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Homicide in Australia:
2008–09 to 2009–10
National Homicide
Monitoring Program
annual report

Andy Chan
Jason Payne

AIC Reports
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Foreword

The National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) commenced on 1 July 1989. Through it, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) monitors trends and patterns in homicide across Australian jurisdictions. NHMP data are the most comprehensive collection on homicide in Australia, providing details of victims, offenders and circumstances of incidents.

With more than 21 years of data on incidents, victims and offenders of homicide in Australia and numerous research reports on various elements of homicide, our understanding of this crime has improved. Consequently, law enforcement, policymakers and the general public are better informed in relation to its occurrence. The NHMP primarily circulates this knowledge through the compilation of annual reports and other papers. The current report marks a shift from annual to biennial reporting and depicts new data on homicide in Australia for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010.

There were 510 homicide incidents involving 541 victims and 611 offenders over the two year reporting period. Following a decline in the number of incidents, victims and offenders in 2008–09 over the previously published 2007–08 figures, there was a marginal increase in the number of homicides in 2009–10. However, the rate of homicide remained at a historic low of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 persons.

The NHMP owes its success to the cooperation and continued support of the data collection process provided by the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management—Police and by police services around Australia. The AIC gratefully acknowledges the numerous individual police officers, analysts and statistical support staff of each state and territory police service for their assistance in compiling the data and their efforts to ensure that the data are accurate and complete.

Dr Adam Tomison
Director

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Executive summary

In this National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) annual report, the nature and context of homicides occurring throughout the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years are described. This report is the first to be published since a review of the NHMP in 2009 recommended a move to a biennial reporting cycle. As such, unlike those before it, this report details homicide cases for a two year period. Although much of the data are presented in the aggregate, figures for each financial year are provided in some circumstances to aid the monitoring of trends. Ongoing monitoring of homicide allows the identification of changes over time and just as importantly, places short-term changes within a larger timeframe. It also enables policymakers and law enforcement personnel to identify changes in the risk markers associated with incidents, victims and offenders. This facilitates targeted intervention/prevention policies in the areas likely to have the greatest impact.

Key findings from this report include:

- From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2010, there were a total of 510 homicide incidents—253 in 2008–09 and 257 in 2009–10.
- These incidents involved 541 victims and 611 offenders—262 victims and 293 offenders in 2008–09 and 279 victims and 318 offenders in 2009–10.
- Since 2001–02, there has been a downward trend in the homicide rate, decreasing from 1.8 per 100,000 in 2007–08 to 1.2 per 100,000, which is the lowest recorded since the inception of the NHMP. The homicide victimisation rate remained at 1.2 incidents per 100,000 population in both 2008–09 and 2009–10.
- Consistent with previous years, males continued to be overrepresented as both victims (n=366; 68%) and offenders (n=538; 88%).
- Knives continue to be the most commonly used weapon, with 37 percent of all homicide incidents in 2008–09 involving knives/sharp instruments. This increased to 41 percent in 2009–10.
- During the period 2008–09 to 2009–10, approximately one in 10 (n=65; 13%) homicide incidents involved the use of a firearm; of these, only 14 percent involved a handgun. The majority of all firearms used in homicide incidents were reported by the police as unregistered and/or unlicensed. Overall, firearm involvement and in particular the involvement of handguns in homicide incidents, remains at an historical low.
- The most common relationship between homicide offender and victim throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 was friends/acquaintances (37%), closely followed by domestic homicides (36%); stranger homicides (including persons known for less than 24 hours) comprised 13 percent of homicides. Overall during this period, there was a similar proportion of domestic and friends/acquaintance homicides, whereas historically there have typically been a higher proportion of the latter.
- Of the 185 domestic homicides recorded between July 2008 and June 2010, 66 percent (n=122) were classified as an intimate partner homicide, 12 percent as filicides (n=22; 7 of which involved the death of a child under 1 year of age), 11 percent as parricides (n=20) and two percent as siblicides (n=4).
- Female victimisation decreased from 1.0 per 100,000 (n=112) females in 2007–08, to an historic low of 0.7 per 100,000 (n=80) females in 2008–09. However, females remain overrepresented as victims of intimate partner homicide.

- Sixty homicide victims throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 were identified as being Indigenous Australians (34 males and 26 females). Even though the number of Indigenous victims and offenders decreased compared with previous years, Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented in both cohorts. At a national level, the rate of Indigenous victimisation in 2009–10 (4.1 per 100,000) was close to four times higher than non-Indigenous victimisation (1.1 per 100,000).
- Forty-nine children aged 17 years and younger were killed throughout the period. Overall, the rate of victimisation and offending among those aged 17 years and younger has remained stable over the history of the NHMP, with the exception of those aged between 15 and 17 years, which has decreased to an historic low in the last two years (n=5).
- More than one in 10 (n=65; 13%) homicides were committed during the course of another crime, including other violent crimes (n=15; 3% of all homicides), robbery (n=13; 2%) and drug offences (n=11; 2%).



About the National Homicide Monitoring Program

Purpose

Homicide is among the most serious of all crimes. Preventing homicide and other lethal violence remains a key priority for Australian criminal justice and law enforcement agencies. The NHMP and its comprehensive collection of data are Australia's only national system with the capacity to monitor homicide rates and facilitate detailed analysis of homicide types and trends. This analysis provides an important foundation for the development and implementation of evidence-based policy at both the national and state/territory level.

Definition of homicide

In this report, the term *homicide* refers to a person killed (unlawfully); a *homicide incident* is an event in which one or more persons are killed at the same place and time. Homicide is defined by the criminal law of each Australian state and territory. As a result, varying definitions exist between states and territories in terms of its degree, culpability and intent. The definition of homicide in the NHMP reflects the operational definition used by police throughout Australia. As such, the NHMP collects data on the following incidents:

- all cases resulting in a person or persons being charged with murder or manslaughter. This excludes driving-related fatalities, except those that immediately follow a criminal event such as armed robbery or motor vehicle theft;
- all murder–suicides classed as murder by police; and
- all other deaths classed by police as homicides (including infanticides), whether or not an offender has been apprehended.

Excluded from this definition is attempted murder and violent deaths, such as industrial accidents involving criminal negligence (unless a charge of manslaughter is laid). Lawful homicide, including that by police in the course of their duties, is also excluded.

Methodology

There are two key sources of data for the NHMP:

- offence records derived from each Australian state and territory police service, supplemented where necessary with information provided directly by investigating police officers and/or associated staff; and

- state coronial records such as toxicology and post-mortem reports. As of 1 July 2001, the National Coroners Information System enabled online access to coronial findings including toxicology reports.

Where appropriate, the data are further supplemented by newspaper clippings. Newspaper media nationwide are monitored daily by staff at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC).

Compilation of this report begins with obtaining police offence reports forwarded directly to the AIC. The NHMP dataset created from these reports is based on 77 distinct variables and the relevant information pertaining to these variables is extracted for each homicide incident and entered into the NHMP database. The information is divided into four key areas:

- an incident file, which describes the case and its circumstances (eg location, date and time of the incident, status of investigation and whether the incident occurred during the course of another crime);
- a victim file, which contains socio-demographic information relating to the victim(s), details of the cause of death and the type of weapon used to kill the victims, and alcohol and illicit drug use;
- an offender file, which details persons who have been charged and includes data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the offender, their previous criminal history, alcohol/illicit drug use, mental health status and relationship to the victim (at all times, the term *offender* refers to suspected offenders only, and not to convicted persons, unless otherwise stated); and
- a merged incident, victim and offender file, combining details from all three datasets.

It is important to note that not all information collected by the NHMP is available in police offence

reports. In many instances, staff of homicide squads or major crime units track down the missing information through other sources (usually by contacting the investigating officer or accessing other information reports) and then supply it to the NHMP. Without this information, there would be many gaps in our understanding of individual homicides and trends in homicides over time. Ultimately, the collection of annual homicide data in Australia is a team effort and is made possible by the continual support of all state and territory police services.

Finally, a rigorous quality-control process is implemented to maximise the accuracy of the NHMP data. This involves crosschecking information contained in each police offence record from additional data sources. As outlined earlier, these supplementary sources include post-mortem coronial reports, information provided by other agencies in the police services (eg statistical services, homicide squads or major crime units and firearms registries) and press clippings. For any discrepancies that may occur between information provided in the police offence report and one of the additional sources, the police source is queried to verify the circumstances. Depending on the reliability of the additional source and the information in response to the NHMP query, the data relating to the homicide incident in the NHMP may be updated accordingly. A report detailing the NHMP quality-control process, entitled *Quality Control in the National Homicide Monitoring Program* (Mouzos 2002), provides a comprehensive examination of this process and cites examples of identifying inconsistencies in the various data sources. Finally, all of the rates in the NHMP have been calculated using the latest population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



Homicide in Australia, 2008–10

Homicide incidents

In 2010, an AIC-led review of the NHMP recommended that the data collection from state and territory police continue as an ongoing annual process, but that reporting on the NHMP take place biennially. This report represents the first of the AIC's new biennial reporting series, detailing the nature and context of homicides occurring in the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years.

A total of 510 homicides were recorded across Australia throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10. Individually, the number of homicide incidents were similar across the two years, with 253 incidents recorded in 2008–09 and 257 incidents in 2009–10 (see Figure 1). Overall, 541 victims were killed throughout the period, while 611 offenders were identified. Both the number of victims and offenders is greater than the total number of incidents, due to the fact that some incidents involved the death of multiple victims ($n=26$; 5%), or the actions of more than one offender ($n=71$; 14%). Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, there were five incidents involving both multiple victims and offenders. A total of 17 incidents did not, at the time of reporting, have an identified offender.

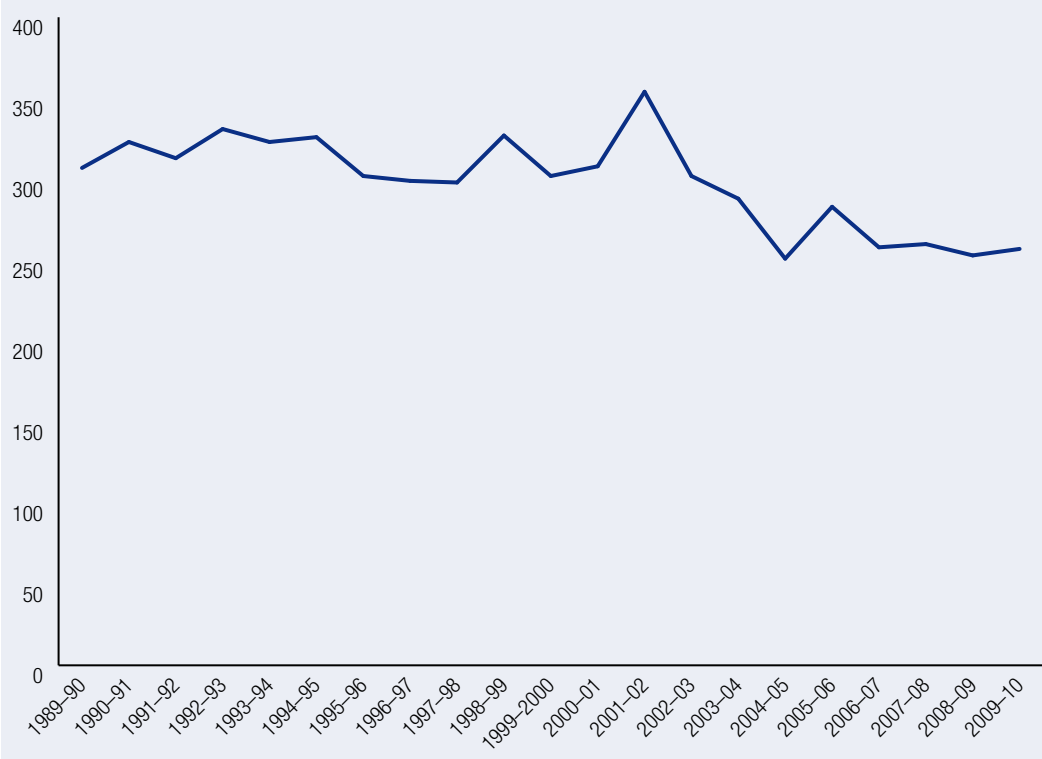
The homicide rate in Australia remains at an historical low (see Figure 2). In the most recent year

(2009–10), the rate was calculated at 1.2 incidents per 100,000 and remains the lowest ever recorded in the NHMP. Since the AIC began collecting data for the NHMP in 1989–90, there has been an overall decrease of approximately 16 percent ($n=307$ *cf* 257) in the overall number of homicide incidents (see Figure 1).

Consistent with previous years, New South Wales again recorded the largest number of homicides in Australia, with 153 incidents throughout 2008–10 (see Table 1). This was followed by Victoria ($n=110$ incidents), Queensland ($n=102$), Western Australia ($n=53$) and South Australia ($n=47$). The Northern Territory ($n=24$), Tasmania ($n=14$) and the Australian Capital Territory ($n=7$) recorded the lowest number of homicides in Australia.

However, despite having one of the lowest total number of homicides nationally, when standardised by population size, the Northern Territory had the highest homicide rate (4.9 per 100,000 in 2008–09 and 5.7 per 100,000 in 2009–10). This is consistent with findings from the previous NHMP annual report (Virueda & Payne 2010). Overall, in 2008–09, Victoria recorded the lowest rate (0.9 per 100,000) of homicide in Australia, while the Australian Capital Territory recorded the lowest rate (0.8 per 100,000) in 2009–10 (see Table 1).

Figure 1 Homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (n)



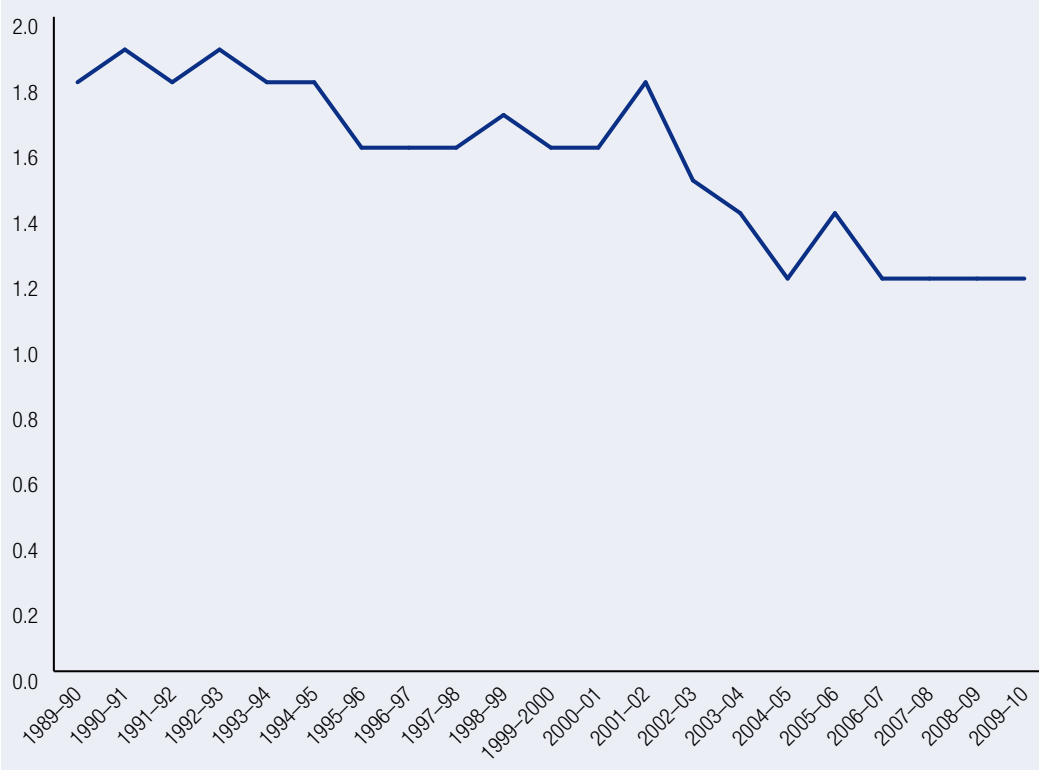
Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table 1 Homicide incidents by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (rate per 100,000)

	2008–09		2009–10	
	n	Rate per 100,000	n	Rate per 100,000
NSW	77	1.1	76	1.1
Vic	51	0.9	59	1.1
Qld	46	1.0	56	1.2
WA	30	1.3	23	1
SA	26	1.6	21	1.3
Tas	8	1.6	6	1.2
NT	11	4.9	13	5.7
ACT	4	1.1	3	0.8
National	253	1.2	257	1.2

Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 2 Homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Homicide incident classification

Methods of homicide classification include those that focus on qualitative characteristics (eg the relationship between victim and offender, and precipitating events) and those based on more specific quantitative measures (eg the number of victims killed and offenders involved). Further, the triangulation of various victim, offender and incident characteristics complicates the development of homicide typologies such that, with the exception of specific legal definitions that may vary across jurisdictions (such as infanticide), there is no universally agreed method for classification.

