

# **Deaths in Custody in Australia**

2002 National Deaths in Custody Program  
(NDICP) Annual Report



# **Deaths in Custody in Australia**

2002 National Deaths in Custody Program  
(NDICP) Annual Report

Lisa Collins and Muzammil Ali



**Australian Institute of Criminology  
Research and Public Policy Series  
No. 50**

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2003

ISSN 1326-6004  
ISBN 0 642 53803 4

Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cwlth), no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise), be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission. Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

National Deaths in Custody Program:

AIC project number 0004  
Ethics approval number PO30

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology  
GPO Box 2944  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6260 9221  
Fax: (02) 9260 9201  
Email: [aicpress@aic.gov.au](mailto:aicpress@aic.gov.au)  
<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Edited and typeset by Sarah Christensen, Australian Institute of Criminology  
Printed by National Capital Printing, Canberra

# From the Director of the AIC

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) is a unique, Australian mechanism for monitoring the extent and nature of deaths in police, prison and juvenile custody. The NDICP was established in 1992 and is administered by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The program has collected and disseminated data on deaths that have occurred in police, prison and juvenile custody since 1980.

The current report presents detailed information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories during the 2002 calendar year. The report also provides comparisons by jurisdiction. The total number of deaths in police and prison custody in 2002 was 69. The majority of deaths occurred in prison custody (n=50), with 19 occurring in police custody. Indigenous deaths accounted for 20 per cent (n=14) of the overall number in 2002. There were no deaths in juvenile detention in Australia during 2002.

Overall, the largest proportion of deaths were due to natural causes (38 per cent). Hangings were also responsible for a large proportion of non-Indigenous deaths (29 per cent), however, during the year under review there were no Indigenous deaths as a result of hanging in either police, prison or juvenile custody—this is the first year such an outcome has ever been recorded by the NDICP.

**Adam Graycar**  
**Director**  
**Australian Institute of Criminology**

# 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 authors 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 National Centre for Coronial Information
NCIS	National Coronial Information System
NDICP	National Deaths in Custody Program
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

## Disclaimer

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

# Contents

From the Director of the AIC .....	5
Acknowledgments .....	6
NDICP: 2002 Summary .....	9
Background and Function of the NDICP .....	9
Methodology .....	10
Borderline Cases .....	10
Australian Deaths in Custody 2002 .....	12
All Custodial Deaths .....	13
Deaths in Prison Custody .....	15
Deaths in Police Custody and Custody-related Police Operations .....	17
Data Usage .....	18
2002 NDICP Findings .....	23
All Custodial Deaths .....	25
Deaths in Prison Custody .....	31
Deaths in Police Custody and Custody-related Police Operations .....	38
References .....	45



# NDICP: 2002 Summary

## Background and Function of the NDICP

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

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

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

In response, the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive, timely and authoritative data on all deaths which occur in custody and custody-related police operations. Although the NDICP began recording information in 1992, data on all custodial deaths between 1980 and 1992 were collected retrospectively, placing the NDICP in the unique position of holding detailed information on custodial deaths in Australia that spans 23 years.

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

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

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

## Methodology

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

- NDICP data collection forms completed by all state and territory police services and correctional departments in Australia and sent to the AIC directly whenever a death occurs (including additional information such as offence records and police narratives);
- state coronial records, such as transcripts of proceedings and findings, as well as toxicology and post-mortem reports; and
- information gleaned from national press clippings tailored to the NDICP requirements and provided on a daily basis by Media Monitors.

NDICP data collection forms allow information to be recorded on approximately 40 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 Coronial Information System (NCIS). NCIS has recently been developed and is managed by Monash University's National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI). The NDICP submitted an ethics application to MUNCCI in order to obtain access to the NCIS. The AIC was granted access to the NCIS in July 2001 on a fee-for-service basis. In certain jurisdictions data will no longer be available from coroners on an individual basis. Where jurisdictions do not provide information to the NCIS, data is obtained by liaising directly with the contact in that area upon completion of the inquest on a case-by-case basis.

The current data set of the NDICP covers a 23-year period, from 1980 to 2002. The data set contains details relating to 1,598 individual custodial deaths which include:

- 564 deaths in police custody (and custody-related police operations);
- 1,018 deaths in prison custody; and
- 16 juvenile detention and juvenile welfare deaths.

The majority of deaths recorded in the NDICP are of non-Indigenous persons (n=1,294), with Indigenous persons accounting for approximately 20 per cent of all custodial deaths (n=304).

## 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 clear-cut and fall within the definition, every year there are some where it is not clear whether the death should be classified as a death in custody. During

## Definitions

### Deaths in Prison Custody

Deaths in prison custody include those deaths that occur in prisons 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, pp. 189–90).

### Deaths 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.

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 the “borderline” cases from analysis pending their coronial outcome.

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

1 This definition of a “death in police custody” is based on a resolution of the Australasian Police Ministers’ Council, made in 1994.

2 It is important to note that this may slightly affect the total overall figures for 2002, causing a decline in the total figure. However this situation will correct itself over time as cases go to a coronial inquiry. Where appropriate, the case will be retrospectively included in the database, adjusting the total figure for a particular year with each subsequent annual report.

## What Type of Cases are Borderline Cases?

For the purposes of the NDICP, a person is considered to be "in custody" when they are not free to leave the detention or arrest of police or corrections officials. As outlined on page 11, this also includes deaths that occur in a hospital if the injuries or illness suffered while in custody caused or contributed to that death. In cases where police were clearly in the process of detaining or attempting to detain a person immediately prior to death, such as shootings, sieges, raids and pursuits, the person is considered to have been "in custody" at the time of death.

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

- Police engage in a pursuit after observing a car that has been reported as stolen. The police attempt to make the driver pull over, however the driver speeds away from police. When speeds reach dangerous levels police call off the pursuit. The police are still following behind the stolen vehicle and it is still in sight when the driver loses control and is fatally injured in the resulting car accident.
- Police pursue a driver who is behaving erratically and driving in a dangerous manner. The police want to question the individual and will arrest the driver if he/she is intoxicated. The police pursue the car in an attempt to make the driver pull over, the driver speeds away from police and the pursuit continues. The police lose sight of the vehicle temporarily. A short time later the police come across the vehicle which has veered off the road and into a power pole, to find the driver dead at the scene.
- The police detain a person who is intoxicated in a public place and hold the individual for several hours. A short time after being released the individual is struck by a motor vehicle when crossing the street approximately one kilometre from the police station. The individual dies in hospital as a result of injuries sustained.

## Australian Deaths in Custody in 2002

What follows is a summary of findings relating to deaths in custody in 2002 (calendar year) for all custodial deaths, deaths in prison custody and deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, with particular regard to demographic factors and the circumstances surrounding the deaths. The deaths reported hereafter refer to those clearly defined as a death in custody.

