for example criminal damage involving an airgun, and these types of offences are amongst those most likely to have been affected by the NCRS. However, the more serious crimes are not expected to be as greatly affected by the latest recording changes. Some police forces adopted the principles of the NCRS in advance of its national implementation, and this may have affected figures for 2001/02.

There were 10,248 recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons. This was an increase of two per cent compared to 2001/02. The increase between 2000/01 and 2001/02 had been much more substantial (34%). There were 13,822 crimes involving air weapons in 2001/02, a 12 per cent increase on the number in 2001/02 (Figure 2.1).

Gun crime remains a relatively rare event. Firearms (including air weapons) were used in 0.41 per cent of all recorded crime. The proportion excluding air weapons was 0.17 per cent. This compares to 0.40 and 0.18 in the previous year. Injury caused during a firearm offence is also rare. As will be shown later, less than a fifth (19%) of firearm offences resulted in an injury and less than three per cent resulted in a serious or fatal injury.

2.2 HOW FIREARMS WERE USED

As well as being fired, firearms can be used to threaten, or as a blunt instrument. Air weapons were nearly always fired in the crimes in which they were involved (96% of these crimes, rarely causing serious injury). In contrast, other firearms were more often used as a threat or, occasionally, as a blunt instrument (Figure 2.2); non-air weapons were fired in 28 per cent of cases. Handguns were fired in 11 per cent of crimes in which they were involved while shotguns were fired in about a third (31%) of cases. Other types of firearms, including rifles, starting guns and CS gas were fired in a half of crimes in which they were involved (Table 2a).

Figure 2.2 How firearms were used, 2002/2003

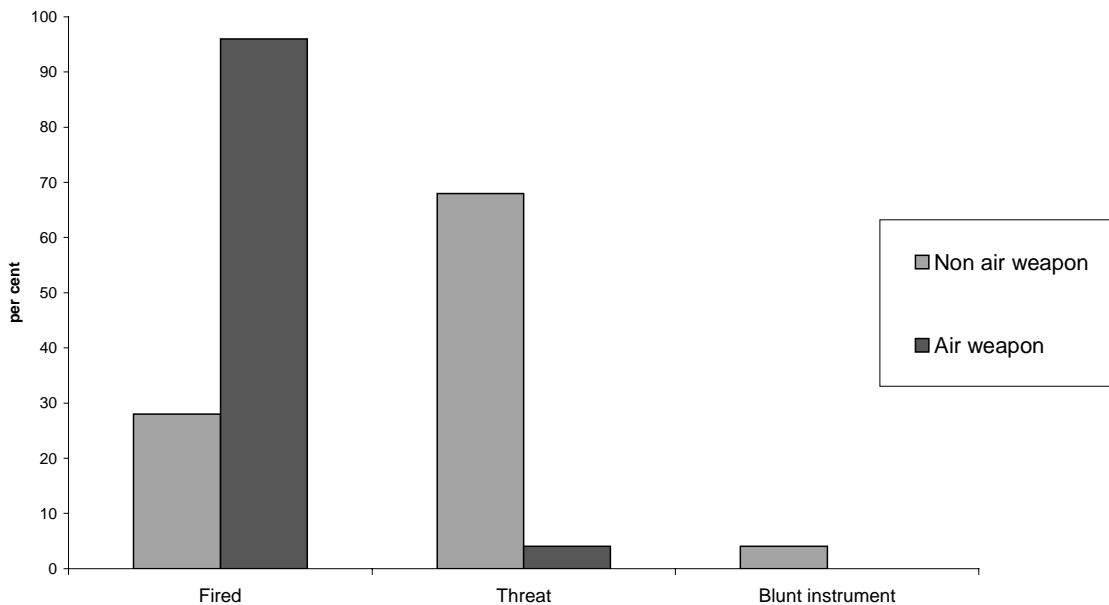


Table 2a Crimes in which firearms were used, by type of firearm, whether fired, and degree of injury caused in 2002/03

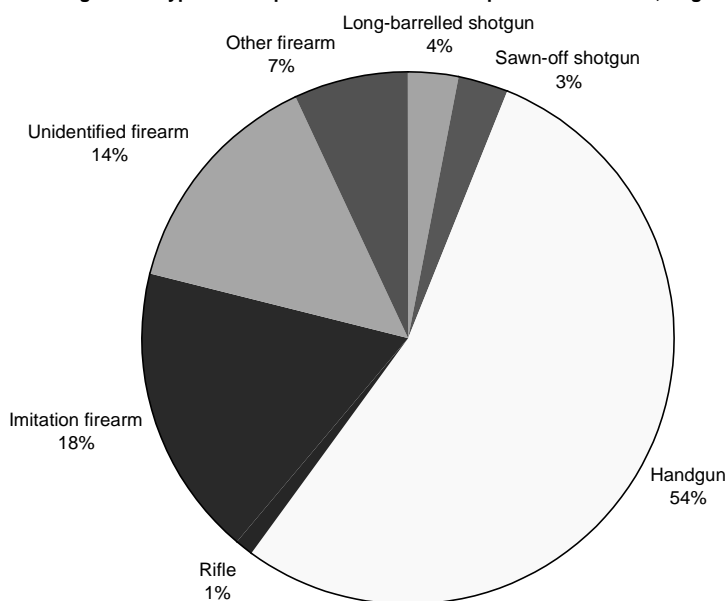
Percentage					Recorded crime
	% Fired	% Not fired ¹	% Of those fired		% No injury
			Fatal or serious injury	Slight injury	
Shotguns	31	69	36	7	57
Handguns	11	89	37	13	51
Rifles/other ²	50	50	7	59	34
Air weapons	96	4	1	17	82

1. Includes incidents in which firearms were used as a blunt instrument to cause injury (see Table 2.5).
2. Starting guns, imitation weapons, supposed/ type unknown, prohibited firearms (including CS gas) and other firearms.

2.3 THE TYPE OF WEAPON USED

It is not always possible to categorise the type of weapon used in an offence. For example, one cannot always be certain if a crime involved a real firearm. Unless a weapon is either fired or recovered after a crime, there is no way of knowing if it was real or an imitation (or whether it was loaded or unloaded). The categorisation of firearms will often depend on descriptions by victims or witnesses. Some crimes involve 'supposed' firearms (i.e. something concealed which was presumed to be a firearm).

Figure 2.3 Types of weapon used in non-air weapon firearm crimes; England and Wales 2002/03

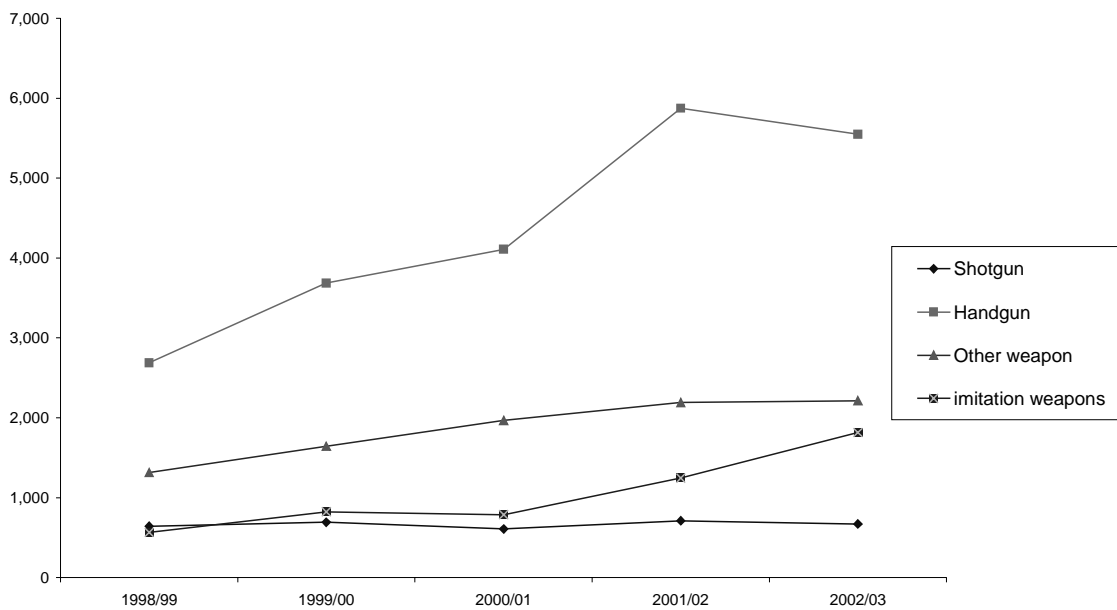


As stated earlier, over half of all firearm offences involved an air weapon. Of those offences involving a non-air weapon, just over a half involved a handgun (Figure 2.3).

Over the last five years, the number of crimes involving a shotgun has remained relatively constant and offences involving a handgun, after showing an increase of 43 per cent in the previous year, showed a decrease of six per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (Figure 2.4).

Imitation weapons were believed to have been used in 18 per cent of non-air weapon offences. The number of offences involving imitation weapons was up 46 per cent in 2002/03 compared with the previous year, which itself was up 58 per cent on the previous year.

Figure 2.4 Firearm offences by type of principal weapon



2.4 INJURIES IN CRIMES INVOLVING FIREARMS

In 2002/03, 19 per cent of crimes involving firearms (including air weapons) caused injury, either because they were fired or used as a blunt instrument (4,556 offences) (Table 2.06). Crimes involving shotguns, handguns, and other non-air weapons caused injury in 16 per cent, 12 per cent and 36 per cent of incidents respectively (Tables 2.03 and 2.06). Air weapons were most likely to cause injury, although the injury was slight in 93 per cent of these cases (Table 2.07).

There were 81 homicides involving firearms in 2002/03, down 16 per cent from the previous year. Only 2.7 per cent of firearm crimes resulted in fatal or serious injury (653 offences, almost unchanged from the previous year).

The harm caused by different types of firearm can be seen by the proportion of those that are fired that cause injury. Table 2a shows, by type of firearm, the proportion which were fired and not fired, and the proportion

which caused injury *if they were fired* (more detailed figures are in Table 2.05). Although handguns were fired in 11 per cent of cases, when they were fired 37 per cent of cases resulted in a fatal or serious injury. Similarly, shotguns, *when fired*, resulted in a fatal or serious injury in 36 per cent of cases. In contrast, air weapons, when fired, resulted in a fatal or serious injury in only one per cent of cases (and, in fact, resulted in no injury in 82 per cent of cases), with the number of these injuries reducing by six per cent compared with the previous year.

Table 2b Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were⁽¹⁾ used by degree of injury

Year	Number of offences				Recorded Crime				Total injuries
	Non-air weapons				Air Weapons				
	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ⁽²⁾	Slight injury	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ⁽²⁾	Slight injury	
1998/99	864	49	162	653	1,514	0	133	1,381	2,378
1999/00	1,195	62	200	933	1,977	0	171	1,806	3,172
2000/01	1,382	72	244	1,066	1,821	1	166	1,654	3,203
2001/02	1,877	95	392	1,390	1,915	2	165	1,748	3,792
2002/03	2,179	80	416	1,683	2,377	1	156	2,220	4,556

Note

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

2. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

The number of firearm crimes which involved injuries has almost doubled over the last five years, and the largest rise was seen in crimes involving non-air weapons. Among this latter group, crimes involving serious and slight injuries have more than doubled in the period.

Injuries to police officers

One police officer was seriously injured on duty by a firearm during the 12 months ending in March 2003. Eleven officers received slight injuries. There were no fatal injuries to police officers caused by a firearm between 1996 and 2002-03 (Table 2c).

Table 2c Crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm

Year	Number of crimes			Recorded crime
	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury ¹	
1992	10	1 ²	3	6
1993	10	1	3	6
1994	21	-	12	9
1995	15	1	9	5
1996	9	-	4	5
1997	6	-	2	4
1997/98	6	-	3	3
1998/99	11	-	-	11
1999/00	10	-	-	10
2000/01	7	-	5	2
2001/02	10	-	-	10
2002/03	12	-	1	11

1. A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

2. Special constable.

2.5 THE TYPES OF CRIMES WHERE FIREARMS ARE USED

Violence against the person offences accounted for 30 per cent of recorded crimes where firearms were used, whilst robbery accounted for a further 20 per cent. The number of robberies involving firearms fell by 13 per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03, and this is likely to have been influenced by the introduction of the Government's Street Crime Initiative (Figure 2.5).

Criminal damage made up 46 per cent of recorded crimes where firearms were used (Table 2.01). The vast majority of crimes (76%) carried out using air weapons were offences of criminal damage (Figure 2.6).

For non-air weapon offences, the proportion that were robbery offences was 45 per cent (down from 53% in the previous year). Violence against the person offences accounted for 41 per cent of the total, up from 35 per cent in 2001/02. Violence against the person includes homicide, which made up 0.8 per cent of all crimes involving firearms other than air weapons.

The proportion of crimes where a firearm was used varies across crime types (Table 2.02). Firearms were used in eight per cent of crimes *initially* recorded as homicide. The proportion of other serious offences of violence against the person involving a firearm remained at 3.5 per cent in 2002/03. The proportion of robberies in which firearms were used was 4.4 per cent, a similar proportion to the previous six years.

Figure 2.5 Crimes in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence type

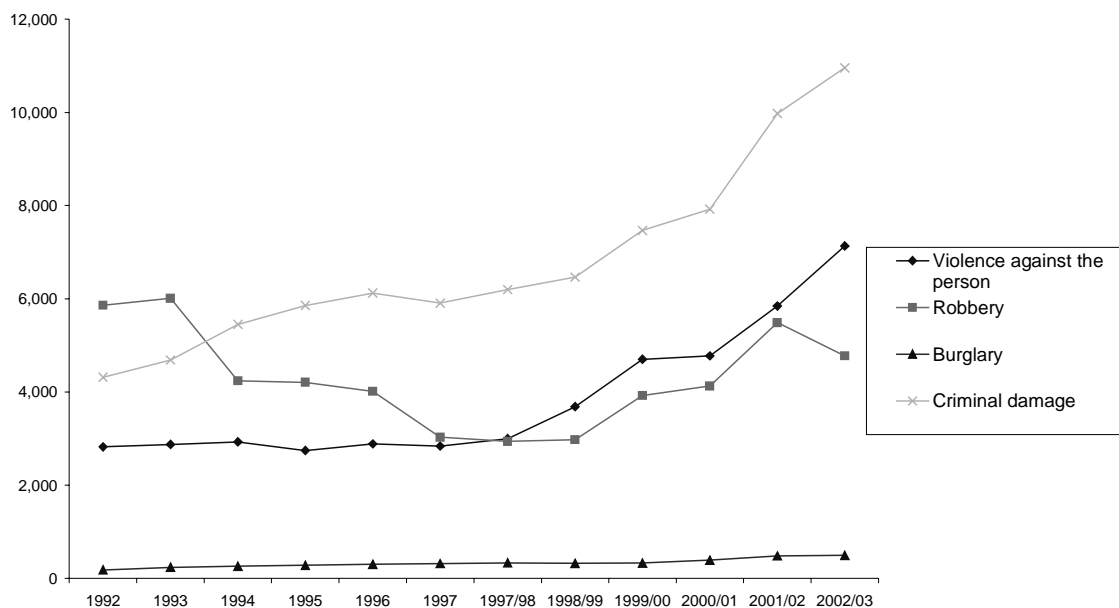
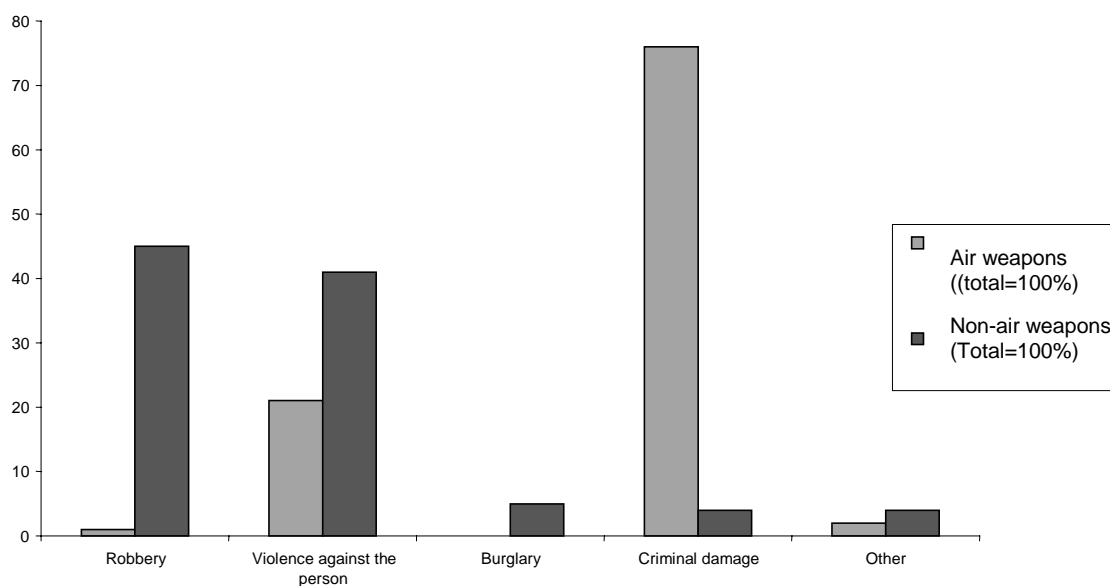