In this report, homicide incidents are classified into three primary categories according to the principal relationship shared between the victim and the offender. The categories are:

- *domestic homicide*—an incident involving the death of a family member or other person from a domestic relationship. This includes:
 - *intimate partner homicide*—where the victim and offender share a current or former intimate relationship, including homosexual and extramarital relationships;
 - *filicide*—where a custodial or non-custodial parent (including step-parent) kills a child (including *infanticide*, which is defined as the killing of a child under 1 year of age);
 - *parricide*—where a child kills a custodial or non-custodial parent or step-parent;
 - *siblicide*—where one sibling kills another; and
 - *other family homicide*—where the victim and offender are related by family, but are not otherwise classified above (such as a cousin, aunt, grandparent etc);
- *acquaintance homicide*—an incident involving a victim and offender who were known to each other but who were not related to each other, nor living in a domestic relationship; and

- *stranger homicide*—all other incidents where the victim and offender were not known to each other, or were known to each other for less than 24 hours.

For the vast majority of homicide incidents that involve a single victim/single offender, classifying the principal relationship is relatively straightforward. However, for multiple victim and/or multiple offender homicide incidents, this process is complicated by the presence of two or more different relationships (1 for each unique victim and offender pair). In this report, where an incident involves two or more relationship types, the principal relationship is taken to be the closest known relationship shared between any one victim and offender pair. Where an incident involves two victims (and 2 relationships) within the same category, the closest relationship is chosen for classification. For example, incidents involving the death of an intimate partner and one or more children will be classified as an intimate partner homicide for the purposes of this report.

Of the 510 homicide incidents recorded throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, a total of 191 (37%) were classified as acquaintance homicides, 185 (36%) as domestic homicides and 66 (13%) as stranger

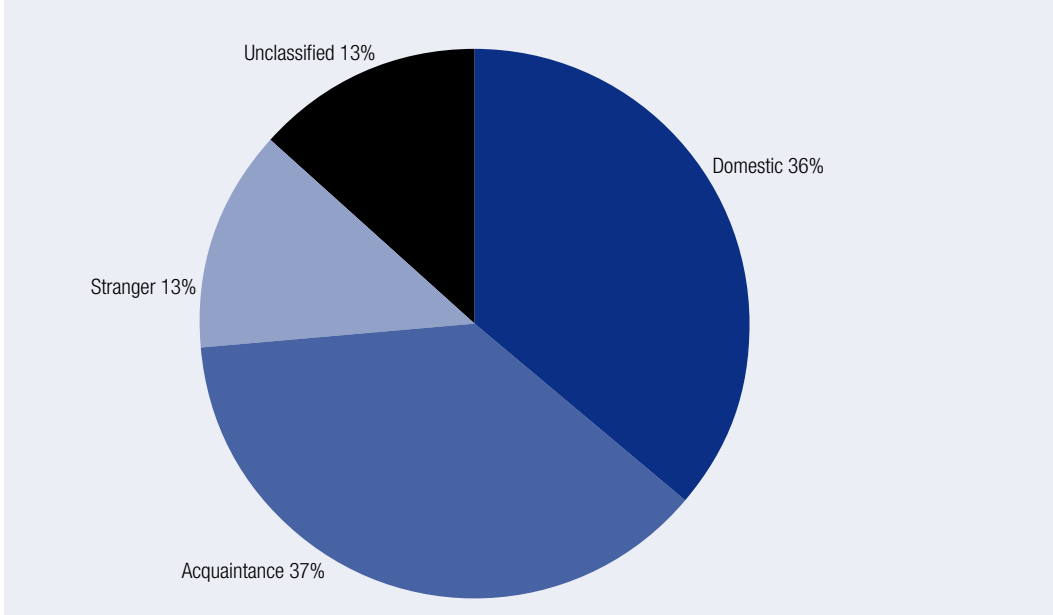
homicides (see Figure 3). The remaining 68 incidents (13%) could not be classified because at the time of reporting, the offender–victim relationship was not known.

Of the 185 domestic homicides throughout the 2008–10 period, 122 (66%) were sub-classified as intimate partner homicides, 22 (12%) as filicides (7 of which involved an infanticide; that is, the death of a child under 1 year of age), 20 (11%) as parricides and four (2%) as siblicide. The remaining 17 (9%) were classified as ‘other’ family homicides (see Figure 4).

Because this classification takes into account only the principal relationship in each incident, it is worth noting that four of the 122 intimate partner homicides also involved the death of a child, while three involved the death of an acquaintance within the same incident.

Compared with recent years, the number of domestic homicides has fallen. In 2007–08, domestic homicides comprised 52 percent of all homicides, but comprised only 36 percent of all recorded homicides in 2008–09 and 2009–10. Further, the number of domestic homicides in 2008–09 was the lowest recorded in more than 20

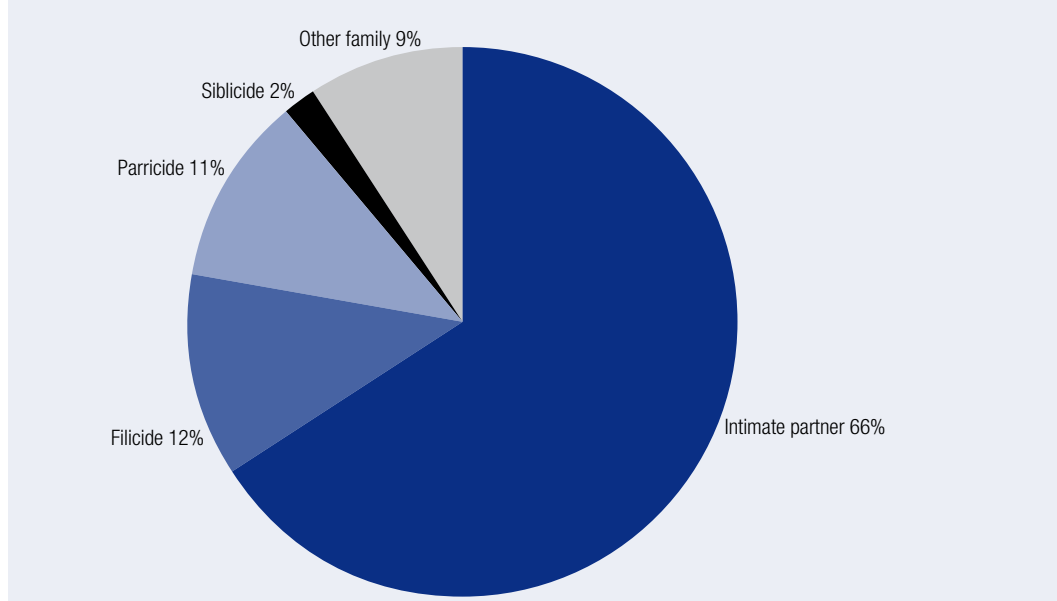
Figure 3 Homicide incidents by classification, 2008–10 (%)



Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 4 Domestic homicide incidents by sub-classification, 2008–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 2 Homicide type by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (%)^a

	NSW (n=153)	Vic (n=110)	Qld (n=102)	WA (n=53)	SA (n=47)	Tas (n=14)	NT (n=24)	ACT (n=7)	National (n=510)
Domestic	33	34	41	32	51	7	54	14	36
Acquaintance	37	45	29	40	28	71	29	57	37
Stranger	10	12	21	11	11	14	13	14	13
Unclassified	21	9	9	17	11	7	4	14	13

a: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

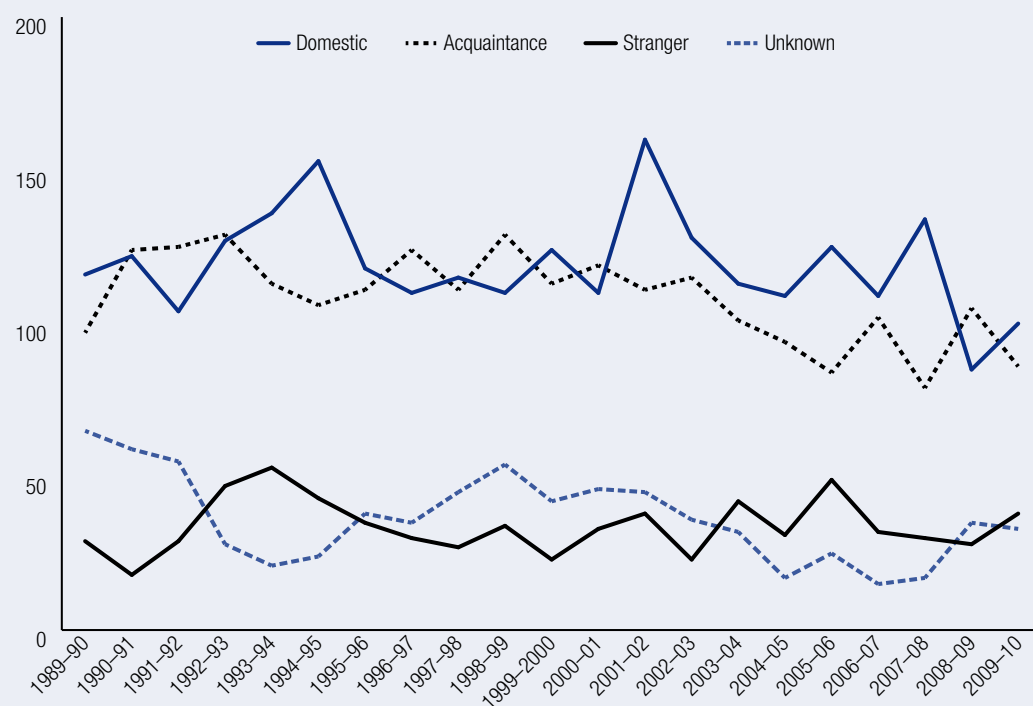
years of NHMP data collection (n=85; 34%; see Figure 5). For other homicide types, the results in 2008–09 and 2009–10 were relatively stable when compared with previous years.

The proportion of domestic homicides varies by jurisdiction (see Table 2). Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, over half of all homicides in the Northern Territory (54%) and South Australia (51%) were classified as ‘domestic’, as were 41 percent of Queensland homicides. In Victoria (34%), New South Wales (33%) and Western Australia (32%), approximately one in three deaths were classified as a domestic homicide, whereas less than one in five in the Australian Capital Territory (14%) and less than one in 10 (7%) in Tasmania were domestic related.

Acquaintance homicides were more prevalent in Tasmania (71%) and the Australian Capital Territory (57%) compared with other jurisdictions. These results should, however, be considered with caution as the actual number of homicides in these jurisdictions were also considerably higher than their state and territory counterparts.

Stranger homicides were more prevalent in Queensland (21%) yet comprised between 10 and 14 percent of homicides in all other states and territories—ranging from a low of 10 percent (n=15) in New South Wales to 14 percent in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania (n=1 and n=2 respectively).

Figure 5 Homicide type by year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (n)



Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Nationally, 13 percent of cases were designated as unclassified cases, among which, New South Wales had the highest overall proportion (21%), followed closely by Western Australia (17%). Throughout the different states and territories, Northern Territory had the lowest recorded proportion of unclassified cases (4%).

Temporal characteristics

More than half of all homicides (59%) in 2008–09 and 2009–10 occurred in the evening hours between 6 pm and 6 am. A greater number of homicides occurred between the hours of 6 pm and midnight than at any other time (n=175; 34%), with 130 homicides (25%; see Table 3) occurring between midnight and 6 am. Together, the morning hours of between 6 am and midday recorded the fewest homicide incidents (n=67; 13%)—a finding that is consistent with previous NHMP reports (Virueda & Payne 2010).

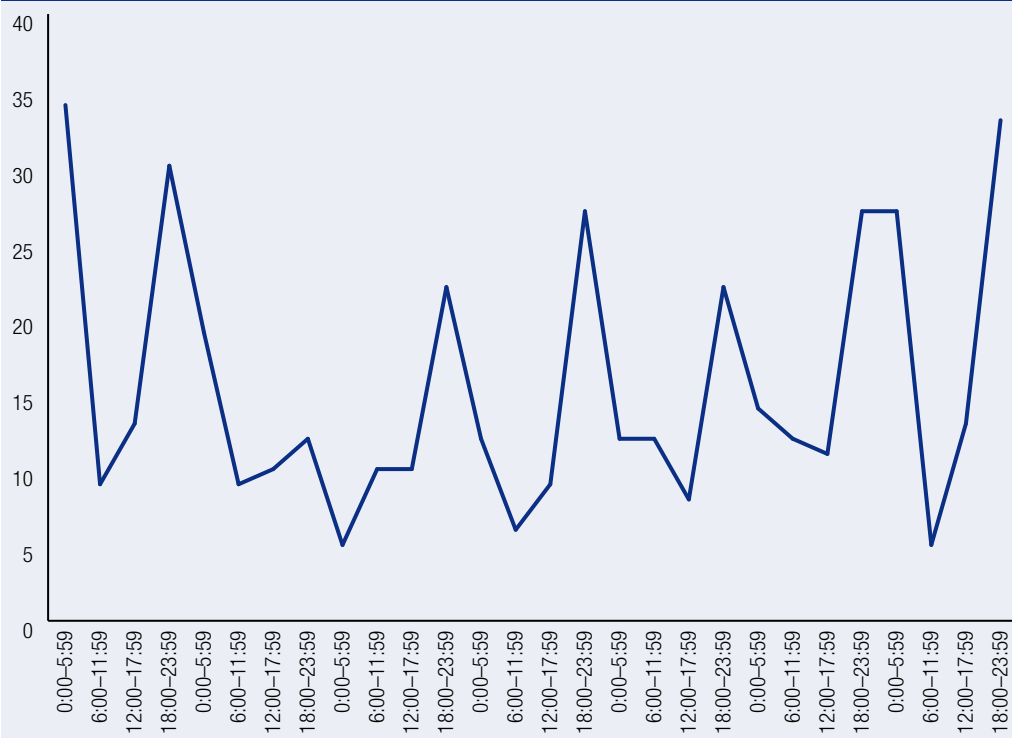
By day of week, a greater proportion of homicides occurred on Saturdays (n=92; 18%) and Sundays

(n=98; 19%) than on any other day of the week. Tuesdays had the fewest number of homicides throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 (n=53; 10%).