## All Custodial Deaths

In 2002 a total of 69 deaths occurred in police and prison custody in Australia. This figure represents a decline from the 87 deaths recorded during 2001 and is the lowest overall figure recorded (pending coronial outcomes for 2002) since 1992 (Figure 1). Australia's most populous jurisdiction, New South Wales, recorded the highest number of custodial deaths with a total of 29, followed by Victoria and Western Australia with a total of 11 deaths each. There were 10 custodial deaths in Queensland, three in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, and two in South Australia (Figure 2). There were no deaths recorded in the Australian Capital Territory during this period.

### Demographics

Consistent with previous years, the majority of deaths involved non-Indigenous males (n=48). There were eight female deaths in custody during 2002, four of which occurred in New South Wales. Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory all recorded one female death during this time (Figure 4). Approximately 20 per cent of all custodial deaths during 2002 involved Indigenous persons (n=14) (Figure 3).

During 2002 the mean age of persons who died in custody was 41 years; the mean age for Indigenous persons was 37 years and the mean age for non-Indigenous persons was 42 years (the median ages were 36 years and 42 years respectively) (Table 2).

### Circumstances Surrounding the Deaths

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

### Cause of Death

In terms of cause of death, deaths due to natural causes were most common in custodial settings during 2002 (25 out of 65 deaths) (Table 4). For Indigenous persons the most common cause of death was natural causes (seven out of 14 deaths), while approximately one-third died due to external/multiple trauma (four out of 14 deaths). There were no Indigenous persons who died as a result of a hanging during 2002 in either police or prison

custody—a reduction from the average of five hanging deaths per year during the 1990s and a decline from the eight such deaths recorded in 2001. For non-Indigenous persons, 35 per cent of deaths (18 out of 51) were a result of natural causes, while approximately one-third of deaths were caused by hanging (15 out of 51 deaths).

## Manner of Death

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

Overall, self-inflicted deaths accounted for the majority of all custodial deaths in 2002 (Table 5). Twenty-three of the 51 non-Indigenous deaths and three of the 14 Indigenous deaths were self-inflicted. Deaths due to natural causes were also a significant manner in which people died in custody during 2002—half of the Indigenous deaths were a result of natural causes (seven out of 14 deaths), and 18 of the 51 non-Indigenous deaths were also as a result of natural causes.

## Most Serious Offence

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

- “violent offence” includes homicide, assault, sex offences, other offences against the person, and robbery;
- “theft-related offence” includes break and enter, other theft, property damage and fraud;
- “good order offence” includes public drunkenness, protective custody for intoxication in jurisdictions where public drunkenness is not an offence, justice procedure offences, breaches of sentences (including fine default), and other offences against good order (for example, prostitution, betting and gambling, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and offensive behaviour);
- “drug-related offence” includes possess, use, deal, traffic, manufacture/grow drugs;
- “traffic offence” includes road traffic, driving and license offences; and
- “other/unknown” includes other offences not elsewhere classified or where the most serious offence is unknown.

As seen in previous years, in 2002 the majority of people who died in custody were being detained immediately prior to their death for violent offences and theft-related offences (Table 6). Looking specifically at Indigenous persons, over half were in custody for violent offences (eight out of 14 deaths), while approximately 30 per cent were held in custody on traffic matters (four of 14 deaths). No Indigenous person was held on theft-related offences prior to their death during 2002. For non-Indigenous persons approximately half were in custody for violent offences (27 out of 55 deaths), and a further 12 persons were in custody as a result of theft offences.

## **Location of Death**

During 2002 the majority of custodial deaths occurred in a public hospital ( $n=25$ ) or in a cell ( $n=23$ ) (Table 7). A small number of deaths occurred on private property (five deaths), in a public place (six deaths), or in other custodial settings such as an exercise yard (10 deaths). Close to half of non-Indigenous deaths took place in a cell (23 out of 55 deaths), but no Indigenous deaths occurred in this location during 2002. This is the first year since 1982 that no Indigenous deaths occurred in either a prison or police cell. The majority of Indigenous deaths occurred in a public hospital (nine of 14 deaths).

## **Deaths in Prison Custody**

There were 50 deaths in Australian prison custody during 2002, down slightly from the 56 prison deaths recorded in 2001. Eight of these deaths were of Indigenous people (16 per cent). The majority of deaths occurred in the jurisdictions where the majority of Australia's prisoners are located—New South Wales recorded 20 deaths, Victoria 10 deaths, Western Australia eight deaths and Queensland seven deaths (Figure 6). There were no deaths recorded in juvenile detention in Australia during 2002.

## **Demographics**

Of the 50 deaths that occurred in prison during 2002, the youngest person who died was aged 19 years and the oldest person was aged 71 years (the mean *and* median age for prison custody deaths was 43 years). Non-Indigenous persons who died in prison were older than their Indigenous counterparts (a mean age of 43 years versus a mean age of 40 years) (Table 9). During 2002 there were five women who died in prison custody, all of whom were non-Indigenous. Of the 45 male deaths in prison custody, 37 were of non-Indigenous persons and eight involved persons of Indigenous origin.

## **Circumstances Surrounding the Deaths**

### **Cause of Death**

The majority of non-Indigenous prisoners died as a result of natural causes (17 out of 38 deaths). Indigenous prisoners also mostly died as a result of natural causes (six out of eight deaths) during the year under review (Table 11). As highlighted above, there were no

Indigenous deaths caused by hanging in Australian prisons during 2002, representing a decline from the eight deaths that occurred in 2001. A large proportion of non-Indigenous prisoners died as a result of hanging during 2002 (14 of 38 deaths). One Indigenous prisoner and one non-Indigenous prisoner died as a result of acute alcohol or drug toxicity.

### Manner of Death

In terms of manner of death, most deaths were either self-inflicted (n=19) or due to natural causes (n=23) (Table 12). Non-Indigenous deaths were more likely to have been self-inflicted (18 out of 38 deaths), while Indigenous deaths were most often due to natural causes (six out of eight deaths). There were three deaths during 2002 that were classified as "unlawful homicide", that is, as a result of murder or manslaughter.

### Most Serious Offence

When the most serious offence leading to custody is examined, the data reveal that most Australian prisoners who died during 2002 were incarcerated for violent offences (homicide, assault and sex offences) (31 out of 50 deaths) (Table 13). Theft-related offences were the most serious offences committed prior to custody by nine out of 50 prisoners who died during 2002.

### Legal Status of Deceased

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures on prisoners in Australia show that in 2002, 80 per cent of all prisoners were serving a sentence, while the remaining 20 per cent were unsentenced prisoners on remand. Of the 50 prison deaths in Australia during 2002, 33 incidents involved sentenced prisoners, while 17 deceased persons were unsentenced, or remand, prisoners (34 per cent) signifying a higher rate of death for unsentenced as compared to sentenced prisoners (Table 15).

### Location of Death

More than half of non-Indigenous prison deaths occurred in a prison cell (n=23), approximately one-third occurred in a public hospital (n=13) and the remainder took place in other areas of the custodial facility (for example, the exercise yard) (Table 14). The majority of Indigenous deaths occurred in a public hospital (five out of eight deaths), while the three remaining Indigenous deaths occurred in "other" custodial locations as above. In terms of the type of prison that the death occurred in, 43 were in government-run prisons (86 per cent) and seven occurred in privately run facilities in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland (Figure 9).

# Deaths in Police Custody and Custody-related Police Operations

Between January and December 2002 there was a total of 19 deaths in Australian police custody and custody-related police operations. This is down from the total of 31 deaths recorded in 2001 (Table 16). New South Wales recorded nine deaths, followed by Queensland and Western Australia which had three each. The Northern Territory had two, Victoria and Tasmania had one each and there were no deaths recorded in the Australian Capital Territory.

## Category 1 and Category 2 Deaths

During 2002, 74 per cent (n=14) of the 19 deaths were classified as Category 2 deaths; that is, deaths in custody-related police operations (such as, for example, deaths following sieges and motor-vehicle pursuits) (Figure 12). The remaining 26 per cent (n=5) comprised Category 1 deaths, which occur during closer police contact with the victim, such as shootings, raids and deaths that occur in police stations (refer to page 11 for a fuller definition of Category 1 and Category 2 deaths). The five Category 1 deaths that occurred during 2002 represent the lowest figure recorded for this category since 1990.

## Demographics

There were 16 males and three females who died in police custody or custody-related police operations in 2002 (Figure 13). Of these, six were Indigenous and 13 were non-Indigenous. The mean age of Indigenous deaths in police custody was 34 years, while for non-Indigenous persons the mean age at time of death was slightly higher at 37 years. Persons who died in police custody were younger on average than those who died in prison custody—the mean age of death for prison custody deaths was 43 years, while the mean age of death for police-related deaths was 36 years (Table 17). The ages of persons who died during police custody operations ranged from 15 to 69, with the median being 34 years.

## Circumstances Surrounding the Deaths

### Cause of Death

An examination of the causes of death in police custody shows that during 2002 just under half of all deaths resulted from external and/or multiple trauma injuries (Table 19). Deaths caused by gunshot wounds were the main cause of death for non-Indigenous people (six out of 13 deaths) while external and/or multiple trauma injuries caused four of the six Indigenous deaths in police custody.

During the 1980s there was an average of nine deaths per year caused by hanging. This fell to an average of three deaths per year during the 1990s. During 2002 there was one hanging death in police custody of a non-Indigenous person.

## Manner of Death

In terms of the manner of deaths in police custody, the majority of cases were either accidental or self-inflicted deaths (Table 20). For Indigenous persons, accidents accounted for three of the six deaths that occurred during 2002, while for non-Indigenous persons, self-inflicted deaths accounted for five of the 13 deaths. There were three deaths during 2002 where the deceased died after being shot by police (classified as justifiable homicide).

## Most Serious Offence

In terms of the most serious offence committed by the deceased immediately prior to the final period of custody, three of the six Indigenous persons who died were in police custody for traffic-related offences (Table 21). Non-Indigenous persons were in police custody for a variety of offences including violent, theft and traffic-related offences, and "other" offences such as breaches of mental health orders (all comprising three deaths each).

## Location of Death

During 2002 the majority of deaths in police custody occurred in a public hospital (n=7) or in a public place (n=6) (Table 22). Four of the six Indigenous deaths occurred in a public hospital, while five of the 13 non-Indigenous deaths occurred in a public place. During 2002 only one death occurred in a custodial setting (a police van), while five individuals died on private property. It is important to note that there were no deaths in police cells recorded in any jurisdiction across Australia during 2002. This is the first time in 17 years that there were no deaths in police cells.

The NDICP also examines the circumstances of the custodial period; that is, why was the deceased considered to be "in custody" at the time of death. Overall, 13 of the 19 police custody deaths occurred while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, the individual (Table 23). Of these 13 deaths, six involved motor vehicle pursuits, four involved shooting incidents and three deaths occurred during a siege situation (Table 24).

## Data Usage

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

The provision of timely and accurate information is essential in assisting stakeholders to identify shifts in "at-risk" populations and to monitor the effects of changes in policy and operational standards.

For example, the findings of the NDICP may impact on procedures for holding persons in custody. The data may also help to identify the type of persons who are at most risk of suicide or other types of death while in custody, and the circumstances and environmental factors that may contribute to such deaths. The most important function of the NDICP is to provide an annual report in order to communicate information gathered on custodial deaths to its key stakeholders (police and corrections authorities), other government organisations, non-government organisations and the general public. During the 10 years since the program was established at the AIC there have been many additional requests for data. Some examples of data usage follow.

## Selected Published Material

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

“Deaths in custody: A gender-specific analysis”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 238, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2002, Lisa Collins and Jenny Mouzos.

*Deaths in Custody in Australia: 2001 National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) Annual Report*, Research and Public Policy Series, no. 42, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2002, Lisa Collins.

“Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations, 2000”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 217, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2001, Lisa Collins and Jenny Mouzos.

“Deaths in custody: 10 years on from the Royal Commission”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 203, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2001, Paul Williams.

“Deaths in private prisons and public prisons in Australia: A comparative analysis”, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2001, pp. 293–301, David Biles and Vicki Dalton.

“Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations, 1999”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 153, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2000, Vicki Dalton.

“Aboriginal deaths in prison, 1980 to 1998: National overview”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 131, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, Vicki Dalton.

“Suicide in prison, 1980 to 1998: National overview”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 126, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, Vicki Dalton.

“Deaths in private prisons 1990–99: A comparative study”, *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 120, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, David Biles and Vicki Dalton.

## Examples of agencies and organisations that have requested data

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

"The deaths of offenders serving community corrections orders", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 107, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, David Biles, Richard Harding and John Walker.

"Prison homicide in Australia: 1980 to 1998", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 103, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, Vicki Dalton.

"Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations, 1998", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 105, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1999, Vicki Dalton.

"Police custody and self-inflicted firearms deaths", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 94, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1998, Vicki Dalton.

"Police shootings 1990 to 1997", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 89, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1998, Vicki Dalton.

"Prison deaths 1980–97: National overview and state trends", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 81, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1998, Vicki Dalton.

"Australian deaths in custody and custody-related police operations, 1997", *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, no. 80, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1998, Vicki Dalton.

## Presentations

"Monitoring Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in custody", *Best Practice Interventions in Corrections For Indigenous People Conference*, Australian Institute of Criminology and New South Wales Department of Corrective Services, Sydney, October 2001, Lisa Collins.

"Australian deaths in custody: 1980–1998", *Third National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia: Mapping the Boundaries of Australia's Criminal Justice System*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, March 1999, Vicki Dalton.

"Prison homicide in Australia: National overview 1980–1998", *Minimising the Harm: Health in Prisons*, Public Health Association Conference, Sydney, February 1999, Vicki Dalton.