Figure 2.6 Firearm offences by crime type as a percentage of all firearm crime for air weapons and non-air weapons 2002/03

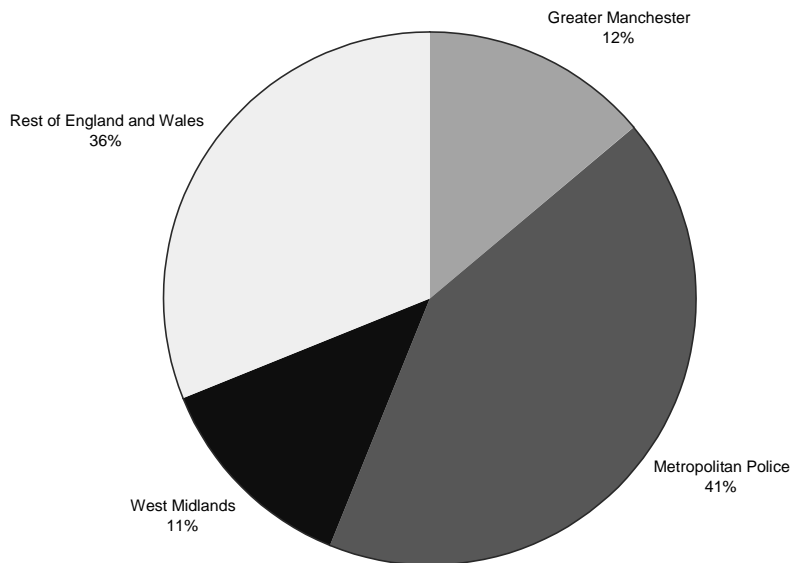


2.6 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF FIREARMS OFFENCES

Table 2.13 provides the numbers of firearms offences (excluding air weapons) for each police force in England and Wales for the two years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. The number of offences in many police force areas is relatively small and percentage changes from one year to the next will tend to be very volatile.

Nearly two-thirds of all non-air weapon firearm offences in England and Wales occurred in just three police authorities: Metropolitan (Greater London), Greater Manchester, and West Midlands. No other police force recorded more than 400 of these offences. Two-fifths of the non-air weapon firearm offences occurred in the Metropolitan Police area alone. (Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7 Firearm offences in police force areas; 2002/03



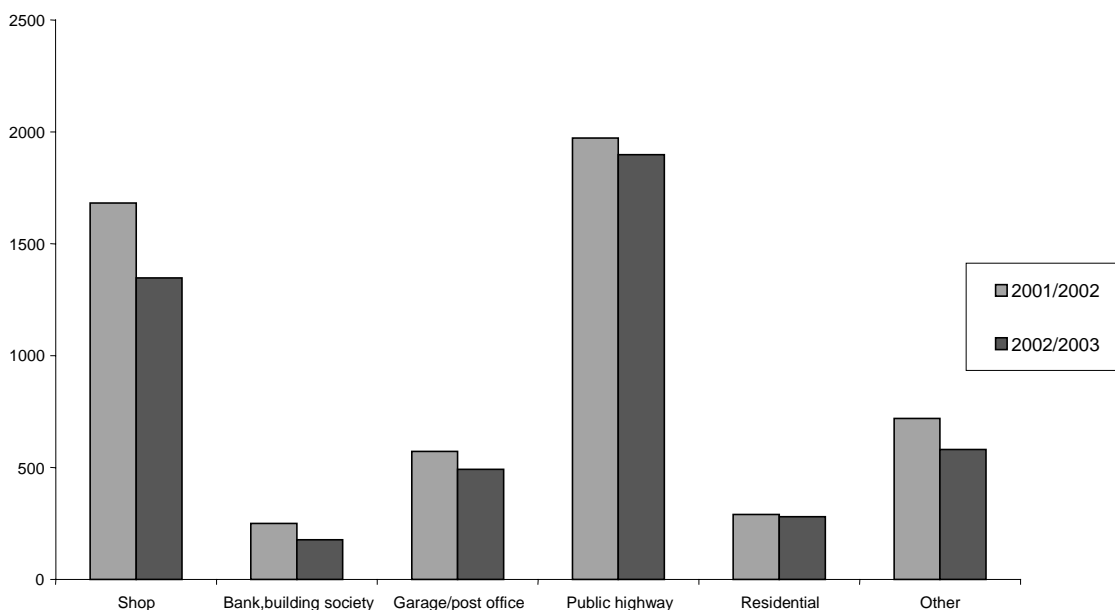
2.7 ROBBERIES

As has been seen, offences involving non-air weapons were most likely to be robberies, although the number of robberies in which firearms were involved fell by 13 per cent from 2001/02 to 2002/03, compared with a 33 per cent rise in 2001/02.

The location of firearm robberies

The highest number of firearm robberies were committed on public highways, followed by offences in shops (Figure 2.8). Firearm crimes in all categories of locations fell in 2002/03 compared with the previous year. The greatest numerical decreases were in shops (down 335 offences, or 20%), and 'other premises or open space' (down 139 offences, or 19%). The greatest percentage decreases were in building societies (down 38%, or 31 offences) and banks (down 25%, or 42 offences).

Figure 2.8 The location of firearm robberies in 2001/02 and 2002/03: number of offences



The types of firearms involved in robberies

Firearms described as handguns were used in 70 per cent of robberies involving firearms, and sawn-off or long-barrelled shotguns in six per cent. Twelve per cent of incidents involved unidentified firearms (i.e. a firearm not actually seen, or not identified as to type). Air weapons featured in only three per cent of firearm robberies in 2002/03 (Table 2.08). Research suggests that the proportion of real guns used in robberies may be only about half the estimate obtained from the police (Morrison and O'Donnell, 1994).

2.8 MISAPPROPRIATED (STOLEN) FIREARMS

Because of their potential for subsequent use in crime, there is concern about the number of firearms that are misappropriated. ('Misappropriated firearms' are defined as those stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly. For simplicity, they are referred to as 'stolen' hereafter). During 2002/03, 2,844 firearms were recorded by the police as being stolen (Table 2.10). Air weapons accounted for over half of the thefts.

Compared with 2001/02, the overall number of weapons recorded as having been stolen in 2002/03 was down by three per cent. There were small increases in the number of shotguns and handguns stolen. Other categories showed similar levels or small decreases from the previous year, although there was a relatively large decrease (18%) in the number of imitation firearms stolen (Table 2.10).