The joint distribution of both the time of day and day of week provides a more complete picture of the temporal nature of homicides across Australia (see Figure 6). It can be seen that homicides were more likely to occur between 6 pm and midnight on Saturdays (n=33), and midnight and 6 am on Sunday (n=34) than at any other time during the week. This finding suggests that homicides may be associated with participation in the night-time economy over the weekend or other situations involving social congregations, such as family gatherings. Homicides between Friday night through Saturday morning and Saturday night through Sunday morning accounted for as many as one in four homicides throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10.

The periods with the fewest recorded homicides were Tuesday morning between midnight and 6 am (n=5), Wednesday between 6 am and midday (n=6) and Saturday morning between 6 am and midday (n=5).

Figure 6 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2008–10 (n)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

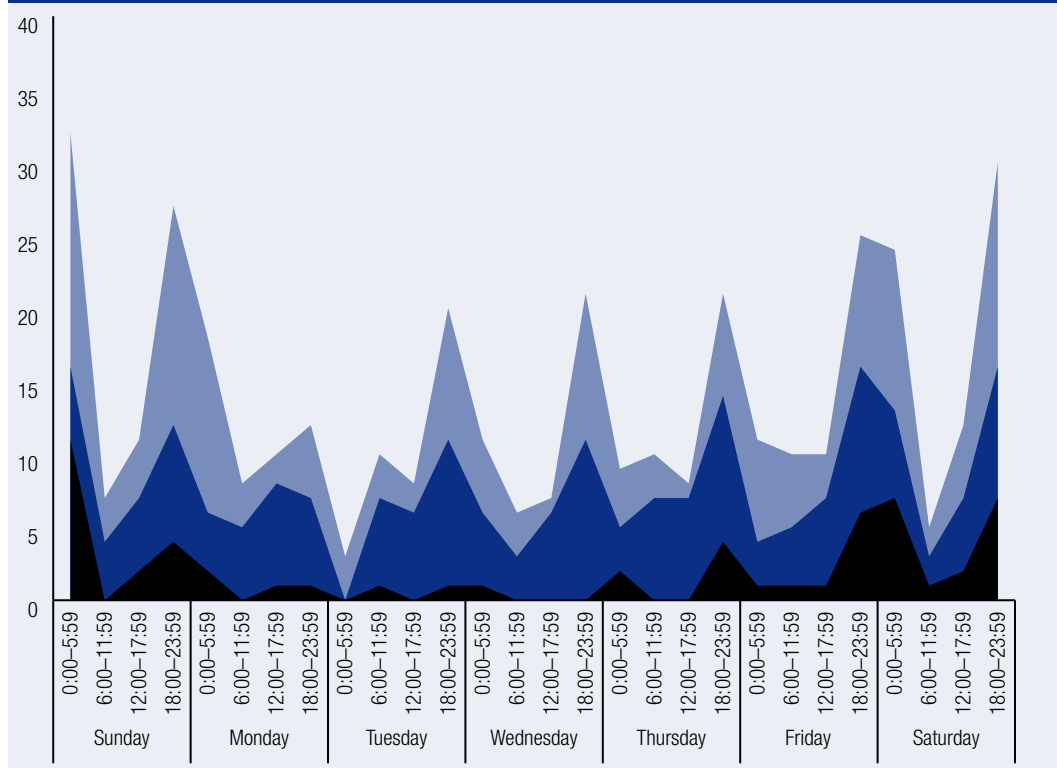
Table 3 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2008–10

Time of day	n	%
00:00–05:59	130	25
06:00–11:59	67	13
12:00–17:59	75	15
18:00–23:59	175	34
Unknown/not stated	63	12
Day of week		
Sunday	98	19
Monday	56	11
Tuesday	53	10
Wednesday	59	12
Thursday	61	12
Friday	73	14
Saturday	92	18
Unknown	18	4

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 7 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2008–10 (n)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

When comparing the results between 2008–09 and 2009–10, there was a slight decrease in the number of homicide incidents occurring between 6 pm to before midnight on Sundays (from 18 to 12) and from midnight to before 6 am on Mondays (from 12 to 7). Conversely, there was an increase in the overall number of incidents between 6 pm to before midnight on Wednesday (from 10 to 17) and Thursday nights (from 8 to 14). On aggregate, there was a modest overall decrease in the number of incidents on Sundays (from 54 to 42), Mondays (from 30 to 25) and Thursdays (from 32 to 29). Analysis of the temporal distribution of homicide incidents over the week therefore indicated that the evening hours was when most homicide incidents occurred (n=175; 34%).

Different homicide types have different temporal characteristics (see Figure 7). For example, homicides between strangers were disproportionately skewed towards the weekends, with over half (65%; see Table A6) having occurred specifically on Friday

and Saturday evenings (from 6 pm to 6 am).

Comparatively few stranger homicides occurred on weekdays and rarely during the daytime hours. Acquaintance and domestic homicides were also most likely to occur during the evening hours, but the distribution throughout the week was more even.

Given that homicide requires two or more people to come together in space and time, it is highly probable that days with increased social interactions are also those when a homicide is most likely to occur (Mouzos & Houliaras 2006). This does not necessarily have to mean strangers in a public setting, rather, it can also refer to gatherings between family and friends. Nevertheless, homicides are more likely to occur when there is a convergence of certain times and days (ie weekends) with the consumption of alcohol and increased levels of socialising. The link between homicide in Australia and routine activities is well documented (Carcach & Conroy 2001) and is particularly relevant in incidents relating to stranger and acquaintance homicides.

Location

Three in every five homicides throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 occurred in a residential location (n=268; 61%; see Figure 8). The majority of homicides took place at the victim's own home (n=199; 45%), as opposed to the offender's home (n=40; 9%) or some other person's home (n=29; 7%; see Table 4). As in previous NHMP reports, these findings should be interpreted with some caution because homicide incidents that occur in a dwelling shared by both the victim and the offender will be recorded as the victim's home. Only if the offender and victim live separately and the homicide occurred in the offender's residence will the homicide location be recorded as the offender's home.

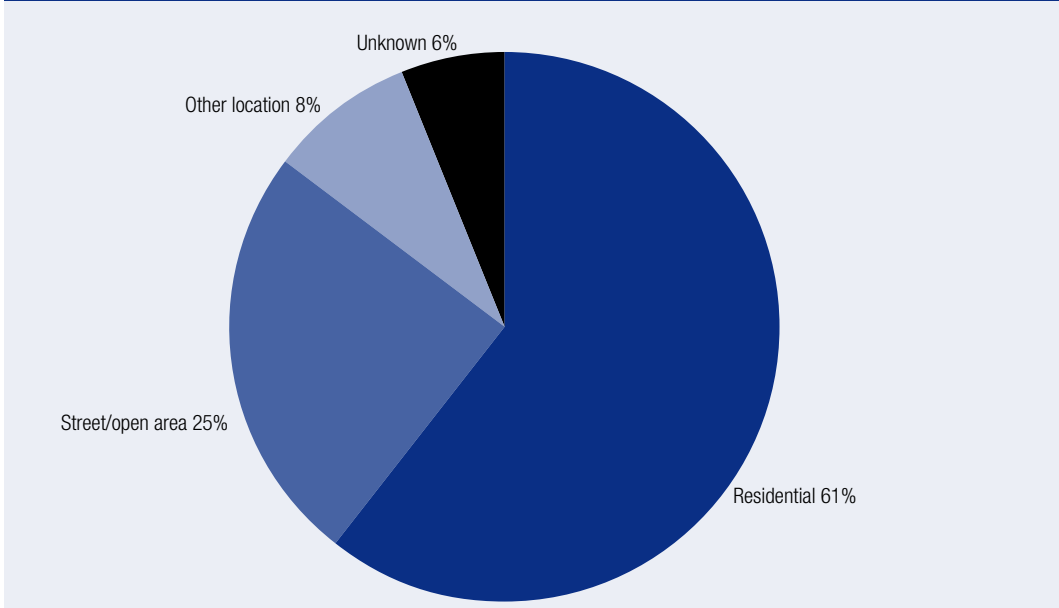
The next most prominent location for a homicide to take place was on a street or open area. The most common subcategory under this classification was street, road or highway (n=62; 14%) and in open areas or waterways (n=32; 7%). Car parks or public garages (n=8; 2%), sporting ovals or related facilities (n=5; 1%) and public transport (n=3; 1%) were the least common locations for a homicide under this classification (see Table 4).

The location of a homicide is largely influenced by the type of homicide. As might be expected, domestic homicides accounted for the largest proportion of those incidents that took place in a residential location (n=143; 53%) as opposed to acquaintance (n=107; 40%) or stranger homicides (n=18; 7%; see Table 4). By contrast, the greatest proportion of acquaintance homicides occurred on the street or in an open area (n=53; 48%). Further, 11 homicides occurred at a recreational venue (bars, pubs and clubs) and involved a friend, acquaintance or stranger. Previous research has been shown that homicides that occur in the night-time economy usually involve alcohol consumption by either the victim or the offender (Dearden & Payne 2009).

Cause of death

Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, there were more deaths resulting from stab wounds (n=208; 38%) than any other single cause (see Table 5). Beatings (n=135; 25%) accounted for one in four victims and were the next most likely cause of death, followed by gunshot wounds (n=71; 13%). Although not as frequent, it is worth noting that 28 victims died from

Figure 8 Location of homicide incidents, 2008–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 4 Location of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2008–10

	Domestic homicide (n=185)		Acquaintance homicide (n=191)		Stranger homicide (n=66)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Residential						
Victims home	126	88	62	58	11	61
Offender home	8	6	30	28	2	11
Other home	9	6	15	14	5	28
Subtotal ^a	143		107		18	
Street or open area						
Open area/waterway	14	58	15	28	3	9
Street/road/highway	8	33	30	57	24	73
Sporting oval/facility	0	0	3	6	2	6
Public transport	0	0	2	4	1	3
Car park/garage	2	8	3	6	3	9
Subtotal ^a	24		53		33	
Other						
Hospital/health care	3	17	1	3	0	0
Shopping mall	0	0	3	10	2	13
Recreation venue	2	11	4	13	7	47
Workplace	3	17	3	10	0	0
Private motor vehicle	1	6	2	6	2	13
Corrective institution	0	0	3	10	0	0
Nursing home	0	0	1	3	0	0
Psychiatric facility	0	0	1	3	0	0
Other/not stated/ unknown	9	50	13	42	4	27
Subtotal ^a	18		31		15	

a: Excludes unclassified homicides. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

strangulation (5%), nine from smoke inhalation/burns (2%), nine from a drug overdose (2%) and seven were drowned (1%). A further three died as a result of criminal neglect, two victims were poisoned and one was electrocuted. A further 23 victims died from 'other' causes, such as being deliberately hit by a car. It is important to note that the cause of death is specific to each unique victim within a homicide incident and for multiple victim homicides, the cause of death may be different for different victims. As such, the information presented in Table 5 provides both a victim and incident count. The latter is a count of the number of incidents for which each

cause of death was identified and incidents may be double counted where there were multiple different causes of death.

For victims who died from a stab wound, knives were used in the overwhelming majority of cases (n=176; 86%). A further 27 victims (13%) were stabbed with some other sharp object, such as broken glass. In only two incidents (1%) were both a knife and other sharp instrument used in combination. Of those who died from a gunshot wound, the type of firearm was identified for 40 victims, the most common being single or double barrelled shotguns (n=18; 45%), followed by rimfire

Table 5 Cause of death in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2008–10

	Victims (n)	Incidents (n)	Incidents (%) ^a
Stab wounds	208	198	39
Beatings	135	128	25
Gunshot wounds	71	65	13
Criminal neglect	3	3	1
Drug overdose	9	9	2
Strangulation/suffocation	28	28	5
Poisoning	2	1	<1
Smoke inhalation/burns	9	9	2
Shaking	1	1	<1
Other (eg hit by car)	23	20	4
Drowning	7	6	1
Electrocution	1	1	<1
Not stated/unknown	44	41	8

a: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to double counting

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 6 Cause of death in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2008–10

	Domestic homicide (n=185)		Acquaintance homicide (n=191)		Stranger homicide (n=66)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Stab wounds	79	43	80	42	17	26
Beatings	36	19	49	26	34	52
Gunshot wounds	19	10	26	14	5	8
Criminal neglect	2	1	1	1	0	0
Pushed from high place	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strangulation/suffocation	17	9	7	4	0	0
Poisoning	1	1	0	0	0	0
Smoke inhalation/burns	6	3	1	1	0	0
Other (eg hit by car/shaking)	2	1	8	4	7	11
Drowning	4	2	2	1	0	0
Not stated/unknown	19	10	17	9	3	5

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

rifles (not self-loading; n=9; 23%), restricted firearms (all handguns, including air pistols and revolvers; n=6; 15%), prohibited firearms (including self-loading rimfire rifles with a magazine capacity no greater than five rounds and pump action shotguns with a magazine capacity no greater than five rounds; n=4; 10%) and automatic rifles (n=3; 8%).

By type, stab wounds were most commonly recorded as the cause of death for both domestic and acquaintance homicides (43% and 42% respectively; see Table 6); however, beatings were the most common cause of death recorded in stranger homicides (n=34; 52%). Other notable differences existed, namely:

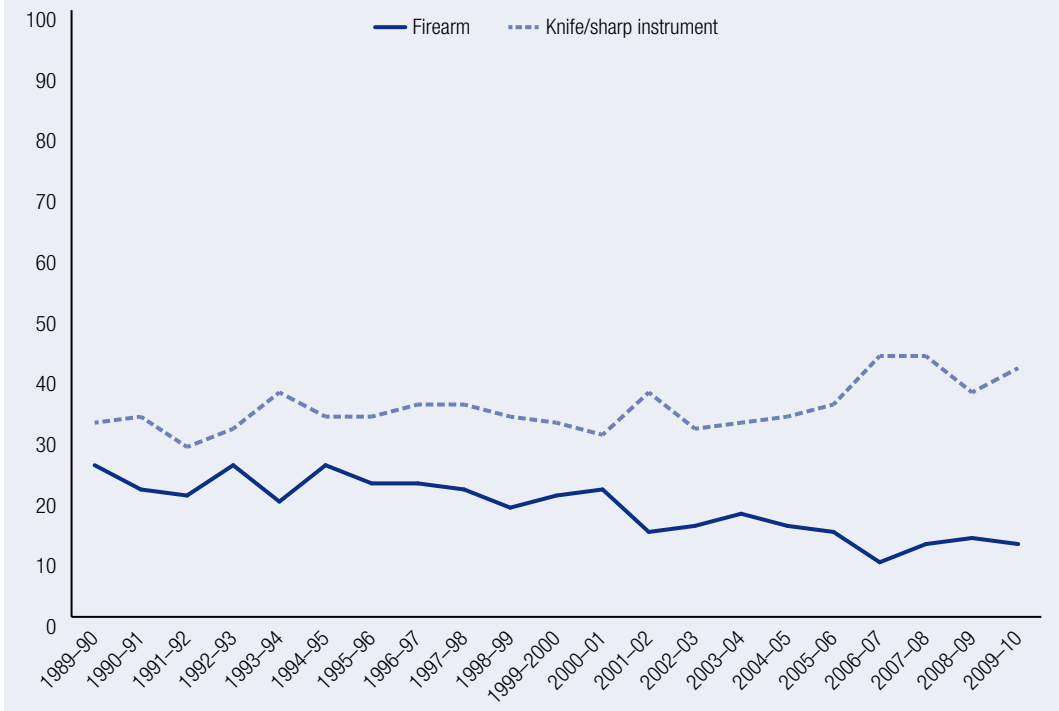
- suffocation and/or strangulation was more common in domestic homicides (n=17; 9%) than in acquaintance (n=7; 4%) or stranger homicides (n=0; 0%);
- gunshot wounds were more likely to be recorded for acquaintance homicides (n=26; 14%) than for domestic (n=19; 10%) or stranger homicides (n=5; 8%); and

- although the numbers were small, more domestic homicides resulted from smoke inhalation/burns (n=6; 3%) than was the case for acquaintance (n=1; 1%) or stranger homicides (n=0; 0%).

