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21

Deaths in custody in Australia 2017–18

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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

Abstract

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) is responsible for monitoring the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention in Australia since 1980. The Australian Institute of Criminology has coordinated the NDICP since its establishment in 1992, the result of a recommendation made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody the previous year. This report contains detailed information on deaths in both prison and police custody and custody-related operations in 2017–18, and compares these findings to longer term trends. No deaths occurred in youth detention in 2017–18.

Introduction

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) monitors the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention from 1980 onwards. The NDICP was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 in response to a recommendation made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC). 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 examines the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison and police custody and custody-related operations in 2017–18, and compares these findings to long-term trends. 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 lock-ups, 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

Data utilised for the NDICP is based on two main sources: data provided by state and territory police services and corrections departments; and coronial records accessed through the National Coronial Information System. For more information about the NDICP and its methodology, see *Appendix A*.

Deaths in prison custody

2017–18 findings

In 2017–18 there were 72 deaths in prison custody (see Table B1), two fewer than in 2016–17 (Table C1). The death rate also decreased from 0.18 to 0.17 per 100 prisoners (see Figure 1). Despite these small reductions, the death rate remained consistent with the average for the previous decade (0.17 per 100 for 2007–08 to 2016–17).

The largest numbers of deaths occurred in New South Wales ($n=27$) and Victoria ($n=17$). There were no deaths in the Australian Capital Territory (see Table B1). The death rate was highest in Victoria (0.22 per 100), followed by New South Wales (0.20 per 100) and the Northern Territory (0.17 per 100).

Between 2016–17 and 2017–18 there was an increase in the number of deaths occurring in New South Wales (+6), and a decrease in Victoria (–3), Western Australia (–3), Queensland (–1) and the Australian Capital Territory (–1; see Table C1). The number of deaths remained stable in South Australia ($n=2$), Tasmania ($n=1$) and the Northern Territory ($n=3$).

Indigenous status

In 2017–18 there were 16 Indigenous deaths in prison custody (see Table B1), accounting for 22 percent of all deaths during the financial year. Comparatively, Indigenous prisoners make up 28 percent ($n=11,849$) of the Australian prison population (ABS 2018). The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was 0.14 per 100 prisoners in 2017–18. Both the number ($n=16$; see Table C2) and rate (0.14 per 100; see Table C5) of Indigenous deaths in prison custody were consistent with the previous year.

The highest number of Indigenous deaths in custody occurred in New South Wales ($n=5$), followed by Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia ($n=3$ for each; see Figure 2). The death rate for Indigenous prisoners was highest in Victoria (0.43 per 100), followed by New South Wales (0.15 per 100; see Table B1).

There were 15 Indigenous male deaths in custody (two more than the previous year), representing an eight percent increase in the death rate of Indigenous male prisoners (0.14 vs 0.13 per 100 in 2016–17; see Table C4). Conversely, there was one Indigenous female death in custody, representing a death rate of 0.08 per 100 prisoners—a 70 percent decrease from the death rate of Indigenous female prisoners in 2016–17 of 0.27 per 100 prisoners.

The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was lower than the death rate for non-Indigenous prisoners (0.14 and 0.18 per 100 respectively; see Table B1). This was consistent across all jurisdictions except Victoria where the death rate was higher for Indigenous prisoners (0.43 vs 0.20 per 100 prisoners). Death rates of Indigenous prisoners have been consistently lower than the death rates of non-Indigenous prisoners since 2003–04 (see Figure 3).

Gender

Seventy males and two females died in prison custody during 2017–18, representing a death rate of 0.18 and 0.06 per 100 prisoners respectively (see Table B1). Since 2016–17, the death rate of male prisoners has remained stable, and the death rate of female prisoners has decreased by 67 percent (from 0.18 per 100 in 2016–17; see Table C6).

The number of male deaths in custody has been higher than the number of female deaths in custody since 1979–80 (see Table C4), reflecting the composition of the total Australian prisoner population (ABS 2000–2018).

Age

The median age of all prisoners in Australia at 30 June 2018 was 35 years (ABS 2018). The median age at time of death for prisoners in 2017–18 was 51 years (see Table B1). Indigenous prisoners had a lower median age at time of death than non-Indigenous prisoners (42 and 53 years respectively).

Most deaths in 2017–18 were of prisoners aged 40–54 (38%, $n=27$; see Table B1). Since 2016–17, the number of deaths of prisoners in this age category increased by nine (see Table C7), and the death rate increased by 59 percent (from 0.17 per 100 in 2016–17 to 0.27 in 2017–18; see Table C8).

The death rate remained the highest for prisoners aged 55 and over (0.79 per 100), consistent with each year since prison population data became available in 1981–82 (see Table C8).

Legal status of prisoner deaths in custody

At 30 June 2018, 68 percent ($n=29,030$) of all prisoners in Australia were serving a sentence (ABS 2018). In 2017–18, the majority of deaths in prison custody were of sentenced prisoners (67%, $n=48$; see Table B1). This represented a slight decrease in the proportion of deaths of sentenced prisoners in 2016–17 (73%, $n=54$; see Table C9). The death rate of unsentenced Indigenous prisoners was higher than the rate for sentenced Indigenous prisoners (0.18 vs 0.11 per 100) whereas it was similar for non-Indigenous prisoners (0.17 vs 0.18 per 100).

In 2017–18, the death rate of unsentenced prisoners was 85 percent lower than the peak death rates recorded in 1983–84 and 1997–98 (1.16 and 1.15 per 100 respectively; see Figure 4). Since 2005–06, the death rate for sentenced and unsentenced prisoners has remained relatively similar, primarily due to a decrease in the death rate of unsentenced prisoners from 1997–98 to 2005–06 (1.15 to 0.11 per 100; see Table C10).

Cause of death

Natural causes were the leading cause of death among prisoners during 2017–18 (63%, $n=45$), followed by hanging deaths (17%, $n=12$). The number of natural cause deaths has exceeded the number of hanging deaths since 2001–02 (see Table C11). Prisoners aged 55 years and over accounted for almost half of natural cause deaths (49%, $n=22$), whereas prisoners aged under 55 years accounted for most hanging-induced deaths (83%, $n=10$).

Despite the number of natural cause deaths remaining stable between 2016–17 and 2017–18 ($n=45$), there was a slight decrease in the death rate (from 0.11 to 0.10 per 100; see Table C12). This may be attributable to the increasing prisoner population over this time period (42,974 vs 41,202 in 2016–17; ABS 2017–2018). The rate of hanging deaths also remained stable over this period (0.03 per 100), representing an 86 percent decrease since the rate of hanging deaths reached its peak in 1983–84 (see Figure 5).

The majority of natural cause deaths were of sentenced prisoners (80%, $n=36$). The death rate for natural cause deaths was higher among sentenced prisoners than unsentenced prisoners (0.12 vs 0.06 per 100). Two-thirds of hanging deaths were of unsentenced prisoners (67%, $n=8$), representing a death rate of 0.06 per 100 prisoners. This was higher than the rate of hanging deaths of sentenced prisoners (0.01 per 100).