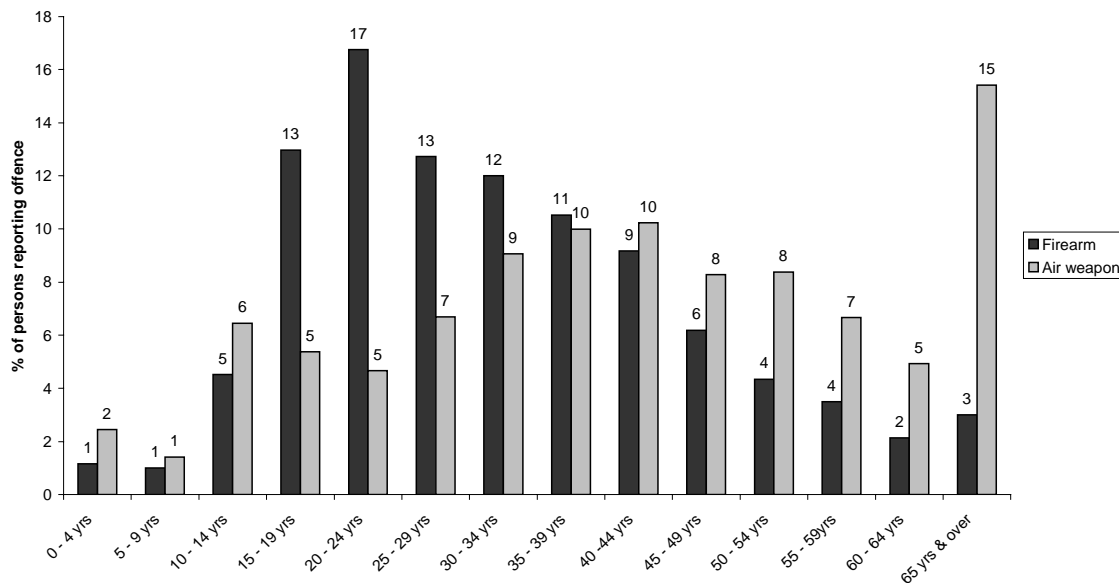
2.9 FIREARMS ACTS OFFENCES IN 2002

Nearly 2,600 people were found guilty or cautioned for indictable crimes under the Firearms Acts in 2002, with just over 600 found guilty or cautioned for summary offences (Table 2.12). The four most common indictable offences were:- possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition; possessing firearms with intent to cause fear of violence; possessing firearms or ammunition without a certificate; and possessing a shotgun without a certificate. These accounted for 82 per cent of all indictable offences under the Firearms Acts.

There has been little change since 2000 in the total number of findings of guilt or cautions for indictable offences under the Firearms Acts (Table 2.12). The number of convictions and cautions for summary offences in 2002 under the Firearms Acts continued the fall since 1997 (down 60 per cent since 1997, and 23 per cent from 2001).

2.10 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF GUN CRIME IN SELECTED AREAS²

Figure 2.9 Age of victim for offences believed to involve a firearm or air weapon:
April 2002-March 2003 (8 police force areas)



Additional information has been collected from police force areas on offences known or believed to have involved the use of a firearm or air weapon. Information relating to victims was collected from the Metropolitan, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Merseyside police forces, which accounted for over half (52%) of firearms and air weapons offences combined in the 12 months to March 2003. Information was also collected from Thames Valley, South Yorkshire and Avon and Somerset, which accounted for a much smaller proportion of such offences — an additional nine per cent during this period. Information relating to suspects was collected from seven of these forces (excluding Merseyside). Historical information to enable comparisons over a three-year period between 2000/01 and 2002/03 was available from six of these forces (excluding Merseyside and GMP)³.

² By Jonathan Smith and Corrine Charles of the Research Development and Statistics Directorate.

³ The information has been extracted from force crime information systems as part of a special exercise. Although this management information relates to both victims and persons charged with a firearms offence accordingly, there will be some differences with the fully audited national statistics on firearm s-related offences discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

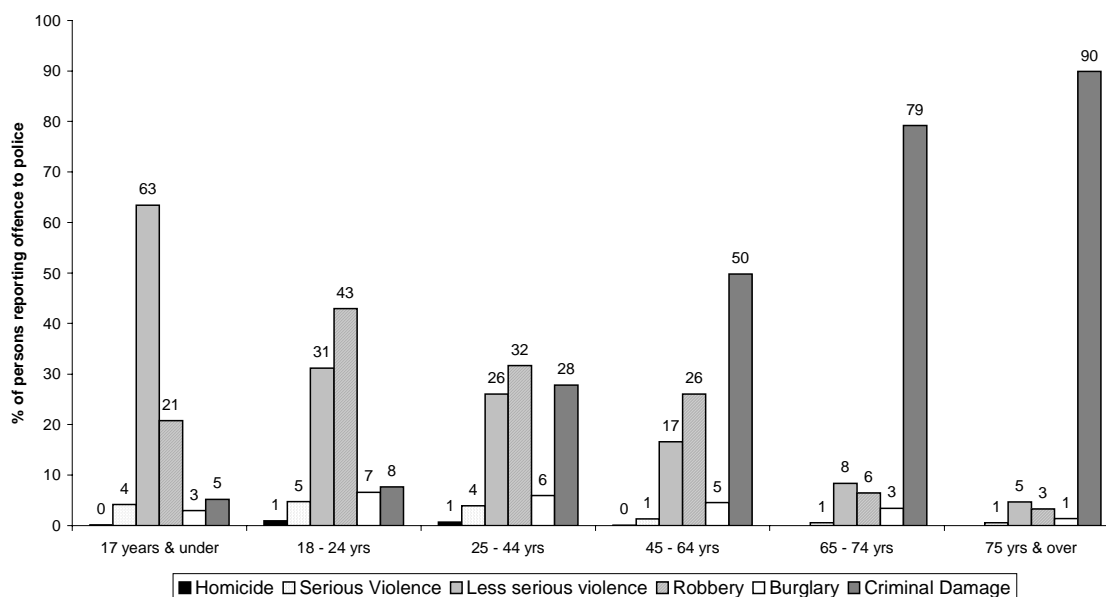
Victims of offences believed to involve the use of a firearm or air weapon: 12 months to March 2003, 8 police force areas

In the 12 months to March 2003, 30 per cent of victims of firearms related offences in the eight police forces, (those offences involving shotguns, handguns, imitations, replicas and rifles), were aged between 15 and 24 years, with the peak age range between 20 and 24 years (17%). Fifty per cent of victims were aged under 30 years of age. The age profile of victims is spread across older age groups with 23 per cent of victims aged between 30 and 39 years and a further 23 per cent aged between 40 and 59 years of age (Figure 2.9 above).

Victims of offences involving the use of air weapons were typically older than victims of firearms-related offences. Only ten per cent of victims were aged between 15 and 24 years and 33 per cent were aged between 40 and 59 years of age. One in five victims (20%) of offences involving an air weapon were over the age of 60 years during this period.

Older victims of firearms and air weapon-related offences were more frequently the victims of offences relating to criminal damage. Half of victims aged between 45 and 64 years reported offences of criminal damage, rising to 79 per cent of victims aged 65 to 74 years and 90 per cent of victims over 75 years of age (Figure 2.10). Higher levels of property ownership in this age group may explain these differences among older victims.

