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Statistical Report

12

**National Deaths in Custody
Program: Deaths in custody in
Australia 2015–16**

Alexandra Gannoni
Samantha Bricknell

A large, abstract graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of two overlapping diagonal shapes. The top shape is light grey and the bottom shape is a dark teal color, both pointing towards the bottom right corner.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
MSO	most serious offence
MVP	motor vehicle pursuit
NDICP	National Deaths in Custody Program
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Introduction

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) monitors the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention since 1980. The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has coordinated the NDICP since its establishment in 1992, the result of a recommendation made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) the previous year. The final report of the RCIADIC outlined the types of deaths that would require notification to the NDICP (recommendation 41, RCIADIC 1991). They are:

- a death, wherever occurring, of a person who is in prison custody, police custody or youth detention;
- a death, wherever occurring, of a person whose death is caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries sustained, or by lack of proper care, while 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 youth detention.

This report is divided into two sections: *Deaths in prison custody* and *Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations*. Definitions for these distinctions are presented in Box 1.

Box 1: Definitions of deaths in custody

Deaths in prison custody

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

Deaths in police custody

Deaths in police custody are divided into two main categories:^a

Category 1

- (a) Deaths in institutional settings (eg 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, a pursuit.

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

The NDICP draws upon data from all state and territory police services and correctional departments. The NDICP also utilises coronial records from the National Coronial Information System. More information about the NDICP and its methodology is in Appendix A.

This report examines the extent and nature of deaths in prison and police custody and custody-related operations in financial year 2015–16, and compares these findings to longer term trends. No deaths occurred in youth detention in 2015–16.

Deaths in prison custody

2015–16 findings

In 2015–16, there were 83 deaths in prison custody in Australia (22 more than in the previous year), the highest number of deaths recorded since the NDICP began collection in 1979–80 (Table C1). The death rate also increased in 2015–16, from 0.17 to 0.21 per 100 prisoners (Table C5). Despite this, the 2015–16 death rate was 48 percent lower than its peak in 1997–98 (0.40 per 100 prisoners; Figure 1).

The increase in the number of deaths in prison custody in 2015–16 was mostly due to increases in Western Australia (+7), South Australia (+6) and Victoria (+4; Table C1). Increases were also recorded in Queensland (+3), New South Wales (+2) and the Northern Territory (+1). Tasmania recorded a decrease (–1) and the Australian Capital Territory remained the same in 2015–16.

The highest number of deaths in prison custody in 2015–16 was recorded in New South Wales (n=23), followed by Victoria (n=19), South Australia (n=13), Western Australia (n=11) and Queensland (n=10; Table B1). However, of these five jurisdictions, the death rate of prisoners was highest for South Australia (0.44 per 100), followed by Victoria (0.29 per 100), New South Wales (0.18 per 100), Western Australia (0.17 per 100) and Queensland (0.13 per 100).

Indigenous status

In 2015–16, 19 of the 83 deaths in prison custody were deaths of Indigenous persons (Table B1), representing 23 percent of all deaths in prison custody. Based on prison population estimates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 2016), at 30 June 2016 there were 38,845 prisoners in Australia; of these, 27 percent (n=10,596) were Indigenous.

Across the jurisdictions, the highest number of Indigenous deaths in prison custody in 2015–16 was recorded in Western Australia (n=6), followed by Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory (n=3 each; Figure 2). Of these, the death rate of Indigenous prisoners was highest for South Australia (0.53 per 100), followed by Western Australia (0.25 per 100), the Northern Territory (0.22 per 100) and Queensland (0.12 per 100; Table B1).

The death rate of Indigenous prisoners in 2015–16 increased by 20 percent from the previous year (0.18 and 0.15 per 100 respectively; Figure 3). This was due to an increase in the death rate of Indigenous male prisoners. There were four more Indigenous male deaths in prison custody in 2015–16 than in 2014–15 (19 compared with 15), resulting in an 18 percent increase in the death rate of Indigenous male prisoners (0.20 compared with 0.17 per 100 in 2014–15; Table B1). No Indigenous female deaths have occurred in prison custody since 2010–11 (Table C4).

The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was lower than the death rate of non-Indigenous prisoners in 2015–16 (0.18 and 0.23 per 100 respectively). Death rates of Indigenous prisoners have been consistently lower than death rates of non-Indigenous prisoners since 2003–04 (Figure 3).

Gender

In 2015–16, 82 males and one female died in prison custody, resulting in rates of 0.23 and 0.03 per 100 prisoners respectively (Table B1). Death rates of male prisoners have generally been higher than death rates of female prisoners, and consistently so over the past 11 years (Table C6).

The numbers of male deaths in prison custody have consistently been higher than the numbers of female deaths since 1979–80 (Table C4). This reflects the gender composition of the total Australian prisoner population (ABS 2000–2016).

Age

The median age for all prisoners in Australia as at 30 June 2016 was 34 years (ABS 2016). The median age at time of death for prisoners in 2015–16 was 56 years (Table B1). The median age at death was lower for Indigenous prisoners (41 years) than for non-Indigenous prisoners (59 years), which is consistent with previous years.

Most deaths in 2015–16 were of prisoners aged 55 and over (52%; n=43), which represents the greatest proportion recorded for this age group since the NDICP began collection in 1979–80 (Table C7). Since 2009–10, the numbers of deaths of prisoners aged 55 and over have consistently been much higher than those of younger prisoners. This trend appears to be indicative of the ageing prisoner population (ABS 2000–2016).

For the fourth year in a row, deaths of prisoners aged 55 and over increased in number and rate (Tables C7 and C8 respectively). This represents a rate of 1.54 per 100 prisoners aged 55 and over, a 29 percent increase from the rate in 2014–15 and the highest rate recorded since 1990–91.

Prisoners aged 55 and over had the highest death rates for each year since prison population data became available in 1981–82 (Table C8). Death rates for those aged under 55 have been relatively low and constant over this period.

Legal status of prisoner deaths in custody

At 30 June 2016 (ABS 2016), 69 percent (n=26,649) of all prisoners were serving a sentence; the remainder (n=12,111) were unsentenced prisoners on remand. Of the 83 deaths that occurred in 2015–16, 63 (76%) were sentenced prisoners and 20 (24%) were unsentenced prisoners (Table B1). The death rate of sentenced prisoners in 2015–16 was higher (0.24 per 100) than the death rate of unsentenced prisoners (0.17 per 100; Figure 4).

The death rate of unsentenced prisoners in 2015–16 was 85 percent lower than the peak death rates recorded in 1983–84 and 1997–98 (1.16 and 1.15 per 100 respectively; Figure 4). For the last decade, death rates of unsentenced prisoners have been relatively similar to death rates of sentenced prisoners, largely due to a notable decrease in the death rate of unsentenced prisoners from 1997–98 to 2005–06 (1.15 to 0.11 per 100). Prior to this, death rates of unsentenced prisoners were generally much higher than death rates of sentenced prisoners, at an average ratio of three to one.

Cause of death

The most common cause of death in prison custody in 2015–16 was natural causes (n=59), exceeding hangings (n=11) for the 15th year in a row (Table C11). In 2015–16, prisoners aged 55 and over made up most deaths resulting from natural causes (n=39; 66%), while prisoners aged less than 55 accounted for most hanging deaths (n=8; 73%).

The rate of death from natural causes in 2015–16 was 36 percent higher than the average previous 10 years (0.15 compared with 0.11 per 100 prisoners; Figure 5), which may be partly explained by the increase in numbers of deaths of prisoners aged 55 and over (+12; Table C7). The rate of death due to hanging remains at record lows (0.03 per 100; Figure 5). The rate of death from hanging decreased overall by 90 percent from 1997–98 to 2005–06.

The rate of death from natural causes in 2015–16 was higher for sentenced prisoners compared with unsentenced prisoners (0.19 vs 0.07 per 100), while the rate of death from hanging was higher for unsentenced prisoners (0.05 vs 0.02 per 100).

Natural causes were the most common cause of death for Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners in 2015–16 (Table B1). The rate of death from natural causes was higher for non-Indigenous prisoners compared with Indigenous prisoners (0.17 vs 0.10 per 100), while the rate of death due to hanging was comparable across both groups (0.03 per 100 respectively). Indigenous prisoner death rates from hanging have been the same or lower than rates for non-Indigenous prisoners in all but one of the 15 years since 2001–02 (Figure 6).

Of the 11 hanging deaths in prison custody in 2015–16 (Table B1), bedding sheets or blankets were the most common objects used (n=4), which is consistent with previous years. The most common hanging points were fittings in the cell other than bars, such as doors and vents from the ceiling (n=6). Cell bars were used in just one hanging death. Cell bar hanging deaths have decreased markedly in the last decade, accounting for no more than three hanging deaths each year.

Of the 11 Indigenous deaths resulting from natural causes in 2015–16 (Table B1), five were due to cancer and four were due to heart disease. Of the 46 non-Indigenous deaths resulting from natural causes in 2015–16 where the type of natural cause death was known, 16 were due to cancer and 12 were due to heart disease.

Manner of death

The NDICP collects information on both the cause and manner of each death. Cause of death information relates to the direct cause of death. Manner of death is a related variable, but it refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death (see Appendix A).

The most common manner of death in prison custody in 2015–16 was natural causes (n=59), exceeding self-inflicted deaths (n=19) for the 13th year in a row (Table C14). Eleven of the 19 Indigenous deaths and 48 of the 64 non-Indigenous deaths were attributed to natural causes (58% vs 75%); and six Indigenous deaths and 13 non-Indigenous deaths were self-inflicted (32% vs 20%; Table B1). Two non-Indigenous deaths were deemed to be the result of an accident. No deaths were recorded as being due to justifiable or unlawful homicide.

Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence (MSO) leading to custody (see Appendix A). The majority (53%) of Australian prisoners in 2015–16 were incarcerated for violent offences as their MSO (ABS 2016). Of the 83 persons who died in prison custody in 2015–16, 62 (75%) had been incarcerated for violent offences (Table B1). Most Indigenous (84%; n=16) and non-Indigenous (72%; n=46) persons who died in prison custody had been incarcerated for violent offences. Violent offences have consistently been the most common MSO committed by the deceased prior to incarceration each year since 1993–94 (Table C16).

Location of death

In 2015–16, most deaths in prison custody occurred in a public hospital or a prison cell:

- public hospital: 38 of 83 deaths in total, including 10 of 19 Indigenous deaths and 28 of 64 non-Indigenous deaths; and
- prison cell: 25 of 83 deaths in total, including 6 Indigenous deaths and 19 non-Indigenous deaths.

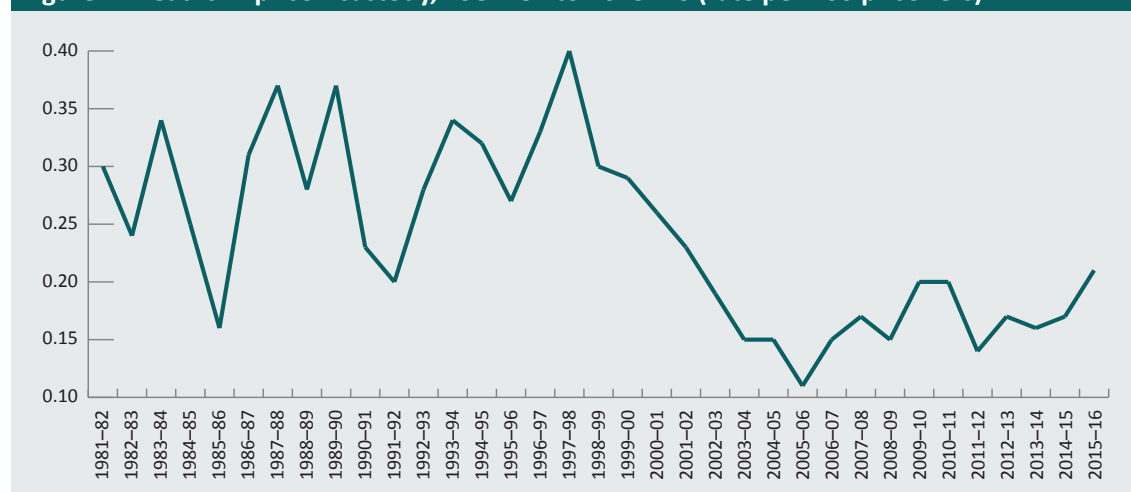
Other locations for deaths included prison hospitals and custodial settings (Table B1).

Cells were the most common location for prison deaths in all but seven years over the 37-year reference period (Table C17).

Type of prison

In 2015–16, 66 of the 83 deaths in prison custody occurred while in the custody of government-run prisons, although the rates of death in both private and government-run prisons were similar (Table B1). Based on prison population estimates from the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP 2017), the rate of death in privately run prisons was 0.24 per 100 prisoners, and the rate of death in government-run prisons was 0.22 per 100 prisoners.

Figure 1: Deaths in prison custody, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)



Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C5

Figure 2: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction and Indigenous status, 2015–16 (n)



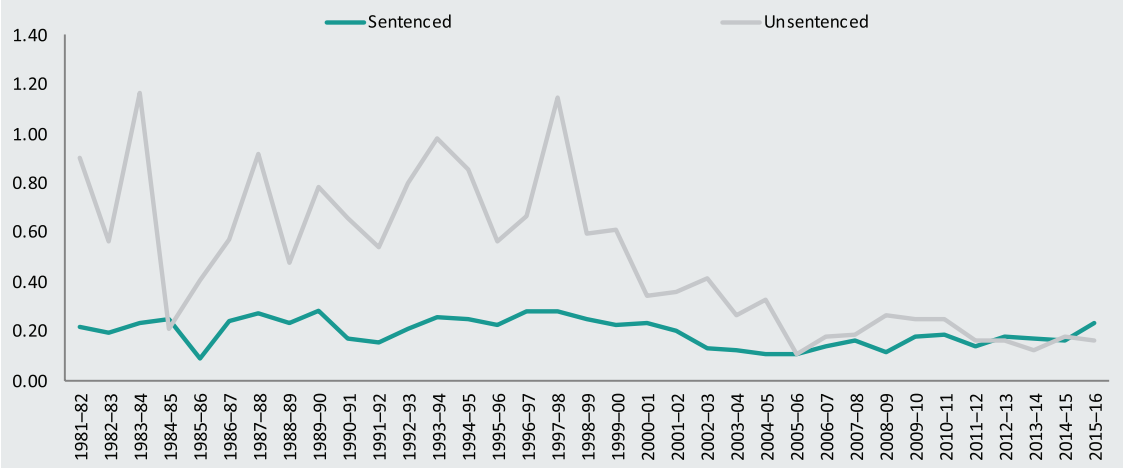
Source: AIC NDICP 2015–2016 [computer file]; Table B1

Figure 3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



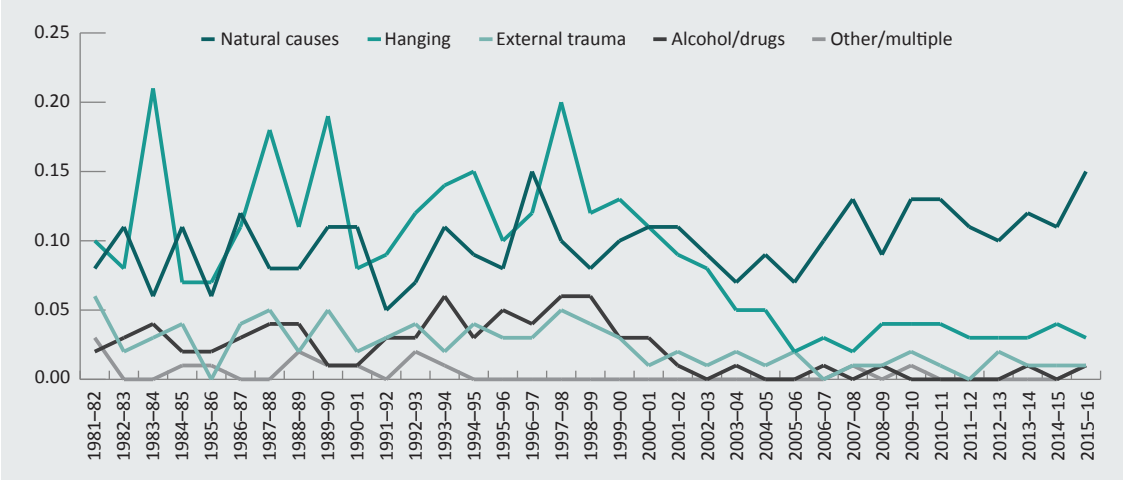
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C5

Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C10

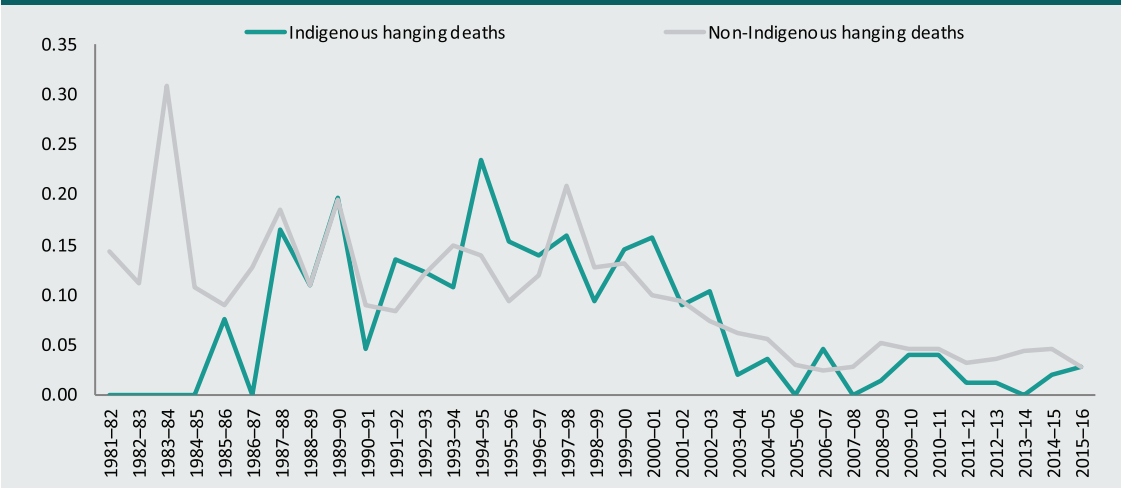
Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)



Note: External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

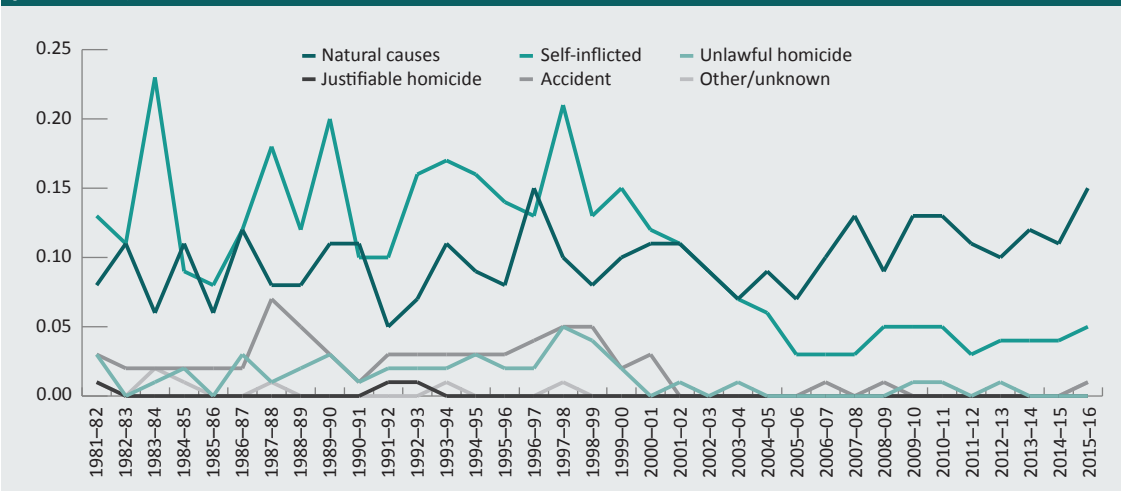
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C12

Figure 6: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C13

Figure 7: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)



Note: Self-inflicted includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes one case where manner of death was recorded as excusable homicide

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]; Table C15

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations

2015–16 findings

In 2015–16, 20 deaths occurred in police custody and custody-related operations (herein referred to as police custody) in Australia, one less than in the previous year (Table B2). The number of deaths in 2015–16 was 53 percent lower than the peak number recorded in 2003–04 (n=42; Table C19). Rates of death in police custody cannot be calculated, due to the lack of corresponding population data.

Across the states and territories, New South Wales recorded six deaths in police custody, Western Australia recorded five deaths, Queensland and South Australia each recorded three deaths, and Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory each recorded one death (Table B2). There were no deaths in police custody in the Australian Capital Territory in 2015–16.

During 2015–16, 14 of the 20 deaths in police custody were classified as category 1 deaths (Table B2)—that is, deaths occurring during close police contact with the deceased, such as police shootings, raids and deaths in police stations (see *Introduction*). The remaining six were classified as category 2 deaths (Table B2), during non-close police contact, such as sieges and motor vehicle pursuits. While category 2 deaths were more frequent than category 1 deaths in all but one year between 1999–2000 and 2013–14, category 1 deaths have been more frequent than category 2 deaths since 2014–15, largely due to an overall decrease in category 2 deaths since 2003–04 (–25; Figure 8).

Indigenous status

Across Australia, there were five Indigenous deaths and 13 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody in 2015–16 (Table B2). The Indigenous status was unknown for two deaths. Since 1989–90, non-Indigenous deaths in police custody have been consistently higher than Indigenous deaths in police custody (Figure 9).

Gender

In 2015–16, 19 males and one female died in police custody (Table B2). Four Indigenous deaths were male and one was female. The numbers of both male and female deaths have remained relatively constant over the years (Table C24). Male deaths have consistently outnumbered female deaths each year.

Age

The median age at time of death in police custody in 2015–16 was 40 years (Table B2). The median age at death was lower for Indigenous persons (36 years) than for non-Indigenous persons (44 years). Deaths in police custody most commonly involved persons aged between 40 and 54 (n=8), followed by persons aged between 25 and 39 (n=6). Over the years of data collection, deaths have generally been more likely to involve persons aged 39 and younger (Table C25). Deaths of persons aged 55 and over have remained low, with just two deaths occurring in this age group in 2015–16.