Natural causes were the most common cause of death for Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners (79% and 65% respectively; see Table B1). The death rate for natural cause deaths was similar for Indigenous prisoners (0.09 per 100) and non-Indigenous prisoners (0.11 per 100). Hanging death rates among Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners were also comparable (0.02 vs 0.03 per 100 respectively). The rate of Indigenous hanging deaths has been lower or the same as the rate of non-Indigenous hanging deaths in all but two years since 2001–02 (see Figure 6).

Of the 11 Indigenous deaths resulting from natural causes (see Table B1), the specific cause of death was recorded in nine cases. Two of these deaths were from heart disease or related ailments, two were from cancer, two were from respiratory conditions, two were from other diseases and one was from a stroke. Of the 30 non-Indigenous deaths resulting from natural causes in which the specific cause of death was recorded, the largest proportions of deaths were from cancer (37%, $n=11$), followed by heart disease and related ailments (20%, $n=6$) and respiratory conditions (17%, $n=5$).

Of the 12 hanging deaths in prison custody (see Table B1), bed sheets were the most commonly used item (42%, $n=5$), consistent with previous years. The most common hanging points were fittings in the cell other than bars, such as cell doors. In 2017–18, there was one hanging death in which cell bars were used. The number of hanging deaths involving cell bars has decreased markedly since 2004–05, accounting for no more than three deaths per year.

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, whereas the manner of death refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death (see *Appendix A*).

In 2017–18, the leading manner of death was natural causes ($n=45$; see Table B1), exceeding self-inflicted deaths for the fifteenth year in a row (see Table C14). Two deaths were attributed to unlawful (prisoner-on-prisoner) homicide, and three deaths were deemed an accident.

The death rate for natural cause deaths (0.10 per 100) was higher than that of self-inflicted deaths (0.04 per 100) for the fourteenth year in a row (see Figure 7). The rate of death from natural causes was slightly higher for non-Indigenous prisoners compared with Indigenous prisoners (0.11 vs 0.09 per 100), while the rate of self-inflicted deaths was similar across the two groups (0.04 vs 0.03 per 100 respectively).

Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence (MSO) leading to custody (see *Appendix A*). At 30 June 2018, the majority (55%; $n=23,670$; ABS 2018) of prisoners in Australia had been incarcerated for a violent offence. Of the 72 persons who died in custody in 2017–18, 82 percent ($n=59$; see Table B1) had been incarcerated for violent offences. Violent offences were the most common MSO for both Indigenous (88%, $n=14$) and non-Indigenous (80%, $n=45$) prisoners. Violent offences have been the most common MSO recorded each year since 1993–94 (see Table C16).

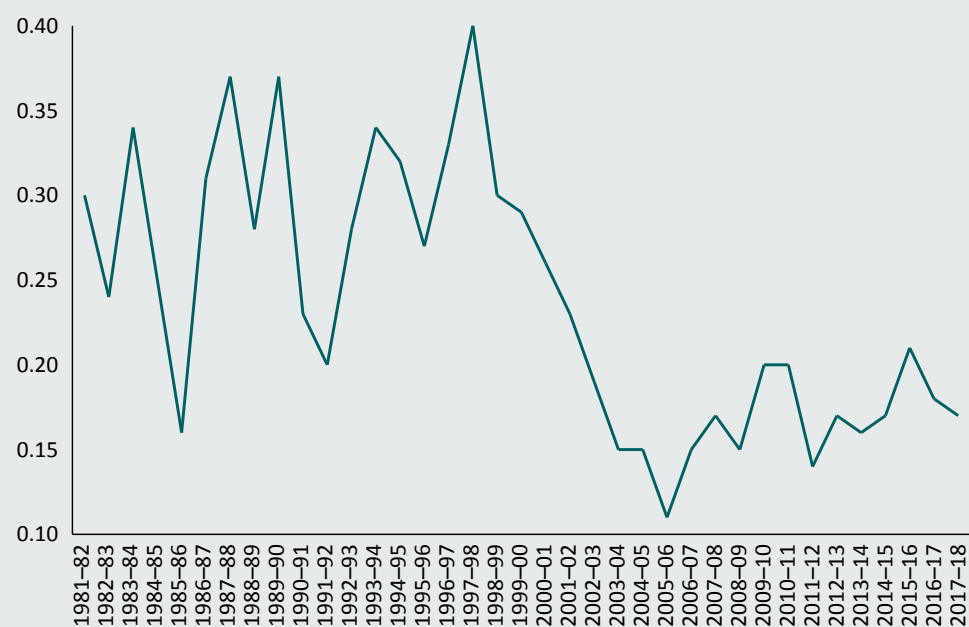
Location of death

In 2017–18, the most common location at time of death was a cell (38%, $n=27$), followed by a public hospital (33%, $n=24$). Four Indigenous and 23 non-Indigenous prisoners died in a cell. Seven Indigenous and 17 non-Indigenous prisoners died in a public hospital. Other locations at time of death were prison hospitals and custodial settings other than a cell (see Table B1). Cells have been the most common location for prison deaths in all but seven of the 38 years of NDICP data.

Type of prison

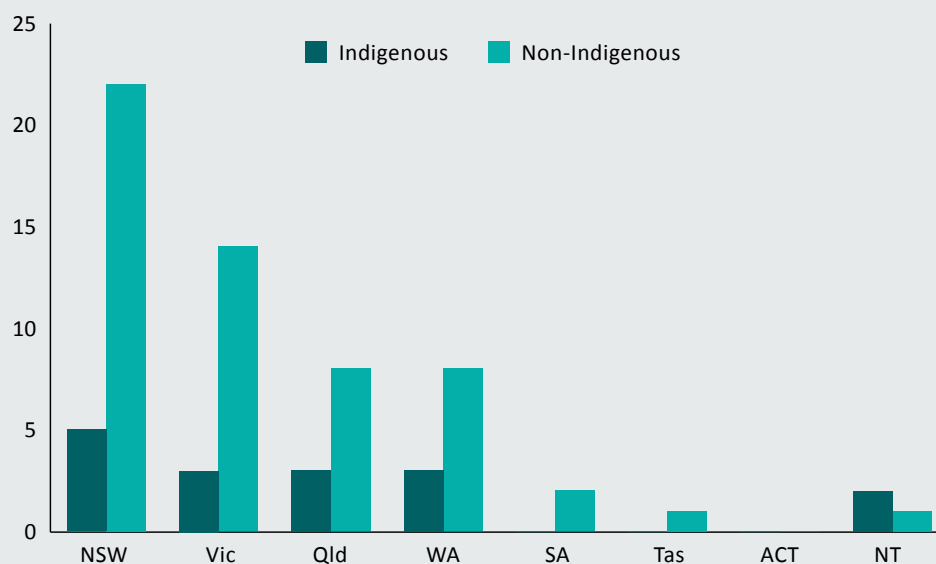
In 2017–18, 74 percent ($n=53$) of all deaths in prison custody occurred while the prisoner was in the custody of a government-run prison; the remainder (26%, $n=19$) occurred while the prisoner was in the custody of a privately run prison (see Table B1). Based on prison population estimates from the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP 2019), the rate of death was higher in privately run prisons (0.24 per 100) than in government-run prisons (0.16 per 100).