Since the NHMP began in 1989–90, homicides resulting from the use of a firearm have decreased (see Figure 9). For example, 25 percent of homicides in 1989–90 (n=76) were known to have involved the use of a firearm while in 2009–10, firearms were used in only 12 percent (n=31) of homicide incidents. Conversely, the proportion of homicides involving knives has increased from 30 percent to 41 percent in the last 10 years of monitoring (see Figure 9).

Finally, continuing a recent trend, the proportion of firearm-related homicides involving handguns has again declined in 2008–09 and 2009–10 (see Figure 10). According to the most recent data, only 13 percent of those firearms used in homicide were handguns, down from 55 percent in 2005–06.

Figure 9 Weapon use in homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Figure 10 Handgun use in homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Motive

Ascribing motivation to homicides can assist in understanding the factors or situations that are likely to have precipitated a homicide event. Yet assigning a single reason or motive to a homicide incident is difficult because the reasons, or lack thereof, may be varied and complicated.

Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, the motive most frequently recorded in the NHMP was an unspecified domestic argument (19%; see Table 7). This was not unexpected given domestic homicides represented the largest proportion of homicides throughout that period. The next most commonly recorded motives were other argument (short-term argument; $n=68$; 14%), alcohol-related arguments ($n=45$; 9%), incidents related to drugs ($n=32$; 6%), money ($n=29$; 6%) and revenge ($n=25$; 5%). The least common recorded motives for a homicide were racial and sexual vilification, each accounting for only one percent of homicides each ($n=4$ and $n=7$ respectively). Approximately one in 10 ($n=59$; 12%) homicide incidents did not have an apparent or identifiable motive.

Differentiating motive by homicide type (see Table 8) showed that:

- almost half of all domestic homicides (49%) were classified as having been motivated by a domestic argument of an unspecified nature, while one in three (33%) were recorded as having no apparent or unknown motive and 10 (5%) were motivated by the termination of a relationship;
- drug ($n=25$; 13%), alcohol-related ($n=23$; 12%), money ($n=19$; 10%), revenge ($n=15$; 8%) and other unspecified arguments ($n=41$; 21%) were most commonly recorded for homicides involving friends and acquaintances;
- 17 homicides occurred as a result of jealousy—11 of which were between acquaintances, four were domestic and two were stranger homicides;
- three homicides were known to have occurred as a result of racial vilification, all of which involved strangers; and
- the highest proportion of known motives precipitating a homicide were domestic arguments ($n=96$; 19%) and ‘other’ ($n=64$; 13%) arguments.

Table 7 Apparent motive in homicides by victims and incidents, 2008–10

	Victims (n)	Incidents (n)	Incidents (%) ^a
Revenge	26	25	5
Jealousy	17	17	3
Desertion/termination	11	11	2
Domestic argument	101	98	19
Money	30	29	6
Drugs	33	32	6
Racial vilification	4	4	1
Alcohol-related argument	45	45	9
Other argument	75	68	14
Sexual vilification	6	7	1
No apparent motive/unknown/not recorded	68	59	12

a: Percentages may not total 100 due to double counting

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 8 Apparent motive in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2008–10

	Domestic homicide (n=185)		Acquaintance homicide (n=191)		Stranger homicide (n=66)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Revenge	3	2	15	8	4	6
Jealousy	4	2	11	6	2	3
Desertion/termination	10	5	1	1	0	0
Domestic argument	90	49	6	3	0	0
Money	2	1	19	10	6	9
Drugs	1	1	25	13	2	3
Racial vilification	0	0	0	0	3	5
Alcohol-related argument	5	3	23	12	13	20
Other argument	9	5	41	21	14	21
Sexual vilification	0	0	2	1	3	5
No apparent motive/unknown/not recorded ^a	61	33	48	25	19	29

a: 68 incidents were excluded because the motive of the offender was unknown

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to double counting

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Other situational factors

For the current two years of data collection, more than one in 10 (n=67; 13%) of all homicide incidents occurred during the course of, or as a result of, another crime. Of these, the most prominent precipitating offences were violent crimes such as assault (n=15; 3%), followed by robbery (n=13;

2%) and drug offences (n=11; 2%). Although not as frequent, it is worth noting that there were four homicides for which the police identified sexual assault as a precipitating offence (1%).

Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, alcohol consumption, either by the victim or the offender, preceded nearly half of all homicide incidents

(n=238; 47%). In the majority of incidents, both the victim and the offender were known to have been drinking. By homicide type (see Figure 11), alcohol consumption by the victim was more commonly recorded for acquaintance homicides (46%) than for stranger (18%) or domestic (26%) homicides. By contrast, alcohol consumption by an offender was relatively evenly distributed between acquaintance (43%) and domestic (36%) homicides.

The NHMP relies on toxicology reports from the coroner to determine whether the victim had alcohol in their system. It is not possible based on post-mortem toxicology screening to determine the level of intoxication, as different people metabolise alcohol at different rates and some individuals can develop a tolerance to the effects of alcohol. Nevertheless, these data are useful to indicate whether the victim had consumed alcohol and/or illicit drugs prior to the incident.

Illicit drug use was known to have preceded one in five (n=101; 20%) homicide incidents between 2008–09 and 2009–10, of which, the victim’s use of illicit drugs (n=96; 19%) was more prominently identified than the offender’s (n=78; 15%, see Table 9). However, as has been the case in previous NHMP annual reports, it is important to note that illicit drug use by the victim is more easily identified

through post-mortem toxicological tests, whereas for the offender, identification of drug use is based on the subjective assessment of the investigating officers, for which there is not usually any toxicological confirmation via objective testing.

Homicide victims

In the 510 homicide incidents recorded throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, 541 people were killed. In total, 26 homicide incidents involved the death of more than one victim—23 incidents involved two victims, two incidents involved three victims and one incident involved four or more victims (see Table B1).

Victim sex

Of the 541 victims killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, 366 were male (68%) and 175 were female (32%; see Table B3). The overrepresentation of men as victims of homicide has been a consistent finding since data were first captured in the NHMP in 1989–90 and is also consistent with the international literature on homicide (Brookman 2005; Flowers 2002; Miethe & Regoeczi 2004; Polk 1994).

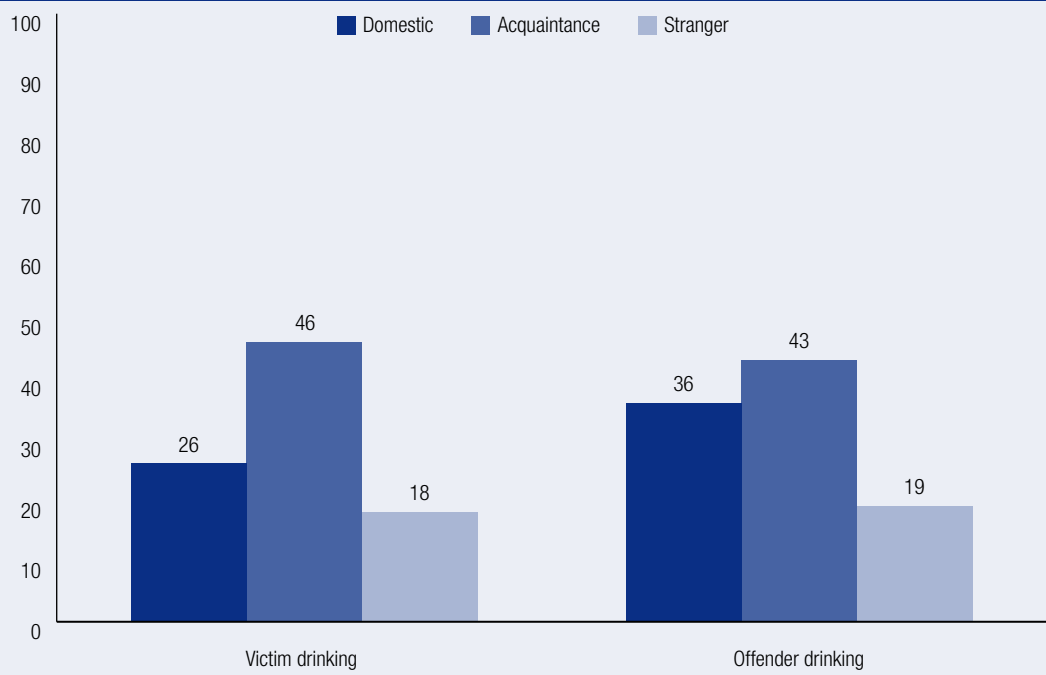
After standardising the total number of victims in 2009–10 against the most recent Australian population estimates, it was found that there were

Table 9 Situational factors in homicide incidents, 2008–10

	n	%
Alcohol		
Victim drinking	179	35
Offender drinking	188	37
Any alcohol use	238	47
Drugs		
Victim used drugs	96	19
Offender used drugs	78	15
Any drug use	101	20
Precipitating crime		
Robbery	13	2
Sexual assault	4	1
Other violent crime	15	3
Drug offences	11	2
Any precipitating crime	65	13

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 11 Alcohol involvement in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2008–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

1.66 male and 0.85 female homicide victims per 100,000 of the population (see Figure 12). Despite a slight increase from 2008–09 (from 0.73 to 0.85) the current female homicide victimisation rates is nevertheless 50 percent lower than its peak in 1990–91. Similarly, the rate of male homicide victimisation has also decreased by approximately 35 percent since the NHMP began in 1989–90.

The representation of male and female homicide victims varies depending on the type of homicide (see Table 10). Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, 194 victims were killed by an offender with whom they shared a principal domestic relationship, of which close to two in five (n=75; 39%) of these victims were male, while approximately three in five (n=116; 61%) were female.

Overall, 61 percent of all female homicide victims (n=116) killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 were killed by an offender with whom they shared a domestic relationship, while a greater number of male homicide victims were killed by a friend or an acquaintance (n=173; 86%) than by someone with whom they shared a domestic relationship (n=75; 39%).

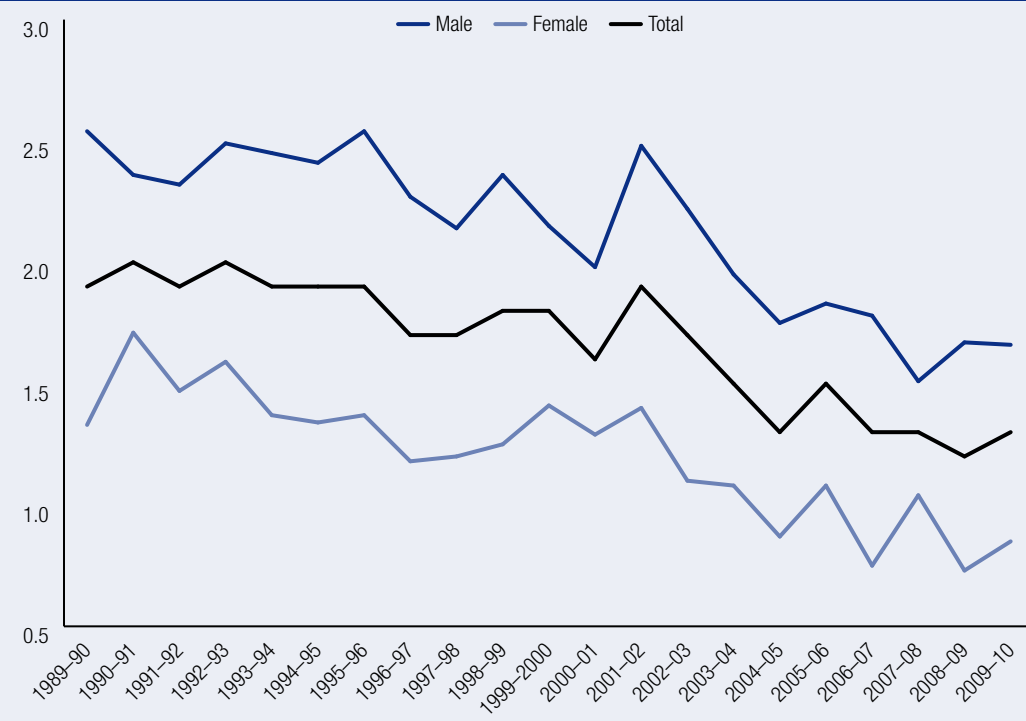
Consistent with previous NHMP annual reports, females were overrepresented as victims in intimate partner homicide (n=89; 73% of intimate partner homicides), while males were more highly represented in homicides involving friends or acquaintances (n=173; 86% of acquaintance homicides) or strangers (n=56; 78% of stranger homicides).

Victim age

The average age of victims killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 was 38.6 years (see Table 11). There was little difference in the average age of male and female victims (38.2 and 39.2 years, respectively). The youngest victims were under one year of age, of which there were seven males and five females. Conversely, the oldest known victim was 98 years.

Approximately nine percent (n=49) of the victims killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 were children under the age of 18 years (see Table 11). The majority of those children were aged between one and nine years (n=19; 4% of all homicides).

Figure 12 Victimisation rate by sex, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table 10 Type of homicide by sex of victims, 2008–10

	Male (n=366)		Female (n=175)	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic				
Intimate partner	33	27	89	73
Filicide	13	48	14	52
Parricide	11	55	9	45
Sibicide	3	60	2	40
Other family homicide	15	88	2	12
Subtotal	75	39 ^a	116	61 ^a
Acquaintance homicide	173	86	28	14
Stranger homicide	56	78	16	22
Unclassified	62	81	15	19

a: Percentages calculated from subtotal and associated n total value

Note: Percentages are calculated for the sex differences within in each incident type (row percent)

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 11 Age of homicide victims by sex, 2008–10

Years of age	Male victims (n=366)		Female victims (n=175)		All victims (n=541)	
	n	% ^a	n	% ^a	n	% ^a
Under 1	7	2	5	3	12	2
1–9	11	3	8	5	19	4
10–14	5	1	3	2	8	1
15–17	7	2	3	2	10	2
18–24	53	14	16	9	69	13
25–34	81	22	38	22	119	22
35–49	111	30	55	31	166	31
50–64	58	16	16	9	74	14
65+	31	8	26	15	57	11
Total ^b	366		175		541	
Mean age		38.2		39.2		38.6
Median age		37		37.5		37

a: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

b: Includes 7 cases with no age identified

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Overall, there were more male victims (n=30) under 18 years than female victims (n=19).

The average age of homicide victims varied according to the homicide relationship classification (see Figure 13). For the different types of domestic homicide, the average age varied from as low as 8.8 years for victims of filicides (who are typically aged under 18 years), to as high as 61.4 years for parricides (typically parents killed by an adult child). Apart from parricide, the next highest average age of death was 47.6 years for victims of 'other' family homicide. For other homicide types, the average victim age was:

- 42.1 years for intimate partner;
- 40.2 years for strangers;
- 31 years for siblicides; and
- 38.3 years for friends and acquaintances.