Cause of death

Most deaths in police custody in 2015–16 resulted from external trauma injuries (n=7) and gunshot wounds (n=6; Table B2). Four Indigenous persons died of external trauma and one died from natural causes. Since 1989–90, the majority of deaths each year have been caused primarily by external trauma and gunshot wounds (Table C26). However, deaths from external trauma have decreased overall since 2001–02 (–18). No hanging deaths in police custody have occurred since 2009–10.

Manner of death

In 2015–16, of the 20 deaths in police custody, five were the result of a justifiable homicide, four were self-inflicted, four resulted from natural causes, three were accidental and four were unknown (Table B2; see Appendix A for details of manner of death).

Of the five Indigenous deaths in police custody, two were accidental, one was self-inflicted, and one resulted from natural causes (in the one remaining case, the manner was other or unknown; Table B2). Of the 13 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody, four resulted from a justifiable homicide, three were self-inflicted, two resulted from natural causes, and one was accidental (in three cases, the manner was other or unknown). As noted earlier, the Indigenous status was unknown for two deaths.

With the exception of 2014–15 and 2015–16, the most common manner of death each year has been either accidental or self-inflicted (Table C27).

Despite year to year fluctuation, both accidental and self-inflicted deaths have generally decreased over the last decade. Deaths resulting from an unlawful homicide have been extremely low, and no unlawful homicides have occurred since 2011–12 (Table C27).

Most serious offence

The MSO (see Appendix A) that most non-Indigenous persons who had died in police custody were suspected of committing were violent in nature (n=8; Table B2). The offences that Indigenous persons who had died in police custody were suspected of committing were evenly spread across violent (n=2) and traffic (n=2) offences.

Since 1993–94, deaths of persons who were suspected of committing a violent offence have generally been more frequent than those suspected of committing other types of offences (Table C28). Numbers of deaths in police custody of persons suspected of committing drug-related offences have been extremely low since 1989–90.

Location of death

Eight of the 20 deaths that occurred in police custody took place on private property, followed by six in a public hospital, four in a public place, one in a custodial setting and one in an ‘other’ location (ie ambulance) (Table B2). Of the five Indigenous deaths in police custody, two occurred in a public place, one on private property, one in a public hospital, and one in an ‘other’ location (ie ambulance).

Public places have been the most common locations for deaths in police custody in all but eight years over the 27-year reference period (Table C29). While cell deaths peaked in 1989–90 with 11 deaths, there have been relatively few since then; no cell deaths were recorded in 2015–16. Numbers of deaths in custodial settings other than cells has remained relatively low over the years.

Circumstances of custodial period

In 2015–16, 13 of the 20 deaths in police custody occurred while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, the individual (Table B2). Of these, nine involved non-Indigenous persons and three involved Indigenous persons. The Indigenous status for one of these deaths was unknown. Five deaths in police custody occurred in police lock up, or during transfer to a police station or hospital. In each year since 1992–93, deaths occurring while police were in the process of detaining an individual (ie detainment deaths) have been more frequent than deaths in any other type of custody (Table C30). Deaths occurring in police cells or vans during transfers to hospitals or other facilities (ie institutional deaths) decreased between 1989–90 and 1996–97.

Motor vehicle pursuit deaths

Of the 13 deaths in police custody where police were in the process of detaining or attempting to detain the individual in 2015–16, three resulted from a motor vehicle pursuit (MVP; Figure 11). The number of MVP deaths remains at record lows, compared with the peak number recorded in 2001–02 (n=18). MVP deaths generally decreased between 2001–02 and 2014–15.

Of the three MVP deaths in 2015–16:

- two involved Indigenous persons. Indigenous persons have been involved in 50 of the 228 MVP deaths since 1989–90. Non-Indigenous deaths have outnumbered Indigenous deaths every year except for five (1989–90, 1990–91, 1995–96, 2010–11 and 2015–16);
- two involved males and one involved a female. Males have accounted for the vast majority of MVP deaths since 1989–90, outnumbering female deaths in every year;
- all were of persons suspected of committing a traffic offence as their MSO. MVP deaths of persons suspected of committing a traffic offence have been more frequent than other types of offences since 2006–07; and
- all involved at least one passenger in the vehicle. The majority of MVP deaths since 1989–90 have involved at least one passenger.

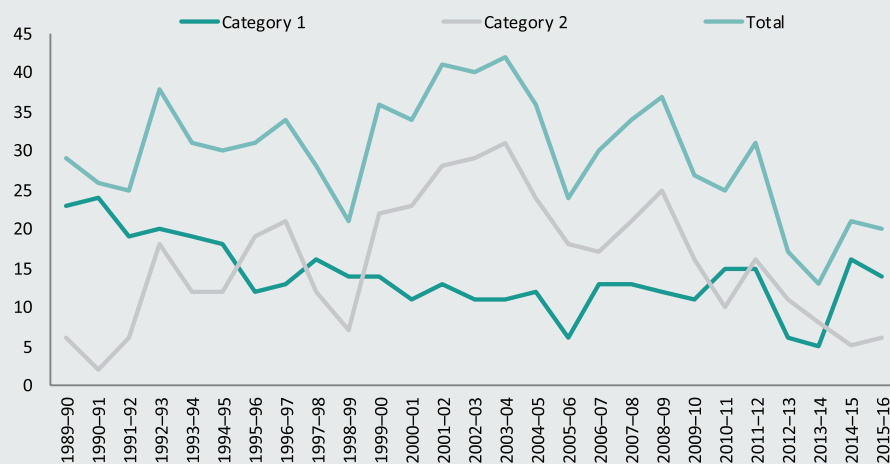
Shooting deaths

A total of six shooting deaths in police custody occurred across Australia in 2015–16 (Figure 12). Four deaths occurred in New South Wales, and one death occurred in each of South Australia and Tasmania. Five of the six shooting deaths involved people who had been shot by police, and one death involved the person shooting themselves. Since 1989–90, 127 shooting deaths were of persons shot by police, while a further 103 persons shot themselves (Table C33). The number of persons in custody who were shot by police peaked in 1999–2000 (n=11) and again in 2014–15 (n=10).

Of the five shooting deaths resulting from police shootings in 2015–16:

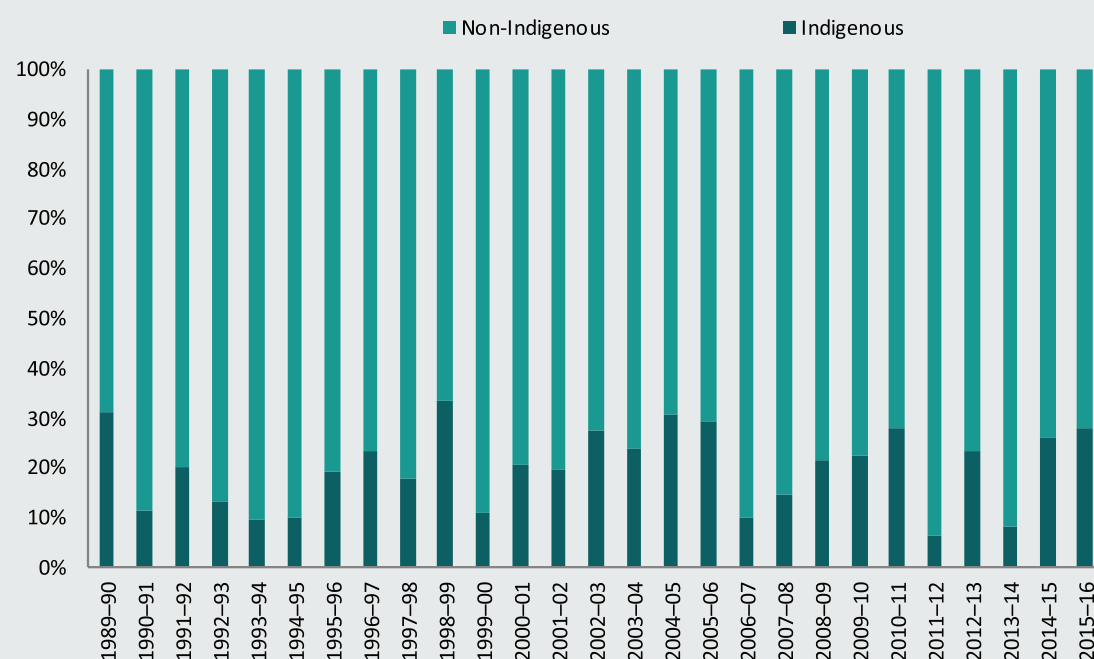
- four were of non-Indigenous persons. The Indigenous status was unknown for one death. Police shootings of non-Indigenous persons have consistently outnumbered those of Indigenous persons each year since 1990–91;
- all were of males. In all years but four, persons shot by police were all males (the four exceptions were 1993–94, 1994–95, 1995–96 and 2014–15);
- the median age at time of death for persons shot by police was 48 years. Forty-nine percent of total police shooting deaths between 1989–90 and 2015–16 were of people aged between 25 to 39 years;
- all were of persons suspected of committing a violent offence as their MSO. Shooting deaths of persons suspected of committing a violent offence have generally outnumbered other offence types each year since 1989–90; and
- three occurred on private property, one in a public place and one in a public hospital. Since 1989–90, the majority of shooting deaths resulting from police shootings each year have primarily occurred on private property and in public places.

Figure 8: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]; Table C22

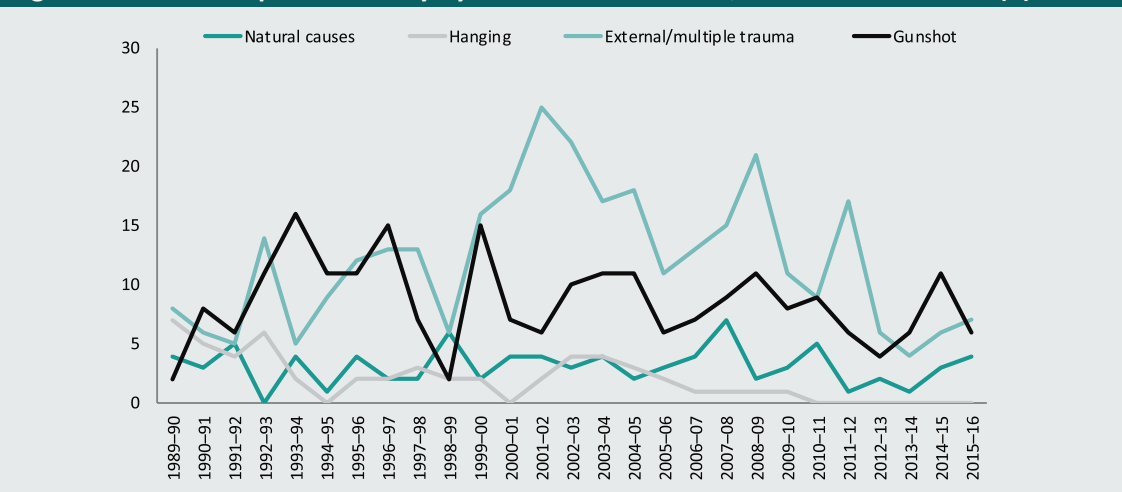
Figure 9: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (%)



Note: Excludes five cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]; Table C23

Figure 10: Deaths in police custody by select cause of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)



Notes: External trauma includes head injury. Excludes deaths caused by alcohol/drugs and other/multiple due to small numbers

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]; Table C26

Figure 11: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]; Table C31

Figure 12: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)



Note: Excludes one case where shooting death status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]; Table C33

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Appendix A: Methodology

Background and function of the NDICP

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

In response, the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive and authoritative data on all deaths that 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 spanning 37 years. As all data in this report are presented by financial year rather than calendar year, 1979–80 financial year covers data from 1 January 1980 to 30 June 1980 only.

