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Australian Institute of Criminology

Deaths in Custody in Australia: 2003 National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) Annual Report

Marissa McCall

Technical and Background Paper

No. 12

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From the Director of the AIC

The National deaths in custody program (NDICP) has been responsible for monitoring the extent and nature of deaths in police, prison and juvenile custody since 1980.

The Australian Institute of Criminology has coordinated the NDICP since its establishment in 1992. The NDICP provides an important role in monitoring, research and dissemination of information on deaths in custody.

The current report presents detailed information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories during the 2003 calendar year. The report also provides comparisons by jurisdiction. The total number of deaths in police and prison custody in 2003 was 68. The majority of deaths occurred in prison custody (n=39), with 29 occurring in police custody. Indigenous deaths accounted for 25 per cent (n=17) of the overall number in 2003. There were no deaths in juvenile detention in Australia during 2003.

In comparison to 2002, the total number of custodial deaths was similar. The number of deaths in police custody decreased from 33 in 2002 to 29 in 2003. Deaths in prison custody also declined from 50 deaths in 2002 to 39 deaths in 2003. In particular, Victoria recorded the lowest number of prison custody deaths (n=1) since the NDICP began recording deaths in custody in 1980. The proportion of deaths of unsentenced prisoners (36%) was higher than the proportion of the total number of unsentenced persons in prison (ABS 2004b).

The leading cause of death in police custody was due to accidents, accounting for 42 per cent of deaths (n=11). The leading cause of death in prison custody was death due to natural causes, accounting for 44 per cent of all prison deaths. Furthermore, this is the first time since the NDICP's inception, that there have been no accident-related deaths in prison.

Toni Makkai
Director
Australian Institute of Criminology

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Abbreviations

AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
NCIS	National coroners information system
NDICP	National deaths in custody program
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

Disclaimer

This research paper does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Commonwealth Government.

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NDICP: 2003 Summary

Background and function of NDICP

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) recommended in their Final report (1991) that an on-going program was required to monitor Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention.

It was also recommended that the program perform the following functions:

- maintain a statistical database relating to deaths in custody of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons;
- report annually to the Commonwealth Parliament; and
- negotiate with all custodial agencies with a view to formulating a nationally agreed standard form of statistical input and a standard definition of deaths in custody.

In response, the National deaths in custody program (NDICP) was then established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive, timely and authoritative data on all deaths which occur in custody and custody-related police operations. Although the NDICP began recording information in 1992, data on all custodial deaths between 1980 and 1992 were collected retrospectively, placing the NDICP in the unique position of holding detailed information on custodial deaths in Australia that spans 24 years.

The NDICP examines the circumstances of deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention around Australia on an ongoing basis. The purpose of monitoring deaths in custody is to provide accurate, up-to-date information that will contribute to public policy discussion in this important area, and to increase public understanding of the issues. It also allows for the monitoring of long-term trends and patterns in police custody and custody-related operations.

The final report of the RCIADIC outlined the types of deaths that would require notification to the NDICP (Recommendation 41). They are:

- a death, wherever occurring, of a person who is in prison custody, police custody or detention as a juvenile;
- a death, wherever occurring, of a person whose death is caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries sustained, or by lack of proper care whilst in such custody or detention;
- a death, wherever occurring, of a person who dies, or is fatally injured, in the process of police or prison officers attempting to detain that person; or
- a death, wherever occurring, of a person attempting to escape from prison, police custody or juvenile detention (RCIADIC 1991: 190).

Methodology

The information held in the NDICP database is based on three main data sources:

- NDICP data collection forms completed by all state and territory police services and correctional departments in Australia and sent to the AIC directly whenever a death occurs (including additional information such as offence records and police narratives);
- state coronial records, such as transcripts of proceedings and findings, as well as toxicology and post-mortem reports; and

-
- information gleaned from national press clippings tailored to the NDICP requirements and provided on a daily basis by the AIC Information services section.

NDICP data collection forms allow information to be recorded on approximately 60 variables relating to the circumstances and characteristics of each death. Australian state and territory police and correction authorities provide completed data collection reports, and all relevant information is then extracted and entered into the NDICP database.

Coronial data used in the NDICP data collection process (including coronial rulings and findings, and toxicology and pathology reports) are accessed through the National coroners information system (NCIS). NCIS has recently been developed and is managed by Monash University's National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI). The AIC submitted an ethics application to MUNCCI in order to obtain access to the NCIS for the NDICP. The AIC was granted access to the NCIS in July 2001 on a fee for service basis. In certain jurisdictions data will no longer be available from coroners on an individual basis. All states now provide information to NCIS, however, Queensland and Western Australia do not provide the findings of the coronial inquest on NCIS. In these jurisdictions, coronial data is obtained by liaising directly with the contact in that area upon completion of the inquest on a case-by-case basis.

The current data set of the NDICP covers a 24-year period, from 1980 to 2003. The data set contains details relating to 1,691 individual custodial deaths that include:

- 617 deaths in police custody (and custody-related police operations);
- 1,058 deaths in prison custody; and
- 16 juvenile detention and juvenile welfare deaths.

The majority of deaths recorded in the NDICP are of non-Indigenous persons (n=1,365), with Indigenous persons accounting for approximately 19 per cent of all custodial deaths (n=326).

Early in 2004, four new variables were added to the database. These new variables measure hanging points, materials used for hanging, prevalence of a mental illness and type of mental illness. Thus far, the four variables have been added **only** for deaths that occurred between 1996 and 2003. Out of the 707 deaths that occurred in custody between 1996 and 2003:

- 123 people were determined by the coroner to have a mental illness;
- 102 people were determined to have no mental illness; and
- 482 cases made no reference in the coronial records of any mental illness.

This means that of the 225 deaths in which mental illness was specifically mentioned, 55 per cent were classified as mentally ill. The most common types of mental illness were depression (31%) and schizophrenia (14%).

For deaths caused by hanging (n=217) the most common hanging points were from bars in the cell (such as cell window bars, or bars above the cell door) (32%), or from other fittings in the cell (such as ventilation grille, light fittings, door handles) (32%). Half of hanging deaths (111 out of 217 deaths) occurred with bedding material (such as sheets or blankets).

Definitions

Death in prison custody

Deaths in prison custody include those deaths that occur in prison or juvenile detention facilities. This also includes the deaths that occur during transfer to or from prison or juvenile detention centres, or in medical facilities following transfer from adult and juvenile detention centres (RCIADIC 1991: 189–90).

Death in police custody

Deaths in police custody are divided into two main categories¹:

Category 1

- (a) Deaths in institutional settings (for example, police stations or lockups, police vehicles, during transfer to or from such an institution, or in hospitals, following transfer from an institution).
- (b) Other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased. This would include most raids and shootings by police. However, it would not include most sieges where a perimeter was established around a premise but officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour.

Category 2

Other deaths during custody-related police operations. This would cover situations where officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour. It would include most sieges, as described above, and most cases where officers were attempting to detain a person, for example, during a pursuit.

Borderline cases

The NDICP uses the definition of a 'death in custody' as recommended by the RCIADIC as a guide as to which cases should or should not be included in the NDICP database. While most of the cases are clear-cut and fall within the definition, every year there are some where it is not clear whether the death should be classified as a death in custody. During 2001 the NDICP Review Committee was formed as an internal review body to examine those cases where such uncertainty exists. During 2003, a decision was made by the Review Committee to instead exclude all the 'borderline' cases from analysis pending their coronial outcome.

This decision may result in a delay of up to several years regarding those particular 'borderline' cases, as they may not be heard in their jurisdiction's coroner's court for months or years. Despite this drawback, it is felt that the decision will benefit the integrity and reliability of the NDICP over the longer term as the coronial decision will be an experienced legal determination based on all evidence available. It is hoped that this method will also provide a measure of *consistency* between jurisdictions, and authority to the decision resulting in less *divergence* of opinion between the jurisdictions and the NDICP.²

¹ This definition of a 'death in police custody' is based on a resolution of the Australasian Police Ministers Council made in 1994. Category 1(a) deaths have been included in the NDICP since 1980, whereas police operational deaths (Category 1(b) and Category 2 deaths) have only been collected by the NDICP since 1990.

² It is important to note that this may affect the total overall numbers slightly for 2003 figures, causing a slight decline in the total figure. However this situation will correct itself over time as cases go to a coronial inquiry, and where appropriate the case will be retrospectively included in the database, adjusting the total figure for a particular year with each subsequent annual report.

What type of cases are borderline cases?

