

Coroners Statistics 2010 England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Coroners Statistics 2010 England and Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Also available on the Ministry of Justice website at

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/coroners-and-burials/deaths.htm>

Executive summary

This bulletin presents statistics of coroners' work during the calendar year 2010, including deaths reported, post-mortems, and inquests (including those for treasure and treasure trove). These figures are used to monitor coroners' workload, throughput of cases, and percentages of post-mortems and inquests. In previous years this report was entitled "Statistics on deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, (year)".

Main points

- Some 230,600 deaths were reported to coroners in 2010, a rise of 700 (0.3 per cent) from the 2009 figure. (*Tables 1,2, and 3*)
- The proportion of all registered deaths reported to coroners remained at an estimated¹ 47 per cent in 2010, the same as in 2009. This percentage has been relatively consistent over for the last few years. (*Table 2*)
- The percentage of cases involving post-mortem examinations, as a proportion of all deaths reported to coroners, fell slightly from just below 46 per cent in 2009 to 44 per cent in 2010, continuing the existing downward trend. (*Table 3*)
- Inquests were opened on 31,000 deaths, representing over 13 per cent of all deaths reported to coroners, the same proportion as in 2009. (*Table 3*)
- As in recent years, the most common verdicts returned at inquests were death from natural causes (in 29 per cent of cases) and death by accident or misadventure (28 per cent). (*Tables 4 and 6*)
- Verdicts of suicide fell by two per cent in 2010 compared to the previous year; there were also falls in the number of verdicts of death from industrial disease, from accident or misadventure, and open verdicts. There was a rise of 400, or 10 per cent, in the number of non-specific verdicts, a category which includes narrative verdicts which are a factual record of how and in what circumstances the death occurred; often used where the cause of death does not easily fit any of the standard verdicts. (*Table 6*)
- The estimated² average time taken to process an inquest in 2010 (defined as being from the time the death was reported until the conclusion of the inquest, where the death occurred in England and Wales) was 27 weeks, the same as in 2009. (*Table 7*)

¹ Statistics on the number of registered deaths in England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics. A final figure for the total number of registered deaths in 2010 has not yet been published, but a provisional figure from ONS, derived from the monthly figures for death registrations in England and Wales, has been used.

² A direct average of the time taken to process an inquest cannot be calculated from the data collected; an estimate has been made instead. Please see Explanatory Notes for more information.

Introduction

This bulletin presents statistics of deaths reported to coroners in England and Wales in 2010 in accordance with section 28 of the Coroners Act 1988. Information is provided on deaths reported to coroners, post-mortem examinations and inquests held, and verdicts returned at inquests. The data are collected via statistical returns completed by coroners. In previous years this report was entitled "Statistics on deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, (year)".

Background

In England and Wales, coroners are required by law to hold an inquest into violent, unnatural, sudden deaths of unknown cause, and those deaths which occur in prison or police custody. When investigating a death, it is the coroner's duty to establish who the deceased was, and how, when and where the deceased came by his or her death. At the close of an inquest, coroners (or juries if they have been summoned) are required to return a verdict covering these questions and to certify the verdict in an inquisition.

In the majority of deaths reported to them, however, coroners' investigations are concluded without an inquest being held. The coroner will have satisfied himself or herself, by means of a post-mortem examination or other investigation, on the physical cause of death, and that the death was not one on which he or she is required by law to hold an inquest.

Verdicts are returned in nearly all inquests. The exceptions are inquests adjourned by the coroner if, for example, criminal proceedings take place. The inquest is usually not resumed because the relevant evidence has been heard elsewhere. Nearly all inquests are held by a coroner sitting alone, without a jury, but a jury must be summoned in some circumstances, for example where the death occurred in prison or police custody.

A coroner may request that a post-mortem be conducted, whether or not an inquest is held, particularly if the cause of death is not clear. In many cases a post-mortem examination may take place in order to determine whether or not an inquest is necessary.

In England and Wales a coroner also handles investigations regarding finds reported to them under the provisions of the Treasure Act. The coroner will inquire into any treasure which is found in their districts and to establish who were the finders.

These statistical bulletins are available from the Ministry of Justice website at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/coroners-and-burials/deaths.htm>.

The **Explanatory Notes** section at the end of this report provides brief definitions for some of the terms used in this report, information about statistical revisions, and the symbols and conventions used.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistics bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

Quality and consistency of the statistics

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete. Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile these figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale collection of this type.

Returns are individually quality-assured and validated in a process that highlights inconsistencies between years, and other areas. Checks are made to ensure that each return is arithmetically correct, including with subtotals and grand totals correctly summed. Unusual values encountered in a return are queried with the data supplier, to confirm whether these are correct, or an error in the information provided which requires amendment.

The Explanatory Notes section provides further information on the quality and consistency of these statistics.

Related statistics

All deaths in England and Wales must be registered with the Registrar of Births and Deaths. For those deaths where a coroner conducts an inquest, the death will be registered at the conclusion of the inquest, and the cause of death classified according to the verdict returned by the coroner. Statistics on registered deaths in England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their series on mortality statistics. These can be accessed from the ONS website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096>

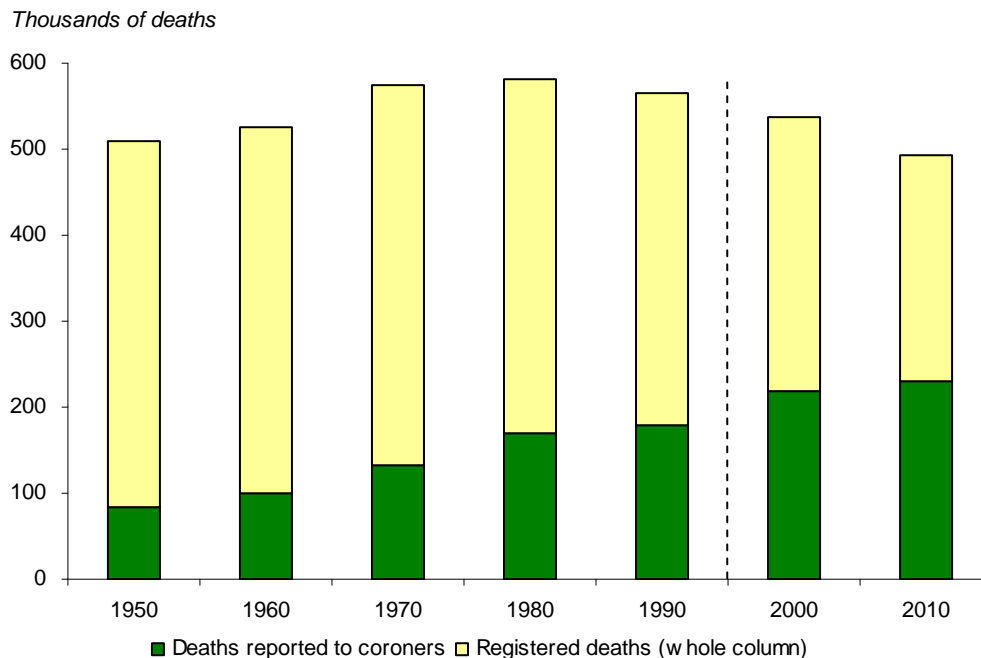
The Ministry of Justice's coroner statistics differ from ONS figures because they count two different, albeit related, events. The Ministry of Justice's coroner statistics provide the number of deaths which are reported to coroners in England and Wales. These include deaths reported to coroners which occurred outside England and Wales. ONS's mortality statistics, based on death registrations, report the number of deaths registered (irrespective of whether a coroner has investigated) in England and Wales in a particular year. ONS figures do not include deaths that occurred outside England and Wales.

The proportion of deaths which are reported to coroners has been estimated using death registration figures published by ONS. Estimates for 2010 have been calculated using ONS's monthly provisional figures on death registrations, while estimates for 2009 and earlier years have been calculated using final annual death registration figures for the relevant year.

Deaths reported (Tables 1, 2 and 3, Figures 1 and 2)

The number of deaths reported to coroners in 2010 rose by 700 (0.3 per cent) from the previous year, from 229,900 in 2009 to 230,600 during 2010, reflecting the slight rise in the number of deaths registered in England and Wales. The proportion of registered deaths in the calendar year 2010 that were reported to coroners in 2010 remained at an estimated 47 per cent, the same level as in 2009. This percentage has been relatively consistent for the last few years. Of these reported deaths, around 2,000 (less than one per cent) were reports of deaths that had occurred outside England and Wales.

Figure 1: Registered deaths, and deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1950-2010

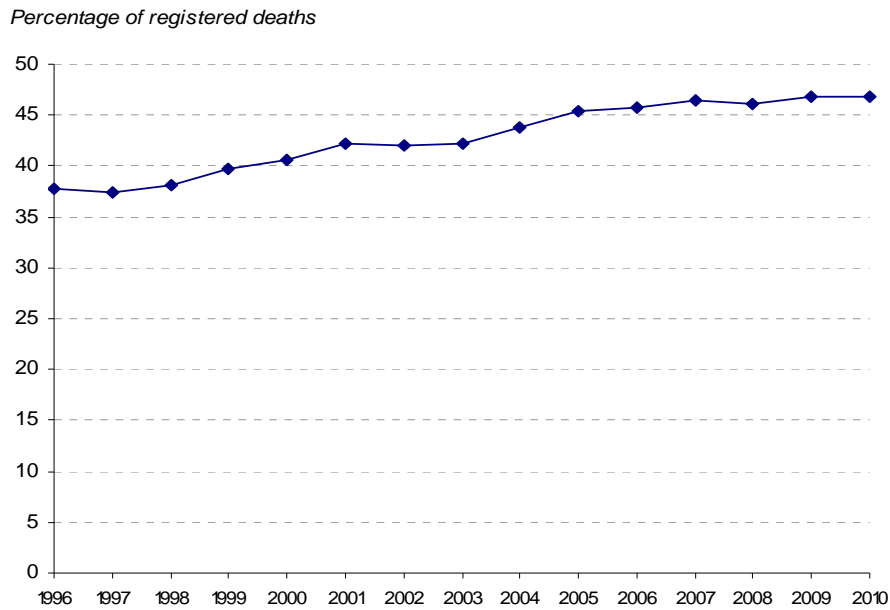


NOTE: The figures for deaths reported to coroners in the columns to the right of the vertical dashed line include no further action (NFA) cases, while those to the left exclude NFA cases (see Explanatory Notes for more information about NFA cases).

The long-term trends of both the number and proportion of deaths reported have generally been upwards. In the most recent few years, however, the increase in the proportion has become shallower than previously, while the number of deaths reported has been generally flat, albeit with some fluctuations, partly reflecting the actual number of registered deaths in any one year.

Since the Shipman murders came to light over a decade ago, there has been more concern about proper process. In the longer term, the rise in the number of deaths reported to coroners is probably also due in part to the growing use, over at least the last twenty years, of deputising services by general practitioners, leading to a greater number of referrals to coroners.

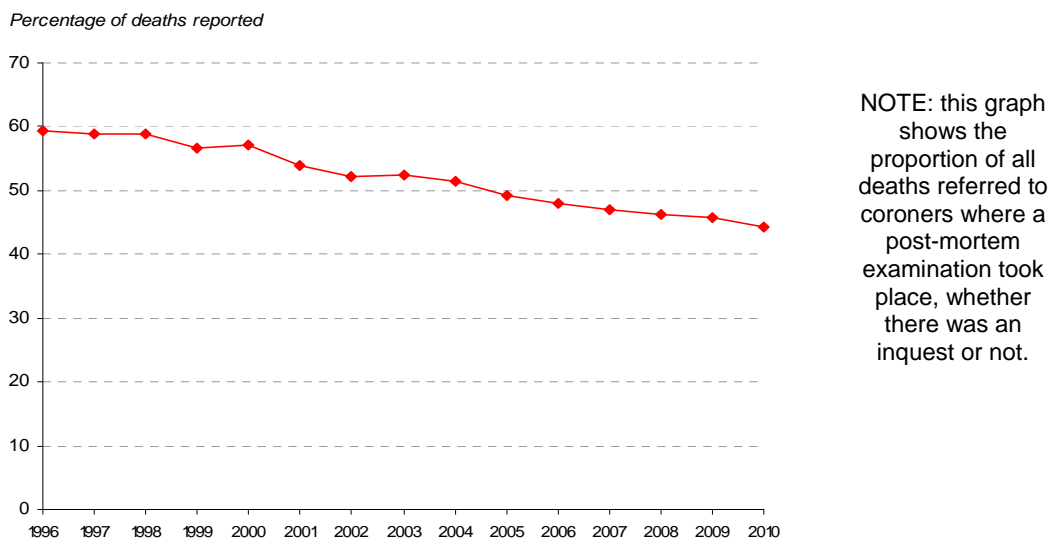
Figure 2: Deaths reported to coroners as a percentage of registered deaths, England and Wales, 1996-2010



Post-mortem examinations held and inquests opened (Tables 1, 2, and 3, Figures 3a and 3b)

Post-mortem examinations were ordered by coroners in 44 per cent of all cases reported to them in 2010, a fall compared to 2009, and continuing the existing downward trend.

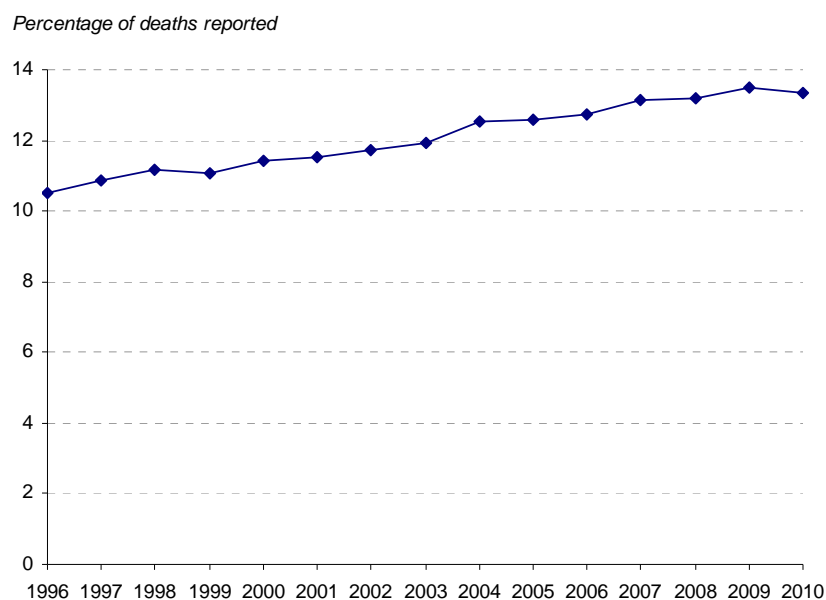
Figure 3a: Post-mortems as a percentage of deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1996-2010



The actual number of deaths reported to coroners in 2010 where a post-mortem was held was 101,900, some 3,400 fewer than in the year before, despite the overall increase in reported deaths.

Inquests were opened on 30,800 deaths reported to coroners in 2010, 200 fewer than in 2009. Inquest cases represented more than 13 per cent of all the deaths reported to coroners in 2010, a similar proportion of the total as in the previous year.

Figure 3b: Inquests as a percentage of deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, 1996-2010



Post-mortems in inquest cases (Table 3)

When an inquest is held a post-mortem examination has usually been conducted, and in 2010 post-mortems were conducted in 89 per cent of such cases. This is a lower proportion than in the previous year by around 2 percentage points, and continues a shallow declining trend over the past decade or so. Prior to the late 1990s, the holding of an inquest without a post-mortem examination was comparatively rare, accounting for around 2 per cent or less of inquest cases every year. In 2010 there were nearly 3,400 inquests without a post-mortem, around four and a half times the number so reported ten years ago.

Post-mortems in non-inquest cases (Table 3)

In the majority of cases referred to coroners there is no inquest. In 2010, there were some 75,000 non-inquest cases where a post-mortem was held, and the percentage of non-inquest cases that required a post-mortem fell to just above 37 per cent. This proportion has fallen steadily in recent years; in 1995 it was 56 per cent of all non-inquest cases.

Cases requiring neither an inquest nor a post-mortem (Table 3)

There were also 125,000 cases reported to coroners where there was neither an inquest nor a post-mortem. This particular category of case has generally been increasing in number in recent years. In addition, the percentage of cases where there was neither an inquest nor a post-mortem examination has increased, as a proportion of all coroners' cases, from around 40 per cent or just above in the late 1990s, to 54 per cent in 2010.

Inquest verdicts returned (Tables 4, 5 and 6, Figures 4, 5 and 6)

Verdicts were returned at some 29,400 inquests in 2010, nearly 400 less than in 2009. As in previous years the most common verdicts in 2010 were death from natural causes (8,400, 29 per cent), and death by accident or misadventure (8,100, 28 per cent of all verdicts). Unclassified verdicts, which category includes narrative verdicts, represented 14 per cent of the total, and verdicts of suicide comprised 11 per cent in 2010.

For the first time in 2010, verdicts of death from natural causes were the most frequently recorded. The category to see the largest rise in 2010 was unclassified (including narrative) verdicts, which were up 10 per cent, from 3,800 in 2009 to 4,200 in 2010.

There were decreases in the numbers of verdicts in many categories over the past year, mainly reflecting the overall drop in the numbers of inquests concluded by a verdict. These included:

- A 15 per cent drop in verdicts of deaths from dependence on drugs or non-dependent abuse of drugs, from 570 to 480;
- a 6 per cent drop in the number of verdicts of death by accident or misadventure (down from 8,700 to 8,100);
- a 6 per cent drop in the number of open verdicts (down from 2,200 to 2,100).

The rise in unclassified verdicts is at least in part due to the increasing use of what are known as 'narrative verdicts' by some coroners (see the paragraph on trends, below). A narrative verdict is where, instead of a conventional verdict, at the end of the inquest the coroner records a factual record of how and in what circumstances the death occurred. Recent case law may be responsible for the increased number of narrative verdicts in recent years, including the House of Lords Middleton³ judgement which encouraged their use.

Trends (Table 5 and Figure 4)

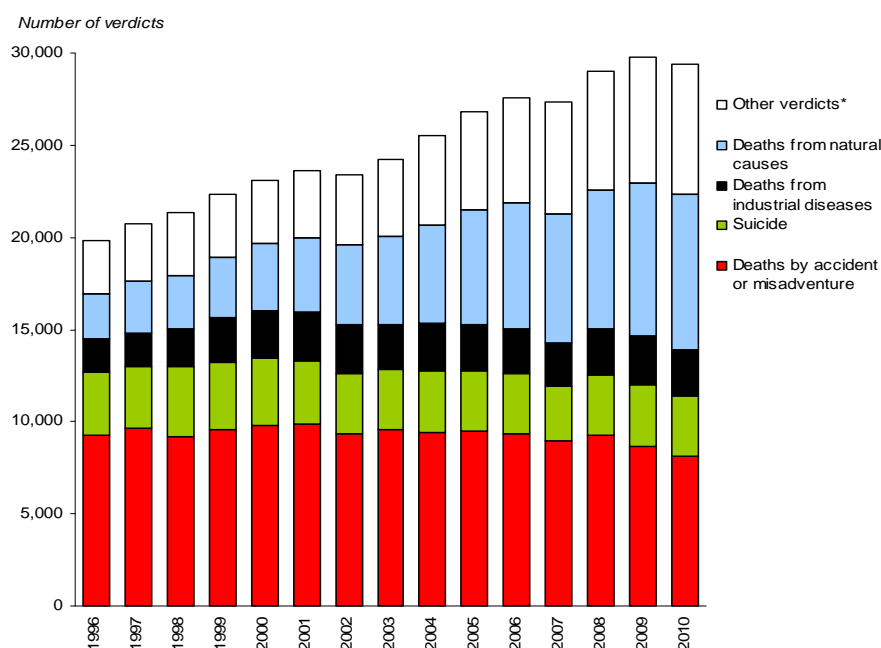
Verdicts of death from natural causes are tending to rise steadily, and there is also a steady and steeper rise in the number of unclassified, including narrative, verdicts. There is a long-term slight downward trend in the numbers of verdicts of suicide, though there are fluctuations within that trend.

As a *proportion* of verdicts delivered by coroners during a calendar year, there are five main trends, two rising, and three falling:

³ R v H.M. Coroner for Western Somersetshire and another *ex parte* Middleton (2004)

- verdicts of death from natural causes have risen steadily from 13 per cent in 1996 to around 29 per cent in 2010;
- unclassified verdicts (which include narrative verdicts, as explained above) formed less than one per cent of the total up to and including 2001, but accounted for around one in every seven verdicts in 2010;
- verdicts of death by accident or misadventure have been declining steadily, from 47 per cent of verdicts returned in 1996 to 28 per cent in 2010;
- suicide verdicts have been declining slowly over the same period, from 17 per cent in 1996 to around 11 per cent in 2010;
- open verdicts have been falling in percentage terms in the last few years, from around 11 per cent in the mid-1990s to 7 per cent in 2010.

Figure 4: Verdicts returned at inquests, England and Wales, 1996-2010



*Includes open verdicts, and non-specific verdicts, etc. (see Table 6)

Gender differences (Table 4, Figures 5 and 6)

The pattern of verdicts differs between males and females. Male deaths accounted for about 69 per cent of all verdicts returned in 2009; but they also included:

- 92 per cent of verdicts of death from industrial disease;
- 78 per cent of verdicts of suicide, and
- 82 per cent of verdicts of death from dependence on, or non-dependent abuse of, drugs.

For females, the most common verdicts were:

- death by accident or misadventure (32 per cent of all female verdicts), and
- death from natural causes (also 32 per cent).

These proportions were all similar to those in recent years. Females also accounted for a relatively high percentage of unclassified or narrative verdicts (39 per cent).

Figure 5: Verdicts returned at inquests by sex, England and Wales, 2010

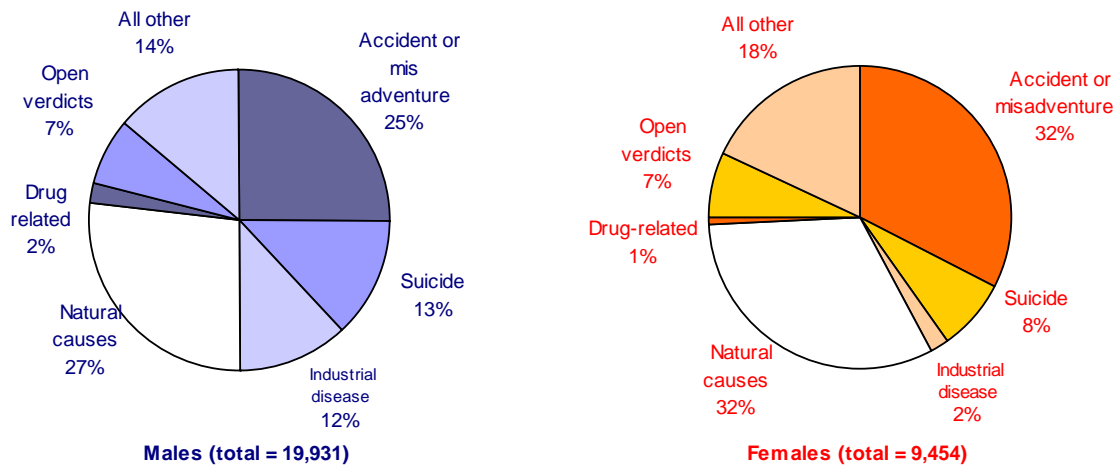
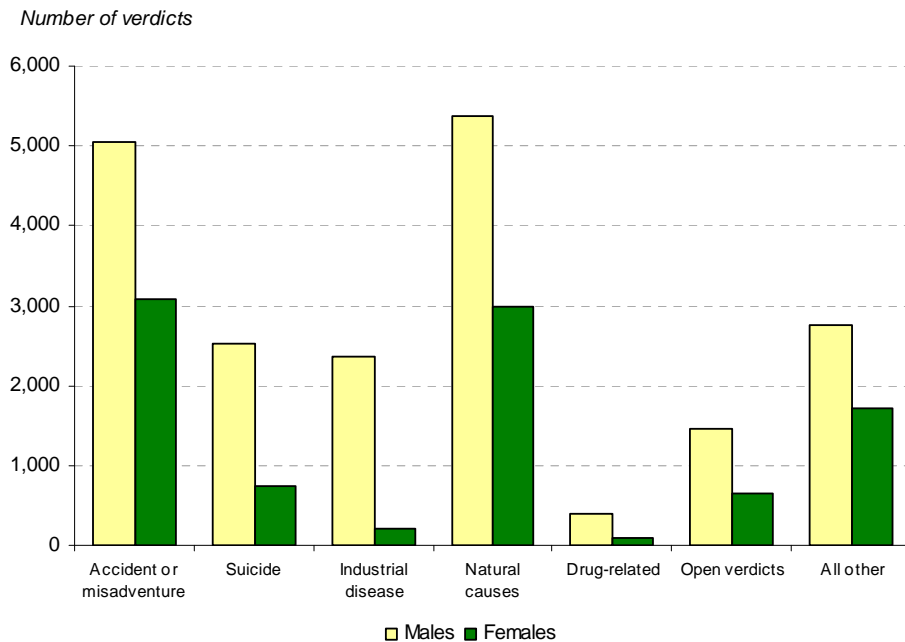


Figure 6: Number of verdicts returned at inquests, by sex, England and Wales, 2010



Age of deceased in inquests where a verdict was returned (Table 5)

From 2008, coroners were asked to provide information (in summary form) on the ages of persons whose deaths proceeded to inquest and a verdict returned during the year. Over 45 per cent of completed inquests in 2010

were on persons who were 65 years of age or more at death. Less than nine per cent of inquests concluded were into deaths of persons aged under 25.

Inquests with juries, and adjourned inquests (Table 7)

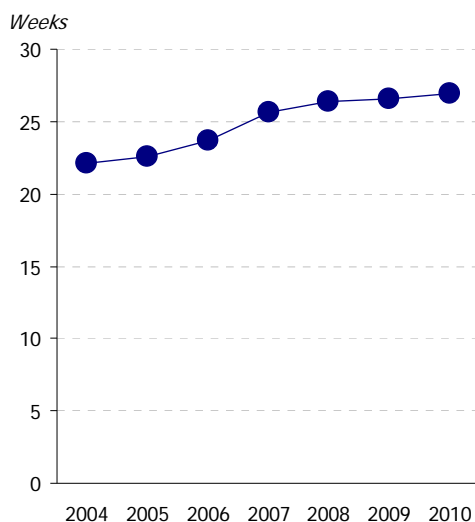
Nearly all inquests concluded in 2010, as in other years, were held without juries. The number of inquests held with juries in 2010 was 440 (representing just under one and a half per cent of all inquests), a modest fall of about 20 compared to 2009. Both the number and proportion of inquests held with juries have shown a downward trend in recent years; the proportion of inquests held with juries has fallen from 3.6 per cent of inquests concluded in 1999 to less than 1.5 per cent in 2010.

Around 1,000 inquests were adjourned by the coroner under Section 16 of the Coroners Act 1988 because criminal proceedings took place, and subsequently were not resumed. This is comparable with the level generally prevailing in recent years.

Time taken to process an inquest (Table 7)

The estimated average time taken to process an inquest in 2010 (defined as being from the time the death was reported until the conclusion of the inquest) was 27 weeks to the nearest whole week, the same as in 2009, but slightly longer than in 2007 and 2008.

Figure 6a: Estimated average time taken to process an inquest, 2004-2010



This period has slightly increased since the present system of estimating this average was introduced in 2004, when it was 22 weeks. Only deaths occurring within England and Wales are included in this estimation. More information about how the average has been estimated can be found in the Explanatory Notes section.

Treasure and Treasure Trove (Table 8 and Figure 7)

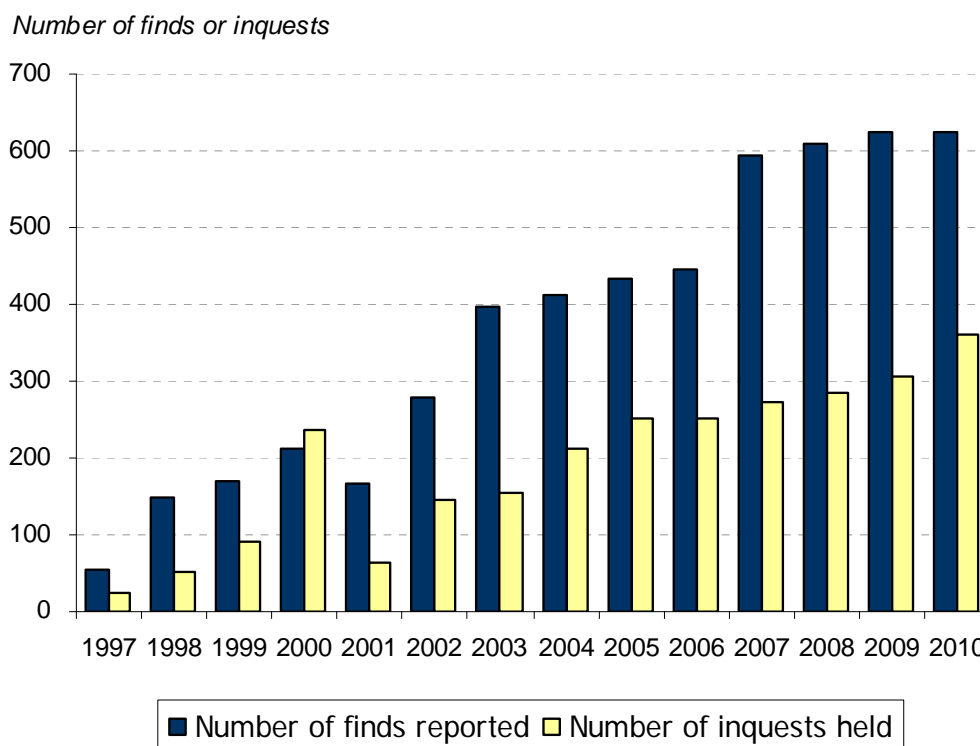
On 24 September 1997, the Treasure Act 1996 came into force and replaced the common law of Treasure Trove in England and Wales. The 1996 Act introduced new requirements for reporting and dealing with finds. Not all finds need be the subject of an inquest.

In 2010, 623 finds were reported and 362 inquests were concluded, from which a verdict declaring a find to be Treasure was returned in 318 cases. There were no inquests held into Treasure Trove in 2010 (relating to finds made before the current Act came into force), but it is likely that a few such inquests will continue to be held for some time.

The number of finds reported has been steadily increasing in recent years—this is probably because of the increasing popularity of treasure-hunting as a hobby. The dip in reported finds in 2001 is almost certainly due to the foot-and-mouth outbreak, which severely restricted access to land during the spring of that year.

An annual report on the operation of the Treasure Act 1996 is published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Figure 7: Finds reported to coroners and inquests held under the Treasure Act, 1997-2010



Tables

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Table 1. | Deaths reported to coroners, 2010 |
| Table 2. | Registered deaths, deaths reported to coroners, and inquests opened, 1950-2010 |
| Table 3. | Deaths reported to coroners, post-mortem examinations held and inquests opened, 1996-2010 |
| Table 4. | Inquest verdicts returned, 2010 |
| Table 5. | Age of deceased in inquests where a verdict was returned, 2010 |
| Table 6. | Inquest verdicts returned, 1996-2010 |
| Table 7. | Inquests concluded which were held with juries and inquests adjourned; High Court orders and exhumations, 1996-2010 |
| Table 8. | Treasure inquests, 1996-2010 |
| Table 9. | Reported deaths, post-mortems and inquests by jurisdiction, 2010, and comparison with 2009 |
| Table 10. | Inquest verdicts returned, by jurisdiction, 2010 |
| Map | Coroner districts in England and Wales as at 31 December, 2010 |

Table 1: Deaths reported to coroners, 2010

| England and Wales | | Number of reported deaths | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| | Males | Females | Total | |
| Total deaths reported to coroners, 2009 (1)(2) | 123,403 | 107,127 | 230,595 | |
| <u>Inquests</u> | | | | |
| Deaths reported where an inquest was opened | 20,684 | 10,104 | 30,788 | |
| Deaths reported where no inquest occurred (1)(2) | 102,719 | 97,023 | 199,807 | |
| <u>Post-mortem examinations</u> | | | | |
| Deaths reported where a post-mortem took place | 61,219 | 40,724 | 101,943 | |
| Deaths reported without a post-mortem (1)(2) | 62,184 | 66,403 | 128,652 | |

(1) This row includes deaths referred to the coroner where no certificate of any kind was issued ("no further action" cases).

(2) The **total** column includes "no further action" cases which could not be categorized into males and females.

Table 2: Registered deaths, deaths reported to coroners, and inquests opened, 1950-2010

| England and Wales | | Thousands and percentages | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Year | Registered deaths (thousands) | Deaths reported to coroners | | Inquests opened | |
| | | Number (thousands) (1) | As a percentage of registered deaths | Number (thousands) | As a percentage of deaths reported to coroners (1) |
| 1950 | 510.3 | 83.6 | 16.4% | 25.8 | 30.9% |
| 1960 | 526.3 | 101.1 | 19.2% | 26.3 | 26.0% |
| 1970 | 575.2 | 133.4 | 23.2% | 24.9 | 18.7% |
| 1980 | 581.4 | 170.2 | 29.3% | 23.1 | 13.6% |
| 1990 | 564.8 | 180.1 | 31.9% | 22.1 | 12.3% |
| ----- | | | | | |
| 1996 | 563.0 | 212.6 | 37.8% | 22.3 | 10.5% |
| 1997 | 558.1 | 208.6 | 37.4% | 22.7 | 10.9% |
| 1998 | 553.4 | 211.4 | 38.2% | 23.6 | 11.1% |
| 1999 | 553.5 | 220.2 | 39.8% | 24.4 | 11.1% |
| 2000 | 537.9 | 218.1 | 40.5% | 24.9 | 11.4% |
| 2001 | 532.5 | 224.3 | 42.1% | 25.8 | 11.5% |
| 2002 | 535.4 | 225.0 | 42.0% | 26.4 | 11.7% |
| 2003 | 539.2 | 227.8 | 42.2% | 27.1 | 11.9% |
| 2004 | 514.3 | 225.5 | 43.9% | 28.3 | 12.5% |
| 2005 | 513.0 | 232.4 | 45.3% | 29.3 | 12.6% |
| 2006 | 502.6 | 230.0 | 45.8% | 29.3 | 12.8% |
| 2007 | 504.1 | 234.5 | 46.5% | 30.8 | 13.2% |
| 2008 | 509.1 | 234.8 | 46.1% | 31.0 | 13.2% |
| 2009 | 491.3 | 229.9 | 46.8% | 31.0 | 13.5% |
| 2010 | 493.2 (2) | 230.6 | 46.8% | 30.8 | 13.4% |

(1) 'NFA' cases are deaths notified to coroners which required neither an inquest nor a post-mortem, and where no certificate of any kind was issued. From 1995 onwards all 'NFA' cases have been included in the number of reported deaths. Prior to that, these cases were excluded. Figures for 1995 onwards are therefore not directly comparable to those for previous years.