Figure 1: Deaths in prison custody, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 prisoners)



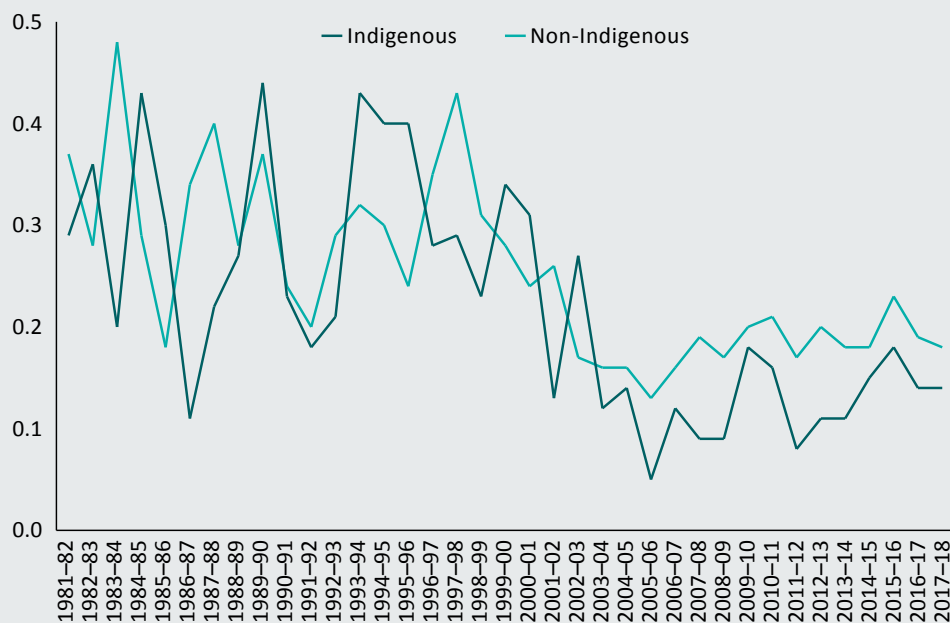
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C5

Figure 2: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction and Indigenous status, 2017–18 (n)



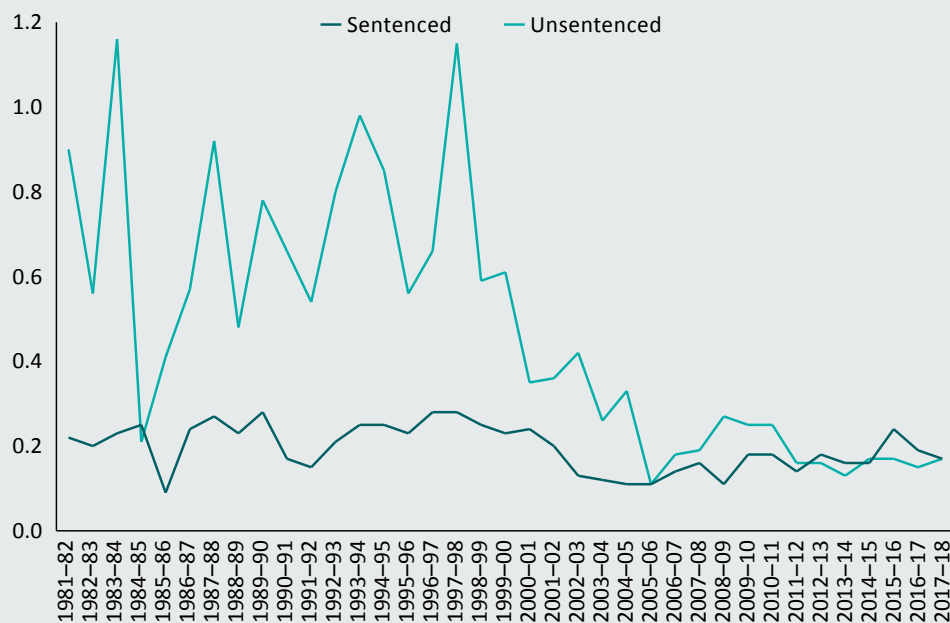
Source: AIC NDICP 2017–18 [computer file]; Table B1

Figure 3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



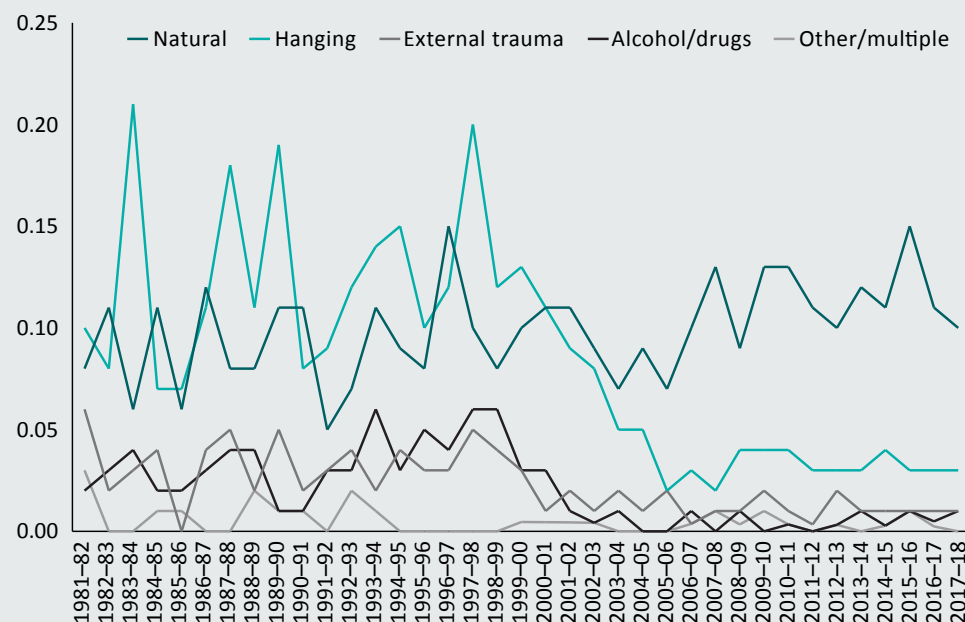
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C5

Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C10

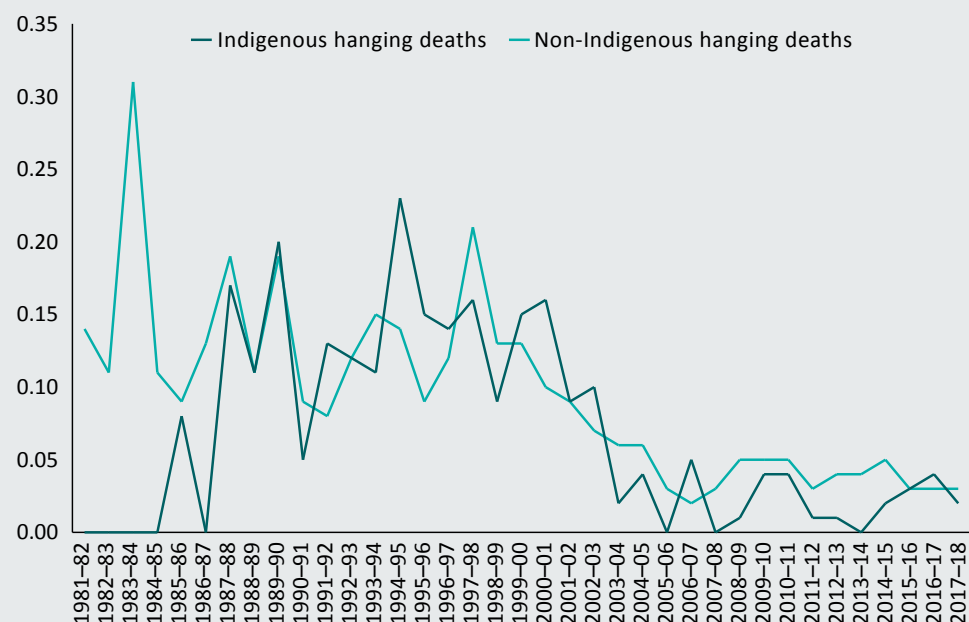
Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 prisoners)



Note: External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

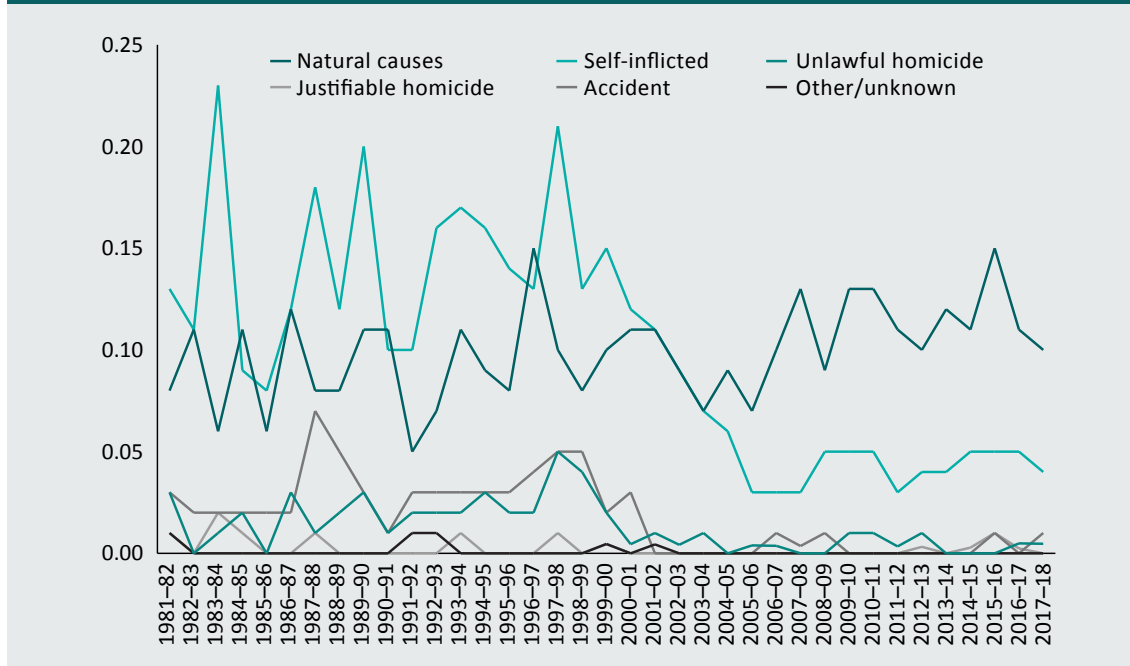
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C12

Figure 6: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C13

Figure 7: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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 1981–2018 [computer file]; Table C15

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations

2017–18 findings

In 2017–18 there were 21 deaths in police custody and custody-related operations (hereafter referred to as police custody) in Australia (see Table B2), four more than in the previous year (see Table C10). The number of deaths in police custody fluctuates annually, which is attributable to the small number of deaths (see Figure 8). Despite this, the number of deaths in 2017–18 was 50 percent lower than the peak number recorded in 2003–04 ($n=42$; see Table C19). Due to the lack of corresponding population data, rates of death in police custody cannot be calculated.

The greatest numbers of deaths in police custody occurred in the three largest jurisdictions—six in New South Wales, five in Victoria and four in Queensland (see Table B2). There were three deaths in Western Australia, two in South Australia and one in the Australian Capital Territory. No deaths were recorded in Tasmania or the Northern Territory.

During 2017–18, 17 of the 21 deaths occurring in police custody were categorised as category 1 deaths (see Table B2). Category 1 deaths are those occurring during close police contact with the deceased, including deaths in police stations, and most police shootings and raids (see *Introduction*). The remaining four were categorised as category 2 deaths (see Table B2), as they occurred during non-close police contact, such as motor vehicle pursuits (MVPs).

Indigenous status

Of the 21 deaths occurring in police custody in 2017–18, three were Indigenous deaths and 14 were non-Indigenous deaths. No Indigenous status was recorded in the remaining four cases. Consistent with all years of data on deaths in police custody (1989–90 onward), the number of non-Indigenous deaths exceeded the number of Indigenous deaths (see Figure 9).

Gender

In 2017–18, 16 males and five females died in police custody (see Table B2). This is the largest number of female deaths since 2001–02 (see Table C24). Despite this, male deaths have consistently outnumbered female deaths each year. Two Indigenous deaths were male and one was female. The Indigenous status was not recorded for one female and three male deaths.

Age

The median age at time of death in police custody in 2017–18 was 39 years (see Table B2). The median age at death was higher for Indigenous persons (47 years) than for non-Indigenous persons (32 years). Deaths in police custody most commonly involved persons aged between 40 and 54 years ($n=8$) and between 25 and 39 years ($n=7$). Consistent with previous years, deaths of those aged 55 years and over were less common (see Table C25), with just two deaths occurring of persons in this age group in 2017–18.

Cause of death

Cause of death was recorded for 15 of the 21 deaths in police custody in 2017–18. Of these, the leading cause of death was gunshot wounds ($n=8$), followed by external trauma ($n=4$; see Figure 10). Since 1989–90, the majority of deaths each year have been attributable to these two causes (see Table C26). In 2017–18, one Indigenous person in police custody died of external trauma, and one died of natural causes. The cause of death was not available for the remaining Indigenous death.

Manner of death

In 2017–18, eight of the 15 deaths where manner of death information was available were justifiable homicides. A further three deaths were accidental, one was an unlawful homicide, one was a result of natural causes and two had 'other' recorded as the manner of death (see Table B2).

Of the three Indigenous deaths in police custody, one resulted from natural causes, one resulted from an accident, and one had no manner of death recorded. Of the 14 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody, seven were justifiable homicides, two were accidental deaths and one had 'other' recorded as the manner of death. Four non-Indigenous deaths had no manner of death recorded. Of the two deaths where Indigenous status was unknown, one was the result of justifiable homicide and the other was the result of unlawful homicide.

Despite annual fluctuations, the numbers of accidental deaths and self-inflicted deaths have generally decreased in the last decade (from $n=18$ in 2008–09 to $n=3$ in 2017–18 and $n=10$ to $n=0$, respectively; see Table C27). Deaths resulting from unlawful homicides have also remained low, with only one occurring in 2017–18.

Most serious offence

Commonly, non-Indigenous persons who died in police custody in 2017–18 were suspected of having committed an MSO that was violent in nature ($n=9$; see Table B2). The offences that Indigenous persons were suspected of committing were categorised as good order offences ($n=2$) and 'other' offences ($n=1$).

In all but six years since 1993–94, deaths of persons who were suspected of committing a violent offence have been more frequent than those suspected of committing other types of offences (see Table C28). The number of deaths in police custody of persons suspected of committing drug-related offences has been extremely low since 1989–90, reaching a peak of three deaths in 1994–95, in 2004–05 and in 2005–06.

Location of death

In 2017–18, the most common location at time of death was a public hospital or a public place ($n=6$ for each; see Table B2), followed by private property ($n=4$), a cell ($n=3$), a psychiatric hospital ($n=1$) or a location recorded as 'other' ($n=1$). Of the three Indigenous deaths, one occurred in a public hospital, one in a cell and one in a location recorded as 'other'.

Since 1989–90, the greatest numbers of deaths in police custody occurred in a public place ($n=349$). One in ten deaths occurred in a police cell ($n=78$).

Circumstances of custodial period

In 2017–18, 17 of the 21 deaths in police custody occurred while police were in the process of detaining or attempting to detain the individual (see Table B2). Of these, one involved an Indigenous person and 12 involved non-Indigenous persons. Indigenous status was unknown in four of these 12 deaths.

The remaining four deaths occurred in institutional settings, including a police watchhouse cell and a psychiatric hospital. Two of these were Indigenous deaths and two were non-Indigenous deaths.

In each year since 1992–93, deaths occurring while police were in the process of detaining an individual have been more frequent than deaths in any other type of custody (see Table C30).

Motor vehicle pursuit deaths

Of the 17 deaths in police custody where police were in the process of detaining or attempting to detain the individual in 2017–18, two resulted from a motor vehicle pursuit (see Figure 11). One death involved the driver and one death the passenger in the vehicle at the time of the incident. The number of MVP deaths in 2017–18 was the lowest since 1991–92 and substantially lower than the peak number recorded in 2001–02 ($n=18$; see Table C31).

Of the two MVP deaths in 2017–18, both involved females (see Table C32). This is the first year on record that only females died in an MVP. One MVP death involved a non-Indigenous person, and the Indigenous status was unknown for the other person. Non-Indigenous MVP deaths have outnumbered Indigenous MVP deaths in all except six years.

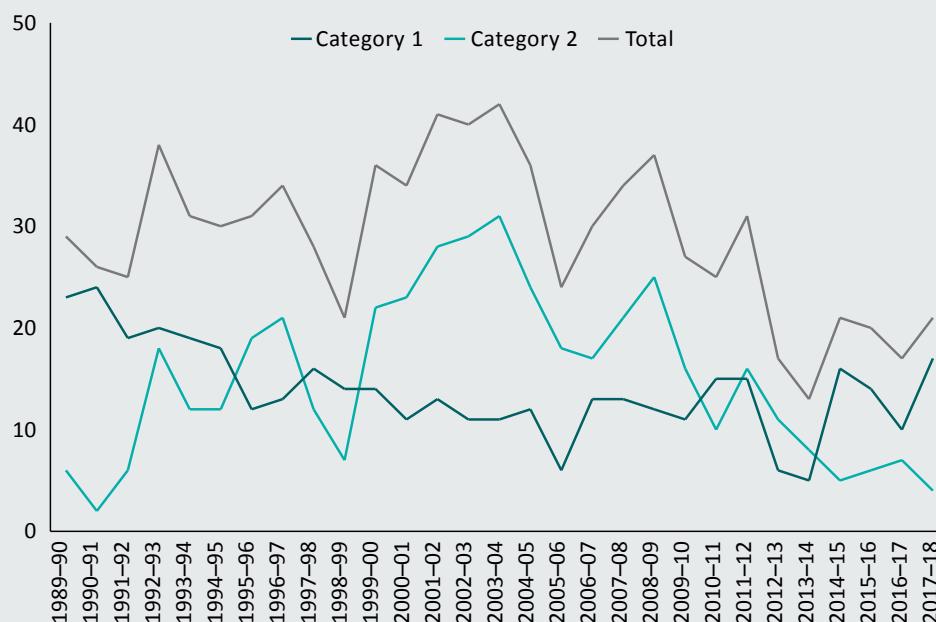
In one MVP death, the involved person was suspected of committing a violent offence as their MSO. In the other, the involved person was suspected of committing a theft-related offence.

Shooting deaths

In 2017–18 there were eight shooting deaths in police custody, three more than in 2016–17 (see Figure 12). Four deaths occurred in New South Wales, and one death occurred in each of Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. All eight shootings involved persons who had been shot by police. Since 1989–90 there have been 139 deaths involving persons shot by police, and a further 104 deaths where persons shot themselves (see Table C33). Of the eight deaths resulting from police shootings in 2017–18:

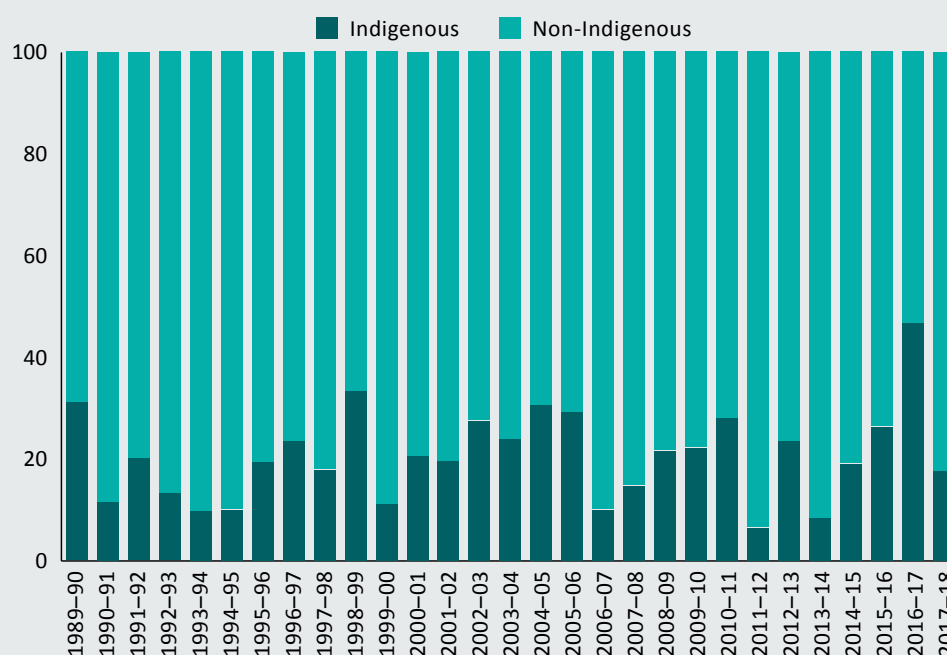
- seven were of non-Indigenous persons, and the Indigenous status was unknown in one death. Police shootings of non-Indigenous persons have consistently outnumbered those of Indigenous persons since 1990–91;
- all were of males. In all years but four since 1989–90, all persons shot by police were males;
- the median age at time of death was 32 years. Forty-nine percent of total police shooting deaths between 1989–90 and 2016–17 were of persons aged between 25 and 39 years;
- seven were of persons suspected of committing a violent offence as their MSO, and one was of a person suspected of committing an offence recorded as 'other'. Police shootings of persons suspected of committing a violent offence have outnumbered other offence types in all but six years since 1989–90; and
- the majority occurred in a public place or on private property ($n=3$ for each), and two deaths occurred in a public hospital. Since 1989–90, police shootings have primarily resulted in deaths occurring in a public place (44%) or on private property (37%).

Figure 8: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]; Table C22

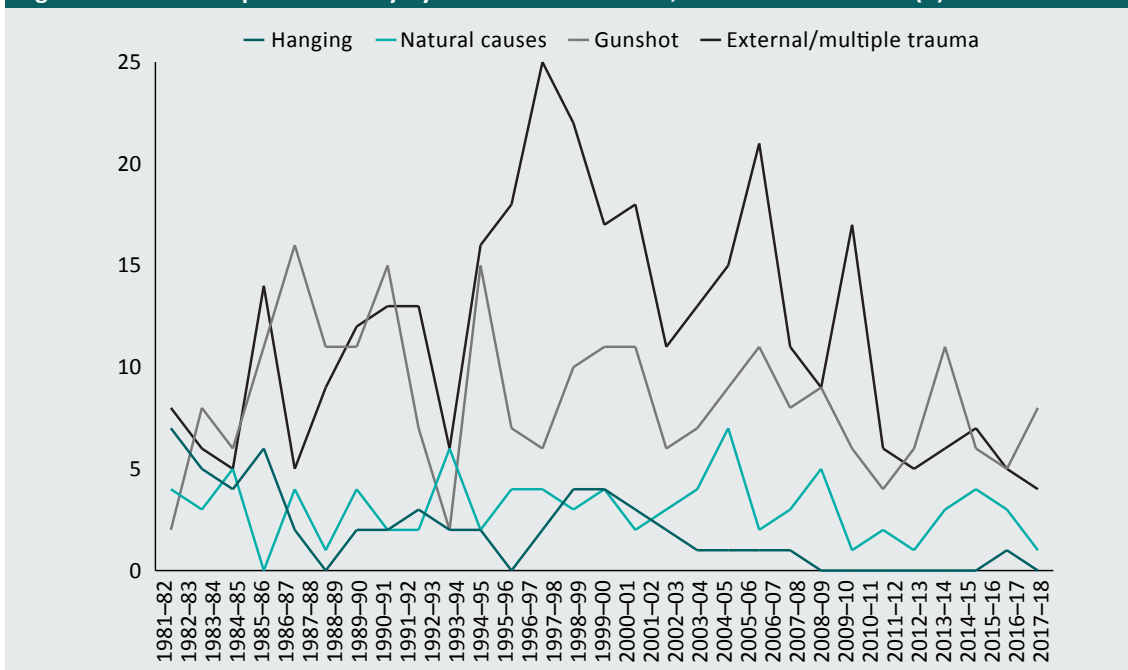
Figure 9: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (%)



Note: Excludes 8 cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]; Table C23

Figure 10: Deaths in police custody by select cause of death, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)



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

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]; Table C26

Figure 11: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]; Table C31

Figure 12: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)



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

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [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 recommended in its final report (RCIADIC 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 in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive and authoritative data on all deaths which occur in custody and custody-related police operations. Although the NDICP began recording information in 1992, data on all custodial deaths between 1980 and 1992 were collected retrospectively, placing the NDICP in the unique position of holding detailed information on custodial deaths in Australia spanning 38 years.

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 can mean a delay of several years before data are collected on those particular borderline cases, as it may take months or years for a case to be heard in the coroner's court of the relevant jurisdiction. 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 has been charged with a violent offence and a property (theft-related) offence, the violent offence will take precedence. For the purposes of the NDICP these categories 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 MSO 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 2000–2017), which counts all prisoners who are in legal custody in each jurisdiction as at midnight, 30 June. 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 deaths in police custody 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 or for the numbers of people who come into contact with police in custody-related operations.

Appendix B: Deaths in custody 2017–18 key findings: Data tables

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2017–18^a

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate
Jurisdiction						
NSW	5	0.15	22	0.21	27	0.20
Vic	3	0.43	14	0.20	17	0.22
Qld	3	0.11	8	0.13	11	0.12
WA	3	0.11	8	0.19	11	0.16
SA	0	0.00	2	0.09	2	0.07
Tas	0	0.00	1	0.20	1	0.16
ACT	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
NT	2	0.14	1	0.36	3	0.17
Gender						
Male	15	0.14	55	0.19	70	0.18
Female	1	0.08	1	0.04	2	0.06
Age group (years)						
Less than 25	3	0.12	2	0.05	5	0.09
25–39	5	0.08	9	0.06	14	0.07
40–54	6	0.24	21	0.25	27	0.27
55+	2	0.58	24	0.81	26	0.82
Median (mean)		42 (40)		53 (54)		51 (51)
Legal status						
Sentenced	9	0.11	39	0.18	48	0.17
Unsentenced	7	0.18	17	0.17	24	0.17

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2017–18 ^a						
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate
Cause of death ^{b,c}						
Natural causes	11	0.09	34	0.11	45	0.10
Hanging	2	0.02	10	0.03	12	0.03
External trauma	0	0.00	6	0.02	6	0.01
Alcohol/drugs	1	0.01	2	0.01	3	0.01
Other/multiple	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Manner of death ^{c,d}						
Natural causes	11	0.09	34	0.11	45	0.10
Self-inflicted	3	0.03	13	0.04	16	0.04
Unlawful homicide	0	0.00	2	0.01	2	<0.01
Accident	0	0.00	3	0.01	3	0.01
Most serious offence ^d						
Violent	14	-	45	-	59	-
Theft-related	2	-	3	-	5	-
Drug-related	0	-	3	-	3	-
Good order	0	-	4	-	4	-
Traffic	0	-	1	-	1	-
Location of death						
Public hospital	7	-	17	-	24	-
Prison hospital	2	-	15	-	17	-
Cell	4	-	23	-	27	-
Other custodial setting	3	-	0	-	3	-
Other	0	-	1	-	1	-
Type of prison ^e						
Private	6	-	13	-	19	0.24
Government	10	-	43	-	53	0.16
Total						
	16	0.14	56	0.18	72	0.17

a: Rates (unless otherwise specified) have been calculated using ABS (2018) population estimates

b: Excludes 6 cases where cause of death not recorded

c: Rates based on total prison population by Indigenous status

d: Excludes 6 cases where manner of death not recorded

e: Rates have been calculated using SCRGSP (2019) population estimates

Note: Rates per 100 relevant prisoners

Source: AIC NDICP 2017–18 [computer file]

Table B2: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2017–18 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total ^a
Jurisdiction			
NSW	0	4	6
Vic	1	2	5
Qld	1	3	4
WA	0	3	3
SA	1	1	2
Tas	0	0	0
ACT	0	1	1
NT	0	0	0
Category of death			
Category 1	3	11	17
Category 2	0	3	4
Gender			
Male	2	11	16
Female	1	3	5
Age group (years)			
Less than 25	0	2	4
25–39	1	6	7
40–54	1	5	8
55+	1	1	2
Median (mean)	47 (47)	32 (38)	39 (38)
Cause of death ^b			
Natural causes	1	0	1
Hanging	0	0	0
External trauma	1	2	4
Gunshot wound	0	7	8
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	1	2
Manner of death ^c			
Natural causes	1	0	1
Self-inflicted	0	0	0
Justifiable homicide	0	7	8
Unlawful homicide	0	0	1
Accident	1	2	3
Other/unknown	0	1	2

Table B2: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2017–18 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total ^a
Most serious offence ^d			
Violent	0	7	9
Theft-related	0	0	1
Drug-related	0	1	1
Good order	2	3	5
Traffic	0	0	0
Other	1	2	4
Location of death			
Public hospital	1	5	6
Cell	1	2	3
Other custodial setting	0	0	0
Private property	0	3	4
Public place	0	4	6
Psychiatric hospital	0	0	1
Other	1	0	1
Circumstances of custodial period			
Institution	2	2	4
Detaining	1	12	17
Escaping	0	0	0
Other/marginal	0	0	0
Total			
	3	14	21

a: Includes 4 cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

b: Excludes 6 cases where cause of death was not recorded

c: Excludes 6 cases where manner of death was not recorded

d: Excludes one case where most serious offence was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 2017–18 [computer file]

Appendix C: Data tables

Deaths in prison custody, 1979–80 to 2017–18

Table C1: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (*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 2017–18 (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
2016–17	21	20	12	14	2	1	1	3	74
2017–18	27	17	11	11	2	1	0	3	72
Total	659	314	342	249	153	49	10	53	1,829

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1993–94	4	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	12
1994–95	5	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	12
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
2016–17	1	2	4	5	1	0	0	3	16
2017–18	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	16
Total	87	15	75	80	25	3	2	41	328

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
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
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
2016–17	20	18	8	9	1	1	1	0	58
2017–18	22	14	8	8	2	1	0	1	56
Total	572	299	267	169	128	46	8	12	1,501

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and gender, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total ^a		
	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	41	44	1	45
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 2017–18 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total ^a		
	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
2016–17	13	3	16	55	3	58	68	6	74
2017–18	15	1	16	55	1	56	70	2	72
Total	312	16	328	1,444	57	1,501	1,756	73	1,829

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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

Table C5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
2004–05	0.14	0.16	0.15
2005–06	0.05	0.13	0.11
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
2016–17	0.14	0.19	0.18
2017–18	0.14	0.18	0.17

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C6: Deaths in prison custody by gender, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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

Table C6: Deaths in prison custody by gender, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Male	Female
1997–98	0.42	0.18
1998–99	0.30	0.22
1999–2000	0.30	0.29
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
2016–17	0.18	0.18
2017–18	0.18	0.06

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

Table C7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)					
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over	Total
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
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	1	8	21	24	54
2014–15	1	14	15	31	61
2015–16	5	16	19	43	83
2016–17	5	16	18	35	74
2017–18	5	14	27	26	72
Total	287	639	441	462	1,829

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C8: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)				
	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
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	0.26	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	0.02	0.05	0.25	1.01

Table C8: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)				
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55 years and over
2014–15	0.02	0.08	0.17	1.19
2015–16	0.08	0.08	0.19	1.54
2016–17	0.08	0.08	0.17	1.14
2017–18	0.08	0.06	0.24	0.79

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C9: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

Table C9: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)			
	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total
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	42	11	53
2014–15	43	17	60
2015–16	63	20	83
2016–17	54	20	74
2017–18	48	24	72
Total	1,264	548	1,814

Note: Excludes 17 cases where legal status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C10: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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

Table C10: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Sentenced	Unsentenced
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
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	0.16	0.13
2014–15	0.16	0.17
2015–16	0.24	0.17
2016–17	0.19	0.15
2017–18	0.17	0.17

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]

Table C11: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
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
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	40	14	1	2	0	1	1	59
2015–16	59	11	1	4	0	4	3	82
2016–17	45	14	2	3	0	2	1	67
2017–18	45	12	0	6	0	3	0	66
Total	873	602	25	135	7	131	31	1,804

Note: Excludes 25 cases where cause of death was not recorded
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C12: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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
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	<0.01

Table C12: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 prisoners)

	Natural causes	Hanging	External trauma	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple
2015–16	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
2016–17	0.11	0.03	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2017–18	0.10	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00

Note: External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]

Table C13: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (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
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

Table C13: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous hanging deaths	Non-Indigenous hanging deaths
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
2016–17	0.04	0.03
2017–18	0.02	0.03

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]

Table C14: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
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
2013–14	39	14	0	0	0	0	53
2014–15	40	18	0	0	0	1	59
2015–16	59	19	0	0	2	2	82
2016–17	45	19	2	0	0	1	67
2017–18	45	16	2	0	3	0	66
Total	873	702	91	6	115	14	1,801

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 27 cases where manner of death was not recorded and one case classified as excusable homicide
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

	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

Table C15: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2017–18 (rate per 100 prisoners)						
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown
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
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	<0.01	0.00
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	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2015–16	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
2016–17	0.11	0.05	<0.01	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2017–18	0.10	0.04	<0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00

Note: Self-inflicted includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2018 [computer file]

Table C16: Deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)							
	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
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	34	9	7	0	2	1	53

Table C16: Deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)							
	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Good order	Traffic-related	Other	Total
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
2016–17	58	5	2	4	1	3	73
2017–18	59	5	3	4	1	0	72
Total	1,039	426	130	103	49	64	1,811

Note: Excludes 18 cases where MSO was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C17: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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

Table C17: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)								
	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Psych. hospital	Public place	Other	Total
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
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
2016–17	36	0	28	8	1	0	1	74
2017–18	27	3	24	17	0	0	1	72
Total	898	83	551	204	2	5	10	1,753

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

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Table C18: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)			
	Private	Government	Total
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	45	45
1988–89	0	36	36
1989–90	0	53	53

Table C18: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)			
	Private	Government	Total
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	39	44
2003–04	4	33	37
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
2016–17	21	53	74
2017–18	19	53	72
Total	233	1,595	1,828

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2017–18

Table C19: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)									
	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
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
2016–17	6	0	2	2	5	0	0	2	17
2017–18	6	5	4	3	2	0	1	0	21
Total	259	159	142	119	73	17	11	57	837

Note: Excludes 2 cases categorised as 'Other Commonwealth'

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C20: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
2015–16	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	5
2016–17	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	7
2017–18	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Total	29	8	22	51	18	2	0	37	167

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C21: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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	5	2	1	0	0	0	17
2015–16	6	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	14
2016–17	3	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	8
2017–18	4	2	3	3	1	0	1	0	14
Total	228	149	117	68	55	14	11	20	662

Note: Excludes 2 cases categorised as ‘Other Commonwealth’

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C22: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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
2016–17	10	7	17
2017–18	17	4	21
Total	403	436	839

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C23: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
2011–12	2	29	31
2012–13	4	13	17
2013–14	1	11	12
2014–15	4	17	21
2015–16	5	14	19
2016–17	7	8	15
2017–18	3	14	17
Total	167	664	831

Note: Excludes 8 cases where Indigenous status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C24: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by gender, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
2012–13	16	1	17
2013–14	13	0	13
2014–15	17	4	21
2015–16	19	1	20
2016–17	16	1	17
2017–18	16	5	21
Total	777	62	839

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C25: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
2013–14	0	4	7	2	13
2014–15	5	6	7	3	21
2015–16	4	6	8	2	20
2016–17	4	7	5	1	17
2017–18	4	7	8	2	21
Total	236	352	192	58	838

Note: Excludes one case where age was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C26: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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	37
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
2012–13	2	0	0	6	4	1	3	16
2013–14	1	0	1	4	6	0	1	13
2014–15	3	0	1	5	11	0	1	21
2015–16	4	0	1	6	6	0	3	20
2016–17	3	1	0	5	5	1	2	17
2017–18	1	0	1	3	8	0	2	15
Total	89	55	69	268	245	57	47	830

Note: Excludes 9 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C27: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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	3	1	10	4	0	21
2015–16	4	4	0	5	3	4	20
2016–17	3	4	0	4	4	2	17
2017–18	1	0	1	8	3	2	15
Total	90	251	17	134	313	16	821

Note: Excludes 8 cases classified as excusable homicide and 10 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 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C28: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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	2	1	0	6	8	26
2007–08	9	4	1	2	7	10	33
2008–09	10	3	0	5	12	4	34
2009–10	7	2	1	3	7	6	26
2010–11	9	3	0	2	7	1	22
2011–12	13	2	0	3	8	5	31
2012–13	7	2	0	1	1	3	14
2013–14	4	2	0	0	3	3	12
2014–15	13	1	2	2	2	1	21
2015–16	11	0	0	3	4	2	20
2016–17	6	2	0	2	2	4	16
2017–18	9	1	1	5	0	4	20
Total	279	162	23	125	124	101	814

Note: Excludes 25 cases where MSO was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C29: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by location of death, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Psychiatric hospital	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
1989–90	11	5	6	0	1	6	0	29
1990–91	6	4	7	0	5	4	0	26
1991–92	5	3	11	0	3	3	0	25
1992–93	3	2	13	0	3	15	2	38
1993–94	2	2	8	0	5	13	1	31
1994–95	2	2	7	0	5	14	0	30
1995–96	3	0	11	0	7	8	2	31
1996–97	2	2	12	0	4	12	2	34
1997–98	6	1	7	0	3	10	1	28
1998–99	3	2	10	0	2	3	1	21
1999– 2000	1	1	8	0	9	17	0	36
2000–01	5	0	8	0	3	18	0	34
2001–02	2	2	9	0	5	23	0	41
2002–03	2	2	7	0	4	24	1	40
2003–04	4	0	3	0	8	27	0	42
2004–05	1	3	7	0	6	18	1	36
2005–06	2	1	5	0	4	12	0	24
2006–07	2	1	7	0	5	14	1	30
2007–08	1	0	18	0	4	11	0	34
2008–09	2	0	8	0	7	19	1	37
2009–10	3	1	9	0	5	8	1	27
2010–11	1	0	3	0	8	13	0	25
2011–12	1	1	6	0	8	15	0	31
2012–13	1	0	2	0	2	12	0	17
2013–14	0	0	1	0	5	6	1	13
2014–15	3	0	4	0	6	7	1	21
2015–16	0	1	6	0	8	4	1	20
2016–17	1	0	4	0	5	7	0	17
2017–18	3	0	6	1	4	6	1	21
Total	78	36	213	1	144	349	18	839

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C30: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by type of custody, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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	13
2014–15	4	0	17	0	21
2015–16	4	0	14	2	20
2016–17	4	0	13	0	17
2017–18	4	0	17	0	21
Total	187	5	619	28	839

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C31: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment ^a , 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)						
	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Shooting/	Other/ unknown
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
2010–11	7	2	5	5	3	22
2011–12	8	1	6	5	3	23
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	7	14
2016–17	4	1	1	1	6	13
2017–18	2	1	1	0	13	17
Total	234	55	98	40	192	619

a: Includes detainment-related deaths only
Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C32: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by Indigenous status and gender ^a , 1989–90 to 2017–18 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total ^b		
	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	0	2	2	0	2
1992–93	2	0	2	7	1	8	9	1	10
1993–94	0	0	0	4	1	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
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
2016–17	2	0	2	2	0	2	4	0	4
2017–18	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
Total	44	8	52	173	8	181	217	17	234

a: Includes motor vehicle pursuit deaths only

b: Includes one case where Indigenous status was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

Table C33: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2017–18 (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
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
2016–17	1	4	0	5
2017–18	0	8	0	8
Total	104	139	1	244

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

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2018 [computer file]

All deaths in custody, 1979–80 to 2017–18

Table C34: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (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
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

Table C34: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2017–18 (n)					
	Police ^a	Prison	Youth justice	Other	Total
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
2016–17	17	74	0	0	91
2017–18	21	72	0	0	93
Total	1,042	1,829	18	5	2,894

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. For more detail, see Introduction
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2018 [computer file]

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