



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of Criminology**

# **Deaths in custody in Australia: National Deaths in Custody Program annual report 2005**

**Jacqueline Joudo**

**Technical and Background Paper**

**No. 21**



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**Australian Institute of Criminology**

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Tel: (02) 6260 9272  
Fax: (02) 6260 9293  
Email: [front.desk@aic.gov.au](mailto:front.desk@aic.gov.au)  
Web site: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

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## **From the Director**

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) is responsible for monitoring the extent and nature of deaths that have occurred in police, prison and juvenile custody since 1980. The Australian Institute of Criminology has coordinated the NDICP since its establishment in 1992, the result of a recommendation made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) the previous year. The program is unique in the world. No other country has consistently collected such data over such a long period of time. Investment in basic research infrastructure such as this cannot be underestimated. It provides policy makers and politicians with a unique empirical evidence base upon which to both develop and monitor performance of key criminal justice agencies. Such data also play an important role in enabling research in this area as well as providing trusted information that can be disseminated to the wider community.

The NDICP uses the RCIADIC 1991 definition of what constitutes a death in custody and covers both prison and juvenile detention facilities, including transfers and medical facilities. Further clarification of a police death in custody was provided by the Australasian Police Ministers Council in 1994. The NDICP draws upon data sources from all state and territory police services and correctional departments and the Institute is grateful for the support and cooperation that we receive from these key agencies. In addition NDICP utilises state coronial records and media reports. Approximately 60 variables on the circumstances and characteristics of each death are entered into the database.

The current report contains detailed information on deaths in both prison and police custody and custody-related operations since the program commenced. The report found that in 2005 there were 34 deaths in prison custody and 20 in police custody and custody-related operations. Fifteen deaths were of Indigenous persons and three of the 13 hanging deaths were of Indigenous persons. Persons who died in prison custody were older with an average age of 46 years, than those who died in police custody or during custody-related operations who had an average age of 31 years. Eight deaths occurred during motor vehicle pursuits and another four deaths resulted from police shootings. All of the police shootings involved persons whose most serious offence immediately prior to the shooting was a violent offence.

**Toni Makkai**  
**Director**  
**Australian Institute of Criminology**

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## Acknowledgments

The Australian Institute of Criminology gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of each of Australia's police services, prison administrators and juvenile welfare/juvenile justice authorities in supplying information that forms the basis of this report.

The author would also like to acknowledge and thank fellow AIC colleagues for their input, support and assistance.

## Abbreviations

AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
MUNCCI	Monash University's National Centre for Coronial Information
NCIS	National Coroners Information System
NDICP	National Deaths in Custody Program
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
VIFM	Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

## Disclaimer

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

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## Key findings

### 2005 results

This report presents information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories for the 2005 calendar year. The report provides comparisons by jurisdiction and Indigenous status. Key findings were that:

- Fifty-four deaths occurred in custody in 2005 (34 in prison custody and 20 in police custody and custody-related operations).
- Fifteen deaths were of Indigenous persons (seven in prison custody and eight in police custody and custody-related operations).
- Forty-seven males and seven females died in prison or police custody and custody-related operations (31 males and three females in prison custody and 16 males and four females in police custody and custody-related operations).
- The average age of persons who died in prison custody was 46 years with most deaths of persons aged between 40 and 54 years. For deaths in police custody and custody-related operations the average age was 31 years and most were aged between 25 and 39 years.
- There were 11 hanging deaths (one Indigenous) in prison and 3 hanging deaths (two Indigenous) in police custody and custody-related operations.
- Eight deaths occurred during motor vehicle pursuits (four Indigenous) and four deaths resulted from police shootings (all non-Indigenous).
- Violent offences were commonly the most serious offence committed immediately prior to the final period of custody in both prison and police custody and custody-related operations.

### Long term trends

The report also presents information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories between 1980 and 2005 for prison custody and between 1990 and 2005 for police custody and custody-related operations.

#### *Prison deaths: 1980–2005*

- A total of 1,130 deaths have been recorded in prison custody since 1980.
- Non-Indigenous deaths have outnumbered Indigenous deaths each year.
- Deaths of males have outnumbered deaths of females each year.
- Rates of death have been higher for those aged 55 and over than for other age groups since 1982.
- Despite some fluctuations in rates of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths since 1982, the rates of death for both have become more similar since 1999 and both have begun to trend downward since 1999.
- Hanging and natural causes have generally been the most common causes of death over this period.

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### *Police deaths: 1990–2005*

- The numbers of deaths in police custody and custody-related operations have remained relatively constant between 1990 and 2004. The number of deaths in 2005 reflects a noticeable drop from previous years, although this may be revised upward pending coronial outcomes.
- Non-Indigenous deaths have been greater than Indigenous deaths each year.
- Deaths of males have outnumbered deaths of females each year.
- Most deaths in police custody and custody-related operations have involved persons aged between 25 and 39 (n=201), followed by persons aged less than 25 years (n=152).
- The numbers of deaths each year from hanging have fluctuated between zero and six.
- Since 2000, deaths have most frequently resulted from external/multiple trauma.
- Accidents have generally been the most common manner of death each year.
- There have been 136 deaths during motor vehicle pursuits recorded between 1990 and 2005.
- One hundred and thirty-six shooting deaths have been recorded since 1990. Of these 80 have involved persons shot by police and 55 have involved persons who shot themselves in the presence of police.

## Introduction

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## Background and function of NDICP

The final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC: 1991) recommended that an ongoing program be established to monitor Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention.

It 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
- 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 established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive 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 over 26 years.

The NDICP examines the circumstances of deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention around Australia. 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, RCIADIC 1991: 190). 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.

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## Definitions

### Box 1: Definitions of deaths in custody

#### 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 categories<sup>1</sup>:

##### *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.

## 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)
- coronial records, such as transcripts of proceedings and findings, as well as toxicology and post-mortem reports
- information gleaned from press clippings tailored to the NDICP requirements and provided on a daily basis by the AIC Information Services section.

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<sup>1</sup> This definition of a death in police custody is based on a resolution of the Australasian Police Ministers Council 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 been collected by the NDICP since 1990.

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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) for most jurisdictions. NCIS was formerly managed by Monash University's National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI) and is currently based at and managed by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). After submitting an ethics application to MUNCCI in order to obtain access to the NCIS for the NDICP the AIC was granted access in July 2001 on a fee for service basis. As Queensland does not presently provide the findings of coronial inquests to the NCIS, coronial data is obtained by liaising directly with the contact in that area upon completion of the inquest on a case-by-case basis.

### **Current NDICP dataset**

The current dataset of the NDICP covers a 26-year period, from 1980 to 2005.

The dataset contains details relating to 1,825 individual custodial deaths that include:

- 679 deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations
- 1,130 deaths in prison custody
- 16 juvenile detention and juvenile welfare deaths.

The majority of deaths recorded in the NDICP are of non-Indigenous persons (n=1,466), with Indigenous persons accounting for approximately 20 percent of all custodial deaths (n=359).

### **Borderline cases**

The NDICP uses the definition of a death in custody as recommended by the RCIADIC as a guide to which cases should or should not be included in the NDICP database. While most of the cases are straightforward and fall within the definition, every year there are some cases where it is unclear 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 exclude all 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 lend authority to the decision resulting in less divergence of opinion between the jurisdictions and the NDICP.<sup>2</sup>

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2 It is important to note that this may affect the total overall numbers slightly for 2005 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, with adjustments in subsequent annual reports.



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### *What types of cases are borderline?*

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 in Box 1, this 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 question centres on whether the deceased was in custody at the time of death. Some brief examples to illustrate situations where borderline cases may arise and therefore be excluded pending a coronial inquiry are explained in Box 2.

#### **Box 2: Borderline cases**

##### **Examples of borderline cases**

Police engage in a pursuit after observing a car that has been reported as stolen. The police attempt to make the driver pull over, but 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.

Five cases were considered to be borderline in 2005. All of the borderline deaths occurred in police custody or custody-related police operations. All five borderline cases are excluded from the information presented in this report as a decision regarding their inclusion 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 eight cases have been added retrospectively to the NDICP since the 2004 annual report due to coronial inquiry outcomes (Table 1). Of these cases, three involved an Indigenous person.

Table 1: Deaths added to the NDICP in 2005				
Year	Custodial authority	State	Indigenous status	Cause of death
2002	Police	South Australia	Indigenous	Motor vehicle pursuit
2003	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Motor vehicle pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Stabbing
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Jumped off bridge
	Prison	Western Australia	Non-Indigenous	Hanging
	Police	Queensland	Indigenous	Hanging
2004	Police	Victoria	Indigenous	External/multiple trauma
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Shot self

### Methodological note

Where rates are presented in this report, they have been calculated using the results of the annual national prisoner census (ABS 2005). The census counts all prisoners who were in legal custody in each jurisdiction as at midnight on 30 June.

Furthermore, where trends in rates of death are presented the rates are calculated back to 1982 and no earlier, as prison census data are not available prior to 1982.

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

**All deaths in prison or police and  
police custody-related operations**

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## All custodial deaths

This section contains a summary of findings relating to deaths in custody for all custodial deaths. The deaths reported in this section refer to those clearly defined as a death in custody.

### 2005 findings

Fifty-four deaths occurred in police and prison custody in Australia in 2005. Thirty-four of the 54 deaths occurred in prison custody (see Table 2).

There were 15 Indigenous deaths, seven occurring in prison custody and eight in police custody or custody-related operations. There were no deaths recorded in juvenile detention in Australia during 2005.

	Police		Prison		Total		All persons
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
NSW	1	2	2	11	3	13	16
Vic	0	5	1	4	1	9	10
Qld	1	4	0	3	1	7	8
WA	6	0	2	2	8	2	10
SA	0	1	0	6	0	7	7
Tas	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
NT	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>

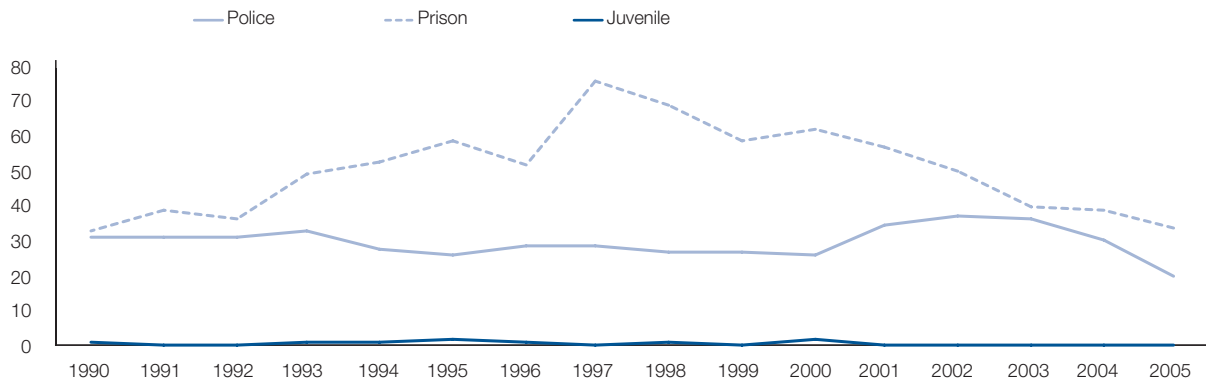
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Figure 1 illustrates the trends in custodial deaths since 1990 for police, prison and juvenile custodial agencies. The three trend lines are quite distinct and indicate that:

- the numbers of deaths in police custody and custody-related operations remained relatively constant since 1990
- the numbers of prison deaths generally increased between 1990 and 1997 and then began to decline
- deaths in juvenile detention have been consistently very low, with no deaths recorded since 2000 (Table 3).

**Figure 1: Trends in deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1990–2005 (number)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table 3: All custodial deaths by custodial authority and year, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Police	Prison	Juvenile detention	Total
1990	31	33	1	65
1991	31	39	0	70
1992	31	36	0	67
1993	33	49	1	83
1994	28	53	1	82
1995	26	59	2	87
1996	29	52	1	82
1997	29	76	0	105
1998	27	69	1	97
1999	27	59	0	86
2000	26	62	2	90
2001	35	57	0	92
2002	37	50	0	87
2003	36	40	0	76
2004	30	39	0	69
2005	20	34	0	54
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(476)</b>	<b>(807)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(1,292)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

Deaths in prison custody

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## Deaths in prison custody

This section contains a summary of findings relating to deaths which occurred in prison custody, with particular regard to demographic factors and the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The deaths reported in this section refer to those clearly defined as a death in prison custody.