Victim's Indigenous status

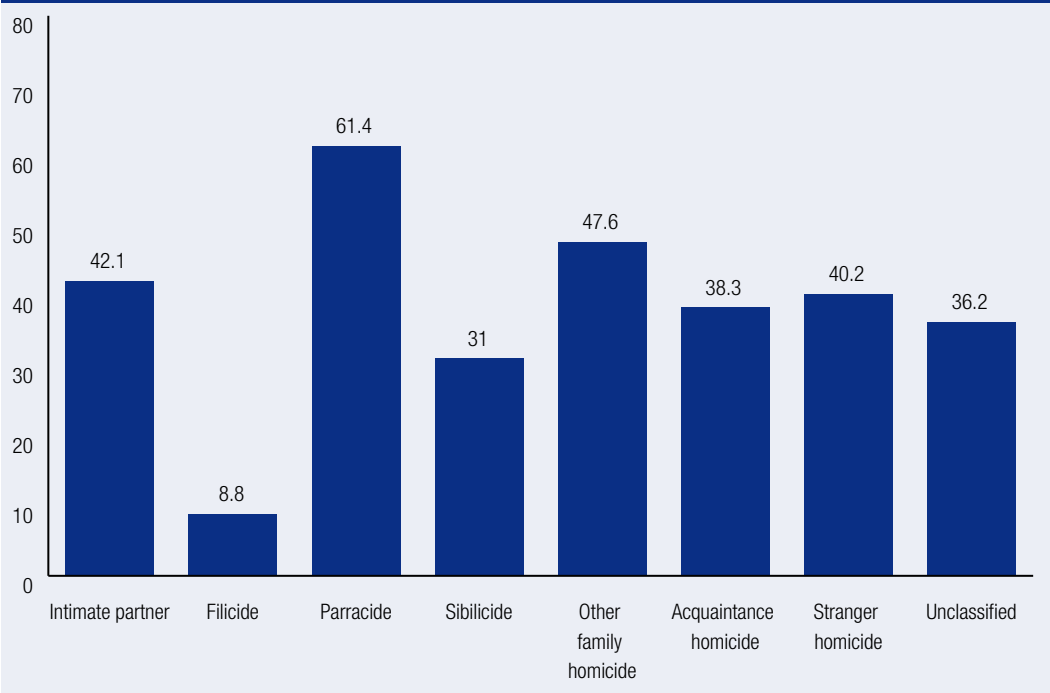
Of the 541 homicide victims killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, 60 (11%) were identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Of these victims, 34 were males (57%) and 26 were females (43%; see Table B7). Just over half (n=33; 55%)

of Indigenous homicide victims were killed in a domestic homicide, of which the most common subcategory was intimate partner homicide (n=25; 42%; see Table 12). Just over one-quarter (n=17; 28%) of Indigenous victims were killed by an acquaintance or close friend. The frequency of stranger-related homicides has remained consistently low and at times non-existent since the data collection began. As noted, two in every five Indigenous victims were female (43%), which is higher than the equivalent proportion of female non-Indigenous homicides (31%; see Figure 14).

According to standardised homicide rates for the most recent year of data, Indigenous Australians remain overrepresented as victims of homicide. In 2009–10, there were approximately four (4.1 per 100,000) Indigenous homicide victims per 100,000 of the Indigenous population (3.5 per 100,000 for women and 4.6 per 100,000 for men; see Figure 15). This is approximately four times higher than the equivalent victimisation rate for non-Indigenous Australians (1.1 per 100,000; 0.7 per 100,000 for women and 1.5 per 100,000 for men).

In trend terms, the rate of Indigenous victimisation for both males and females has continued to

Figure 13 Age of homicide victims by type of homicide, 2008–10 (mean age in years)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 12 Indigenous status of homicide victims by type of homicide, 2008–10

	Indigenous (n=60)		Non-Indigenous ^a (n=481)	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic				
Intimate partner	25	42	97	20
Filicide	2	3	25	5
Parricide	2	3	18	4
Sibicide	1	2	4	1
Other family homicide	3	5	14	3
Subtotal	33	55 ^b	158	33 ^b
Acquaintance homicide	17	28	184	38
Stranger homicide	4	7	68	14
Unclassified	6	10	71	15

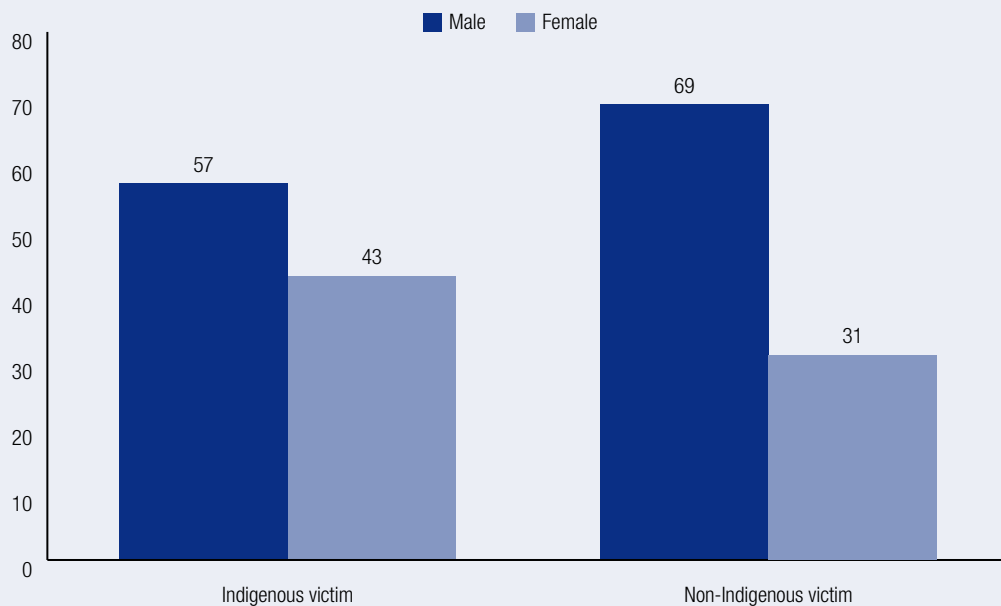
a: Includes victims where Indigenous status was not recorded

b: Percentages calculated from subtotal and associated n total value

Note: Percentages are calculated for the sex differences within in each incident type (row percent)

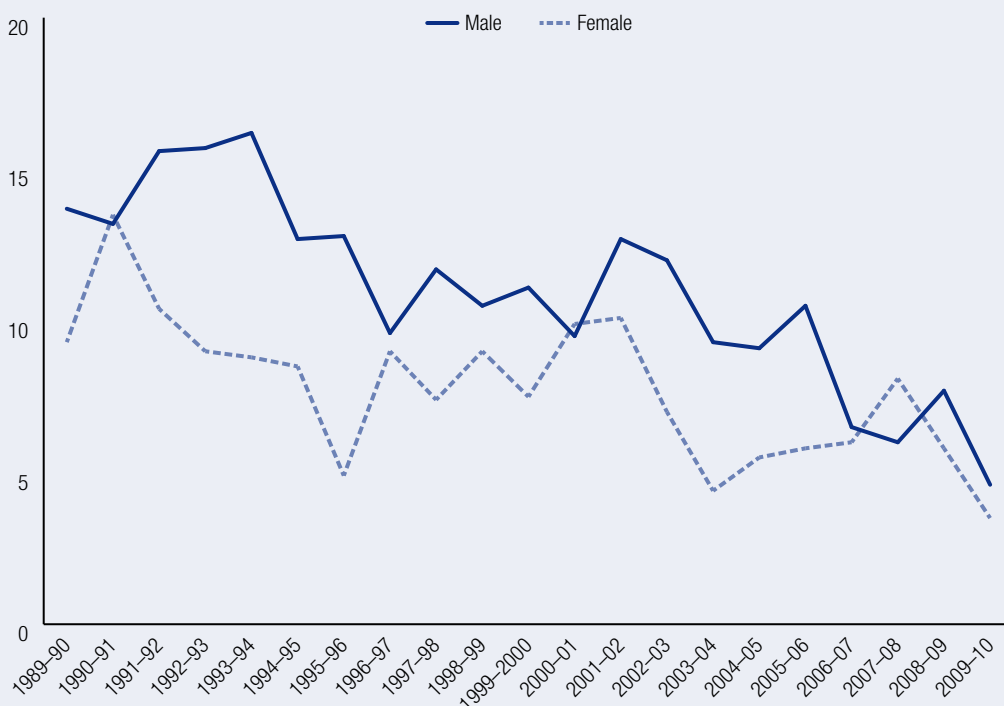
Source: ABS 2010, 2009, AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 14 Indigenous status of homicide victims by sex, 2008–10 (%)



Source: ABS 2010, 2009, AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 15 Indigenous homicide victimisation by sex and year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2009; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

decline steadily since 2001–02. Indigenous male victimisation reached an historical low of 4.6 per 100,000 in 2009–10, approximately 72 percent lower than at its highest point in 1993–94 (16.2 per 100,000). Similarly, the rate of homicide victimisation among Indigenous women also reached an historic low of 3.5 per 100,000, approximately 74 percent lower than its peak in 1990–91 (13.5 per 100,000).

Victim's employment status

Among the 541 homicide victims killed throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, information concerning employment status was known for 415 individuals (77%; see Table 13). Of these victims, more were employed (n=181; 44%) than unemployed (n=98; 24%), studying (n=26; 6%), undertaking domestic duties (n=17; 4%) or not working but receiving the aged or disability pension (n=93; 22%).

Table 13 Employment status of homicide victims by sex, 2008–10

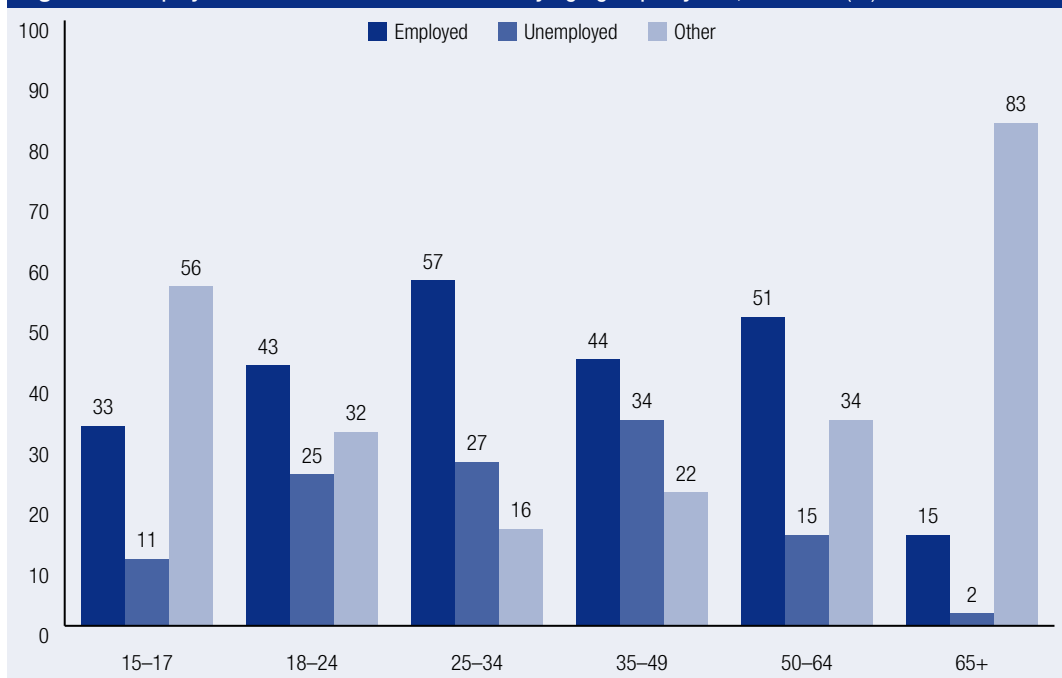
	Male victims (n=279)		Female victims (n=136)		All victims (n=415) ^a	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Studying	15	5	11	8	26	6
Unemployed	77	28	21	15	98	24
Home/domestic duties	1	0	16	12	17	4
Age, disability or sole parent pension	59	21	34	25	93	22
Employed ^b	127	46	54	40	181	44

a: Employment status was not available 87 male and 39 female victims

b: 2 employed victims were on leave

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 16 Employment status of homicide victims by age group in years, 2008–10 (%)



Note: 'Other' includes studying, domestic duties and age or disability welfare recipients

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Proportionally, male victims were more likely than female victims to have been employed (46% *cf* 40%), while female victims were more likely to be studying, undertaking domestic duties or to have been receiving an aged, sole parent or disability pension. Conversely, unemployment was much higher among male victims (28% *cf* 15%). By age, victims aged 35–49 years were most likely to be recorded as unemployed when compared with all other age categories (see Figure 16).

Homicide offenders

Of the 510 homicide incidents recorded throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, 46 had not been solved or had no identified offender at the time of publication. Of the remaining 464 incidents, 407 incidents had one offender (88%), 40 incidents had two offenders (9%), 16 incidents had three offenders (3%) and 15 had four or more offenders (3%). Overall, the details of 611 offenders were recorded in the NHMP for homicides throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 (see Table C1).

Between 2008–09 and 2009–10, homicides involving multiple offenders were more prevalent among strangers (30%) than among those who were

in a domestic relationship (4%) or acquaintances (16%; see Table 14). In 2008–09 and 2009–10, 31 acquaintance homicides were known to have involved more than one offender — 19 involved two offenders, while 12 involved three or more offenders. Overall, domestic homicide incidents were those least likely to have involved multiple offenders (*n*=7). Similar to recent trends, 100 percent of filicides (includes those where the victim was under 1 year of age) and siblicides recorded in 2008–09 and 2009–10 involved only one offender.

Sex of offenders

Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, there were 538 male offenders (88%), 71 female offenders and two offenders for whom sex was not recorded (12%; see Table C3). This is consistent with historical trends that have seen males comprise more than 80 percent of all known homicide offenders. Males comprised the highest annual proportion recorded in 2008–09 (91%) and the lowest in 2006–07 (82%).