# **2002 NDICP Findings**

## **Methodological Note**

Where rates are presented in the tables that follow, they have been calculated using the annual Prisoners in Australia results of the National Prisoner Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003).

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

The Australian Capital Territory is not included in any of the following tables (excluding trend figures) as there were no recorded deaths in custody in that jurisdiction in 2002. Similarly, there were no recorded deaths in police custody or custody-related police operations in South Australia in 2002.



# ALL CUSTODIAL DEATHS

## Long-term Trends

**Table 1: Trends in custodial deaths in Australia by Indigenous status**

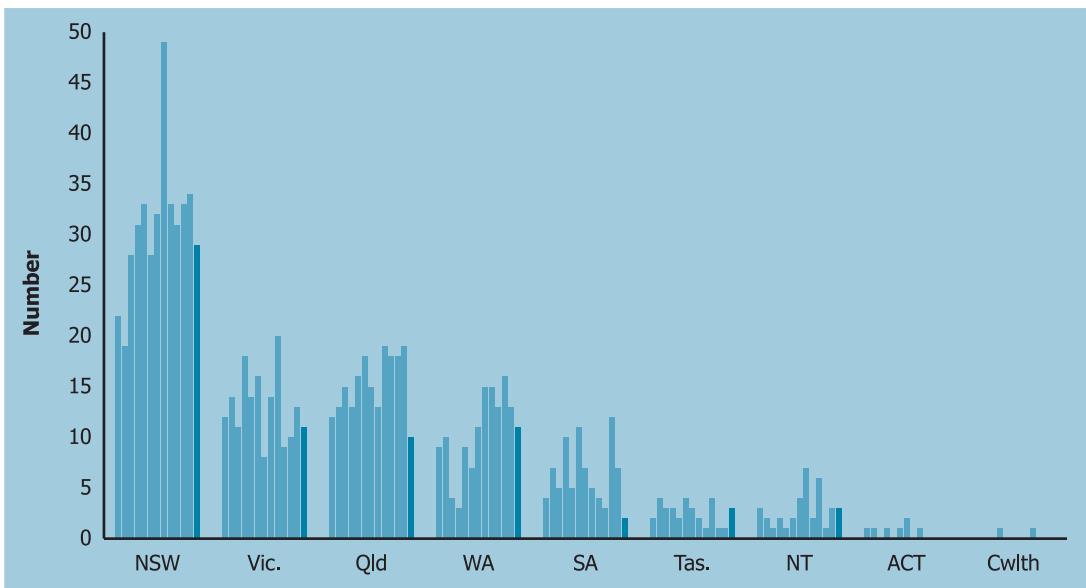
Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	10	55	65
1991	13	57	70
1992	9	58	67
1993	10	71	81
1994	14	67	81
1995	21	66	87
1996	18	64	82
1997	15	90	105
1998	16	79	95
1999	19	66	85
2000	17	74	91
2001	19	68	87
2002	14	55	69
Total	195	870	1,065

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 1: All custodial deaths in Australia, 1990–2002**



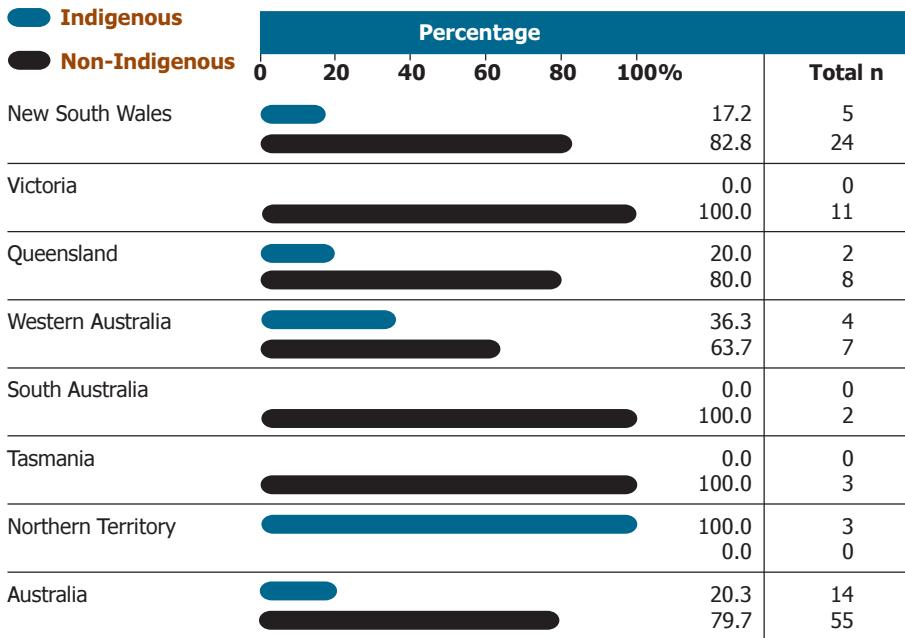
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 2: Trends in custodial deaths, by jurisdiction, 1990–2002**

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

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

## 2002 Findings

**Figure 3: Percentage of all custodial deaths, 2002**

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

**Figure 4: Percentage of all custodial deaths, by gender, 2002**



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

**Table 2: Mean age at death, 2002**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
New South Wales	5	34.8	24	41.2	29	40.1
Victoria	0	—	11	43.8	11	43.8
Queensland	2	42.5	8	34.8	10	36.3
Western Australia	4	39.5	7	40.9	11	40.4
South Australia	0	—	2	53.5	2	53.5
Tasmania	0	—	3	48.0	3	48.0
Northern Territory	3	35.7	0	—	3	35.7
Australia	14	37.4	55	41.6	69	40.7

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

**Table 3: Number of all custodial deaths, by age at time of death, 2002**

		<24	25–39	40–54	55+
New South Wales	Indigenous	0	4	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	5	6	8	5
Victoria	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	4	3
Queensland	Indigenous	0	1	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	5	2	0
Western Australia	Indigenous	1	1	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	4	1	2
South Australia	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	1
Tasmania	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	2	0
Northern Territory	Indigenous	0	2	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	1	8	4	1
	Non-Indigenous	8	18	18	11

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

**Table 4: Number of all custodial deaths by cause of death, 2002\***

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/multiple trauma	Drugs/alcohol	Other	Total n
NSW	Ind.	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	5
	Non-Ind.	8	7	1	2	4	1	0	23
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	2	6	0	2	1	0	0	11
Qld	Ind.	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	7
WA	Ind.	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
	Non-Ind.	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	7
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
NT	Ind.	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	0	7	0	2	4	1	0	14
	Non-Ind.	15	18	1	7	8	1	1	51

\* Excludes four cases where cause of death is yet to be determined.

