

Homicide in Australia

2001–2002 National Homicide Monitoring
Program (NHMP) Annual Report

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Jenny Mouzos



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From the Director of the AIC

For the AIC's National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP), 2001–2002 was the thirteenth year of data collection. This program has been instrumental in providing up-to-date information on the circumstances and characteristics of homicide in Australia, and is recognised not only nationally but also internationally as one of the foremost homicide data collection programs.

The success of the NHMP is a reflection of the strong commitment of all state and territory police services. It is a significant example of what can be achieved through interagency cooperation and collaboration in the quest for a greater understanding of the most extreme form of violence in our society.

This report presents tabulated information on the circumstances and characteristics of homicide in Australia for the fiscal year 2001–2002, and also provides jurisdictional breakdowns for comparative purposes. As will be seen, NHMP data indicate that there has been a 20 per cent increase in homicide victimisation in 2001–2002. In addition, there was a 25 per cent decrease in the number of homicides involving a firearm—the lowest number and proportion since NHMP data collection began in 1989. Identifying these sudden shifts in trends is one of the main purposes of the NHMP and highlights the importance and need for a continued monitoring regime.

The AIC has released a number of other publications using NHMP data that are available on the Institute's web site. See <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/hmonitor/docs.html>.

Adam Graycar
Director
Australian Institute of Criminology

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NHMP: 2001–2002 Summary

In 2001–2002 there was a 20 per cent increase in homicide victimisation in Australia. However, the overall number of homicides in Australia each year tends to be low, and this recent increase is not statistically significant. Nevertheless, it is important to continuously monitor such changes to determine whether we are witnessing the beginning of an upward trend or whether the increase is an example of the yearly fluctuations that can occur due to the small number of homicides generally recorded. For example, although 2001–2002 had the highest ever number of deaths in the NHMP database (381 victims), in the previous year (2000–2001) the lowest number of homicides was recorded (317 victims).

Between 1 July 1989 and 30 June 2002, despite yearly fluctuations, the rate of homicide in Australia has remained relatively stable. This can be contrasted with the steady increase in serious assaults, from just over 100,000 in 1995 to about 152,000 in 2001 (ABS 2002a). However, very few serious assaults result in the death of the victim (about 0.3%). A similar pattern has been observed in other countries, such as the United States. There are a number of possible explanations as to why the rate of homicide has not increased as steadily and sharply as the increase in other violent crime:

- advances in emergency medical care (these may have saved many serious assault victims who might otherwise have died; see Harris et al. 2002);
- increased reporting of assaults; and
- police intervention and advanced methods of crime detection.

While there are various explanations advanced for why the rate of homicide has not substantially increased over the years in line with other violent crime, the fact remains that, compared to the number of serious assaults experienced in Australia, homicide is quite a rare occurrence.

Since 1 July 1989, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), through its National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP), has been monitoring the circumstances and characteristics of homicide in Australia. With information on over 4,000 homicides, we are now more informed about the characteristics of individuals that place them at risk of homicide victimisation and offending, and the circumstances that contribute to the likelihood of a homicide occurring. Such information not only serves as the foundation for the rational formulation and implementation of public policy, but can also alleviate the fears of the Australian community, especially when a highly publicised incident occurs that may heighten perceptions about the risk of becoming a victim of homicide.

This report provides a statistical overview of the circumstances and characteristics of the incidents, victims and offenders of homicide in each of Australia's states and territories for the most current year, 2001–2002. While it focuses specifically on 2001–2002, consistency with previous reports allows useful comparisons to be made over several years' data (see,

for example, Mouzos 2002a, 2001, 2000). Readers are encouraged to consult these earlier reports to gain a fuller picture of the trends and patterns of homicide in Australia since the establishment of the National Homicide Monitoring Program.

Methodology

The NHMP consists of two main data sources:

- offence records derived from each Australian state and territory police service, supplemented as necessary with information provided directly by officers in charge, and/or associated staff;¹ and
- state coronial² records such as toxicology and post-mortem reports³—as of 1 July 2001, toxicology reports were viewed online via access to the National Coroners' Information System (NCIS).⁴

Another source of information canvassed for the NHMP is press clippings provided on a daily basis by Media Monitors, which are then sorted by state and date and filed with the offence report.

Annually, the NHMP collects information on some 77 variables on all homicides coming to the attention of police throughout Australia. The data collection process involves obtaining hard copies of police offence reports that are either forwarded directly to the AIC, or collected during a site visit. This usually occurs during the months of late August and early September. All relevant information relating to the 77 variables is then extracted for each homicide incident and entered into the NHMP database. Data are then arranged into three hierarchical Statistical Analysis System (SAS) data sets:

1. **Incident file**, which describes the case and its circumstances (for instance, location, date and time of the incident, status of investigation, and whether the incident occurred during the course of another crime);
2. **Victim file**, which contains sociodemographic information relating to the victims, details relating to the cause of death, type of weapon used to kill the victims, and alcohol and illicit/prescription drug use; and
3. **Offender⁵ file**, which relates to persons who have been charged and includes data on the sociodemographic characteristics of the offender, his/her previous criminal history, alcohol/illicit drug use, state of mental health, and the offender's relationship to the victim.

1 The NHMP has received ethics clearance from the AIC Ethics Committee.

2 The law in each state and territory requires that all violent and unnatural deaths are reported to the coroner.

3 As of the 1 July 1996, additional information relating to whether the victim had consumed alcohol, or was under the influence of illicit/prescription drugs at the time of the incident, was also collected from coronial files from each state and territory.

4 The NHMP submitted an ethics application to the Monash University National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI) in order to obtain access to the NCIS. Access was granted on a fee for service basis.

5 At all times, the term "offender" refers to suspect offenders only, and not to convicted persons, unless otherwise stated.

The current data set of the NHMP covers a 13-year period from 1 July 1989 to 30 June 2002. Included in the data set are:⁶

- 4,112 homicide incidents;
- 4,421 victims; and
- 4,526 offenders.

Quality Control of Data

The NHMP engages in a rigorous quality control process aimed at ensuring an accurate quantification of homicide in Australia. Given that homicide is the most extreme offence committed against an individual, it is important that the figures are a true reflection of the level of lethal violence in Australia. The NHMP quality control process involves the cross-checking of information contained in each police offence report of murder and manslaughter with information from other sources. These “other” sources include post-mortem reports, information provided by other agencies within the police service (statistical services, homicide squads/major crime units), as well as press clippings. If a discrepancy arises between the police offence report and one of the other sources, then the original source is queried and, depending upon the accuracy of the other source, the homicide incident in the NHMP will be updated accordingly.

The web-based publication *Quality Control in the National Homicide Monitoring Program* (Mouzos 2002b) — available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tbp/tbp002.pdf> — provides an in-depth examination of the NHMP quality control process, including examples of identified inconsistencies in the various data sources. It highlights the methods used to ensure that the information provided to key stakeholders and the general public is accurate.

Definition of Homicide

The term “homicide” refers to a person killed, and a homicide “incident” is an event in which one or more persons are killed at the same place and time. Homicide is defined in the criminal laws of all Australian states and territories. Wording of the definition varies somewhat across jurisdictions in terms of degree, culpability and intent. However, for the purposes of the NHMP, the definition of homicide is the operational definition used by police throughout Australia. As such the NHMP collects data on the following incidents:

- all cases resulting in a person or persons being charged with murder or manslaughter (including the charge of “dangerous act causing death” which applies to the Northern Territory) — this excludes other driving-related fatalities, except where these immediately follow a criminal event such as armed robbery or motor vehicle theft;

⁶ It should be noted that the sizes of the files differ because homicide incidents can involve more than one victim and/or offender, and because not all data are available for every case.

- all murder–suicides as classed by police (where the suspected offender ultimately commits suicide;
- all other deaths classed by the police as homicides (including infanticides), even though no offender has been apprehended.

Attempted murder is excluded, as are violent deaths such as industrial accidents involving criminal negligence (unless a charge of manslaughter is laid). Lawful homicide, including incidents involving police in the course of their duties, is also excluded.

Homicide in Australia

Compared to previous years, there have been a number of notable changes in some of the characteristics of homicide during 2001–2002. The most obvious change has been the dramatic increase in both the number of incidents and victims of homicide. There has been a 20 per cent increase in the number of homicides in 2001–2002 compared to the previous year. While the number of homicides is the highest since the inception of the NHMP in 1990, there has been a 25 per cent decrease in the number of firearms homicides. These changes, as well as some consistent patterns, are discussed below in order to provide a profile of the four essential components of homicide: incident, victim, offender, and the relationship between the victim and offender. Specific attention will be directed at identifying what in particular has driven the changes in homicide for 2001–2002.

Homicide Incidents

In 2001–2002 a total of 354 homicide (90% murder; 10% manslaughter) incidents were recorded in Australia.⁷ Notably, for the first time since the NHMP began collecting data, Norfolk Island experienced its first homicide. In actual fact, this is the first homicide in Norfolk Island in 150 years. All jurisdictions, with the exception of New South Wales, recorded an increase in both incidents and victims of homicide. Victoria and South Australia recorded the largest increases. Of the 354 homicide incidents that occurred in Australia during 2001–2002, 47 remain unsolved (13%); that is, an offender had yet to be identified at the time of data collection. The majority of the solved homicide incidents resulted from one-on-one interactions between the victim and offender (81%). Compared to the previous year, there has been an increase in the number of multiple victim incidents. In 2000–2001, there were seven incidents involving multiple victims. During 2001–2002, there were 21 incidents involving multiple victims: 15 incidents with two victims, and six incidents with three victims. Of the 307 solved homicide incidents, two involved multiple victims and offenders. A jurisdictional comparison indicates that the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Norfolk Island did not record any incidents with multiple

⁷ It should be noted that this includes 12 separate incidents that did not occur during this period, but came to the attention of police and were recorded by police during the 2001–2002 period.

victims. On the other hand, New South Wales recorded five triple homicide incidents and four double homicide incidents. All five of the triple homicides occurred in a domestic setting and involved males as the perpetrators (three fathers/partner and two sons/siblings). Victoria recorded four double homicides during the 2001–2002 financial year.

Similar to previous years, homicide incidents were most likely to occur on either a Friday (18%), Saturday (19%) or Sunday (15%). This pattern was relatively consistent across all jurisdictions. The majority of homicide incidents occurred during the hours of 6pm and 6am (58%), with few incidents occurring between 6am and midday (13%). There was, however, an observed increase in the proportion of homicides occurring during the hours of noon to 6pm (23%) in 2001–2002 compared to the previous year (18% in 2000–2001).