The rate of offending, calculated as the estimated number of known offenders per 100,000 of the Australian population, showed relative stability among the female population (approximately 0.4 per 100,000). For males, however, the rate of offending

Table 14 Number of offenders in homicide incident by principal incident classification, 2008–10

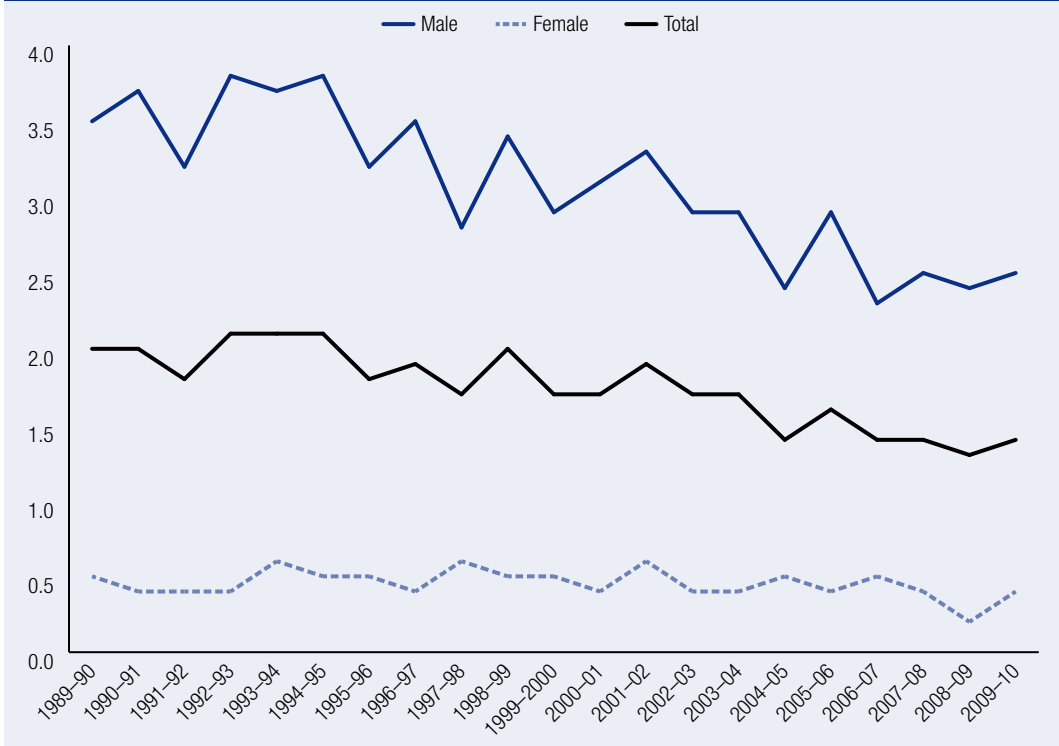
	One offender		Two offenders		Three or more offenders	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Domestic						
Intimate partner	118	97	2	2	2	2
Filicide	22	100	0	0	0	0
Parricide	19	95	1	5	0	0
Siblicide	4	100	0	0	0	0
Other family homicide	15	88	1	6	1	6
Subtotal	178	96	4	2	3	2
Acquaintance homicide	160	84	19	10	12	6
Stranger homicide	46	70	8	12	12	18
Total ^a	407	85	40	8	31	6

a: Includes incidents that could not be classified because the relationship between the victim and the offender was unknown. Percentages are calculated for incidents where at least 1 offender was identified (*n*=478—1 offender *n*=23, 2 offenders *n*=9 and 3 or more offenders *n*=4)

Note: An incident is classified by the principle relationship. For multiple offender homicides, this is the closest relationship between any 1 of the offenders and victims

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 17 Offending rate by sex and year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

has continued to decline (see Figure 17). In 2008–09 and 2009–10, there was an estimated 2.5 male homicide offenders per 100,000. This figure has decreased by approximately 34 percent from a peak of 3.8 per 100,000 in 1992–93.

Offender age

The average age of all known homicide offenders throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 was 33.2 years (see Table 15). There was a relatively even distribution of offenders across the age range from 18 to 49 years. The average age of offenders has remained relatively stable since the NHMP commenced, with a modest decrease in mean age between 1989–90 (36 years) and 2009–10 (33 years).

Overall, there were only 15 (3%) offenders above the age of 65 years, the oldest being 92 years. Conversely, there were 38 offenders under 18 years, only one of which was a female. Most of these younger offenders were aged between 15 and 17 years ($n=32$; 5%), while six offenders were located within the

10–14 year age cohort (1%). The youngest offender was 12 years old at the time of the incident.

Since 2007–08, there has been a slight increase in the average age of male offenders (32.7 *cf* 31.7 years), while the average age of female offenders has increased considerably by almost five years (37.8 *cf* 33.1 years; see Table 15). Further, although there were more male offenders above the age of 65 years ($n=12$; 2%), there were proportionately more female offenders aged 65 years and older ($n=3$; 4%). It should be noted that female offender data is more significantly affected by changes in offender demographics due to the relatively low numbers of female offenders.

Offender Indigenous status

Consistent with historical trends, Indigenous Australians were again overrepresented among homicide offenders throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10 (see Figure 18). During this period, Indigenous Australians comprised 13 percent of

Table 15 Homicide offender age in years by sex, 2008–10^a

Years of age	Male offenders		Female offenders		All offenders ^b	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1–9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10–14	6	1	0	0	6	1
15–17	31	6	1	1	32	5
18–24	136	26	6	9	142	24
25–34	135	26	22	32	157	27
35–49	149	29	29	43	178	30
50–64	47	9	7	10	54	9
65+	12	2	3	4	15	3
Total	516		68		584	
Mean age	32.7		37.8		33.2	
Median age	29		38		30	

a: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

b: Data excludes offenders whose age was not reported

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

the overall proportion of offenders, resulting in a rate of offending that was five times higher (7.1 per 100,000), when compared with the equivalent homicide rate of 1.3 per 100,000 among the non-Indigenous population.

As with their non-Indigenous counterparts, Indigenous offenders were more likely to be male (n=69; 85%) than female (n=12; 15%; see Table C7). Both male and female Indigenous offenders were overrepresented; however, the extent of overrepresentation was greatest among the Indigenous male population. For example, during the 2009–10 reporting period, the rate of offending among Indigenous males was close to six times (12.8 *cf* 2.2 per 100,000) higher than among non-Indigenous males. By contrast, the rate of offending among the Indigenous female population was less pronounced, although still more than three times higher than the non-Indigenous female population (1.4 *cf* 0.4 per 100,000).

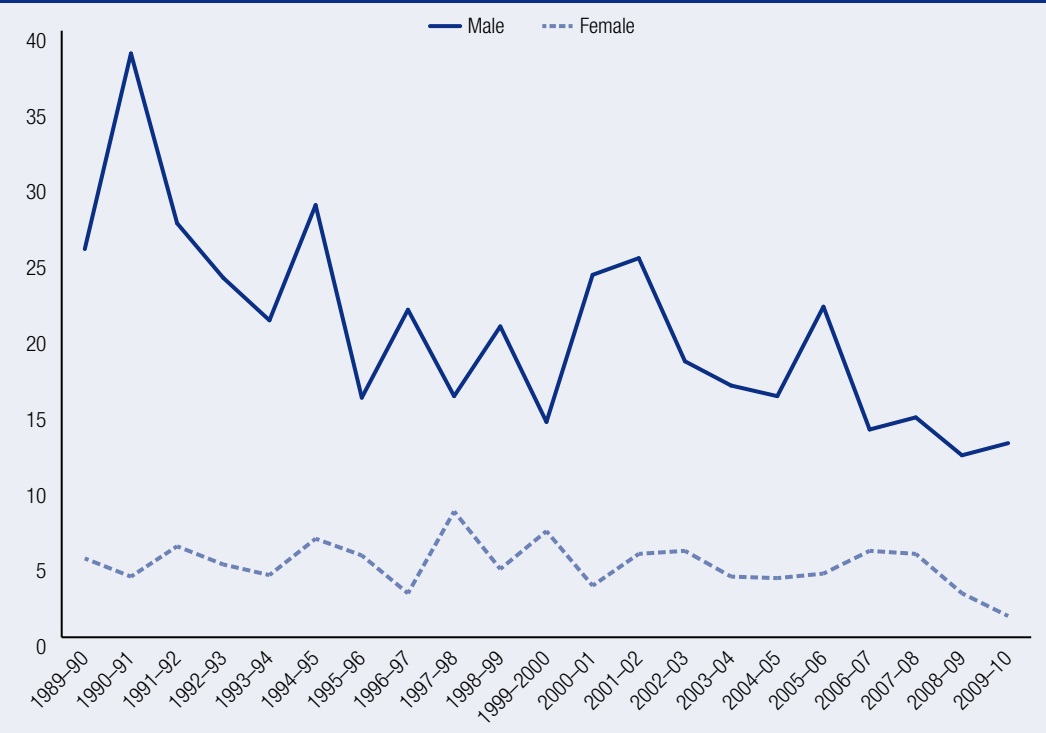
Despite these results, the overall rate of offending for both male and female Indigenous offenders has decreased, with the overall rate reaching an historic low of 7.1 offenders per 100,000. The decline in the offending rate in recent years has been most pronounced for female Indigenous offenders.

Most Indigenous offenders killed a victim who was also identified as an Indigenous person (n=47; 58%). This was evident for both Indigenous female offenders (n=7; 58%) and for Indigenous male offenders (n=40; 58%). The types of homicides committed by Indigenous male offenders were more varied. For example, of the known relationships, 46 percent killed a family member (n=32), 29 percent killed a friend or acquaintance (n=20) and 22 percent killed a stranger (n=15). Two homicides involving male Indigenous offenders could not be classified because the relationship to the victim was not known at the time of reporting. For Indigenous female offenders, 83 percent of homicides (n=10) were classified as domestic-related, while only two incidents (17%) were classified as acquaintance homicides.

Offender criminal history

Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, more than two in five (n=277; 45%) offenders had a prior criminal history involving at least one conviction (see Table 16). The remaining 55 percent of offenders (n=334) did not have a known recorded criminal history.

Figure 18 Indigenous homicide offending by sex, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2009; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table 16 Prior criminal history of homicide offenders by sex, 2008–10

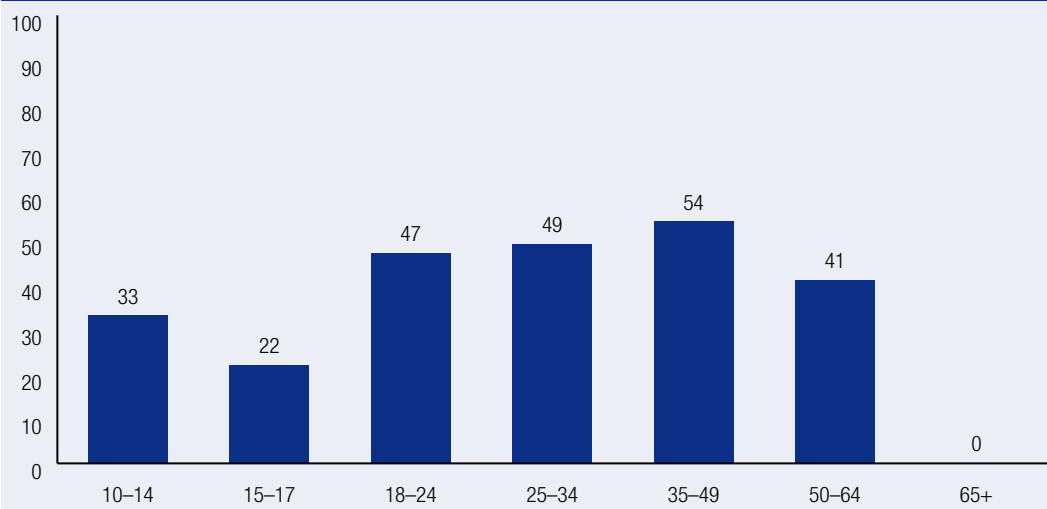
	Male offenders (n=538)		Female offenders (n=71)		All offenders (n=611)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Murder	15	3	0	0	15	2
Sexual assault	14	3	0	0	14	2
Other assault	139	26	13	18	152	25
Robbery	9	2	1	1	10	2
Drug offences	34	6	5	7	39	6
Property offences	21	4	3	4	24	4
Other offences	21	4	2	3	23	4
Any criminal history	253	47	24	34	277	45
No known criminal history ^{a, b}	285	53	47	66	334	55

a: Includes homicide offenders who had no stated and no prior criminal history

b: Data excludes 334 offenders whose criminal history was not reported

Note: Percentages may not total due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Figure 19 Homicide offenders with prior criminal history by age group in years, 2008–10 (%)^a

a: Data excludes 26 offenders whose age was not reported

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table 17 Employment status of homicide offenders by sex, 2008–10^a

	Male offenders (n=378)		Female offenders (n=52)		All offenders (n=430) ^a	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Studying	33	9	3	6	36	8
Unemployed	162	43	20	38	182	42
Home/domestic duties	4	1	6	12	10	2
Age, disability or sole parent pension	36	10	10	19	46	11
Employed	143	38	13	25	156	36

a: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

b: Employment status was not available 158 males and 19 female victims

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

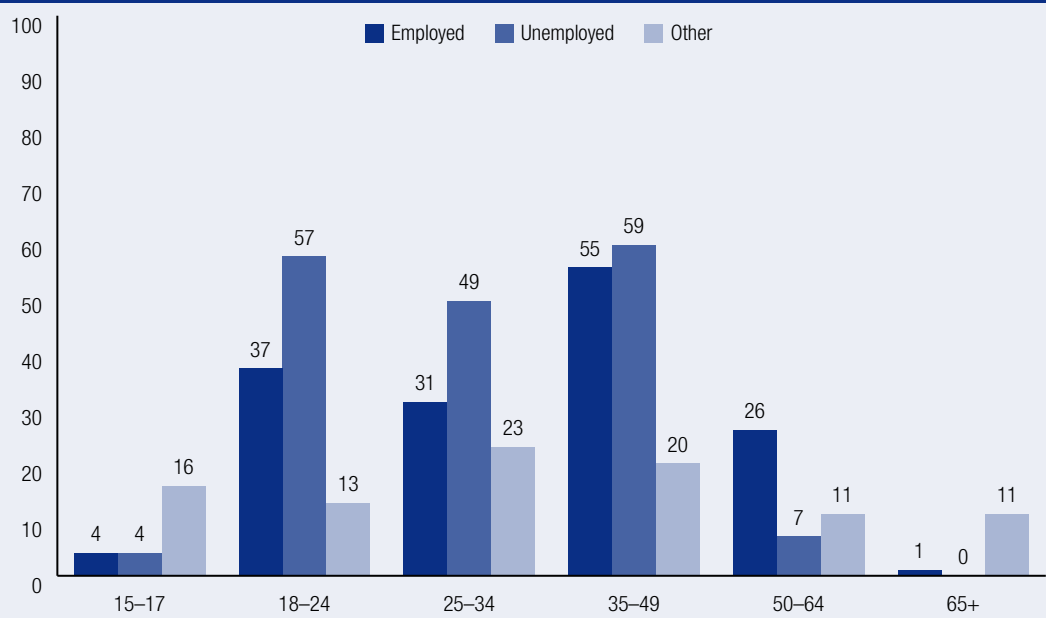
For both male and female offenders with a prior criminal conviction, ‘other’ assault (n=152; 25%) was the single most commonly recorded offence (26% for males and 18% for females; see Table 16). Although considerably less frequent, drug offences (n=39; 6%) were the next most commonly recorded, followed by property offences (n=24; 4%). Fifteen males (3%) had a prior conviction for a separate homicide incident, while a further 14 male offenders (3%) had a prior conviction for a sexual assault. Overall, male offenders (47%) were much more likely than female offenders (34%) to have a prior criminal history.

By age, offenders aged between 35–49 years (54%) were most likely to have a prior criminal history, followed by those aged 25–34 years (49%) and 18–24 (47%). Conversely, none of the 15 offenders over the age of 65 years had a prior criminal conviction.

Offender employment status

With regards to employment, the status of 430 homicide offenders was recorded. The remaining 177 offenders’ employment status was not stated or known to the police at the time of reporting (see Table C6). Of those whose employment status was

Figure 20 Employment status of homicide offenders by age group in years, 2008–10 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

known, just over one in three ($n=156$; 36%; see Table 17) were employed; over two in every five were unemployed ($n=182$, 42) and almost one in 10 were studying ($n=36$; 8%). Only a small proportion of offenders were undertaking domestic duties ($n=10$; 2%).

Congruent with historical trends, the overall prevalence of unemployment among homicide offenders remains greater among male offenders compared with female offenders (43% *cf* 38%; see Table 17). Women were more likely than men to be undertaking domestic duties (12% *cf* 1%) at the time of the incident.