For the purposes of the NDICP a person is considered to be 'in custody' when they are not free to leave the detention or arrest of police or corrections officials. As outlined on page 14, this also includes deaths that occur in a hospital if the injuries or illness suffered while in custody caused or contributed to that death. In cases where police were clearly in the process of detaining or attempting to detain a person immediately prior to death, such as shootings, sieges, raids and pursuits, the person is considered to have been 'in custody' at the time of death.

In all of these cases the difficult question centres around whether the deceased was 'in custody' at the time of death. Below are some brief examples to illustrate situations where borderline cases may arise and therefore be excluded pending a coronial inquiry.

- Police engage in a pursuit after observing a car that has been reported as stolen. The police attempt to make the driver pull over, however the driver speeds away from police. When speeds reach dangerous levels police call off the pursuit. The police are still following behind the stolen vehicle and it is still in sight when the driver loses control and is fatally injured in the resulting car accident.
- Police pursue a driver who is behaving erratically and driving in a dangerous manner. The police want to question the individual and will arrest the driver if he/she is intoxicated. The police pursue the car in an attempt to make the driver pull over, the driver speeds away from police and the pursuit continues. The police lose sight of the vehicle temporarily. A short time later the police come across the vehicle that has veered off the road and into a power pole, to find the driver dead at the scene.

A total of seven cases were considered by the Review Committee as borderline. Six of the borderline deaths were custody-related police operations, and one death was prison custody-related. All seven borderline cases are excluded from the following analysis. This is because a decision regarding their inclusion or exclusion from the NDICP database has been deferred pending future determinations by a coroner in each case.

Cases added to NDICP since last annual report

Overall, a further 25 cases have been added retrospectively to the NDICP since the 2002 annual report due to coronial inquiry outcomes (Table 1). Of these cases, 22 are non-Indigenous and three are Indigenous. An additional 16 deaths in custody were determined to have occurred in 2002, bringing the total number of cases reported in the 2002 annual report to 85.

Table 1: Deaths added to the NDICP in 2003

Year	Custodial Authority	State	Indigenous Status	Cause of death
1998	Police	Queensland	Non-Indigenous	Hanging
	Police	Western Australia	Non-Indigenous	Electrocution
1999	Police	South Australia	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
2000	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
2001	Prison	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Hanging
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
2002	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	South Australia	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Siege
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Suicide
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Electrocution
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Victoria	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
Police	Queensland	Non-Indigenous	Police shooting	
Police	Northern Territory	Indigenous	Natural causes	
Police	Northern Territory	Indigenous	Drowning	
Police	Northern Territory	Indigenous	Police shooting	

**Australian deaths in custody 2003:
summary of findings**

What follows is a summary of findings relating to deaths in custody in 2003 (calendar year) for all custodial deaths, deaths in prison custody and deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, with particular regard to demographic factors and the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The deaths reported hereafter refer to those clearly defined as a death in custody.

All custodial deaths

In 2003, a total of 68 deaths occurred in police and prison custody in Australia. This figure represents a decline from the 85 deaths recorded during 2002 and is the lowest overall figure recorded since 1992 (Table 2 and Figure 1).³ Findings were that:

- Australia's most populous jurisdiction, New South Wales, recorded the highest number of custodial deaths with a total of 23, however this is the lowest number recorded in this state since 1991 (Figure 2);
- Queensland recorded 19 deaths, followed by Western Australia with a total of 13 deaths;
- there were six custodial deaths in South Australia and two in the Northern Territory; and
- Victoria recorded five deaths in 2003, the lowest since the NDICP began recording deaths in custody. There were no deaths recorded in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory during this period.

Demographics

- Twenty-five per cent of all custody deaths during 2003 involved Indigenous persons (n=17) (Figure 3).
- The vast majority were male deaths (n=63) (Figure 4). There were five female deaths in custody during 2003.
- During 2003, the mean age of persons who died in custody was 38 years (Table 3). The mean age for Indigenous persons was 32 years and 40 years for non-Indigenous persons.
- For Indigenous persons, the most common age group to die in custody were persons less than 25 years (eight out of 17 deaths) (Table 4). The most common age group that died in custody for non-Indigenous persons was 25 to 39 years (22 out of 51 deaths).
- In seven deaths in 2003 the person was diagnosed as having a mental illness, with three of these related to depression.

Circumstances surrounding the deaths

The NDICP collects information on both the cause and the manner of each death. 'Cause of death' information relates to the direct cause of death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. 'Manner of death' is a related variable, however, it refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. Therefore in some cases cause and manner will correspond, for example, where a person dies as a result of natural causes their death will be recorded as 'natural causes' for both cause and manner of death. In other cases, cause and manner of death will differ, for example, where a person dies after being shot by police, the cause of

³ Note this figure may be adjusted upward pending coronial outcomes.

death will be recorded as 'gunshot wound', and manner of death will be recorded as 'homicide' (either justifiable or unlawful).

Cause of death

- Deaths due to hanging (23 out of 67 deaths) and natural causes (21 out of 67 deaths) were the most common in custodial settings during 2003 (Table 5).
- For Indigenous persons, the most common cause of death was natural causes (seven out of 17 deaths), followed by hanging (five out of 17 deaths).
- For non-Indigenous persons, the most common cause of death was hanging (18 out of 50 deaths), followed by natural causes (14 out of 50 deaths).
- Persons who died from hanging were most likely to use a fitting in the cell other than the cell bars (10 out of 23 deaths), followed by cell bars (eight out of 23 deaths). Bedding material was the object most likely to be used for hanging deaths (nine out of 23 deaths).

Manner of death

When the manner of death is classified as an 'accident', this includes deaths that result from toxicity of drugs and/or alcohol, head injuries, burn injuries, drowning, and fatal injuries following a motor vehicle accident. It also includes hangings where the coroner has found the incident to be accidental. It is important to note that some alcohol and drug-related deaths are classified as accidental deaths unless the coroner has clearly stated that the death was intentional and therefore self-inflicted. 'Self-inflicted' cases include all deaths where the manner or responsibility of death is considered self-inflicted rather than accidental. For example, most hangings, self-inflicted gunshot wounds and deaths due to drug or alcohol toxicity would be classified as self-inflicted.

- Consistent with previous years, self-inflicted deaths accounted for the majority of all custodial deaths in 2003 (Table 6). Twenty-three of the 49 non-Indigenous deaths and six of the 17 Indigenous deaths were self-inflicted.
- Deaths due to natural causes were the second most common manner in which people died in custody during 2003 – seven out of 17. Indigenous deaths and 14 (out of 49) of the non-Indigenous deaths were a result of natural causes.

Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence leading to custody. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian national offence classification scheme is used to group offences into six categories: violent, theft-related, good order, drug-related, traffic, other/unknown. For the purposes of the NDICP:

- 'violent offence' includes homicide, assault, sex offences, other offences against the person, and robbery;
- 'theft-related offence' includes break and enter, other theft, property damage, and fraud;
- 'good order offence' includes public drunkenness, protective custody for intoxication in jurisdictions where public drunkenness is not an offence, justice procedure offences, breaches of sentences

(including fine default) and other offences against good order (for example, prostitution, betting and gambling, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, offensive behaviour);

- ‘drug-related offence’ includes possession, usage, dealing, trafficking, and manufacture/growth of drugs;
- ‘traffic offence’ includes road traffic, driving and licence offences; and
- ‘other/unknown’ includes other offences not elsewhere classified or where most serious offence is unknown.

As in previous years, the majority of people who died in custody in 2003 were being detained immediately prior to their death for primarily violent offences (Table 7). For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, approximately half were in custody for violent offences.

Location of death

- The highest proportion of custodial deaths in 2003 occurred in a cell (31 out of 68 deaths) followed by a public place (16 out of 68 deaths) or hospital (13 out of 68 deaths) (Table 8).
- Indigenous deaths (10 out of 17 deaths) were more likely to occur in either a prison or police cell in 2003, whereas in 2002 there were no Indigenous deaths that occurred in a police or prison cell.

Deaths in prison custody

There were 39 deaths in Australian prison custody during 2003 (see Table 9) – down from the 50 prison deaths recorded during 2002 and the lowest total number of prison deaths since 1992.

- A large proportion of deaths occurred in the jurisdictions where the majority of Australia’s prisoners are located – New South Wales recorded 15 deaths, Queensland 12 and Western Australia six deaths (Figure 5). Victoria recorded the lowest number of prison deaths (n=1) since the inception of the NDICP.
- Ten deaths in prison custody were of Indigenous persons (26%) (Figure 6).
- There were no deaths recorded in juvenile detention in Australia during 2003.