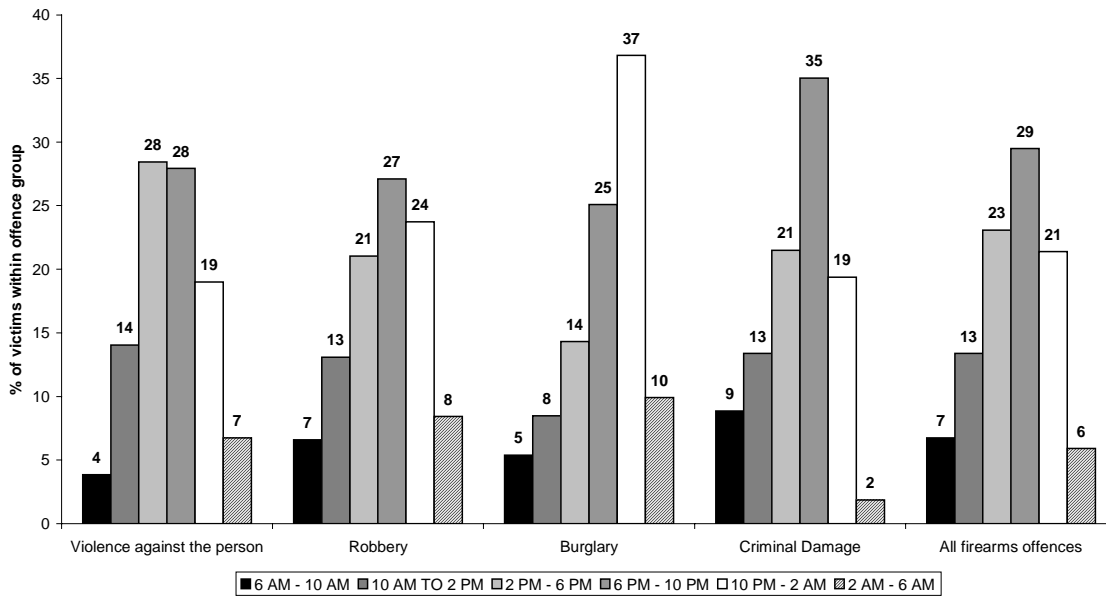
Figure 2.10 Proportion of victims by age involved in firearms or air weapon related offences April 2002 to March 2003 (8 police force areas)



Younger victims of both firearm and air weapon-related offences were more frequently victims of offences relating to violence against the person and to robbery. Forty-three per cent of victims aged between 18 and 24 years were victims of robbery and 31 per cent were victims of less serious violence, which includes the offences of grievous bodily harm (Section 20), harassment, possession of firearms with intent, actual bodily harm and common assaults. The corresponding figures are 32 per cent and 26 per cent respectively in the 25 to 44 year age groups, but the proportion of victims of criminal damage begins to increase markedly in this age group (28% of victims), rising to 90 per cent of those victims aged 75 years and over. Victims aged 17 years and under reported the highest proportion (63%) of offences involving less serious violence.

Offences involving a firearm peaked between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., with 29 per cent of offences occurring between these times. Firearms-related robberies also peaked during this period of the day (27%).⁴ The peak time for firearms offences involving violence against the person is less clear: 28 per cent of such offences occurred in each of two time periods between 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Figure 2.11).

Figure 2.11 Offences believed to involve a firearm or airweapon by time of offence: April 2002 to March 2003 (8 Police Force Areas)



A weapon was discharged or fired in 37 per cent of offences involving a firearm or air weapon, 48 per cent of offences involving violence against the person, and less than seven per cent of robberies (Table 2d). This is based on information from five forces (Metropolitan, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and South Yorkshire). A discharged weapon was more likely to result from the use of an air weapon when considering all offences involving a firearm or air weapon, but not for offences involving violence against the person. A firearm was discharged in 19 per cent of offences involving violence against the person with air weapons and 'other firearms' being discharged in 15 per cent and 14 per cent respectively of such offences. 'Other firearms' included CS gas, pepper spray and stun guns.

⁴ Time of offence details for firearms offences involving criminal damage may in many cases have been based on broad estimates between two time periods, since the criminal act has been committed against property as opposed to the person. Burglaries involving firearms offences in most cases related to aggravated burglary, and time of offence details are more likely to be accurate since this can be regarded as a personal crime.

Table 2d Weapons fired or discharged by offence in five police force areas in 2002/03 (Metropolitan, West Midlands, GMP, Merseyside and South Yorkshire)

					<i>Column Percentages</i>	
	Violence against the person	Robbery	Burglary	Criminal damage	Other	All offences involving firearm
Weapon fired/ discharged						
Firearm (exc. air weapons) ¹	19	4	2	18	5	12
Air weapon	15	<1	<1	59	3	18
Other firearm (exc. air weapons) ²	14	2	<1	8	2	7
Weapon used but not fired/ discharged						
Firearm (exc. air weapons) ¹	34	80	83	1	43	45
Air weapon	3	1	0	2	2	2
Other firearm (exc. air weapons) ²	8	10	9	<1	15	7
No information on whether weapon fired/ discharged						
Firearm (exc. air weapons) ¹	6	2	5	13	19	7
Air weapon	<1	<1	0	1	1	<1
Other firearm (exc. air weapons) ²	1	<1	<1	0	10	1
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	4,221	3,970	605	2,623	795	12,214

¹ Firearms include shotguns, handguns, rifles, and imitation firearms.

² 'Other firearms' include starting pistols, CS gas, pepper spray and stun guns.

Suspects charged with an offence involving a firearm or an air weapon: 12 months to March 2003, 7 police force areas

Data on suspects charged with an offence involving a firearm or air weapon were available from seven of the eight forces (the exception being Merseyside).

In the 12 months to March 2003, 48 per cent of suspects charged with an offence involving a firearm were between the ages of 15 and 24 years, made up of 24 per cent each in both the 15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years age groups respectively. By contrast, those suspects charged with an offence involving an air weapon were typically younger: 62 per cent being between the ages of ten and 19 years made up of 23 per cent aged between 10-14 and 39 per cent aged between 15-19 years (Figure 2.12).

Figure 2.12 Age of persons charged with offence involving firearm or air weapon: 7 police force areas 2002/03

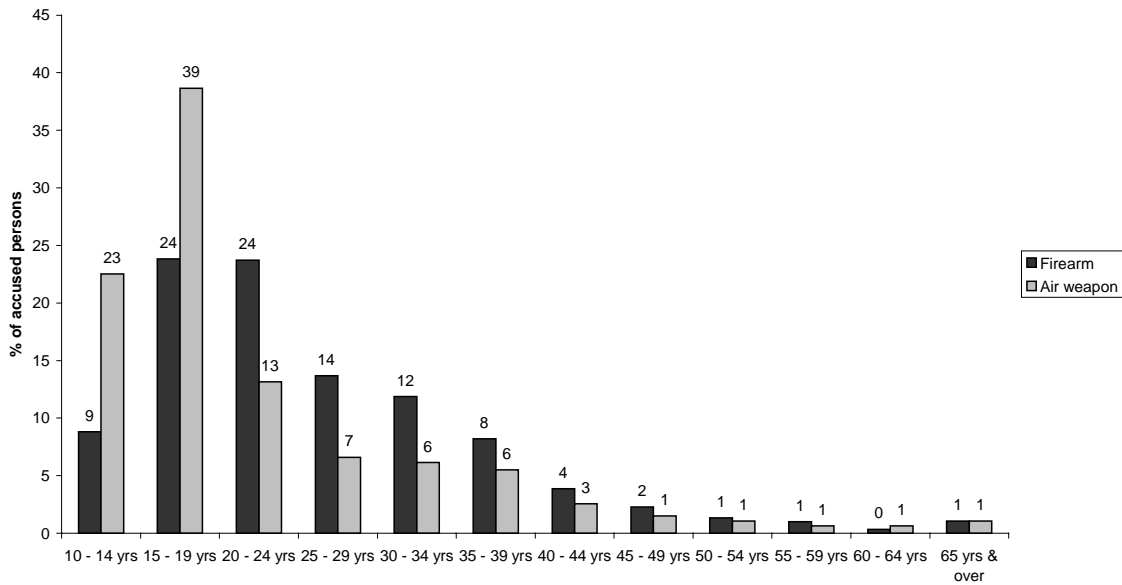
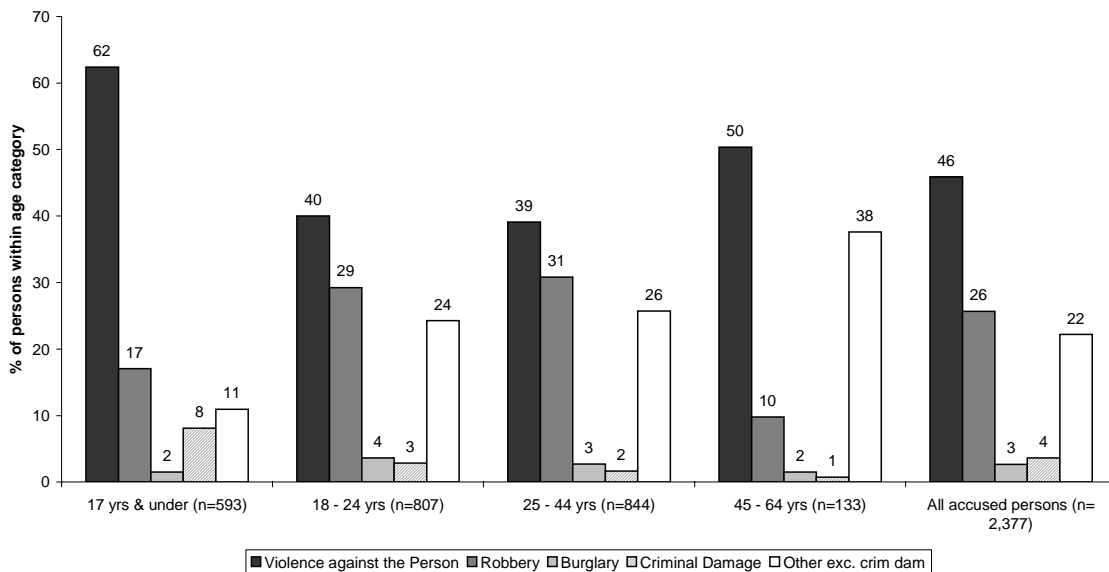