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

**Table 5: Number of all custodial deaths by manner of death, 2002\***

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Total n
NSW	Ind.	2	1	0	0	2	5
	Non-Ind.	11	7	0	2	3	23
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	2	6	1	1	0	10
Qld	Ind.	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	5	0	2	0	0	7
WA	Ind.	1	2	0	0	1	4
	Non-Ind.	3	3	0	0	1	7
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	0	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	0	0	2
NT	Ind.	0	2	0	0	1	3
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	3	7	0	0	4	14
	Non-Ind.	23	18	3	3	4	51

\* Excludes four deaths where manner of death is yet to be determined.

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

**Table 6: Number of all custodial deaths by most serious offence, 2002**

		Violent	Theft-related	Good order	Drug-related	Traffic	Other	Total n
NSW	Ind.	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
	Non-Ind.	12	4	2	1	3	2	24
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	5	4	0	1	0	1	11
Qld	Ind.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	4	3	0	0	0	1	8
WA	Ind.	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Non-Ind.	4	1	1	0	1	0	7
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
NT	Ind.	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	8	0	1	0	4	1	14
	Non-Ind.	27	12	5	2	4	5	55

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

**Table 7: Number of all custodial deaths by location of death, 2002**

		<b>Public hospital</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Other custodial setting</b>	<b>Private property</b>	<b>Public place</b>	<b>Total n</b>
NSW	Ind.	3	0	0	1	1	5
	Non-Ind.	6	11	3	1	3	24
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	4	4	2	1	0	11
Qld	Ind.	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	1	3	2	1	1	8
WA	Ind.	3	0	1	0	0	4
	Non-Ind.	3	3	0	0	1	7
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	0	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	1	0	3
NT	Ind.	3	0	0	0	0	3
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	9	0	3	1	1	14
	Non-Ind.	16	23	7	4	5	55

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



# DEATHS IN PRISON CUSTODY

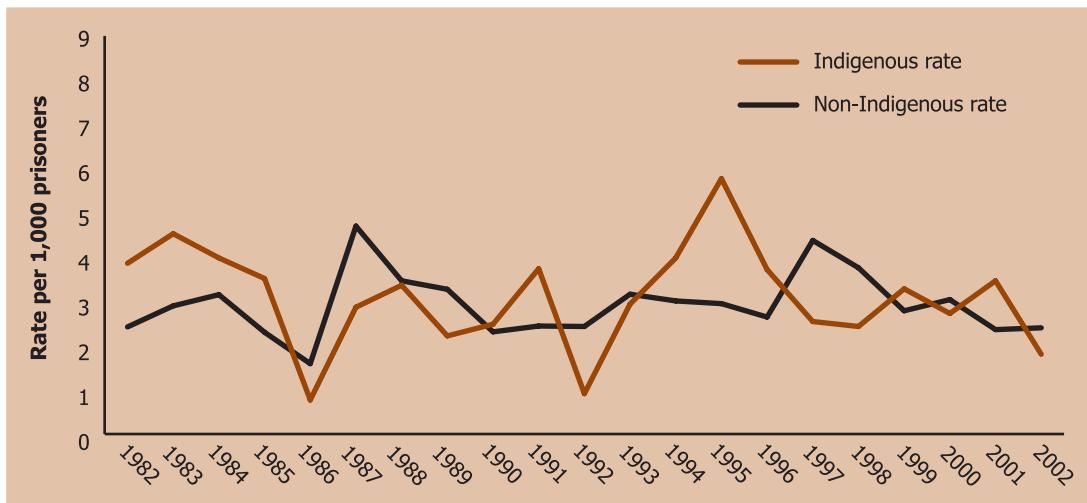
## Long-term Trends

**Table 8: Trends in prison custody deaths by Indigenous status**

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	5	28	33
1991	8	31	39
1992	2	34	36
1993	7	42	49
1994	11	42	53
1995	17	42	59
1996	12	40	52
1997	9	67	76
1998	9	60	69
1999	13	46	59
2000	11	53	64
2001	14	42	56
2002	8	42	50
Total	126	569	695

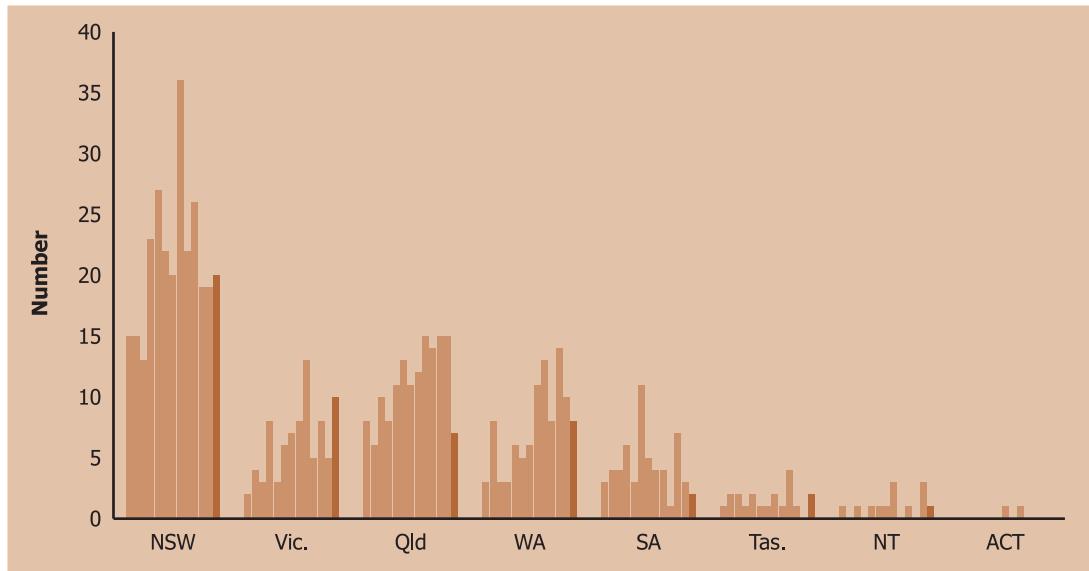
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 5: Trends in prison custody deaths, 1982–2002**



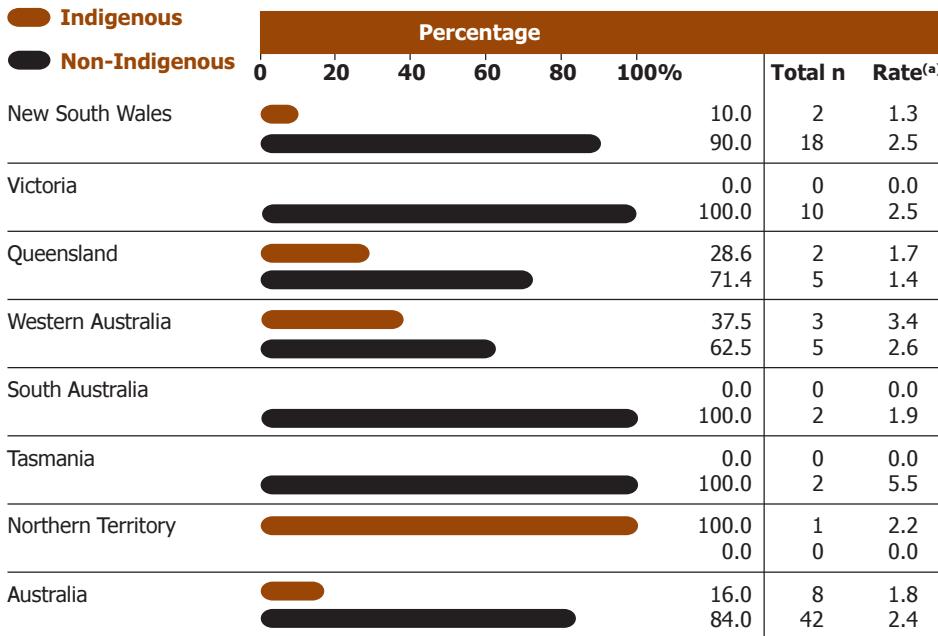
Note: Prison census data not available prior to 1982