Comparisons with the overall prison population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), there were 23,555 prisoners in Australia in 2003, and of these, 4,818 were Indigenous (20%) (ABS 2004a). In comparison, there were 10 Indigenous deaths in prison in 2003, representing 26 per cent of all deaths in prison custody. The rate of Indigenous deaths in prison custody in 2003 was 2.1 per 1,000 Indigenous prisoners while the rate of non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody was 1.6 per 1,000 non-Indigenous prisoners. Of the jurisdictions, Queensland recorded the highest rate of Indigenous prison deaths (4.2 deaths per 1,000 prisoners) followed by South Australia (4.1 deaths per 1,000 prisoners) (Figure 6). Figure 7 shows that rates of Indigenous deaths in prison custody peaked in 1995 and that rates of prison deaths have been declining since 2000.

The ABS figures on prisoners in Australia also show that in 2003, 79 per cent of all prisoners were serving a sentence, while the remaining 21 per cent were unsentenced prisoners on remand (ABS 2004a). Of the 39 prison deaths in Australia during 2003, 25 involved sentenced prisoners, while 14 deceased persons were unsentenced or prisoners on remand, indicating a higher rate of death for

those unsentenced prisoners (Table 10). Approximately one third of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners were unsentenced prisoners on remand.

Demographics

- The majority of deaths in prison custody were male (37 out of 39 deaths) (Figure 8).
- Of the 39 deaths that occurred in prison during 2003, the youngest person who died was aged 18 years and the oldest person was aged 76 years (the mean age for prison custody deaths was 42 years).
- Consistent with previous years, non-Indigenous persons who died in prison were older than their Indigenous counterparts (a mean age of 45 years versus a mean age of 33 years) (Table 11).
- Indigenous persons who died in prison in 2003 were more likely to be aged under 25 years (five out of 10 deaths), whereas non-Indigenous persons were more likely to be aged between 40 and 54 years (Table 12).
- Four persons who died in prison custody were diagnosed as having a mental illness.

Circumstances surrounding the death

Cause of death

- Approximately half of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths were due to hanging while the other half were due to natural causes (Table 13).
- Of the 18 hanging deaths in prison custody, eight persons used bedding materials such as sheets or blankets to hang with. The most common hanging point was a fitting in the cell other than the cell bars, such as a light fitting (n=9).
- There were no prisoners who died as a result of acute alcohol or drug toxicity in prison custody in 2003, the first such result recorded by the NDICP.

Manner of death

- Half of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths were self-inflicted and half were due to natural causes (Table 14).
- In 2003, there were no deaths in prison as a result of an accident, the first year since 1981.

Most serious offence

The majority of Australian prisoners who died during 2003 were incarcerated for violent offences (for example homicide, assault and sex offences) (28 out of 39 deaths) (Table 15). Both non-Indigenous (n=20) and Indigenous (n=8) persons were most often incarcerated for violent offences.

Location of death

- A total of 25 deaths (out of 39) in 2003 occurred in a prison cell (Table 16). Eighteen of these cell deaths were non-Indigenous persons and seven were Indigenous persons.
- Seven out of 39 deaths occurred in a public hospital.
- In terms of the type of prison where the death occurred, 37 out of 39 occurred in government run prisons (Figure 9).

Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations

A total of 29 deaths occurred in Australian police custody and custody-related police operations in 2003, down from a total of 35 deaths recorded in 2002 (Table 17).

- New South Wales recorded eight deaths, followed by Queensland and Western Australia with seven each (Figure 10).
- Both Western Australia and Queensland recorded the highest number of police custody and custody-related police operations deaths since 1991.

Category 1 and Category 2 deaths

During 2003, 19 of the 29 police deaths were classified as Category 2 deaths; that is, deaths in custody-related police operations such as deaths following sieges and motor-vehicle pursuits (Figures 11 and 12). The remaining ten deaths comprised Category 1 deaths, which occur during closer police contact with the victim, such as shootings, raids and deaths that occur in police stations (refer to page 10 for definition of Category 1 and Category 2 deaths). It can be seen from Figure 11 that while Category 1 deaths were more frequent than Category 2 deaths in 1990 and 1991, Category 2 deaths have been more frequent than Category 1 deaths since 2000.

Comparisons with the general population

Unlike deaths in prison (where the total numbers of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in prison are known and can be used in the calculation of rates), there are currently no available data on the total numbers of people involved in police custody or custody-related police operations against which rates of death in police custody and related operations can be measured.⁴ For this reason rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations will be calculated based on the total Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations across Australia. Figure 13 shows that, per relevant population, the rate of Indigenous deaths in police custody in 2003 was 1.9 per 100,000 population and the rate of non-Indigenous deaths was 0.1 per 100,000 population. Figure 13 also shows that, since 1990, the rate of Indigenous deaths per relevant population has been consistently higher than the rate of non-Indigenous deaths.

⁴ Findings from the 2002 National police custody survey are expected to be published shortly and these will be able to be used in the 2004 National deaths in custody report for purposes of calculating rates of deaths in police custody.

Demographics

- In 2003, there were seven Indigenous and 22 non-Indigenous persons who died in police custody or custody-related operations (Figure 14).
- Twenty-six of all police deaths in 2003 were male and three were female (Figure 15).
- The average age of Indigenous deaths in police custody was 30 years, while for non-Indigenous persons the mean age at time of death was 33 years (Table 18).
- Persons who died in police custody were younger on average than those who died in prison custody – the mean age of death for prison custody deaths was 42 years, while the mean age of death for police related deaths was 33 years.
- For just under half of the deaths in police custody, persons were aged between 25 and 39 years. Twelve (out of 22) non-Indigenous persons who died in 2003 police custody were aged between 25 and 39 years. In three (out of seven) Indigenous deaths in police custody the persons were aged less than 25 years and three were aged between 40 and 54 years (Table 19).
- Three deaths occurred in police custody, where the person was diagnosed as having a mental illness.

Circumstances surrounding the deaths

Cause of death

Analysis of the cause of death in police custody in 2003 shows that:

- just under half of all deaths resulted from external and/or multiple trauma injuries (Table 20). This type of injury was the most common cause of death for both non-Indigenous (seven out of 21 deaths) and Indigenous persons (five out of seven deaths);
- the next most common cause of death was due to gunshot wounds (six deaths out of 28), and this cause of death only occurred for non-Indigenous persons;
- there were five deaths caused by hanging in 2003, however none of these deaths were Indigenous persons; and
- of the five police custody hanging deaths, none involved the use of cell bars as a hanging point. Articles of clothing such as shoelaces, belts or bedding material were the types of objects used to hang with.

Manner of death

- In terms of manner of death in police custody, the majority of cases were either accidental (11 out of 27 deaths) or self-inflicted deaths (nine out of 27 deaths) (Table 21).
- Accidental death accounted for four out of seven Indigenous deaths and seven out of 20 non-Indigenous deaths, while self-inflicted deaths accounted for eight out of 20 non-Indigenous deaths.
- There were three non-Indigenous deaths during 2003 where the deceased died after being shot by police (classified as justifiable homicides).

Most serious offence

In the majority of cases, the most serious offence committed by the deceased immediately prior to the final period of custody was a violent offence (eight out of 29 deaths) followed by theft and traffic offences (seven deaths each). Three out of seven Indigenous persons were in police custody for theft offences (Table 22).

Location of death

In 2003, a public place (16 out of 29 deaths) was the most common location of police custody and custody-related operations deaths (Table 23). Of these deaths, 13 were non-Indigenous persons, and three were Indigenous persons. Three of the seven Indigenous deaths occurred in a police cell and one Indigenous death occurred in a public hospital.

Circumstances of death

The NDICP also examines the circumstances of the custodial period, that is, why was the deceased considered to be 'in custody' at the time of death. Overall, 21 of the 29 police custody deaths occurred while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, the individual (Table 24). Of these 21 deaths, eight involved motor vehicle pursuits, five involved shooting incidents and five deaths occurred during a siege situation (Table 25).

Data usage

The monitoring of the circumstances of all deaths in prison and police custody (and custody-related police operations) and deaths in juvenile detention in Australia has the potential to impact on the formation of policy in several key areas, including the correctional management of women prisoners, Indigenous prisoners and prisoners from different cultural backgrounds, and police operational practices.