Figure 2.13 Persons charged with offence involving firearm or air weapon by age and type of offence in 7 police force areas 2002/03



Suspects were typically charged with offences relating to violence against the person, which comprised primarily less serious violent crime (Figure 2.13). Suspects aged 17 years and under were markedly more likely to have been charged with an offence relating to violence against the person (62% compared with 40% and 39% of suspects aged between 18-24 years and 25-44 years respectively). Suspects aged between 25 and 44 years were more likely than other age groups to have been charged with an offence of robbery (31% compared with 29% and 17% of 18-24 and 17 years and under respectively).

Trends over the last three years

Historical data on victims were available from six of the eight police forces covering a three-year period between 2000/01 and 2002/03.

The age profile of victims of offences involving a firearm or air weapon has remained relatively static during this period, with no indication that victims are becoming typically younger or, for that matter, older (Figure 2.14). The age profile of suspects charged with a firearm offence has also remained static during this period. This contrasts with recent trends in personal robbery, which showed a marked growth in the numbers of younger victims and offenders (Smith 2003).

However, there is some evidence from suspects to suggest changes over time in the use of firearms between different age groups. The proportion of suspects charged with an offence involving a firearm and aged 17 years and under has increased from 11 per cent to 17 per cent, and has fallen from 44 per cent to 40 per cent between 2000/01 and 2002/03 for those suspects aged between 25 and 44 years. Similarly the proportion charged with offences involving an air weapon has fallen from 56 per cent to 49 per cent for suspects 17 years and under, and has increased from 15 per cent to 21 per cent for those aged between 25 and 44 years during this same period (Table 2e).

Figure 2.14 Proportion of victims by age group: 2000/01 to 2002/03 (6 police force areas)

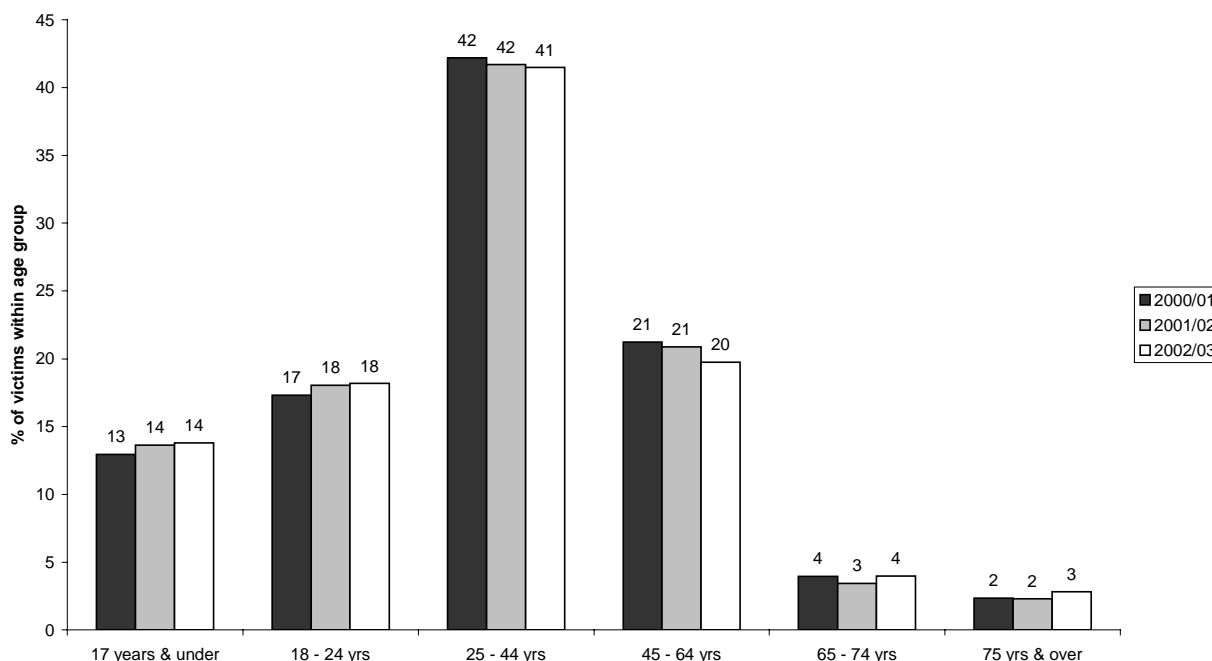


Table 2e Persons accused of offence involving firearm between 2000/01 and 2002/03: weapon type and age of accused person (6 police force areas)¹

Weapon type and financial year	Age of accused person				<i>Row Percentages</i>	
	17 yrs & under	18 - 24 yrs	25 - 44 yrs	45 - 64 yrs	Total %	Total N
Firearm (exc. air weapons)²						
2000/01	11	36	44	8	100	1,133
2001/02	14	39	42	6	100	1,433
2002/03	17	37	40	6	100	1,324
Air weapon						
2000/01	56	26	15	3	100	639
2001/02	45	29	20	5	100	561
2002/03	49	26	21	4	100	468
Other firearms excl. air weapons³						
2000/01	15	35	43	8	100	613
2001/02	19	33	42	7	100	685
2002/03	23	33	37	7	100	585
All weapon types						
2000/01	24	33	36	7	100	2,385
2001/02	21	35	37	6	100	2,679
2002/03	25	34	36	6	100	2,377

1 Six forces provided sufficient historical data to enable comparison: Metropolitan, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley and Avon and Somerset

2 Firearms include shotguns, handguns, rifles, and imitation firearms

3 'Other firearms' include starting pistols, CS gas, pepper spray and stun guns.

References

Morrison, S. and O'Donnell, I. (1994). *Armed Robbery: a study in London*. Occasional Paper No. 15. Oxford: Centre for Criminological Research, University of Oxford.

Smith, J. (2003) *The nature of personal robbery*. Home Office Research Study 254.