### 2005 findings

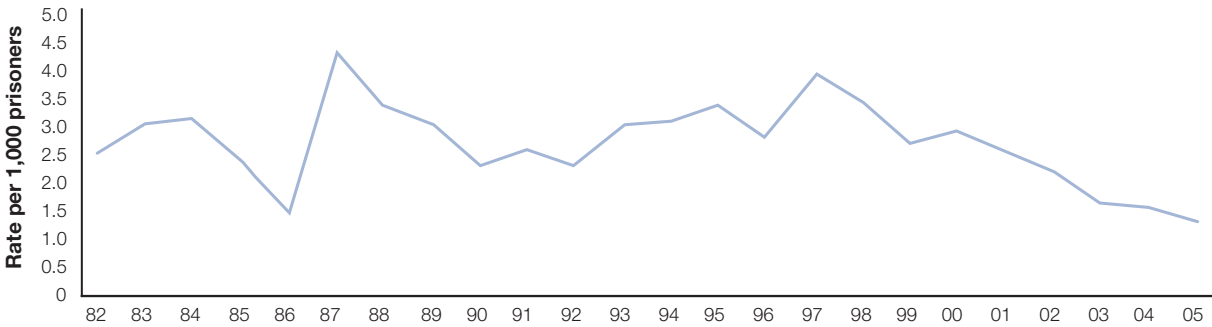
A total of 34 deaths occurred in prison custody in Australia in 2005.<sup>3</sup> Across the jurisdictions:

- New South Wales recorded 13 deaths
- Victoria recorded five deaths
- Queensland recorded three deaths
- four deaths were recorded in Western Australia
- six deaths were recorded in South Australia
- one death was recorded in Tasmania
- two deaths were recorded in the Northern Territory
- no deaths were recorded in the ACT.

### Trends in deaths

Figure 2 shows the rate of prison custody deaths by year since 1982 (raw numbers are provided in Table 5).

**Figure 2: Prison deaths by year, 1982–2005 (rate)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

---

<sup>3</sup> This figure may be adjusted upward pending coronial outcomes.

## Indigenous status

### 2005 findings

In 2005, there were seven deaths in prison custody of Indigenous persons (Table 4) and 27 non-Indigenous deaths.

### Comparisons with the overall prison population

There were 25,353 prisoners in Australia at 30 June 2005 and, of these, 22 percent (n=5,656) were Indigenous (ABS 2005). Based on these ABS prison population data Table 4 shows that across Australia:

- the rate of Indigenous deaths in prison custody was 1.2 per 1,000 Indigenous prisoners
- the rate of non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody was 1.4 per 1,000 non-Indigenous prisoners.

**Table 4: Prison custody deaths by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2005<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	2	1.2	11	1.4	13	1.3
Vic	1	4.5	4	1.2	5	1.4
Qld	0	0.0	3	0.8	3	0.6
WA	2	1.4	2	1.0	4	1.1
SA	0	0.0	6	5.7	6	4.1
Tas	0	0.0	1	2.1	1	1.8
NT	2	3.0	0	0.0	2	2.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>1.3</b>

(a) Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005)

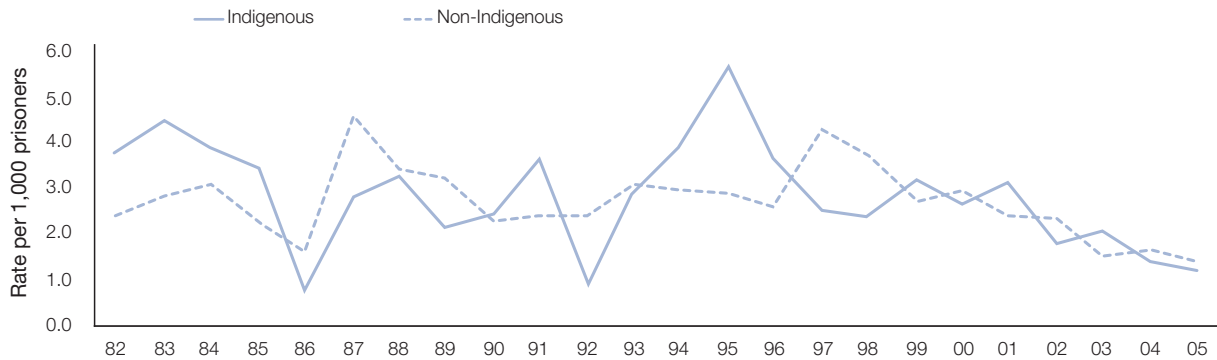
Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Figure 3 shows the trends in prison custody rates of death since 1982 and Table 5 shows the numbers of deaths which have occurred each year. The numbers of non-Indigenous deaths have consistently exceeded Indigenous deaths. While rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons have generally fluctuated between one and six deaths per 1,000 prisoners since 1982, the rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths have become more similar since 1999 and both have begun to trend downward since 1999.



**Figure 3: Prison custody deaths by Indigenous status, 1982–2005 (rate)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

**Table 5: Deaths by Indigenous status, 1980–2005 (number)**

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1980	5	25	30
1981	1	27	28
1982	4	21	25
1983	5	26	31
1984	4	27	31
1985	4	22	26
1986	1	16	17
1987	5	48	53
1988	6	36	42
1989	4	36	40
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	51	62
2001	14	43	57
2002	8	42	50
2003	10	30	40
2004	7	32	39
2005	7	27	34
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(191)</b>	<b>(939)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Legal status of prisoner deaths in custody

### 2005 findings

At 30 June 2005 almost 80 percent of all prisoners across Australia were serving a sentence (n=20,220), while the remainder (n=5,133) were unsentenced prisoners on remand (ABS 2005). Table 6 shows that of the 34 deaths which occurred in 2005:

- twenty were sentenced prisoners
- 14 were unsentenced prisoners
- the rate of deaths of unsentenced prisoners was higher (3 deaths per 1,000 relevant prisoners) than the rate of deaths for sentenced prisoners (1 death per 1,000 prisoners).

Two of the seven Indigenous prisoners and 12 of the 27 non-Indigenous prisoners were unsentenced at the time of death.

	Sentenced		Unsentenced		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	8	1.0	5	2.5	13	1.3
Vic	4	1.3	1	1.5	5	1.4
Qld	2	0.5	1	0.9	3	0.6
WA	4	1.4	0	0.0	4	1.1
SA	0	0.0	6	12.1	6	4.1
Tas	0	0.0	1	7.6	1	1.8
NT	2	2.9	0	0.0	2	2.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>1.3</b>

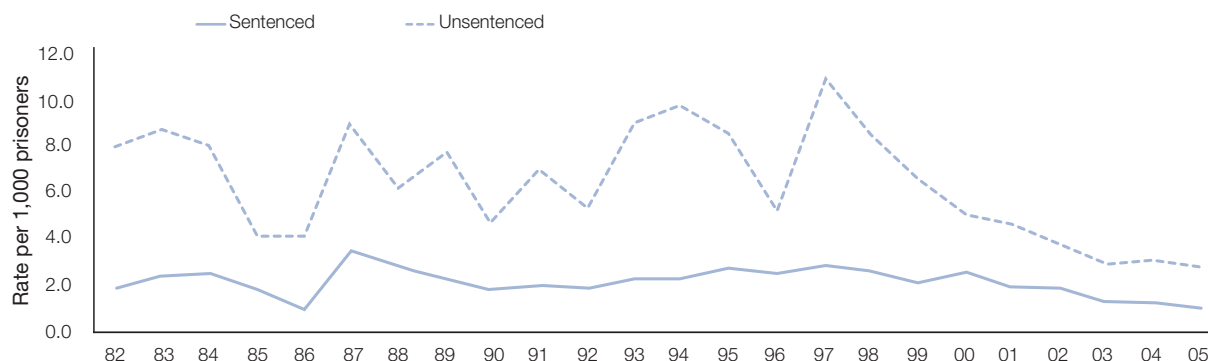
(a) Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005)

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Figure 4 illustrates the trend in rates of prison custody deaths by the legal status of the deceased while Table 7 gives the raw numbers. It can be seen that the rates of deaths of sentenced prisoners have remained low and relatively constant. In contrast the rates of deaths of unsentenced prisoners showed some degree of fluctuation up until 2000 at which point they began to trend downward.

**Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1982–2005 (rate)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

**Table 7: Prison custody deaths by legal status, 1980–2005 (number)**

	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total n
1980	22	7	29
1981	21	7	28
1982	16	8	24
1983	21	10	31
1984	21	9	30
1985	17	6	23
1986	9	6	15
1987	37	14	51
1988	30	10	40
1989	25	13	38
1990	23	9	32
1991	25	14	39
1992	26	10	36
1993	32	17	49
1994	34	19	53
1995	42	17	59
1996	40	12	52
1997	48	28	76
1998	45	24	69
1999	38	21	59
2000	43	19	62
2001	37	20	57
2002	33	17	50
2003	26	14	40
2004	24	15	39
2005	20	14	34
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(755)</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>(1,115)</b>

(a) 15 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Sex

### 2005 findings

In 2005, 31 males and three females died in prison custody, resulting in rates of 1.7 and 1.3 deaths per respective 1,000 prison population (Table 8).

**Table 8: Prison custody deaths by sex and jurisdiction, 2005<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Male		Female		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	10	1.1	3	4.3	13	1.3
Vic	5	1.5	0	0.0	5	1.4
Qld	3	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.6
WA	4	1.2	0	0.0	4	1.1
SA	6	4.4	0	0.0	6	4.1
Tas	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	1.8
NT	2	2.5	0	0.0	2	2.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>1.3</b>

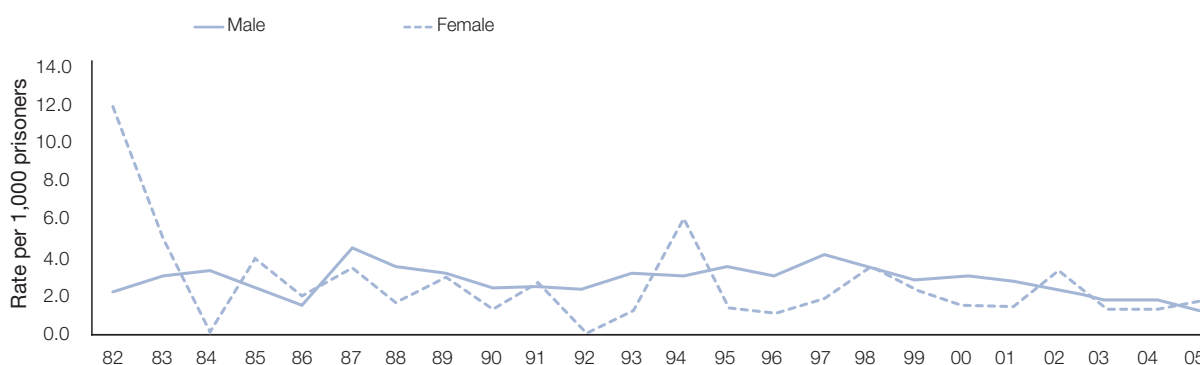
(a) Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005)

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

The trends in the rates of male and female deaths since 1982 are illustrated in Figure 5 while numbers are presented in Table 9. With the exception of 1982, 1983 and 1994 the trends in rates for both males and females have been relatively low and stable. The greater fluctuation in female deaths is due to the small numbers of females who died in prison custody.

**Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by sex, 1982–2005 (rate)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

**Table 9: Prison custody deaths by sex, 1980–2005 (number)**

	Male	Female	Total
1980	30	0	30
1981	28	0	28
1982	21	4	25
1983	29	2	31
1984	31	0	31
1985	24	2	26
1986	16	1	17
1987	51	2	53
1988	41	1	42
1989	38	2	40
1990	32	1	33
1991	37	2	39
1992	36	0	36
1993	48	1	49
1994	48	5	53
1995	58	1	59
1996	51	1	52
1997	74	2	76
1998	65	4	69
1999	56	3	59
2000	60	2	62
2001	55	2	57
2002	45	5	50
2003	38	2	40
2004	37	2	39
2005	31	3	34
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(1,080)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Age

### *2005 findings*

The average age for all prisoners in Australia as at 30 June 2005 was 34 years (ABS 2005). The mean age at time of death for prisoner deaths in custody was 46 years. Most deaths occurred of persons aged between 40 and 54 years (Table 10).

**Table 10: Prison deaths by age category and jurisdiction, 2005 (number)**

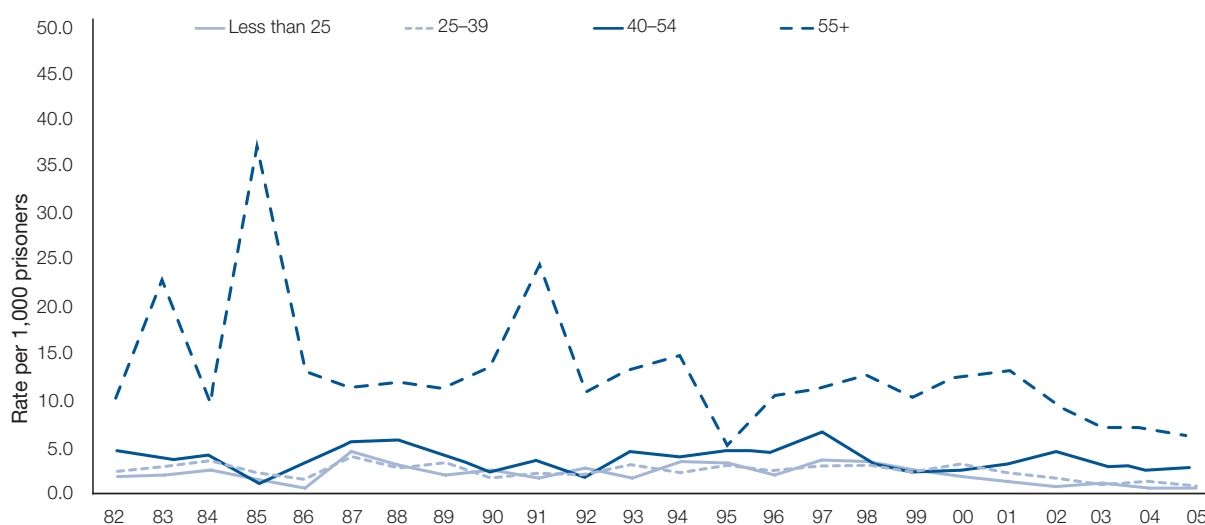
	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	2	5	3	3	13
Vic	0	0	3	2	5
Qld	1	0	1	1	3
WA	0	0	3	1	4
SA	0	4	1	1	6
Tas	0	0	1	0	1
NT	0	1	1	0	2
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(34)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Figure 6 indicates that rates of death have been consistently higher for those aged 55 and over than for other age groups since 1982. Rates for those aged under 55 have been relatively low and constant over this period. Table 11 shows the numbers of deaths for these age groups.

**Figure 6: Deaths in prison custody by age group, 1982–2005 (rate)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

**Table 11: Prison deaths by age category, 1980–2005**

	<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
1980	8	11	8	3	30
1981	6	11	9	2	28
1982	7	11	5	2	25
1983	8	14	4	5	31
1984	9	16	4	2	31
1985	6	11	1	8	26
1986	2	8	4	3	17
1987	19	23	8	3	53
1988	13	16	9	4	42
1989	8	21	7	4	40
1990	12	11	4	6	33
1991	8	16	7	8	39
1992	13	15	4	4	36
1993	8	24	11	6	49
1994	17	18	10	8	53
1995	16	27	13	3	59
1996	10	22	13	7	52
1997	19	28	21	8	76
1998	18	30	11	10	69
1999	14	28	8	9	59
2000	10	32	8	12	62
2001	7	25	12	13	57
2002	4	18	18	10	50
2003	6	12	14	8	40
2004	3	16	11	9	39
2005	3	10	13	8	34
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(254)</b>	<b>(474)</b>	<b>(237)</b>	<b>(165)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### **Circumstances surrounding the deaths**

The NDICP collects information on the cause and 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, but it refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. 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 hanging themselves the cause of death will be recorded as hanging, and manner of death will be recorded as either self-inflicted or accidental hanging.

## Cause of death

### 2005 findings

Natural causes and hanging were the most common causes of death in prison custody in 2005 (Table 12). Seventeen deaths in 2005 were due to natural causes, followed by 10 deaths due to hanging. Three Indigenous deaths were due to natural causes, one death was the result of hanging and one was due to drug and/or alcohol toxicity.

**Table 12: Prison deaths by cause of death, 2005**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injuries	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Total
NSW	5	5	0	2	0	12
Vic	0	5	0	0	0	5
Qld	1	2	0	0	0	3
WA	1	2	0	0	0	3
SA	3	1	1	0	0	5
Tas	0	1	0	0	0	1
NT	0	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>(All persons)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

(a) Excludes three cases for which cause of death is undetermined

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Hanging and natural causes have consistently been the most common causes of death in prison since 1980 (Table 13). Deaths due to drug or acute alcohol toxicity have been lower over this period while deaths due to head injury or gunshot have been consistently very low or non-existent in several years.



**Table 13: Prison deaths by cause of death, 1980–2005**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injuries	Gunshot	External/multiple trauma	Drugs/alcohol	Other	Total
1980	7	16	2	0	3	1	0	29
1981	13	6	0	1	5	2	0	27
1982	6	10	0	1	1	2	3	23
1983	15	6	0	0	2	7	1	31
1984	13	9	0	1	5	2	1	31
1985	10	12	0	0	2	2	0	26
1986	6	8	1	0	1	1	0	17
1987	22	14	0	0	8	8	0	52
1988	17	13	1	0	2	4	2	39
1989	21	12	0	1	2	4	0	40
1990	17	11	0	0	4	0	1	33
1991	14	15	3	0	2	3	2	39
1992	17	7	0	2	4	5	1	36
1993	21	19	1	0	1	6	1	49
1994	22	16	0	0	6	8	1	53
1995	26	17	0	0	7	8	1	59
1996	21	20	2	0	4	5	0	52
1997	31	26	0	0	9	10	0	76
1998	34	16	0	0	8	11	0	69
1999	25	16	0	0	7	11	0	59
2000	29	20	2	0	3	7	0	61
2001	25	29	0	0	1	1	1	57
2002	14	26	0	1	4	2	1	48
2003	18	18	0	0	3	0	1	40
2004	14	19	1	0	1	1	0	36
2005	10	17	1	0	2	1	0	31
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(468)</b>	<b>(398)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(97)</b>	<b>(112)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(1,113)</b>

(a) 17 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Hanging points and materials

### 2005 deaths

Of the 10 hanging deaths in prison custody last year:

- bedding materials or blankets were the most common objects used (n=6)
- the most common hanging points were cell bars (n=4) and fittings in the cell other than the bars, such as light fittings, ventilation grilles or door handles and the bed (n=4).

### Trends in deaths

Of the 222 hanging deaths in prison custody since 1996:

- cell bars, other fittings inside cells and shower fixtures were the most common hanging points used (Table 14)
- sheets were consistently the most common object used (Table 15).

**Table 14: Prison hanging deaths by hanging point used, 1996–2005 (number)**

	Cell bars	Shower fixture	Other cell fitting	Fitting outside cell	Bed bunk	Other	Total
1996	5	0	8	3	1	0	17
1997	8	6	13	0	3	1	31
1998	7	5	15	0	3	0	30
1999	12	1	8	1	2	0	24
2000	8	2	8	0	6	0	24
2001	9	6	3	2	3	1	24
2002	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
2003	8	0	9	0	0	0	17
2004	7	0	3	0	3	0	13
2005	4	1	4	0	1	0	10
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(76)</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(204)</b>

(a) 18 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1996–2005 [computer file]

**Table 15: Prison hanging deaths by material used, 1996–2005 (number)**

	Sheets	Shoelaces	Belt	Other clothing	Rope/cord	Other	Total
1996	10	3	1	2	2	0	18
1997	16	5	0	2	6	1	30
1998	21	1	1	1	1	1	26
1999	9	7	0	2	3	2	23
2000	17	3	0	3	4	0	27
2001	14	1	0	2	1	4	22
2002	11	0	0	1	0	1	13
2003	8	5	0	2	0	2	17
2004	8	0	0	1	1	1	11
2005	6	0	0	1	1	1	9
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(196)</b>

(a) 26 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1996–2005 [computer file]

## Manner of death

A manner of death classified as an accident includes deaths 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 and self-inflicted gunshot wounds would be classified as self-inflicted. Justifiable homicide refers to homicides which occur under circumstances authorised by law, for example, a prison officer acting in self defence.

### 2005 findings

The most common manner of death in 2005 was natural causes (Table 16). Four Indigenous and 14 non-Indigenous deaths were attributed to natural causes.

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Total
NSW	8	5	13
Vic	0	5	5
Qld	1	2	3
WA	2	2	4
SA	5	1	6
Tas	0	1	1
NT	0	2	2
<b>Totals</b>			
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(34)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Self-inflicted deaths and deaths due to natural causes have consistently been the two most common manners of death since 1980 (Table 17). No deaths were recorded as being due to justifiable or unlawful homicide between 1980 and 1991. While justifiable homicide has remained very low since 1992, deaths due to unlawful homicide have fluctuated slightly since then.

**Table 17: Prison deaths by manner of death, 1980–2005 (number)**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
1980	10	17	0	0	1	1	29
1981	15	7	0	0	0	6	28
1982	8	10	0	0	5	2	25
1983	17	9	0	0	3	2	31
1984	17	9	0	0	1	4	31
1985	11	12	0	0	2	1	26
1986	7	8	0	0	1	1	17
1987	23	14	0	0	11	4	52
1988	18	13	0	0	6	3	40
1989	22	12	0	0	4	2	40
1990	17	11	0	0	2	3	33
1991	16	15	0	0	5	3	39
1992	20	7	2	2	5	0	36
1993	23	19	0	1	6	0	49
1994	22	16	0	7	7	1	53
1995	27	17	0	5	9	0	58
1996	23	20	0	5	4	0	52
1997	35	26	0	6	8	1	76
1998	35	16	0	8	9	1	69
1999	28	16	0	5	10	0	59
2000	30	20	1	3	7	0	61
2001	27	29	0	0	1	0	57
2002	18	25	1	3	2	0	49
2003	20	17	0	2	1	0	40
2004	15	20	0	1	1	0	37
2005	16	18	0	0	0	0	34
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(520)</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>(1,121)</b>

(a) Seven cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence leading to custody. The Australian national offence classification (ABS 1997) scheme is used to group offences into six categories: violent, theft-related, drug-related, traffic, good order and other/unknown. Where information on more than one offence is provided, only the most serious of those is assigned to the case. The hierarchy from most serious to least serious is: violent, theft-related, drug-related, traffic, good order and other. Thus, if a person had been charged with a violent offence and a property offence, the violent offence would take precedence. For the purposes of the NDICP these groups are defined as:

- **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
- **drug-related offence** includes possess, use, deal, traffic, manufacture/grow drugs
- **traffic offence** includes road traffic, driving and license offences
- **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)
- **other/unknown** includes other offences not elsewhere classified or where the most serious offence is unknown.

### 2005 findings

Of the 34 persons who died in prison custody in 2005, 20 had been incarcerated most recently for violent offences (Table 18). Violent offences were the reason that most non-Indigenous (n=18) persons who died in prison custody had been incarcerated. For Indigenous persons the most common offences were theft-related (n=3).

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Theft-related</b>	<b>Drug-related</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	6	7	0	0	0	13
Vic	3	2	0	0	0	5
Qld	2	0	1	0	0	3
WA	3	0	0	0	1	4
SA	5	1	0	0	0	6
Tas	1	0	0	0	0	1
NT	0	1	0	1	0	2
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(34)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

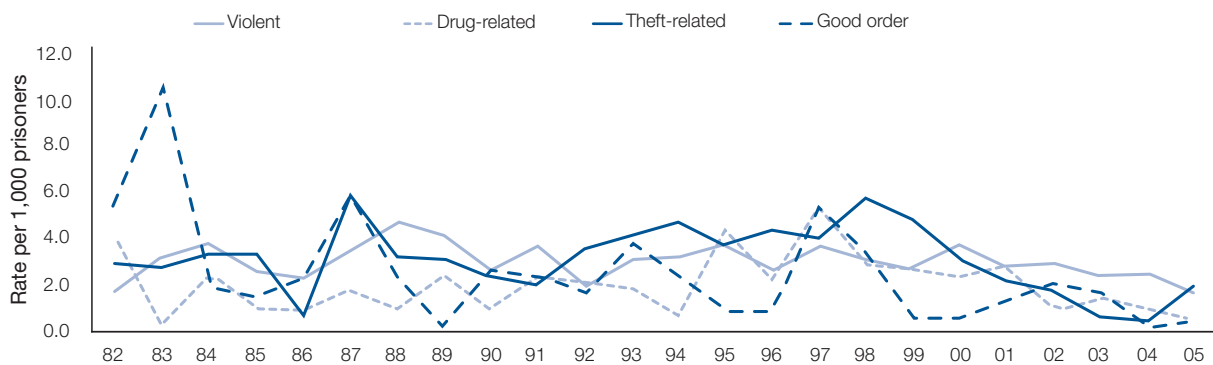
### Trends in deaths

Trends in rates of death since 1982 according to the most serious offence committed immediately prior to the final period of custody are illustrated in Figure 7. It can be seen that:

- rates of deaths have generally fluctuated between one and five deaths per 1,000 prisoners for all four types of offence category (with the exception of 1983)
- the trend in rates of violent offence deaths has been relatively constant over the years
- the trend in rates of theft-related offence deaths fluctuated up to 1998 but has shown a steady decline since then
- the trend in rates of drug-related offence deaths showed some fluctuation up until 1997 but has trended downward since then.

The number of deaths of persons incarcerated for violent offences were generally higher than for other offence groups over the 25 year period (Table 19).

**Figure 7: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1982–2005 (rate)**



(a) Deaths for which most serious offence fell into the category of traffic offences [n=28] and other offences [n=30] excluded

Source: AIC, NDICP 1982–2005 [computer file]

**Table 19: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1980–2005 (number)**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Theft-related</b>	<b>Drug-related</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Good order</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
1980	10	6	4	2	5	2	29
1981	15	9	1	1	2	0	28
1982	7	9	3	1	3	1	24
1983	13	9	0	1	7	0	30
1984	15	10	2	2	1	0	30
1985	11	11	1	0	1	0	24
1986	10	2	1	1	2	0	16
1987	17	22	2	1	5	1	48
1988	24	12	1	1	2	1	41
1989	22	12	3	0	0	1	38
1990	15	10	1	0	3	4	33
1991	23	9	3	0	3	1	39
1992	13	16	3	0	2	2	36
1993	22	18	3	2	4	0	49
1994	25	21	1	1	3	2	53
1995	31	17	8	2	1	0	59
1996	22	20	4	2	1	3	52
1997	34	20	10	2	8	1	75
1998	29	28	5	1	6	0	69
1999	26	25	5	1	1	1	59
2000	37	15	5	2	1	2	62
2001	30	11	6	2	3	5	57
2002	31	9	2	2	4	2	50
2003	28	3	3	2	3	1	40
2004	29	2	2	3	0	3	39
2005	19	11	1	1	1	0	33
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>(337)</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(72)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(1,113)</b>

(a) 17 cases excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Location of death

Location of death refers to the specific environment at the time of death, that is, the actual place where the death occurred. Public hospital deaths include cases where a person was transferred to a hospital from other locations and died there. Prison hospital deaths include deaths in prison clinics and secure wards in public hospitals.

### 2005 findings

Twenty-one of the total 34 deaths occurred in a prison cell, with a further 7 occurring in a public hospital (Table 20). Seventeen of the 21 cell deaths and 5 of the public hospital deaths were of non-Indigenous prisoners.

**Table 20: Prison deaths by location, 2005 (number)**

	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Total
NSW	3	1	8	1	13
Vic	1	2	2	0	5
Qld	0	0	3	0	3
WA	0	0	3	1	4
SA	0	0	5	1	6
Tas	1	0	0	0	1
NT	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(34)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

Cell deaths have consistently accounted for most deaths since 1980 (Table 21), followed by deaths occurring in a public hospital.



**Table 21: Prison deaths by location, 1980–2005 (number)**

	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Custodial setting	Public place	Other	Total
1980	12	0	11	0	0	0	23
1981	5	0	13	0	0	0	18
1982	8	0	6	0	0	0	14
1983	9	0	19	0	0	0	28
1984	9	0	16	0	0	0	25
1985	7	0	12	0	0	0	19
1986	8	0	6	0	0	0	14
1987	12	0	31	0	0	0	43
1988	12	0	19	0	0	0	31
1989	8	0	21	0	0	0	29
1990	5	0	26	0	0	0	31
1991	14	0	24	0	0	0	38
1992	11	3	19	2	1	0	36
1993	13	5	29	2	0	0	49
1994	7	8	36	2	0	0	53
1995	17	6	33	2	0	1	59
1996	15	2	25	8	1	1	52
1997	15	10	49	1	0	1	76
1998	9	6	45	9	0	0	69
1999	11	5	38	5	0	0	59
2000	19	2	39	2	0	0	62
2001	18	0	31	6	2	0	57
2002	18	4	23	5	0	0	50
2003	8	4	25	3	0	0	40
2004	17	5	17	0	0	0	39
2005	7	3	21	3	0	0	34
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(294)</b>	<b>(63)</b>	<b>(634)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(1,048)</b>

(a) 82 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Type of prison

### 2005 findings

In 2005, 30 of the 34 deaths in prison custody occurred while in the custody of government run prisons although the rates of deaths in both private and government run prisons are similar (Table 22). The rate of deaths in privately run prisons was one per 1,000 relevant prisoners and the rate of deaths in government run prisons was 1.4 per 1,000 relevant prisoners.

**Table 22: Deaths by type of prison and jurisdiction, 2005<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Private		Government		All prisons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	0	0.0	13	1.4	13	1.3
Vic	3	2.0	2	0.9	5	1.4
Qld	1	0.8	2	0.5	3	0.6
WA	0	0.0	4	1.5	4	1.1
SA	0	0.0	6	4.4	6	4.1
Tas	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	1.8
NT	0	0.0	2	2.4	2	2.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>1.3</b>

(a) Rate per 1,000 relevant prisoners (ABS 2005)

Note: Tasmania and NT are included although no private prisons operate in those jurisdictions

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Deaths in juvenile detention

### 2005 findings

There were no deaths in juvenile detention across Australia in 2005.

### Trends in deaths

There have been 16 deaths in juvenile detention across Australia since 1980, with no deaths recorded since 2000. Of the deaths:

- six were of Indigenous persons, five involving males and one of a female
- all ten non-Indigenous deaths during this period were of males
- the average age at time of death was 16.6 years overall, with an average age of 15.8 years for Indigenous youths and 17.1 years for non-Indigenous youths
- hanging was the most common cause of death with four Indigenous and seven non-Indigenous deaths
- nine deaths were of persons in custody due to theft-related offences; three Indigenous and six non-Indigenous
- the majority of deaths (n=11) occurred in cells; five Indigenous and six non-Indigenous.

Deaths in police custody or  
custody-related police operations

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## Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations

This section contains a summary of findings for all police custody deaths, with particular regard to demographic factors and the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The deaths are those clearly defined as either a death in police custody or custody-related police operation – that is, all references made to police custody deaths include deaths occurring during custody-related operations.

### 2005 findings

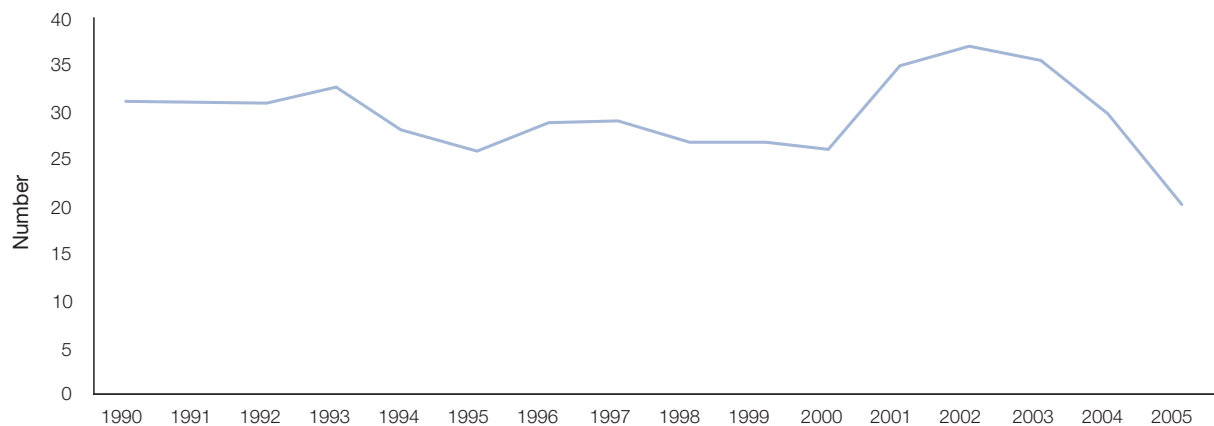
In 2005, a total of 20 deaths occurred in police custody in Australia.<sup>4</sup> Across the states and territories:

- New South Wales recorded three custodial deaths
- Victoria and Queensland recorded five deaths
- Western Australia recorded six deaths
- South Australia recorded one death in police custody
- there were no deaths in police custody in Tasmania, the Northern Territory or the ACT.

### Trends in deaths

Between 1990 and 2000 the numbers of deaths remained stable, while since 2002 the number of deaths recorded has fallen (Figure 8). Rates of deaths in police custody cannot be calculated due to lack of data about the numbers of persons in general who come into police custody on an annual basis.

**Figure 8: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by year, 1990–2005 (number)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

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<sup>4</sup> This figure may be adjusted upward pending coronial outcomes.

## Category 1 and Category 2 deaths

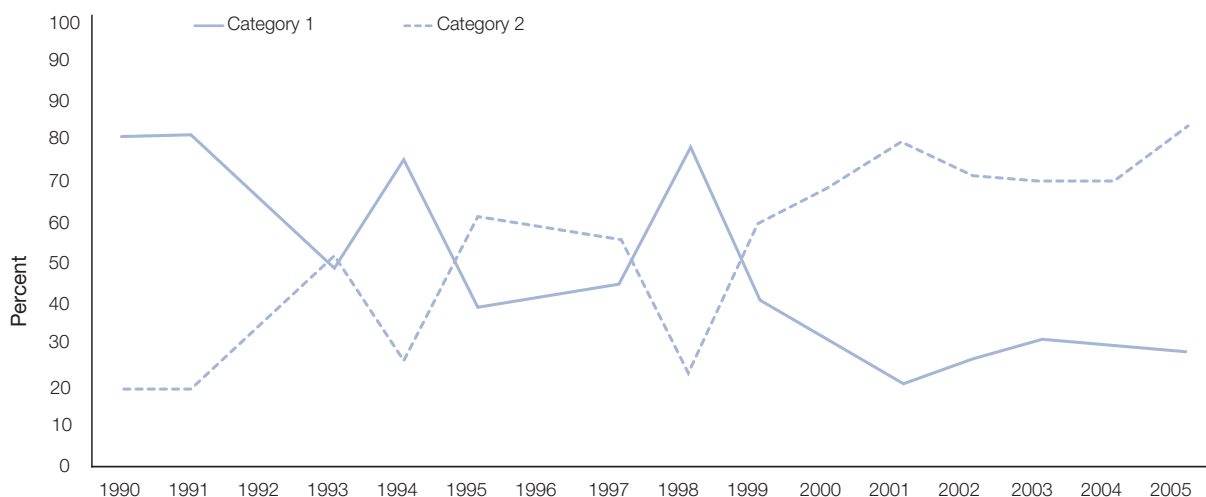
### 2005 findings

- During 2005, 15 of the 20 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.
- the remaining five deaths were 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 Box 1 for definitions of Category 1 and Category 2 deaths).

### Trends in deaths

Figure 9 shows that while Category 1 deaths were more frequent than Category 2 deaths between 1990 and 1992, Category 2 deaths have been more frequent than Category 1 deaths since 1999.

**Figure 9: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1990–2005 (percent)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Indigenous status

### 2005 findings

Across Australia there were eight Indigenous deaths and 12 non-Indigenous deaths in 2005 (Table 23).

**Table 23: Deaths in police custody by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	1	33.3	2	66.7	3
Vic	0	0.0	5	100.0	5
Qld	1	20.0	4	80.0	5
WA	6	100.0	0	0.0	6
SA	0	0.0	1	100.0	1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>(20)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

Since 1990 non-Indigenous deaths have been consistently higher than Indigenous deaths across Australia (Table 24).

	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>Total n</b>
1990	5	26	31
1991	5	26	31
1992	7	24	31
1993	3	30	33
1994	3	25	28
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	11	26	37
2003	8	28	36
2004	8	22	30
2005	8	12	20
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(95)</b>	<b>(381)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## **Sex**

### *2005 findings*

Sixteen males and four females died in 2005.

### *Trends in deaths*

Table 25 presents the numbers of male and female deaths since 1990. The numbers of both male and female deaths have remained relatively constant over the years. Male deaths have outnumbered female deaths each year.

**Table 25: Deaths in police custody by sex, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Male	Female	Total
1990	30	1	31
1991	27	4	31
1992	25	6	31
1993	30	3	33
1994	24	4	28
1995	25	1	26
1996	29	0	29
1997	26	3	29
1998	27	0	27
1999	24	3	27
2000	25	1	26
2001	34	1	35
2002	35	3	38
2003	33	3	36
2004	29	1	30
2005	16	4	20
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(438)</b>	<b>(38)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Age

### 2005 findings

The mean age at time of death was 31 years, and most deaths were of persons aged between 25 and 39 years (Table 26).

**Table 26: Deaths in police custody by age category and jurisdiction, 2005 (number)**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	50+	Total
NSW	3	0	0	0	3
Vic	0	3	2	0	5
Qld	1	2	1	1	5
WA	3	2	0	1	6
SA	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(20)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Deaths in police custody have generally been more likely to involve persons aged 39 years or younger (Table 27). Numbers of deaths of persons aged 55 years and over have remained low with two deaths in this age group in 2005.

	<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
1990	8	15	5	3	31
1991	11	14	4	2	31
1992	8	6	12	5	31
1993	12	11	9	1	33
1994	7	15	5	1	28
1995	9	10	4	3	26
1996	11	9	7	2	29
1997	9	15	3	2	29
1998	6	15	5	1	27
1999	6	14	5	2	27
2000	9	13	4	0	26
2001	19	9	3	4	35
2002	14	15	6	3	38
2003	8	17	10	1	36
2004	9	15	6	0	30
2005	6	8	3	2	19
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>(201)</b>	<b>(91)</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Circumstances surrounding the deaths

### Cause of death

#### 2005 findings

Nine of the 20 deaths in police custody resulted from external and/or multiple trauma injuries (Table 28), followed by five deaths due to gunshot wounds. Four Indigenous and five non-Indigenous persons died of external and/or multiple trauma injuries.



**Table 28: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 2005 (number)**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Other	Total
NSW	0	0	0	2	1	3
Vic	0	0	3	2	0	5
Qld	1	1	1	2	0	5
WA	2	1	0	3	0	5
SA	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(20)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

Table 29 shows that:

- since 1990 the majority of deaths each year in police custody have been caused primarily by external or multiple traumas and gunshot wounds
- the numbers of deaths from hanging have fluctuated between zero and six each year
- deaths due to drug or alcohol toxicity have been extremely low to non-existent since 1999.

**Table 29: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
1990	6	1	4	4	7	5	4	31
1991	6	7	4	9	2	3	0	31
1992	4	1	3	9	6	7	1	31
1993	4	3	4	9	6	3	4	33
1994	1	1	0	17	3	5	1	28
1995	1	2	2	10	9	1	1	26
1996	3	3	1	8	10	3	1	29
1997	1	2	2	11	10	3	0	29
1998	3	6	0	7	7	2	1	26
1999	3	3	1	9	9	1	1	27
2000	0	3	0	7	14	1	1	26
2001	0	1	2	5	22	1	2	33
2002	1	3	8	10	14	0	1	37
2003	6	5	3	7	12	0	2	35
2004	1	2	0	11	15	1	0	30
2005	3	2	0	5	9	0	1	20
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(138)</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(472)</b>

(a) Four cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

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## Hanging points and materials

### 2005 findings

There were three hanging deaths in police custody in 2005. Information on the hanging points and materials used is available for one case only at present. The hanging point used was a fitting inside a van and a belt was used as the hanging material.

### Trends in deaths

For the 20 hanging deaths between 1996 and 2005, other fittings inside the cell accounted for five deaths, followed by cell bars and fittings outside cells which accounted for four deaths each. Clothing was the most common material used (n=7) followed by rope or cord (n=4) and shoelaces (n=3).

## Manner of death

### 2005 findings

Most deaths in police custody were either accidental (n=9) or self-inflicted (n=5; see Table 30):

- five Indigenous deaths were accidental and one resulted from natural causes
- four non-Indigenous deaths were accidental, four had a preliminary classification as justifiable homicides and three were self-inflicted.

**Table 30: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 2005 (number)**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Total
NSW	0	0	0	3	3
Vic	1	0	3	1	5
Qld	2	1	0	2	5
WA	2	1	0	3	6
SA	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(20)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

The manner in which deaths have occurred since 1990 is presented in Table 31:

- accidental deaths have generally been the most common manner of death, followed by self-inflicted deaths
- with the exception of 1992 and 2000 in which one incident of unlawful homicide occurred, no unlawful homicides have been recorded.

**Table 31: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Other	Total
1990	9	1	0	2	15	4	31
1991	9	7	0	1	10	4	31
1992	12	1	1	4	13	0	31
1993	12	4	0	3	11	3	33
1994	6	1	0	13	8	0	28
1995	8	2	0	5	11	0	26
1996	11	3	0	2	13	0	29
1997	8	2	0	6	13	0	29
1998	5	6	0	6	9	0	26
1999	7	3	0	6	10	1	27
2000	4	3	1	5	12	1	26
2001	8	1	0	3	21	0	33
2002	12	3	0	4	18	0	37
2003	13	5	0	3	13	0	34
2004	10	2	0	6	12	0	30
2005	5	2	0	4	9	0	20
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(139)</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>(198)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(472)</b>

(a) Four cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2005 findings

The most serious offences for which most non-Indigenous deceased persons had been detained immediately prior to the final period of custody were violent in nature (Table 32), similar to those who died in prison custody. The offences for which Indigenous persons had been detained immediately prior to their death in custody were primarily theft-related (n=4).

**Table 32: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 2005 (number)**

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Total
NSW	0	3	0	0	3
Vic	4	0	0	1	5
Qld	1	1	1	1	4
WA	2	2	0	2	6
SA	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>(All persons)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(19)</b>

(a) Excludes one case for which the most serious offence information is missing

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Trends in deaths

Since 1992 deaths of persons who committed violent or theft-related offences immediately prior to their final period of custody have generally been more frequent than other types of offence each year (Table 33). Trends in deaths of persons committing drug-related offences have been extremely low since 1990.

**Table 33: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
1990	6	7	0	2	15	1	31
1991	9	5	0	1	13	3	31
1992	6	10	2	4	7	2	31
1993	9	10	1	4	5	4	33
1994	16	7	0	2	2	1	28
1995	10	9	0	4	2	1	26
1996	10	9	1	3	6	0	29
1997	9	10	0	1	7	2	29
1998	9	6	0	3	6	3	27
1999	12	8	2	2	2	1	27
2000	11	9	0	2	3	0	25
2001	5	11	0	8	4	6	34
2002	6	8	0	11	4	8	37
2003	12	6	1	8	4	3	34
2004	13	7	0	4	2	4	30
2005	8	6	1	4	0	0	19
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(151)</b>	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(63)</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>(471)</b>

(a) Five cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Location of death

### 2005 findings

Eleven of 20 deaths occurred in a public place, followed by five deaths on private property (Table 34). Six Indigenous and five non-Indigenous deaths occurred in public places.

**Table 34: Deaths in police custody by location of death, 2005 (number)**

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Total
NSW	0	0	0	3	3
Vic	1	0	2	2	5
Qld	0	2	1	2	5
WA	0	1	1	4	6
SA	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(20)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Trends in deaths

Table 35 shows that:

- since 1999 public places have been the most frequent location of deaths each year
- while cell deaths peaked in 1991 with 10 deaths, there have been relatively few since then
- no public hospital deaths were recorded in 2005
- the trend for deaths in custodial settings has remained relatively low over the years.

	Public hospital	Cell	Custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
1990	9	5	2	1	0	0	17
1991	10	10	1	2	1	0	24
1992	10	3	3	3	11	1	31
1993	13	2	2	3	12	1	33
1994	5	3	2	7	10	1	28
1995	9	1	1	5	9	1	26
1996	7	4	2	4	11	1	29
1997	10	5	0	4	8	2	29
1998	11	4	2	3	5	2	27
1999	6	1	2	6	12	0	27
2000	7	2	0	4	13	0	26
2001	8	2	0	3	22	0	35
2002	11	0	1	6	19	0	37
2003	3	6	3	3	21	0	36
2004	5	1	0	7	17	0	30
2005	0	1	3	5	11	0	20
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(124)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>(66)</b>	<b>(182)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(455)</b>

(a) 21 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Circumstances of custodial period

The NDICP examines the circumstances of the custodial period, that is, why the deceased was in custody at the time of death.

### 2005 findings

Overall, 13 of the 20 deaths which occurred in police custody and custody-related operations in 2005 occurred while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, the individual:

- eight involved non-Indigenous persons and five involved Indigenous persons
- six of the 20 deaths occurred in police lock up, or during transfer to a police station or hospital.

## Trends in deaths

Table 36 presents the number of deaths by type of custody from 1990 to 2005:

- since 1992, deaths occurring while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, an individual have been more frequent each year than any other type of custody
- there was a decrease between 1990 and 1995 in deaths occurring in police cells or vans during transfers to hospitals, detention centres or other facilities
- in 1997 and 2002, only one death occurred where an individual was trying to escape.

	Institution	Escaping	Detaining	Other/marginal	Total
1990	18	0	13	0	31
1991	17	0	13	1	31
1992	13	0	18	0	31
1993	10	0	20	3	33
1994	7	0	21	0	28
1995	4	0	22	0	26
1996	9	0	20	0	29
1997	6	1	22	0	29
1998	11	0	14	2	27
1999	6	0	21	0	27
2000	2	0	24	0	26
2001	3	0	30	2	35
2002	5	1	30	1	37
2003	9	0	27	0	36
2004	4	0	26	0	30
2005	6	0	13	1	20
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(130)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Motor vehicle pursuit deaths

### 2005 findings

Of the 13 deaths in police custody and custody-related operations where police were in the process of attempting to detain the individual, eight occurred during motor vehicle pursuits (Table 37).

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Raids	Shooting/other	Total n
NSW	2	1	0	0	3
Vic	1	0	1	1	3
Qld	2	0	0	1	3
WA	3	0	0	0	3
SA	0	0	0	1	1
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(13)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Trends in deaths

The numbers of motor vehicle pursuit deaths in general peaked between 2000 and 2002 (Table 38). Apart from seven deaths in 2000, deaths resulting from raids have been low to non-existent in all other years. Deaths resulting from sieges and other types of pursuit have fluctuated over the years.

**Table 38: Deaths in attempt to detain, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raids	Other	Total
1990	5	1	0	0	4	10
1991	2	2	2	0	6	12
1992	5	2	1	0	8	16
1993	9	1	4	1	5	20
1994	4	1	3	0	13	21
1995	7	2	2	1	10	22
1996	11	0	1	1	7	20
1997	8	1	7	1	5	22
1998	5	1	2	0	6	14
1999	8	1	2	0	10	21
2000	13	2	1	7	1	24
2001	17	7	3	1	2	30
2002	16	2	4	0	8	30
2003	10	4	6	1	6	27
2004	8	5	4	0	9	26
2005	8	1	0	1	3	13
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>(328)</b>

(a) Excludes 148 cases due either to missing data or because the detain variable is not applicable

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Indigenous status

### 2005 findings

Table 39 shows the Indigenous status of persons whose deaths occurred in each jurisdiction. Of the eight motor vehicle pursuit deaths in Australia, four involved Indigenous persons (Table 39).

**Table 39: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits by jurisdiction, 2005 (number)**

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
NSW	0	2	2
Vic	0	1	1
Qld	1	1	2
WA	3	0	3
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(8)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

Indigenous persons were involved in 34 of the 136 motor vehicle pursuit deaths since 1990 (Table 40). Non-Indigenous deaths outnumbered Indigenous deaths in every year except 1990, 1991, 1995 and 2005.

	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>Total n</b>
1990	3	2	5
1991	1	1	2
1992	2	3	5
1993	0	9	9
1994	0	4	4
1995	4	3	7
1996	4	7	11
1997	2	6	8
1998	0	5	5
1999	2	6	8
2000	2	11	13
2001	3	14	17
2002	3	13	16
2003	2	8	10
2004	2	6	8
2005	4	4	8
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(102)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## **Sex**

### *2005 findings*

There was one death of a female during a police motor vehicle pursuit in 2005.

### *Trends in deaths*

Table 41 shows that male deaths accounted for the vast majority of motor vehicle pursuit deaths, outnumbering female deaths in every year.



**Table 41: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by sex, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Male	Female	Total n
1990	4	1	5
1991	2	0	2
1992	4	1	5
1993	8	1	9
1994	4	0	4
1995	7	0	7
1996	11	0	11
1997	8	0	8
1998	5	0	5
1999	6	2	8
2000	13	0	13
2001	16	1	17
2002	13	3	16
2003	9	1	10
2004	8	0	8
2005	7	1	8
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(125)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Age

### *2005 findings*

The mean age at time of death for persons involved in police pursuits in 2005 was 20 years:

- of the eight pursuit deaths in 2005, six were of persons aged less than 25
- two were of persons aged between 25 and 39 years.

### *Trends in deaths*

Table 42 shows that the majority of motor vehicle pursuit deaths since 1990 have generally involved persons aged less than 25 years. Deaths involving persons aged 40 years and over have been very low to non-existent since 1990.

**Table 42: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
1990	4	1	0	0	5
1991	1	1	0	0	2
1992	3	1	1	0	5
1993	7	2	0	0	9
1994	2	2	0	0	4
1995	6	1	0	0	7
1996	9	1	1	0	11
1997	5	3	0	0	8
1998	1	3	0	1	5
1999	5	3	0	0	8
2000	8	5	0	0	13
2001	15	2	0	0	17
2002	9	6	0	1	16
2003	3	5	2	0	10
2004	5	2	1	0	8
2005	6	2	0	0	8
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Circumstances surrounding the deaths

### Speed and length of time of pursuit

#### *2005 findings*

Insufficient information is available at present to provide details regarding length of pursuit and top speed for all cases. This information will be updated based on coronial outcomes.

#### *Trends in deaths*

Table 43 shows the average and top speed of motor vehicle pursuits across all Australian jurisdictions from 1990 to 2005 along with the average length of time taken for pursuits, with raw numbers in Table 44. Speeds reached were generally high across most states. The top speed recorded was 220 km per hour and pursuit times ranged from 10 seconds to 40 minutes.

**Table 43: Speed and length of time of motor vehicle pursuits, 1990–2005**

	Pursuits (n)	Pursuits used in averages (n)	Av. top speed (km/hr)	Top speed (km/hr)	Av. pursuit time (mins:secs)	Pursuit time (mins:secs)	
						Min	Max
NSW	55	38	131.0	190	6:12	0:10	40:00
Vic	23	18	135.5	200	4:38	0:30	18:00
Qld	15	9	132.2	180	7:48	1:30	22:00
WA	24	14	162.8	220	7:54	1:00	15:00
SA	11	8	112.3	124	12:18	5:00	32:00
Tas	1	1	40.0	40	–	–	–
NT	5	2	123.5	127	5:30	4:00	7:00
ACT	2	2	173.5	180	–	–	–

Note: Averages were calculated using the total number of cases for which top speed and length of pursuit data were available

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table 44: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by jurisdiction, 1990–2005 (number)**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
1991	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1992	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1993	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	9
1994	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
1995	3	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	7
1996	4	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	11
1997	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
1998	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1999	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	8
2000	6	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	13
2001	5	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	17
2002	7	6	0	1	1	0	1	0	16
2003	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	10
2004	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	8
2005	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	8
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Time of death

### 2005 findings

- three of the eight pursuit deaths occurred between the hours of 8pm and midnight
- three deaths occurred between midnight and 4am, one occurred between 4am and 8am and another between 12pm and 4pm.

## Trends in deaths

The majority of pursuit deaths since 1990 occurred between 12am and 4am (Table 45).

	12am – 4am	4:01am – 8am	8:01am – 12pm	12:01pm – 4pm	4:01pm – 8pm	8:01pm – 11:59pm	Total
1990	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
1991	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
1992	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
1993	0	4	0	1	0	4	9
1994	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
1995	0	2	0	1	0	4	7
1996	4	4	1	0	1	1	11
1997	2	2	1	1	0	2	8
1998	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
1999	6	0	0	0	1	1	8
2000	2	3	0	0	3	5	13
2001	5	0	1	3	0	7	16
2002	5	0	5	2	1	1	14
2003	0	3	2	2	3	0	10
2004	6	0	1	0	0	1	8
2005	3	1	0	1	0	3	8
<b>(Total)<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(133)</b>

(a) The time of death does not necessarily reflect the time of the pursuit

(b) Three cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2005 findings

Five of the eight motor vehicle pursuit deaths were of persons for whom the most serious offence prior to the pursuit was theft-related.

## Trends in deaths

Deaths of persons who committed theft-related offences immediately prior to their final period of custody generally outnumbered all other offence types over the time period (Table 46). The second most common offence type was traffic offences.

**Table 46: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Good order	Total
1990	1	3	0	1	0	5
1991	0	1	0	1	0	2
1992	0	3	0	2	0	5
1993	0	4	1	4	0	9
1994	1	1	0	2	0	4
1995	0	4	0	3	0	7
1996	1	7	0	3	0	11
1997	0	7	0	1	0	8
1998	2	1	0	2	0	5
1999	2	3	1	2	0	8
2000	0	9	0	2	1	12
2001	0	9	0	7	1	17
2002	0	6	0	10	0	16
2003	1	2	0	7	0	10
2004	0	5	0	3	0	8
2005	0	5	0	2	0	7
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(134)</b>

(a) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Shooting deaths

### 2005 findings

In 2005, a total of five shooting deaths occurred across Australia (Table 47):

- three deaths occurred in Victoria
- one shooting death occurred in each of Queensland and South Australia.

**Table 47: Shooting deaths in police custody by jurisdiction, 2005<sup>(a)</sup> (number)**

	Shot by police	Shot by self	Total
Vic	3	0	3
Qld	0	1	1
SA	1	0	1
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(5)</b>

(a) Excludes jurisdictions for which no shooting deaths were recorded  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Between 1990 and 2005, 80 shooting deaths were of persons shot by police while a further 55 persons shot themselves in the presence of police (Table 48). The number of persons in custody who were shot by police peaked at 12 deaths in 1994.

**Table 48: Shooting deaths in police custody, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Shot by Police		Shot by self		Shot by other official		Total n		Total
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
1990	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
1991	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	9	9
1992	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	9	9
1993	1	2	0	5	0	0	1	8	9
1994	2	10	0	5	0	0	2	15	17
1995	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	10	10
1996	0	2	1	5	0	0	1	7	8
1997	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	11	11
1998	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	6	7
1999	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	9	9
2000	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	7	7
2001	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	5
2002	1	4	1	4	0	0	2	8	10
2003	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	7	7
2004	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	11	11
2005	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	5	5
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(53)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(129)</b>	<b>(138)</b>

(a) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Deaths resulting from police shootings

### Indigenous status

#### *2005 findings*

There were no police shooting deaths of Indigenous persons recorded in 2005.

#### *Trends in deaths*

Police shooting deaths of non-Indigenous persons have consistently outnumbered those of Indigenous persons each year (Table 49).

**Table 49: Police shooting deaths in custody, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	1	3	4
1991	0	5	5
1992	0	4	4
1993	1	2	3
1994	2	10	12
1995	0	5	5
1996	0	2	2
1997	0	6	6
1998	1	5	6
1999	0	6	6
2000	0	6	6
2001	1	2	3
2002	1	4	5
2003	0	3	3
2004	0	6	6
2005	0	4	4
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Sex

### *2005 findings*

There were no police shooting deaths of females in 2005.

### *Trends in deaths*

Two females in 1994 and one female in 1995 were shot by police. In all other years only male deaths have resulted from police shootings (Table 50).

<b>Table 50: Police shooting deaths by sex, 1990–2005 (number)</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1990	4	0	4
1991	5	0	5
1992	4	0	4
1993	3	0	3
1994	10	2	12
1995	4	1	5
1996	2	0	2
1997	6	0	6
1998	6	0	6
1999	6	0	6
2000	6	0	6
2001	3	0	3
2002	5	0	5
2003	3	0	3
2004	6	0	6
2005	4	0	4
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(77)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Age

### *2005 findings*

The mean age at time of death for persons shot by police in 2005 was 31 years:

- three of the four deaths last year were of persons aged between 25 and 39
- one death was recorded in the 40 to 54 year age group.

### *Trends in deaths*

The majority of police shooting deaths between 1990 and 2005 were of people aged between 25 and 39 years (Table 51).



<b>Table 51: Police shooting deaths by age, 1990–2005 (number)</b>					
	<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
1990	0	3	1	0	4
1991	3	1	1	0	5
1992	1	0	3	0	4
1993	1	0	2	0	3
1994	3	5	4	0	12
1995	1	4	0	0	5
1996	0	2	0	0	2
1997	1	5	0	0	6
1998	2	4	0	0	6
1999	0	4	2	0	6
2000	1	5	0	0	6
2001	0	1	1	1	3
2002	3	1	1	0	5
2003	0	2	1	0	3
2004	0	5	1	0	6
2005	0	3	1	0	4
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Circumstances surrounding the deaths

### Time of death

#### *2005 findings*

The police shooting deaths in 2005 were evenly spread across time categories.

#### *Trends in deaths*

The majority of police shooting deaths since 1990 occurred between 4pm and 8pm (Table 52) although it can be seen that shooting deaths have ranged across all hours of the day or night.

<b>Table 52: Police shooting deaths by time of death<sup>(a)</sup>, 1990–2005 (number)</b>							
	<b>12am – 4am</b>	<b>4:01am – 8am</b>	<b>8:01am – 12pm</b>	<b>12:01pm – 4pm</b>	<b>4:01pm – 8pm</b>	<b>8:01pm – 11:59pm</b>	<b>Total</b>
1990	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
1991	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
1992	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
1993	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
1994	1	0	2	3	3	3	12
1995	1	0	1	0	3	0	5
1996	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1997	3	1	1	0	0	1	6
1998	1	2	0	0	3	0	6
1999	0	0	3	1	1	1	6
2000	1	1	0	0	3	1	6
2001	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
2002	0	0	0	1	3	1	5
2003	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
2004	1	0	1	2	2	0	6
2005	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
<b>(Total)<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(78)</b>

(a) The time of death does not necessarily reflect the time of the shooting

(b) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2005 findings

All four police shooting deaths were of persons whose most serious offence immediately prior to the shooting was a violent offence.

### Trends in deaths

Deaths of persons who committed violent offences immediately prior to the shooting have generally outnumbered all other offence types (Table 53).

**Table 53: Police shooting deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Theft-related</b>	<b>Drug-related</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Good order</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
1990	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
1991	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
1992	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
1993	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
1994	10	2	0	0	0	0	12
1995	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
1996	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1997	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
1998	4	1	0	0	0	1	6
1999	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
2000	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
2001	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2002	1	1	0	0	2	1	5
2003	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
2004	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
2005	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(79)</b>

(a) One case has been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

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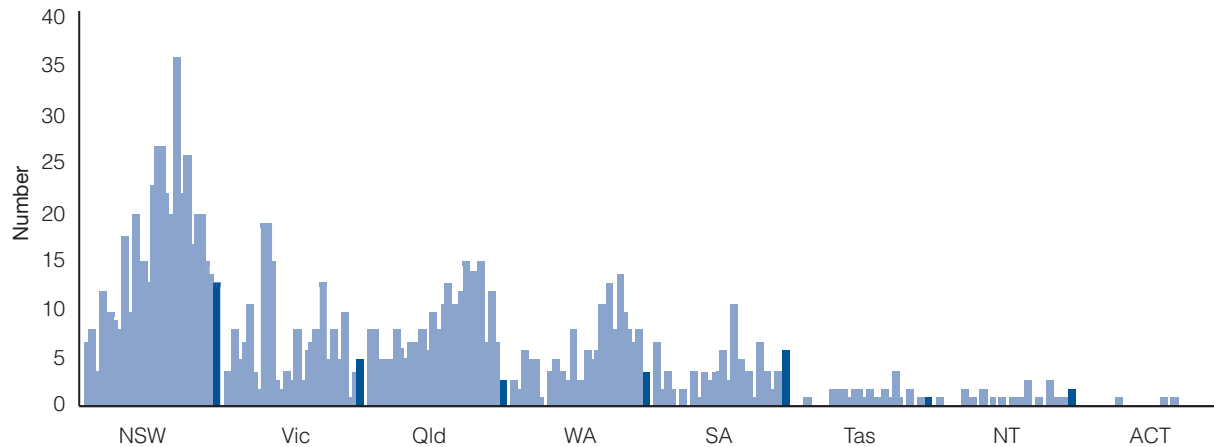


**Appendix A:  
Aggregate data by jurisdiction**

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## Deaths in prison custody, 1980–2005

Figure A1: Prison deaths by jurisdiction, 1980–2005 (number)



Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

Table A1: Prison deaths by year and jurisdiction, 1980–2005 (number)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1980	7	4	8	3	7	0	1	0	30
1981	8	8	8	2	2	0	0	0	28
1982	4	5	5	6	4	1	0	0	25
1983	12	7	5	5	2	0	0	0	31
1984	10	11	5	5	0	0	0	0	31
1985	9	4	8	1	2	0	2	0	26
1986	8	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	17
1987	18	19	5	4	4	2	0	1	53
1988	10	15	7	5	1	2	2	0	42
1989	20	3	7	4	4	2	0	0	40
1990	15	2	8	3	3	1	1	0	33
1991	15	4	6	8	4	2	0	0	39
1992	13	3	10	3	4	2	1	0	36
1993	23	8	8	3	6	1	0	0	49
1994	27	3	11	6	3	2	1	0	53
1995	22	6	13	5	11	1	1	0	59
1996	20	7	11	6	5	1	1	1	52
1997	36	8	12	11	4	2	3	0	76
1998	22	13	15	13	4	1	0	1	69
1999	26	5	14	8	1	4	1	0	59
2000	17	8	15	14	7	1	0	0	62
2001	20	5	15	10	4	0	3	0	57
2002	20	10	7	8	2	2	1	0	50
2003	15	1	12	7	4	0	1	0	40
2004	14	4	7	8	4	1	1	0	39
2005	13	5	3	4	6	1	2	0	34
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(424)</b>	<b>(170)</b>	<b>(231)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>(98)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]



**Table A2: Prison deaths by Indigenous status, 1980–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	59	13.9	365	86.1	424
Vic	5	2.9	165	97.1	170
Qld	46	19.9	185	80.1	231
WA	45	29.6	107	70.4	152
SA	18	18.4	80	81.6	98
Tas	1	3.4	28	96.6	29
NT	17	73.9	6	26.1	23
ACT	0	0.0	3	100.0	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A3: Prison deaths by legal status of deceased, 1980–2005 (number)**

		Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	38	21	57
	Non-Indigenous	246	118	364
Vic	Indigenous	2	3	4
	Non-Indigenous	116	49	165
Qld	Indigenous	35	10	45
	Non-Indigenous	127	46	173
WA	Indigenous	30	15	43
	Non-Indigenous	71	36	107
SA	Indigenous	13	5	18
	Non-Indigenous	44	36	80
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	16	11	27
NT	Indigenous	13	4	15
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>190</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>925</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(755)</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>(1,115)</b>

(a) Excludes 15 cases due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A4: Prison deaths by sex, 1980–2005**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	95.7	406
	Female	4.3	18
Vic	Male	91.2	155
	Female	8.8	15
Qld	Male	96.5	223
	Female	3.5	8
WA	Male	96.7	147
	Female	3.3	5
SA	Male	95.9	94
	Female	4.1	4
Tas	Male	100.0	29
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	100.0	23
	Female	0.0	0
ACT	Male	100.0	3
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>1,080</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>50</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A5: Mean age at death for all prison deaths, 1980–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	59	32.0	365	37.5	424	36.7
Vic	5	29.2	165	37.1	170	36.8
Qld	46	33.1	185	39.6	231	38.3
WA	45	33.3	107	39.3	152	37.5
SA	18	28.8	80	38.1	98	36.4
Tas	1	48.0	28	37.8	29	38.1
NT	17	32.7	6	33.0	23	32.8
ACT	0	0.0	3	19.7	3	19.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>	<b>37.1</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A6: Prison deaths by age at time of death, 1980–2005 (number)**

		<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	Indigenous	16	31	10	2	59
	Non-Indigenous	82	145	86	52	365
Vic	Indigenous	3	1	1	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	31	77	31	26	165
Qld	Indigenous	13	20	11	2	46
	Non-Indigenous	36	73	38	38	185
WA	Indigenous	11	21	12	1	45
	Non-Indigenous	28	36	20	23	107
SA	Indigenous	8	9	1	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	10	40	18	12	80
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	8	8	5	7	28
NT	Indigenous	4	10	2	1	17
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	1	1	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>191</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>939</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(254)</b>	<b>(474)</b>	<b>(237)</b>	<b>(165)</b>	<b>(1,130)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A7: Prison deaths by cause of death, 1980–2005 (number)**

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injuries	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	20	25	0	0	8	5	0	58
	Non-Indigenous	153	114	5	2	33	48	6	361
Vic	Indigenous	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	57	54	1	1	22	22	4	161
Qld	Indigenous	25	19	0	0	0	1	0	45
	Non-Indigenous	80	65	3	2	17	18	0	185
WA	Indigenous	15	24	0	1	2	1	0	43
	Non-Indigenous	52	34	1	0	5	8	5	105
SA	Indigenous	8	7	1	0	1	1	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	30	30	3	1	7	5	2	78
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	16	10	0	0	0	1	0	27
NT	Indigenous	4	11	0	0	0	2	0	17
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>926</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(468)</b>	<b>(398)</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(97)</b>	<b>(112)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(1,113)</b>

(a) 17 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A8: Prison deaths by manner of death, 1980–2005 (number)**

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
NSW	Indigenous	23	25	5	0	6	0	59
	Non-Indigenous	164	115	23	1	44	14	362
Vic	Indigenous	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	69	54	4	1	29	8	165
Qld	Indigenous	25	20	0	0	0	0	46
	Non-Indigenous	84	68	12	1	14	6	185
WA	Indigenous	17	24	1	0	1	2	45
	Non-Indigenous	60	33	1	0	10	1	105
SA	Indigenous	9	7	0	0	1	1	18
	Non-Indigenous	38	30	2	1	5	3	79
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	17	10	0	0	0	0	27
NT	Indigenous	4	12	0	0	1	0	17
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>191</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>932</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(520)</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>(1,123)</b>

(a) Seven cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A9: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1980–2005 (number)**

		Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	35	14	3	2	3	2	59
	Non-Indigenous	148	129	42	6	23	10	358
Vic	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	1	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	82	52	16	1	11	3	165
Qld	Indigenous	28	10	1	2	3	1	45
	Non-Indigenous	90	47	10	14	8	8	177
WA	Indigenous	27	14	0	1	2	1	45
	Non-Indigenous	60	33	4	1	7	2	107
SA	Indigenous	9	3	0	1	4	1	18
	Non-Indigenous	46	20	4	2	7	1	80
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	17	7	0	1	1	2	28
NT	Indigenous	9	3	0	2	1	2	17
	Non-Indigenous	3	2	0	0	1	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>190</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>924</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(559)</b>	<b>(337)</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(72)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(1,114)</b>

(a) 16 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

**Table A10: Prison deaths by location, 1980–2005 (number)**

		Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public place	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	21	2	31	4	0	1	59
	Non-Indigenous	76	23	227	16	0	1	343
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	32	11	106	5	0	0	154
Qld	Indigenous	7	1	30	4	0	0	42
	Non-Indigenous	65	9	67	11	1	0	153
WA	Indigenous	15	1	23	1	0	0	40
	Non-Indigenous	26	4	64	6	3	0	103
SA	Indigenous	4	1	12	0	0	0	17
	Non-Indigenous	27	3	44	3	0	1	78
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	9	8	11	0	0	0	28
NT	Indigenous	8	0	8	0	0	0	16
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	3	0	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>180</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>868</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(294)</b>	<b>(63)</b>	<b>(634)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(1,048)</b>

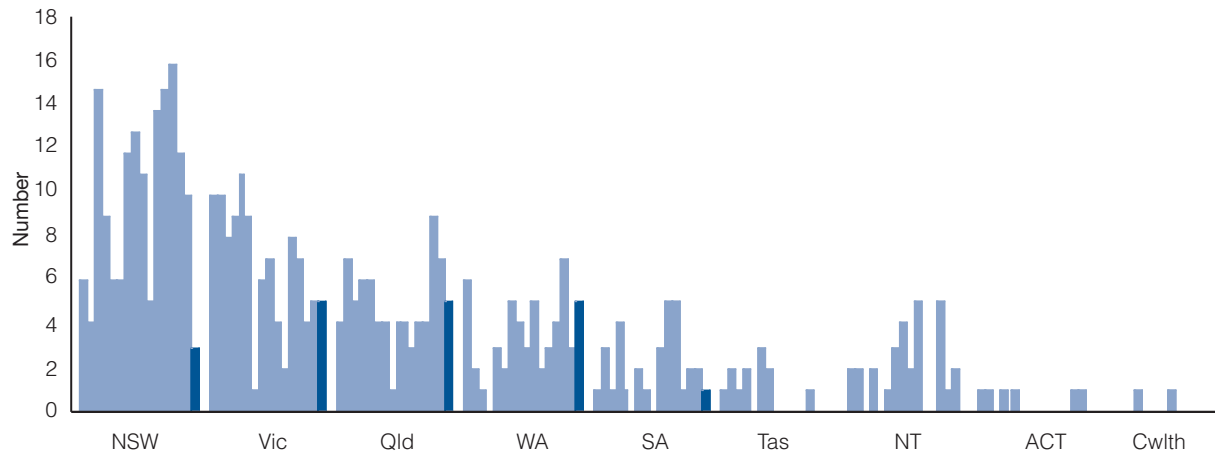
(a) 82 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1980–2005 [computer file]

## Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1990–2005

Note: All references made to police custody deaths include deaths occurring during custody-related operations.

**Figure A2: Deaths in police custody by jurisdiction, 1990–2005 (number)**



Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A11: Police custody deaths by year and jurisdiction, 1980–2005 (number)**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Cwth <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
1990	6	10	4	6	1	1	2	1	0	31
1991	4	10	7	2	3	2	2	1	0	31
1992	15	8	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	31
1993	9	9	6	0	4	2	2	1	0	33
1994	6	11	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	28
1995	6	9	4	2	0	3	1	1	0	26
1996	12	1	4	5	2	2	3	0	0	29
1997	13	6	1	4	1	0	4	0	0	29
1998	11	7	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	27
1999	5	4	4	5	3	0	5	0	1	27
2000	14	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	26
2001	15	8	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	35
2002	16	7	4	3	1	1	5	0	0	37
2003	12	4	9	7	2	0	1	1	0	36
2004	10	5	7	3	2	0	2	1	0	30
2005	3	5	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	20
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(157)</b>	<b>(106)</b>	<b>(77)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

(a) Deaths occurring in the Commonwealth refer to those in the custody of the Australian Federal Police (non-ACT)

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]



**Table A12: Deaths in police custody by jurisdiction, 1990–2005**

		%	Total n
NSW	Category 1	28.0	44
	Category 2	72.0	113
Vic	Category 1	66.0	70
	Category 2	34.0	36
Qld	Category 1	57.1	44
	Category 2	42.8	33
WA	Category 1	43.6	24
	Category 2	56.4	31
SA	Category 1	43.7	14
	Category 2	56.3	18
Tas	Category 1	41.7	5
	Category 2	58.3	7
NT	Category 1	62.1	18
	Category 2	37.9	11
ACT	Category 1	50.0	3
	Category 2	50.0	3
Cwth	Category 1	100.0	2
	Category 2	0.0	0
Australia	Category 1	47.1	224
	Category 2	9.0	252
<b>(Total)</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A13: Police custody deaths by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 1990–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	21	13.4	136	86.6	157
Vic	4	3.8	102	96.2	106
Qld	15	19.5	62	80.5	77
WA	31	56.4	24	43.6	55
SA	6	18.8	26	81.3	32
Tas	2	16.7	10	83.3	12
NT	16	55.2	13	44.8	29
ACT	0	0.0	6	100.0	6
Cwth	0	0.0	2	100.0	2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A14: Deaths in police custody by sex and jurisdiction, 1990–2005**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	94.3	148
	Female	5.7	9
Vic	Male	89.6	95
	Female	10.4	11
Qld	Male	87.0	67
	Female	13.0	10
WA	Male	94.5	52
	Female	5.5	3
SA	Male	93.8	30
	Female	6.2	2
Tas	Male	100.0	12
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	89.7	26
	Female	10.3	3
ACT	Male	100.0	6
	Female	0.0	0
Cwth	Male	100.0	2
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>438</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>(Total)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A15: Mean age of police custody deaths, 1990–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	21	29.2	136	32.9	157	32.4
Vic	4	35.8	102	31.7	106	31.8
Qld	15	29.3	62	36.4	77	35.0
WA	31	24.3	24	30.7	55	27.1
SA	6	33.0	26	28.8	32	29.6
Tas	2	21.5	10	40.6	11	37.1
NT	16	30.5	13	34.2	29	32.1
ACT	0	0.0	6	33.7	6	33.7
Cwth	0	0.0	2	44.5	2	44.5
<b>Australia<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>95</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>(475)</b>	<b>32.1</b>

(a) One case has been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A16: Deaths in police custody by age, 1990–2005 (number)**

		<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	Indigenous	9	7	4	1	21
	Non-Indigenous	40	61	23	12	136
Vic	Indigenous	0	3	1	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	33	46	18	5	102
Qld	Indigenous	7	5	2	1	15
	Non-Indigenous	10	28	18	6	62
WA	Indigenous	19	8	3	1	31
	Non-Indigenous	9	10	4	1	24
SA	Indigenous	2	3	0	1	6
	Non-Indigenous	11	10	4	1	26
Tas	Indigenous	1	1	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	2	3	4	1	10
NT	Indigenous	5	6	5	0	16
	Non-Indigenous	3	6	3	1	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	2	0	6
Cwth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>95</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>381</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>(201)</b>	<b>(91)</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A17: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injuries	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	2	1	1	2	12	1	2	21
	Non-Indigenous	11	6	5	43	60	7	4	136
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	11	7	14	39	16	9	5	101
Qld	Indigenous	1	5	2	0	5	0	2	15
	Non-Indigenous	2	8	5	20	11	10	3	59
WA	Indigenous	5	5	2	0	18	1	0	31
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	7	11	1	1	24
SA	Indigenous	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	2	7	9	4	0	26
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	1	6	1	0	1	10
NT	Indigenous	2	6	1	2	4	0	1	16
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	1	5	2	1	2	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	6
Cwth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>95</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>377</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(138)</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(472)</b>

(a) Four cases have been excluded due to missing data  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A18: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
NSW	Indigenous	6	1	0	1	13	0	21
	Non-Indigenous	52	6	2	16	58	2	136
Vic	Indigenous	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	23	7	0	28	38	5	101
Qld	Indigenous	1	5	0	0	8	1	15
	Non-Indigenous	16	9	0	10	23	1	59
WA	Indigenous	5	5	0	0	21	0	31
	Non-Indigenous	9	1	0	4	9	1	24
SA	Indigenous	1	1	0	2	2	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	10	2	0	4	10	0	26
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	0	1	3	0	10
NT	Indigenous	2	6	0	0	7	1	16
	Non-Indigenous	6	0	0	4	1	2	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	1	3	0	6
Cwith	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>377</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(140)</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>(198)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(472)</b>

(a) Four cases have been excluded due to missing data  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A19: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	5	8	1	1	4	2	21
	Non-Indigenous	45	34	3	26	7	17	132
Vic	Indigenous	1	1	0	0	1	1	4
	Non-Indigenous	32	35	2	11	18	4	102
Qld	Indigenous	5	4	0	0	6	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	21	8	2	7	19	4	61
WA	Indigenous	4	18	0	6	3	0	31
	Non-Indigenous	11	4	0	5	3	1	24
SA	Indigenous	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	8	7	0	3	4	4	26
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	0	1	3	2	10
NT	Indigenous	2	2	0	2	8	2	16
	Non-Indigenous	7	2	0	0	4	0	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	1	1	1	6
Cwith	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>95</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>376</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(151)</b>	<b>(128)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(63)</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>(471)</b>

(a) Five cases have been excluded due to missing data  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A20: Deaths in police custody by location of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Public hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	8	1	1	3	8	0	21
	Non-Indigenous	33	7	4	23	65	2	134
Vic	Indigenous	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	22	12	7	16	37	2	96
Qld	Indigenous	7	3	1	0	3	1	15
	Non-Indigenous	13	14	3	8	19	2	59
WA	Indigenous	7	5	2	1	12	0	27
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	1	3	11	1	22
SA	Indigenous	3	0	0	1	2	0	6
	Non-Indigenous	10	1	0	4	10	0	25
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	1	1	4	0	0	10
NT	Indigenous	7	1	1	0	6	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	0	1	6	1	12
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	1	2	0	5
Cwth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>365</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(124)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>(66)</b>	<b>(182)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(455)</b>

(a) 21 cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A21: Deaths in police custody by type of custody, 1990–2005**

	Institution		Escaping		Detaining		Other		Total n
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
NSW	14.6	23	0.6	1	84.7	133	0.0	0	157
Vic	32.1	34	0.0	0	65.1	69	2.8	3	106
Qld	42.9	33	1.3	1	51.9	40	3.9	3	77
WA	32.7	18	0.0	0	67.3	37	0.0	0	55
SA	12.5	4	0.0	0	78.1	25	9.4	3	32
Tas	25.0	3	0.0	0	75.0	9	0.0	0	12
NT	37.9	11	0.0	0	58.6	17	3.4	1	29
ACT	33.3	2	0.0	0	66.7	4	0.0	0	6
Cwth	100.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	2
<b>(Total)</b>	<b>(27.0)</b>	<b>(130)</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(70.0)</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>(2.0)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(476)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]



## Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1990–2005

Table A22: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits, 1990–2005 (number)		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	Indigenous				3					3
	Non-Indigenous	2								2
1991	Indigenous				1					1
	Non-Indigenous	1								1
1992	Indigenous	1			1					2
	Non-Indigenous	1	2							3
1993	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	1		2				9
1994	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	1		3						4
1995	Indigenous	2			2					4
	Non-Indigenous	1	1				1			3
1996	Indigenous			1	2			1		4
	Non-Indigenous	4		1	1	1				7
1997	Indigenous	1			1					2
	Non-Indigenous	5	1							6
1998	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	3	1		1					5
1999	Indigenous			1				1		2
	Non-Indigenous	4		1				1		6
2000	Indigenous			1		1				2
	Non-Indigenous	6	1		1	3				11
2001	Indigenous				2	1				3
	Non-Indigenous	5	6	1	1	1				14
2002	Indigenous	1				1		1		3
	Non-Indigenous	6	6		1					13
2003	Indigenous				2					2
	Non-Indigenous	3	2	2					1	8
2004	Indigenous				1			1		2
	Non-Indigenous	2		1	1	1			1	6
2005	Indigenous			1	3					4
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	1						4
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A23: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by sex, 1990–2005**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	94.5	52
	Female	5.5	3
Vic	Male	91.3	21
	Female	8.7	2
Qld	Male	80.0	12
	Female	20.0	3
WA	Male	91.7	22
	Female	8.3	2
SA	Male	100.0	11
	Female	0.0	0
Tas	Male	100.0	1
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	80.0	4
	Female	20.0	1
ACT	Male	100.0	2
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>(125)</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>(11)</b>
	<b>(Total)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A24: Mean age at death for motor vehicle pursuit deaths<sup>(a)</sup>, 1990–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	5	19.6	50	26.3	55	25.7
Vic	–	–	23	22.0	23	22.0
Qld	4	16.3	11	24.8	15	22.5
WA	18	18.3	6	27.2	24	20.5
SA	3	29.7	8	19.4	11	22.2
NT	4	22.3	1	23.0	5	22.4
ACT	–	–	2	26.0	2	26.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>(135)</b>	<b>23.4</b>

(a) One case in Tasmania has been excluded due to missing age data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A25: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

		less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	Indigenous	4	1	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	25	22	2	1	50
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	18	4	1	0	23
Qld	Indigenous	4	0	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	6	4	1	0	11
WA	Indigenous	16	1	1	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	0	0	6
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	1	3
	Non-Indigenous	7	1	0	0	8
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
NT	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>102</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A26: Motor vehicle pursuits by time of death<sup>(a)</sup>, 1990–2005 (number)**

	12:01am – 4am	4:01am – 8am	8:01am – 12pm	12:01pm – 4pm	4:01pm – 8pm	8:01pm – 12am	Total
NSW	19	7	4	7	5	13	55
Vic	4	4	3	3	3	5	22
Qld	4	3	1	1	2	4	15
WA	7	4	4	2	1	5	23
SA	3	2	1	0	0	4	10
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
ACT	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>(Total)<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(133)</b>

(a) Refers to the time of death not necessarily the time of pursuit

(b) Three cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A27: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic	Good order	Total
NSW	Indigenous	0	4	0	1	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	4	20	1	23	1	49
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	11	1	10	0	23
Qld	Indigenous	1	3	0	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	2	4	0	4	0	10
WA	Indigenous	0	14	0	4	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	0	4	0	6
SA	Indigenous	0	3	0	0	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	0	5	0	2	1	8
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Indigenous	0	2	0	2	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	1	0	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(134)</b>

(a) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

## Shooting deaths, 1990–2005

**Table A28: Shooting deaths by method of detainment, 1990–2005 (number)**

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raids	Shooting/other	Total n
Shot by self	3	4	26	1	19	53
Shot by police	3	2	10	6	57	78
Shot by other official	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>(Total)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(76)</b>	<b>(132)</b>

(a) Six cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A29: Shooting deaths in police custody, 1990–2005 (number)**

		Shot by police	Shot by self	Shot by other official	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	17	25	1	43
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	31	7	0	38
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	11	9	0	20
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	0	6
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	3	0	7
Tas	Indigenous	1	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	1	5	0	6
NT	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	1	0	5
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	2
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(136)</b>

(a) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data  
Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A30: Police shooting deaths in custody, 1990–2005 (number)**

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	Indigenous							1		1
	Non-Indigenous	1	2							3
1991	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous		2	1	1		1			5
1992	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	2	2							4
1993	Indigenous						1			1
	Non-Indigenous	1	1							2
1994	Indigenous		1			1				2
	Non-Indigenous		8	1	1					10
1995	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous		3	1					1	5
1996	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	1						1		2
1997	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	3	2					1		6
1998	Indigenous	1								1
	Non-Indigenous	2	3							5
1999	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous			1	1	2		2		6
2000	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	1	1					6
2001	Indigenous					1				1
	Non-Indigenous	1				1				2
2002	Indigenous							1		1
	Non-Indigenous		1	3						4
2003	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	1		2						3
2004	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous	2	3	1						6
2005	Indigenous									
	Non-Indigenous		3			1				4
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A31: Police shooting deaths by sex, 1990–2005**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	100	18
	Female	0.0	0
Vic	Male	90.6	29
	Female	9.3	3
Qld	Male	100	11
	Female	0.0	0
WA	Male	100	4
	Female	0.0	0
SA	Male	100	6
	Female	0.0	0
Tas	Male	100	2
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	100	6
	Female	0.0	0
ACT	Male	100	1
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>(77)</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>(3)</b>
	<b>(Total)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A32: Mean age at death for police shooting deaths, 1990–2005**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	1	15.0	17	33.0	18	32.0
Vic	1	41.0	31	31.5	32	31.8
Qld	–	–	11	33.9	11	33.9
WA	–	–	4	29.5	4	29.5
SA	2	35.0	4	33.5	6	34.0
Tas	1	16.0	1	42.0	2	29.0
NT	2	30.0	4	34.0	6	32.7
ACT	–	–	1	37.0	1	37.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>32.3</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A33: Police shooting deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2005 (number)**

		less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	3	11	2	1	17
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	7	18	6	0	31
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	5	4	0	11
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	2	1	0	4
SA	Indigenous	0	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	1	0	4
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Indigenous	1	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	1	0	4
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(80)</b>

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

**Table A34: Police shooting deaths by time of death<sup>(a)</sup>, 1990–2005 (number)**

	12:01am – 4am	4:01am – 8am	8:01am – 12pm	12:01pm – 4pm	4:01pm – 8pm	8:01pm – 12am	Total
NSW	5	3	2	3	2	3	18
Vic	4	2	5	5	11	5	32
Qld	1	0	1	1	4	3	10
WA	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
SA	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
Tas	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
NT	2	0	2	1	1	0	6
ACT	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>(Total)<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(78)</b>

(a) Refers to the time of death not necessarily the time of shooting

(b) Two cases have been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]



**Table A35: Police shooting deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2005 (number)**

		<b>Violent</b>	<b>Theft-related</b>	<b>Drug-related</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Good order</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	9	4	1	0	0	2	16
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	23	7	0	0	1	0	31
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	6	2	0	1	1	1	11
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>
	<b>(All persons)</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(79)</b>

(a) One case has been excluded due to missing data

Source: AIC, NDICP 1990–2005 [computer file]