The provision of timely and accurate information is essential in assisting stakeholders to identify shifts in 'at risk' populations and to monitor the effects of changes in policy and operational standards. For example, the findings of the NDICP may impact on procedures for holding persons in custody. The data may also help to identify the type of persons who are at most risk of suicide or other types of deaths whilst in custody, and the circumstances and environmental factors that may contribute to such deaths. The most important function of the NDICP is to provide an annual report in order to communicate information gathered on custodial deaths to its key stakeholders (police and corrections authorities), other government organisations, non-government organisations and the general public. During the eleven years since the program was established at the AIC there have been many additional requests for data. Some examples of data usage follow.

Examples of agencies and organisations that have requested data

Police services in all Australian states and territories
Correctional Services Departments in all Australian states and territories
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
Australian Federal Police
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission
Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs
United States Mission to Australia
Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Secretariat
United Nations
National Police Research Unit
The Australian Broadcasting Corporation
The Productivity Commission
New Zealand Department of Corrections

Selected Published Material

(see <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/dic/index.html>)

Biles D & Dalton V 2001. Deaths in private prisons and public prisons in Australia: a comparative analysis. *Australian and New Zealand journal of criminology* 34(3): 293–301

Biles D & Dalton V 1999. Deaths in private prisons 1990–99: A comparative study. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 120 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Biles D, Harding R & Walker J 1999. The deaths of offenders serving community corrections orders. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice*, no 107 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Collins L 2002. *Deaths in custody in Australia – 2001 annual report*. Research and public policy series no 42 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Collins L & Ali M 2003. *Deaths in custody in Australia – 2002 annual report*. Research and public policy series no 50 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Collins L & Mouzos J 2002. Deaths in custody: a gender specific analysis. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 238 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Collins L & Mouzos J 2001. Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations 2000. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 217 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 2000. Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations 1999. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 153 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1999. Prison homicide in Australia: 1980 to 1998. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 103 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1999. Suicide in prison 1980 to 1998: national overview. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 126 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1999. Aboriginal deaths in prison 1980 to 1998: national overview. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 131 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1998. Prison deaths 1980–97: national overview and state trends. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 81 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1998. Police shootings 1990 to 1997. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 89 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1998. Deaths in police custody - self-inflicted firearms deaths. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 94 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Williams P 2001. Deaths in custody: 10 years on from the royal commission. *Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice* no 203 Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Presentations

Collins L 2001. Monitoring Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in custody. Best practice interventions in corrections for Indigenous people, Sydney: Australian Institute of Criminology and New South Wales Department of Corrective Services

Dalton V 1999. Australian deaths in custody: 1980–1998. 3rd National outlook symposium on crime in Australia: mapping the boundaries of Australia's criminal justice system, Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology

Dalton V 1999. Prison homicide in Australia: national overview 1980–1998. Minimising the harm: health in prisons, public health association conference, Sydney

McCall M 2004. Deaths in custody: analysis of deaths in police watchhouses 1980–2003. Queensland Police watchhouse managers conference, Brisbane: Queensland Police

Putt J & McCall M 2003. Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in custody in Australia. Justice summit of national Indigenous community controlled organisations, Canberra

Methodological Note

Where rates are presented in the tables that follow, they have been calculated using the annual Prisoners in Australia results of the National prisoner census (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004).

Some column percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding errors.

Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are not included in any of the following tables (excluding trend figures) as there were no recorded deaths in custody in those jurisdictions during 2003.

2003 NDICP findings

All custodial deaths

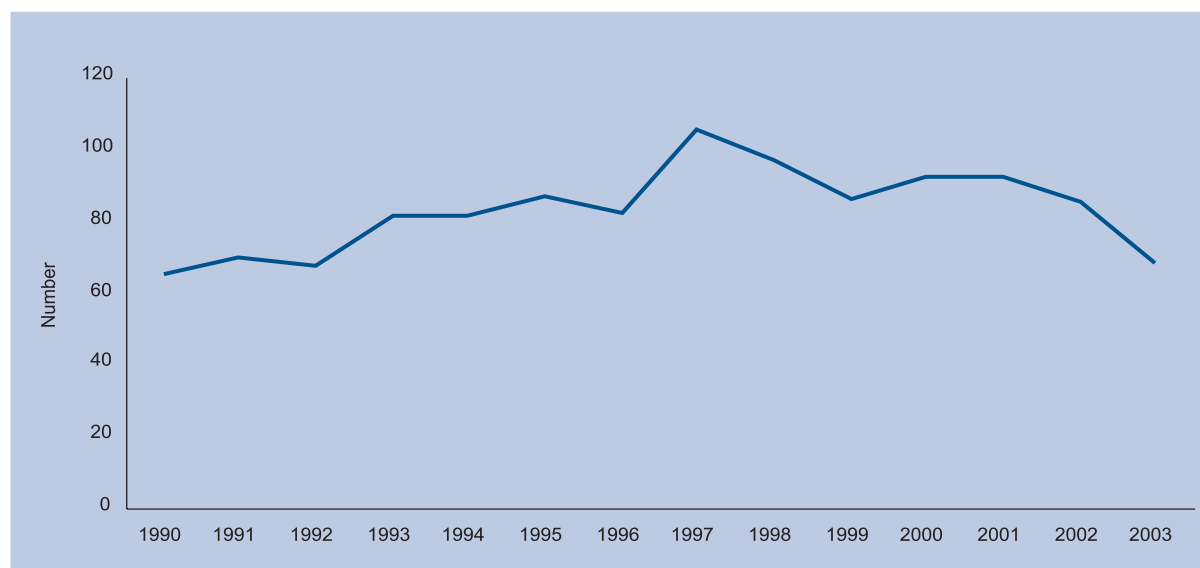
Long term trends

Table 2: Trends in custodial deaths in Australia by Indigenous status

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	10	55	65
1991	13	57	70
1992	9	58	67
1993	10	71	81
1994	14	67	81
1995	22	65	87
1996	18	64	82
1997	15	90	105
1998	17	80	97
1999	19	67	86
2000	17	75	92
2001	18	74	92
2002	17	68	85
2003	17	51	68

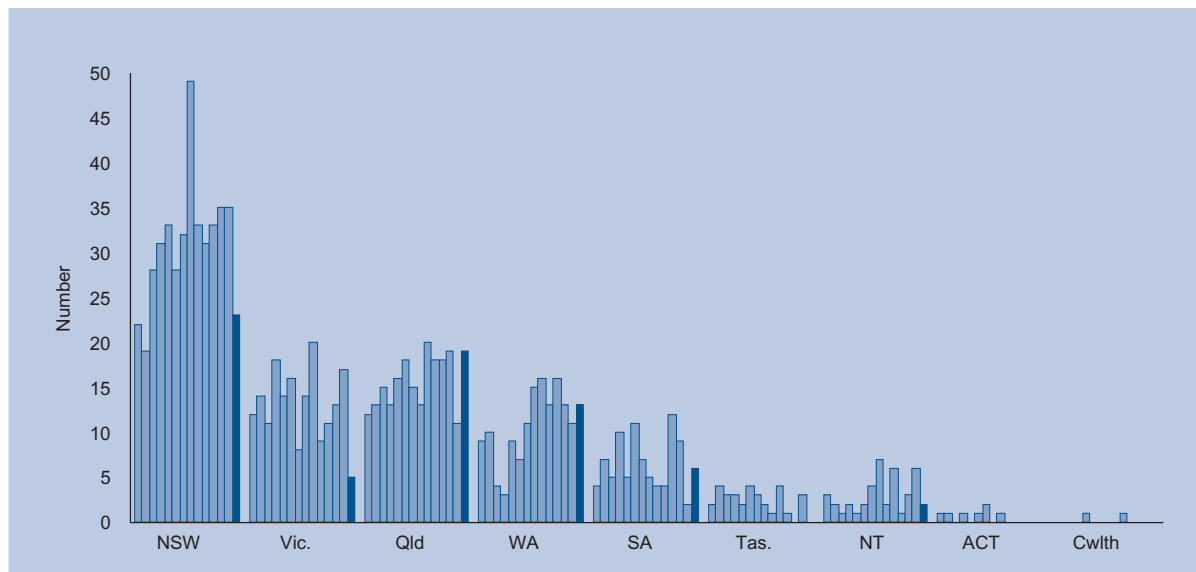
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 1: All custodial deaths in Australia



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

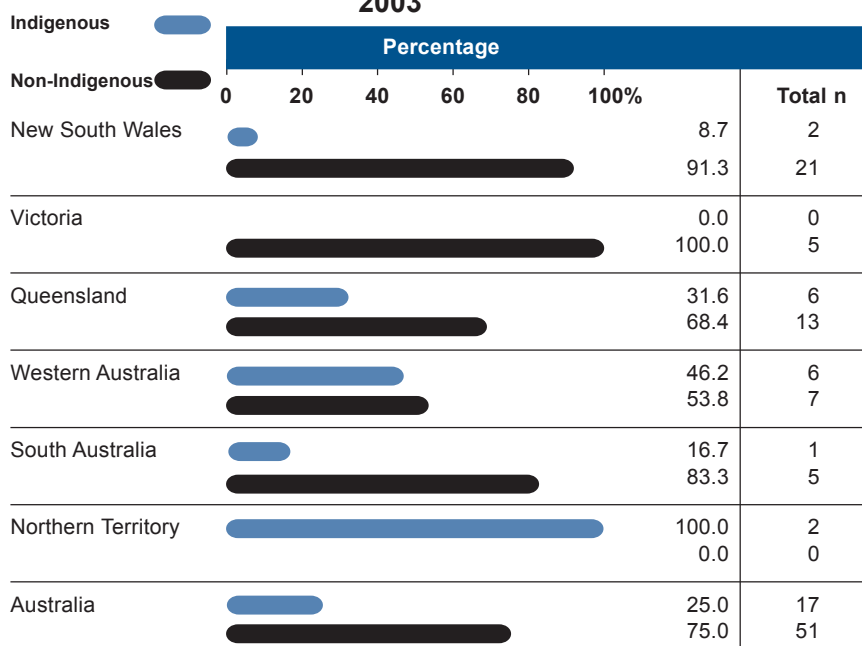
Figure 2: Trends in custodial deaths, by jurisdiction, 1990–2003



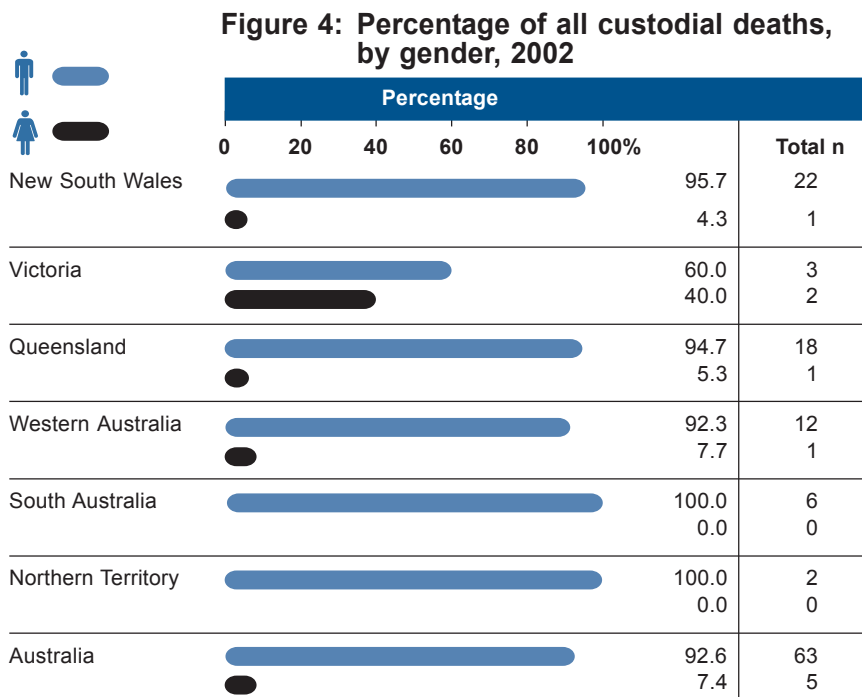
Note: 'Commonwealth' refers to prisoners held in federal custody (excluding asylum-seeker deaths)

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 3: Percentage of all custodial deaths, 2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2002 [computer file]

Table 3: Mean age of death, 2003

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	2	20.0	21	41.3	23	39.5
Vic.	0	-	5	36.6	5	36.6
Qld	6	41.5	13	42.0	19	41.8
WA	6	26.8	7	37.3	13	32.5
SA	1	24.0	5	37.2	6	35.0
NT	2	30.5	0	-	2	30.5
Australia	17	31.5	51	40.1	68	37.9

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 4: Number of all custodial deaths, by age at time of death, 2003

		<25	25–39	40–54	55+
NSW	Indigenous	2	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	9	7	4
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	0	1
Qld	Indigenous	1	1	3	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	6	5	2
WA	Indigenous	4	0	2	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	5	2	0
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	3	0
NT	Indigenous	0	2	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	8	3	5	1
	Non-Indigenous	5	22	17	7

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 5: Number of all custodial deaths by cause of death, 2003 (a)

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/multiple trauma	Other	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Non-Indigenous	7	7	0	2	4	1	21
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	1	0	2	0	5
Qld	Indigenous	1	5	0	0	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	3	4	0	2	3	0	12
WA	Indigenous	2	1	0	0	3	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	0	1	0	0	7
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
NT	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	5	7	0	0	4	1	17
	Non-Indigenous	18	14	1	6	9	2	50

(a) Excludes one case where cause of death is yet to be determined

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 6: Number of all custodial deaths by manner of death, 2003 (a)

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	2
	Non-Indigenous	9	7	1	1	3	21
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	0	0	2	5
Qld	Indigenous	1	5	0	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	3	4	1	2	2	12
WA	Indigenous	2	1	0	0	3	6
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	0	0	0	6
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	4	1	0	0	0	5
NT	Indigenous	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	6	7	0	0	4	17
	Non-Indigenous	23	14	2	3	7	49

(a) Excludes two cases where manner of death is yet to be determined

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 7: Number of all custodial deaths by most serious offence, 2003

		Violent offences	Theft-related offences	Good order offences	Drug-related offences	Traffic offences	Other offences	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	10	3	1	3	1	3	21
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	2	1	0	1	0	5
Qld	Indigenous	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	8	0	1	0	3	1	13
WA	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	0	0	1	0	7
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
NT	Indigenous	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	9	3	3	0	2	0	17
	Non-Indigenous	27	7	4	3	6	4	51

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 8: Number of all custodial deaths by location, 2003

		Hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1	2
	Non-Indigenous	3	10	1	2	5	21
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	1	0	2	5
Qld	Indigenous	2	4	0	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	2	4	2	1	4	13
WA	Indigenous	0	4	0	0	2	6
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	1	0	2	7
SA	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	3	0	0	0	5
NT	Indigenous	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	4	10	0	0	3	17
	Non-Indigenous	9	21	5	3	13	51

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Deaths in prison custody

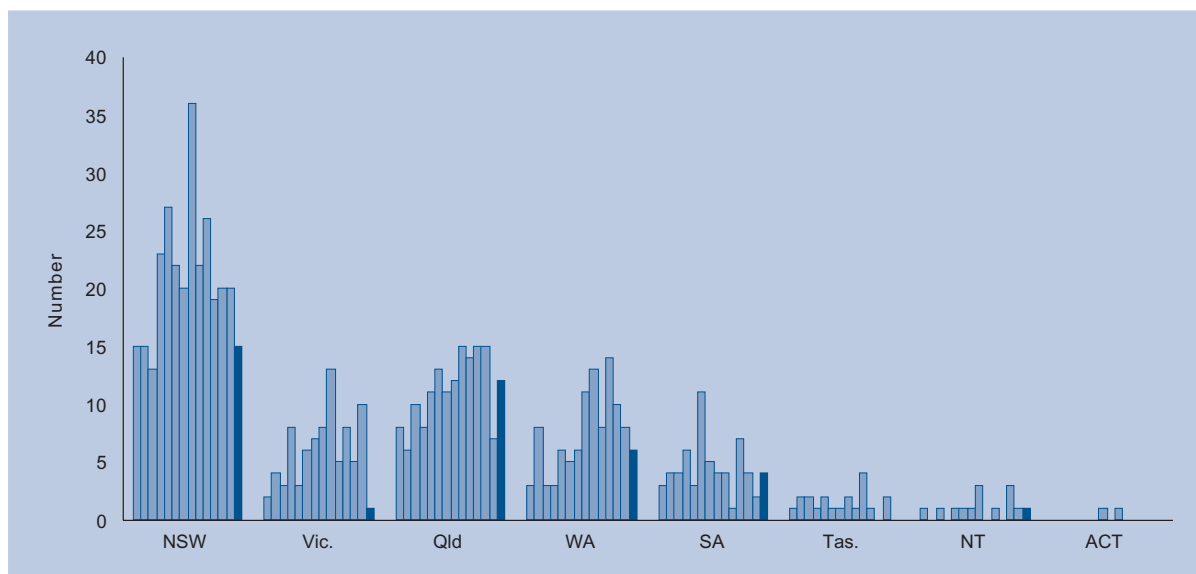
Long-term trends

Table 9: Trends in prison custody deaths by Indigenous status

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	5	28	33
1991	8	31	39
1992	2	34	36
1993	7	42	49
1994	11	42	53
1995	18	41	59
1996	12	40	52
1997	9	67	76
1998	10	59	69
1999	13	46	59
2000	11	53	64
2001	14	43	57
2002	8	42	50
2003	10	29	39
Total	138	597	735