Offender suicide

Of the 611 homicide offenders identified in 2008–09 and 2009–10, 20 committed suicide (3%) at the time or shortly after the incident. All of these offenders were male. All but one ($n=19$) offender committed suicide prior to their arrest, while one offender committed suicide after being arrested, either in police custody or while on bail. Most of those who committed suicide did so following a domestic homicide ($n=16$), particularly intimate partner homicides ($n=12$). A further four offenders

committed suicide as a result of a filicide, while the remaining domestic homicide-related suicides occurred after the offender killed some other family member.

Familicide is a term used to describe a special case of domestic homicide where the offender not only kills the children in the family, but also their intimate partner and themselves (suicide). Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, there was only one homicide involving the death of both an intimate partner and a child; however, in that case, the offender did not commit suicide following the incident.

Conclusion

A key function of the NHMP is to communicate the most current data and most recent assessments of homicide to key stakeholders, namely state and territory police services, local, state and federal levels of governments, non-government organisations, research agencies and the general public. NHMP records can support jurisdictions by helping to develop an in-depth understanding of specific types of homicide. Jurisdictions are able to access to longitudinal patterns in lethal violence to

identify shifts in victimisation, offender trends and changes in the circumstances and characteristics of homicide incidents (such as a decrease in firearm homicides). Data from the NHMP also provide important guidance in the development of policy and strategic direction in diverse fields such as community services, mental health, courts and correctional institutions.

Despite a slight increase in the number of homicide victims over the last two financial years, the overall national rate of victimisation has been on a downward trend since 2001–02 and at 1.2 homicides per 100,000 persons, is currently at its lowest since NHMP was initiated in 1989–90.

Specifically findings for 2008–09 and 2009–10 show that:

- Males continued to be overrepresented as both the victims and perpetrators of offences.
- Since the last NHMP annual report (2007–08), there was a slight increase in the average age of male offenders (33.2 *cf* 31.7), while the average age of female offenders has increased considerably by almost five years (37.8 *cf* 33.1).

The proportion of domestic homicides has fallen considerably and has reached an historic low in recent years. It would appear that the 2007–08 finding that 52 percent of homicides were domestic related was a statistical anomaly from what has otherwise been a downward trend. However, this finding may change somewhat when the victim/offender relationships in the currently unclassified cases (a higher proportion in the current reporting period than in previous years) become known.

Of the domestic homicides recorded in the NHMP, the majority were classified as an intimate partner homicide. The frequency of intimate partner homicides has remained stable and while, overall, female victims are not as prevalent as males, they remain overrepresented in this category of homicide.

- Homicide incidents involving two or more offenders were most common in acquaintance (n=31) and stranger homicides (n=20) throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10.
- Of all the homicide victims throughout the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years, 60 were identified as Indigenous Australians—34 males and 26 females. The rate of Indigenous homicide

victimisation was four times higher than for non-Indigenous Australians, although these results varied significantly by sex. Indigenous males for example were three times more likely (4.6 per 100,000) than non-Indigenous males to be victims of homicide. Indigenous females were five times more likely (3.5 per 100,000) to be victims than non-Indigenous females.

- Fifty-five percent of all Indigenous homicide victims were killed in a domestic homicide, of which the most common subcategory was intimate partner homicide (n=25; 42%).

The rate of Indigenous victimisation reached its lowest point for both males and females in 2009–10.

- Forty-nine homicide victims were aged 17 years or younger, while 38 children aged 17 years or younger were identified as homicide offenders. Most child homicide offenders committed the offence with at least one other offender.

Firearms involvement in homicide followed historical trends as their use (and in particular the use of handguns) continues to decrease. By contrast, the use of knives/sharp instruments has increased over time and is the most common weapon used in homicide incidents, with the current proportion of deaths caused by stab wounds (41%) coming close to its previous peak (43%). The use of knives/sharp instruments was particularly prevalent in domestic and acquaintance homicides.

- More than one in 10 (n=13; 3%) homicide incidents were committed during the course of another crime. ‘Other’ violent crimes (n=15; 3%) was the crime type most likely to precede such homicides.
- More than two in every four homicide offenders had a previous criminal conviction (45%). Male offenders (47%) were more likely to have a conviction history than female offenders (34%).
- Twenty homicide offenders committed suicide following the homicide incident (3%) and most committed suicide following a domestic homicide.
- Throughout 2008–09 and 2009–10, alcohol consumption, either by the victim or the offender, preceded nearly half of all homicide incidents (n=238; 47%), while illicit drug use was known to have preceded one in five (n=101; 20%).



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All URLs are correct at December 2012

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Appendices

Appendix A: Homicide incidents, 2008–10

Table A1 Incidents of homicide by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	95	74	68	25	20	5	20	0	307
1990–91	118	72	56	22	22	5	28	0	323
1991–92	106	54	68	29	27	9	18	2	313
1992–93	111	59	73	34	30	6	17	1	331
1993–94	118	48	62	36	29	5	23	2	323
1994–95	90	73	59	46	29	5	20	4	326
1995–96	110	52	65	33	13	6	22	1	302
1996–97	100	51	80	23	22	3	18	2	299
1997–98	107	41	73	34	27	4	11	1	298
1998–99	111	54	64	33	38	7	18	2	327
1999–2000	106	62	58	34	23	9	7	3	302
2000–01	116	53	65	28	21	8	17	0	308
2001–02	97	82	75	33	31	9	24	3 ^a	354
2002–03	103	57	62	32	22	6	17	3	302
2003–04	81	68	58	36	28	3	11	3	288
2004–05	73	55	51	27	20	10	12	3 ^a	251
2005–06	85	67	56	30	21	3	16	5	283
2006–07	89	47	53	27	12	8	18	4	258
2007–08	88	44	54	30	18	5	18	3	260
2008–09	77	51	46	30	26	8	11	4	253
2009–10	76	59	56	23	21	6	13	3	257

a: Includes 1 incident on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table A2 Incidents of homicide by most serious charge and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Murder	61	43	41	27	19	7	10	4	212
Manslaughter	9	6	5	0	5	1	1	0	27
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Not stated/unknown	6	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	12
Total	76	51	46	30	26	8	11	4	252
2009–10									
Murder	59	55	45	18	19	5	8	1	210
Manslaughter	13	2	11	3	0	1	5	1	36
Infanticide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Not stated/unknown	4	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	9
Total	76	59	56	23	20	6	13	3	256

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table A3 Incidents of homicide by status at time of reporting and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Solved ^a	66	48	44	25	23	8	11	4	229
Not yet solved	11	3	2	5	3	0	0	0	24
Total	77	51	46	30	26	8	11	4	253
2009–10									
Solved ^a	68	55	52	22	19	5	12	2	235
Not yet solved	8	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	22
Total	76	59	56	23	21	6	13	3	257

a: Solved incidents include those for which an offender has been identified and charged, those in which the offender has suicided and incidents otherwise cleared, such as subsequent death of the offender, the death having been ruled not homicide

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table A4 Incidents of homicide by number of victims and offenders and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
One victim, one offender	60	41	34	26	20	5	10	2	198
One victim, multiple offenders	9	7	8	1	3	3	1	0	32
Multiple victims, one offender	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	5
Multiple victims, multiple offenders	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total ^a	72	48	44	27	24	8	11	4	238
2009–10									
One victim, one offender	52	46	50	15	17	3	10	1	194
One victim, multiple offenders	19	9	3	3	4	3	2	1	44
Multiple victims, one offender	3	3	3	4	0	0	0	1	14
Multiple victims, multiple offenders	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total ^a	75	59	56	22	21	6	13	3	255

a: Cases in which an offender has been identified. Excludes 12 cases in which an offender has not been identified or formally charged

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table A5 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Sexual assault	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other violent crime ^a	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Break and enter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Drug offences	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No precipitating crime	65	45	40	29	24	7	11	4	225
Unknown/not stated	5	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	13
Total	75	51	46	30	25	8	11	4	250
2009–10									
Sexual assault	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnapping/abduction	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	9
Other violent crime ^a	4	5	1	0	2	0	1	0	13
Arson	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Break and enter	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	7
Theft	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Drug offences	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	10
Other	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	5
No precipitating crime	45	37	46	15	11	2	10	1	167
Unknown/not stated	16	8	2	5	4	1	0	1	37
Total	76	59	56	23	21	6	13	3	257

a: Includes more than 1 victim

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Time of day									
Midnight to 6 am	17	16	14	7	9	3	1	3	70
6 am to noon	10	3	3	5	5	0	2	0	28
Noon to 6 pm	18	8	5	3	2	2	2	1	41
6 pm to midnight	21	19	22	10	5	3	3	2	85
Not stated/unknown	8	5	2	5	5	0	1	0	26
Day of week									
Sunday	18	18	8	4	3	1	3	0	55
Monday	7	7	1	6	5	2	2	1	31
Tuesday	9	3	4	1	4	1	0	1	23
Wednesday	5	7	7	1	5	1	0	1	27
Thursday	11	4	5	4	4	1	3	0	32
Friday	12	5	7	6	2	0	1	1	34
Saturday	13	7	13	7	1	2	2	0	45
Not stated	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	6
Month of year									
January	7	4	4	4	3	1	1	0	24
February	12	3	2	5	2	0	2	0	26
March	6	5	4	1	5	1	0	1	23
April	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7
May	10	5	8	4	0	0	1	0	28
June	2	6	0	1	2	2	1	0	14
July	3	5	4	3	3	0	1	1	20
August	4	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	12
September	5	8	5	2	0	1	1	2	24
October	8	4	5	4	3	0	1	0	25
November	5	4	3	3	3	0	3	0	21
December	10	7	6	0	3	1	0	0	27
Not stated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Table A6 (continued)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2009–10									
Time of day									
Midnight to 6 am	9	14	19	3	9	2	3	1	60
6 am to noon	11	12	12	0	1	0	3	0	39
Noon to 6 pm	14	9	6	0	4	0	1	0	34
6 pm to midnight	33	22	16	3	5	3	6	2	90
Not stated/unknown	9	1	3	17	2	1	0	0	33
Day of week									
Sunday	12	11	11	6	1	1	1	0	43
Monday	6	7	6	1	4	0	1	0	25
Tuesday	10	8	5	2	1	1	3	0	30
Wednesday	10	7	8	3	2	1	0	1	32
Thursday	7	7	9	2	2	0	2	0	29
Friday	17	5	4	3	5	1	4	0	39
Saturday	14	13	7	6	4	0	2	1	47
Not stated	0	1	6	0	2	2	1	0	12
Month of year									
January	5	8	4	4	1	2	2	0	26
February	6	3	3	5	1	1	3	0	22
March	5	4	7	0	1	0	0	1	18
April	6	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	16
May	7	6	7	4	1	0	1	2	28
June	7	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	14
July	7	8	3	1	2	0	1	0	22
August	4	4	8	2	5	1	0	0	24
September	6	5	4	0	1	1	0	0	17
October	7	3	7	0	3	1	0	0	21
November	8	7	3	3	3	0	1	0	25
December	8	3	7	1	2	0	2	0	23
Not stated	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table A7 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Residential	43	27	26	19	19	6	2	2	144
Street/open area	14	10	11	9	3	1	1	7	56
Other location ^a	16	12	8	2	2	1	2	1	44
Unknown/not stated	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
2009–10									
Residential	42	32	36	15	14	4	7	1	151
Street/open area	25	14	9	5	1	1	4	1	60
Other location ^a	9	12	10	1	4	1	2	1	40
Unknown/not stated	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	6

a: Includes shops, shopping malls, bank/credit unions/post offices, car parks/public garages/service stations, workplaces, other commercial premises, public transport and related facilities, places of entertainment and corrective/health institutions

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Appendix B: Homicide victims, 2008–10

Table B1 Number of homicide victims per incident by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
One victim	73	51	44	30	25	8	11	2	244
Two victims	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	9
Total incidents	77	51	46	30	26	8	11	4	253
Total victims	81	51	48	30	27	8	11	6	262
2009–10									
One victim	72	55	53	19	21	6	12	2	240
Two victims	3	3	3	4	0	0	1	0	14
Three victims	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Four or more victims	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total incidents	76	59	56	23	21	6	13	3	257
Total victims	83	64	59	27	21	6	14	5	279

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B2 Homicide victims by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	104	79	71	28	21	7	21	0	331
1990–91	134	77	59	23	25	5	28	0	351
1991–92	115	59	70	30	28	9	18	2	331
1992–93	125	62	79	39	30	7	17	1	360
1993–94	132	51	62	38	29	5	23	2	342
1994–95	95	79	61	47	31	5	20	4	342
1995–96	118	55	75	33	14	40	22	1	358
1996–97	108	56	81	24	24	6	18	2	319
1997–98	112	44	75	36	29	4	11	1	312
1998–99	117	56	68	35	38	7	18	2	341
1999–2000	113	63	75	44	26	9	7	3	340
2000–01	117	55	69	28	23	8	17	0	317
2001–02	111	86	79	35	33	10	24	2	381
2002–03	109	69	70	32	22	6	18	3 ^a	329
2003–04	85	73	63	38	28	3	12	3	305
2004–05	81	55	55	29	20	11	12	3 ^a	266
2005–06	89	73	60	33	22	3	16	5	301
2006–07	92	47	56	28	12	9	18	4	266
2007–08	98	44	57	30	18	5	18	3	273
2008–09	81	51	48	30	27	8	11	6	262
2009–10	83	64	59	27	21	6	14	5	279

a: Includes 1 victim on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table B3 Homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Number	58	37	32	20	19	7	5	4	182
Rate per 100,000	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.8	4.3	2.3	1.7
Female									
Number	23	14	16	10	8	1	6	2	80
Rate per 100,000	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.4	5.5	1.1	0.7
2009–10									
Male									
Number	52	46	36	16	14	6	10	4	184
Rate per 100,000	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.4	8.4	5.6	1.7
Female									
Number	31	18	23	11	7	0	4	1	95
Rate per 100,000	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.0	3.6	2.2	0.8

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B4 Homicide victims by age and jurisdiction, 2008–10

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Mean age	38.4	34.1	40.8	42.2	31.9	41.3	40.6	43	37.9
Median age	35	29	39	41.5	37	49	45	48	36
Female									
Mean age	45.4	38.5	40.4	32.7	41	27	38.8	39	40.3
Median age	40	40	36.5	30.5	40.5	27	38.5	39	38
Persons									
Mean age	40.3	35.3	40.6	39	34.6	39.5	39.8	41.7	38.6
Median age	37	30	38.5	36	39	40	41	45.5	36.5
2009–10									
Male									
Mean age	38.5	40.6	43.3	29.8	35.2	38	37.6	21.8	38.6
Median age	35	37.5	45.5	22	36.5	35.5	27	41.5	37
Female									
Mean age	36.9	36.7	37.5	37.9	47.9	0	51	29	38.3
Median age	36	38.5	41	35	44	0	37	29	37.5
Persons									
Mean age	37.9	39.5	41	33.1	39.4	38	40.7	23.2	38.5
Median age	35	38	42	26	39	35.5	39	28	37

