

CO-Gas Safety's summary of statistics on UK deaths

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

(Between 1 Sept 1995 - 31 Aug 2024): **Total: 733**

*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 generally document are those where a fire or appliance involving combustion was intentionally used, but the resulting CO poisoning was unexpected and avoidable.

Please see www.co-gassafety.co.uk/data-menu/ for more details.

TENURE			
Total number of unintentional CO deaths by Tenure: (1 Sept 1995 – 31 Aug 2024):			
Owner Occupier	419	Private Rental	72
Temporary (e.g. hotel, tent)	32	Council	67
Other (e.g. owned by relative)	22	Housing Association	20
Owned by Employer	13	Unknown	88

SITUATION			
Total number of unintentional CO deaths by Situation (1 Sept 1995 – 31 Aug 2024):			
House	403	Boat	37
Flat	104	Vehicle	33
Garage	37	Commercial premises	27
Caravan or mobile home	34	Shed or similar	23
		Tent	18
		Workplace	6
		Other	7
		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	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	TOTAL
Gas (mains)	30	20	18	21	14	15	8	9	8	14	14	9	12	18	4	11	2	5	4	3	6	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	248
Gas (portable)	9	8	5	6	10	6	7	7	6	4	7	5	3	7	6	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	116
Solid	22	18	23	13	17	14	4	8	5	7	8	14	11	3	8	7	12	6	6	5	1	1	3	.	3	4	.	.	.	223
Petrol or diesel	6	7	3	9	3	7	6	1	2	3	2	10	6	4	4	7	3	5	4	2	4	10	3	3	2	1	2	2	1	122
Oil	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	2	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Paraffin	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Unknown	.	1	.	.	1	.	2	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	12
Total	67	56	49	50	46	42	27	26	23	29	31	39	33	33	23	31	20	21	18	12	14	13	9	3	5	6	2	4	1	733

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-raqedy-son-MP-attacks-seriously-flawed-inquest.html>

It is worth noting here that unintentional non-fire-related deaths from carbon monoxide that were due to petrol or diesel use accounted for over half of the total deaths recorded by CO-Gas Safety in the last eight years. This marks a sharp increase in the proportion of deaths from these fuels and causes concern that the public may not give enough consideration to the fact that these are carbon-based fuels that can produce carbon monoxide.