The NDICP examines the circumstances of deaths in prison, police custody and youth 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 custody and police custody-related operations.

Data source

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

- NDICP data collection forms completed by all state and territory police services and correctional departments in Australia; and
- coronial records, such as transcripts of proceedings and findings, as well as toxicology and post-mortem reports.

NDICP data collection forms allow information to be recorded on approximately 80 variables relating to the circumstances and characteristics of each death. Coronial data are accessed through the National Coronial Information System and are primarily used to confirm the cause and manner of death.

Borderline cases

The NDICP uses the definition of a death in custody recommended by the RCIADIC as a guide to which cases should or should not be included in the NDICP database. While most of the cases are straightforward and fall within the definition, every year there are some cases where it is unclear whether the death should be classified as a death in custody.

For the purposes of the NDICP, a person is considered to be in custody when they are not free to leave the detention or arrest of police or corrections officials. As outlined in the definitions provided in Box 1 in the *Introduction*, this includes deaths that occur in a hospital if the injuries or illness suffered while in custody caused or contributed to that death. In cases where police were clearly in the process of detaining or attempting to detain a person immediately prior to death, such as shootings, sieges, raids and pursuits, the person is considered to have been in custody at the time of death. In all these cases, the question of inclusion centres on whether the deceased was in custody at the time of death.

Any borderline cases are excluded from analysis pending their coronial outcome. This may result in a delay of several years to collect data regarding those particular borderline cases, as they may not be heard in their jurisdiction's coroner's court for months or years. Despite this, relying on coronial decisions ensures the integrity and reliability of the NDICP over the longer term, as coronial findings are legally binding determinations based on all available evidence. It is important to note that this means the total numbers of deaths may be revised in future reports as the inclusion or exclusion of borderline cases is resolved.

Cause versus manner of death

The NDICP collects information on both the cause and manner of each death. Cause of death information relates to the direct cause of death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. Manner of death is a related variable, but it refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. 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 hanging themselves, the cause of death will be recorded as hanging and the manner of death will be recorded as either self-inflicted or accidental hanging.

Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence (MSO) leading to custody. The ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ABS 2011) scheme is used to group offences into six categories: violent, theft-related, drug-related, traffic, good order and other/unknown (in order from most to least serious). Where information on more than one offence is provided, only the most serious of those is assigned to the case. Therefore, if a person had been charged with a violent offence and a property (theft-related) offence, the violent offence would take precedence. For the purposes of the NDICP these groups are defined as:

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

Calculation of death rates

Where rates are presented in this report (unless otherwise stated), they have been calculated using the annual *Prisoners in Australia* results of the National Prisoner Census (ABS 2000–2016), which counted all prisoners who were in legal custody in each jurisdiction as at midnight, 30 June 2016. Further, where trends in rates of death are presented, the rates are calculated back to 1982, as prison census data are not available prior to 1982.

Rates of police custody deaths are not presented in this report because there is no reliable data source for the numbers of people who are placed into police custody each year and the numbers of people who come into contact with police in custody-related operations.

Appendix B: Deaths in custody 2015–16 key findings: Data tables

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2015–16^a

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate
Jurisdiction						
NSW	2	0.07	21	0.22	23	0.18
Vic	1	0.19	18	0.30	19	0.29
Qld	3	0.12	7	0.13	10	0.13
WA	6	0.25	5	0.13	11	0.17
SA	3	0.53	10	0.42	13	0.44
Tas	0	0.00	2	0.42	2	0.35
ACT	1	0.95	0	0.00	1	0.23
NT	3	0.22	1	0.37	4	0.24
Gender						
Male	19	0.20	63	0.24	82	0.23
Female	0	0.00	1	0.05	1	0.03
Age group (years)						
Less than 25	0	0.00	5	0.13	5	0.08
25–39	9	0.16	7	0.05	16	0.08
40–54	5	0.23	14	0.18	19	0.19
55+	5	2.25	38	1.48	43	1.54
Median (mean)	41 (42.7)		59 (58.6)		56 (55.0)	
Legal status						
Sentenced	14	0.19	49	0.25	63	0.24
Unsentenced	5	0.16	15	0.17	20	0.17

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2015–16 ^a						
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate
Cause of death ^{b,c}						
Natural causes	11	0.10	48	0.17	59	0.15
Hanging	3	0.03	8	0.03	11	0.03
External trauma ^d	1	0.01	4	0.01	5	0.01
Alcohol/drugs	2	0.02	2	0.01	4	0.01
Other/multiple	2	0.02	1	<0.01	3	0.01
Manner of death ^{b,c}						
Natural causes	11	0.10	48	0.17	59	0.15
Self-inflicted	6	0.06	13	0.05	19	0.05
Accident	0	0.00	2	0.01	2	0.01
Other/unknown	2	0.02	0	0.00	2	0.01
Most serious offence						
Violent	16	–	46	–	62	–
Theft-related	0	–	5	–	5	–
Drug-related	1	–	6	–	7	–
Good order	0	–	4	–	4	–
Traffic	2	–	1	–	3	–
Other	0	–	2	–	2	–
Location of death						
Public hospital	10	–	28	–	38	–
Prison hospital	2	–	16	–	18	–
Cell	6	–	19	–	25	–
Custodial setting	1	–	0	–	1	–
Other	0	–	1	–	1	–
Type of prison ^e						
Private	2	–	15	–	17	0.24
Government	17	–	49	–	66	0.22
Total						
	19	0.18	64	0.23	83	0.21

a: Rates (unless otherwise specified) have been calculated using ABS (2016) population estimates

b: Excludes one case due to information not recorded

c: Rates based on total prison population by Indigenous status

d: External trauma includes head injury

e: Rates have been calculated using SCRGSP (2017) population estimates

Note: Rates per 100 relevant prisoners

Source: AIC NDICP 2015–16 [computer file]

Table B2: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2015–16 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total ^a
Jurisdiction			
NSW	0	6	6
Vic	0	0	1
Qld	0	3	3
WA	3	2	5
SA	1	2	3
Tas	0	0	1
ACT	0	0	0
NT	1	0	1
Category of death			
Category 1	2	10	14
Category 2	3	3	6
Gender			
Male	4	13	19
Female	1	0	1
Age group (years)			
Less than 25	1	3	4
25–39	2	3	6
40–54	1	6	8
55+	1	1	2
Median (mean)	36 (39)	44 (40)	40 (40.1)
Cause of death			
Natural causes	1	2	4
Hanging	0	0	0
External trauma ^b	4	3	7
Gunshot wound	0	5	6
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	3	3

Table B2: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2015–16 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total ^a
Manner of death			
Natural causes	1	2	4
Self-inflicted	1	3	4
Justifiable homicide	0	4	5
Accident	2	1	3
Other/unknown	1	3	4
Most serious offence			
Violent	2	8	11
Theft-related	0	0	0
Drug-related	0	0	0
Good order	0	2	3
Traffic	2	2	4
Other	1	1	2
Location of death			
Public hospital	1	4	6
Cell	0	0	0
Other custodial setting	0	1	1
Private property	1	7	8
Public place	2	1	4
Other	1	0	1
Circumstances of custodial period			
Institution	1	3	5
Escaping	0	0	0
Detaining	3	9	13
Other/marginal	1	1	2
Total			
	5	13	20

a: Includes two cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

b: External trauma includes head injury

Source: AIC NDICP 2015–16 [computer file]

Appendix C: Data tables

Deaths in prison custody, 1979–80 to 2015–16

Table C1: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	3	2	3	1	5	0	0	1	15
1980–81	8	6	8	3	3	0	0	0	28
1981–82	7	7	8	5	1	1	0	0	29
1982–83	5	4	5	5	5	0	0	0	24
1983–84	12	14	4	2	1	0	0	0	33
1984–85	10	5	5	5	2	0	0	0	27
1985–86	6	2	7	1	0	0	0	2	18
1986–87	17	7	7	3	2	0	0	1	37
1987–88	13	18	6	3	2	2	1	0	45
1988–89	7	11	5	6	1	4	0	2	36
1989–90	28	4	12	3	5	1	0	0	53
1990–91	18	2	4	6	3	1	0	1	35
1991–92	6	2	11	4	5	3	0	0	31
1992–93	20	7	6	6	4	0	0	1	44
1993–94	29	5	11	2	6	3	0	1	57
1994–95	22	7	12	6	7	0	0	1	55
1995–96	18	5	10	6	6	2	1	1	49
1996–97	30	5	13	9	5	1	0	0	63
1997–98	29	13	11	16	6	1	1	3	80
1998–99	27	9	19	6	1	1	0	1	64
1999–2000	23	3	14	15	4	5	0	0	64
2000–01	18	11	11	9	7	0	0	2	58
2001–02	18	6	14	10	2	1	0	1	52

Table C1: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2002–03	16	5	7	8	5	1	0	2	44
2003–04	13	4	13	4	2	0	0	1	37
2004–05	15	4	4	7	6	2	0	1	39
2005–06	10	5	2	6	3	1	0	1	28
2006–07	22	3	6	3	4	1	0	1	40
2007–08	11	13	8	8	4	2	0	0	46
2008–09	15	8	9	4	5	1	1	0	43
2009–10	21	8	10	8	5	3	1	2	58
2010–11	20	10	11	5	4	2	0	6	58
2011–12	18	4	6	7	4	1	0	2	42
2012–13	19	13	9	10	0	1	0	1	53
2013–14	13	11	11	7	4	1	2	5	54
2014–15	21	15	7	4	7	3	1	3	61
2015–16	23	19	10	11	13	2	1	4	83
Total	611	277	319	224	149	47	9	47	1,683

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	4
1980–81	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1981–82	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
1982–83	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1984–85	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	5
1985–86	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
1986–87	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
1987–88	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
1988–89	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	5
1989–90	5	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	9
1990–91	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
1991–92	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
1992–93	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	4	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	12
1994–95	5	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	12

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1995–96	4	0	3	2	3	0	0	1	13
1996–97	3	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	10
1997–98	3	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	11
1998–99	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	10
1999–2000	7	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	14
2000–01	5	1	1	3	2	0	0	2	14
2001–02	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	6
2002–03	2	0	3	5	1	0	0	2	13
2003–04	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
2004–05	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	8
2005–06	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
2006–07	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	8
2007–08	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	6
2008–09	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	7
2009–10	4	1	4	4	0	0	0	1	14
2010–11	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	5	12
2011–12	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	6
2012–13	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	9
2013–14	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	4	10
2014–15	5	1	3	1	1	0	1	3	15
2015–16	2	1	3	6	3	0	1	3	19
Total	81	10	68	72	24	3	2	36	296

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	2	2	2	0	5	0	0	0	11
1980–81	8	6	7	3	2	0	0	0	26
1981–82	7	7	8	2	1	1	0	0	26
1982–83	4	4	5	4	3	0	0	0	20
1983–84	11	14	4	1	1	0	0	0	31
1984–85	9	5	4	2	2	0	0	0	22
1985–86	6	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	14
1986–87	17	7	6	2	2	0	0	1	35
1987–88	12	18	5	2	1	2	1	0	41

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1988–89	6	11	4	5	1	4	0	0	31
1989–90	23	4	10	3	3	1	0	0	44
1990–91	15	2	3	5	3	1	0	1	30
1991–92	5	2	10	3	5	2	0	0	27
1992–93	18	6	4	6	4	0	0	1	39
1993–94	25	4	8	0	5	3	0	0	45
1994–95	17	7	9	6	4	0	0	0	43
1995–96	14	5	7	4	3	2	1	0	36
1996–97	27	5	9	7	4	1	0	0	53
1997–98	26	13	10	12	5	1	1	1	69
1998–99	23	8	15	6	1	1	0	0	54
1999–2000	16	3	13	9	4	5	0	0	50
2000–01	13	10	10	6	5	0	0	0	44
2001–02	17	6	11	8	2	1	0	1	46
2002–03	14	5	4	3	4	1	0	0	31
2003–04	13	4	8	4	2	0	0	0	31
2004–05	11	4	4	4	6	2	0	0	31
2005–06	10	4	2	5	3	1	0	0	25
2006–07	18	3	5	1	4	1	0	0	32
2007–08	10	13	7	4	4	2	0	0	40
2008–09	14	8	7	1	4	1	1	0	36
2009–10	17	7	6	4	5	3	1	1	44
2010–11	19	9	10	3	3	1	0	1	46
2011–12	17	4	4	5	4	1	0	1	36
2012–13	17	12	7	8	0	0	0	0	44
2013–14	12	11	7	6	4	1	2	1	44
2014–15	16	14	4	3	6	3	0	0	46
2015–16	21	18	7	5	10	2	0	1	64
Total	530	267	251	152	125	44	7	11	1,387

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and gender, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1979–80	4	0	4	11	0	11	15	0	15
1980–81	2	0	2	26	0	26	28	0	28
1981–82	2	1	3	23	3	26	25	4	29
1982–83	4	0	4	19	1	20	23	1	24
1983–84	2	0	2	30	1	31	32	1	33
1984–85	5	0	5	22	0	22	27	0	27
1985–86	4	0	4	12	2	14	16	2	18
1986–87	2	0	2	32	3	35	34	3	37
1987–88	4	0	4	40	1	40	43	1	44
1988–89	5	0	5	30	1	31	35	1	36
1989–90	9	0	9	42	2	44	51	2	53
1990–91	5	0	5	29	1	30	34	1	35
1991–92	4	0	4	26	1	27	30	1	31
1992–93	5	0	5	39	0	39	44	0	44
1993–94	11	1	12	40	5	45	51	6	57
1994–95	12	0	12	42	1	43	54	1	55
1995–96	13	0	13	36	0	36	49	0	49
1996–97	9	1	10	52	1	53	61	2	63
1997–98	11	0	11	67	2	69	78	2	80
1998–99	9	1	10	52	2	54	61	3	64
1999–2000	14	0	14	46	4	50	60	4	64
2000–01	13	1	14	43	1	44	56	2	58
2001–02	5	1	6	43	3	46	48	4	52
2002–03	13	0	13	28	3	31	41	3	44
2003–04	5	1	6	31	0	31	36	1	37
2004–05	5	3	8	30	1	31	35	4	39
2005–06	3	0	3	24	1	25	27	1	28
2006–07	8	0	8	31	1	32	39	1	40
2007–08	6	0	6	37	3	40	43	3	46
2008–09	7	0	7	34	2	36	41	2	43
2009–10	14	0	14	44	0	44	58	0	58
2010–11	10	2	12	45	1	46	55	3	58
2011–12	6	0	6	36	0	36	42	0	42
2012–13	9	0	9	43	1	44	52	1	53

Table C4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and gender, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2013–14	10	0	10	41	3	44	51	3	54
2014–15	15	0	15	45	1	46	60	1	61
2015–16	19	0	19	63	1	64	82	1	83
Total	284	12	296	1,334	53	1,387	1,618	65	1,683

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
1981–82	0.29	0.37	0.30
1982–83	0.36	0.28	0.24
1983–84	0.20	0.48	0.34
1984–85	0.43	0.29	0.25
1985–86	0.30	0.18	0.16
1986–87	0.11	0.34	0.31
1987–88	0.22	0.40	0.37
1988–89	0.27	0.28	0.28
1989–90	0.44	0.37	0.37
1990–91	0.23	0.24	0.23
1991–92	0.18	0.20	0.20
1992–93	0.21	0.29	0.28
1993–94	0.43	0.32	0.34
1994–95	0.40	0.30	0.32
1995–96	0.40	0.24	0.27
1996–97	0.28	0.35	0.33
1997–98	0.29	0.43	0.40
1998–99	0.23	0.31	0.30
1999–2000	0.34	0.28	0.29
2000–01	0.31	0.24	0.26
2001–02	0.13	0.26	0.23
2002–03	0.27	0.17	0.19
2003–04	0.12	0.16	0.15
2004–05	0.14	0.16	0.15
2005–06	0.05	0.13	0.11

Table C5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
2006–07	0.12	0.16	0.15
2007–08	0.09	0.19	0.17
2008–09	0.09	0.17	0.15
2009–10	0.18	0.20	0.20
2010–11	0.16	0.21	0.20
2011–12	0.08	0.17	0.14
2012–13	0.11	0.20	0.17
2013–14	0.11	0.18	0.16
2014–15	0.15	0.18	0.17
2015–16	0.18	0.23	0.21

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C6: Deaths in prison custody by gender, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Male	Female
1981–82	0.26	1.19
1982–83	0.23	0.25
1983–84	0.34	0.26
1984–85	0.26	0.00
1985–86	0.15	0.36
1986–87	0.29	0.53
1987–88	0.38	0.15
1988–89	0.28	0.15
1989–90	0.38	0.26
1990–91	0.24	0.14
1991–92	0.20	0.13
1992–93	0.29	0.00
1993–94	0.32	0.72
1994–95	0.33	0.12
1995–96	0.28	0.00
1996–97	0.34	0.18
1997–98	0.42	0.18
1998–99	0.30	0.22
1999–2000	0.30	0.29

Table C6: Deaths in prison custody by gender, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Male	Female
2000–01	0.27	0.13
2001–02	0.23	0.27
2002–03	0.19	0.19
2003–04	0.16	0.06
2004–05	0.15	0.23
2005–06	0.11	0.05
2006–07	0.15	0.05
2007–08	0.17	0.15
2008–09	0.15	0.09
2009–10	0.21	0.00
2010–11	0.20	0.15
2011–12	0.15	0.00
2012–13	0.18	0.04
2013–14	0.16	0.12
2014–15	0.18	0.03
2015–16	0.23	0.03

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)					
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over	Total
1979–80	4	4	5	2	15
1980–81	5	14	7	2	28
1981–82	9	11	7	2	29
1982–83	5	12	3	4	24
1983–84	14	12	4	3	33
1984–85	5	14	4	4	27
1985–86	3	9	1	5	18
1986–87	10	16	8	3	37
1987–88	16	20	5	4	45
1988–89	10	15	8	3	36
1989–90	16	23	8	6	53
1990–91	8	12	5	10	35
1991–92	7	12	8	4	31
1992–93	14	20	5	5	44

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over	Total
1993–94	12	27	10	8	57
1994–95	16	21	12	6	55
1995–96	12	21	11	5	49
1996–97	10	26	21	6	63
1997–98	25	30	16	9	80
1998–99	9	35	11	9	64
1999–2000	14	28	10	12	64
2000–01	7	32	6	13	58
2001–02	5	19	17	11	52
2002–03	6	17	12	9	44
2003–04	2	12	15	8	37
2004–05	4	16	11	8	39
2005–06	1	8	6	13	28
2006–07	3	9	11	17	40
2007–08	2	14	12	18	46
2008–09	1	16	16	10	43
2009–10	5	10	18	25	58
2010–11	5	18	15	20	58
2011–12	3	8	11	20	42
2012–13	2	10	22	19	53
2013–14	0	9	21	24	54
2014–15	1	14	15	31	61
2015–16	5	16	19	43	83
Total	276	610	396	401	1,683

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over
1981–82	0.23	0.24	0.66	1.01
1982–83	0.12	0.25	0.27	1.92
1983–84	0.38	0.25	0.38	1.53
1984–85	0.12	0.27	0.34	1.99
1985–86	0.07	0.16	0.07	2.18

Table C8: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)				
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over
1986–87	0.23	0.27	0.53	1.15
1987–88	0.37	0.33	0.31	1.50
1988–89	0.23	0.23	0.45	1.24
1989–90	0.34	0.32	0.41	1.99
1990–91	0.16	0.16	0.24	3.04
1991–92	0.14	0.15	0.36	1.05
1992–93	0.29	0.25	0.21	1.09
1993–94	0.24	0.31	0.37	1.45
1994–95	0.32	0.24	0.40	0.98
1995–96	0.23	0.23	0.36	0.73
1996–97	0.18	0.27	0.63	0.82
1997–98	0.46	0.29	0.47	1.11
1998–99	0.16	0.31	0.29	1.02
1999–2000	0.25	0.25	0.26	1.25
2000–01	0.12	0.27	0.15	1.30
2001–02	0.09	0.16	0.41	1.06
2002–03	0.11	0.14	0.28	0.77
2003–04	0.04	0.09	0.31	0.62
2004–05	0.08	0.12	0.21	0.57
2005–06	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.88
2006–07	0.06	0.06	0.18	1.10
2007–08	0.04	0.10	0.19	1.05
2008–09	0.02	0.11	0.24	0.56
2009–10	0.09	0.07	0.26	1.33
2010–11	0.09	0.12	0.21	1.00
2011–12	0.06	0.05	0.15	0.97
2012–13	0.04	0.06	0.29	0.87
2013–14	0.00	0.05	0.25	1.01
2014–15	0.02	0.08	0.17	1.19
2015–16	0.08	0.08	0.19	1.54

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C9: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)			
	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total
1979–80	11	4	15
1980–81	20	7	27
1981–82	19	9	28
1982–83	18	6	24
1983–84	20	13	33
1984–85	23	3	26
1985–86	9	6	15
1986–87	25	9	34
1987–88	29	15	44
1988–89	26	8	34
1989–90	35	15	50
1990–91	22	13	35
1991–92	21	10	31
1992–93	29	15	44
1993–94	38	19	57
1994–95	38	17	55
1995–96	36	13	49
1996–97	46	17	63
1997–98	48	32	80
1998–99	45	19	64
1999–2000	41	23	64
2000–01	43	15	58
2001–02	36	16	52
2002–03	24	20	44
2003–04	24	13	37
2004–05	22	17	39
2005–06	22	6	28
2006–07	29	11	40
2007–08	34	12	46
2008–09	26	17	43
2009–10	42	16	58
2010–11	41	17	58
2011–12	31	11	42
2012–13	41	12	53
2013–14	43	10	53

Table C9: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)

	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total
2014–15	42	18	60
2015–16	63	20	83
Total	1,162	504	1,666

Note: Excludes 17 cases where legal status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C10: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Sentenced	Unsentenced
1981–82	0.22	0.90
1982–83	0.20	0.56
1983–84	0.23	1.16
1984–85	0.25	0.21
1985–86	0.09	0.41
1986–87	0.24	0.57
1987–88	0.27	0.92
1988–89	0.23	0.48
1989–90	0.28	0.78
1990–91	0.17	0.66
1991–92	0.15	0.54
1992–93	0.21	0.80
1993–94	0.25	0.98
1994–95	0.25	0.85
1995–96	0.23	0.56
1996–97	0.28	0.66
1997–98	0.28	1.15
1998–99	0.25	0.59
1999–2000	0.23	0.61
2000–01	0.24	0.35
2001–02	0.20	0.36
2002–03	0.13	0.42
2003–04	0.12	0.26
2004–05	0.11	0.33
2005–06	0.11	0.11
2006–07	0.14	0.18

Table C10: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Sentenced	Unsentenced
2007–08	0.16	0.19
2008–09	0.11	0.27
2009–10	0.18	0.25
2010–11	0.18	0.25
2011–12	0.14	0.16
2012–13	0.18	0.16
2013–14	0.17	0.12
2014–15	0.16	0.18
2015–16	0.24	0.17

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C11: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)								
	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1979–80	8	3	1	3	0	0	0	15
1980–81	13	9	1	4	1	0	0	28
1981–82	8	10	0	5	1	2	3	29
1982–83	11	8	0	2	0	3	0	24
1983–84	6	20	0	2	1	4	0	33
1984–85	12	8	0	4	0	2	1	27
1985–86	7	8	0	0	0	2	1	18
1986–87	15	13	2	3	0	4	0	37
1987–88	10	22	0	6	0	5	0	43
1988–89	11	14	1	2	0	5	2	35
1989–90	16	27	0	6	1	2	1	53
1990–91	17	12	1	2	0	1	2	35
1991–92	8	14	2	2	1	4	0	31
1992–93	11	19	1	4	1	5	3	44
1993–94	19	24	0	3	0	10	1	57
1994–95	15	27	0	7	0	6	0	55
1995–96	14	19	1	5	0	10	0	49
1996–97	28	23	1	4	0	7	0	63
1997–98	20	39	0	10	0	11	0	80
1998–99	18	26	0	8	0	12	0	64

Table C11: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)								
	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1999–2000	21	29	1	6	0	6	1	64
2000–01	24	25	0	2	0	6	1	58
2001–02	24	21	0	3	1	2	1	52
2002–03	21	19	0	2	0	1	1	44
2003–04	18	13	1	3	0	2	0	37
2004–05	23	13	1	2	0	0	0	39
2005–06	18	6	1	3	0	0	0	28
2006–07	27	8	1	0	0	3	1	40
2007–08	36	6	0	2	0	0	2	46
2008–09	26	12	1	1	0	2	1	43
2009–10	38	13	1	4	0	0	2	58
2010–11	38	13	2	2	0	1	1	57
2011–12	32	8	0	1	0	0	0	41
2012–13	32	9	1	5	0	1	1	49
2013–14	39	11	0	2	0	2	0	54
2014–15	41	14	1	1	0	1	0	58
2015–16	59	11	1	4	0	4	3	82
Total	784	576	23	125	7	126	29	1,670

Note: Excludes 13 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C12: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)					
	Natural causes	Hanging	External trauma	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple
1981–82	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.02	0.03
1982–83	0.11	0.08	0.02	0.03	0.00
1983–84	0.06	0.21	0.03	0.04	0.00
1984–85	0.11	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.01
1985–86	0.06	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.01
1986–87	0.12	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.00
1987–88	0.08	0.18	0.05	0.04	0.00
1988–89	0.08	0.11	0.02	0.04	0.02
1989–90	0.11	0.19	0.05	0.01	0.01
1990–91	0.11	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.01

Table C12: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)

	Natural causes	Hanging	External trauma	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple
1991–92	0.05	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.00
1992–93	0.07	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.02
1993–94	0.11	0.14	0.02	0.06	0.01
1994–95	0.09	0.15	0.04	0.03	0.00
1995–96	0.08	0.10	0.03	0.05	0.00
1996–97	0.15	0.12	0.03	0.04	0.00
1997–98	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.06	0.00
1998–99	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.06	0.00
1999–2000	0.10	0.13	0.03	0.03	<0.01
2000–01	0.11	0.11	0.01	0.03	<0.01
2001–02	0.11	0.09	0.02	0.01	<0.01
2002–03	0.09	0.08	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2003–04	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00
2004–05	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00
2005–06	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
2006–07	0.10	0.03	<0.01	0.01	<0.01
2007–08	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
2008–09	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.01	<0.01
2009–10	0.13	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.01
2010–11	0.13	0.04	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2011–12	0.11	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00
2012–13	0.10	0.03	0.02	<0.01	<0.01
2013–14	0.12	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00
2014–15	0.11	0.04	0.01	<0.01	0.00
2015–16	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01

Note: External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C13: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous hanging deaths	Non-Indigenous hanging deaths
1981–82	0.00	0.14
1982–83	0.00	0.11
1983–84	0.00	0.31
1984–85	0.00	0.11

Table C13: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous hanging deaths	Non-Indigenous hanging deaths
1985–86	0.08	0.09
1986–87	0.00	0.13
1987–88	0.17	0.19
1988–89	0.11	0.11
1989–90	0.20	0.19
1990–91	0.05	0.09
1991–92	0.13	0.08
1992–93	0.12	0.12
1993–94	0.11	0.15
1994–95	0.23	0.14
1995–96	0.15	0.09
1996–97	0.14	0.12
1997–98	0.16	0.21
1998–99	0.09	0.13
1999–2000	0.15	0.13
2000–01	0.16	0.10
2001–02	0.09	0.09
2002–03	0.10	0.07
2003–04	0.02	0.06
2004–05	0.04	0.06
2005–06	0.00	0.03
2006–07	0.05	0.02
2007–08	0.00	0.03
2008–09	0.01	0.05
2009–10	0.04	0.05
2010–11	0.04	0.05
2011–12	0.01	0.03
2012–13	0.01	0.04
2013–14	0.00	0.04
2014–15	0.02	0.05
2015–16	0.03	0.03

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

Table C14: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)							
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
1979–80	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
1980–81	13	9	3	1	1	1	28
1981–82	8	13	3	1	3	1	29
1982–83	11	11	0	0	2	0	24
1983–84	6	22	1	0	2	2	33
1984–85	12	10	2	0	2	1	27
1985–86	7	9	0	0	2	0	18
1986–87	15	15	4	0	3	0	37
1987–88	10	22	1	0	9	1	43
1988–89	11	15	3	0	6	0	35
1989–90	16	28	5	0	4	0	53
1990–91	17	15	1	0	2	0	35
1991–92	8	15	3	1	4	0	31
1992–93	11	25	3	1	4	0	44
1993–94	19	28	4	0	5	1	57
1994–95	15	28	6	0	6	0	55
1995–96	14	25	4	0	6	0	49
1996–97	28	24	4	0	7	0	63
1997–98	20	41	9	0	9	1	80
1998–99	18	27	8	0	11	0	64
1999–2000	21	32	4	1	5	1	64
2000–01	24	27	1	0	6	0	58
2001–02	24	24	3	1	0	0	52
2002–03	21	21	1	0	1	0	44
2003–04	18	16	2	0	1	0	37
2004–05	23	16	0	0	0	0	39
2005–06	18	9	1	0	0	0	28
2006–07	27	8	1	0	4	0	40
2007–08	36	8	0	0	1	0	45
2008–09	26	14	0	0	3	0	43
2009–10	38	16	4	0	0	0	58
2010–11	38	16	2	0	1	0	57
2011–12	32	8	1	0	0	0	41
2012–13	32	13	3	0	0	1	49

Table C14: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
2013–14	39	13	0	0	0	0	52
2014–15	41	14	0	0	0	1	56
2015–16	59	19	0	0	2	2	82
Total	784	662	87	6	112	13	1,664

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 18 cases where manner of death was not recorded and one case classified as excusable homicide

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C15: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2015–16 (rate per 100 prisoners)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown
1981–82	0.08	0.13	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01
1982–83	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
1983–84	0.06	0.23	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02
1984–85	0.11	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01
1985–86	0.06	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
1986–87	0.12	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00
1987–88	0.08	0.18	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01
1988–89	0.08	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.00
1989–90	0.11	0.20	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
1990–91	0.11	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
1991–92	0.05	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.00
1992–93	0.07	0.16	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.00
1993–94	0.11	0.17	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.01
1994–95	0.09	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
1995–96	0.08	0.14	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00
1996–97	0.15	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00
1997–98	0.10	0.21	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.01
1998–99	0.08	0.13	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00
1999–2000	0.10	0.15	0.02	<0.01	0.02	<0.01
2000–01	0.11	0.12	<0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00
2001–02	0.11	0.11	0.01	<0.01	0.00	0.00
2002–03	0.09	0.09	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2003–04	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown
2004–05	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2005–06	0.07	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006–07	0.10	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
2007–08	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2008–09	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
2009–10	0.13	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010–11	0.13	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011–12	0.11	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012–13	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2013–14	0.12	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014–15	0.11	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2015–16	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

Note: Self-inflicted includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2016 [computer file]

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Good order	Traffic-related	Other	Total
1979–80	8	3	1	1	1	1	15
1980–81	9	7	3	5	2	1	27
1981–82	10	12	3	3	0	0	28
1982–83	11	5	1	3	2	1	23
1983–84	14	13	0	6	0	0	33
1984–85	13	9	2	0	2	0	26
1985–86	8	6	1	1	0	0	16
1986–87	14	10	2	5	1	0	32
1987–88	18	18	2	3	1	2	44
1988–89	21	10	1	1	1	2	36
1989–90	28	16	3	2	0	2	51
1990–91	19	10	2	1	0	3	35
1991–92	16	8	2	4	0	1	31
1992–93	18	19	3	2	0	1	43
1993–94	25	22	2	5	2	1	57

Table C16: Deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)							
	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Good order	Traffic-related	Other	Total
1994–95	28	18	4	2	2	1	55
1995–96	21	20	5	0	2	1	49
1996–97	29	18	7	4	2	3	63
1997–98	38	23	11	6	1	0	79
1998–99	27	26	5	5	1	0	64
1999–2000	33	24	2	1	2	2	64
2000–01	33	9	7	4	2	3	58
2001–02	28	11	5	4	2	2	52
2002–03	32	7	0	2	2	1	44
2003–04	29	2	3	1	0	2	37
2004–05	23	9	3	0	3	1	39
2005–06	22	4	1	1	0	0	28
2006–07	22	9	3	4	2	0	40
2007–08	31	5	4	3	3	0	46
2008–09	26	8	3	1	0	5	43
2009–10	39	5	3	0	5	6	58
2010–11	29	11	5	2	0	11	58
2011–12	27	5	7	3	0	0	42
2012–13	33	9	7	0	2	1	52
2013–14	36	9	5	1	0	3	54
2014–15	41	11	3	2	1	2	60
2015–16	62	5	4	7	3	2	83
Total	921	416	125	95	47	61	1,665

Note: Excludes 18 cases where MSO was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C17: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)								
	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Psych. hospital	Public place	Other	Total
1979–80	5	0	7	0	0	0	0	12
1980–81	14	0	6	0	0	0	0	20
1981–82	6	0	10	0	0	0	0	16
1982–83	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	20
1983–84	23	0	7	0	0	0	0	30
1984–85	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	20
1985–86	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	13
1986–87	15	0	14	0	0	0	0	29
1987–88	26	0	8	0	0	0	0	34
1988–89	19	1	11	0	0	0	0	31
1989–90	31	2	10	0	0	1	0	44
1990–91	21	0	14	0	0	0	0	35
1991–92	18	1	9	2	0	1	0	31
1992–93	26	2	13	3	0	0	0	44
1993–94	34	2	11	10	0	0	0	57
1994–95	33	3	11	7	0	0	1	55
1995–96	34	4	9	1	0	0	1	49
1996–97	32	4	20	5	0	1	1	63
1997–98	53	4	16	7	0	0	0	80
1998–99	41	8	9	5	1	0	0	64
1999–2000	38	5	14	7	0	0	0	64
2000–01	35	2	18	1	0	2	0	58
2001–02	26	7	18	1	0	0	0	52
2002–03	21	5	13	5	0	0	0	44
2003–04	22	2	9	4	0	0	0	37
2004–05	16	1	17	5	0	0	0	39
2005–06	14	4	7	3	0	0	0	28
2006–07	14	2	14	10	0	0	0	40
2007–08	12	5	16	12	0	0	1	46
2008–09	18	1	17	7	0	0	0	43
2009–10	24	4	18	11	0	0	1	58
2010–11	21	0	27	10	0	0	0	58
2011–12	17	1	15	9	0	0	0	42
2012–13	23	4	21	5	0	0	0	53

Table C17: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Psych. hospital	Public place	Other	Total
2013–14	17	3	21	13	0	0	0	54
2014–15	29	2	10	18	0	0	2	61
2015–16	25	1	38	18	0	0	1	83
Total	835	80	499	179	1	5	8	1,607

Note: Excludes 76 cases where location of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Table C18: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)

	Private	Government	Total ^a
1979–80	0	15	15
1980–81	0	28	28
1981–82	0	29	29
1982–83	0	24	24
1983–84	0	33	33
1984–85	0	27	27
1985–86	0	18	18
1986–87	0	37	37
1987–88	0	44	44
1988–89	0	36	36
1989–90	0	53	53
1990–91	0	35	35
1991–92	0	31	31
1992–93	3	41	44
1993–94	5	52	57
1994–95	2	53	55
1995–96	5	44	49
1996–97	4	59	63
1997–98	10	70	80
1998–99	10	54	64
1999–2000	5	59	64
2000–01	10	48	58
2001–02	7	45	52
2002–03	5	38	43
2003–04	4	33	37

	Private	Government	Total ^a
2004–05	6	33	39
2005–06	5	23	28
2006–07	4	36	40
2007–08	18	28	46
2008–09	11	32	43
2009–10	7	51	58
2010–11	12	46	58
2011–12	10	32	42
2012–13	9	44	53
2013–14	11	43	54
2014–15	13	48	61
2015–16	17	66	83
Total	193	1,489	1,682

a: Excludes one case where prison type was not recorded
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2015–16

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	5	7	7	5	2	1	1	1	29
1990–91	3	9	6	4	2	0	0	2	26
1991–92	4	9	5	0	2	3	1	1	25
1992–93	16	14	3	1	4	0	0	0	38
1993–94	8	10	7	0	1	2	1	2	31
1994–95	14	5	4	3	1	1	0	1	29
1995–96	9	7	5	4	1	3	1	1	31
1996–97	16	2	2	6	2	1	0	5	34
1997–98	14	8	1	3	0	0	0	2	28
1998–99	6	4	6	3	0	0	0	2	21
1999–2000	11	4	4	5	7	0	0	4	35
2000–01	17	4	3	4	5	0	0	1	34
2001–02	13	13	3	6	1	0	0	5	41
2002–03	14	6	7	6	3	1	0	3	40

Table C19: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2003–04	15	6	9	6	2	0	1	3	42
2004–05	11	7	10	6	2	0	0	0	36
2005–06	6	2	4	6	4	0	1	1	24
2006–07	10	6	4	4	4	0	1	1	30
2007–08	7	8	5	4	4	1	0	5	34
2008–09	6	3	8	8	6	0	1	5	37
2009–10	5	6	6	3	1	1	1	4	27
2010–11	6	1	7	6	2	2	1	0	25
2011–12	11	3	7	5	3	0	0	2	31
2012–13	6	2	2	6	1	0	0	0	17
2013–14	1	5	3	1	2	0	0	1	13
2014–15	7	2	5	4	1	0	0	2	21
2015–16	6	1	3	5	3	1	0	1	20
Total	247	154	136	114	66	17	10	55	799

Note: Excludes two cases categorised as 'Other Commonwealth'

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C20: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	0	1	2	4	1	0	0	1	9
1990–91	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
1991–92	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
1992–93	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
1994–95	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
1995–96	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	6
1996–97	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	8
1997–98	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
1998–99	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	7
1999–2000	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
2000–01	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	7
2001–02	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	8
2002–03	3	0	1	3	1	0	0	3	11
2003–04	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	10

Table C20: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2004–05	2	1	2	5	1	0	0	0	11
2005–06	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	7
2006–07	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
2007–08	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	5
2008–09	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	8
2009–10	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	6
2010–11	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	7
2011–12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
2012–13	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
2013–14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2014–15	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	5
2015–16	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	5
Total	26	7	22	50	15	2	0	36	158

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C21: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	5	6	5	1	1	1	1	0	20
1990–91	3	9	4	3	2	0	0	2	23
1991–92	4	7	3	0	1	3	1	1	20
1992–93	13	14	2	0	4	0	0	0	33
1993–94	8	10	6	0	1	1	1	1	28
1994–95	14	4	4	2	0	1	0	1	26
1995–96	7	7	4	2	1	3	1	0	25
1996–97	14	2	2	3	2	0	0	3	26
1997–98	12	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	23
1998–99	4	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	14
1999–2000	11	4	3	3	6	0	0	4	31
2000–01	15	4	3	2	3	0	0	0	27
2001–02	12	13	3	4	1	0	0	0	33
2002–03	11	6	6	3	2	1	0	0	29
2003–04	11	6	8	4	2	0	1	0	32
2004–05	9	6	8	1	1	0	0	0	25
2005–06	6	1	3	3	3	0	1	0	17

Table C21: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2006–07	10	5	3	4	4	0	1	0	27
2007–08	7	8	4	4	2	1	0	3	29
2008–09	6	3	7	7	4	0	1	1	29
2009–10	3	6	6	1	1	1	1	2	21
2010–11	5	1	6	1	2	2	1	0	18
2011–12	11	3	7	5	3	0	0	0	29
2012–13	6	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	13
2013–14	1	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	11
2014–15	7	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	14
2015–16	6	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	13
Total	221	146	111	64	51	14	10	19	636

Note: Excludes two cases categorised as 'Other Commonwealth'

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C22: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)			
	Category 1	Category 2	Total
1989–90	23	6	29
1990–91	24	2	26
1991–92	19	6	25
1992–93	20	18	38
1993–94	19	12	31
1994–95	18	12	30
1995–96	12	19	31
1996–97	13	21	34
1997–98	16	12	28
1998–99	14	7	21
1999–2000	14	22	36
2000–01	11	23	34
2001–02	13	28	41
2002–03	11	29	40
2003–04	11	31	42
2004–05	12	24	36
2005–06	6	18	24
2006–07	13	17	30
2007–08	13	21	34

Table C22: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)			
	Category 1	Category 2	Total
2008–09	12	25	37
2009–10	11	16	27
2010–11	15	10	25
2011–12	15	16	31
2012–13	6	11	17
2013–14	5	8	13
2014–15	16	5	21
2015–16	14	6	20
Total	376	425	801

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C23: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
1989–90	9	20	29
1990–91	3	23	26
1991–92	5	20	25
1992–93	5	33	38
1993–94	3	28	31
1994–95	3	27	30
1995–96	6	25	31
1996–97	8	26	34
1997–98	5	23	28
1998–99	7	14	21
1999–2000	4	32	36
2000–01	7	27	34
2001–02	8	33	41
2002–03	11	29	40
2003–04	10	32	42
2004–05	11	25	36
2005–06	7	17	24
2006–07	3	27	30
2007–08	5	29	34
2008–09	8	29	37
2009–10	6	21	27
2010–11	7	18	25

Table C23: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
2011–12	2	29	31
2012–13	4	13	17
2013–14	1	11	12
2014–15	5	14	19
2015–16	5	13	18
Total	158	638	796

Note: Excludes five cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C24: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by gender, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Male	Female	Total
1989–90	27	2	29
1990–91	25	1	26
1991–92	20	5	25
1992–93	34	4	38
1993–94	26	5	31
1994–95	28	2	30
1995–96	30	1	31
1996–97	34	0	34
1997–98	25	3	28
1998–99	18	3	21
1999–2000	36	0	36
2000–01	33	1	34
2001–02	36	5	41
2002–03	36	4	40
2003–04	40	2	42
2004–05	33	3	36
2005–06	22	2	24
2006–07	27	3	30
2007–08	32	2	34
2008–09	37	0	37
2009–10	26	1	27
2010–11	25	0	25
2011–12	30	1	31

Table C24: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by gender, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)			
	Male	Female	Total
2012–13	16	1	17
2013–14	13	0	13
2014–15	17	4	21
2015–16	19	1	20
Total	745	56	801

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C25: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)					
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over	Total
1989–90	10	10	6	3	29
1990–91	9	14	2	1	26
1991–92	6	10	6	3	25
1992–93	14	9	12	3	38
1993–94	9	13	7	2	31
1994–95	10	11	9	0	30
1995–96	13	10	5	3	31
1996–97	11	14	5	4	34
1997–98	7	16	4	1	28
1998–99	7	10	2	1	20
1999–2000	8	21	6	1	36
2000–01	13	11	7	3	34
2001–02	16	14	9	2	41
2002–03	13	16	9	2	40
2003–04	12	20	9	1	42
2004–05	10	19	6	1	36
2005–06	6	13	4	1	24
2006–07	5	17	6	2	30
2007–08	7	13	12	2	34
2008–09	14	15	5	3	37
2009–10	9	11	5	2	27
2010–11	6	10	6	3	25
2011–12	4	18	7	2	31
2012–13	0	7	8	2	17

Table C25: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over	Total
2013–14	0	4	7	2	13
2014–15	5	6	7	3	21
2015–16	4	6	8	2	20
Total	228	338	179	55	800

Note: Excludes one case where age was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C26: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1989–90	4	7	2	6	2	6	2	29
1990–91	3	5	3	3	8	2	2	26
1991–92	5	4	3	2	6	5	0	25
1992–93	0	6	6	8	11	4	3	38
1993–94	4	2	1	4	16	2	2	31
1994–95	1	0	4	5	11	7	2	30
1995–96	4	2	0	12	11	1	1	31
1996–97	2	2	3	10	15	2	0	34
1997–98	2	3	1	12	7	3	0	28
1998–99	6	2	0	6	2	4	1	21
1999–2000	2	2	3	13	15	1	0	36
2000–01	4	0	5	13	7	2	3	34
2001–02	4	2	8	17	6	1	3	41
2002–03	3	4	5	17	10	0	1	40
2003–04	4	4	1	16	11	3	3	42
2004–05	2	3	3	15	11	0	2	36
2005–06	3	2	6	5	6	2	0	24
2006–07	4	1	0	13	7	2	2	29
2007–08	7	1	2	13	9	1	1	34
2008–09	2	1	4	17	11	1	1	47
2009–10	3	1	3	8	8	1	3	27
2010–11	5	0	0	9	9	2	0	25
2011–12	1	0	2	15	6	3	3	30

Table C26: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
2012–13	2	0	0	6	4	1	3	16
2013–14	1	0	1	3	6	0	1	12
2014–15	3	0	1	5	11	1	0	21
2015–16	4	0	1	6	6	0	3	20
Total	85	54	68	259	232	57	42	797

Note: Excludes four cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C27: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other	Total
1989–90	4	9	1	1	13	0	28
1990–91	3	10	0	3	7	0	23
1991–92	5	9	0	4	7	0	25
1992–93	0	13	1	4	18	2	38
1993–94	4	11	0	9	6	1	31
1994–95	1	10	0	7	12	0	30
1995–96	4	12	0	4	11	0	31
1996–97	2	12	1	7	12	0	34
1997–98	2	8	1	5	12	0	28
1998–99	6	2	0	2	11	0	21
1999–2000	2	9	0	11	12	1	35
2000–01	4	8	1	2	19	0	34
2001–02	4	12	2	2	21	0	41
2002–03	3	16	1	4	15	0	39
2003–04	4	14	0	6	18	0	42
2004–05	2	12	3	6	12	0	35
2005–06	3	8	2	3	8	0	24
2006–07	4	10	0	3	12	0	29
2007–08	7	12	0	3	12	0	34
2008–09	2	10	1	4	18	1	36
2009–10	3	7	0	3	13	1	27
2010–11	6	5	0	6	8	0	25

Table C27: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other	Total
2011–12	1	11	1	4	11	1	29
2012–13	2	5	0	1	8	0	16
2013–14	1	5	0	3	3	1	13
2014–15	3	4	0	10	4	0	21
2015–16	4	4	0	5	3	4	20
Total	86	248	15	122	306	12	789

Note: Excludes eight cases classified as excusable homicide and four cases where manner of death was not recorded. The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C28: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Good order	Traffic-related	Other	Total
1989–90	4	6	0	15	3	1	29
1990–91	7	7	0	12	0	0	26
1991–92	5	2	1	11	2	4	25
1992–93	8	16	2	4	5	3	38
1993–94	14	7	0	4	3	3	31
1994–95	13	7	3	3	3	0	29
1995–96	13	9	0	4	4	1	31
1996–97	14	10	1	6	1	2	34
1997–98	6	6	0	9	4	1	26
1998–99	6	9	0	2	1	2	20
1999–2000	18	10	2	3	2	1	36
2000–01	9	7	0	7	6	5	34
2001–02	8	14	0	3	6	10	41
2002–03	7	8	1	4	9	10	39
2003–04	16	9	1	5	7	3	41
2004–05	16	8	3	2	5	1	35
2005–06	8	3	3	3	4	3	24
2006–07	9	3	1	0	6	7	26
2007–08	9	4	1	2	7	10	33
2008–09	10	3	0	4	12	5	34

Table C28: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Good order	Traffic-related	Other	Total
2009–10	7	2	1	3	7	6	26
2010–11	9	3	0	3	7	0	22
2011–12	13	2	0	3	8	5	31
2012–13	7	2	0	2	1	2	14
2013–14	5	1	0	0	3	3	12
2014–15	11	1	2	2	2	2	20
2015–16	11	0	0	3	4	2	20
Total	263	159	22	119	122	92	777

Note: Excludes 24 cases where MSO was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C29: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by location of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Cell	Custodial setting	Public hospital	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
1989–90	11	5	6	1	6	0	29
1990–91	6	4	7	5	4	0	26
1991–92	5	3	11	3	3	0	25
1992–93	3	2	13	3	15	2	38
1993–94	2	2	8	5	13	1	31
1994–95	2	2	7	5	14	0	30
1995–96	3	0	11	7	8	2	31
1996–97	2	2	12	4	12	2	34
1997–98	6	1	7	3	10	1	28
1998–99	3	2	10	2	3	1	21
1999–2000	1	1	8	9	17	0	36
2000–01	5	0	8	3	18	0	34
2001–02	2	2	9	5	23	0	41
2002–03	2	2	7	4	24	1	40
2003–04	4	0	3	8	27	0	42
2004–05	1	3	7	6	18	1	36
2005–06	2	1	5	4	12	0	24
2006–07	2	1	7	5	14	1	30
2007–08	1	0	18	4	11	0	34

Table C29: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by location of death, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Cell	Custodial setting	Public hospital	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
2008–09	2	0	8	7	19	1	37
2009–10	3	1	9	5	8	1	27
2010–11	1	0	3	8	13	0	25
2011–12	1	1	6	8	15	0	31
2012–13	1	0	2	2	12	0	17
2013–14	0	0	1	5	6	1	13
2014–15	3	0	4	6	7	1	21
2015–16	0	1	6	8	4	1	20
Total	74	36	203	135	336	17	801

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C30: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by type of custody, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Institutional	Escape	Detainment	Other	Total
1989–90	20	0	9	0	29
1990–91	16	0	10	0	26
1991–92	13	0	11	1	25
1992–93	11	0	26	1	38
1993–94	8	0	21	2	31
1994–95	7	0	23	0	30
1995–96	7	0	24	0	31
1996–97	5	1	28	0	34
1997–98	10	0	18	0	28
1998–99	9	0	10	2	21
1999–2000	4	0	32	0	36
2000–01	6	0	27	1	34
2001–02	6	0	29	6	41
2002–03	6	1	30	3	40
2003–04	5	2	35	0	42
2004–05	7	0	28	1	36
2005–06	5	0	19	0	24
2006–07	5	0	23	2	30
2007–08	4	0	30	0	34
2008–09	4	1	32	0	37

Table C30: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by type of custody, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Institutional	Escape	Detainment	Other	Total
2009–10	5	0	21	1	27
2010–11	3	0	22	0	25
2011–12	3	0	23	5	31
2012–13	1	0	15	1	17
2013–14	1	0	12	0	12
2014–15	4	0	17	0	21
2015–16	5	0	13	2	20
Total	180	5	588	28	801

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C31: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Shooting/ Other	Total
1989–90	5	1	0	0	3	9
1990–91	1	0	1	2	6	10
1991–92	2	2	1	0	6	11
1992–93	10	4	3	0	9	26
1993–94	5	1	4	1	10	21
1994–95	7	2	3	1	10	23
1995–96	9	0	3	1	11	24
1996–97	11	1	7	2	7	28
1997–98	11	1	2	0	4	18
1998–99	5	0	1	0	4	10
1999–2000	12	2	3	5	10	32
2000–01	12	6	6	2	1	27
2001–02	18	2	3	1	5	29
2002–03	15	4	3	1	7	30
2003–04	12	7	7	2	7	35
2004–05	11	4	2	1	10	28
2005–06	10	0	3	0	6	19
2006–07	9	2	4	0	8	23
2007–08	9	5	5	0	11	30
2008–09	15	1	5	3	8	32
2009–10	9	2	7	1	2	21

Table C31: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Shooting/ Other	Total
2010–11	7	2	5	5	3	22
2011–12	8	1	6	5	3	28
2012–13	5	3	2	4	1	15
2013–14	4	0	2	2	4	12
2014–15	3	0	4	0	10	17
2015–16	3	0	4	0	6	13
Total	228	53	96	39	172	588

a: Includes detainment-related deaths only

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C32: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by Indigenous status and gender, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1989–90	2	1	3	2	0	2	4	1	5
1990–91	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
1991–92	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	2
1992–93	2	0	2	7	1	8	9	1	10
1993–94	0	0	0	4	0	5	4	1	5
1994–95	0	0	0	7	0	7	7	0	7
1995–96	5	0	5	4	0	4	9	0	9
1996–97	5	0	5	6	0	6	11	0	11
1997–98	0	0	0	11	0	11	11	0	11
1998–99	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	5
1999–2000	2	0	2	10	0	10	12	0	12
2000–01	2	0	2	10	0	10	12	0	12
2001–02	1	1	2	16	0	16	17	1	18
2002–03	1	0	1	12	2	14	13	2	15
2003–04	2	0	2	10	0	10	12	0	12
2004–05	3	0	3	7	1	8	10	1	11
2005–06	3	1	4	6	0	6	9	1	10
2006–07	0	0	0	8	1	9	8	1	9
2007–08	0	1	1	8	0	8	8	1	9
2008–09	2	0	2	13	0	13	15	0	15

Table C32: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by Indigenous status and gender, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2009–10	2	1	3	6	0	6	8	1	9
2010–11	4	0	4	3	0	3	7	0	7
2011–12	1	0	1	7	0	7	8	0	8
2012–13	1	0	1	4	0	4	5	0	5
2013–14	1	0	1	3	0	3	4	0	4
2014–15	0	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	3
2015–16	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Total	42	8	50	171	7	178	213	15	228

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

Table C33: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)				
	Shot by self	Shot by police	Shot by other person	Total
1989–90	0	2	0	2
1990–91	3	5	0	8
1991–92	2	4	0	6
1992–93	5	4	1	10
1993–94	7	9	0	16
1994–95	5	6	0	11
1995–96	7	4	0	11
1996–97	8	7	0	15
1997–98	2	5	0	7
1998–99	0	2	0	2
1999–2000	4	11	0	15
2000–01	4	3	0	7
2001–02	4	2	0	6
2002–03	5	5	0	10
2003–04	5	6	0	11
2004–05	5	6	0	11
2005–06	3	3	0	6
2006–07	4	3	0	7
2007–08	6	3	0	9
2008–09	6	5	0	11
2009–10	5	3	0	8

Table C33: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2015–16 (n)

	Shot by self	Shot by police	Shot by other person	Total
2010–11	3	6	0	9
2011–12	2	4	0	6
2012–13	3	1	0	4
2013–14	3	3	0	6
2014–15	1	10	0	11
2015–16	1	5	0	6
Total	103	127	1	231

Note: Excludes one case where shooting death status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2016 [computer file]

All deaths in custody, 1979–80 to 2015–16

Table C34: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)

	Police ^a	Prison	Youth justice	Other	Total
1979–80	5	15	1	0	21
1980–81	12	28	1	0	41
1981–82	15	29	0	0	44
1982–83	22	24	0	0	46
1983–84	14	33	1	0	48
1984–85	21	27	0	0	48
1985–86	20	18	0	0	38
1986–87	42	37	1	0	80
1987–88	23	45	2	0	70
1988–89	29	36	0	0	65
1989–90	29	53	1	0	83
1990–91	26	35	1	0	62
1991–92	25	31	0	0	56
1992–93	38	44	0	0	82
1993–94	31	57	2	0	90
1994–95	30	55	0	0	85
1995–96	31	49	2	0	82
1996–97	34	63	1	0	98
1997–98	28	80	0	0	108

Table C34: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2015–16 (n)					
	Police ^a	Prison	Youth justice	Other	Total
1998–99	21	64	1	1	87
1999–2000	36	64	1	0	101
2000–01	34	58	1	1	94
2001–02	41	52	0	1	94
2002–03	40	44	0	0	84
2003–04	42	37	0	0	79
2004–05	36	39	0	1	76
2005–06	24	28	1	1	54
2006–07	30	40	0	0	70
2007–08	34	46	0	0	80
2008–09	37	43	0	0	80
2009–10	27	58	0	0	85
2010–11	25	58	1	0	84
2011–12	31	42	0	0	73
2012–13	17	53	0	0	70
2013–14	13	54	0	0	67
2014–15	21	61	0	0	82
2015–16	20	83	0	0	103
Total	1,004	1,683	18	5	2,710

a: Category 1(a) deaths have been included in the NDICP since 1980, whereas police operational deaths (category 1(b) and category 2 deaths) have only been collected by the NDICP since 1990. More detail is in the Introduction.

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2016 [computer file]

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