(2) provisional figure, based on ONS published monthly death registration figures for 2010

Table 3: Deaths reported to coroners, post-mortem examinations held and inquests opened, 1996-2010

England and Wales

Numbers and percentages

| Year | Inquest opened | | | | | | No inquest opened | | | | Post-mortems | | Total deaths reported inc. NFA | |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Post-mortem examination held | | No post-mortem held | | Total inquests opened | % of deaths reported | Post-mortem examination held | | No post-mortem held | | Total non-inquest cases, inc. NFA | Total post-mortems held | | % of deaths reported |
| | Number | % of inquest cases | Number | % of inquest cases | | | Number | % of non-inquest cases | Number, inc. NFA | % of non-inquest cases | | | | |
| 1996 | 21,863 | 98.0% | 455 | 2.0% | 22,318 | 10.5% | 104,321 | 54.8% | 85,945 | 45.2% | 190,266 | 126,184 | 59.4% | 212,584 |
| 1997 | 22,336 | 98.4% | 367 | 1.6% | 22,703 | 10.9% | 100,679 | 54.2% | 85,196 | 45.8% | 185,875 | 123,015 | 59.0% | 208,578 |
| 1998 | 23,191 | 98.4% | 377 | 1.6% | 23,568 | 11.1% | 101,165 | 53.8% | 86,700 | 46.2% | 187,865 | 124,356 | 58.8% | 211,433 |
| 1999 | 23,896 | 98.0% | 479 | 2.0% | 24,375 | 11.1% | 100,884 | 51.5% | 94,917 | 48.5% | 195,801 | 124,780 | 56.7% | 220,176 |
| 2000 | 24,117 | 97.0% | 740 | 3.0% | 24,857 | 11.4% | 100,419 | 52.0% | 92,816 | 48.0% | 193,235 | 124,536 | 57.1% | 218,092 |
| 2001 | 24,617 | 95.4% | 1,176 | 4.6% | 25,793 | 11.5% | 96,495 | 48.6% | 101,998 | 51.4% | 198,493 | 121,112 | 54.0% | 224,286 |
| 2002 | 25,363 | 96.0% | 1,067 | 4.0% | 26,430 | 11.7% | 92,321 | 46.5% | 106,248 | 53.5% | 198,569 | 117,684 | 52.3% | 224,999 |
| 2003 | 25,754 | 95.0% | 1,359 | 5.0% | 27,113 | 11.9% | 93,856 | 46.8% | 106,821 | 53.2% | 200,677 | 119,610 | 52.5% | 227,790 |
| 2004 | 26,618 | 94.1% | 1,656 | 5.9% | 28,274 | 12.5% | 89,155 | 45.2% | 108,082 | 54.8% | 197,237 | 115,773 | 51.3% | 225,511 |
| 2005 | 27,537 | 94.1% | 1,734 | 5.9% | 29,271 | 12.6% | 87,083 | 42.9% | 116,047 | 57.1% | 203,130 | 114,620 | 49.3% | 232,401 |
| 2006 | 27,305 | 93.1% | 2,022 | 6.9% | 29,327 | 12.8% | 82,919 | 41.3% | 117,761 | 58.7% | 200,680 | 110,224 | 47.9% | 230,007 |
| 2007 | 28,510 | 92.4% | 2,331 | 7.6% | 30,841 | 13.2% | 81,850 | 40.2% | 121,767 | 59.8% | 203,617 | 110,360 | 47.1% | 234,458 |
| 2008 | 28,518 | 92.0% | 2,481 | 8.0% | 30,999 | 13.2% | 79,842 | 39.2% | 123,943 | 60.8% | 203,785 | 108,360 | 46.2% | 234,784 |
| 2009 | 28,213 | 91.1% | 2,764 | 8.9% | 30,977 | 13.5% | 77,141 | 38.8% | 121,765 | 61.2% | 198,906 | 105,354 | 45.8% | 229,883 |
| 2010 | 27,401 | 89.0% | 3,387 | 11.0% | 30,788 | 13.4% | 74,542 | 37.3% | 125,265 | 62.7% | 199,807 | 101,943 | 44.2% | 230,595 |

Table 4: Inquest verdicts returned, 2010

| England and Wales | | Number of verdicts returned | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Verdict | Males | Females | Total |
| Homicide, of which: | | | |
| killed unlawfully | 180 | 58 | 238 |
| killed lawfully | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Suicide | 2,521 | 731 | 3,252 |
| Attempted or self-induced abortion | - | - | - |
| Cause of death aggravated by lack of care, or self-neglect | 27 | 15 | 42 |
| Dependence on drugs | 216 | 51 | 267 |
| Non-dependent abuse of drugs | 181 | 35 | 216 |
| Want of attention at birth | - | 1 | 1 |
| Death from industrial diseases | 2,359 | 201 | 2,560 |
| Death by accident or misadventure | 5,041 | 3,072 | 8,113 |
| Stillborn | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Deaths from natural causes | 5,385 | 2,997 | 8,382 |
| Open verdicts | 1,467 | 648 | 2,115 |
| Disasters | 1 | - | 1 |
| All other verdicts | 2,540 | 1,640 | 4,180 |
| Total verdicts returned, 2010 | 19,931 | 9,454 | 29,385 |

Table 5: Age of deceased in inquests where a verdict was returned, 2010

| England and Wales | | Number and percentage | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Age of deceased at time of death | Number of inquest verdicts returned, 2010 | As a % of total verdicts returned | |
| Under 1 year | 574 | 2.0% | |
| 1 to 14 years | 404 | 1.4% | |
| 15 to 24 years | 1,587 | 5.4% | |
| 25 to 44 years | 6,045 | 20.6% | |
| 45 to 64 years | 7,527 | 25.6% | |
| 65 years and over | 13,237 | 45.0% | |
| Age not known or could not be readily provided | 11 | 0.0% | |
| Total verdicts returned, 2010 | 29,385 | 100.0% | |

Table 6: Inquest verdicts returned, 1996-2010

| England and Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | Number of verdicts returned | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Verdict | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | |
| Homicide, of which: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| killed unlawfully | 169 | 165 | 142 | 167 | 178 | 192 | 177 | 182 | 206 | 248 | 223 | 257 | 263 | 222 | 238 | |
| killed lawfully | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | |
| Suicide | 3,399 | 3,355 | 3,756 | 3,693 | 3,626 | 3,389 | 3,242 | 3,255 | 3,368 | 3,235 | 3,220 | 3,007 | 3,305 | 3,330 | 3,252 | |
| Attempted or self-induced abortion | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 | |
| Cause of death aggravated by lack of care, or self-neglect | 59 | 59 | 47 | 44 | 33 | 43 | 46 | 50 | 51 | 27 | 30 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 42 | |
| Dependence on drugs | 156 | 177 | 258 | 289 | 323 | 309 | 294 | 248 | 280 | 299 | 328 | 324 | 343 | 316 | 267 | |
| Non-dependent abuse of drugs | 199 | 220 | 237 | 284 | 282 | 313 | 260 | 254 | 269 | 261 | 268 | 276 | 274 | 250 | 216 | |
| Want of attention at birth | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Death from industrial diseases | 1,784 | 1,836 | 2,091 | 2,373 | 2,591 | 2,661 | 2,653 | 2,403 | 2,571 | 2,567 | 2,496 | 2,332 | 2,474 | 2,623 | 2,560 | |
| Death by accident or misadventure | 9,286 | 9,646 | 9,199 | 9,558 | 9,796 | 9,882 | 9,379 | 9,594 | 9,420 | 9,498 | 9,353 | 8,930 | 9,230 | 8,673 | 8,113 | |
| Stillborn | 6 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 21 | 13 | 7 | 8 | |
| Deaths from natural causes | 2,498 | 2,756 | 2,852 | 3,306 | 3,642 | 4,068 | 4,334 | 4,766 | 5,296 | 6,175 | 6,828 | 7,011 | 7,556 | 8,281 | 8,382 | |
| Open verdicts | 2,151 | 2,319 | 2,571 | 2,509 | 2,449 | 2,519 | 2,445 | 2,619 | 2,600 | 2,531 | 2,378 | 2,242 | 2,167 | 2,240 | 2,115 | |
| Disasters | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| All other verdicts | 142 | 154 | 160 | 119 | 156 | 225 | 583 | 873 | 1,412 | 1,952 | 2,406 | 2,923 | 3,333 | 3,797 | 4,180 | |
| Total verdicts returned | 19,855 | 20,699 | 21,333 | 22,349 | 23,088 | 23,617 | 23,423 | 24,259 | 25,494 | 26,814 | 27,547 | 27,360 | 28,996 | 29,781 | 29,385 | |

Table 7: Inquests concluded which were held with juries and inquests adjourned; High Court orders and exhumations, 1996-2010, estimated average time taken to process inquests, 2004-2010(1)

| England and Wales | | | | | | | | | | | Number |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Year | Juries | | | Verdicts / adjournments | | | Total inquests concluded | Average time to process an inquest (weeks)(1) | Inquests held by order of the High Court | Inquisitions quashed or amended by the High Court | Exhumations ordered by the coroner |
| | Inquests without juries | Inquests with juries | % with juries | Verdicts returned | Inquests adjourned and not resumed | % adjourned | | | | | |
| 1996 | 19,844 | 903 | 4.4% | 19,855 | 892 | 4.3% | 20,747 | n/a | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 1997 | 20,774 | 774 | 3.6% | 20,699 | 849 | 3.9% | 21,548 | n/a | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 1998 | 21,141 | 1,035 | 4.7% | 21,333 | 843 | 3.8% | 22,176 | n/a | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 1999 | 22,298 | 823 | 3.6% | 22,349 | 772 | 3.3% | 23,121 | n/a | - | 2 | 2 |
| 2000 | 23,243 | 824 | 3.4% | 23,088 | 979 | 4.1% | 24,067 | n/a | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 2001 | 23,757 | 759 | 3.1% | 23,617 | 899 | 3.7% | 24,516 | n/a | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 2002 | 23,859 | 687 | 2.8% | 23,423 | 1,123 | 4.6% | 24,546 | n/a | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 2003 | 24,531 | 636 | 2.5% | 24,259 | 908 | 3.6% | 25,167 | n/a | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 2004 | 25,869 | 568 | 2.1% | 25,494 | 943 | 3.6% | 26,437 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2005 | 27,302 | 520 | 1.9% | 26,814 | 1,008 | 3.6% | 27,822 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 2006 | 27,934 | 569 | 2.0% | 27,547 | 956 | 3.4% | 28,503 | 24 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2007 | 27,747 | 539 | 1.9% | 27,360 | 926 | 3.3% | 28,286 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 2008 | 29,344 | 485 | 1.6% | 28,996 | 833 | 2.8% | 29,829 | 26 | - | 2 | 1 |
| 2009 | 30,239 | 466 | 1.518% | 29,781 | 924 | 3.0% | 30,705 | 27 (R) | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2010 | 29,938 | 442 | 1.455% | 29,385 | 995 | 3.3% | 30,380 | 27 | 3 | 1 | 0 |

(1) Only deaths occurring within England and Wales are included in the estimation of average times. Data were not collected on a comparable basis before 2004, and consequently are not shown here.

(R) The figure for timeliness in 2009 has been revised; see Explanatory Notes (Revisions to statistics) for more information.

Table 8: Treasure inquests, 1996-2010

| England and Wales | | | | Number |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Year | Treasure Act 1996 | | | Treasure trove (1) |
| | Number of finds reported | Number of inquests concluded | Verdicts of treasure returned | Inquests held on treasure trove |
| 1996 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 45 |
| 1997 | 54 | 25 | 6 | 35 |
| 1998 | 147 | 53 | 42 | 20 |
| 1999 | 170 | 90 | 86 | 8 |
| 2000 | 213 | 236 | 123 | 4 |
| 2001 | 168 | 63 | 65 | 5 |
| 2002 | 279 | 144 | 133 | 3 |
| 2003 | 396 | 154 | 140 | 6 |
| 2004 | 412 | 213 | 191 | 16 |
| 2005 | 432 | 253 | 228 | 7 |
| 2006 | 444 | 252 | 217 | 12 |
| 2007 | 595 | 273 | 229 | 13 |
| 2008 | 610 | 286 | 270 | 9 |
| 2009 | 624 | 307 | 289 | 3 |
| 2010 | 623 | 362 | 318 | 0 |

(1) Relates to finds made before the commencement of the Treasure Act in September 1997