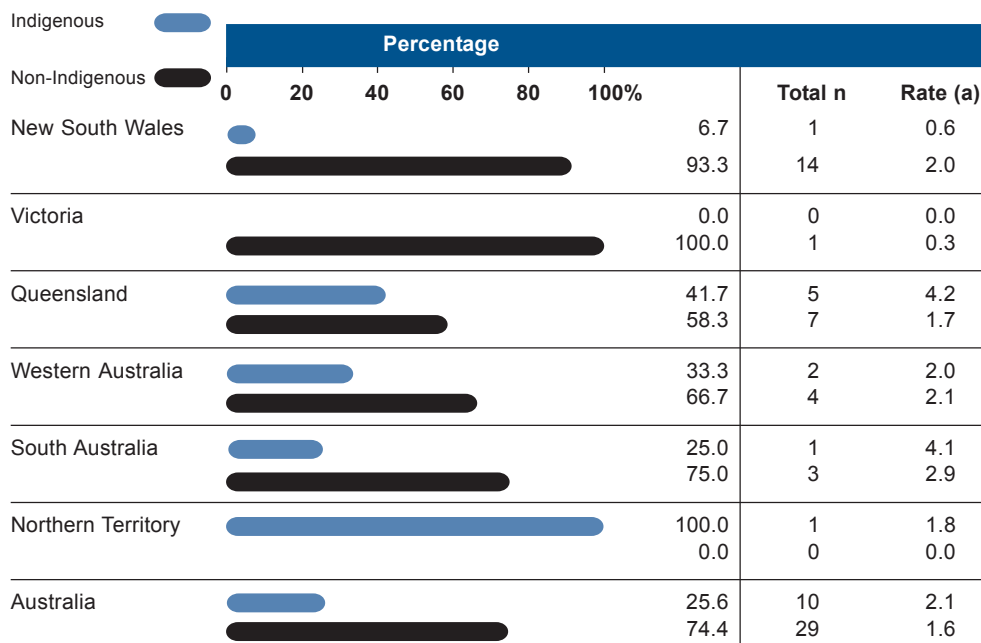
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 5: Trends in prison custody deaths, by jurisdiction, 1990–2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 6: Percentage of prison custody deaths, 2003

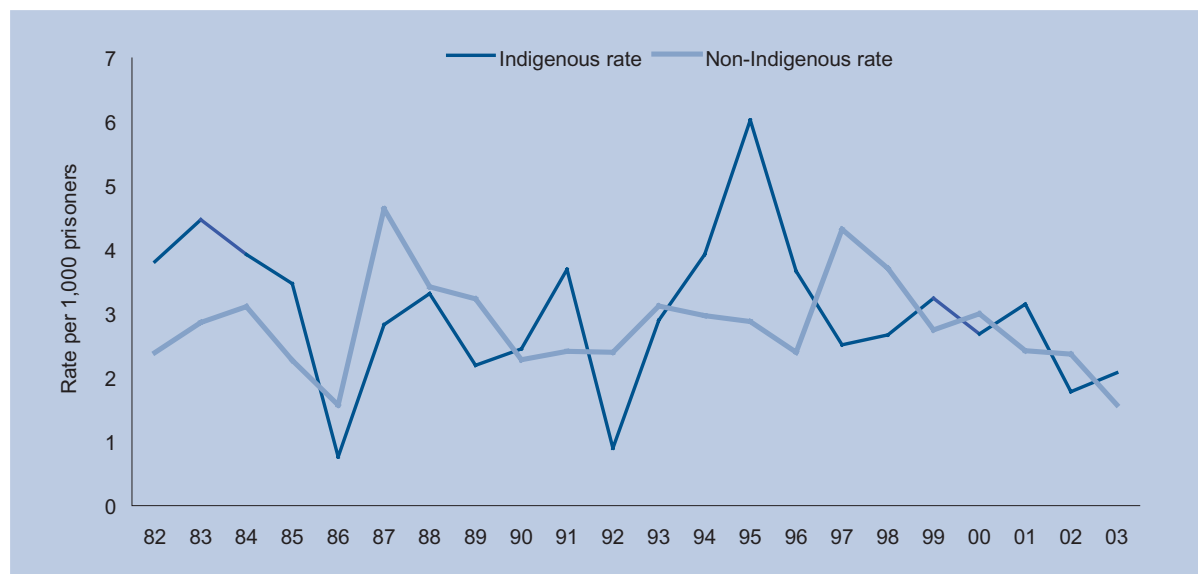


(a) rate per 1,000 prisoners

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004a. *Prisoners in Australia 2003*. cat. no. 4517.0 Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Figure 7: Trends in prison custody deaths, 1982–2003 (a)



Note: Prison census data not available prior to 1982

(a) Rate per 1,000 prisoners

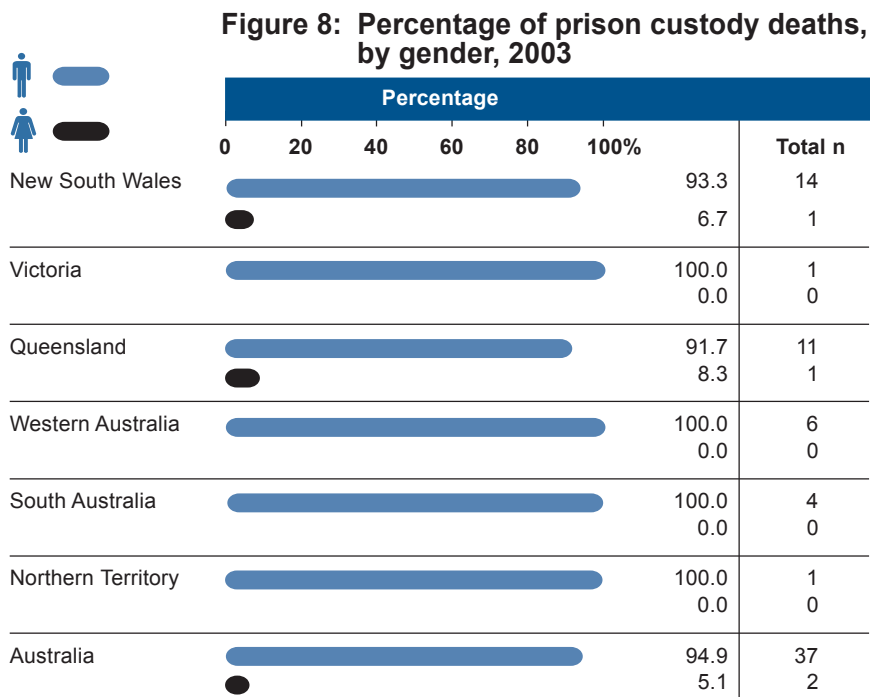
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2003 [computer file]

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004a. *Prisoners in Australia 2003*. cat. no. 4517.0 Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Table 10: Number of prison custody deaths by legal status of deceased, 2003

		Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	10	4	14
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	1
Qld	Indigenous	5	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	5	2	7
WA	Indigenous	0	2	2
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	4
SA	Indigenous	0	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	1	2	3
NT	Indigenous	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	7	3	10
	Non-Indigenous	18	11	29

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 11: Mean age at death, 2003

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	1	23.0	14	45.9	15	44.3
Vic.	0	-	1	71.0	1	71.0
Qld	5	41.4	7	45.0	12	43.5
WA	2	18.0	4	42.0	6	34.0
SA	1	24.0	3	39.0	4	35.3
NT	1	35.0	0	-	1	35.0
Australia	10	32.5	29	45.3	39	42.0

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 12: Number of prison custody deaths, by age at time of death, 2003

		<25	25–39	40–54	55+
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	5	5	4
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	1
Qld	Indigenous	1	1	2	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	2	2
WA	Indigenous	2	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	2	0
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	2	0
NT	Indigenous	0	1	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	5	2	2	1
	Non-Indigenous	1	10	11	7

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 13: Number of prison custody deaths by cause of death, 2003