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B5 Prior criminal history of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Prior criminal history	18	19	18	0	9	5	2	4	75
No prior history	16	11	12	1	9	1	3	0	53
Unknown/not stated	24	7	2	19	1	1	0	0	54
Female									
Prior criminal history	1	2	5	0	1	0	2	1	12
No prior history	15	11	10	0	7	1	1	4	49
Unknown/not stated	7	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	19
Persons									
Prior criminal history	19	21	23	0	10	5	4	5	87
No prior history	31	22	22	1	16	2	7	1	102
Unknown/not stated	31	8	3	29	1	1	0	0	73
2009–10									
Male									
Prior criminal history	5	20	18	1	8	3	6	2	63
No prior history	10	21	18	2	6	3	4	1	65
Unknown/not stated	37	5	0	13	0	0	0	1	56
Female									
Prior criminal history	2	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	10
No prior history	11	16	18	2	7	0	3	0	57
Unknown/not stated	18	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	28
Persons									
Prior criminal history	7	21	23	1	8	3	7	3	73
No prior history	21	37	36	4	13	3	7	1	122
Unknown/not stated	55	6	0	22	0	0	0	1	84

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B6 Employment status of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Employed ^a	28	18	16	5	5	4	2	5	83
Other	18	18	13	1	3	2	2	0	57
Unknown/not stated	12	1	3	14	11	1	0	0	42
Female									
Employed ^a	11	7	8	0	2	1	5	1	35
Other	10	5	5	0	5	0	0	1	26
Unknown/not stated	2	2	3	10	1	0	1	0	19
Persons									
Employed ^a	39	25	24	5	7	5	10	3	118
Other	28	23	18	1	8	2	0	3	83
Unknown/not stated	14	3	6	24	12	1	1	0	61
2009–10									
Male									
Employed ^a	14	22	17	3	7	3	3	2	71
Other	26	16	12	4	2	2	5	1	68
Unknown/not stated	12	8	7	9	5	1	2	1	45
Female									
Employed ^a	16	6	11	5	4	0	4	1	47
Other	11	8	5	2	2	0	0	0	28
Unknown/not stated	4	4	7	4	1	0	0	0	20
Persons									
Employed ^a	30	28	28	8	11	3	7	3	118
Other	37	24	17	6	4	2	5	1	96
Unknown/not stated	16	12	14	13	6	1	2	1	65

a: In full or part-time employment

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B7 Indigenous status of homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Indigenous	7	1	2	6	2	0	3	0	21
Non-Indigenous	44	35	30	14	17	7	2	4	153
Unknown/not stated	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Female									
Indigenous	1	0	4	5	0	0	6	0	16
Non-Indigenous	21	13	12	4	8	1	0	2	61
Unknown/not stated	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Persons									
Indigenous	8	1	6	11	2	0	9	0	37
Non-Indigenous	65	48	42	18	25	8	2	6	214
Unknown/not stated	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2009–10									
Male									
Indigenous	2	1	4	0	1	0	6	0	14
Non-Indigenous	47	40	32	14	13	5	4	4	159
Female									
Indigenous	3	0	1	3	0	0	3	0	10
Non-Indigenous	25	18	22	6	7	0	1	1	80
Persons									
Indigenous	5	1	5	3	1	0	9	0	24
Non-Indigenous	72	58	54	20	20	5	5	5	239
Unknown/not stated	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Source: ABS 2010, 2009; AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B8 Primary cause of death of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Gunshot	12	8	3	1	3	0	0	2	29
Stab wound	28	10	12	6	8	3	2	2	71
Beating	11	14	12	6	4	2	3	0	52
Strangulation/suffocation	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Other ^a	4	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	11
Unknown/not stated	3	2	2	7	1	1	0	0	16

Table B8 (continued)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
Female									
Gunshot	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	7
Stab wound	9	5	7	2	2	0	1	2	28
Beating	4	3	3	1	1	0	5	0	17
Strangulation/suffocation	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	9
Other ^a	5	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	10
Unknown/not stated	0	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	9
Persons									
Gunshot	14	8	4	2	6	0	0	2	36
Stab wound	37	15	19	8	10	3	3	4	99
Beating	15	17	15	7	5	2	8	0	69
Strangulation/suffocation	3	4	3	0	1	1	0	0	12
Other ^a	9	3	4	0	4	1	0	0	21
Unknown/not stated	3	4	3	13	1	1	0	0	25
2009–10									
Male									
Gunshot	12	8	3	0	1	1	0	2	27
Stab wound	16	20	12	8	7	4	6	0	73
Beating	16	12	17	1	1	1	2	0	50
Strangulation/suffocation	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	6
Other ^a	4	5	2	1	1	0	2	2	17
Unknown/not stated	2	1	0	6	2	0	0	0	11
Female									
Gunshot	1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	8
Stab wound	10	10	7	2	5	0	2	0	36
Beating	6	2	4	2	0	0	2	0	16
Strangulation/suffocation	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
Other ^a	8	1	4	2	1	0	0	1	17
Unknown/not stated	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	8
Persons									
Gunshot	13	11	6	0	2	1	0	2	35
Stab wound	26	30	19	10	12	4	8	0	109
Beating	22	14	21	3	1	1	4	0	66
Strangulation/suffocation	7	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	16
Other ^a	12	6	6	3	2	0	2	3	34
Unknown/not stated	3	1	2	11	2	0	0	0	19

a: Includes drug overdose, drowning/submersion, neglect, smoke inhalation/burns, shaking, pushed from a high place and other cause of death

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B9 Motives of homicide offenders by victim, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Revenge	7	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	19
Domestic ^a	4	4	0	3	2	1	0	0	14
Money/drugs	12	8	6	1	2	1	1	1	32
Alcohol-related argument	3	5	9	1	2	0	2	0	22
Other argument	8	10	8	3	4	0	0	2	35
Other motive ^b	10	10	16	5	10	2	6	0	59
No apparent motive ^c	10	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	23
2009–10									
Revenge	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	7
Domestic ^a	1	3	6	0	3	1	0	0	14
Money/drugs	7	11	7	2	3	1	0	0	31
Alcohol-related argument	11	2	7	0	2	0	1	0	23
Other argument	11	11	5	5	3	2	3	0	40
Other motive ^b	13	14	13	5	3	0	6	1	55
No apparent motive ^c	17	10	9	3	3	0	0	3	45

a: Includes jealousy, desertion/termination

b: Includes racial vilification, sexual vilification, political/sexual gratification

c: Includes unknown, not stated

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table B10 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Alcohol only	12	11	12	6	3	2	3	2	51
Drugs only	9	8	0	1	0	1	2	1	22
Alcohol and drugs	10	7	5	0	2	1	0	0	25
Unknown/not stated	27	11	15	13	14	3	0	1	84
Female									
Alcohol only	3	0	3	0	0	1	6	1	14
Drugs only	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Alcohol and drugs	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	6
Unknown/not stated	16	11	12	8	7	0	0	0	54
Persons									
Alcohol only	15	11	15	6	3	3	9	3	65
Drugs only	11	11	0	1	1	1	2	1	28
Alcohol and drugs	12	7	6	2	2	1	0	1	31
Unknown/not stated	43	22	27	21	21	3	0	1	138
2009–10									
Male									
Alcohol only	14	14	14	1	4	3	8	0	58
Drugs only	4	5	1	1	0	0	2	0	13
Alcohol and drugs	6	2	3	1	2	1	0	0	15
Unknown/not stated	28	25	18	13	8	2	2	2	98
Female									
Alcohol only	0	1	2	2	0	0	3	0	8
Drugs only	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Alcohol and drugs	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Unknown/not stated	26	16	19	8	7	0	1	0	77
Persons									
Alcohol only	14	15	16	3	4	3	11	0	66
Drugs only	5	6	2	1	0	0	0	3	17
Alcohol and drugs	10	2	4	2	2	1	0	0	21
Unknown/not stated	54	41	37	21	15	2	3	2	175

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Appendix C: Offender characteristics from NHMP findings

Table C1 Number of offenders involved in homicide incident by jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
One offender	62	40	32	25	21	5	10	4	199
Two offenders	7	5	6	1	3	2	1	0	25
Three offenders	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	5
Four or more offenders	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total incidents	72	47	42	26	24	8	11	4	234
Total offenders	93	56	62	27	27	12	12	4	293
2009–10									
One offender	55	49	53	19	17	3	10	2	208
Two offenders	6	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	15
Three offenders	4	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	11
Four or more offenders	3	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	10
Total incidents	68	58	55	22	20	5	13	3	244
Total offenders	92	77	59	27	28	8	23	4	318

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table C2 Homicide offenders^a by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	112	76	79	24	22	6	20	0	339
1990–91	116	74	60	22	24	5	45	0	346
1991–92	103	48	73	29	25	12	18	2	310
1992–93	118	64	92	35	37	7	18	2	373
1993–94	142	52	75	43	34	6	28	2	382
1994–95	101	82	75	61	30	6	25	4	384
1995–96	120	52	75	34	20	7	22	3	333
1996–97	117	63	88	25	39	3	18	5	358
1997–98	122	40	75	34	26	3	15	2	317
1998–99	109	56	73	40	64	11	3	18	374
1999–2000	109	55	69	37	28	13	7	4	322
2000–01	119	61	65	32	25	10	25	0	337
2001–02	104	79	82	38	42	9	25	2 ^b	381
2002–03	105	63	79	38	22	7	17	3	334
2003–04	89	76	67	37	40	5	18	2	334
2004–05	80	65	64	27	26	15	13	2 ^c	292
2005–06	113	70	62	32	23	3	28	7	338
2006–07	103	52	59	28	18	8	22	4	294
2007–08	97	49	64	37	31	5	22	3	308
2008–09	93	56	62	27	27	12	12	4	293
2009–10	92	77	59	27	28	8	23	4	318

a: Known offenders

b: Includes 1 offender on Norfolk Island

c: Includes 1 offender on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Table C3 Homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^a	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Number	84	53	58	24	23	11	11	2	266
Rate per 100,000	2.4	2.0	2.6	2.1	2.9	4.4	9.4	1.1	2.4
Female									
Number	8	3	4	3	3	1	1	2	25
Rate per 100,000	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.2
2009–10									
Male									
Number	76	64	54	23	22	8	22	3	272
Rate per 100,000	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.7	3.2	18.5	1.7	2.5
Female									
Number	16	13	5	4	6	0	1	1	46
Rate per 100,000	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.4

a: Excludes 1 offenders whose sex was not recorded

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–2010 [computer file]

Table C4 Homicide offenders by age and jurisdiction, 2008–10

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Mean age	33	32.3	30.1	34.3	38.3	28.2	35.9	27	32.6
Median age	27.5	30	28	32	38	23	35.5	27	29
Female									
Mean age	39.1	46	31	42	32.3	37	0	26	36.7
Median age	41.5	51	29.5	42	35	37	0	26	37
Persons									
Mean age	33.5	34	30.1	31.4	34.9	28.9	35.9	26.5	32.9
Median age	28	32.5	28	34	37	23.5	35.5	27	30
2009–10									
Male									
Mean age	32.7	34.5	34.3	30.2	30.5	25.6	31.5	28	32.7
Median age	28	30	30.5	28	29	24	25	24	29
Female									
Mean age	40.9	35.6	38.8	37.8	40	0	31	37	38.3
Median age	35.5	33	38	37	41	0	31	37	38
Persons									
Mean age	34	34.7	34.7	31.4	32.2	25.6	31.5	30.25	33.5
Median age	29	30	31	29.5	35	24	27.5	30.5	30

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table C5 Prior criminal history of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Prior criminal history	29	29	27	4	20	10	7	1	127
No prior history	16	18	27	0	3	1	4	1	70
Unknown/not stated	39	6	4	20	0	0	0	0	69
Female									
Prior criminal history	4	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	12
No prior history	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	10
Unknown/not stated	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Persons									
Prior criminal history	34	30	29	4	21	11	8	3	140
No prior history	20	20	29	0	5	1	4	1	80
Unknown/not stated	39	6	4	23	1	0	0	0	73
2009–10									
Male									
Prior criminal history	13	36	37	1	17	8	16	3	131
No prior history	9	20	17	0	5	0	5	0	56
Unknown/not stated	54	8	0	22	0	0	1	0	85
Female									
Prior criminal history	2	4	2	0	2	0	1	1	12
No prior history	0	6	3	1	4	0	0	0	14
Unknown/not stated	14	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	20
Persons									
Prior criminal history	15	40	39	1	19	8	17	4	143
No prior history	9	26	20	1	9	0	5	0	70
Unknown/not stated	68	11	0	25	0	0	1	0	105

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table C6 Employment status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Employed ^a	17	17	22	2	4	0	1	1	64
Other	33	32	27	3	15	11	9	1	131
Unknown/ not stated	33	4	7	17	2	0	1	0	64
Female									
Employed ^a	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Other	5	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	18
Unknown/not stated	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Persons									
Employed ^a	19	18	22	2	5	0	1	2	69
Other	39	34	31	5	17	12	10	2	150
Unknown/not stated	34	4	7	18	2	0	1	0	66
2009–10									
Male									
Employed ^a	17	25	19	1	7	3	6	1	79
Other	11	32	27	4	15	5	10	2	106
Unknown/not stated	47	5	7	18	0	0	6	0	83
Female									
Employed ^a	1	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	8
Other	5	9	2	0	4	0	1	0	21
Unknown/not stated	10	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	16
Persons									
Employed ^a	18	29	20	1	8	3	6	2	87
Other	16	41	29	4	19	5	11	2	127
Unknown/not stated	57	5	8	22	1	0	6	0	99

a: In full or part-time employment

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table C7 Indigenous status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Indigenous	6	0	8	5	5	1	8	0	33
Non-Indigenous	78	53	50	19	18	10	3	2	233
Female									
Indigenous	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	8
Non-Indigenous	6	2	4	0	3	1	0	1	17
Persons									
Indigenous	8	1	8	8	5	1	9	1	41
Non-Indigenous	84	55	54	19	21	11	3	3	250
Unknown/not stated	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
2009–10									
Male									
Indigenous	2	1	10	3	6	1	13	0	36
Non-Indigenous	74	63	44	20	16	7	9	3	236
Female									
Indigenous	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
Non-Indigenous	16	13	2	4	6	0	0	1	42
Persons									
Indigenous	2	1	13	3	6	1	14	0	40
Non-Indigenous	90	76	46	24	22	7	9	4	278

Source: ABS 2010, 2009; AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

Table C8 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–10 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2008–09									
Male									
Alcohol only	13	18	16	7	11	1	1	1	68
Drugs only	7	5	1	0	2	2	0	1	18
Alcohol and drugs	4	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	23
None	17	15	17	7	6	6	0	0	68
Unknown/not stated	43	8	18	6	2	2	0	0	79
Female									
Alcohol only	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	7
Drugs only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcohol and drugs	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
None	4	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	10
Unknown/not stated	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
Persons									
Alcohol only	14	19	17	9	11	1	8	2	81
Drugs only	7	5	1	0	2	2	1	1	19
Alcohol and drugs	6	7	6	4	2	7	1	1	34
None	21	17	18	8	8	2	1	0	75
Unknown/not stated	45	8	20	6	4	0	1	0	84
2009–10									
Male									
Alcohol only	14	25	16	3	6	4	16	2	86
Drugs only	7	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	15
Alcohol and drugs	2	4	5	2	0	3	2	0	18
None	5	15	19	1	1	1	1	0	43
Unknown/not stated	48	17	11	17	13	0	3	1	110
Female									
Alcohol only	2	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	9
Drugs only	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	5
Alcohol and drugs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
None	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
Unknown/not stated	13	5	2	2	1	0	0	1	24
Persons									
Alcohol only	16	28	18	3	7	4	17	2	95
Drugs only	8	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	20
Alcohol and drugs	2	5	5	2	0	3	2	0	19
None	5	18	19	3	3	1	1	0	50
Unknown/not stated	61	22	13	19	14	0	3	2	134

Source: AIC NHMP 2008–10 [computer file]

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