Table 9: Reported deaths, post-mortems and inquests by jurisdiction 2010, and comparison with 2009

| County / unitary authority or district | 2010 cases | | | | | 2009 cases | | | | | % change, 2009 to 2010 | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Reported deaths 2010, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2010 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Inquests 2010 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Reported deaths 2009, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2009 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2009 | Inquests 2009 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2009 | % change in reported deaths, inc. NFA | change in % PMs | change in % inquests |
| The Queen's Household | 0 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 | 0 | n/a | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| ENGLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH EAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DURHAM | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Darlington and South Durham | 1,172 | 639 | 55% | 150 | 13% | 1,190 | 618 | 52% | 145 | 12% | -1.5% | 2.6% | 0.6% |
| North Durham | 1,248 | 747 | 60% | 271 | 22% | 1,313 | 784 | 60% | 249 | 19% | -5.0% | 0.1% | 2.8% |
| HARTLEPOOL | 434 | 213 | 49% | 78 | 18% | 492 | 240 | 49% | 50 | 10% | -11.8% | 0.3% | 7.8% |
| NORTHUMBERLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Northumberland | 701 | 340 | 49% | 132 | 19% | 730 | 334 | 46% | 154 | 21% | -4.0% | 2.7% | -2.3% |
| South Northumberland | 421 | 271 | 64% | 96 | 23% | 440 | 300 | 68% | 117 | 27% | -4.3% | -3.8% | -3.8% |
| TEESSIDE | 2,566 | 1,002 | 39% | 315 | 12% | 2,618 | 1,024 | 39% | 307 | 12% | -2.0% | -0.1% | 0.5% |
| TYNE AND WEAR | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gateshead and South Tyneside | 1,926 | 816 | 42% | 238 | 12% | 1,945 | 823 | 42% | 188 | 10% | -1.0% | 0.1% | 2.7% |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,876 | 799 | 43% | 361 | 19% | 1,849 | 736 | 40% | 370 | 20% | 1.5% | 2.8% | -0.8% |
| North Tyneside | 848 | 458 | 54% | 206 | 24% | 832 | 453 | 54% | 226 | 27% | 1.9% | -0.4% | -2.9% |
| Sunderland | 1,538 | 584 | 38% | 396 | 26% | 1,638 | 617 | 38% | 394 | 24% | -6.1% | 0.3% | 1.7% |
| NORTH WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHESHIRE | 4,641 | 2,129 | 46% | 712 | 15% | 5,130 | 2,444 | 48% | 799 | 16% | -9.5% | -1.8% | -0.2% |
| CUMBRIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South and East Cumbria | 1,062 | 574 | 54% | 190 | 18% | 1,022 | 642 | 63% | 175 | 17% | 3.9% | -8.8% | 0.8% |
| North and West Cumbria | 1,351 | 706 | 52% | 235 | 17% | 1,267 | 655 | 52% | 175 | 14% | 6.6% | 0.6% | 3.6% |
| GREATER MANCHESTER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manchester city | 3,220 | 1,511 | 47% | 715 | 22% | 3,136 | 1,853 | 59% | 783 | 25% | 2.7% | -12.2% | -2.8% |
| Manchester North | 2,906 | 950 | 33% | 446 | 15% | 2,655 | 914 | 34% | 469 | 18% | 9.5% | -1.7% | -2.3% |
| Manchester South | 3,184 | 1,672 | 53% | 563 | 18% | 3,106 | 1,790 | 58% | 585 | 19% | 2.5% | -5.1% | -1.2% |
| Manchester West | 4,427 | 1,943 | 44% | 604 | 14% | 4,105 | 1,922 | 47% | 586 | 14% | 7.8% | -2.9% | -0.6% |
| LANCASHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley | 2,613 | 962 | 37% | 325 | 12% | 2,689 | 1,002 | 37% | 363 | 13% | -2.8% | -0.4% | -1.1% |
| Blackpool/Fylde | 1,696 | 811 | 48% | 130 | 8% | 1,694 | 841 | 50% | 130 | 8% | 0.1% | -1.8% | 0.0% |
| East Lancashire | 664 | 436 | 66% | 153 | 23% | 636 | 420 | 66% | 135 | 21% | 4.4% | -0.4% | 1.8% |
| Preston and West Lancashire | 2,743 | 1,584 | 58% | 464 | 17% | 2,760 | 1,545 | 56% | 409 | 15% | -0.6% | 1.8% | 2.1% |
| MERSEYSIDE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens | 2,548 | 867 | 34% | 305 | 12% | 2,406 | 828 | 34% | 270 | 11% | 5.9% | -0.4% | 0.7% |
| Liverpool | 2,815 | 877 | 31% | 530 | 19% | 2,733 | 873 | 32% | 507 | 19% | 3.0% | -0.8% | 0.3% |
| Wirral | 1,681 | 615 | 37% | 276 | 16% | 1,737 | 665 | 38% | 267 | 15% | -3.2% | -1.7% | 1.0% |

Table 9: Reported deaths, post-mortems and inquests by jurisdiction 2010, and comparison with 2009 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | 2010 cases | | | | | 2009 cases | | | | | % change, 2009 to 2010 | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Reported deaths 2010, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2010 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Inquests 2010 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Reported deaths 2009, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2009 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2009 | Inquests 2009 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2009 | % change in reported deaths, inc. NFA | change in % PMs | change in % inquests |
| YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EAST RIDING and HULL | 2,822 | 1,015 | 36% | 293 | 10% | 2,971 | 1,133 | 38% | 293 | 10% | -5.0% | -2.2% | 0.5% |
| NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE and GRIMSBY | 1,391 | 435 | 31% | 166 | 12% | 1,477 | 455 | 31% | 124 | 8% | -5.8% | 0.5% | 3.5% |
| YORK CITY | 1,065 | 428 | 40% | 90 | 8% | 982 | 411 | 42% | 101 | 10% | 8.5% | -1.7% | -1.8% |
| North Yorkshire Eastern District | 1,192 | 661 | 55% | 125 | 10% | 1,139 | 661 | 58% | 132 | 12% | 4.7% | -2.6% | -1.1% |
| North Yorkshire Western District | 1,119 | 417 | 37% | 139 | 12% | 1,078 | 368 | 34% | 129 | 12% | 3.8% | 3.1% | 0.5% |
| South Yorkshire Eastern District | 2,537 | 1,553 | 61% | 371 | 15% | 2,513 | 1,550 | 62% | 352 | 14% | 1.0% | -0.5% | 0.6% |
| South Yorkshire Western District | 3,091 | 1,473 | 48% | 496 | 16% | 3,120 | 1,514 | 49% | 453 | 15% | -0.9% | -0.9% | 1.5% |
| West Yorkshire Eastern District | 3,757 | 1,682 | 45% | 546 | 15% | 3,686 | 1,658 | 45% | 513 | 14% | 1.9% | -0.2% | 0.6% |
| West Yorkshire Western District | 3,282 | 1,610 | 49% | 469 | 14% | 3,388 | 1,749 | 52% | 495 | 15% | -3.1% | -2.6% | -0.3% |
| EAST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DERBYSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derby and South Derbyshire | 2,570 | 1,202 | 47% | 315 | 12% | 2,600 | 1,105 | 43% | 283 | 11% | -1.2% | 4.3% | 1.4% |
| North Derbyshire | 2,031 | 854 | 42% | 350 | 17% | 1,975 | 814 | 41% | 327 | 17% | 2.8% | 0.8% | 0.7% |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leicester City and South Leicestershire | 3,502 | 707 | 20% | 324 | 9% | 3,318 | 865 | 26% | 413 | 12% | 5.5% | -5.9% | -3.2% |
| Rutland and North Leicestershire | 1,012 | 475 | 47% | 184 | 18% | 866 | 451 | 52% | 168 | 19% | 16.9% | -5.1% | -1.2% |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston and Spalding | 908 | 330 | 36% | 48 | 5% | 1,021 | 413 | 40% | 64 | 6% | -11.1% | -4.1% | -1.0% |
| West Lincolnshire | 1,586 | 547 | 34% | 135 | 9% | 1,558 | 525 | 34% | 136 | 9% | 1.8% | 0.8% | -0.2% |
| Spilsby and Louth | 538 | 284 | 53% | 55 | 10% | 522 | 279 | 53% | 58 | 11% | 3.1% | -0.7% | -0.9% |
| Stamford | 137 | 70 | 51% | 11 | 8% | 139 | 70 | 50% | 20 | 14% | -1.4% | 0.7% | -6.4% |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | 2,716 | 1,158 | 43% | 229 | 8% | 2,504 | 1,069 | 43% | 239 | 10% | 8.5% | -0.1% | -1.1% |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | 5,787 | 1,484 | 26% | 406 | 7% | 6,003 | 1,577 | 26% | 445 | 7% | -3.6% | -0.6% | -0.4% |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HEREFORDSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HEREFORDSHIRE | 774 | 373 | 48% | 91 | 12% | 786 | 371 | 47% | 104 | 13% | -1.5% | 1.0% | -1.5% |
| SHROPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mid and North Shropshire | 850 | 361 | 42% | 88 | 10% | 893 | 410 | 46% | 89 | 10% | -4.8% | -3.4% | 0.4% |
| South Shropshire | 258 | 163 | 63% | 29 | 11% | 256 | 159 | 62% | 45 | 18% | 0.8% | 1.1% | -6.3% |
| STAFFORDSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffordshire South | 2,283 | 930 | 41% | 355 | 16% | 2,268 | 862 | 38% | 360 | 16% | 0.7% | 2.7% | -0.3% |
| Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire | 3,641 | 1,423 | 39% | 449 | 12% | 3,712 | 1,442 | 39% | 468 | 13% | -1.9% | 0.2% | -0.3% |
| TELFORD and WREKIN | 798 | 362 | 45% | 80 | 10% | 775 | 377 | 49% | 82 | 11% | 3.0% | -3.3% | -0.6% |
| WARWICKSHIRE | 1,818 | 741 | 41% | 200 | 11% | 1,816 | 763 | 42% | 222 | 12% | 0.1% | -1.3% | -1.2% |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham and Solihull | 4,624 | 1,793 | 39% | 1,184 | 26% | 4,488 | 1,761 | 39% | 1,082 | 24% | 3.0% | -0.5% | 1.5% |
| Black Country | 3,192 | 868 | 27% | 332 | 10% | 3,166 | 972 | 31% | 345 | 11% | 0.8% | -3.5% | -0.5% |
| Coventry | 1,743 | 502 | 29% | 168 | 10% | 2,030 | 579 | 29% | 220 | 11% | -14.1% | 0.3% | -1.2% |
| Wolverhampton | 1,314 | 501 | 38% | 210 | 16% | 1,172 | 436 | 37% | 205 | 17% | 12.1% | 0.9% | -1.5% |
| WORCESTERSHIRE | 2,497 | 1,049 | 42% | 335 | 13% | 2,487 | 1,120 | 45% | 366 | 15% | 0.4% | -3.0% | -1.3% |

