

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 2025): **Total: 736**

*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 2025):		
Owner Occupier	421	Private Rental
Temporary (e.g. hotel, tent)	32	Council
Other (e.g. owned by relative)	22	Housing Association
Owned by Employer	13	Unknown
		72
		67
		20
		89

SITUATION		
Total number of unintentional CO deaths by Situation (1 Sept 1995 – 31 Aug 2025):		
House	403	Boat
Flat	105	Vehicle
Garage	37	Commercial premises
Caravan or mobile home	34	Shed or similar
		37
		23
		Tent
		19
		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	24/25	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	.	.	.	.	.	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	.	2	225	
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	3	1	123
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	.	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	7	1	736

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>

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 nine 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 CO.

No fatalities currently appear listed in 2024/25. We are actually aware of several deaths suspected to be from unintentional CO deaths since 01/09/2024 but have not added them to our database yet as the associated inquests are still to be concluded.