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 6: Trends in prison custody deaths, by jurisdiction, 1990–2002**

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

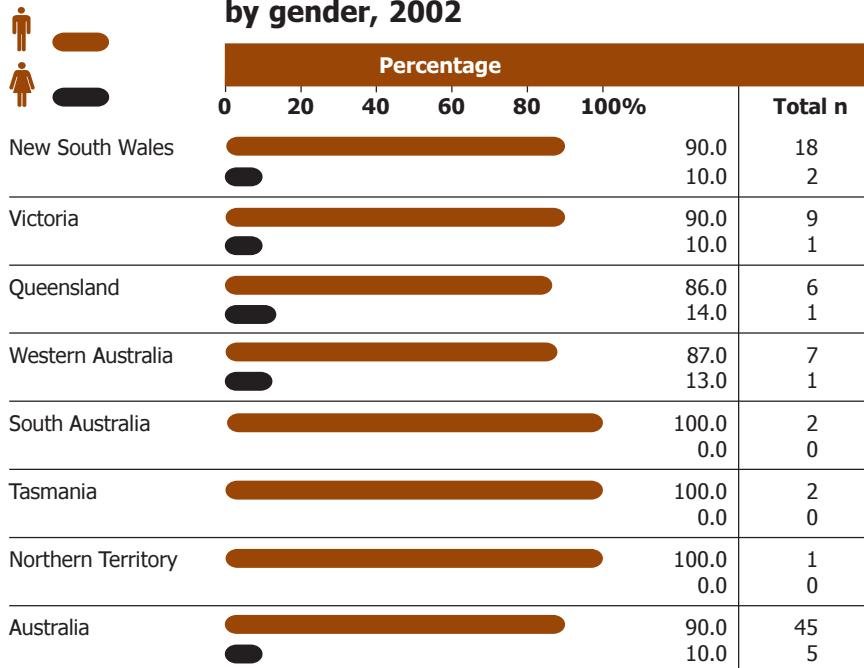
## 2002 Findings

**Figure 7: Percentage of prison custody deaths, 2002**

(a) Rate per 1,000 prisoners

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

**Figure 8: Percentage of prison custody deaths, by gender, 2002**



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

**Table 9: Mean age at death, 2002**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
New South Wales	2	31.0	18	43.1	20	41.9
Victoria	0	–	10	45.8	10	45.8
Queensland	2	42.5	5	32.0	7	35.0
Western Australia	3	47.0	5	44.8	8	45.6
South Australia	0	–	2	53.5	2	53.5
Tasmania	0	–	2	42.5	2	42.5
Northern Territory	1	33.0	0	–	1	33.0
Australia	8	40.1	42	43.1	50	42.6

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

**Table 10: Number of prison custody deaths, by age at time of death, 2002**

		<24	25–39	40–54	55+
New South Wales	Indigenous	0	2	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	5	8	3
Victoria	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	2	4	3
Queensland	Indigenous	0	1	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	1	0
Western Australia	Indigenous	0	1	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	1	2
South Australia	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	1
Tasmania	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	1	0
Northern Territory	Indigenous	0	1	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	0	5	2	1
	Non-Indigenous	4	13	16	9

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

**Table 11: Number of prison custody deaths by cause of death, 2002\***

		Hanging	Natural causes	Gunshot	Multiple trauma/other	Alcohol/drugs	Total n
NSW	Ind.	0	1	0	0	1	2
	Non-Ind.	7	7	0	2	1	17
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	2	6	1	1	0	10
Qld	Ind.	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	3	0	0	1	0	4
WA	Ind.	0	2	1	0	0	3
	Non-Ind.	2	2	0	1	0	5
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	0	0	1
NT	Ind.	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	0	6	1	0	1	8
	Non-Ind.	14	17	1	5	1	38

\* Excludes four deaths where cause of death is yet to be determined.

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

**Table 12: Number of prison custody deaths by manner of death, 2002\***

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Total n
NSW	Ind.	0	1	0	1	2
	Non-Ind.	8	7	2	0	17
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	2	6	1	0	9
Qld	Ind.	0	2	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	4	0	0	0	4
WA	Ind.	1	2	0	0	3
	Non-Ind.	3	2	0	0	5
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	0	1
NT	Ind.	0	1	0	0	1
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	1	6	0	1	8
	Non-Ind.	18	17	3	0	38

\* Excludes four deaths where manner of death is yet to be determined.

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

**Table 13: Number of prison custody deaths by most serious offence, 2002**

		Violent	Theft-related	Good order	Drug-related	Traffic	Other	Total n
NSW	Ind.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	11	3	1	1	1	1	18
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	4	4	0	1	0	1	10
Qld	Ind.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
WA	Ind.	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Non-Ind.	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
SA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
NT	Ind.	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	7	0	0	0	1	0	8
	Non-Ind.	24	9	4	2	1	2	42

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

**Table 14: Number of prison custody deaths by location of death, 2002**

		Public hospital	Prison cell	Other custodial setting <sup>(a)</sup>	Total n
New South Wales	Ind.	2	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	5	11	2	18
Victoria	Ind.	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	4	4	2	10
Queensland	Ind.	0	0	2	2
	Non-Ind.	0	3	2	5
Western Australia	Ind.	2	0	1	3
	Non-Ind.	2	3	0	5
South Australia	Ind.	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	2
Tasmania	Ind.	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	2
Northern Territory	Ind.	1	0	0	1
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0
Australia	Ind.	5	0	3	8
	Non-Ind.	13	23	6	42

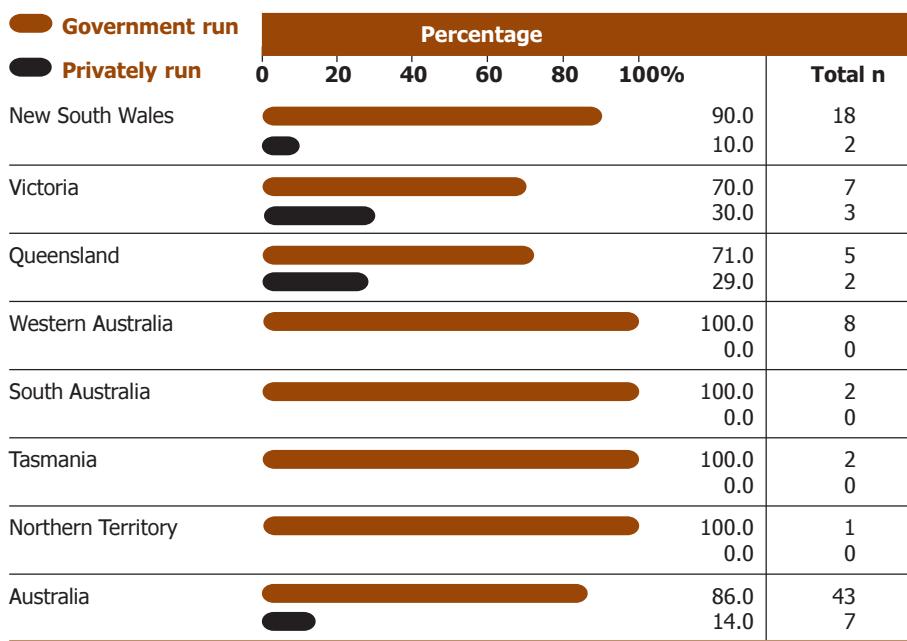
(a) "Other custodial setting" includes other locations within the prison complex, for example, the exercise yard.

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

**Table 15: Number of prison custody deaths by legal status of deceased, 2002**

	Sentenced		Unsentenced		Total n	
	Indigenous	Non-Ind.	Indigenous	Non-Ind.	Indigenous	Non-Ind.
New South Wales	2	10	0	8	2	18
Victoria	0	7	0	3	0	10
Queensland	2	3	0	2	2	5
Western Australia	1	4	2	1	3	5
South Australia	0	1	0	1	0	2
Tasmania	0	2	0	0	0	2
Northern Territory	1	0	0	0	1	0
Australia	6	27	2	15	8	42

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

**Figure 9: Percentage of deaths by prison type, 2002**

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



# DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY AND CUSTODY-RELATED POLICE OPERATIONS

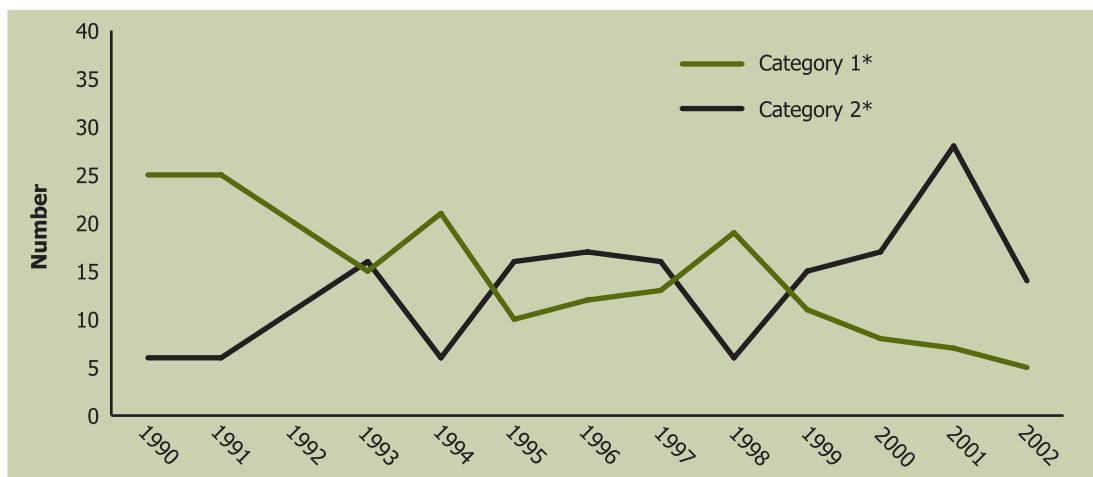
## Long-term Trends

**Table 16: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations by Indigenous status**

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	5	26	31
1991	5	26	31
1992	7	24	31
1993	3	28	31
1994	3	24	27
1995	4	22	26
1996	6	23	29
1997	6	23	29
1998	6	19	25
1999	6	20	26
2000	5	20	25
2001	4	27	31
2002	6	13	19
Total	66	295	361

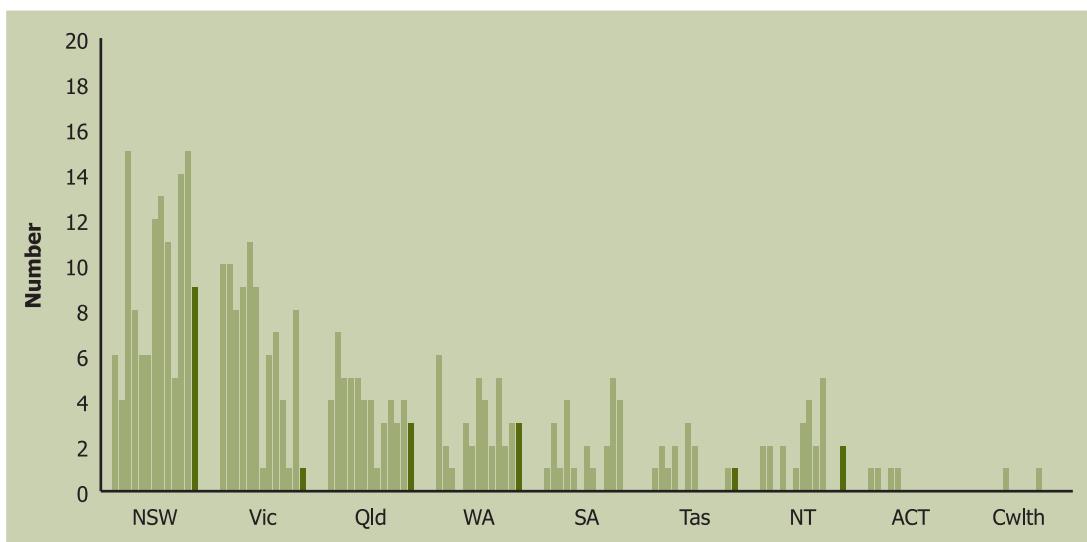
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 10: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, 1990–2002**



\* See page 11 for a definition of Category 1 and 2 deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations.  
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

**Figure 11: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, 1990–2002**

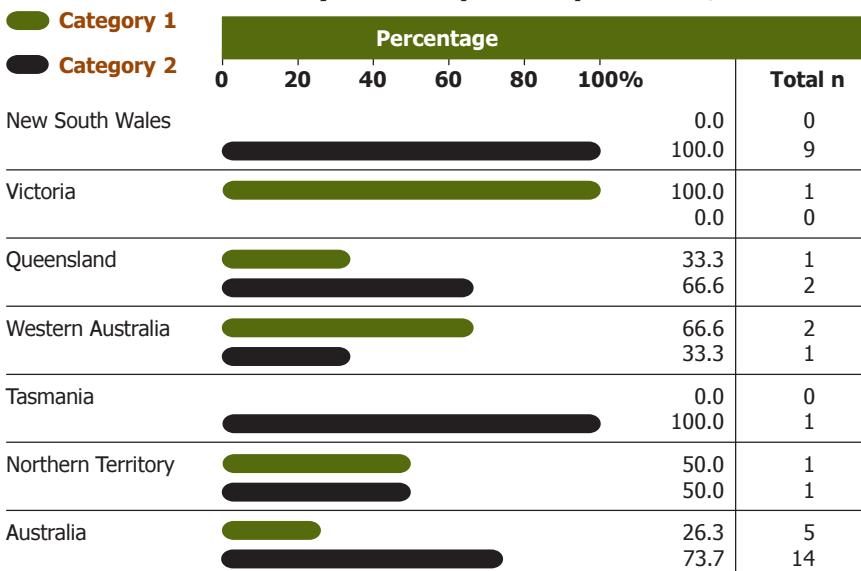


Note: "Commonwealth" refers to prisoners held in federal custody (excluding asylum-seeker deaths).

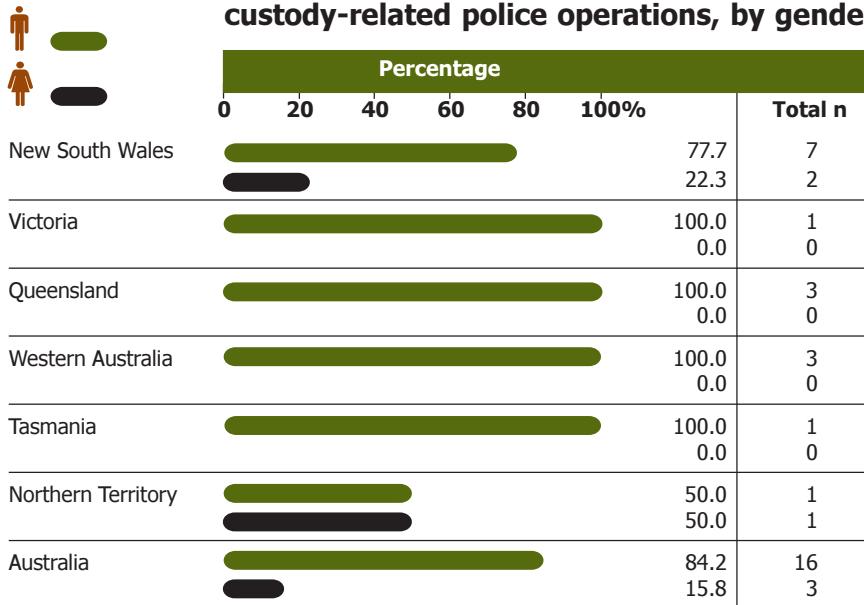
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2002 [computer file]

## 2002 Findings

**Figure 12: Percentage of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, 2002**



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

**Figure 13: Percentage of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by gender, 2002**

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

**Table 17: Mean age at death, 2002**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
New South Wales	3	37.3	6	35.5	9	36.1
Victoria	0	–	1	24.0	1	24.0
Queensland	0	–	3	39.3	3	39.3
Western Australia	1	17.0	2	31.0	3	26.3
Tasmania	0	–	1	59.0	1	59.0
Northern Territory	2	37.0	0	–	2	37.0
Australia	6	33.8	13	36.6	19	35.7

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

**Table 18: Number of police custody deaths, by age at time of death, 2002**

		<24	25–39	40–54	55+
New South Wales	Indigenous	0	2	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	2
Victoria	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0
Queensland	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	1	0
Western Australia	Indigenous	1	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	0	0
Tasmania	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	0
Northern Territory	Indigenous	0	1	1	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0
Australia	Indigenous	1	3	2	0
	Non-Indigenous	4	5	2	2

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

**Table 19: Number of police custody deaths by cause of death, 2002**

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/multiple trauma	Total n
NSW	Ind.	0	0	0	1	2	3
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	2	2	6
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	1	0	1
Qld	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	2	1	3
WA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	0	1	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Ind.	0	1	0	0	1	2
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	0	1	0	1	4	6
	Non-Ind.	1	1	1	6	4	13

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

**Table 20: Number of police custody deaths by manner of death, 2002**

		Intentionally self-inflicted	Unintentionally self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Total n
NSW	Ind.	2	0	0	0	1	3
	Non-Ind.	3	0	0	0	3	6
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	1	0	1
Qld	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	2	0	3
WA	Ind.	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Non-Ind.	0	0	1	0	1	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	0	0	0	1
NT	Ind.	0	0	1	0	1	2
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	2	0	1	0	3	6
	Non-Ind.	4	1	1	3	4	13

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

**Table 21: Number of police custody deaths by most serious offence, 2002**

		Violent	Theft-related	Good order	Traffic	Other	Total n
NSW	Ind.	1	0	0	1	1	3
	Non-Ind.	1	1	1	2	1	6
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	0	0	0	1
Qld	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	1	0	0	1	3
WA	Ind.	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Ind.	0	1	0	1	0	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	Ind.	0	0	1	1	0	2
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	1	0	1	3	1	6
	Non-Ind.	3	3	1	3	3	13

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

**Table 22: Number of police custody deaths by location of death, 2002**

		Public hospital	Custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Total n
NSW	Ind.	1	0	1	1	3
	Non-Ind.	1	1	1	3	6
Vic.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	1	0	1
Qld	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	1	0	1	1	3
WA	Ind.	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Ind.	1	0	0	1	2
Tas.	Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Ind.	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Ind.	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Ind.	0	0	0	0	0
Aust.	Ind.	4	0	1	1	6
	Non-Ind.	3	1	4	5	13

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

**Table 23: Number of deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations, by type of custody, 2002**

	Institution	Escaping	Detaining	Other	Total n
New South Wales	1	0	8	0	9
Victoria	0	0	1	0	1
Queensland	0	1	1	1	3
Western Australia	2	0	1	0	3
Tasmania	0	0	1	0	1
Northern Territory	1	0	1	0	2
Australia	4	1	13	1	19

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

**Table 24: Number of police-custody deaths by method of detainment, 2002**

	<b>Motor vehicle pursuit</b>	<b>Siege</b>	<b>Shooting/other</b>	<b>Total n</b>
New South Wales	4	2	2	8
Victoria	0	0	1	1
Queensland	0	0	1	1
Western Australia	1	0	0	1
Tasmania	0	1	0	1
Northern Territory	1	0	0	1
Australia	6	3	4	13

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

## References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2003, *Prisoners in Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4517.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) 1991, *National Report*, volume 1 (Commissioner Elliott Johnston), Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.