Table 9: Reported deaths, post-mortems and inquests by jurisdiction 2010, and comparison with 2009 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | 2010 cases | | | | | 2009 cases | | | | | % change, 2009 to 2010 | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Reported deaths 2010, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2010 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Inquests 2010 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Reported deaths 2009, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2009 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2009 | Inquests 2009 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2009 | % change in reported deaths, inc. NFA | change in % PMs | change in % inquests |
| EAST OF ENGLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON | 1,969 | 774 | 39% | 211 | 11% | 2,025 | 812 | 40% | 212 | 10% | -2.8% | -0.8% | 0.2% |
| CAMBRIDGESHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North and East Cambridgeshire | 395 | 228 | 58% | 54 | 14% | 382 | 221 | 58% | 57 | 15% | 3.4% | -0.1% | -1.3% |
| South and West Cambridgeshire | 1,903 | 606 | 32% | 203 | 11% | 2,022 | 709 | 35% | 195 | 10% | -5.9% | -3.2% | 1.0% |
| ESSEX and THURROCK | 4,992 | 2,892 | 58% | 520 | 10% | 4,599 | 2,629 | 57% | 492 | 11% | 8.5% | 0.8% | -0.3% |
| HERTFORDSHIRE | 3,134 | 1,712 | 55% | 359 | 11% | 3,055 | 1,611 | 53% | 386 | 13% | 2.6% | 1.9% | -1.2% |
| NORFOLK (1) | 3,903 | 1,838 | 47% | 508 | 13% | 4,101 | 1,889 | 46% | 500 | 12% | -4.8% | 1.0% | 0.8% |
| PETERBOROUGH | 1,103 | 384 | 35% | 90 | 8% | 1,005 | 381 | 38% | 92 | 9% | 9.8% | -3.1% | -1.0% |
| SOUTHEND-ON-SEA | 1,607 | 772 | 48% | 173 | 11% | 1,515 | 674 | 44% | 146 | 10% | 6.1% | 3.6% | 1.1% |
| SUFFOLK | 2,694 | 1,290 | 48% | 289 | 11% | 2,647 | 1,313 | 50% | 286 | 11% | 1.8% | -1.7% | -0.1% |
| LONDON | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of London | 137 | 37 | 27% | 15 | 11% | 134 | 43 | 32% | 19 | 14% | 2.2% | -5.1% | -3.2% |
| East London | 3,612 | 1,695 | 47% | 371 | 10% | 3,770 | 1,814 | 48% | 416 | 11% | -4.2% | -1.2% | -0.8% |
| Inner North London | 2,964 | 1,336 | 45% | 536 | 18% | 3,538 | 1,630 | 46% | 597 | 17% | -16.2% | -1.0% | 1.2% |
| Inner South London | 3,399 | 1,883 | 55% | 496 | 15% | 3,253 | 1,906 | 59% | 513 | 16% | 4.5% | -3.2% | -1.2% |
| Inner West London | 2,475 | 1,094 | 44% | 408 | 16% | 2,500 | 1,182 | 47% | 381 | 15% | -1.0% | -3.1% | 1.2% |
| North London | 4,302 | 1,703 | 40% | 459 | 11% | 3,840 | 1,843 | 48% | 490 | 13% | 12.0% | -8.4% | -2.1% |
| South London | 3,186 | 1,602 | 50% | 329 | 10% | 3,217 | 1,731 | 54% | 309 | 10% | -1.0% | -3.5% | 0.7% |
| West London | 4,003 | 1,510 | 38% | 529 | 13% | 3,771 | 1,553 | 41% | 498 | 13% | 6.2% | -3.5% | 0.0% |
| SOUTH EAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERKSHIRE | 2,527 | 1,078 | 43% | 288 | 11% | 2,529 | 1,136 | 45% | 301 | 12% | -0.1% | -2.3% | -0.5% |
| BRIGHTON AND HOVE | 1,281 | 617 | 48% | 240 | 19% | 1,439 | 717 | 50% | 234 | 16% | -11.0% | -1.7% | 2.5% |
| BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | 1,458 | 737 | 51% | 179 | 12% | 1,417 | 703 | 50% | 150 | 11% | 2.9% | 0.9% | 1.7% |
| EAST SUSSEX | 2,479 | 1,408 | 57% | 315 | 13% | 2,318 | 1,431 | 62% | 322 | 14% | 6.9% | -4.9% | -1.2% |
| HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central Hampshire | 1,180 | 482 | 41% | 161 | 14% | 1,204 | 580 | 48% | 191 | 16% | -2.0% | -7.3% | -2.2% |
| North East Hampshire | 1,209 | 641 | 53% | 141 | 12% | 1,117 | 608 | 54% | 119 | 11% | 8.2% | -1.4% | 1.0% |
| Portsmouth and South East Hampshire | 2,720 | 1,258 | 46% | 413 | 15% | 2,593 | 1,229 | 47% | 371 | 14% | 4.9% | -1.1% | 0.9% |
| Southampton and New Forest | 2,166 | 802 | 37% | 243 | 11% | 2,082 | 772 | 37% | 203 | 10% | 4.0% | -0.1% | 1.5% |
| ISLE OF WIGHT | 754 | 444 | 59% | 75 | 10% | 670 | 417 | 62% | 75 | 11% | 12.5% | -3.4% | -1.2% |
| KENT | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central and South East Kent | 1,362 | 796 | 58% | 163 | 12% | 1,498 | 1,003 | 67% | 201 | 13% | -9.1% | -8.5% | -1.5% |
| Mid Kent and Medway | 2,421 | 1,130 | 47% | 221 | 9% | 2,429 | 1,292 | 53% | 248 | 10% | -0.3% | -6.5% | -1.1% |
| North East Kent | 1,828 | 1,160 | 63% | 226 | 12% | 1,938 | 1,232 | 64% | 221 | 11% | -5.7% | -0.1% | 1.0% |
| North West Kent | 1,710 | 919 | 54% | 175 | 10% | 1,578 | 869 | 55% | 231 | 15% | 8.4% | -1.3% | -4.4% |
| MILTON KEYNES | 791 | 441 | 56% | 126 | 16% | 781 | 513 | 66% | 130 | 17% | 1.3% | -9.9% | -0.7% |

Table 9: Reported deaths, post-mortems and inquests by jurisdiction 2010, and comparison with 2009 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | 2010 cases | | | | | 2009 cases | | | | | % change, 2009 to 2010 | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Reported deaths 2010, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2010 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Inquests 2010 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2010 | Reported deaths 2009, inc. NFA | Post-mortems 2009 | PMs as % of rep. deaths 2009 | Inquests 2009 | Inquests as % of rep. deaths 2009 | % change in reported deaths, inc. NFA | change in % PMs | change in % inquests |
| OXFORDSHIRE | 2,139 | 945 | 44% | 292 | 14% | 2,000 | 846 | 42% | 290 | 15% | 6.9% | 1.9% | -0.8% |
| SURREY | 4,331 | 2,066 | 48% | 370 | 9% | 4,095 | 2,051 | 50% | 372 | 9% | 5.8% | -2.4% | -0.5% |
| WEST SUSSEX | 3,154 | 1,457 | 46% | 274 | 9% | 3,149 | 1,533 | 49% | 293 | 9% | 0.2% | -2.5% | -0.6% |
| SOUTH WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AVON | 4,727 | 2,103 | 44% | 790 | 17% | 4,623 | 2,257 | 49% | 703 | 15% | 2.2% | -4.3% | 1.5% |
| CORNWALL | 2,525 | 1,627 | 64% | 413 | 16% | 2,637 | 1,674 | 63% | 350 | 13% | -4.2% | 1.0% | 3.1% |
| DEVON | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exeter and Greater Devon | 2,715 | 862 | 32% | 303 | 11% | 2,893 | 931 | 32% | 326 | 11% | -6.2% | -0.4% | -0.1% |
| Plymouth and South West Devon | 2,125 | 963 | 45% | 364 | 17% | 2,178 | 1,078 | 49% | 390 | 18% | -2.4% | -4.2% | -0.8% |
| Torbay and South Devon | 1,963 | 750 | 38% | 161 | 8% | 2,071 | 762 | 37% | 171 | 8% | -5.2% | 1.4% | -0.1% |
| DORSET | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bournemouth, Poole and Eastern Dorset | 2,291 | 849 | 37% | 178 | 8% | 2,269 | 788 | 35% | 171 | 8% | 1.0% | 2.3% | 0.2% |
| Western Dorset | 1,002 | 426 | 43% | 69 | 7% | 1,005 | 452 | 45% | 95 | 9% | -0.3% | -2.5% | -2.6% |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE | 1,941 | 1,142 | 59% | 401 | 21% | 1,986 | 1,256 | 63% | 390 | 20% | -2.3% | -4.4% | 1.0% |
| ISLES OF SCILLY (2) | 10 | 4 | * | 1 | * | 4 | 1 | * | 1 | * | * | * | * |
| SOMERSET | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Somerset | 941 | 481 | 51% | 128 | 14% | 1,037 | 568 | 55% | 145 | 14% | -9.3% | -3.7% | -0.4% |
| Western Somerset | 1,344 | 491 | 37% | 123 | 9% | 1,333 | 569 | 43% | 145 | 11% | 0.8% | -6.2% | -1.7% |
| WILTSHIRE and SWINDON | 2,255 | 1,010 | 45% | 370 | 16% | 2,306 | 1,136 | 49% | 402 | 17% | -2.2% | -4.5% | -1.0% |
| WALES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys | 2,542 | 1,145 | 45% | 295 | 12% | 2,646 | 1,163 | 44% | 285 | 11% | -3.9% | 1.1% | 0.8% |
| Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan | 1,707 | 828 | 49% | 400 | 23% | 1,665 | 840 | 50% | 390 | 23% | 2.5% | -1.9% | 0.0% |
| Carmarthenshire | 772 | 359 | 47% | 79 | 10% | 768 | 353 | 46% | 91 | 12% | 0.5% | 0.5% | -1.6% |
| Central North Wales | 1,230 | 691 | 56% | 179 | 15% | 1,287 | 768 | 60% | 226 | 18% | -4.4% | -3.5% | -3.0% |
| Ceredigion | 266 | 157 | 59% | 34 | 13% | 284 | 196 | 69% | 34 | 12% | -6.3% | -10.0% | 0.8% |
| Gwent | 2,596 | 1,012 | 39% | 127 | 5% | 2,510 | 947 | 38% | 133 | 5% | 3.4% | 1.3% | -0.4% |
| Neath and Port Talbot | 451 | 230 | 51% | 89 | 20% | 466 | 262 | 56% | 79 | 17% | -3.2% | -5.2% | 2.8% |
| North East Wales | 1,168 | 679 | 58% | 205 | 18% | 1,165 | 656 | 56% | 233 | 20% | 0.3% | 1.8% | -2.4% |
| North West Wales | 1,058 | 463 | 44% | 141 | 13% | 1,162 | 511 | 44% | 151 | 13% | -9.0% | -0.2% | 0.3% |
| Pembrokeshire | 606 | 255 | 42% | 76 | 13% | 606 | 259 | 43% | 68 | 11% | 0.0% | -0.7% | 1.3% |
| Powys | 350 | 224 | 64% | 73 | 21% | 301 | 221 | 73% | 70 | 23% | 16.3% | -9.4% | -2.4% |
| City and County of Swansea | 1,606 | 498 | 31% | 173 | 11% | 1,638 | 591 | 36% | 201 | 12% | -2.0% | -5.1% | -1.5% |
| ENGLAND and WALES | 230,595 | 101,943 | 44% | 30,788 | 13% | 229,883 | 105,354 | 46% | 30,977 | 13% | 0.3% | -1.6% | 0.2% |

NOTE: NFA cases are deaths notified to coroners which required neither an inquest nor a post-mortem, and where no certificate of any kind was issued.

(1) Great Yarmouth and Greater Norfolk were amalgamated into a single coroner district, covering the whole of the county of Norfolk, during 2010. Figures shown for 2009 are for the two previous districts combined.

(2) Percentages not shown because of the low volume of caseload. An asterisk shows where figures have been omitted.

Table 10: Inquest verdicts returned, by jurisdiction, 2010

| County / unitary authority or district | Verdict category | | | | | | | | | | Total, all verdicts |
|--|---|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Homicide, killed unlawfully and killed lawfully | Suicide | Lack of care or self-neglect | Dependence on drugs | Non-dependent abuse of drugs | Death from industrial diseases | Death by accident or mis-adventure | Deaths from natural causes | Open verdicts | All other verdicts (1) | |
| The Queen's Household | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ENGLAND | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>NORTH EAST</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DURHAM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Darlington and South Durham | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 29 | 54 | 14 | 6 | 139 |
| North Durham | 2 | 27 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 32 | 133 | 17 | 20 | 262 |
| HARTLEPOOL | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 3 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 57 |
| NORTHUMBERLAND | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Northumberland | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 22 | 60 | 5 | 32 | 150 |
| South Northumberland | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 29 | 35 | 9 | 6 | 100 |
| TEESSIDE | 2 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 122 | 70 | 19 | 0 | 286 |
| TYNE AND WEAR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gateshead and South Tyneside | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 100 | 45 | 11 | 13 | 225 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 35 | 78 | 102 | 12 | 74 | 315 |
| North Tyneside | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 80 | 93 | 9 | 9 | 226 |
| Sunderland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 53 | 251 | 8 | 81 | 456 |
| <i>NORTH WEST</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHESHIRE | 1 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 146 | 276 | 32 | 70 | 664 |
| CUMBRIA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South and East Cumbria | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 37 | 38 | 15 | 44 | 174 |
| North and West Cumbria | 1 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 41 | 41 | 5 | 13 | 135 |
| GREATER MANCHESTER | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manchester city | 2 | 46 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 160 | 246 | 38 | 195 | 714 |
| Manchester North | 0 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 52 | 196 | 14 | 91 | 400 |
| Manchester South | 2 | 38 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 173 | 169 | 34 | 15 | 456 |
| Manchester West | 6 | 48 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 57 | 198 | 84 | 90 | 106 | 611 |
| LANCASHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley | 1 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 58 | 137 | 6 | 70 | 320 |
| Blackpool/Fylde | 1 | 25 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 22 | 46 | 19 | 9 | 1 | 131 |
| East Lancashire | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 45 | 42 | 6 | 14 | 127 |
| Preston and West Lancashire | 3 | 54 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 102 | 110 | 18 | 97 | 405 |
| MERSEYSIDE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens | 0 | 35 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 97 | 107 | 15 | 6 | 285 |
| Liverpool | 5 | 24 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 33 | 133 | 209 | 1 | 101 | 517 |
| Wirral | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 29 | 33 | 121 | 13 | 43 | 253 |