The majority of incidents occurred in a residential premise (58%), followed by in streets or open areas (29%). This is also consistent across jurisdictions, although a higher proportion of incidents in the Northern Territory occurred in a street or open area (48%) compared to the national average (29%).

In 2000–2001 it was noted that there was an increase in the percentage of homicide incidents occurring during the course of other crime (17% in 2000–2001 compared to 12% in 1999–2000). The data for the current year suggest that the increase has not been sustained, with 13 per cent of homicide incidents having occurred during the course of another crime in 2001–2002 (n=47). Over half of these incidents (n=26) occurred during a robbery, break and enter or some other property offence. There were six incidents that occurred during the course of a sexual assault, and a further four that involved arson. In such instances, it is difficult to determine whether the homicide was committed to cover up the other crime or whether the other crime was committed following the homicide. Just over a quarter of the homicide incidents that occurred during the course of another crime were unsolved at the time of data collection (28%; n=13).

Homicide Victims

Compared to 2000–2001, there has been a 20 per cent increase in the number of victims of homicide in Australia in 2001–2002. Australia recorded 381 victims of homicide, and a homicide victimisation rate of 1.9 per 100,000 population. The fact that last year Australia recorded one of the lowest homicide victimisation rates since the inception of the NHMP in 1990, and this year recorded one of the highest, indicates that, due to the small numbers of homicides, there are bound to be fluctuations on a yearly basis. Comparisons reveal that four jurisdictions recorded a homicide victimisation rate below the national average (New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory). In the Northern Territory there were 23 homicide victims,⁸ and the victimisation rate of 11.5 per

⁸ These figures differ from those published in the 2001–2002 annual report of the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, which records 17 murders and three manslaughter. This discrepancy is due to the different extraction dates of the data from PROMIS (the police database). Data used in the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services report were extracted in August, whereas data provided to the NHMP were extracted in late September.

100,000 population was about six times the national average. Norfolk Island recorded only one homicide—the first in about 150 years—but with a total population of less than 1,400 persons, this would dramatically inflate that territory's homicide rate.

Demographics

Since the NHMP began collecting data on victims of homicide 13 years ago, one of the main patterns that has remained consistent has been the gender differentials in victims of homicide (see Mouzos 2001; 2000; 2002a). Males have consistently outnumbered females as victims of homicide. In 2001–2002 this pattern continued, with males accounting for 64 per cent, and females 36 per cent of victims. However, differences to this national trend can be found at the jurisdictional level. A greater proportion of females were victimised in Western Australia (51%), South Australia (42%) and the Northern Territory (44%).

During 2001–2002, the mean age of homicide victims was 35 years, with very little gender variation (the mean age for males was 36 years and the mean age for females was 35 years). Female victims in both Queensland (mean age=28 years) and the Northern Territory (mean age=26 years) tended to younger when compared to the national average.

Age is a variable that has remained relatively stable over the years in predicting risk of homicide victimisation. Consistent with previous years, the highest risk of homicide victimisation was for persons aged 30 to 34 years (rate of 3.1 per 100,000). Males aged 30 to 34 years exhibited the highest risk of victimisation (rate of 4.5), whereas the risk for females peaked between the ages of 25 and 29 years.

Children under the age of five years also had a greater risk of homicide victimisation (rate of 2.7 for males; 2.2 for females; and 2.5 for persons). In 2001–2002, there was a total of 32 homicides of children aged less than five years, accounting for eight per cent of all homicides. This compares to 14 deaths recorded in 2000–2001. Seventeen of these 32 homicides were of children aged less than 12 months. Six infant deaths occurred in Queensland, and four in New South Wales.

It was noted in the previous NHMP annual report (Mouzos 2002a) that there appeared to have been an upward shift in the victimisation rate for elderly males when compared to previous years. This trend was also observed in the current year, with the homicide victimisation risk for males declining from age 55 onwards, and then peaking again for males aged 80 years or older (rate of 1.9).

With regards to the race of the victim, police records are indicative only. In some cases this may be no more than a subjective assessment by police. Nonetheless, consistent with previous years, during 2001–2002, the majority of both male and female homicide victims were of Caucasian appearance (77% and 75% respectively). While representing just over two per cent of the total Australian population, 13 per cent of male victims and 17 per cent of female victims of homicide were Indigenous Australians (n=55), with the highest proportion of Indigenous victims in the Northern Territory (16 out of 23) followed by Western Australia (11 out of 35).

There were several consistent patterns during 2001–2002 compared to previous years in terms of the demographics of victims. For example, when compared to female victims, male victims of homicide were more likely to be:

- single at the time of the incident (55%);
- working (35%); and
- involved in prior criminal activities (48%).

On the other hand, female victims of homicide were more likely to be married or in a de facto relationship at the time of the incident (55%). They were also less likely to be working (27%), and only 19 per cent of female victims had a prior criminal history.

Precipitating Factors

Data derived from toxicology reports indicate that half of the male victims and two-thirds of the female victims of homicide during 2001–2002 did not consume alcohol or use illicit/prescription drugs at the time of the incident. However, when a substance was used, it was usually alcohol, with 28 per cent of males and 21 per cent of females consuming alcohol prior to their death. A slightly greater proportion of males compared to females had used illicit/prescription drugs prior to their death (12% versus 9%). This pattern was reversed in the previous year (2000–2001) where it was found that a slightly greater proportion of females compared to males had used illicit/prescription drugs (14% versus 10%).

Less than 10 per cent of homicide victims were found to have consumed alcohol and used illicit drugs at the time of their death (10% males; 4% females). As with previous years (see Mouzos 2002a), there was evidence of poly-substance use. Some examples of poly-substance use included:

- methamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy) and cannabis (case no. 231/02);
- heroin and benzodiazepines (case no. 053/02);
- alcohol, cannabis and benzodiazepines (case no. 061/02);
- alcohol, methamphetamine, amphetamines and benzodiazepines (case no. 076/02); and
- alcohol, methadone and cannabis (case no. 077/02).

A number of toxicology reports also indicated that some victims had a blood-alcohol level well in excess of the legal limit. For example, one victim had a blood alcohol reading of 0.309 per cent, which is six times the legal permitted limit for driving a motor vehicle. It was noted in this toxicology report that:

...even in an experienced drinker such a level would produce incoordination and slowness of response. It could also produce behavioural changes, for example, a tendency to quarrel and argue. (case no. 241/02)

Based on information contained in police offence reports, 10 per cent of victims were killed by a mentally disordered offender (n=36) during 2001–2002. In 2000–2001, six per cent of victims (n=20) were killed by a mentally disordered offender.

In terms of the alleged motive that precipitated the homicide, the most common reason ascribed to the killing of males was some type of argument or altercation (19%; n=45), followed by an alcohol-related argument (17%; n=42) or a domestic altercation (17%; n=41). Sixteen per cent of male victims were killed as a result of an argument over money or drugs (n=38).

Three out of five female victims killed during 2001–2002 were killed as a result of a domestic altercation (which includes jealousy and separation/termination of a relationship, 60%; n=83). This is slightly higher than in the previous year (55%). No females were killed as a result of an alcohol-related argument.⁹ A higher proportion of female victims compared to male victims were killed as a result of some other motive (8% versus 2%). This includes instances where the motive for the killing was “sexual gratification” (in other words, murders where there is evidence or observations that indicate that it was sexual in nature).

These include: victim attire or lack of attire; exposure of sexual parts of the victim's body; sexual positioning of the victim's body; insertion of foreign objects into the victim's body cavities; evidence of sexual intercourse; and evidence of substitute sexual activity, interest, or sadistic fantasy. (Ressler, Burgess & Douglas 1988, p. xiii)

Weapons/Methods

As mentioned, this year has seen a number of changes in homicide. For example, there has been an observed decline in firearms homicides. In 2000–2001, firearms were used in 22 per cent of homicides in Australia (n=69). In 2001–2002, firearms were used in only 14 per cent of homicides (n=52). This represents a 25 per cent decrease, and is the lowest proportion of homicides committed with a firearm since the inception of the NHMP in 1990.¹⁰ While there has been a decrease in firearm homicides, there has been a subsequent increase in the use of knives to commit homicide. A knife or some other sharp instrument was used in 30 per cent of homicides in 2000–2001, compared to 36 per cent in 2001–2002. The next most common weapon was assaultive force (hands/feet) (25%), followed by the use of a blunt instrument¹¹ (11%) or some other weapon (11%).

Similar to previous years, males were more likely to be killed with a knife or some other sharp instrument (39%) than any other weapon. Females, on the other hand, were found to be slightly more likely to be killed with a knife or other sharp instrument (31%) than beaten to death (30%).

In total, 52 victims were killed with a firearm during 2001–2002. Handguns accounted for over half of the firearms used to commit homicide (56%; n=29). Similar to previous research, most firearms used to commit homicide were not legally held; that is, they were not registered to either the victim or the offender, and the victim or the offender was not licensed to own the firearm. A total of 48 identified offenders used a firearm to commit

9 Does not include those that occur in a domestic setting between intimates or other family members.

10 It is also the lowest proportion ever recorded since the ABS began collecting the historical time series of homicide and firearms in 1915 (ABS Causes of Death data).

11 This includes a nulla nulla, which is a traditional Indigenous hunting instrument similar to a club or bat.

homicide during 2001–2002.¹² Of these offenders, only five were licensed to own a firearm (10%), and only four used a registered firearm (8%). One offender used a firearm that was licensed and registered to the victim. Only one of the registered firearms used to commit homicide was a pistol, with the remaining firearms being either a rimfire rifle or double-barrel shotgun.

In terms of cause of death, a higher proportion of female victims compared to male victims were strangled or suffocated to death (19% versus 5%). A higher proportion of male victims compared to female victims were shot (17% versus 8%) or stabbed to death (38% versus 30%). Of the 17 deaths of infants (aged less than one year), six died as a result of trauma associated with physical abuse. A further six infants were either shaken to death (n=3) or suffocated (n=3). Given the vulnerability of infants, it is not unexpected that 12 of the 17 infant victims were killed by the offender using their hands and/or feet (71%).