		Hanging	Natural causes	Multiple trauma/other	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	7	6	1	14
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	1
Qld	Indigenous	1	4	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	1	7
WA	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	0	4
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	1	3
NT	Indigenous	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	5	5	0	10
	Non-Indigenous	13	12	4	29

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 14: Number of prison custody deaths by manner of death, 2003 (a)

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	7	6	1	14
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	1
Qld	Indigenous	1	4	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	1	7
WA	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	0	4
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	3
NT	Indigenous	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	5	5	0	10
	Non-Indigenous	15	12	2	29

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 15: Number of prison custody deaths by most serious offence, 2003

		Violent offences	Theft-related offences	Good order offences	Drug-related offences	Traffic offences	Other offences	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	8	2	1	3	0	0	14
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Qld	Indigenous	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	5	0	0	0	1	1	7
WA	Indigenous	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
SA	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
NT	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	8	0	2	0	0	0	10
	Non-Indigenous	20	3	1	3	1	1	29

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

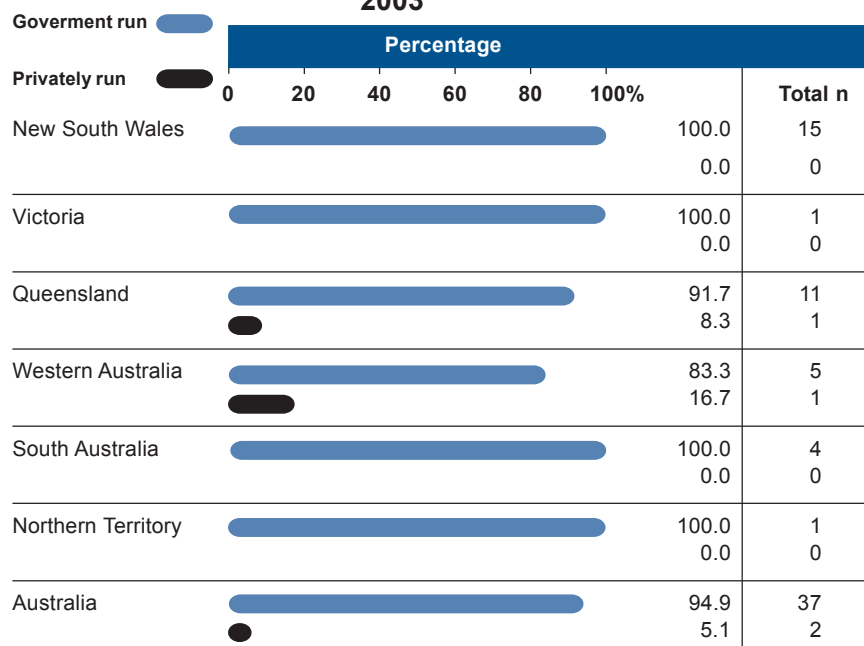
Table 16: Number of prison custody deaths by location of death, 2003

		Public hospital	Prison hospital	Prison cell	Other custodial setting (a)	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	10	1	14
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
Qld	Indigenous	2	0	3	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	3	2	7
WA	Indigenous	0	0	2	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	2	0	4
SA	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	2	0	3
NT	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	3	0	7	0	10
	Non-Indigenous	4	4	18	3	29

(a) 'Other custodial setting' includes other locations within the prison complex, for example, the exercise yard

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Figure 9: Percentage of deaths by prison type, 2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations

Long-term trends

Table 17: Trends in deaths in police and custody-related police operations by Indigenous status

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	5	26	31
1991	5	26	31
1992	7	24	31
1993	3	28	31
1994	3	24	27
1995	4	22	26
1996	6	23	29
1997	6	23	29
1998	6	21	27
1999	6	21	27
2000	5	21	26
2001	4	31	35
2002	9	26	35
2003	7	22	29
Total	76	338	414

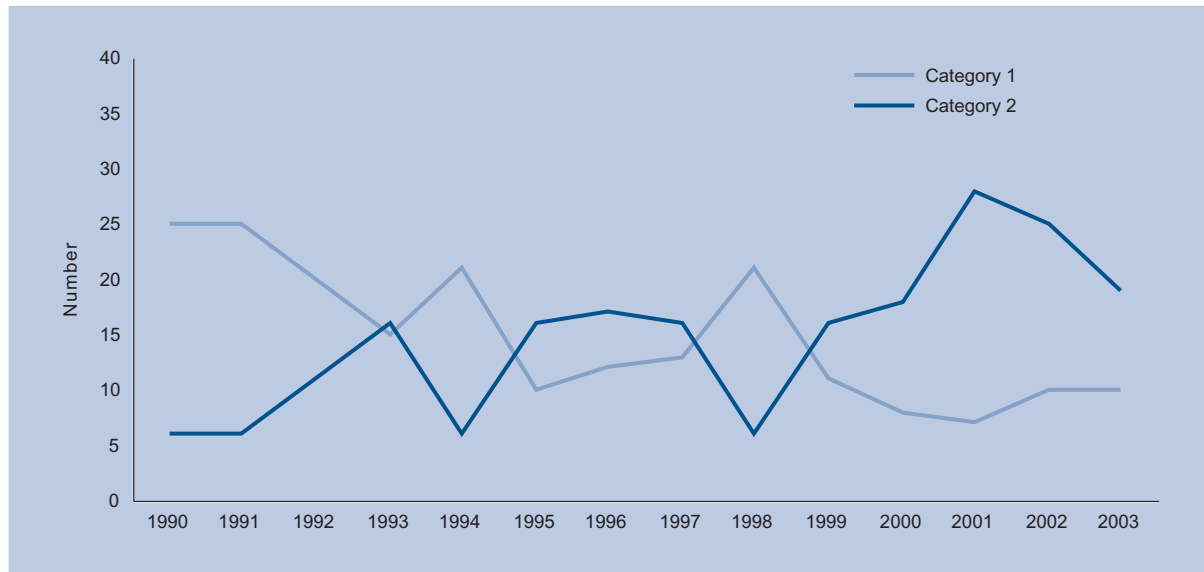
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 10: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by jurisdiction, 1990–2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

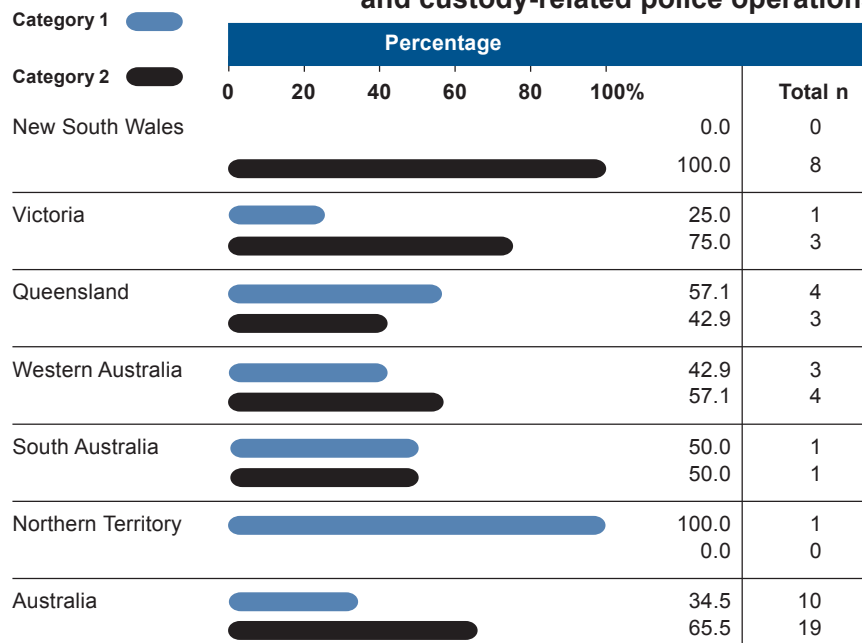
Figure 11: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, 1990–2003



Note: See page 14 for a definition of Category 1 and 2 deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations

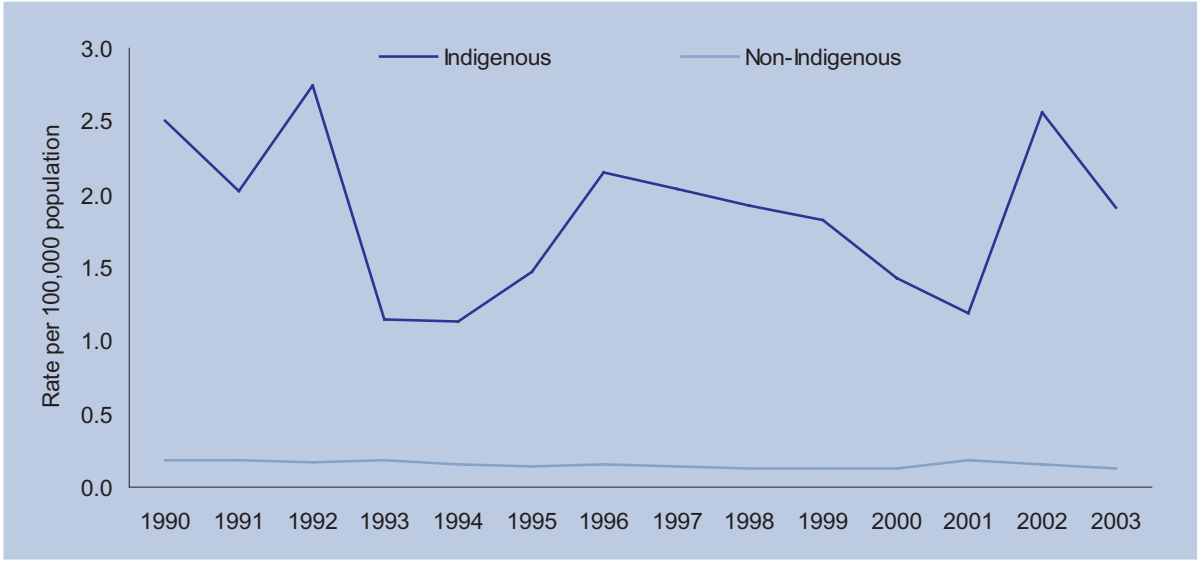
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Figure 12: Percentage of deaths in policy custody, and custody-related police operations, 2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Figure 13: Rate of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by Indigenous status, 1990–2003 (a)



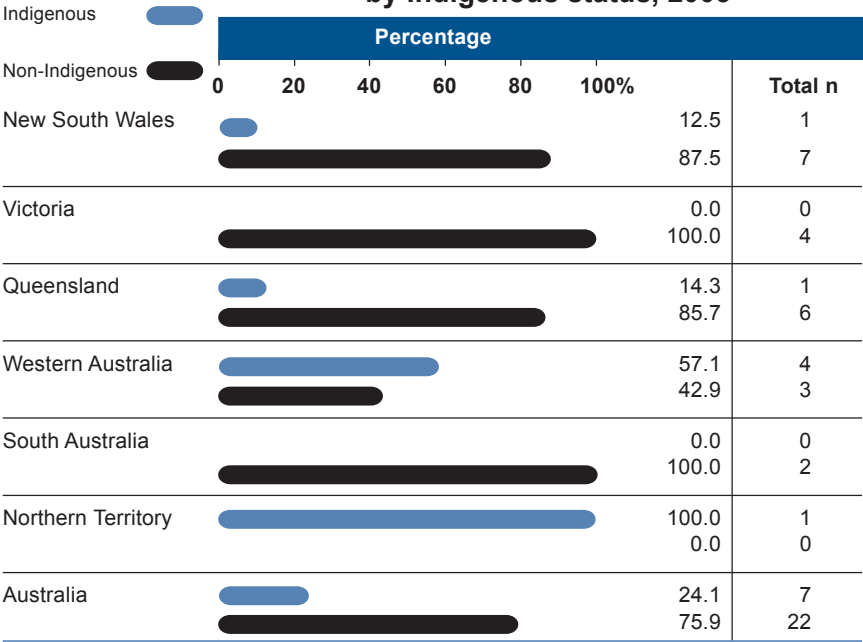
(a) Rate per 100,000 relevant population (10 years and over)

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2003 [computer file]

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004b. *Experimental estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*. cat. no. 3238.0 Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics

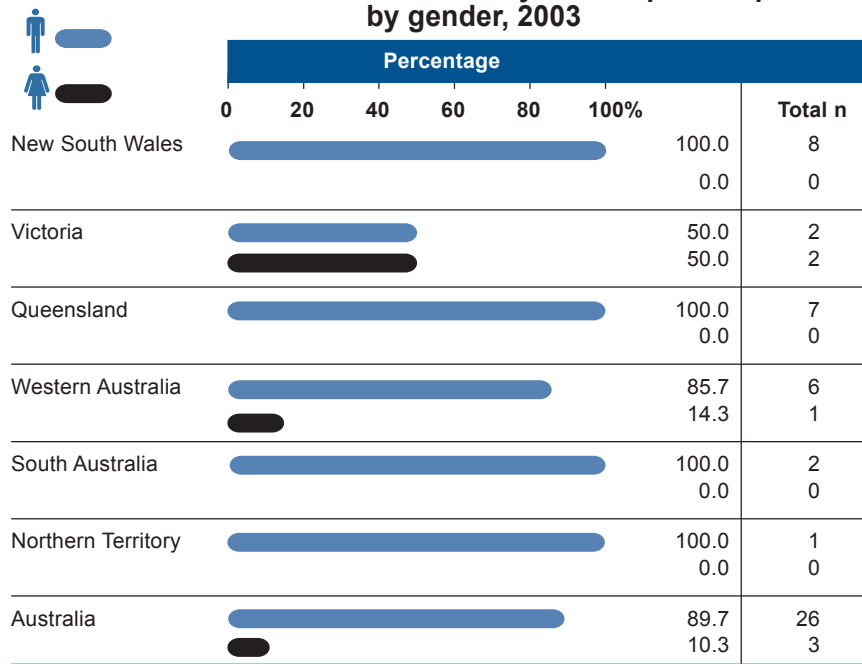
Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004c. *Population by age and sex*. cat. no. 3201.0 Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Figure 14: Percentage of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by Indigenous status, 2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Figure 15: Percentage of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by gender, 2003



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 18: Mean age of death, 2003

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	1	17.0	7	32.3	8	30.4
Vic.	0	-	4	28.0	4	28.0
Qld	1	42.0	6	38.5	7	39.0
WA	4	31.3	3	31.0	7	31.1
SA	0	-	2	34.5	2	34.5
NT	1	26.0	0	-	1	26.0
Australia	7	30.0	22	33.2	29	32.5

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 19: Number of police custody deaths, by age at time of death, 2003

		<24	25–39	40–54
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	4	2
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	0
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	3
WA	Indigenous	2	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	0
SA	Indigenous	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	1
NT	Indigenous	0	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	3	1	3
	Non-Indigenous	4	12	6

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 20: Number of police custody deaths by cause of death, 2003 (a)

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/multiple trauma	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	2	4	7
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	1	0	1	4
Qld	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	2	2	5
WA	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	3	4
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	1	0	3
SA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	1	0	2
NT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	0	2	0	0	5	7
	Non-Indigenous	5	2	1	6	7	21

(a) Excludes one case where cause of death is yet to be determined

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 21: Number of police custody deaths by manner of death, 2003 (a)

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	1	3	7
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	2	4
Qld	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	2	2	5
WA	Indigenous	0	1	0	3	4
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	0	2
SA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	0	2
NT	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	1	2	0	4	7
	Non-Indigenous	8	2	3	7	20

(a) Excludes two cases where cause of death is yet to be determined

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 22: Number of police custody deaths by most serious offence, 2003

		Violent offences	Theft-related offences	Good order offences	Traffic offences	Other offences	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	1	3	7
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	1	1	0	4
Qld	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	1	2	0	6
WA	Indigenous	0	2	0	2	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	1	0	3
SA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	1	0	0	2
NT	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	1	3	1	2	0	7
	Non-Indigenous	7	4	3	5	3	22

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 23: Number of police custody deaths by location of death, 2003

		Public hospital	Police cell	Custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	2	5	7
Vic.	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	1	0	2	4
Qld	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	1	4	6
WA	Indigenous	0	2	0	0	2	4
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	0	2	3
SA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	0	0	2
NT	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	1	3	0	0	3	7
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	2	3	13	22

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 24: Number of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by type of custody, 2003

	Institution	Detaining	Total n
NSW	0	8	8
Vic.	2	2	4
Qld	2	5	7
WA	3	4	7
SA	1	1	2
NT	0	1	1
Australia	8	21	29

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

Table 25: Number of police custody deaths by method of detainment, 2003

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Shooting/ other	Total n
NSW	2	2	1	3	8
Vic.	2	0	0	0	2
Qld	2	0	3	0	5
WA	2	1	0	1	4
SA	0	0	1	0	1
NT	0	0	0	1	1
Australia	8	3	5	5	21

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 2003 [computer file]

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