Table 10: Inquest verdicts returned, by jurisdiction, 2010 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | Verdict category | | | | | | | | | | Total, all verdicts |
|---|---|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Homicide, killed unlawfully and killed lawfully | Suicide | Lack of care or self-neglect | Dependence on drugs | Non-dependent abuse of drugs | Death from industrial diseases | Death by accident or mis-adventure | Deaths from natural causes | Open verdicts | All other verdicts (1) | |
| YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EAST RIDING and HULL | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 87 | 38 | 29 | 72 | 274 |
| NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE and GRIMSBY | 1 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 26 | 23 | 1 | 22 | 120 |
| YORK CITY | 0 | 13 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 24 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 83 |
| North Yorkshire Eastern District | 0 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 54 | 20 | 12 | 4 | 129 |
| North Yorkshire Western District | 2 | 27 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 33 | 34 | 0 | 15 | 126 |
| South Yorkshire Eastern District | 2 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 60 | 69 | 64 | 15 | 51 | 289 |
| South Yorkshire Western District | 1 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 81 | 75 | 130 | 6 | 57 | 380 |
| West Yorkshire Eastern District | 6 | 56 | 0 | 19 | 14 | 73 | 151 | 148 | 35 | 37 | 539 |
| West Yorkshire Western District | 4 | 85 | 0 | 8 | 19 | 47 | 144 | 115 | 21 | 16 | 459 |
| EAST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DERBYSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derby and South Derbyshire | 0 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 82 | 52 | 19 | 54 | 288 |
| North Derbyshire | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 46 | 71 | 124 | 28 | 16 | 299 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leicester City and South Leicestershire | 2 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 128 | 122 | 29 | 65 | 417 |
| Rutland and North Leicestershire | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 39 | 46 | 8 | 8 | 132 |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston and Spalding | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 50 |
| West Lincolnshire | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 27 | 31 | 16 | 10 | 123 |
| Spilsby and Louth | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 49 |
| Stamford | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | 0 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 87 | 41 | 19 | 35 | 244 |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | 6 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 55 | 153 | 52 | 61 | 25 | 398 |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HEREFORDSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Herefordshire | 2 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 40 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 108 |
| SHROPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mid and North Shropshire | 3 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 87 |
| South Shropshire | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 34 |
| STAFFORDSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffordshire South | 1 | 44 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 46 | 125 | 63 | 7 | 19 | 310 |
| Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire | 5 | 36 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 39 | 143 | 67 | 29 | 147 | 475 |
| TELFORD and WREKIN | 3 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 33 | 13 | 3 | 18 | 89 |
| WARWICKSHIRE | 5 | 36 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 72 | 44 | 23 | 12 | 215 |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham and Solihull | 6 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 96 | 221 | 31 | 598 | 1,012 |
| Black Country | 6 | 49 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 69 | 114 | 23 | 50 | 342 |
| Coventry | 3 | 21 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 53 | 62 | 9 | 11 | 169 |
| Wolverhampton | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 47 | 10 | 32 | 114 |
| WORCESTERSHIRE | 1 | 43 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 100 | 136 | 16 | 33 | 356 |

Table 10: Inquest verdicts returned, by jurisdiction, 2010 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | Verdict category | | | | | | | | | | Total, all verdicts |
|--|---|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Homicide, killed unlawfully and killed lawfully | Suicide | Lack of care or self-neglect | Dependence on drugs | Non-dependent abuse of drugs | Death from industrial diseases | Death by accident or mis-adventure | Deaths from natural causes | Open verdicts | All other verdicts (1) | |
| EAST OF ENGLAND | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BEDFORDSHIRE and LUTON | 0 | 50 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 58 | 64 | 5 | 8 | 206 |
| CAMBRIDGESHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North and East Cambridgeshire | 2 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 59 |
| South and West Cambridgeshire | 1 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 40 | 62 | 2 | 37 | 180 |
| ESSEX and THURROCK | 0 | 85 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 103 | 189 | 120 | 64 | 28 | 593 |
| HERTFORDSHIRE | 1 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 109 | 102 | 9 | 38 | 336 |
| NORFOLK | 2 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 152 | 111 | 2 | 99 | 477 |
| PETERBOROUGH | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 25 | 24 | 6 | 7 | 88 |
| SOUTHEND-ON-SEA | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 32 | 103 |
| SUFFOLK | 2 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 52 | 50 | 29 | 90 | 275 |
| LONDON | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of London | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| East London | 3 | 47 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 46 | 115 | 81 | 53 | 37 | 387 |
| Inner North London | 1 | 69 | 1 | 22 | 15 | 18 | 84 | 179 | 71 | 71 | 531 |
| Inner South London | 3 | 46 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 84 | 105 | 50 | 52 | 382 |
| Inner West London | 1 | 45 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 143 | 89 | 35 | 28 | 363 |
| North London | 3 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 134 | 142 | 99 | 89 | 507 |
| South London | 2 | 43 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 39 | 82 | 62 | 49 | 11 | 296 |
| West London | 5 | 78 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 29 | 138 | 159 | 40 | 90 | 556 |
| SOUTH EAST | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERKSHIRE | 6 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 98 | 42 | 30 | 73 | 288 |
| BRIGHTON and HOVE | 2 | 27 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 115 | 21 | 11 | 12 | 209 |
| BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 38 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 118 |
| EAST SUSSEX | 0 | 66 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 21 | 88 | 96 | 25 | 19 | 324 |
| HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central Hampshire | 1 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 47 | 66 | 14 | 2 | 186 |
| North East Hampshire | 2 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 51 | 32 | 9 | 8 | 150 |
| Portsmouth and South East Hampshire | 1 | 21 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 29 | 105 | 200 | 6 | 16 | 388 |
| Southampton and New Forest | 2 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 52 | 58 | 11 | 22 | 202 |
| ISLE OF WIGHT | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 28 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 75 |
| KENT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central and South East Kent | 3 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 38 | 33 | 15 | 40 | 159 |
| Mid Kent and Medway | 2 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 58 | 50 | 13 | 19 | 207 |
| North East Kent | 2 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 72 | 57 | 10 | 21 | 209 |
| North West Kent | 4 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 44 | 66 | 19 | 3 | 171 |
| MILTON KEYNES | 0 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 50 | 34 | 6 | 11 | 124 |

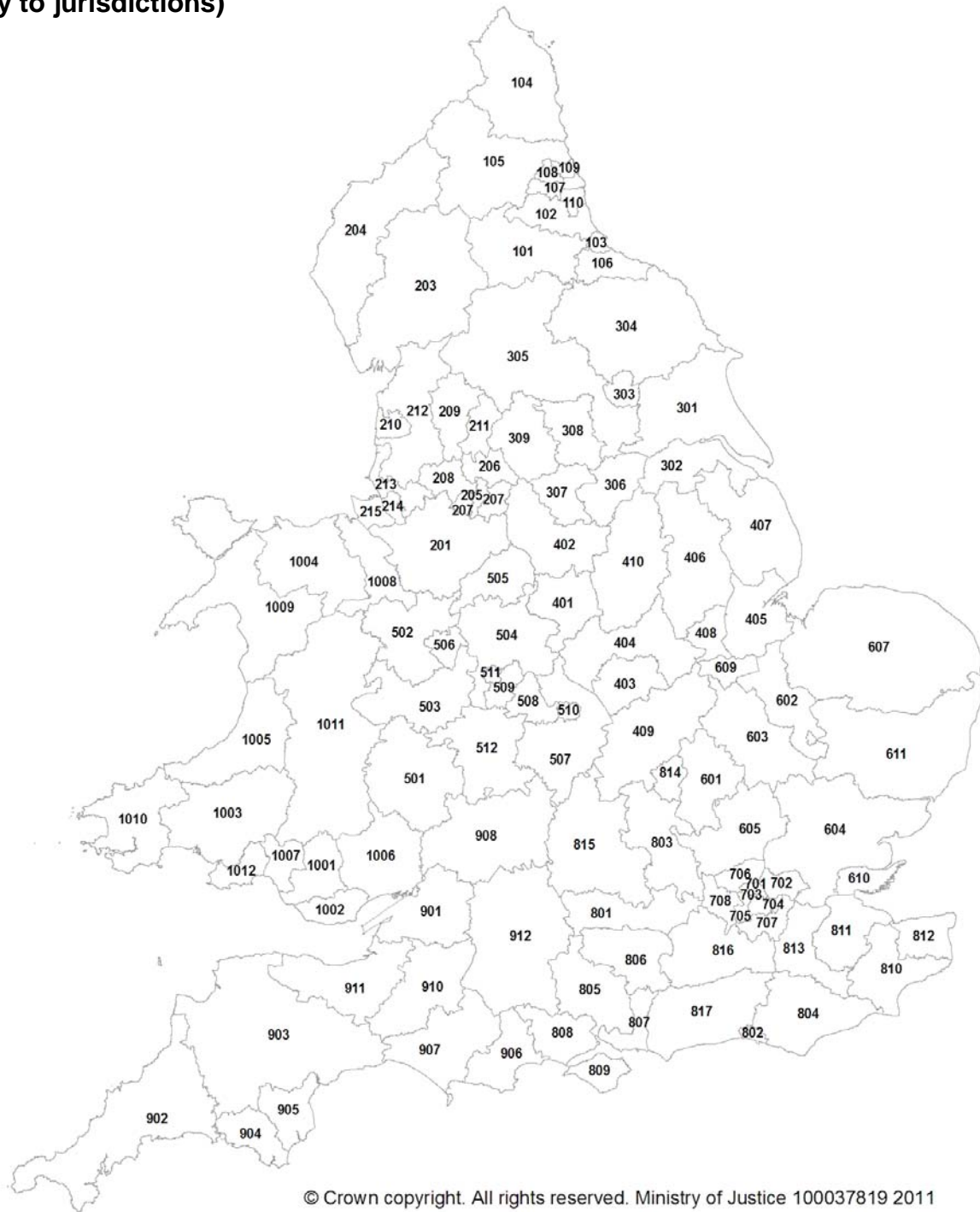
Table 10: Inquest verdicts returned, by jurisdiction, 2010 (continued)

| County / unitary authority or district | Verdict category | | | | | | | | | | Total, all verdicts |
|--|---|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Homicide, killed unlawfully and killed lawfully | Suicide | Lack of care or self-neglect | Dependence on drugs | Non-dependent abuse of drugs | Death from industrial diseases | Death by accident or mis-adventure | Deaths from natural causes | Open verdicts | All other verdicts (1) | |
| OXFORDSHIRE | 1 | 36 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 110 | 40 | 27 | 34 | 283 |
| SURREY | 4 | 73 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 43 | 109 | 73 | 54 | 34 | 394 |
| WEST SUSSEX | 3 | 50 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 30 | 97 | 56 | 15 | 21 | 279 |
| SOUTH WEST | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AVON | 9 | 78 | 0 | 34 | 6 | 63 | 187 | 279 | 61 | 62 | 779 |
| CORNWALL | 3 | 30 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 80 | 81 | 48 | 47 | 317 |
| DEVON | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exeter and Greater Devon | 4 | 41 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 20 | 124 | 79 | 13 | 10 | 312 |
| Plymouth and South West Devon | 4 | 26 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 27 | 93 | 145 | 11 | 40 | 354 |
| Torbay and South Devon | 0 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 47 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 100 |
| DORSET | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bournemouth, Poole and Eastern Dorset | 3 | 38 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 39 | 31 | 22 | 26 | 175 |
| Western Dorset | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 24 | 11 | 19 | 1 | 85 |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE | 2 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 135 | 130 | 47 | 26 | 417 |
| ISLES OF SCILLY | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| SOMERSET | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Somerset | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 34 | 50 | 12 | 18 | 143 |
| Western Somerset | 0 | 22 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 27 | 48 | 5 | 8 | 123 |
| WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON | 50 | 46 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 88 | 135 | 11 | 38 | 417 |
| WALES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 120 | 75 | 33 | 82 | 322 |
| Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan | 2 | 32 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 16 | 82 | 130 | 30 | 90 | 402 |
| Carmarthenshire | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 44 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 74 |
| Central North Wales | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 75 | 48 | 15 | 25 | 191 |
| Ceredigion | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 25 |
| Gwent | 6 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 77 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 141 |
| Neath and Port Talbot | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 31 | 5 | 8 | 75 |
| North East Wales | 8 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 86 | 37 | 13 | 33 | 204 |
| North West Wales | 1 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 41 | 45 | 7 | 23 | 147 |
| Pembrokeshire | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 31 | 4 | 0 | 74 |
| Powys | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 28 | 20 | 7 | 12 | 74 |
| City and County of Swansea | 1 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 51 | 82 | 7 | 14 | 182 |
| TOTAL ENGLAND and WALES | 248 | 3,252 | 42 | 267 | 216 | 2,560 | 8,113 | 8,382 | 2,115 | 4,190 | 29,385 |

(1) All other verdicts include those categories from Tables 4 and 6 for which separate columns are not shown in this table.