Table 2.01 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, by offence group

Number of offences						Recorded crime			
Year	All offences ⁽¹⁾	All offences excluding criminal damage	Violence against the person			Robbery	Burglary	Other offences excluding criminal damage	Criminal damage
			Homicide	Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life	Other				
1992	13,341	9,023	56	868	1,895	5,859	182	163	4,318
1993	14,067	9,382	74	1,058	1,743	6,012	237	258	4,685
1994	13,167	7,717	66	1,074	1,790	4,239	259	289	5,450
1995	13,434	7,577	70	894	1,779	4,206	279	349	5,857
1996	13,876	7,753	49	810	2,027	4,013	300	554	6,123
1997	12,410	6,504	59	628	2,148	3,029	316	324	5,906
1997/98	12,805	6,608	54	696	2,250	2,938	333	337	6,197
1998/99 ⁽¹⁾	13,874	7,408	49	724	2,910	2,973	319	433	6,466
1999/00	16,946	9,481	62	759	3,881	3,922	329	528	7,465
2000/01	17,697	9,774	73	831	3,869	4,127	390	484	7,923
2001/02 ⁽²⁾	22,400	12,424	97	1,110	4,636	5,487	483	611	9,976
2002/03 ⁽³⁾	24,070	13,114	81	1,285	5,767	4,776	494	711	10,956

1. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1.4.98.
2. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1.4.02.
3. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1.4.02. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.02 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used, as a percentage of all notifiable offences in particular offence groups

Year	Percentages			Recorded crime		
	All offences	Violence against the person			Robbery	Criminal damage
		Homicide	Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life	Other		
1992	0.2	8.2	5.1	1.0	11.1	0.6
1993	0.3	11.0	6.1	0.9	10.4	0.7
1994	0.3	9.1	5.7	0.9	7.1	0.8
1995	0.3	9.4	4.9	0.9	6.2	0.8
1996	0.3	7.2	3.7	0.9	5.4	0.8
1997	0.3	8.0	2.7	0.9	4.8	0.8
1997/98	0.3	7.2	3.0	1.0	4.7	0.8
1998/99 ⁽¹⁾	0.3	6.5	2.8	0.6	4.4	0.7
1999/00	0.3	8.1	2.6	0.7	4.7	0.8
2000/01	0.3	8.6	2.7	0.7	4.3	0.8
2001/02 ⁽²⁾	0.4	10.9	3.5	0.8	4.5	0.9
2002/03 ⁽³⁾	0.4	7.7	3.5	0.7	4.4	1.0

1. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1.4.98.
2. Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1.4.02.
3. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1.4.02. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.03 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon

Year	Number of offences						Recorded crime			
	All weapons	All weapons excluding air weapon	Long-barrelled shotgun	Sawn-off shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Imitation firearm	Unidentified firearm	Other firearm	Air weapon
1992	13,341	7,243		1,494	4,023			1,726		6,098
1993	14,067	7,730		1,592	4,273			1,865		6,337
1994	13,167	6,002		1,190	3,087			1,725		7,165
1995	13,434	5,866		984	3,318			1,564		7,568
1996	13,876	6,063		933	3,347			1,783		7,813
1997	12,410	4,904		580	2,648			1,676		7,506
1997/98	12,805	4,903		565	2,636			1,702		7,902
1998/99(1)	13,874	5,209	322	320	2,687	43	566	665	606	8,665
1999/00	16,946	6,843	353	340	3,685	67	823	762	813	10,103
2000/01	17,697	7,470	303	305	4,109	36	787	950	980	10,227
2001/02(2)	22,400	10,023	380	332	5,874	64	1,245	1,176	952	12,377
2002/03(3)	24,070	10,248	361	310	5,549	52	1,815	1,431	730	13,822

1. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1.4.98.
2. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1.4.02.
3. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1.4.02. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.04 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by offence group and principal weapon, 2002/03

Number of offences						Recorded crime			
Principal weapon	All offences	All offences excluding criminal damage	Violence against the person			Robbery	Burglary	Other offences excluding criminal damage	Criminal damage
			Homicide ⁽¹⁾	Attempted murder and other acts (including wounding) endangering life	Other				
Long-barrelled shotgun	361	315	11	93	70	101	18	22	46
Sawn-off shotgun	310	301	3	48	44	174	22	10	9
Handgun	5,549	5,525	40	635	944	3,332	328	246	24
Rifle	52	41	5	8	16	7	2	3	11
Imitation firearm	1,815	1,635	0	71	1,226	267	20	51	180
Unidentified firearm	1,431	1,264	21	259	279	579	54	72	167
Other firearm	730	707	0	27	438	170	27	45	23
All weapons excluding air weapon	10,248	9,788	80	1,141	3,017	4,630	471	449	460
Air weapon	13,822	3,326	1	144	2,750	146	23	262	10,496
Total	24,070	13,114	81	1,285	5,767	4,776	494	711	10,956

1 . These figures may not agree with those in the homicide chapter because (a) in this table, cases are included where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) the homicide figures are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

Table 2.05 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by how involved and principal weapon, 2002/03

Number of offences ⁽¹⁾ and percentages		Recorded crime								
Principal weapon	Total	Fired						Not fired		
		Fatal injury	Serious injury ⁽²⁾	Slight injury	Causing property damage only	No injury or property damage	Total fired	Used as blunt instrument	Used as a threat	Total not fired
Long-barrelled shotgun	361	11	41	10	72	27	161	9	191	200
Sawn-off shotgun	310	3	19	4	12	8	46	10	254	264
Handgun	5,549	40	187	77	72	239	615	336	4,598	4,934
Rifle	52	5	-	-	12	5	22	4	26	30
Imitation firearm	1,815	-	15	601	182	147	945	40	830	870
Unidentified firearm	1,431	21	90	71	194	77	453	40	938	978
Other firearm	730	-	12	527	20	50	609	6	115	121
All weapons excluding air weapon	10,248	80	364	1,290	564	553	2,851	445	6,952	7,397
Air weapon	13,822	1	154	2,187	10,521	364	13,227	35	560	595
Total	24,070	81	518	3,477	11,085	917	16,078	480	7,512	7,992

1 . Figures may have been inflated by police forces implementing the National Crime Recording Standard on 1.4.02.

2 . A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

3 . Imitation weapons include blank firers, ball bearing guns and soft air weapons.

Table 2.06 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury⁽¹⁾ by type of principal weapon

Year	Number of offences			Recorded crime		
	All weapons	All weapons excluding air weapon	Shotgun	Handgun	Other weapon excluding air weapon	Air weapon
1992	2,319	597	183	290	124	1,722
1993	2,348	770	219	393	158	1,578
1994	2,241	650	179	317	154	1,591
1995	2,056	646	146	299	201	1,410
1996	1,981	769	104	279	386	1,212
1997	1,972	778	71	314	393	1,194
1997/98	2,074	804	74	317	413	1,270
1998/99 ⁽²⁾	2,378	864	73	239	552	1,514
1999/00	3,172	1,195	100	352	743	1,977
2000/01	3,203	1,382	73	400	909	1,821
2001/02 ⁽³⁾	3,792	1,877	111	648	1,118	1,915
2002/03 ⁽⁴⁾	4,556	2,179	107	640	1,432	2,377

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.
2. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1.4.98.
3. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1.4.02
4. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1.4.02. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.07 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury⁽¹⁾ by degree of injury and type of principal weapon, 2002/03

Number of offences	Recorded crime			
<u>Type of weapon</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Fatal injury</u>	<u>Serious injury⁽²⁾</u>	<u>Slight injury</u>
Shotgun	107	14	65	28
Handgun	640	40	222	378
Other weapon excluding air weapon	1,432	26	129	1,277
<u>All weapons excluding air weapon</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>1,683</u>
<u>Air weapon</u>	<u>2,377</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>2,220</u>
All weapons	4,556	81	572	3,903