Homicide Offenders

During 2001–2002, there was a total of 375 offenders of homicide in Australia, most of whom were male (85%; n=320). Males recorded an offending rate of 3.3 per 100,000 compared to a rate of 0.6 for females. This rate of offending has increased slightly compared to 2000–2001, when males recorded an offending rate of 3.1 per 100,000 and females 0.4 per 100,000.

Demographics

Offenders tended to be younger than their victims, with the mean age of offenders being 33 years and the mean age of victims being 36 years. Consistent with previous years, for the 2001–2002 period, the rate of offending for males peaked between 20 and 24 years (rate of 8.3 per 100,000 males), although the rate was consistently high for males aged between 15 and 39 years. After these ages, the rate declined until the 65–69-year age group where the rate of offending for males again peaked (rate of 1.5). In comparison, the rate of offending for females peaked at a rate of 1.6 per 100,000 for females aged between 30 and 34 years, indicating that the risk of offending for females peaks at an older age than for males, although females aged between 15 and 19 years recorded the second highest rate of homicide offending (rate of 1.4).

Similar to victims of homicide, the majority of offenders were of Caucasian appearance (69%). Another consistent finding is the greater proportion of women of Indigenous appearance compared to men of Indigenous appearance as offenders of homicide (22% versus 18%). The proportion of Indigenous offenders increased between 1999–2000 and 2000–2001 from 15 per cent to 19 per cent, and it remained at 19 per cent for 2001–2002 (n=71). The majority of Indigenous offenders were recorded in the Northern Territory (n=17), followed by Queensland (n=16) and Western Australia (n=14).

¹² A total of 15 firearms homicides remain unsolved, therefore details as to whether these offenders were licensed or used a registered firearm is not known.

Most offenders were found to be single at the time of the incident (53%; n=199), a slight decrease compared to the previous year (61%). While most males were recorded as single at the time of the incident (56%), about half of the female offenders were either married or in a de facto relationship (48%). Compared to male offenders (8%), a higher proportion of female offenders were recorded as separated or divorced at the time of the incident (13%). The opposite was found when the employment status of offenders was examined. Almost twice as many male offenders as female offenders were recorded as working at the time incident (31% versus 17%). Compared to 2000–2001, a higher proportion of offenders in 2001–2002 were recorded as working at the time of the incident (23% versus 29%).

Precipitating Factors

The majority of both male and female offenders of homicide did not consume alcohol or use illicit/prescription drugs at the time of the incident (57% and 67% respectively). But when they did, they were more likely to only consume alcohol (28%) than engage in illicit/prescription drug use (8%) or multiple substance use (alcohol in combination with illicit drugs, usually cannabis, 7%). There were three offenders who had sniffed petrol as well as consuming alcohol prior to committing the homicide.

A total of 19 offenders committed suicide prior to or following arrest (5%). Seventeen of the 19 offenders who committed suicide had killed a member of their own family. While there were no female offenders who committed suicide in the previous year, in the current year there were three female offenders who did. All of these offenders had killed a member of their own family.

Relationship Between the Victim and Offender

One of the important factors in determining homicide type—whether the homicide is domestic-related or a falling out between friends or a robbery gone wrong—is the nature of the relationship between the victim and offender. During 2001–2002, 37 per cent of homicides (where an offender had been identified) occurred between friends and acquaintances. This is lower than in the previous year, where about half of all homicides involved friends or acquaintances (47%). While homicides between friends and acquaintances have declined, the proportion of family homicides (excluding intimates) has doubled (23% in 2001–2002 compared to 11% in 2000–2001). Two factors account for this change in victim–offender dynamics:

- an increase in the deaths of children under five (mostly infant deaths);¹³ and
- incidents of triple homicide which mainly involved family members (children, siblings or parents).

Apart from these changes, the proportion of homicides involving intimate partners has remained stable (about 23%), as has the proportion of stranger homicides (16%).

¹³ All of the 12 infant homicides where an offender was identified were committed by a family member (usually a parent).

Gender is another factor found to vary with the type of victim–offender interaction. In 2001–2002, male offenders were more likely to kill a friend or acquaintance (38%), followed by an intimate partner (23%), other family member (20%) or stranger (17%). In contrast, during 2001–2002 a female offender was more likely to kill a member of her own family (65%; 24% intimates and 41% other family) than any other person. This is an increase on last year's figure of 54 per cent. A friend or acquaintance was the second most likely victim of a female offender, accounting for 29 per cent of homicides. Only four female offenders (7%) killed a person not known to them at the time of the incident.

The 2001–2002 findings show that homicide can result from many different circumstances and mindsets. Such deadly outcomes, although uncommon, can be altered if we work together to interrupt the various factors that may lead to homicide. Working together involves focusing on the root causes of violence that lead to homicide, reducing poverty, improving education and addressing some of the social issues affecting many Australians (such as alcohol and drug use). Understanding that homicide is linked to many different types of crime (for example, domestic violence, child abuse, armed robbery) is also important to bear in mind when devising prevention strategies (see Mouzos 2000).

Data Usage

NHMP data can be used at a variety of levels and for a variety of purposes. For example, aggregated data at the state level can provide police with an indication of the level of lethal violence in their jurisdiction; or it can be used to determine whether there have been any shifts in the victimisation of certain populations (infants, children or elderly persons) or whether there have been changes in the characteristics of offenders (for example, an increase in juvenile offending). At the Federal Government level, NHMP data can be used to monitor the effect of legislative reforms, such as the National Firearms Agreement, and to gauge whether there have been any changes in use of firearms, as well as in the types of firearms used to commit homicide. NHMP data can also be used to inform policy-making in the realms of community services, mental health, policing, courts and correctional institutions, to name a few. Again, the monitoring system can inform policy development and strategic directions. Given the rigorous measures undertaken to ensure the accuracy of the data, confidence can be placed in its comparability, validity and reliability.

Similar to other AIC monitoring programs, such as the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program and the National Deaths in Custody monitoring program, an important function of the NHMP is to communicate the results to its key stakeholders, local, state and federal governments, non-government organisations, other researchers and the general public. Over the years, there have been numerous requests for data, indicating a wide use of NHMP findings. Some examples of data usage follow.

Published Material—2001, 2002

(see <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/hmonitor/docs.html>)

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“Solvability factors of homicide in Australia: An exploratory analysis”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 216, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2001, Jenny Mouzos and Damon Muller.

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“The monitoring of homicide in Australia”, *ViCLAS Newsletter*, Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, issue 10, 2001, Jenny Mouzos.

“Femicide in Australia: Findings from the National Homicide Monitoring Program”, in *Femicide in Global Perspective*, D.E.H. Russell & R. Harmes (eds), Teachers College Press, Berkley, USA, 2001, pp. 166–75, Jenny Mouzos.

“Temporal clustering of child homicide: Contagion of illusion?”, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2001, pp. 182–92, Carlos Carcach, Robert Godney, Peter Grabosky and Heather Strang.

Presentations

“Monitoring firearm-related violence in Australia: The role of the Australian Institute of Criminology”, Sporting Shooters’ Association of Australia Firearms Conference, Parliament House, Canberra, 23 October 2002, Jenny Mouzos.

“Doing justice through sentencing: A national dataset of homicide prosecution outcomes”, Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology 16th Annual Conference, Brisbane, 1–3 October 2002, Tessa Boyd-Caine and Jenny Mouzos.

“A comparison of robbery and robbery-homicide in Australia: Is the latter a byproduct of the former?” Homicide Research Working Group Meeting, University of St Louis, Missouri, 30 May–2 June 2002, Jenny Mouzos.

“Monitoring trends and patterns of homicide in Australia”, Homicide and Serial Violent Crime Agency Training Day, NSW Police Service, 2 August 2002, Jenny Mouzos.

Examples of agencies and organisations that have requested data

- Homicide squads/major crime units in all Australian state and territory police services
- Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department
- Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Victorian Law Reform Commission
- Westpac Bank
- Bond University
- Rozelle Hospital
- Australian Associated Press
- Centre for Criminology, University of Hong Kong
- Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), New Zealand
- Queen Sofia Center for the Study of Violence, Spain
- Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne
- New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Queensland Department of Justice
- Victorian Department of Human Services
- Sydney Morning Herald
- The Australian
- Good Weekend magazine

2001–2002 NHMP Findings

Methodological Note

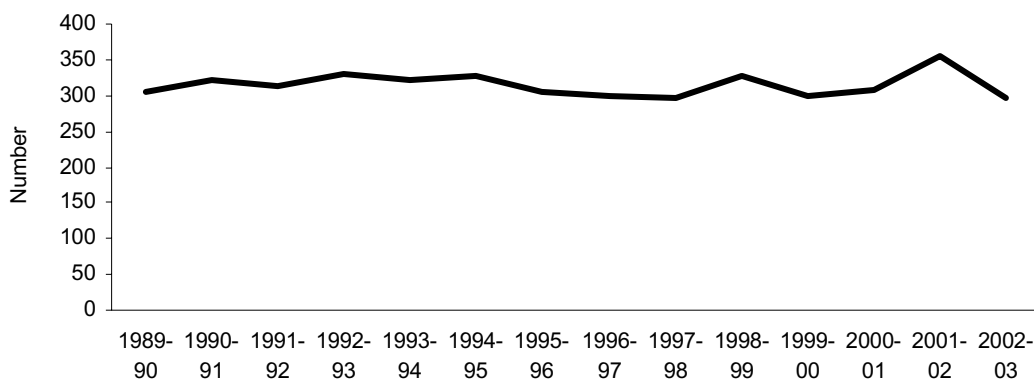
Where rates are presented in the tables that follow (victimisation and offending rates), they have been calculated using the mid-year population for the fiscal year 2001–2002. That is, the *estimated resident population* for states and territories as at December 2001 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002b). Similarly, rates for age and gender (victimisation and offending) have been calculated using the following denominators: *estimated resident population* by sex and age, for states and territories of Australia, June 2001 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002c).

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



INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Trends in homicide incidents



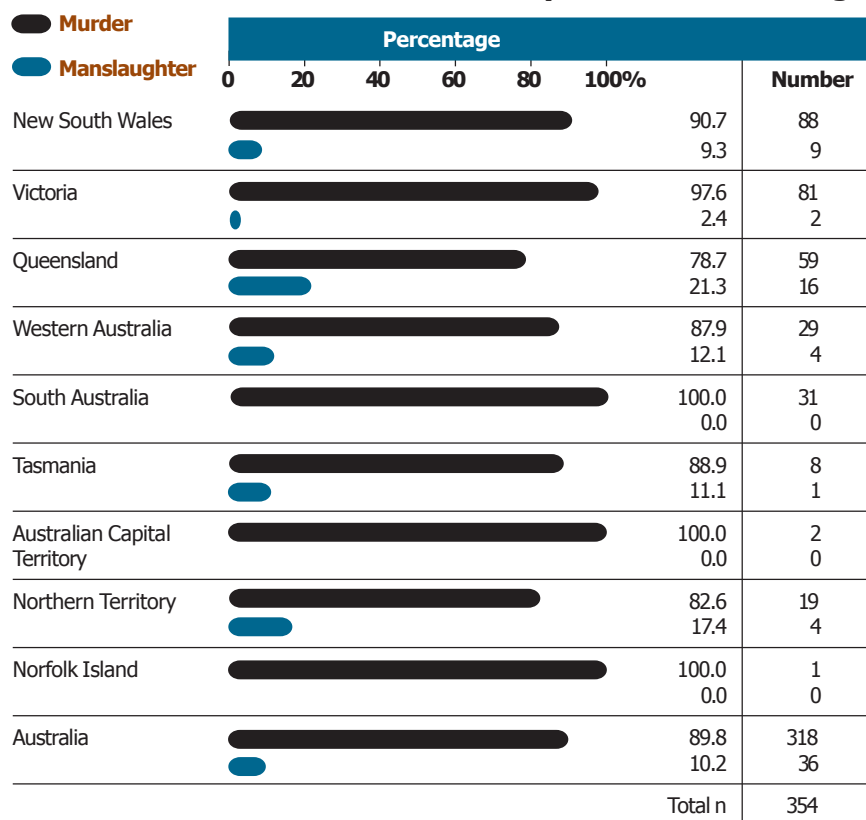
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 1989/90-2002/03 [computer file]

Incidence of homicide

	Percentage						Number	
	0	20	40	60	80	100%		
New South Wales	<div></div>						27.4	97
Victoria	<div></div>						23.5	83
Queensland	<div></div>						21.2	75
Western Australia	<div></div>						9.3	33
South Australia	<div></div>						8.8	31
Tasmania	<div></div>						2.5	9
Australian Capital Territory	<div></div>						0.6	2
Northern Territory	<div></div>						6.5	23
Norfolk Island	<div></div>						0.3	1
Australia	<div></div>						100.0	354

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001-2002 [computer file]

Most serious offence (murder or manslaughter)



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of incidents with single versus multiple victims/offenders

	Percentage	Number
One victim, one offender	81.4	250
One victim, multiple offenders	12.1	37
Multiple victims, one offender	5.9	18
Multiple victims, multiple offenders	0.7	2
Total incidents n ^(a)	100.1	307

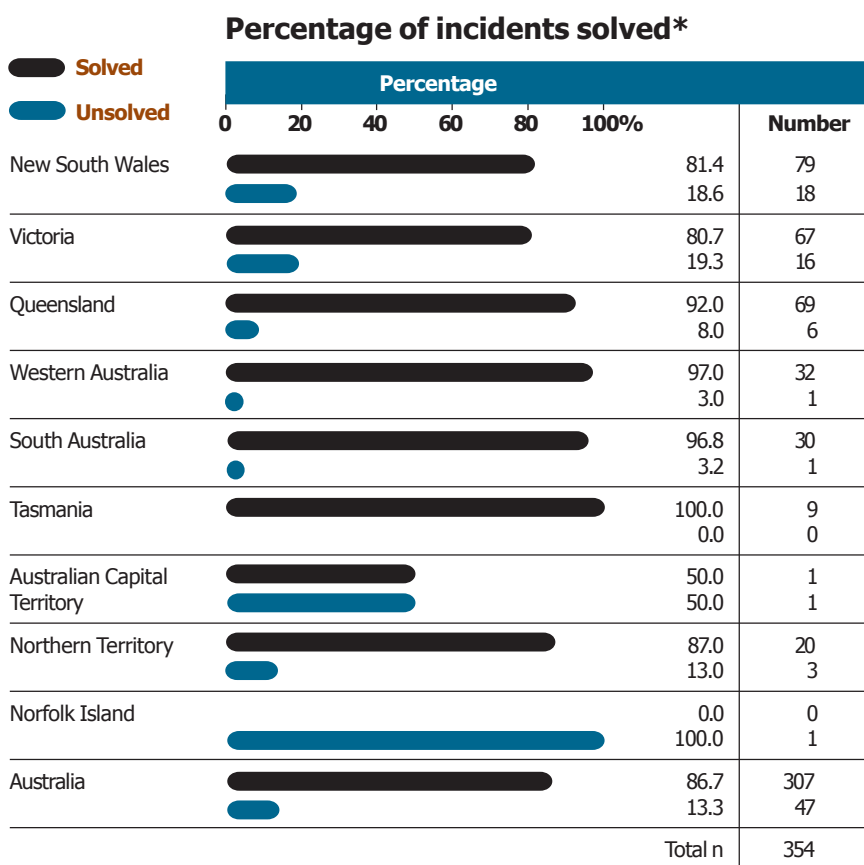
(a) Where an offender has been identified

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of incidents by number of victims

	Total n	One victim	Two victims	Three victims
New South Wales	97	90.7	4.1	5.2
Victoria	83	95.2	4.8	0.0
Queensland	75	96.0	2.7	1.3
Western Australia	33	93.9	6.1	0.0
South Australia	31	93.6	6.5	0.0
Tasmania	9	88.9	11.1	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	23	100.0	0.0	0.0
Norfolk Island	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	354	94.1	4.2	1.7

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



* Solved incidents include those where an offender has been identified and charged, and incidents where the offender has suicided.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of incidents by number of offenders*

	Total n	One offender	Two offenders	Three offenders	Four or more offenders
New South Wales	79	86.1	5.1	2.5	6.3
Victoria	67	89.6	6.0	3.0	1.5
Queensland	69	85.5	13.0	1.5	0.0
Western Australia	32	90.6	3.1	3.1	3.1
South Australia	30	80.0	10.0	6.7	3.3
Tasmania	9	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	20	90.0	0.0	10.0	0.0
Australia	307	87.3	6.8	3.3	2.6

* Refers to incidents where an offender has been identified.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of homicide incidents by time of day

	Total n	Midnight to 6am	6am to noon	Noon to 6pm	6pm to midnight	Unknown
New South Wales	97	29.9	13.4	26.8	24.7	5.2
Victoria	83	28.9	10.8	21.7	32.5	6.0
Queensland	75	13.3	14.7	24.0	41.3	6.7
Western Australia	33	18.2	3.0	21.2	54.6	3.0
South Australia	31	9.7	19.4	22.6	41.9	6.5
Tasmania	9	11.1	33.3	11.1	44.4	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	2	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
Northern Territory	23	34.8	13.0	8.7	34.8	8.7
Norfolk Island	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	354	22.8	13.0	22.9	35.3	5.9

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of homicide incidents by day of week

	Total n	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New South Wales	96	11.5	14.6	16.7	11.5	15.6	19.8	10.4
Victoria	83	16.9	9.6	16.9	8.4	9.6	15.7	22.9
Queensland	75	18.7	10.7	14.7	9.3	4.0	22.7	20.0
Western Australia	33	9.1	15.2	12.1	9.1	12.1	18.2	24.2
South Australia	30	13.3	20.0	3.3	23.3	10.0	13.3	16.7
Tasmania	9	22.2	0.0	22.2	11.1	0.0	11.1	33.3
Australian Capital Territory	2	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	23	13.0	13.0	4.4	13.0	17.4	13.0	26.1
Norfolk Island	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia ^(a)	352	15.1	12.5	13.9	11.4	10.5	17.9	18.8

(a) Details missing for two incidents (NSW and SA)

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of homicide incidents by location

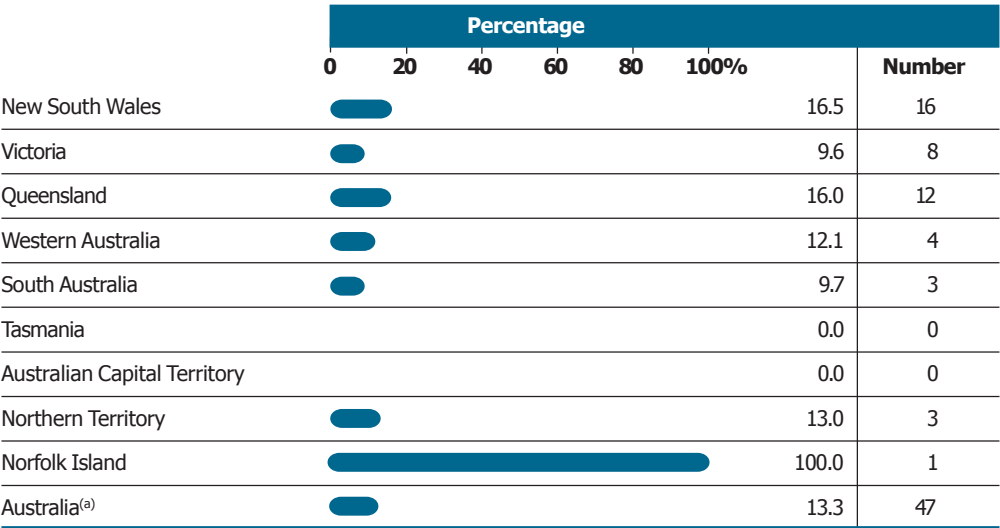
	Total n	Residential premise	Street/ open area	Other location ^(a)
New South Wales	97	57.7	23.7	18.6
Victoria	83	60.2	24.1	15.7
Queensland	75	61.3	33.3	5.3
Western Australia	33	48.5	30.3	21.2
South Australia	29	69.0	27.6	3.4
Tasmania	9	55.6	33.3	11.1
Australian Capital Territory	2	50.0	50.0	0.0
Northern Territory	23	39.1	47.8	13.0
Norfolk Island	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Australia ^(b)	352	57.5	29.0	13.4

(a) Includes shop, shopping malls, banks/credit unions/post offices, car parks/public garages/service stations, workplaces, other commercial premises, public transport and related facilities, places of entertainment, and corrective/health institutions.

(b) Excludes two incidents where details were missing.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of incidents that occurred during the course of another crime



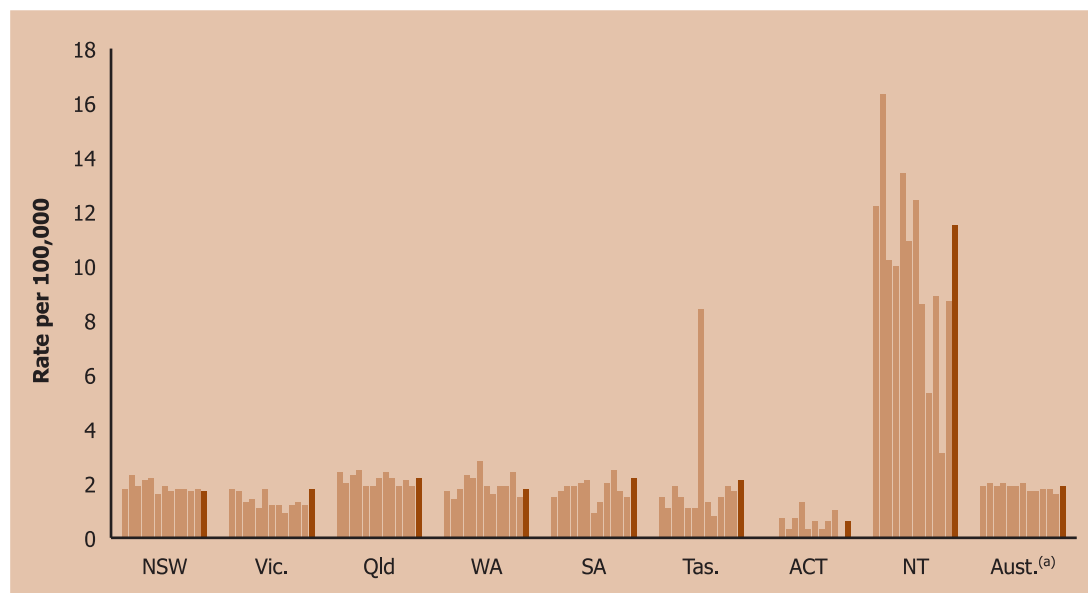
(a) There were six further incidents where it is not known if they occurred during the course of another crime.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

Trends in homicide victimisation, 1989–2002



(a) Includes one homicide in Norfolk Island for the year 2001–2002

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 1989–2002 [computer file]

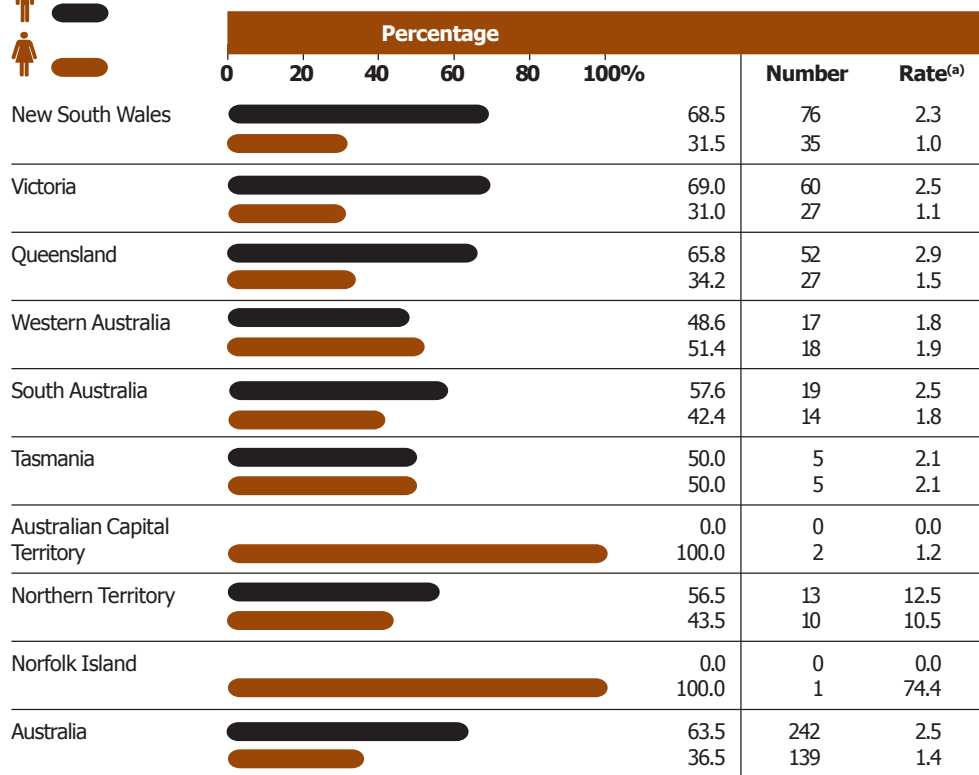
Age of victims

	Males		Females		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
New South Wales	76	34.3	35	41.1	111	36.4
Victoria	60	35.8	27	40.0	87	37.1
Queensland	52	34.2	27	27.6	79	32.0
Western Australia	17	35.5	18	33.3	35	34.4
South Australia	19	42.9	14	34.5	33	39.3
Tasmania	5	52.8	5	29.0	10	40.9
Australian Capital Territory	0	n/a	2	45.0	2	45.0
Northern Territory	13	32.1	10	26.4	23	29.6
Norfolk Island	0	n/a	1	29.0	1	29.0
Australia	242	35.7	139	35.1	381	35.4

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



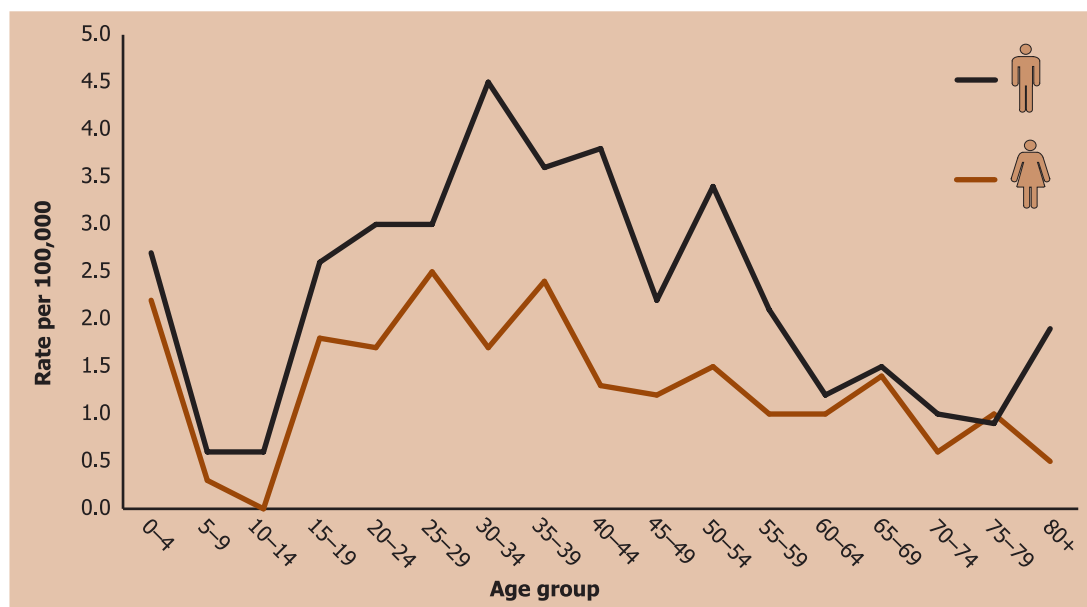
Gender of victims



(a) Rate per 100,000 population

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Homicide victimisation, by age* and gender



* Excludes two victims where age was not stated.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Homicide victimisation, by age* and gender

	Males		Females		Persons	
	Number	Rate ^(a)	Number	Rate ^(a)	Number	Rate ^(a)
0 to 4	18	2.7	14	2.2	32	2.5
5 to 9	4	0.6	3	0.5	7	0.5
10 to 14	4	0.6	0	0.0	4	0.3
15 to 19	18	2.6	12	1.8	30	2.2
20 to 24	20	3.0	11	1.7	31	2.4
25 to 29	21	3.0	18	2.5	39	2.8
30 to 34	33	4.5	13	1.7	46	3.1
35 to 39	27	3.6	18	2.4	45	3.0
40 to 44	28	3.8	10	1.3	38	2.6
45 to 49	15	2.2	8	1.2	23	1.7
50 to 54	22	3.4	10	1.5	32	2.5
55 to 59	11	2.1	5	1.0	16	1.6
60 to 64	5	1.2	4	1.0	9	1.1
65 to 69	5	1.5	6	1.7	11	1.6
70 to 74	3	1.0	2	0.6	5	0.8
75 to 79	2	0.9	3	1.0	5	1.0
80+	4	1.9	2	0.5	6	1.0

* Excludes two victims where age was not stated.

(a) Rate per 100,000 population

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims by marital status*

	Never married		Married/ de facto		Separated/ divorced		Widowed	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
New South Wales	61.2	22.6	28.4	38.7	9.0	25.8	1.5	12.9
Victoria	50.0	12.5	43.1	45.8	3.4	29.2	3.5	12.5
Queensland	53.7	19.1	31.7	76.2	12.2	4.8	2.4	0.0
Western Australia	43.8	27.8	50.0	55.6	6.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
South Australia	58.8	18.2	23.5	81.8	0.0	0.0	11.8	0.0
Tasmania	40.0	0.0	60.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	58.3	20.0	33.3	60.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Norfolk Island	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia ^(a)	54.6	20.5	35.2	54.9	6.5	18.9	2.8	5.7

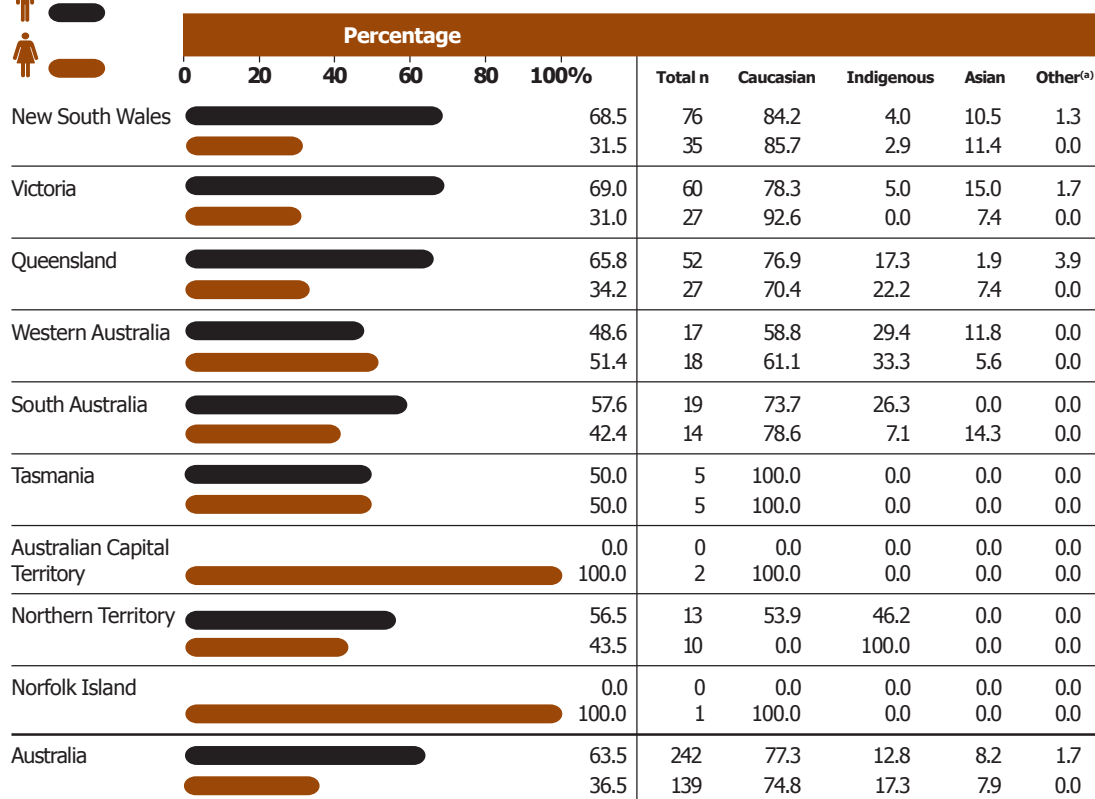
* Excludes 46 victims who were aged less than 15 years.

(a) Excludes two male victims where marital status was not known (SA and NT).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



Percentage of victims by racial appearance



(a) Other includes: Maori/Pacific Islander, and other.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims with a prior criminal history*

	Percentage	Number
Males	47.9	116
Females	18.9	27
Persons	37.5	143

* Where information was known.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



(a) Excludes 26 victims aged less than 15 years, three victims in corrective institutions and one missing case.

(b) Excludes 18 victims aged less than 15 years.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims by alcohol and/or illicit/prescription drug use

	Alcohol only		Illicit/prescription drugs only		Alcohol and illicit/prescription drugs		No alcohol/drug use	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
New South Wales	30.3	17.1	11.8	8.6	6.6	2.9	51.3	71.4
Victoria	15.0	7.4	21.7	22.2	21.7	11.1	41.7	59.3
Queensland	32.7	18.5	3.8	3.7	5.8	3.7	57.7	74.1
Western Australia	18.8	33.3	6.3	5.6	6.3	0.0	68.8	61.1
South Australia	36.4	0.0	9.1	14.3	9.1	0.0	45.5	85.7
Tasmania	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Northern Territory	61.5	80.0	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	23.1	20.0
Australia	27.9	20.6	11.6	9.2	10.3	3.8	50.2	66.4
Total n ^(a)	65	27	27	12	24	5	117	87

(a) Excludes 17 victims where alcohol and/or illicit/prescription drug use is not yet available.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]; National Coronial Information System (NCIS)

Percentage of victims killed by a mentally disordered offender*

	Percentage	Number
Yes	9.5	36
No	90.5	345

* This refers to cases where there is evidence that the offender suffered from a mental disorder immediately before or at the time of the incident, where noted in police documents (which may not be comprehensive).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Number of victims by cause of death

	Gun shot wound	Stab wound	Beating	Strangulation/suffocation	Other ^(a)	Unknown
New South Wales	21	39	29	8	13	1
Victoria	17	28	23	12	4	3
Queensland	4	30	23	10	10	2
Western Australia	5	13	7	2	6	2
South Australia	2	11	11	5	4	0
Tasmania	1	4	2	1	2	0
Australian Capital Territory	0	1	1	0	0	0
Northern Territory	2	8	9	2	2	0
Norfolk Island	0	1	0	0	0	0
Australia	52	135	105	40	41	8

(a) Other includes: drug overdose, drowning/submersion, neglect, smoke inhalation/burns, shaking, and pushed from a high place.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims by cause of death

	Gunshot wound		Stab wound		Beating		Strangulation/suffocation		Other ^(a)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
New South Wales	22.4	11.4	36.8	31.4	23.7	31.4	4.0	14.3	11.8	11.4
Victoria	23.3	11.1	36.7	22.2	25.0	29.6	6.7	29.6	5.0	3.7
Queensland	7.7	0.0	40.4	33.3	34.6	18.5	7.7	22.2	9.6	18.5
Western Australia	11.8	16.7	47.1	27.8	11.8	27.8	0.0	11.1	29.4	5.6
South Australia	5.3	7.1	31.6	35.7	36.8	28.6	10.5	21.4	15.8	7.1
Tasmania	20.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	40.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	15.4	0.0	46.2	20.0	30.8	50.0	0.0	20.0	7.7	10.0
Norfolk Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	16.9	7.9	38.4	30.2	27.3	28.1	5.4	19.4	10.7	10.8
Total n ^(b)	41	11	93	42	66	39	13	27	26	15

(a) Other includes: drug overdose, drowning/submersion, neglect, smoke inhalation/burns, shaking, other.

(b) Excludes three male victims (NSW, Vic.) and five female victims (NSW, Vic., Qld, WA) where cause of death was unknown.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Number of victims by type of weapon

	Firearm	Knife/sharp instrument	Blunt instrument	Hands/feet	Other ^(a)	Unknown/no weapon ^(b)
New South Wales	21	39	11	27	10	3
Victoria	17	30	10	15	11	4
Queensland	4	30	7	23	9	6
Western Australia	5	13	2	7	6	2
South Australia	2	11	7	9	4	0
Tasmania	1	4	0	4	1	0
Australian Capital Territory	0	1	1	0	0	0
Northern Territory	2	8	3	9	1	0
Norfolk Island	0	1	0	0	0	0
Australia	52	137	41	94	42	15

(a) Other includes: explosives, fire, poison, drugs, vehicles, and other weapons.

(b) Includes eight victims where no weapon was used (for example, in circumstances of neglect).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims by type of weapon

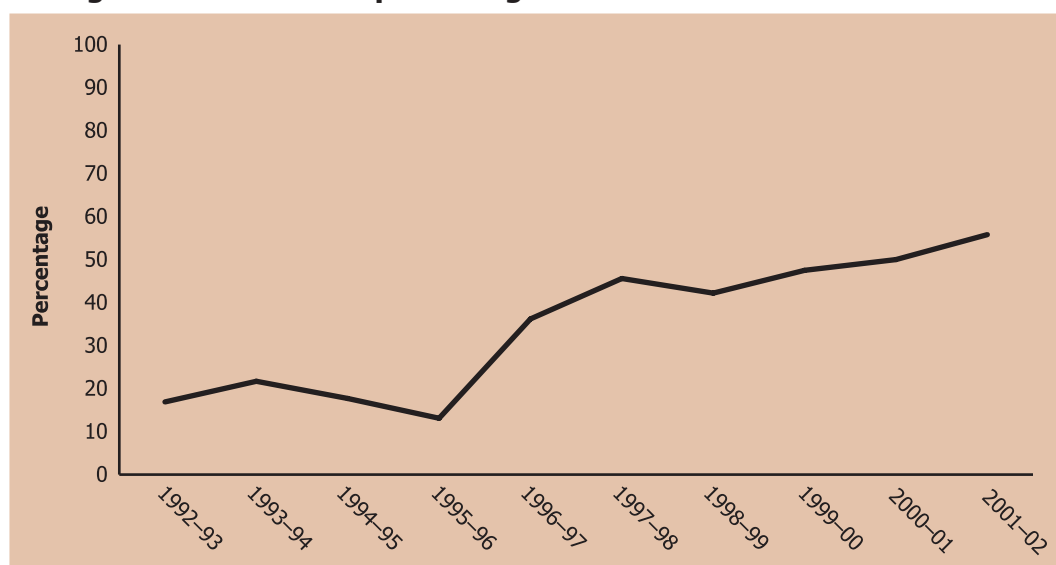
	Firearm		Knife/sharp instrument		Blunt instrument		Hands/feet		Other ^(a)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
New South Wales	22.4	11.4	36.8	31.4	6.6	17.1	23.7	25.7	7.9	11.4
Victoria	23.3	11.1	38.3	25.9	10.0	14.8	10.0	33.3	15.0	7.4
Queensland	7.7	0.0	40.4	33.3	9.6	7.4	32.7	22.2	7.7	18.5
Western Australia	11.8	16.7	47.1	27.8	5.9	5.6	5.9	33.3	23.5	5.6
South Australia	5.3	7.1	31.6	35.7	26.3	14.3	26.3	28.6	10.5	14.3
Tasmania	20.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	20.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	15.4	0.0	46.2	20.0	7.7	20.0	23.1	60.0	7.7	0.0
Norfolk Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	16.9	7.9	38.8	30.9	9.5	14.3	21.5	30.2	11.2	10.8
Total n ^(b)	41	11	94	43	23	18	52	42	27	15

(a) Other includes: explosives, fire, poison, drugs, vehicles and other weapons.

(b) Excludes three male victims (NSW, Vic., Qld) and four female victims (NSW, Vic., Qld, WA) where type of weapon used was unknown, and two male and six female victims where no weapon was used.

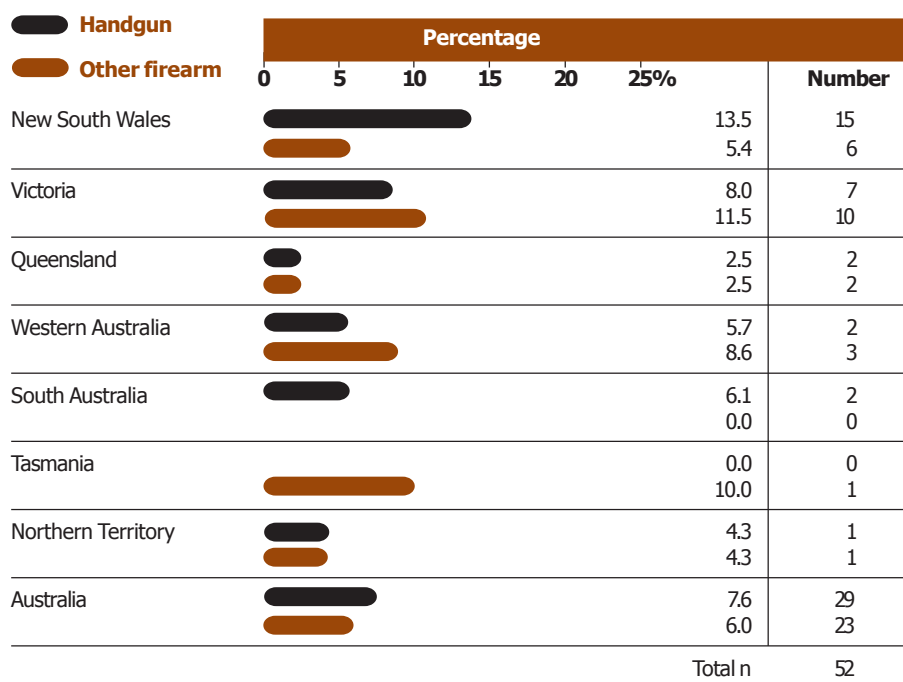
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Handgun homicides as a percentage of firearm homicides



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims killed with a handgun or other firearm



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Licence and registration status of firearms used in homicide

	Victims		Offenders			
	Licensed	Registered	Licensed	Registered	Unlicensed	Unregistered
New South Wales	0	0	2	1	21	22
Victoria	0	0	2	2	10	10
Queensland	1	1	0	0	3	3
Western Australia	0	0	1	1	5	5
South Australia	0	0	0	0	2	2
Tasmania	0	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Territory	0	0	0	0	1	1
Australia	1	1	5	4	43	44
Total n	52	52	48	48	48	48
Total %	1.9	1.9	10.4	8.3	89.6	91.7

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of victims by alleged motive

		Revenge	Domestic ^(a)	Money/ drugs	Alcohol- related argument	Other argument	Other motive ^(b)	No apparent motive ^(c)
New South Wales	Males	19.7	19.7	15.8	15.8	17.1	0.0	11.8
	Females	11.4	54.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	28.6
Victoria	Males	10.0	18.3	18.3	11.7	25.0	1.7	15.0
	Females	3.7	63.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	22.2
Queensland	Males	1.9	17.3	11.5	25.0	15.4	3.8	25.0
	Females	7.4	55.6	3.7	0.0	0.0	14.8	18.5
Western Australia	Males	35.3	5.9	11.8	17.7	17.7	0.0	11.8
	Females	0.0	72.2	5.6	0.0	5.6	0.0	16.7
South Australia	Males	21.1	5.3	21.1	10.5	26.3	5.3	10.5
	Females	0.0	71.4	14.3	0.0	0.0	7.1	7.1
Tasmania	Males	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Females	20.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
Australian Capital Territory	Males	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Females	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Northern Territory	Males	7.7	23.1	7.7	30.8	7.7	7.7	15.4
	Females	10.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	30.0
Norfolk Island	Males	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Females	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Australia	Males	14.1	16.9	15.7	17.4	18.6	2.1	15.3
	Females	6.5	59.7	2.9	0.0	0.7	7.9	22.3
Total n	Males	34	41	38	42	45	5	37
	Females	9	83	4	0	1	11	31

(a) Domestic includes: jealousy, desertion/termination of a relationship and other domestic altercation.

(b) Other motive includes: racial/sexual vilification (hate crimes), sexual gratification, envy and other motives.

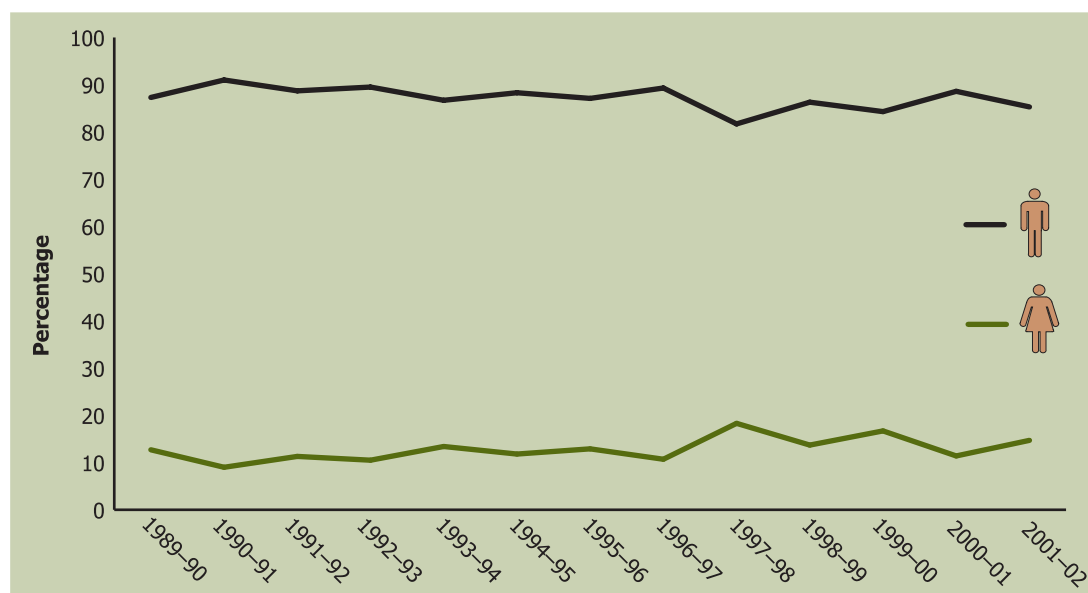
(c) Where motive for the homicide has yet to be determined.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Trends in homicide offending*



* Excludes 32 offenders where gender was not stated.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 1989–2002 [computer file]

Age of offenders

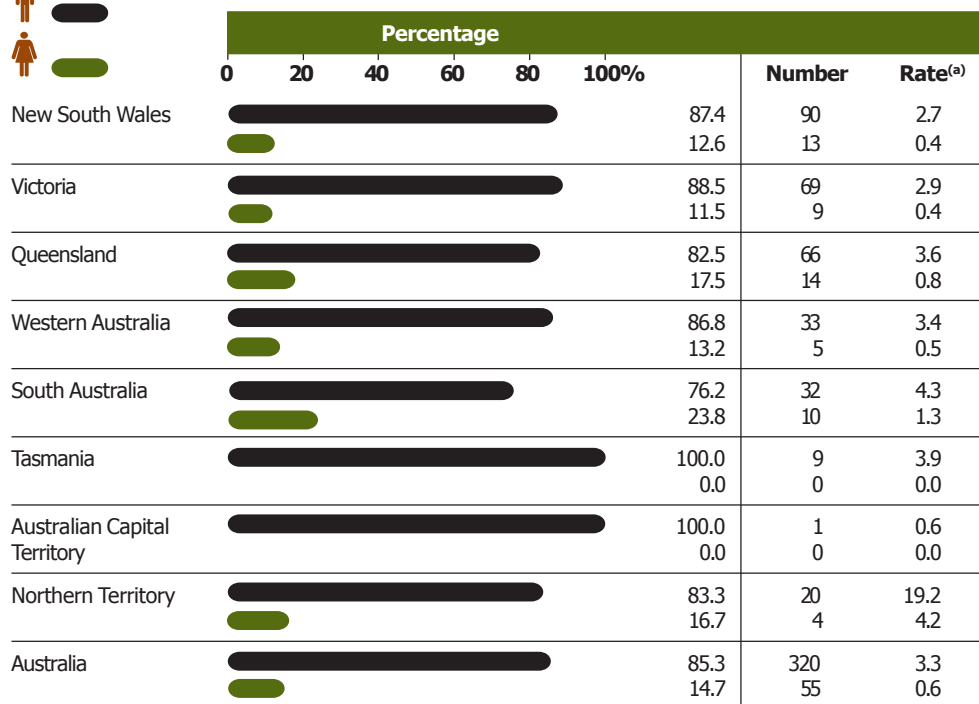
	Males		Females		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
New South Wales	90	30.8	13	30.7	103	30.8
Victoria	68	35.6	9	44.4	77	36.7
Queensland	66	33.7	14	25.8	80	32.4
Western Australia	33	28.4	5	36.2	38	29.4
South Australia	32	35.3	10	30.9	42	34.2
Tasmania	9	10.3	0	0.0	9	38.0
Australian Capital Territory	1	67.0	0	0.0	1	67.0
Northern Territory	20	29.5	4	33.8	24	30.2
Australia ^(a)	319	32.8	55	32.5	374	32.8

(a) Excludes one male offender in Victoria where age was not stated/unknown.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



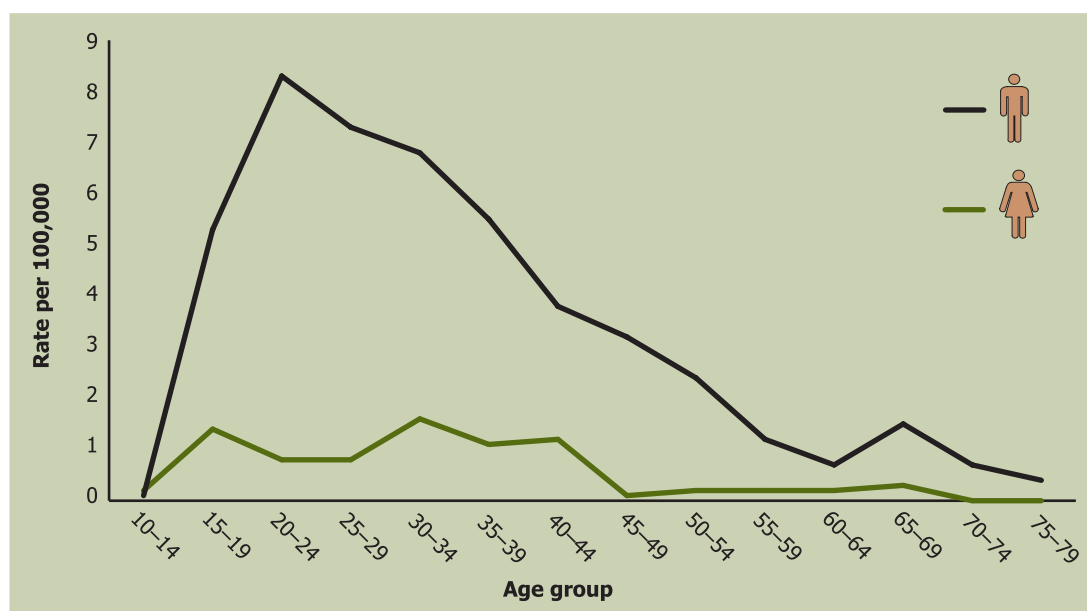
Gender of offenders



(a) Rate per 100,000 population.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Homicide offending, by age* and gender