NB: A table showing inquest verdicts by district broken down by males and females can be found in the spreadsheet version of the coroners statistics tables.

Map of coroner jurisdictions in England and Wales during 2010 (see below for key to jurisdictions)



Key to jurisdictions

North East

- 101 – Darlington and South Durham
- 102 – North Durham
- 103 – Hartlepool
- 104 – North Northumberland
- 105 – South Northumberland
- 106 – Teesside
- 107 – Gateshead and South Tyneside
- 108 – Newcastle upon Tyne

109 – North Tyneside

110 – Sunderland

North West

- 201 – Cheshire
- 203 – South and East Cumbria
- 204 – North and West Cumbria
- 205 – Manchester (city)
- 206 – Manchester North

North West (continued)

207 – Manchester South
208 – Manchester West
209 – Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley
210 – Blackpool and Fylde
211 – East Lancashire
212 – Preston and West Lancashire
213 – Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens
214 – Liverpool
215 – Wirral

Yorkshire and the Humber

301 – East Riding and Hull
302 – North Lincolnshire and Grimsby
303 – York City
304 – North Yorkshire - East
305 – North Yorkshire - West
306 – South Yorkshire - East
307 – South Yorkshire - West
308 – West Yorkshire - East
309 – West Yorkshire - West

East Midlands

401 – Derby and South Derbyshire
402 – North Derbyshire
403 – Leicester and South Leicestershire
404 – North Leicestershire and Rutland
405 – Boston and Spalding
406 – West Lincolnshire
407 – Spilsby and Louth
408 – Stamford
409 – Northamptonshire
410 – Nottinghamshire

West Midlands

501 – Herefordshire
502 – North Shropshire
503 – South Shropshire
504 – Staffordshire South
505 – Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire
506 – Telford and Wrekin
507 – Warwickshire
508 – Birmingham and Solihull
509 – Black Country
510 – Coventry
511 – Wolverhampton
512 – Worcestershire

East of England

601 – Bedfordshire and Luton
602 – North and East Cambridgeshire
603 – South and West Cambridgeshire
604 – Essex and Thurrock
605 – Hertfordshire
607 – Norfolk
609 – Peterborough
610 – Southend on Sea
611 – Suffolk

London

701 – City of London [not visible]
702 – East London
703 – Inner London North
704 – Inner London South
705 – Inner London West
706 – North London
707 – South London
708 – West London

South East

801 – Berkshire
802 – Brighton and Hove
803 – Buckinghamshire
804 – East Sussex
805 – Central Hampshire
806 – North East Hampshire
807 – Portsmouth and South East Hampshire
808 – Southampton and New Forest
809 – Isle of Wight
810 – Central and South East Kent
811 – Mid Kent and Medway
812 – North East Kent
813 – North West Kent
814 – Milton Keynes
815 – Oxfordshire
816 – Surrey
817 – West Sussex

South West

901 – Avon
902 – Cornwall
903 – Exeter and Greater Devon
904 – Plymouth and South West Devon
905 – Torbay and South Devon
906 – Bournemouth and Eastern Dorset
907 – Western Dorset
908 – Gloucestershire
909 – Isles of Scilly
910 – Eastern Somerset
911 – Western Somerset
912 – Wiltshire and Swindon

Wales

1001 – Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys
1002 – Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan
1003 – Carmarthenshire
1004 – Central North Wales
1005 – Ceredigion
1006 – Gwent
1007 – Neath and Port Talbot
1008 – North East Wales
1009 – North West Wales
1010 – Pembrokeshire
1011 – Powys
1012 – City and County of Swansea

Explanatory notes

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. The data analysed in this publication are based on annual returns from H.M. Coroners. Coroners are required under the provisions of Section 28 of the Coroners Act 1988 to furnish to the Secretary of State returns in relation to inquests held and deaths inquired into by him (or her) in such form and containing such particulars as the Secretary of State may direct. Thanks are due to coroners and their staff for their work in preparing these returns.

Definitions

The following brief definitions are intended as a guide to the meaning of terms in this bulletin concerning coroners and their work; more detailed definitions will be found in the Coroners Act 1988 and the Treasure Act 1996.

Coroner; deaths reported

In England and Wales, all violent and unnatural deaths, sudden deaths of unknown cause, and all deaths of persons in custody, are reported to coroners. Coroners are appointed by local authorities; they must be barristers, solicitors or registered medical practitioners and must have at least five years' standing in the relevant profession. The relevant legislation and guidance is contained within the Coroners Act 1988 and the Coroners Rules 1984 (S.I 1984/552 and subsequent amendments). A link to the Act is here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/13/contents>

The more recent amendments to the Coroners Rules may be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> (home page)

Non-inquest cases

The coroner's investigation is concluded most often without an inquest being held. The coroner will have satisfied himself or herself, by means of a post-

mortem examination or other investigation, on the physical cause of death, and that the death was not one on which he or she is required by law to hold an inquest.

Post mortem examinations

A coroner may request that a post-mortem examination be conducted, whether or not an inquest is held, particularly if the cause of death is not clear. In many cases a post-mortem examination is conducted in order to determine whether or not an inquest is necessary. Other post-mortem examinations are held which are not ordered by the coroner. Details of these are collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). See the further information section below for details of how to obtain statistics on this and other related topics.

Inquests

A coroner must hold an inquest if the body of a person ('the deceased') lies within his or her district⁴ and if he or she has reasonable cause to suspect that the deceased:

- (a) died a violent or unnatural death;
- (b) died a sudden death the cause of which is unknown; or
- (c) died in prison or in such place or in such circumstances as to require an inquest under any other Act.

The holding of an inquest requires the coroner to determine:

- (a) who the deceased was;
- (b) how, when and where the deceased came by his or her death, and any further particulars necessary to enable the death to be registered.

Verdicts are returned in nearly all coroners' inquests. The exceptions are those inquests adjourned by the coroner which he or she later decides not to resume, and are mainly inquests into deaths by unlawful killing and deaths by dangerous driving or careless driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs, in which court proceedings have been instituted. This avoids the need for two tribunals to consider the same evidence. A "narrative verdict" is where the coroner makes a brief and factual statement at the conclusion of the inquest but does not return one of the suggested short-form verdicts.

Timeliness of inquests

For the purpose of determining the timeliness of inquests, the time taken to conduct an inquest is deemed to be from the day the death was reported to the coroner until either (a) the day the inquest is concluded by the delivery of a verdict or (b) the day the coroner certifies that an adjourned inquest will not be resumed.

⁴ The cause of death does not need to have arisen within the coroner's district.

The average time for an inquest to be conducted is estimated in the following way: Coroners are asked in their annual return to state how many inquests were concluded within certain time periods. There are five time bands, which are: within one month; 1-3 months; 3-6 months; 6-12 months; and over 12 months. All the inquests falling within a time-band are then assumed to have been completed at or near the mid-point of the various time-bands for the purposes of calculating the average, although inquests within the "under one month" band are assumed to have taken 3 weeks for this purpose of this estimation, and those inquests taking over a year to conclude were deemed to have taken 18 months, although the time-band itself is open-ended. Numbers are then aggregated and the average figure (in weeks) calculated in the normal way.

Only deaths occurring within England and Wales are included in the calculation. Statistics are not collected on the time taken for inquests where the death occurred outside England and Wales. Deaths occurring abroad are often significantly delayed because of the difficulty, for example, of obtaining reports from other countries.

Juries

Nearly all inquests are held by a coroner sitting alone, without a jury. A jury must be summoned where the death occurred:

- (a) in prison, or in such a place or such circumstances as to require an inquest under another Act;
- (b) in police custody, or resulted from an injury caused by a police officer in the purported execution of his or her duty;
- (c) where there are certain statutory reporting obligations under the Health and Safety Act 1974 or any other Act, and in certain other circumstances, especially where there may be a continuing or recurring danger to the public.

Treasure and treasure trove

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

Registered deaths

All deaths in England and Wales must be registered with the Registrar of Births and Deaths. The term 'registered deaths' in this bulletin refers to deaths registered within a specific time period (in this case, calendar years).

Statistics on registered deaths in England and Wales are published by the ONS in their series on mortality statistics. At the time of going to press, final figures had not been published for the number of registered deaths in 2010, but a provisional figure has been derived from the monthly registration figures which are published by ONS at regular intervals.

Quality and consistency of the statistics

The figures presented in this report are collected via statistical returns completed by coroners. The process by which coroners provide their returns can vary according to the case management system they use. Many coroners use a system provided by an external contractor, while other coroners use alternative computer systems or a paper-based system. Although care is taken in completing, analysing and quality-assuring the data provided on the statistical returns, the figures are, of necessity, subject to possible inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale collection of this type. For this reason, figures may not be accurate to the final digit. In the text, numbers have been rounded, usually to the nearest 100, although some smaller figures may be given exactly.

Coroners are independent office-holders, and there is considerable variation in the way each coroner's district is structured and managed, and in the mechanisms they have in place for discharging their duties under the Coroners Act. From a statistical perspective one of these differences relates to the way they approach the handling of "NFA" cases.

Many deaths referred to coroners require no further action being taken by them – these are known as "NFA" cases. These are deaths reported to coroners where there was no inquest, no post-mortem, and no certificate was issued by the coroner for registration or any other purpose. The statistics for 1995 onwards include all NFA cases within the figures for deaths reported that required neither an inquest nor a post-mortem. Prior to 1995, however, some coroners did not report some or all of their NFA cases in their annual statistics (figures for some earlier years are shown in Table 2), and the inclusion of all NFA cases in the statistics addressed this inconsistency in reporting.

Despite the inclusion of all NFA cases in the statistics since 1995 however, there may still be some differences between coroners as to which cases they consider constitute a substantive "reported death" (and are therefore reported in their statistics) where little or no action is required on their part and no post-mortem or inquest is held. As such, the statistics reflect those cases which each individual coroner considers to be a death reported to them, and the figures for different coroner districts can be compared on this basis.

Uses of the statistics

The main users of these statistics are coroners themselves, and Ministers and officials in central government responsible for developing policy with regard to coroners. Other users include local authorities (who are responsible for the appointment and remuneration of coroners), other central government departments, and those non-governmental bodies, including various voluntary organisations, with an interest in coroners and inquests. The statistics are used to monitor the volume and types of cases dealt with by coroners in England and Wales each year.

Revisions to statistics for previous years

The estimated figure for the number of registered deaths in 2009 which was derived for the purposes of Table 2 in last year's edition of this bulletin has now been replaced by an actual figure subsequently published by the Office for National Statistics.

The figure for the estimated average time to process an inquest in 2009 reported in Table 7 has been revised. After the publication of the 2009 statistics in May 2010, one coroner revised the timeliness statistics for their completed inquests in 2009, which had the effect of altering (due to rounding) the overall national estimated average inquest timeliness in Table 7 from 26 weeks to 27.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

| | |
|-----|---|
| n/a | = Not applicable |
| - | = Nil |
| .. | = Not available |
| * | = Percentage not shown due to being based on small numbers of cases |
| (R) | = Revised data |

Further notes

Prior to 1 June 2005, policy responsibility for H.M. Coroners lay with the Home Office, but on that date it passed to the Department for Constitutional Affairs as part of machinery of government changes following the 2005 general election. Responsibility now lies with the Ministry of Justice, which was created on 9 May 2007.

Prior to the transfer of responsibility, the Home Office published statistical bulletins based on coroners' annual returns, from 1980. The last four bulletins published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series were as follows: for year 2003, bulletin 9/04; for 2002, bulletin 6/03; for 2001, bulletin 3/02; and for year 2000, bulletin 7/01. These may be found at:

<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics>.

Previous editions of this bulletin published by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and the Home Office, were entitled "Statistics on deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales, (year)".

Further information on deaths occurring annually in England and Wales is published by the Office for National Statistics in their Mortality Statistics series; these may be downloaded from their website at www.statistics.gov.uk.

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/coroners-and->

[burials/deaths.htm](#) A spreadsheet file of the statistics tables in this bulletin are also available for download from this address.

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3573

Email: andrew.chiles@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Richard Allen

Ministry of Justice

7th Floor (7.20)

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 020 3334 3737

Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

A copy of the data collection form which was sent to coroners can be obtained via the contact details above.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's annual reports on the Treasure Act 1996 may be found on their website: www.culture.gov.uk.

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from www.statistics.gov.uk.

© Crown copyright
Produced by the Ministry of Justice

Alternative formats are available on request from
statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk