

# CO-Gas Safety's summary of statistics on deaths and injuries

## UK deaths caused by unintentional Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning\*

(Between 1 Sept 1995 - 31 Aug 2020): **Total: 717**

\*CO-Gas Safety collect information on unintentional poisoning caused by the CO that is produced by any and all fuels used in appliances that work via combustion (burning). We do not include deaths or injuries from CO that is produced by unintentional fire or flames (often smoke inhalation in domestic fire accidents). The incidents that we document are those where a fire or appliance involving combustion was intentionally used, but the resulting CO poisoning was not expected and was avoidable. Please see [www.co-gassafety.co.uk/data-menu/](http://www.co-gassafety.co.uk/data-menu/) for more details.

TENURE	
Total number of unintentional CO deaths by Tenure: (1 Sept 95 – 31 Aug 2020):	
Owner/Occupier	414
Private Rental	72
Council	67
Temporary (e.g. hotel, tent)	30
Housing Association	19
Other (e.g. owned by relative)	19
Owned by Employer	12
Unknown	84

SITUATION					
Total number of unintentional CO deaths by Situation (1 Sept 1995 – 31 Aug 2020):					
House	399	Boat	35	Tent	17
Flat	103	Vehicle	32	Workplace	6
Garage	36	Commercial premises	26	Other	5
Caravan or mobile home	33	Shed or similar	21	Unknown	4

FUEL TYPE																										
Total number of CO unintentional deaths by Fuel Type and CO-Gas year (1 Sept to 31 Aug):																										
	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	TOTAL
Gas (mains)	30	20	18	21	14	15	8	9	8	14	14	9	12	18	4	11	2	5	4	3	5	.	3	.	.	247
Gas (portable)	9	8	5	6	10	6	7	7	6	4	7	5	3	7	6	4	3	4	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	114
Solid	22	18	23	13	17	14	4	8	5	7	8	14	11	3	8	7	12	6	6	5	1	1	3	.	2	218
Petrol/diesel	6	7	3	9	3	7	6	1	2	3	2	10	6	4	4	7	3	5	4	2	4	10	3	2	3	116
Oil	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	2	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	9
Paraffin	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Unknown	.	1	.	.	1	.	2	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>717</b>

**Notes:** Zane Gbangbola, aged 7, died in February 2014. The Coroner's verdict in September 2016 was that Zane died of carbon monoxide poisoning. However, the blood test found only 8% carboxyhaemoglobin and we have never heard of a death of an otherwise healthy person dying at such a low level. The family disputes the finding and continues to maintain that Zane died of hydrogen cyanide from a flood from a landfill site, so we have not included this death. see <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3794537/Justice-Zane-New-hope-parents-blamed-death-flood-tragedy-son-MP-attacks-seriously-flawed-inquest.html>

On 04/12/2019, there were two fatalities that we are including in our 2019/20 statistics despite the fact that the inquests have not yet concluded. This is because the deaths have officially been attributed to unintentional CO poisoning in this MAIB bulletin: <https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports/safety-warning-about-carbon-monoxide-poisoning-after-the-loss-of-2-lives-on-the-motor-cruiser-diversion>