* Excludes one offender where age was not stated/unknown.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Homicide offending, by age* and gender

	Males		Females		Persons	
	Number	Rate ^(a)	Number	Rate ^(a)	Number	Rate ^(a)
10 to 14	1	0.1	1	0.2	2	0.1
15 to 19	37	5.3	9	1.4	46	3.4
20 to 24	55	8.3	5	0.8	60	4.6
25 to 29	51	7.3	6	0.8	57	4.0
30 to 34	50	6.8	12	1.6	62	4.2
35 to 39	41	5.5	8	1.1	49	3.3
40 to 44	28	3.8	9	1.2	37	2.0
45 to 49	22	3.2	1	0.1	23	1.7
50 to 54	16	2.4	1	0.2	17	1.3
55 to 59	6	1.2	1	0.2	7	0.7
60 to 64	3	0.7	1	0.2	4	0.5
65 to 69	5	1.5	1	0.3	6	0.9
70 to 74	2	0.7	0	0.0	2	0.3
75 to 79	1	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.2

* Excludes one offender where age was not stated/unknown.

(a) Rate per 100,000 population.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of offenders by marital status*

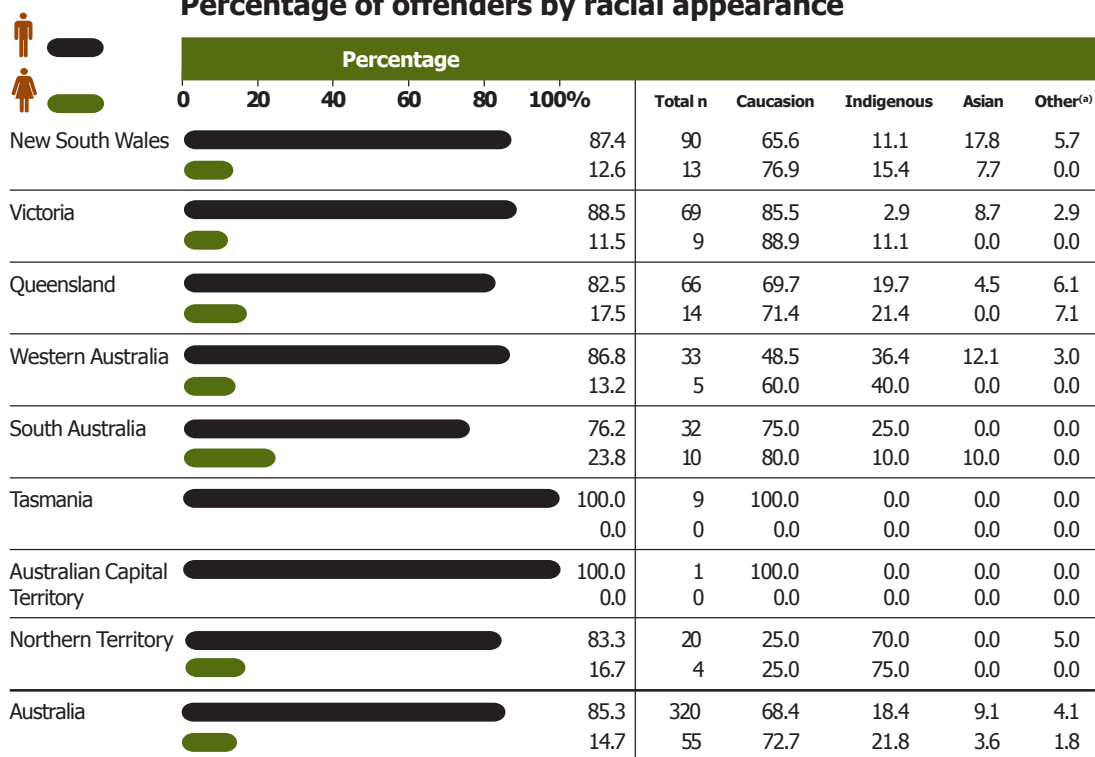
	Never married		Married/ de facto		Separated/ divorced	
	M	F	M	F	M ^(a)	F
New South Wales	68.9	41.7	23.3	33.3	7.8	25.0
Victoria	49.3	33.3	37.7	66.7	13.0	0.0
Queensland	53.9	35.7	43.1	50.0	3.1	14.3
Western Australia	50.0	20.0	40.6	80.0	9.4	0.0
South Australia	59.4	60.0	38.7	20.0	3.1	20.0
Tasmania	22.2	0.0	44.4	0.0	33.3	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	45.0	25.0	50.0	75.0	5.0	0.0
Australia	55.7	39.0	36.2	48.1	8.2	13.0

* Excludes three offenders (two male and one female) who were aged less than 15 years.

(a) Includes one male who was widowed.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of offenders by racial appearance



(a) Other includes: Maori/Pacific Islander, and other.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]



(a) Excludes two offenders aged less than 15 years and three offenders who were in corrective institutions.

(b) Excludes one offender aged less than 15 years.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of offenders by alcohol and/or illicit/prescription drug use

	Alcohol only		Illicit/prescription drugs only		Alcohol and illicit/prescription drugs		No alcohol/drug use	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
New South Wales	27.8	30.8	2.2	0.0	7.8	0.0	62.2	69.2
Victoria	17.6	11.1	14.7	0.0	11.8	0.0	55.9	88.9
Queensland	34.8	28.6	7.6	0.0	6.1	0.0	51.5	71.4
Western Australia	34.4	40.0	6.3	20.0	6.3	0.0	53.1	40.0
South Australia	16.1	10.0	19.4	20.0	6.5	0.0	58.1	70.0
Tasmania	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Northern Territory	68.8	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	31.3	25.0
Australia	28.1	25.5	8.0	5.5	7.3	1.8	56.5	67.3
Total n ^(a)	88	14	25	3	23	1	177	37

(a) Excludes seven offenders where alcohol and/or illicit/prescription drug use was not known.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Percentage of offenders who committed suicide prior to or following arrest

	Percentage	Number
Males	5.0	16
Females	5.5	3
Persons	5.1	19

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Offenders who had a prior history of domestic violence

	Percentage	Number
Prior history	12.3	46
Legal intervention	1.1	4
No history	86.4	324
Not stated	0.3	1

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Relationship between offender and victim*

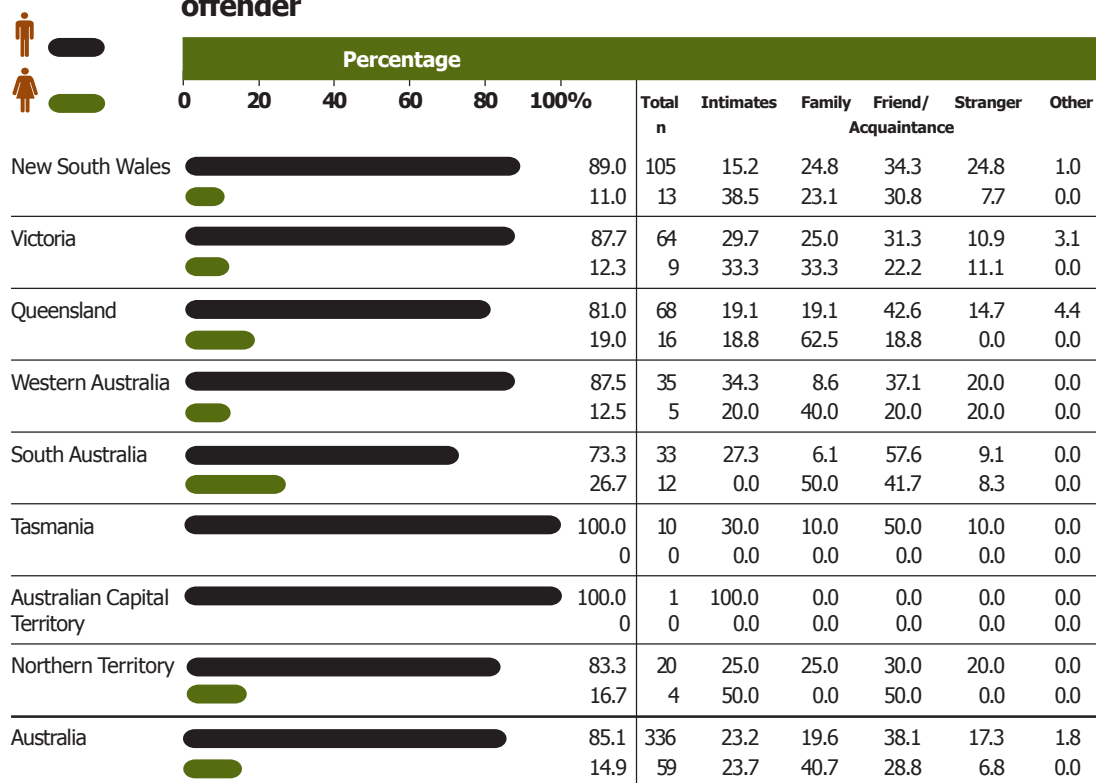
	Total n	Intimates	Family	Friends/ acquaintances	Strangers	Other
New South Wales	118	17.8	24.6	33.9	22.9	0.8
Victoria	73	30.1	26.0	30.1	11.0	2.7
Queensland	84	19.0	27.4	38.1	11.9	3.6
Western Australia	40	32.5	12.5	35.0	20.0	0.0
South Australia	45	20.0	17.8	53.3	8.9	0.0
Tasmania	10	30.0	10.0	50.0	10.0	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Territory	24	29.2	20.8	33.3	16.7	0.0
Australia ^(a)	395	23.3	22.8	36.7	15.7	1.5

* Refers to the relationship between each offender and each victim.

(a) Excludes seven cases where the relationship between offender and victim is not known.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

Relationship between offender and victim, by gender of offender



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NHMP 2001–2002 [computer file]

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