1 . By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

2 . A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

Table 2.08 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon

Year	Number of robberies					Recorded crime				
	All weapons	All weapons excluding shotgun air weapon	Long-barrelled	Sawn-off shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Imitation firearm	Unidentified firearm	Other firearm	Air weapon
1992	5,859	5,708	407	605	3,568	20	276	779	53	151
1993	6,012	5,881	440	603	3,670	20	236	875	37	131
1994	4,239	4,124	278	386	2,479	16	203	680	82	115
1995	4,206	4,094	245	299	2,647	14	169	644	76	112
1996	4,013	3,932	237	247	2,575	11	178	538	146	81
1997	3,029	2,930	121	178	1,854	10	186	460	121	99
1997/98	2,939	2,836	98	168	1,811	9	190	447	113	103
1998/99	2,973	2,890	138	193	1,814	4	163	419	159	83
1999/00	3,922	3,831	138	217	2,561	12	228	432	243	91
2000/01	4,127	4,011	97	202	2,757	13	227	482	233	116
2001/02 ⁽¹⁾	5,487	5,326	143	201	3,842	16	279	549	296	161
2002/03 ⁽²⁾	4,776	4,630	101	174	3,332	7	267	579	170	146

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1.4.02

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1.4.02. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table 2.09 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by location of offence

Year	Number of robberies						Recorded crime		
	Total	Shop, stall etc.	Garage, service station	Post office	Bank	Building society	Residential	Public highway	Other premises or open space
1992	5,859	1,632	578	464	584	696	212	773	920
1993	6,012	1,711	452	554	498	607	233	940	1,017
1994	4,239	1,106	292	342	288	336	178	1,001	696
1995	4,206	1,193	331	392	240	281	176	930	663
1996	4,013	1,267	309	385	159	144	178	984	587
1997	3,029	933	208	290	134	111	103	832	418
1997/98	2,939	928	188	276	123	91	119	800	414
1998/99	2,973	998	198	282	129	95	109	741	421
1999/00	3,922	1,425	213	315	113	81	152	1,120	503
2000/01	4,127	1,356	218	257	128	86	160	1,359	563
2001/02	5,487	1,683	262	310	168	82	290	1,973	719
2002/03	4,776	1,348	205	287	126	51	280	1,899	580

Table 2.10 Firearms misappropriated⁽¹⁾ in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by type of weapon

Number of offences ⁽²⁾		Recorded crime						
Year	Total	Air weapon	Shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Starting gun	Imitation firearm	Other
1992	2,750	1,404	590	282	139	49	230	56
1993	3,190	1,571	622	347	209	68	311	62
1994	2,830	1,476	554	270	130	68	259	73
1995 ⁽³⁾	3,915	1,980	728	398	232	73	416	88
1996	3,679	1,942	624	294	201	88	457	73
1997	2,912	1,451	539	305	193	57	273	94
1997/98	2,885	1,453	524	270	155	55	346	82
1998/99	2,711	1,520	395	242	179	48	228	99
1999/00	3,002	1,677	447	219	200	62	312	85
2000/01	2,585	1,471	431	167	172	50	192	102
2001/02	2,917	1,689	423	79	139	45	471	71
2002/03	2,844	1,683	462	85	129	45	387	53

1 . Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

2 . For the years up to 1994, more than one firearm may have been misappropriated in each offence.

3 . From 1995, the figures relate to the number of firearms misappropriated.

Table 2.11 Firearms misappropriated⁽¹⁾ in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by type of weapon and location, 2002/03

Location	Number of offences							Recorded crime	
	Total	Air weapon	Shotgun	Handgun	Rifle	Starting gun	Imitation firearm	Other	
Residential	1,822	1,027	349	69	70	30	254	23	
Office	35	18	7	0	2	0	4	4	
Factory	9	6	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Store	182	125	20	0	3	1	31	2	
Goods vehicle	20	13	0	1	0	0	6	0	
Private car	193	129	37	0	7	2	16	2	
School	16	2	1	0	1	11	1	0	
Military establishment	23	12	0	0	11	0	0	0	
Gun club	23	7	1	0	14	0	1	0	
Other premises	521	344	47	15	20	1	72	22	
Total	2,844	1,683	462	85	129	45	387	53	

(1) Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

Table 2.12 Persons found guilty at all courts or cautioned for offences under the Firearms Acts 1968 to 1997 by type of offence, England and Wales

Number of persons							Court data
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Cautioning ⁽¹⁾ rate (2002)
Indictable offences							
Possession of firearms with intent to endanger life or injure property	240	225	111	79	73	61	10
Using firearms with intent to resist arrest	9	9	10	8	7	5	-
Possessing firearms at time of committing, or being arrested for, an offence	77	84	70	95	81	86	24
Possessing firearms with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest	71	86	62	78	77	77	8
Possessing firearms with intent to cause fear of violence	223	295	449	465	560	607	31
Possessing firearms or ammunition without certificate (Section 1) ⁽²⁾	705	484	411	365	280	286	33
Shortening a shotgun	14	8	2	2	4	8	-
Possessing shotgun without certificate	609	425	239	336	346	256	60
Selling firearms to person without a certificate	29	20	16	9	6	9	22
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition	1,053	1,303	1,038	891	899	978	19
Carrying loaded firearm in public place	174	180	133	114	117	92	35
Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime	151	157	143	138	116	110	8
Other indictable offence	43	37	40	25	34	21	38
Total indictable offences	3,398	3,313	2,724	2,605	2,600	2,596	27
Summary offences							
Non-compliance with condition of firearms certificate (Section 1) ⁽²⁾	91	59	50	36	21	15	47
Carrying loaded air weapon in public place	540	589	458	383	360	285	52
Trespassing with firearm on land	139	137	95	83	74	70	43
Person under 17 acquiring firearm subject to control under Section 1	27	16	16	8	7	3	100
Making false statement in order to procure grant or renewal of firearm or shotgun certificate	71	46	20	19	19	13	62
Non-compliance with condition of shotgun certificate	189	107	124	129	75	65	45
Person under 14 having an air weapon or ammunition	60	50	66	61	27	18	72
Person under 17 having an air weapon in a public place	297	284	251	202	146	100	59
Other summary offence	107	113	91	70	51	34	47
Total summary offences	1,521	1,401	1,171	991	780	603	52
All offences	4,919	4,714	3,895	3,596	3,380	3,199	32

1. Proportion of those found guilty or cautioned who were cautioned.

2. Section 1 includes all firearms except shotguns and air weapons as defined in Section 1(3)(a) and 1(3)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968.

Table 2.13 Firearm offences (excluding air weapon offences) by police force area

Police force area	Recorded crime		
	Total number of offences 2001/02	Total number of offences 2002/03	Offences per 100,000 population 2002/03
North East Region			
Cleveland	24	18	3
Durham	19	16	3
Northumbria	86	103	7
North West Region			
Cheshire	50	31	3
Cumbria	9	13	3
Gtr. Manchester	1,361	1,240	50
Lancashire	103	66	5
Merseyside	299	318	23
Yorkshire and the Humber Region			
Humberside	63	68	8
North Yorkshire	28	18	2
South Yorkshire	170	153	12
West Yorkshire	332	333	16
East Midlands Region			
Derbyshire	58	73	8
Leicestershire	74	174	19
Lincolnshire	22	37	6
Northamptonshire	55	107	17
Nottinghamshire	204	264	26
West Midlands			
Staffordshire	116	131	13
Warwickshire	53	62	12
West Mercia	54	48	4
West Midlands	1,289	1,101	43
East of England Region			
Bedfordshire	82	86	15
Cambridgeshire	49	57	8
Essex	98	148	9
Hertfordshire	69	139	13
Norfolk	26	36	5
Suffolk	15	28	4
London Region	4,197	4,202	58
South East Region			
Hampshire	58	97	5
Kent	60	64	4
Surrey	40	34	3
Sussex	155	136	9
Thames Valley	267	362	17
South West Region			
Avon & Somerset	131	119	8
Devon & Cornwall	52	36	2
Dorset	34	17	2
Gloucestershire	89	92	16
Wiltshire	26	60	10
Wales			
Dyfed Powys	26	17	3
Gwent	18	52	9
North Wales	6	18	3
South Wales	56	74	6
ENGLAND AND WALES	10,023	10,248	20
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	5,826	6,046	13