

## **FOI response by Manchester University 7 July 2026**

Thank you for your request for information received by The University of Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Your request was as follows:

***Victims' profiles in mental health homicides - question for the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicides and Homicides by People with Mental Illness***

***Please disclose the result of analyses done to date on victims' profiles with regard to mental health homicides that have been studied by NCISH.***

***I am in particular interested in killings of other patients/ mental health services users, including whether the victims were outpatients or inpatients at the time of death. Please advise how many mental patients in total have been the victims of mental health homicides, and how many were in hospital or in the community at the time of the homicide. If the information is available, please advise whether the inpatient victims were detained and whether the killing took place in a locked environment.***

Please find our response to the request for data held by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) below:

***Q1. Please disclose the result of analyses done to date on victims' profiles with regard to mental health homicides that have been studied by NCISH.***

An average of 58 people are victims of homicide by mental health patients each year in the UK. Victims are most commonly acquaintances (47%), family members (20%) or spouses and partners (18%); approximately 16% are strangers. This collection of papers describes the characteristics of victims and their relationship to offenders, with a specific focus on mental illness, as well as the circumstances of the offence.

- [Mental illness in people who kill strangers: longitudinal study and national clinical survey.](#)
- [Mental Illness and Domestic Homicide: A Population-Based Descriptive Study.](#)
- [Homicide of Infants: A Cross-Sectional Study.](#)
- [Filicide: Mental Illness in Those Who Kill Their Children.](#) <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ab.21906>
- [Multiple homicide: a descriptive study of serial homicide and mass murder in England and Wales](#)

***Q2. I am in particular interested in killings of other patients/ mental health services users, including whether the victims were outpatients or inpatients at the time of death. Please advise how many mental patients in total have been the victims of mental health homicides, and how many were in hospital or in the community at the time of the homicide. If the information is available, please advise whether the inpatient victims were detained and whether the killing took place in a locked environment.***

NCISH collect demographic characteristics and offence related information on victims of homicide but we do not routinely collect clinical data. We did undertake a more detailed analyses on patients as victims of homicide in our paper on '[Patients with mental illness as victims of homicide: a national consecutive case series](#)' (Rodway et al., 2014). In this national consecutive case-series study, we obtained data for victims and perpetrators of all confirmed homicides between Jan 1, 2003, and Dec 31, 2005, in England and Wales. Patients were defined as people with contact with mental health services in the 12 months before death.

During this period 90 homicide victims (6% of all homicide victims) had contact with mental health services in the 12 months before their death. Of the 90 patient victims, 29 (32%) were killed by another patient with mental illness.

Overall most patient victims were community patients (n=86, 96%). Four (4%) were in-patients at the time of death. Three of these deaths were cases of homicide perpetrated by other inpatients at the same hospital. Information is not available on whether these patients were detained and whether the offence took place in a locked environment.

We hope you find the information provided to be of use.

If you feel that The University of Manchester has refused access to information to which you are entitled or has not dealt with your request appropriately under the FOIA, you have a right of appeal.

An appeal in the first instance should be directed to the Information Governance Office at [mtrsfoia@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mtrsfoia@manchester.ac.uk). You should include:

- details of your initial request
- any other relevant information

You must make this appeal within 40 working days from receipt of your response. The University will deal with your appeal within a reasonable time, and will inform you of the projected time scale on receipt of your complaint. You are also welcome to contact the Information Governance Office with informal questions about the handling of your request.

After The University's internal appeals procedure has been exhausted, you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Details of this procedure can be found at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Kind regards,  
The Information Rights Team

| Information Governance Office | Directorate of Compliance and Risk | Professional Services | G7  
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9PL | [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk)