



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of Criminology**

# **Deaths in Custody in Australia: National Deaths in Custody Program Annual Report 2004**

**Jacqueline Joudo  
Marissa Veld**

**Technical and Background Paper**

**No. 19**



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**Australian Institute of Criminology**

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ISSN 1445-7261  
ISBN 0 642 53895 6

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Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology  
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Edited and typeset by Australian Institute of Criminology

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## From the Director

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

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

The current report contains detailed information on deaths in both prison and police custody and custody-related operations since the program commenced. This report also presents, for the first time, data specifically relating to deaths occurring during police pursuits and shooting deaths in police custody. The report found that in 2004 there were 39 deaths in prison custody and 28 in police custody and custody-related operations. In total 14 deaths were of Indigenous persons and 15 deaths resulted from hanging. One of the hanging deaths was of an Indigenous person. Eight deaths occurred during vehicle pursuits and another 6 deaths resulted from police shootings. All of the police shootings were assessed on review as justifiable homicide and all involved persons who had committed violent offences immediately prior to the shooting. The total number of deaths in custody is the lowest recorded since 1992.

Toni Makkai  
Director  
Australian Institute of Criminology

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## Acknowledgments

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

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

## Abbreviations

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

## Disclaimer

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## Key findings

### 2004 results

The current report presents information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories for the 2004 calendar year. The report provides comparisons by jurisdiction and Indigenous status.

Key findings were that:

- Sixty-seven deaths occurred in custody in 2004 (39 in prison custody and 28 in police custody and custody-related operations).
- Fourteen deaths were of Indigenous persons (7 in each of prison and police custody).
- There were 14 hanging deaths (one Indigenous) in prison and 1 hanging death (non-Indigenous) in police custody.
- Eight deaths occurred during motor vehicle pursuits (2 Indigenous) and six deaths resulted from police shootings (all non-Indigenous).
- Violent offences were the most common offence committed immediately prior to the final period of custody in both prison and police custody and custody-related operations.

### Long term trends

The current report also presents information on deaths in custody in Australian states and territories between 1980 and 2004 for prison custody and between 1990 and 2004 for police custody and custody-related operations.

#### *Prison deaths: 1980–2004*

- A total of 1,095 deaths have been recorded in prison custody since 1980.
- Non-Indigenous deaths have consistently outnumbered Indigenous deaths each year.
- Despite some fluctuations in rates of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths since 1982, the rates of death for both have become more similar since 1999 and both have begun to trend downward since 1999.
- Hanging and natural causes have generally been the most common causes of death over this period.

#### *Police deaths: 1990–2004*

- The numbers of deaths in police custody and custody-related operations have remained relatively constant between 1990 and 2004.
- Non-Indigenous deaths have been consistently greater than Indigenous deaths each year.
- The numbers of deaths each year from hanging have fluctuated between zero and six.
- The most common cause of death since 2000 has been external/multiple trauma.
- Accidents have generally been the most common manner of death each year.
- There have been 127 deaths during motor vehicle pursuits recorded between 1990 and 2004.



## Introduction

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## Background and function of NDICP

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

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

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

In response, the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive 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 25 years.

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

The final report of the RCIADIC outlined the types of deaths that would require notification to the NDICP (Recommendation 41, RCIADIC 1991: 190). They are:

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

## Definitions

### Box 1: Definitions of deaths in custody

#### *Death in prison custody*

Deaths in prison custody include those deaths that occur in prison or juvenile detention facilities. This also includes the deaths that occur during transfer to or from prison or juvenile detention centres, or in medical facilities following transfer from adult and juvenile detention centres (RCIADIC 1991: 189–90).

#### *Death in police custody*

Deaths in police custody are divided into two main categories<sup>1</sup>:

##### **Category 1**

- (a) Deaths in institutional settings (for example, police stations or lockups, police vehicles, during transfer to or from such an institution, or in hospitals, following transfer from an institution).
- (b) Other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased. This would include most raids and shootings by police. However, it would not include most sieges where a perimeter was established around a premise but officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour.

##### **Category 2**

Other deaths during custody-related police operations. This would cover situations where officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour. It would include most sieges, as described above and most cases where officers were attempting to detain a person, for example, during a pursuit.

## Methodology

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

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

NDICP data collection forms allow information to be recorded on approximately 60 variables relating to the circumstances and characteristics of each death. Australian state and territory police and correction authorities provide completed data collection reports, and all relevant information is then extracted and entered into the NDICP database.

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

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Coronial data used in the NDICP data collection process (including coronial rulings and findings, and toxicology and pathology reports) are accessed through the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) for most jurisdictions. NCIS was formerly managed by Monash University's National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI) and is currently based at and managed by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). After submitting an ethics application to MUNCCI in order to obtain access to the NCIS for the NDICP the AIC was granted access in July 2001 on a fee for service basis. In certain jurisdictions data will no longer be available from coroners on an individual basis. As Queensland does not presently provide the findings of coronial inquests to the NCIS, coronial data is obtained by liaising directly with the contact in that area upon completion of the inquest on a case-by-case basis.

### Current NDICP dataset

The current data set of the NDICP covers a 25-year period, from 1980 to 2004. The data set contains details relating to 1,766 individual custodial deaths that include:

- 655 deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations;
- 1,095 deaths in prison custody; and
- 16 juvenile detention and juvenile welfare deaths.

The majority of deaths recorded in the NDICP are of non-Indigenous persons (n=1,425), with Indigenous persons accounting for approximately 19 per cent of all custodial deaths (n=341).

### *New variables added to data set*

Six new variables were added to the database in recent years. These new variables relate to:

- Prevalence of mental illness
- Type of mental illness
- Hanging points
- Materials used for hanging
- Top speed in motor vehicle pursuits
- Length in time of motor vehicle pursuits

Thus far, the first four variables have been added **only** for deaths that occurred between 1996 and 2004. Data on top speed and length of time of motor vehicle pursuits have been added for deaths since 1990.

### Borderline cases

The NDICP uses the definition of a death in custody as recommended by the RCIADIC as a guide as to which cases should or should not be included in the NDICP database. While most of the cases are straightforward and fall within the definition, every year there are some cases where it is unclear whether the death should be classified as a death in custody. During 2001 the NDICP Review Committee was formed as an internal review body to examine those cases where such uncertainty exists. During 2003, a decision was made by the Review Committee to exclude all the borderline cases from analysis pending their coronial outcome.

This decision may result in a delay of up to several years regarding those particular borderline cases, as they may not be heard in their jurisdiction's Coroner's Court for months or years. Despite this



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drawback, it is felt that the decision will benefit the integrity and reliability of the NDICP over the longer term as the coronial decision will be an experienced legal determination based on all evidence available. It is hoped that this method will also provide a measure of consistency between jurisdictions, and lend authority to the decision resulting in less divergence of opinion between the jurisdictions and the NDICP<sup>2</sup>.

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

For the purposes of the NDICP a person is considered to be in custody when they are not free to leave the detention or arrest of police or corrections officials. As outlined in Box 2, this includes deaths that occur in a hospital if the injuries or illness suffered while in custody caused or contributed to that death. In cases where police were clearly in the process of detaining or attempting to detain a person immediately prior to death, such as shootings, sieges, raids and pursuits, the person is considered to have been in custody at the time of death.

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

## **Box 2: Borderline cases**

### *Examples of borderline cases*

Police engage in a pursuit after observing a car that has been reported as stolen. The police attempt to make the driver pull over, however the driver speeds away from police. When speeds reach dangerous levels police call off the pursuit. The police are still following behind the stolen vehicle and it is still in sight when the driver loses control and is fatally injured in the resulting car accident.

Police pursue a driver who is behaving erratically and driving in a dangerous manner. The police want to question the individual and will arrest the driver if he/she is intoxicated. The police pursue the car in an attempt to make the driver pull over, the driver speeds away from police and the pursuit continues. The police lose sight of the vehicle temporarily. A short time later the police come across the vehicle that has veered off the road and into a power pole, to find the driver dead at the scene.

Seven cases were considered to be borderline in 2004. Six of the borderline deaths occurred in police custody and custody-related police operations and one death was in prison custody. All seven borderline cases are excluded from the information presented in this report as a decision regarding their inclusion or exclusion from the NDICP database has been deferred pending future determinations by a coroner in each case.

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2 It is important to note that this may affect the total overall numbers slightly for 2004 figures – causing a slight decline in the total figure. However this situation will correct itself over time as cases go to a coronial inquiry, and where appropriate the case will be retrospectively included in the database, adjusting the total figure for a particular year with each subsequent annual report.

### Cases added to NDICP since last annual report

Overall, a further ten cases have been added retrospectively to the NDICP since the 2003 annual report due to coronial inquiry outcomes (Table 1). Of these cases, only one involves an Indigenous person. An additional six deaths in custody were determined to have occurred in 2003 based on coronial outcomes and were added to the dataset accordingly.

**Table 1: Deaths added to the NDICP in 2004**

Year	Custodial Authority	State	Indigenous Status	Cause of death
1993	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	Queensland	Non-Indigenous	Alcohol
1994	Police	Queensland	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
2002	Police	New South Wales	Indigenous	Police pursuit
2003	Police	Queensland	Non-Indigenous	Gunshot
	Police	Australian Capital Territory	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Police pursuit
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Stabbing
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Natural causes
	Police	New South Wales	Non-Indigenous	Jump/fall

#### *Methodological Note*

Where rates are presented in this report, they have been calculated using the annual Prisoners in Australia results of the National Prisoner Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005). The 2004 National Prisoner Census counts all prisoners who were in legal custody in each jurisdiction as at midnight, 30 June 2004.

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

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

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

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## All custodial deaths

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

### 2004 findings

Sixty-seven deaths occurred in police and prison custody in Australia in 2004. Thirty-nine of the 67 deaths occurred in prison custody (see Table 2).

There were 14 Indigenous deaths, half occurring in prison custody and half in police custody or custody-related operations. There were no deaths recorded in juvenile detention in Australia during 2004.

**Table 2: All custodial deaths by custodial authority and jurisdiction, 2004**

	Police		Prison		Total		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All persons
NSW	1	7	2	12	3	19	22
Vic	0	4	0	4	0	8	8
Qld	2	5	2	5	4	10	14
WA	1	2	2	6	3	8	11
SA	0	2	0	4	0	6	6
Tas	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
NT	2	0	1	0	3	0	3
ACT	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>67</b>

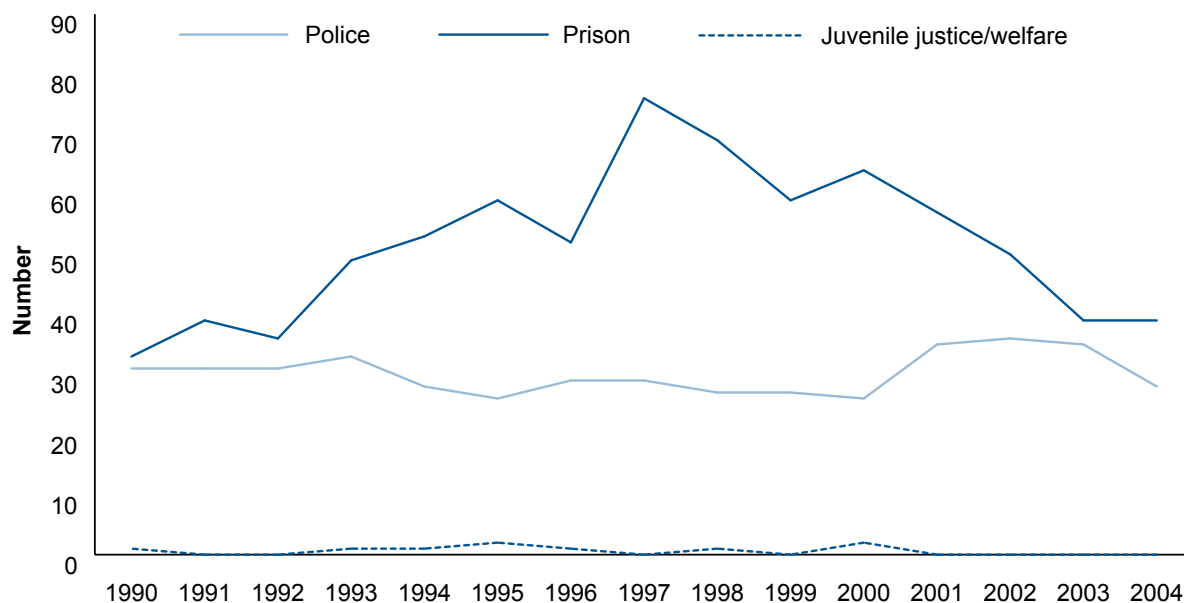
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

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

**Figure 1: Trends in deaths by custodial authority, 1990–2004**



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table 3: All custodial deaths by custodial authority and year, 1990–2004**

	Police	Prison	Juvenile justice/welfare	Total
1990	31	33	1	65
1991	31	39	0	70
1992	31	36	0	67
1993	33	49	1	83
1994	28	53	1	82
1995	26	59	2	87
1996	29	52	1	82
1997	29	76	0	105
1998	27	69	1	97
1999	27	59	0	86
2000	26	62	2	90
2001	35	57	0	92
2002	36	50	0	86
2003	35	39	0	74
2004	28	39	0	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,233</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Deaths in prison custody

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## Deaths in prison custody

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

### 2004 findings

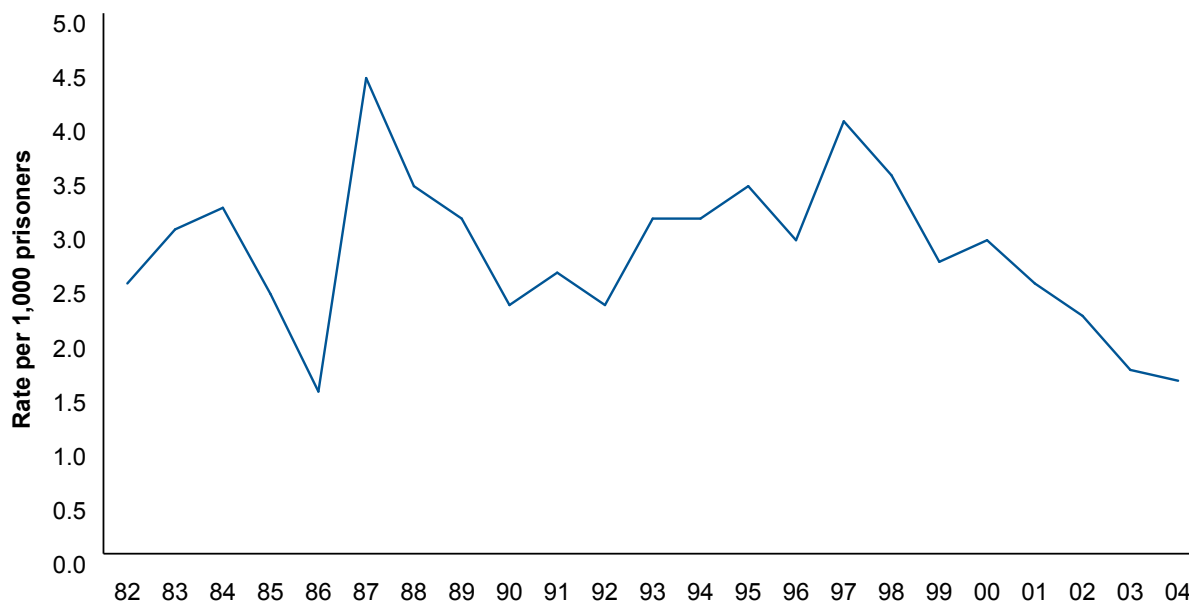
A total of 39 deaths occurred in prison custody in Australia in 2004. This figure is the same as that for 2003<sup>1</sup>. Across the jurisdictions:

- New South Wales recorded 14 deaths;
- Western Australia recorded eight deaths;
- Queensland recorded seven deaths;
- four deaths were recorded in both South Australia and Victoria;
- one death was recorded in both Tasmania and the Northern Territory; and
- no deaths were recorded in the ACT.

### Trends in deaths

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

**Figure 2: Prison deaths by year, 1982–2004\***



\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

1 Note this figure may be adjusted upward pending coronial outcomes.

## Indigenous status

### 2004 findings

In 2004, there were seven deaths in prison custody of Indigenous persons (Table 4) and 32 non-Indigenous deaths.

### Comparisons with the overall prison population

There were 24,171 prisoners in Australia in 2004 and, of these, 21 per cent (n=5,048) were Indigenous (ABS 2005). Based on these ABS prison population data Table 4 shows that across Australia:

- the rate of Indigenous deaths in prison custody was 1.4 per 1,000 Indigenous prisoners; and
- the rate of non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody was 1.7 per 1,000 non-Indigenous prisoners.

**Table 4: Prison custody deaths by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2004\***

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	2	1.3	12	1.6	14	1.5
Vic	0	–	4	1.2	4	1.1
Qld	2	1.7	5	1.2	7	1.3
WA	2	1.6	6	3.1	8	2.5
SA	0	–	4	3.2	4	2.7
Tas	0	–	1	2.6	1	2.2
NT	1	1.8	0	–	1	1.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

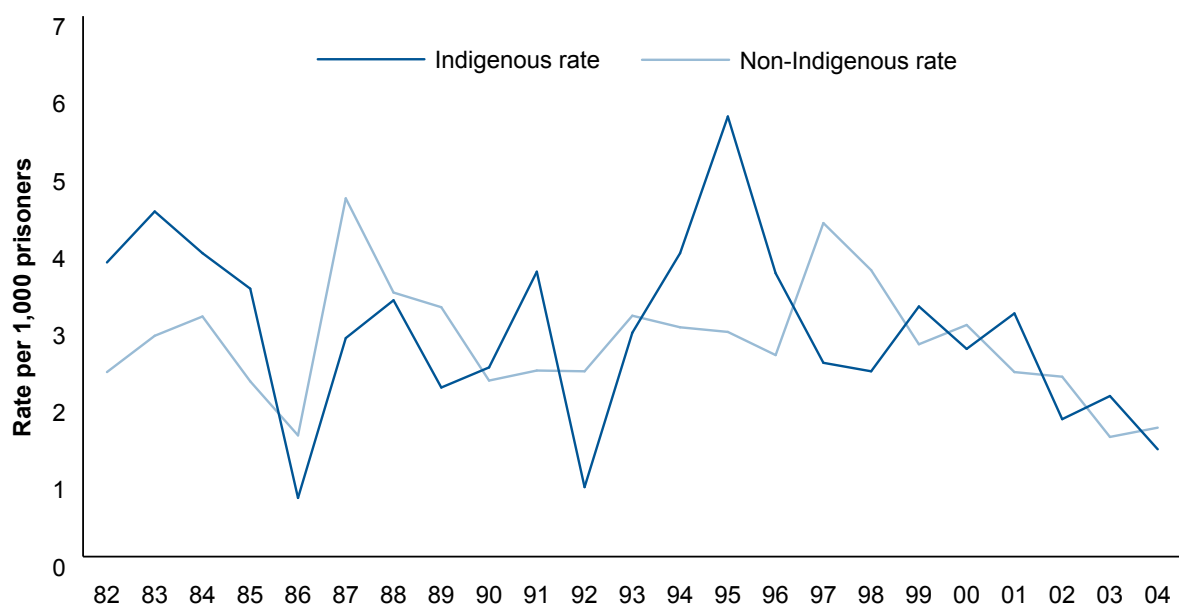
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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



**Figure 3: Prison custody deaths by Indigenous status, 1982–2004\***



\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

**Table 5: Deaths by Indigenous status, 1980–2004**

Year of death	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1980	5	25	30
1981	1	27	28
1982	4	21	25
1983	5	26	31
1984	4	27	31
1985	4	22	26
1986	1	16	17
1987	5	48	53
1988	6	36	42
1989	4	36	40
1990	5	28	33
1991	8	31	39
1992	2	34	36
1993	7	42	49
1994	11	42	53
1995	18	41	59
1996	12	40	52
1997	9	67	76
1998	10	59	69
1999	13	46	59
2000	11	51	62
2001	14	43	57
2002	8	42	50
2003	10	29	39
2004	7	32	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Legal status of prisoner deaths in custody

### 2004 findings

At 30 June 2004 (ABS 2005) almost 80 per cent of all prisoners across Australia were serving a sentence (n=19,236), while the remainder (n=4,935) were unsentenced prisoners on remand. Table 6 shows that of the 39 deaths which occurred in 2004:

- twenty-four were sentenced prisoners, while 15 were unsentenced prisoners;
- two Indigenous and 13 non-Indigenous deaths were of unsentenced prisoners; and
- the rate of deaths of unsentenced prisoners was higher (3 deaths per 1,000 relevant prisoners) than the rate of deaths for sentenced prisoners (1.2 deaths per 1,000 prisoners).

**Table 6: Prison custody deaths by legal status and jurisdiction, 2004\***

	Sentenced		Unsentenced		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	8	1.1	6	3.2	14	1.5
Vic	3	1.0	1	1.6	4	1.1
Qld	6	1.5	1	0.9	7	1.3
WA	6	2.2	2	4.0	8	2.5
SA	0	0.0	4	7.8	4	2.7
Tas	1	2.6	0	0.0	1	2.2
NT	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	1.4
ACT	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.6</b>

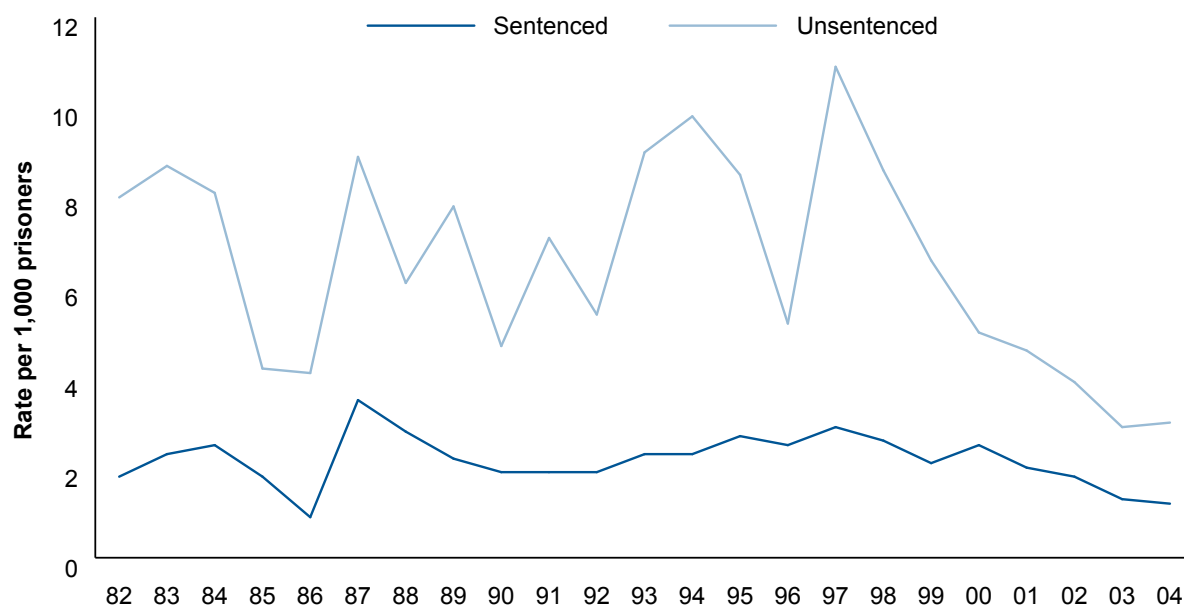
\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

**Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1982–2004\***



\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

**Table 7: Prison custody deaths by legal status, 1980–2004**

Year of death	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total n
1980	22	7	29
1981	21	7	28
1982	16	8	24
1983	21	10	31
1984	21	9	30
1985	17	6	23
1986	9	6	15
1987	37	14	51
1988	30	10	40
1989	25	13	38
1990	23	9	32
1991	25	14	39
1992	26	10	36
1993	32	17	49
1994	34	19	53
1995	42	17	59
1996	40	12	52
1997	48	28	76
1998	45	24	69
1999	38	21	59
2000	43	19	62
2001	37	20	57
2002	33	17	50
2003	25	14	39
2004	24	15	39
<b>Total*</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1,080</b>

\* Note: Fifteen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

### *2004 findings*

In 2004 37 males and two females died in prison custody, resulting in rates of 1.6 and 1.2 deaths per 1,000 prison population respectively (Table 8).

**Table 8: Prison custody deaths by sex and jurisdiction, 2004\***

	Male		Female		Persons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	12	1.4	2	3.0	14	1.5
Vic	4	1.2	0	0.0	4	1.1
Qld	7	1.4	0	0.0	7	1.3
WA	8	2.8	0	0.0	8	2.5
SA	4	2.9	0	0.0	4	2.7
Tas	1	2.4	0	0.0	1	2.2
NT	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.4
ACT	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

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

**Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by sex, 1982–2004\***



\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

**Table 9: Prison custody deaths by sex, 1980–2004**

	Male	Female	Total
1980	30	0	30
1981	28	0	28
1982	21	4	25
1983	29	2	31
1984	31	0	31
1985	24	2	26
1986	16	1	17
1987	51	2	53
1988	41	1	42
1989	38	2	40
1990	32	1	33
1991	37	2	39
1992	36	0	36
1993	48	1	49
1994	48	5	53
1995	58	1	59
1996	51	1	52
1997	74	2	76
1998	65	4	69
1999	56	3	59
2000	60	2	62
2001	55	2	57
2002	45	5	50
2003	37	2	39
2004	37	2	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Age

### *2004 findings*

The average age for all prisoners in Australia as at 30 June 2004 was 34.2 years (ABS 2005). The mean age at time of death for prisoner deaths in custody was 37 years. Most deaths occurred of persons aged between 25 and 39 years (Table 10), which is consistent with the findings from previous years.

**Table 10: Prison deaths by age category and jurisdiction, 2004**

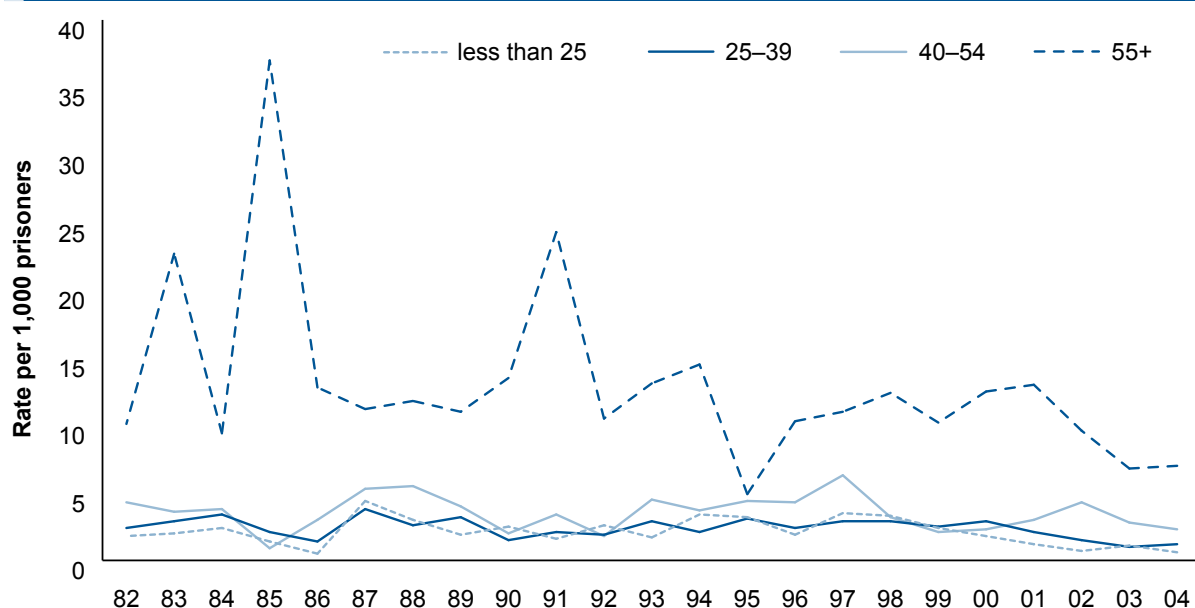
	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	2	6	4	2	14
Vic	0	1	2	1	4
Qld	0	3	2	2	7
WA	1	2	2	3	8
SA	0	3	1	0	4
Tas	0	0	0	1	1
NT	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

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

**Figure 6: Deaths in prison custody by age group, 1982–2004\***



\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

**Table 11: Number of prison deaths by age category, 1980–2004**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
1980	8	11	8	3	30
1981	6	11	9	2	28
1982	7	11	5	2	25
1983	8	14	4	5	31
1984	9	16	4	2	31
1985	6	11	1	8	26
1986	2	8	4	3	17
1987	19	23	8	3	53
1988	13	16	9	4	42
1989	8	21	7	4	40
1990	12	11	4	6	33
1991	8	16	7	8	39
1992	13	15	4	4	36
1993	8	24	11	6	49
1994	17	18	10	8	53
1995	16	27	13	3	59
1996	10	22	13	7	52
1997	19	28	21	8	76
1998	18	30	11	10	69
1999	14	28	8	9	59
2000	10	32	8	12	62
2001	7	25	12	13	57
2002	4	18	18	10	50
2003	6	12	13	8	39
2004	3	16	11	9	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Circumstances surrounding the deaths

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

## Cause of death

### 2004 findings

Natural causes and hanging were the most common causes of death in prison custody in 2004 (Table 12). Nineteen deaths in 2004 were due to natural causes, followed by 14 deaths due to hanging. Four Indigenous deaths were due to natural causes and one death was the result of hanging.



**Table 12: Prison deaths by cause of death, 2004**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Total
NSW	7	4	1	0	1	13
Vic	0	3	0	1	0	4
Qld	2	4	0	0	0	6
WA	2	5	0	0	0	7
SA	3	1	0	0	0	4
Tas	0	1	0	0	0	1
NT	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>All persons*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>

\* Excludes three cases for which cause of death is undetermined.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

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

**Table 13: Prison deaths by cause of death, 1980–2004**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
1980	7	16	2	0	3	1	0	29
1981	13	6	0	1	5	2	0	27
1982	6	10	0	1	1	2	3	23
1983	15	6	0	0	2	7	1	31
1984	13	9	0	1	5	2	1	31
1985	10	12	0	0	2	2	0	26
1986	6	8	1	0	1	1	0	17
1987	22	14	0	0	8	8	0	52
1988	17	13	1	0	2	4	2	39
1989	21	12	0	1	2	4	0	40
1990	17	11	0	0	4	0	1	33
1991	14	15	3	0	2	3	2	39
1992	17	7	0	2	4	5	1	36
1993	21	19	1	0	1	6	1	49
1994	22	16	0	0	6	8	1	53
1995	26	17	0	0	7	8	1	59
1996	21	20	2	0	4	5	0	52
1997	31	26	0	0	9	10	0	76
1998	34	16	0	0	8	11	0	69
1999	25	16	0	0	7	11	0	59
2000	29	20	2	0	3	7	0	61
2001	25	29	0	0	1	1	1	57
2002	14	26	0	1	4	2	1	48
2003	18	17	0	0	3	0	1	39
2004	14	19	1	0	1	1	0	36
<b>Total*</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,081</b>

\* Note: Fourteen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Hanging points and materials

### 2004 deaths

Of the 14 hanging deaths in prison custody last year:

- bedding materials or blankets were the most common objects used (n=8); and
- the most common hanging points were cell bars (n=7) followed by fittings in the cell other than the bars, such as light fittings, ventilation grilles or door handles and the bed.

### Trends in deaths

Of the 211 hanging deaths in prison custody since 1996:

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

**Table 14: Prison deaths by hanging point used, 1996–2004**

	Cell bars	Shower fixture	Other cell fitting	Fitting outside cell	Bed bunk	Other	Total
1996	5	0	8	3	1	0	17
1997	8	6	13	0	3	1	31
1998	7	5	15	0	3	0	30
1999	12	1	8	1	2	0	24
2000	8	2	8	0	6	0	24
2001	9	6	3	2	3	1	24
2002	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
2003	8	0	9	0	0	0	17
2004	7	0	3	0	3	0	13
<b>Total*</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>194</b>

\* Note: Seventeen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1996–2004 [computer file]

**Table 15: Prison deaths by material used to hang with, 1996–2004**

	Sheets	Shoelaces	Belt	Other clothing	Rope/cord	Other	Total
1996	10	3	1	2	2	0	18
1997	16	5	0	2	6	1	30
1998	21	1	1	1	1	1	26
1999	9	7	0	2	3	2	23
2000	17	3	0	3	4	0	27
2001	14	1	0	2	1	4	22
2002	11	0	0	1	0	1	13
2003	8	5	0	2	0	2	17
2004	8	0	0	1	1	1	11
<b>Total*</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>187</b>

\* Note: Twenty-four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1996–2004 [computer file]

## Manner of death

When the manner of death is classified as an accident, this includes deaths that result from toxicity of drugs and/or alcohol, head injuries, burn injuries, drowning, and fatal injuries following a motor vehicle accident. It also includes hangings where the coroner has found the incident to be accidental. It is important to note that some alcohol and drug-related deaths are classified as accidental deaths unless the coroner has clearly stated that the death was intentional and therefore self-inflicted. Self-inflicted cases include all deaths where the manner or responsibility of death is considered self-inflicted rather than accidental. For example, most hangings and self-inflicted gunshot wounds would be classified as self-inflicted. Justifiable homicide refers to homicides which occur under circumstances authorised by law, for example, a prison officer acting in self defence.

### 2004 findings

The most common manner of death in 2004 was natural causes (Table 16).

- four Indigenous and 16 non-Indigenous deaths were attributed to natural causes; and
- one Indigenous death was deemed to be the result of an accident and one non-Indigenous death was classed as the result of an unlawful homicide.

**Table 16: Prison deaths by manner of death, 2004**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Total
NSW	7	5	1	0	13
Vic	1	3	0	0	4
Qld	2	4	0	0	6
WA	2	5	0	1	8
SA	3	1	0	0	4
Tas	0	1	0	0	1
NT	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>All persons*</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>

\* Excludes two cases for which manner of death is undetermined.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 17: Prison deaths by manner of death, 1980–2004**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
1980	10	17	0	0	1	1	29
1981	15	7	0	0	0	6	28
1982	8	10	0	0	5	2	25
1983	17	9	0	0	3	2	31
1984	17	9	0	0	1	4	31
1985	11	12	0	0	2	1	26
1986	7	8	0	0	1	1	17
1987	23	14	0	0	11	4	52
1988	18	13	0	0	6	3	40
1989	22	12	0	0	4	2	40
1990	17	11	0	0	2	3	33
1991	16	15	0	0	5	3	39
1992	20	7	2	2	5	0	36
1993	23	19	0	1	6	0	49
1994	22	16	0	7	7	1	53
1995	27	17	0	5	9	0	58
1996	23	20	0	5	4	0	52
1997	35	26	0	6	8	1	76
1998	35	16	0	8	9	1	69
1999	28	16	0	5	10	0	59
2000	30	20	1	3	7	0	61
2001	27	29	0	0	1	0	57
2002	18	25	1	3	2	0	49
2003	20	17	0	2	0	0	39
2004	15	20	0	1	1	0	37
<b>Total*</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,086</b>

\* Note: Nine cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

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

- **violent offence** includes homicide, assault, sex offences, other offences against the person, and robbery;
- **theft-related offence** includes break and enter, other theft, property damage and fraud;
- **drug-related offence** includes possess, use, deal, traffic, manufacture/grow drugs;
- **traffic offence** includes road traffic, driving and license offences;

- **good order offence** includes public drunkenness, protective custody for intoxication in jurisdictions where public drunkenness is not an offence, justice procedure offences, breaches of sentences (including fine default) and other offences against good order (for example, prostitution, betting and gambling, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, offensive behaviour); and
- **other/unknown** includes other offences not elsewhere classified or where the most serious offence is unknown.

### 2004 findings

The majority of Australian prisoners in 2004 were incarcerated for violent offences (ABS 2005). Of the 39 persons who died in prison custody in 2004, 29 had been incarcerated most recently for violent offences (Table 18). Most non-Indigenous (n=23) and Indigenous (n=6) persons who died in prison custody had been incarcerated for violent offences.

**Table 18: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 2004**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Theft related</b>	<b>Drug related</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	9	1	1	3	0	14
Vic	2	0	1	0	1	4
Qld	5	1	0	0	1	7
WA	8	0	0	0	0	8
SA	4	0	0	0	0	4
Tas	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

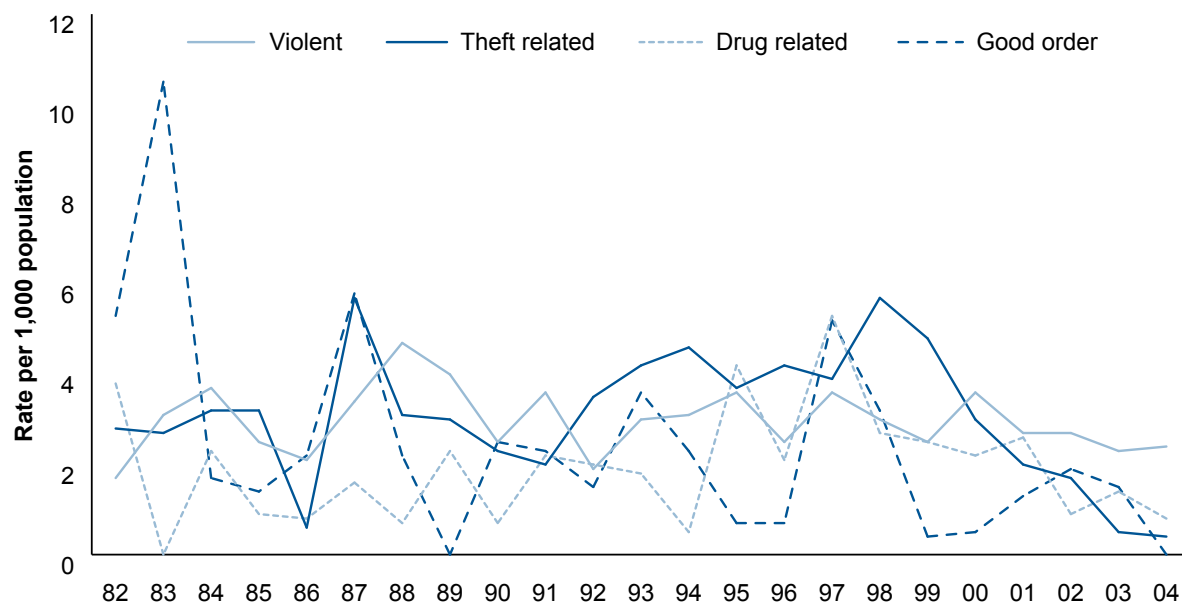
### Trends in deaths

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

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

The number of deaths which occurred where persons had been incarcerated for violent offences were generally higher than for other offence groups over the 25 year period being reviewed (Table 19).

**Figure 7: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1982–2004\***



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

\* Rate per 1,000 prisoners per offence (ABS 2005).

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1982–2004 [computer file]

**Table 19: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1980–2004**

	Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
1980	10	6	4	2	5	2	29
1981	15	9	1	1	2	0	28
1982	7	9	3	1	3	1	24
1983	13	9	0	1	7	0	30
1984	15	10	2	2	1	0	30
1985	11	11	1	0	1	0	24
1986	10	2	1	1	2	0	16
1987	17	22	2	1	5	1	48
1988	24	12	1	1	2	1	41
1989	22	12	3	0	0	1	38
1990	15	10	1	0	3	4	33
1991	23	9	3	0	3	1	39
1992	13	16	3	0	2	2	36
1993	22	18	3	2	4	0	49
1994	25	21	1	1	3	2	53
1995	31	17	8	2	1	0	59
1996	22	20	4	2	1	3	52
1997	34	20	10	2	8	1	75
1998	29	28	5	1	6	0	69
1999	26	25	5	1	1	1	59
2000	37	15	5	2	1	2	62
2001	30	11	6	2	3	5	57
2002	31	9	2	2	4	2	50
2003	28	3	3	1	3	1	39
2004	29	2	2	3	0	3	39
<b>Total*</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,079</b>

\* Note: Sixteen cases excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Location of death

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

### 2004 findings

Seventeen of the total 39 deaths occurred in a prison cell, with a further 17 occurring in a public hospital (Table 20). Fourteen of the 17 cell deaths and 13 of the public hospital deaths were of non-Indigenous prisoners.



**Table 20: Prison deaths by location, 2004**

	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Total
NSW	5	4	5	14
Vic	2	0	2	4
Qld	3	1	3	7
WA	5	0	3	8
SA	0	0	4	4
Tas	1	0	0	1
NT	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>				
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>39</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

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

**Table 21: Prison deaths by location, 1980–2004**

	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Custodial setting	Public place	Other	Total
1980	12	0	11	0	0	0	23
1981	5	0	13	0	0	0	18
1982	8	0	6	0	0	0	14
1983	9	0	19	0	0	0	28
1984	9	0	16	0	0	0	25
1985	7	0	12	0	0	0	19
1986	8	0	6	0	0	0	14
1987	12	0	31	0	0	0	43
1988	12	0	19	0	0	0	31
1989	8	0	21	0	0	0	29
1990	5	0	26	0	0	0	31
1991	14	0	24	0	0	0	38
1992	11	3	19	2	1	0	36
1993	13	5	29	2	0	0	49
1994	7	8	36	2	0	0	53
1995	17	6	33	2	0	1	59
1996	15	2	25	8	1	1	52
1997	15	10	49	1	0	1	76
1998	9	6	45	9	0	0	69
1999	11	5	38	5	0	0	59
2000	19	2	39	2	0	0	62
2001	18	0	31	6	2	0	57
2002	18	4	23	5	0	0	50
2003	7	4	25	3	0	0	39
2004	17	5	17	0	0	0	39
<b>Total*</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,013</b>

\* Note: Eighty-two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Type of prison

### 2004 findings

In 2004, 33 of the 39 deaths in prison custody occurred while in the custody of government-run prisons although the rates of deaths in both private and government run prisons are similar (Table 22). The rate of deaths in privately run prisons was 1.4 per 1,000 relevant prisoners and the rate of deaths in government run prisons was 1.7.

**Table 22: Deaths by type of prison and jurisdiction, 2004\***

	Private		Government		All prisons	
	n	Rate	n	Rate	Total n	Rate
NSW	1	1.4	13	1.5	14	1.5
Vic	1	0.7	3	1.4	4	1.1
Qld	1	0.8	6	1.5	7	1.3
WA	3	4.1	5	2.0	8	2.5
SA	0	—	4	2.9	4	2.7
Tas	0	—	1	2.2	1	2.2
NT	0	—	1	1.4	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\* Rate per 1,000 relevant prisoners (ABS 2005).

Note: Tasmania and NT are included although no private prisons operate in those jurisdictions. No deaths occurred in the ACT in 2004.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

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

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

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

### 2004 findings

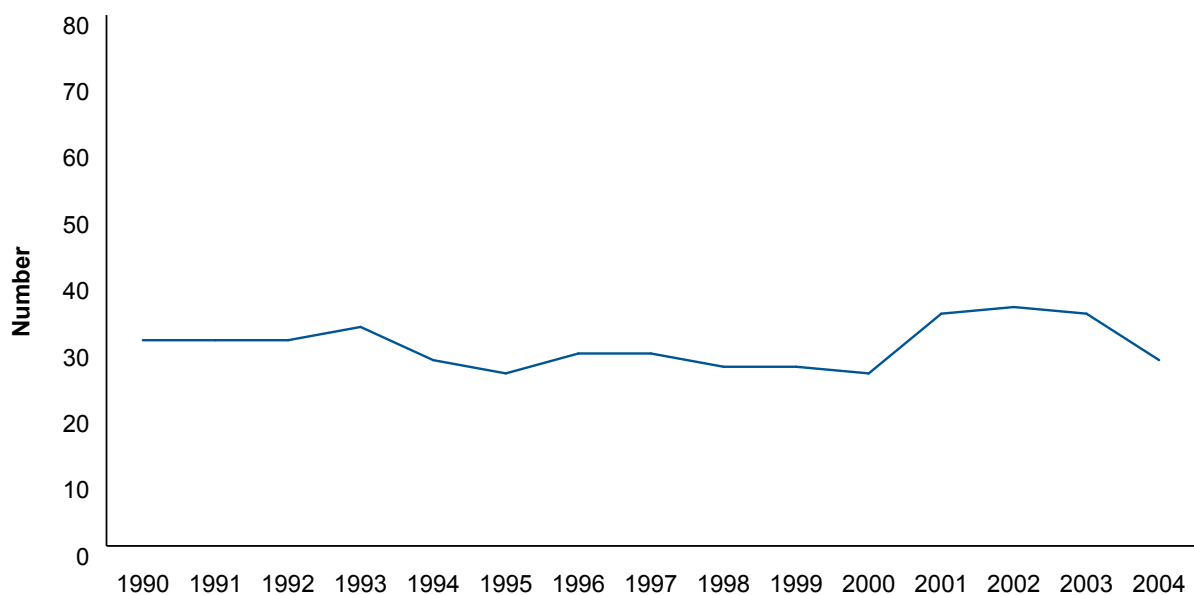
In 2004, a total of 28 deaths occurred in police custody and custody-related operations in Australia<sup>1</sup>. Across the states and territories:

- New South Wales recorded nine custodial deaths;
- Queensland recorded seven deaths;
- four deaths were recorded in Victoria and three in Western Australia;
- both South Australia and the Northern Territory recorded two deaths in police custody;
- one death was recorded in the Australian Capital Territory; and
- there were no deaths in police custody in Tasmania in 2004.

### Trends in deaths

Between 1990 and 2004 the numbers of deaths have remained stable (Figure 8). Rates of deaths in police custody and custody-related operations are not able to be calculated due to lack of data about the numbers of persons in general who come into police custody and custody-related operations on an annual basis.

**Figure 8: Deaths in police custody or custody-related operations by year, 1990–2004**



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

<sup>1</sup> Note this figure may be adjusted upward pending coronial outcomes.

## Category 1 and Category 2 deaths

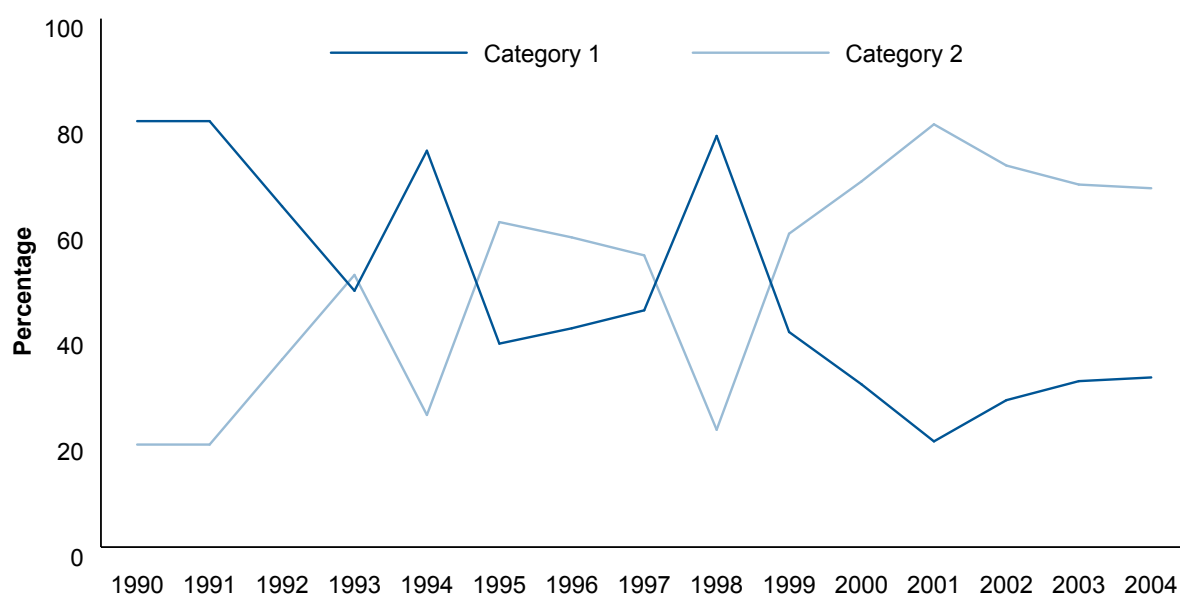
### 2004 findings

- During 2004, 19 of the 28 police deaths were classified as Category 2 deaths; that is, deaths in custody-related police operations such as deaths following sieges and motor vehicle pursuits; and
- the remaining nine deaths were Category 1 deaths, which occur during closer police contact with the victim, such as shootings, raids and deaths that occur in police stations (refer to Box 1 for definitions of Category 1 and Category 2 deaths).

### Trends in deaths

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

**Figure 9: Trends in deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1990–2004**



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Indigenous status

### 2004 findings

Across Australia there were seven Indigenous deaths and 21 non-Indigenous deaths in 2004 (Table 23).

**Table 23: Deaths in police custody by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	2	12.5	7	87.5	9
Vic	0	0.0	4	100.0	4
Qld	2	28.6	5	71.4	7
WA	1	33.3	2	66.7	3
SA	0	0.0	2	100.0	2
NT	2	100.0	0	0.0	2
ACT	0	0.0	1	100.0	1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 24: Deaths by Indigenous status, 1990–2004**

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	5	26	31
1991	5	26	31
1992	7	24	31
1993	3	30	33
1994	3	25	28
1995	4	22	26
1996	6	23	29
1997	6	23	29
1998	6	21	27
1999	6	21	27
2000	5	21	26
2001	4	31	35
2002	10	26	36
2003	7	28	35
2004	7	21	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

### 2004 findings

Twenty seven males and one female died in 2004.

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 25: Deaths in police custody by sex, 1990–2004**

	Male	Female	Total
1990	30	1	31
1991	27	4	31
1992	25	6	31
1993	30	3	33
1994	24	4	28
1995	25	1	26
1996	29	0	29
1997	26	3	29
1998	27	0	27
1999	24	3	27
2000	25	1	26
2001	34	1	35
2002	33	3	36
2003	32	3	35
2004	27	1	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

### 2004 findings

- The mean age at time of death was 32 years.
- Half of all deaths occurred in persons aged between 25 and 39 years (Table 26).

**Table 26: Deaths in police custody by age category and jurisdiction, 2004**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	Total
NSW	3	3	3	9
Vic	0	3	1	4
Qld	1	5	1	7
WA	2	0	1	3
SA	1	1	0	2
NT	1	1	0	2
ACT	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>				
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations have generally been more likely to involve persons aged 39 years or younger (Table 27). Deaths of persons aged 55 years and over have remained low in number, with no deaths in this age group occurring in 2004.

**Table 27: Deaths in police custody by age, 1990–2004**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
1990	8	15	5	3	31
1991	11	14	4	2	31
1992	8	6	12	5	31
1993	12	11	9	1	33
1994	7	15	5	1	28
1995	9	10	4	3	26
1996	11	9	7	2	29
1997	9	15	3	2	29
1998	6	15	5	1	27
1999	6	14	5	2	27
2000	9	13	4	0	26
2001	19	9	3	4	35
2002	13	15	6	2	36
2003	8	16	10	1	35
2004	8	14	6	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Circumstances surrounding the deaths

#### Cause of death

##### 2004 findings

Half of all deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations resulted from external and/or multiple trauma injuries (Table 28), followed by ten deaths due to gunshot wounds. Four Indigenous persons died of external and/or multiple trauma injuries and two Indigenous persons died of gunshot wounds. Only one death caused by hanging was recorded in 2004, and involved a non-Indigenous person.

**Table 28: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 2004**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Total
NSW	0	0	4	5	0	9
Vic	0	0	4	0	0	4
Qld	0	1	2	3	1	7
WA	0	0	0	3	0	3
SA	1	0	0	1	0	2
NT	0	1	0	1	0	2
ACT	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]



### Trends in deaths

- Since 1990 the majority of deaths each year in police custody and custody-related operations have been caused primarily by external or multiple traumas and gunshot wounds (Table 29);
- the numbers of deaths from hanging have fluctuated between zero and six each year; and
- deaths due to drug or alcohol toxicity have been extremely low to non-existent since 1999.

**Table 29: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 1990–2004**

	Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
1990	6	1	4	4	7	5	4	31
1991	6	7	4	9	2	3	0	31
1992	4	1	3	9	6	7	1	31
1993	4	3	4	9	6	3	4	33
1994	1	1	0	17	3	5	1	28
1995	1	2	2	10	9	1	1	26
1996	3	3	1	8	10	3	1	29
1997	1	2	2	11	10	3	0	29
1998	3	6	0	7	7	2	1	26
1999	3	3	1	9	9	1	1	27
2000	0	3	0	7	14	1	1	26
2001	0	1	2	5	22	1	2	33
2002	1	3	8	10	13	0	1	36
2003	5	5	3	7	12	0	2	34
2004	1	2	0	10	14	1	0	28
<b>Total*</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Hanging points and materials

### 2004 findings

There was only one hanging death in police custody in 2004. The hanging point used was a fitting outside the cell and shoelaces were used as the hanging material.

### Trends in deaths

For the 17 hanging deaths between 1996 and 2004, cell bars, other fittings inside the cell and fittings outside cells all accounted for four deaths each. Clothing was the most common material used to hang with (n=6) followed by rope or cord (n=4) and shoelaces (n=3).

## Manner of death

### 2004 findings

Most deaths in police custody were either accidental (n=11) or self-inflicted (n=9; see Table 30):

- four Indigenous deaths were accidental and two resulted from natural causes; and
- for non-Indigenous persons nine out of 21 deaths were self-inflicted, six were accidental and six resulted from a justifiable homicide.

**Table 30: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 2004**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Total
NSW	3	0	2	4	9
Vic	1	0	3	0	4
Qld	2	1	1	3	7
WA	1	0	0	2	3
SA	2	0	0	0	2
NT	0	1	0	1	2
ACT	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### *Trends in deaths*

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

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

**Table 31: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 1990–2004**

	Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Justifiable homicide	Unlawful homicide	Accident	Other	Total
1990	9	1	2	0	15	4	31
1991	9	7	1	0	10	4	31
1992	12	1	4	1	13	0	31
1993	12	4	3	0	11	3	33
1994	6	1	13	0	8	0	28
1995	8	2	5	0	11	0	26
1996	11	3	2	0	13	0	29
1997	8	2	6	0	13	0	29
1998	5	6	6	0	9	0	26
1999	7	3	6	0	10	1	27
2000	4	3	5	1	12	1	26
2001	8	1	3	0	21	0	33
2002	11	3	4	0	18	0	36
2003	13	5	3	0	13	0	34
2004	9	2	6	0	11	0	28
<b>Total*</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2004 findings

The most serious offences for which most non-Indigenous deceased persons had been detained immediately prior to the final period of custody were violent in nature (Table 32), as was the case with those who died in prison custody. The offences for which Indigenous persons had been detained immediately prior to their death in custody were fairly evenly spread across the offence categories.

**Table 32: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 2004**

	Violent	Theft related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	5	1	1	1	1	9
Vic	3	0	0	0	1	4
Qld	3	2	1	1	0	7
WA	0	1	1	0	1	3
SA	1	1	0	0	0	2
NT	0	0	1	0	1	2
ACT	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>						
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 33: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

	Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
1990	6	7	0	2	15	1	31
1991	9	5	0	1	13	3	31
1992	6	10	2	4	7	2	31
1993	9	10	1	4	5	4	33
1994	16	7	0	2	2	1	28
1995	10	9	0	4	2	1	26
1996	10	9	1	3	6	0	29
1997	9	10	0	1	7	2	29
1998	9	6	0	3	6	3	27
1999	12	8	2	2	2	1	27
2000	11	9	0	2	3	0	25
2001	5	11	0	8	4	6	34
2002	6	7	0	11	4	8	36
2003	11	6	1	8	4	3	33
2004	12	6	0	4	2	4	28
<b>Total*</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Location of death

### 2004 findings

Sixteen deaths out of 28 occurred in a public place, followed by seven deaths on private property (Table 34). Twelve non-Indigenous deaths and four Indigenous deaths occurred in public places.

**Table 34: Deaths in police custody by location of death, 2004**

	Public hospital	Cell	Private property	Public place	Total
NSW	2	0	2	5	9
Vic	0	0	1	3	4
Qld	1	1	4	1	7
WA	0	0	0	3	3
SA	1	0	0	1	2
NT	0	0	0	2	2
ACT	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>					
<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>All persons</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Since 1999 public places have been the most frequent location of deaths each year (Table 35):

- while cell deaths peaked in 1991 with 10 deaths, deaths in cells since then have been relatively few;
- the numbers of recorded public hospital deaths were lowest in 2003 and 2004; and
- the trend for deaths in custodial settings has remained relatively low over the years.

**Table 35: Deaths in police custody by location of death, 1990–2004**

	Public hospital	Cell	Custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
1990	9	5	2	1	0	0	17
1991	10	10	1	2	1	0	24
1992	10	3	3	3	11	1	31
1993	13	2	2	3	12	1	33
1994	5	3	2	7	10	1	28
1995	9	1	1	5	9	1	26
1996	7	4	2	4	11	1	29
1997	10	5	0	4	8	2	29
1998	11	4	2	3	5	2	27
1999	6	1	2	6	12	0	27
2000	7	2	0	4	13	0	26
2001	8	2	0	3	22	0	35
2002	10	0	1	6	19	0	36
2003	3	6	2	3	21	0	35
2004	4	1	0	7	16	0	28
<b>Total*</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>431</b>

\* Note: Twenty-one cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Circumstances of custodial period

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

### 2004 findings

Overall, 24 of the 28 deaths which occurred in police custody and custody-related operations in 2004 occurred while police were in the process of detaining, or attempting to detain, the individual:

- of these, 19 involved non-Indigenous persons and five involved Indigenous persons; and
- four of the 28 deaths occurred in police lock up, or during transfer to a police station or hospital.

### Trends in deaths

Table 36 presents the number of deaths by type of custody from 1990 to 2004:

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

**Table 36: Deaths in police custody by type of custody, 1990–2004**

	Institution	Escaping	Detaining	Other/marginal	Total
1990	18	0	13	0	31
1991	17	0	13	1	31
1992	13	0	18	0	31
1993	10	0	20	3	33
1994	7	0	21	0	28
1995	4	0	22	0	26
1996	9	0	20	0	29
1997	6	1	22	0	29
1998	11	0	14	2	27
1999	6	0	21	0	27
2000	2	0	24	0	26
2001	3	0	30	2	35
2002	5	1	29	1	36
2003	8	0	27	0	35
2004	4	0	24	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Motor vehicle pursuit deaths

### 2004 findings

Of the 24 deaths in police custody and custody-related operations where police were in the process of attempting to detain the individual, there were eight deaths which occurred during motor vehicle pursuits (Table 37).

**Table 37: Deaths in police custody by method of detainment, 2004**

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Shooting/other	Total n
NSW	2	2	1	4	9
Vic	0	0	1	3	4
Qld	1	0	2	1	4
WA	2	0	0	1	3
SA	1	0	0	0	1
Tas	0	0	0	0	0
NT	1	1	0	0	2
ACT	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>

\* Note: Four cases for which 'detaining' was not the type of custody have been excluded.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 38: Deaths in police custody by method of detainment, 1990–2004**

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raids	Other	Total
1990	5	1	0	0	4	10
1991	2	2	2	0	6	12
1992	5	2	1	0	8	16
1993	9	1	4	1	5	20
1994	4	1	3	0	13	21
1995	7	2	2	1	10	22
1996	11	0	1	1	7	20
1997	8	1	7	1	5	22
1998	5	1	2	0	6	14
1999	8	1	2	0	10	21
2000	13	2	1	7	1	24
2001	17	7	3	1	2	30
2002	15	2	4	0	8	29
2003	10	4	6	1	6	27
2004	8	3	4	0	9	24
<b>Total*</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>312</b>

\* Note: One-hundred and forty cases have been excluded due either to missing data or because the detain variable is not applicable for those cases.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Indigenous status

### 2004 findings

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

Table 39: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits by jurisdiction, 2004			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
NSW	0	2	2
Qld	0	1	1
WA	1	1	2
SA	0	1	1
NT	1	0	1
ACT	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

Note: Jurisdictions for which no pursuit deaths were recorded have been excluded.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Indigenous persons were involved in 29 of the 127 motor vehicle pursuit deaths since 1990 (Table 40). Non-Indigenous deaths outnumbered Indigenous deaths in every year except 1990, 1991 and 1995.

Table 40: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits, 1990–2004			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	3	2	5
1991	1	1	2
1992	2	3	5
1993	0	9	9
1994	0	4	4
1995	4	3	7
1996	4	7	11
1997	2	6	8
1998	0	5	5
1999	2	6	8
2000	2	11	13
2001	3	14	17
2002	2	13	15
2003	2	8	10
2004	2	6	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

### 2004 findings

There were no deaths of females during police motor vehicle pursuits in 2004.

### Trends in deaths

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

Table 41: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by sex, 1990–2004			
	Male	Female	Total
1990	4	1	5
1991	2	0	2
1992	4	1	5
1993	8	1	9
1994	4	0	4
1995	7	0	7
1996	11	0	11
1997	8	0	8
1998	5	0	5
1999	6	2	8
2000	13	0	13
2001	16	1	17
2002	12	3	15
2003	9	1	10
2004	8	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

### 2004 findings

The mean age at time of death for persons involved in police pursuits in 2004 was 25 years:

- of the eight pursuit deaths in 2004, five were of persons aged less than 25;
- two were of persons aged between 25 and 39 years; and
- one death fell into the 40 to 54 year age group.

### Trends in deaths

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



**Table 42: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2004**

	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
1990	4	1	0	0	5
1991	1	1	0	0	2
1992	3	1	1	0	5
1993	7	2	0	0	9
1994	2	2	0	0	4
1995	6	1	0	0	7
1996	9	1	1	0	11
1997	5	3	0	0	8
1998	1	3	0	1	5
1999	5	3	0	0	8
2000	8	5	0	0	13
2001	15	2	0	0	17
2002	9	6	0	0	15
2003	3	5	2	0	10
2004	5	2	1	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Circumstances surrounding the deaths

### Speed and length of time of pursuit

#### 2004 findings

Of the cases for which information for 2004 pursuit deaths is currently available (n=8) the highest speed reached in a pursuit was 167 km/hr and the longest pursuit lasted 13 minutes. Information for some of these cases is outstanding, pending coronial outcomes.

#### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 43: Speed and length of time of motor vehicle pursuits, 1990–2004**

	Pursuits (n)	Pursuits used in averages (n)	Average Top speed (km/hr)	Top speed (km/hr)	Average pursuit time (mins:secs)	Pursuit time (mins:secs)	
						Min	Max
NSW	53	38	131.0	190	06:12	00:10	40:00
Vic	22	17	136.7	200	05:36	00:30	18:00
Qld	13	9	132.2	180	07:48	01:30	22:00
WA	21	14	162.8	220	07:54	01:00	15:00
SA	10	8	112.3	124	12:18	05:00	32:00
Tas	1	1	40.0	40	–	–	–
NT	5	2	123.5	127	05:30	04:00	07:00
ACT	2	2	173.5	180	–	–	–

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

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table 44: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by jurisdiction, 1990–2004**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
1991	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1992	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1993	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	9
1994	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
1995	3	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	7
1996	4	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	11
1997	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
1998	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1999	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	8
2000	6	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	13
2001	5	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	17
2002	7	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	15
2003	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	10
2004	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Time of death

### 2004 findings

- Six of the eight pursuit deaths last year occurred between the hours of 12 am and 4 am; and
- one death occurred between 8 am and 12 pm and the last occurred between 8 pm and 12 am.

### Trends in deaths

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

Table 45: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by time of death, 1990–2004							
	12.01 am – 4.00 am	4.01 am – 8.00 am	8.01 am – 12.00 pm	12.01 pm – 4.00 pm	4.01 pm – 8.00 pm	8.01 pm – 12.00 pm	Total
1990	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
1991	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
1992	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
1993	0	4	0	1	0	4	9
1994	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
1995	0	2	0	1	0	4	7
1996	4	4	1	0	1	1	11
1997	2	2	1	1	0	2	8
1998	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
1999	6	0	0	0	1	1	8
2000	2	3	0	0	3	5	13
2001	5	0	1	3	0	7	16
2002	5	0	5	2	1	1	14
2003	0	3	2	2	3	0	10
2004	6	0	1	0	0	1	8
<b>Total*</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>125</b>

Note: The time of death does not necessarily reflect the time of the pursuit.

\* Note: Two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2004 findings

Five of the eight motor vehicle pursuit deaths last year were of persons for whom the most serious offence prior to the pursuit was theft related. Three deaths were of persons who were being pursued for traffic offences.

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 46: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

	Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Total
1990	1	3	0	1	0	5
1991	0	1	0	1	0	2
1992	0	3	0	2	0	5
1993	0	4	1	4	0	9
1994	1	1	0	2	0	4
1995	0	4	0	3	0	7
1996	1	7	0	3	0	11
1997	0	7	0	1	0	8
1998	2	1	0	2	0	5
1999	2	3	1	2	0	8
2000	0	9	0	2	1	12
2001	0	9	0	7	1	17
2002	0	5	0	10	0	15
2003	1	2	0	7	0	10
2004	0	5	0	3	0	8
<b>Total*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>

\* Note: One case in 2000 has been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Shooting deaths

### 2004 findings

In 2004, a total of ten shooting deaths occurred across Australia (Table 47):

- four deaths occurred in each of NSW and Victoria and two shooting deaths occurred in Queensland; and
- six of the 10 shooting deaths involved people who had been shot by police (two of these deaths occurred in NSW; three occurred in Victoria and one was recorded in Queensland).

**Table 47: Shooting deaths in police custody by jurisdiction, 2004**

	Shot by Police	Shot by self	Total
NSW	2	2	4
Vic	3	1	4
Qld	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

Note: Jurisdictions for which no shooting deaths were recorded have been excluded.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

### Trends in deaths

Between 1990 and 2004, 76 shooting deaths were of persons shot by police while a further 53 persons shot themselves in the presence of police officers (Table 48). The number of persons in custody who were shot by police peaked at 12 deaths in 1994.

**Table 48: Shooting deaths in police custody, 1990–2004**

	Shot by Police		Shot by self		Shot by other official		Total n		Total
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
1990	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
1991	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	9	9
1992	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	9	9
1993	1	2	0	5	0	0	1	7	8
1994	2	10	0	5	0	0	2	15	17
1995	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	10	10
1996	0	2	1	5	0	0	1	7	8
1997	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	11	11
1998	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	6	7
1999	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	9	9
2000	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	7	7
2001	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	5
2002	1	4	1	4	0	0	2	8	10
2003	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	6
2004	0	6	0	4	0	0	0	10	10
<b>Total*</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>130</b>

\* Note: Two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Deaths resulting from police shootings

### Indigenous status

#### *2004 findings*

There were no police shooting deaths of Indigenous persons recorded in 2004.

#### *Trends in deaths*

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

Table 49: Police shooting deaths in custody, 1990–2004			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total n
1990	1	3	4
1991	0	5	5
1992	0	4	4
1993	1	2	3
1994	2	10	12
1995	0	5	5
1996	0	2	2
1997	0	6	6
1998	1	5	6
1999	0	6	6
2000	0	6	6
2001	1	2	3
2002	1	4	5
2003	0	3	3
2004	0	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

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## Sex

### *2004 findings*

There were no police shooting deaths of females in 2004.

### *Trends in deaths*

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

**Table 50: Police shooting deaths by sex, 1990–2004**

	Male	Female	Total
1990	4	0	4
1991	5	0	5
1992	4	0	4
1993	3	0	3
1994	10	2	12
1995	4	1	5
1996	2	0	2
1997	6	0	6
1998	6	0	6
1999	6	0	6
2000	6	0	6
2001	3	0	3
2002	5	0	5
2003	3	0	3
2004	6	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

### 2004 findings

The mean age at time of death for persons shot by police in 2004 was 34 years:

- five of the six police shooting deaths last year were of persons aged between 25 and 39; and
- one death fell into the 40 to 54 year age group.

### Trends in deaths

The majority of police shooting deaths between 1990 and 2004 were of people aged between 25 and 39 years (Table 51).

Table 51: Police shooting deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2004					
	less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
1990	0	3	1	0	4
1991	3	1	1	0	5
1992	1	0	3	0	4
1993	1	0	2	0	3
1994	3	5	4	0	12
1995	1	4	0	0	5
1996	0	2	0	0	2
1997	1	5	0	0	6
1998	2	4	0	0	6
1999	0	4	2	0	6
2000	1	5	0	0	6
2001	0	1	1	1	3
2002	3	1	1	0	5
2003	0	2	1	0	3
2004	0	5	1	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]



## Circumstances surrounding the death

### Time of death

#### 2004 findings

Of the six deaths by police shooting in 2004:

- two occurred between 12 pm and 4 pm;
- a further two occurred between 4 pm and 8 pm;
- one death was recorded between 12 am and 4 am; and
- another occurred between 8 pm and 12 pm.

#### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 52: Police shooting deaths by time of death, 1990–2004**

	12.01 am – 4.00 am	4.01 am – 8.00 am	8.01 am – 12.00 pm	12.01 pm – 4.00 pm	4.01 pm – 8.00 pm	8.01 pm – 12.00 pm	Total
1990	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
1991	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
1992	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
1993	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
1994	1	0	2	3	3	3	12
1995	1	0	1	0	3	0	5
1996	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1997	3	1	1	0	0	1	6
1998	1	2	0	0	3	0	6
1999	0	0	3	1	1	1	6
2000	1	1	0	0	3	1	6
2001	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
2002	0	0	0	1	3	1	5
2003	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
2004	1	0	1	2	2	0	6
<b>Total*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75</b>

\* Note: One case has been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

### 2004 findings

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

### Trends in deaths

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

**Table 53: Police shooting deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

	Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
1990	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
1991	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
1992	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
1993	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
1994	10	2	0	0	0	0	12
1995	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
1996	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1997	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
1998	4	1	0	0	0	1	6
1999	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
2000	4	2	0	0	0	0	6
2001	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
2002	1	1	0	0	2	1	5
2003	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
2004	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

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## Data usage

The monitoring of the circumstances of all deaths in prison and police custody (and custody related police operations) and deaths in juvenile detention in Australia has the potential to impact on the formation of policy in several key areas, including the correctional management of women prisoners, Indigenous prisoners and prisoners from different cultural backgrounds, and police operational practices. The provision of timely and accurate information is essential in assisting stakeholders to identify shifts in at risk populations and to monitor the effects of changes in policy and operational standards.

For example, the findings of the NDICP may impact on procedures for holding persons in custody. The data may also help to identify the type of persons who are at most risk of suicide or other types of deaths whilst in custody and the circumstances and environmental factors that may contribute to such deaths. The most important function of the NDICP is to provide an annual report in order to communicate information gathered on custodial deaths to its key stakeholders (police and corrections authorities), other government organisations, non-government organisations and the general public. During the 13 years since the program was established at the AIC there have been many additional requests for data. Some examples of data usage are in Box 3.

### Box 3: Examples of agencies and organisations that have requested data

Police services in all Australian States and Territories  
Correctional Services departments in all Australian States and Territories  
Australian Government Attorney-General's Department  
Australian Federal Police  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission  
Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
United States Mission to Australia  
Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Secretariat  
United Nations  
Australasian Centre for Policing Research  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Productivity Commission  
New Zealand Department of Corrections  
Various universities across Australia  
World Vision

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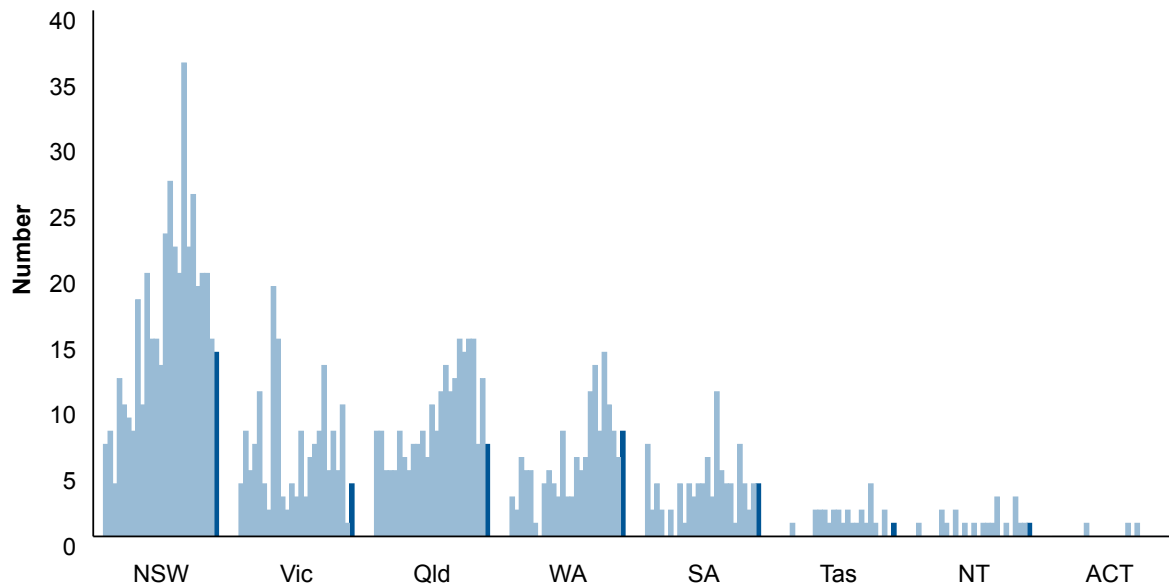
## **Appendix A**

### **Aggregate data by jurisdiction**

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## Deaths in prison custody, 1980–2004

Figure A1: Prison deaths by jurisdiction, 1980–2004



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

Table A1: Prison deaths by year and jurisdiction, 1980–2004

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1980	7	4	8	3	7	0	1	0	30
1981	8	8	8	2	2	0	0	0	28
1982	4	5	5	6	4	1	0	0	25
1983	12	7	5	5	2	0	0	0	31
1984	10	11	5	5	0	0	0	0	31
1985	9	4	8	1	2	0	2	0	26
1986	8	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	17
1987	18	19	5	4	4	2	0	1	53
1988	10	15	7	5	1	2	2	0	42
1989	20	3	7	4	4	2	0	0	40
1990	15	2	8	3	3	1	1	0	33
1991	15	4	6	8	4	2	0	0	39
1992	13	3	10	3	4	2	1	0	36
1993	23	8	8	3	6	1	0	0	49
1994	27	3	11	6	3	2	1	0	53
1995	22	6	13	5	11	1	1	0	59
1996	20	7	11	6	5	1	1	1	52
1997	36	8	12	11	4	2	3	0	76
1998	22	13	15	13	4	1	0	1	69
1999	26	5	14	8	1	4	1	0	59
2000	17	8	15	14	7	1	0	0	62
2001	20	5	15	10	4	0	3	0	57
2002	20	10	7	8	2	2	1	0	50
2003	15	1	12	6	4	0	1	0	39
2004	14	4	7	8	4	1	1	0	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]



## Indigenous status

**Table A2: Prison deaths by Indigenous status, 1980–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	57	13.8	354	86.2	411
Vic	4	2.4	161	97.6	165
Qld	46	20.2	182	79.8	228
WA	43	29.3	104	70.7	147
SA	18	19.6	74	80.4	92
Tas	1	3.6	27	96.4	28
NT	15	71.4	6	28.6	21
ACT	0	0.0	3	100.0	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Legal status

**Table A3: Prison deaths by legal status of deceased, 1980–2004**

		Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	38	19	57
	Non-Indigenous	238	115	353
Vic	Indigenous	1	3	4
	Non-Indigenous	113	48	161
Qld	Indigenous	35	10	45
	Non-Indigenous	125	45	170
WA	Indigenous	28	15	43
	Non-Indigenous	68	36	104
SA	Indigenous	13	5	18
	Non-Indigenous	44	30	74
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	16	10	26
NT	Indigenous	11	4	15
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>183</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>897</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1,080</b>

\* Note: Fifteen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

Between the years 1980 and 2004, male prisoners accounted for almost 96 per cent (n=1,048) of all deaths in Australian prisons (Table A4).

**Table A4: Prison deaths by sex 1980–2004**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	96.4	396
	Female	3.6	15
Vic	Male	91.0	150
	Female	9.0	15
Qld	Male	96.5	220
	Female	3.5	8
WA	Male	96.6	142
	Female	3.4	5
SA	Male	95.7	88
	Female	4.3	4
Tas	Male	100.0	28
	Female	–	0
NT	Male	100.0	21
	Female	–	0
ACT	Male	100.0	3
	Female	–	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>1,048</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Age

Of the 1,095 deaths that occurred in prison between 1980 and 2004, the youngest age at which a person or persons died was 17 years and the oldest person was 91 years of age:

- the mean age for prison custody deaths during this time period was 37 years (Table A5);
- non-Indigenous persons who died in prison were generally older than their Indigenous counterparts between 1980 and 2004.

**Table A5: Mean age at death for all prison deaths, 1980–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	57	32.0	354	37.1	411	36.4
Vic	4	25.8	161	36.7	165	36.4
Qld	46	33.1	182	39.6	228	38.3
WA	43	32.8	104	38.7	147	37.0
SA	18	28.8	74	37.8	92	36.0
Tas	1	48.0	27	37.6	28	37.9
NT	15	32.2	6	33.0	21	32.4
ACT	0	0.0	3	19.7	3	19.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>36.8</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

**Table A6: Prison deaths by age at time of death, 1980–2004**

		less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	Indigenous	16	29	10	2	57
	Non-Indigenous	80	142	83	49	354
Vic	Indigenous	3	1	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	31	77	29	24	161
Qld	Indigenous	13	20	11	2	46
	Non-Indigenous	35	73	37	37	182
WA	Indigenous	11	21	10	1	43
	Non-Indigenous	28	36	18	22	104
SA	Indigenous	8	9	1	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	10	36	17	11	74
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	8	8	4	7	27
NT	Indigenous	4	9	1	1	15
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	1	1	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>184</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>911</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,095</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Cause of death

During the 25 year period being examined, hanging and natural causes were the most common causes of death in prison custody (Table A7).

**Table A7: Prison deaths by cause of death, 1980–2004**

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	19	25	0	0	8	5	0	57
	Non-Indigenous	149	109	5	2	31	48	6	350
Vic	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	57	50	1	1	22	22	4	157
Qld	Indigenous	25	19	0	0	0	1	0	45
	Non-Indigenous	79	63	3	2	17	18	0	181
WA	Indigenous	15	23	0	1	2	2	0	43
	Non-Indigenous	51	32	1	0	5	8	5	102
SA	Indigenous	8	7	1	0	1	1	0	18
	Non-Indigenous	27	29	2	1	7	5	2	73
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	16	9	0	0	0	1	0	26
NT	Indigenous	4	10	0	0	0	1	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>898</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,081</b>

\* Note: Fourteen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Manner of death

During the 1980–2004 period, the majority of deaths in prison custody were self-inflicted (Table A8).

**Table A8: Prison deaths by manner of death, 1980–2004**

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
NSW	Indigenous	21	25	5	0	6	0	57
	Non-Indigenous	158	110	23	1	44	14	350
Vic	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	69	50	4	1	29	8	161
Qld	Indigenous	25	20	0	0	0	0	45
	Non-Indigenous	83	66	12	1	14	6	182
WA	Indigenous	16	23	1	0	1	2	43
	Non-Indigenous	59	32	1	0	9	1	102
SA	Indigenous	9	7	0	0	1	1	18
	Non-Indigenous	33	29	2	1	5	3	73
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	17	9	0	0	0	0	26
NT	Indigenous	4	10	0	0	1	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>183</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>903</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,086</b>

\* Note: Nine cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

Violent offences were the most serious offence resulting in incarceration in half of all deaths in prison custody since 1980 (Table A9).

**Table A9: Prison deaths by most serious offence, 1980–2004**

		Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	35	12	3	2	3	2	57
	Non-Indigenous	142	124	42	6	23	10	347
Vic	Indigenous	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	80	50	16	1	11	3	161
Qld	Indigenous	28	10	1	2	3	1	45
	Non-Indigenous	88	47	9	14	8	8	174
WA	Indigenous	26	14	0	1	1	1	43
	Non-Indigenous	58	33	4	0	7	2	104
SA	Indigenous	9	3	0	1	4	1	18
	Non-Indigenous	41	19	4	2	7	1	74
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	16	7	0	1	1	2	27
NT	Indigenous	9	2	0	1	1	2	15
	Non-Indigenous	3	2	0	0	1	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>183</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>896</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,079</b>

\* Note: Sixteen cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Location of death

Since 1980, 613 deaths have occurred in prison cells:

- sixty-one per cent (n=106) of Indigenous deaths and 60 per cent (n=613) of non-Indigenous deaths were of prisoners who died in their cells; and
- the next most common location of death for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners was public hospitals, with 31 (n=53) and 28 per cent (n=233) of Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoner deaths, respectively, occurring in public hospitals.

**Table A10: Prison deaths by location, 1980–2004**

		Public hospital	Prison hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public place	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	21	2	29	4	0	1	57
	Non-Indigenous	73	22	221	15	0	1	332
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	31	9	105	5	0	0	150
Qld	Indigenous	7	1	30	4	0	0	42
	Non-Indigenous	65	9	64	11	1	0	150
WA	Indigenous	15	1	22	0	0	0	38
	Non-Indigenous	25	4	62	6	3	0	100
SA	Indigenous	4	1	12	0	0	0	17
	Non-Indigenous	27	3	39	2	0	1	72
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	8	8	11	0	0	0	27
NT	Indigenous	6	0	8	0	0	0	14
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	3	0	0	0	6
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>173</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>840</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,013</b>

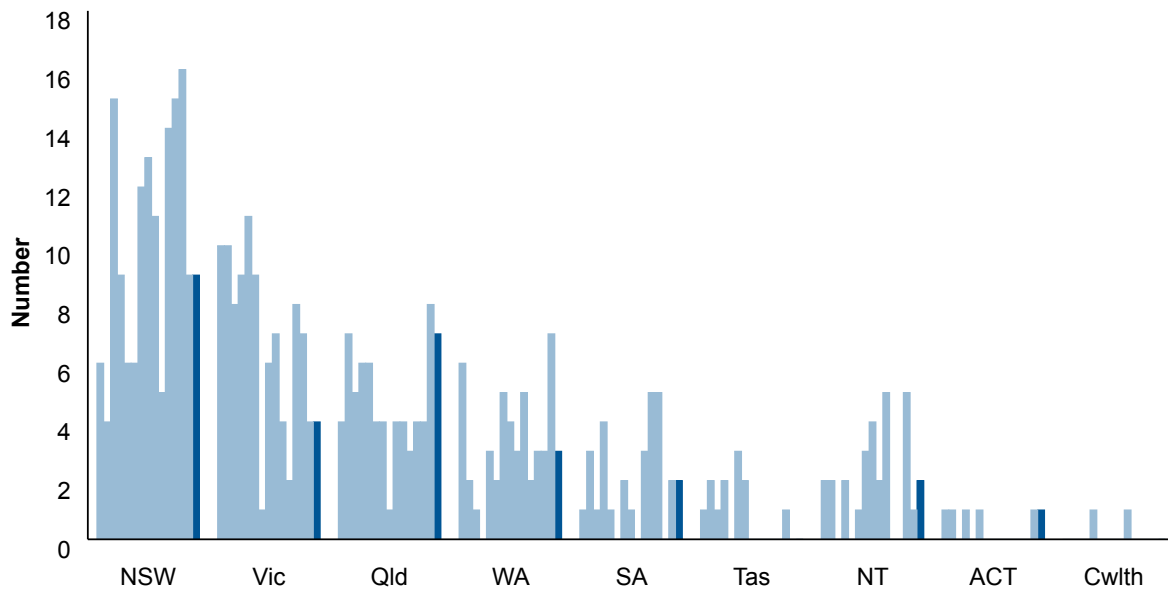
\* Note: Eighty-two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1980–2004 [computer file]

## Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1990–2004

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

**Figure A2: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1990–2004**



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table A11: Police custody deaths by year and jurisdiction, 1990–2004**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Cwlth	Total
1990	6	10	4	6	1	1	2	1	0	31
1991	4	10	7	2	3	2	2	1	0	31
1992	15	8	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	31
1993	9	9	6	0	4	2	2	1	0	33
1994	6	11	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	28
1995	6	9	4	2	0	3	1	1	0	26
1996	12	1	4	5	2	2	3	0	0	29
1997	13	6	1	4	1	0	4	0	0	29
1998	11	7	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	27
1999	5	4	4	5	3	0	5	0	1	27
2000	14	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	26
2001	15	8	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	35
2002	16	7	4	3	0	1	5	0	0	36
2003	12	4	8	7	2	0	1	1	0	35
2004	9	4	7	3	2	0	2	1	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Custodial authority

**Table A12: Deaths in police custody and custody-related police operations by jurisdiction, 1990–2004**

		%	Total n
NSW	Category 1	28.8	44
	Category 2	71.2	109
Vic	Category 1	69.0	69
	Category 2	31.0	31
Qld	Category 1	59.2	42
	Category 2	40.8	29
WA	Category 1	44.9	22
	Category 2	55.1	27
SA	Category 1	46.7	14
	Category 2	53.3	16
Tas	Category 1	41.7	5
	Category 2	58.3	7
NT	Category 1	62.1	18
	Category 2	37.9	11
ACT	Category 1	50.0	3
	Category 2	50.0	3
Cwlth	Category 1	100.0	2
	Category 2	0.0	0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>Category 1</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>219</b>
	<b>Category 2</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>233</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Indigenous status

**Table A13: Police custody deaths by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, 1990–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons
	n	%	n	%	Total n
NSW	20	13.1	133	86.9	153
Vic	3	3.0	97	97.0	100
Qld	13	18.3	58	81.7	71
WA	25	51.0	24	49.0	49
SA	5	16.7	25	83.3	30
Tas	2	16.7	10	83.3	12
NT	16	55.2	13	44.8	29
ACT	0	0.0	6	100.0	6
Cwlth	0	0.0	2	100.0	2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]



## Sex

**Table A14: Deaths in police custody by sex and jurisdiction, 1990–2004**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	94.1	144
	Female	5.9	9
Vic	Male	90.0	90
	Female	10.0	10
Qld	Male	90.1	64
	Female	9.9	7
WA	Male	93.4	46
	Female	6.1	3
SA	Male	93.3	28
	Female	6.7	2
Tas	Male	100.0	12
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	89.7	26
	Female	10.3	3
ACT	Male	100.0	6
	Female	0.0	0
Cwlth	Male	100.0	2
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>418</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>34</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

**Table A15: Mean age of police custody deaths, 1990–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	20	29.5	133	33.2	153	32.7
Vic	3	36.0	97	31.6	100	31.7
Qld	13	30.4	58	36.0	71	34.9
WA	25	23.3	24	30.7	49	26.9
SA	5	28.2	25	28.8	30	28.7
Tas	2	21.5	10	40.6	12	37.1
NT	16	30.5	13	34.2	29	32.1
ACT	0	0.0	6	33.7	6	33.7
Cwlth	0	0.0	2	44.5	2	44.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>32.1</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table A16: Deaths in police custody by age, 1990–2004**

		<b>less than 25</b>	<b>25–39</b>	<b>40–54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Total</b>
NSW	Indigenous	8	7	4	1	20
	Non-Indigenous	37	61	23	12	133
Vic	Indigenous	0	2	1	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	33	43	16	5	97
Qld	Indigenous	6	4	2	1	13
	Non-Indigenous	10	26	17	5	58
WA	Indigenous	16	6	3	0	25
	Non-Indigenous	9	10	4	1	24
SA	Indigenous	2	3	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	11	9	4	1	25
Tas	Indigenous	1	1	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	2	3	4	1	10
NT	Indigenous	5	6	5	0	16
	Non-Indigenous	3	6	3	1	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	2	0	6
Cwlth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>368</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Cause of death

During the 15 year period from 1990 to 2004, 32 per cent (n=144) of all deaths resulted from external and/or multiple trauma injuries (Table A17).

**Table A17: Deaths in police custody by cause of death, 1990–2004**

		Hanging	Natural causes	Head injury	Gunshot	External/ multiple trauma	Drugs/ alcohol	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	2	1	1	2	12	1	1	20
	Non-Indigenous	11	6	5	42	58	7	4	133
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	11	7	14	36	14	9	5	96
Qld	Indigenous	0	5	2	0	4	0	2	13
	Non-Indigenous	1	7	5	19	10	10	3	55
WA	Indigenous	3	4	2	0	15	1	0	25
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	7	11	1	1	24
SA	Indigenous	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	2	2	2	6	9	4	0	25
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	1	6	1	0	1	10
NT	Indigenous	2	6	1	2	4	0	1	16
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	1	5	2	1	2	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	6
Cwlth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>364</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Manner of death

Since 1990, accidental deaths accounted for 42 per cent (n=188) of all deaths in police custody and custody-related operations (Table A18).

**Table A18: Deaths in police custody by manner of death, 1990–2004**

		Self-inflicted	Natural causes	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/unknown	Total
NSW	Indigenous	6	1	0	1	12	0	20
	Non-Indigenous	51	6	2	16	56	2	133
Vic	Indigenous	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	22	7	0	25	37	5	96
Qld	Indigenous	0	5	0	0	7	1	13
	Non-Indigenous	14	8	0	10	22	1	55
WA	Indigenous	3	4	0	0	18	0	25
	Non-Indigenous	9	1	0	4	9	1	24
SA	Indigenous	0	1	0	2	2	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	10	2	0	3	10	0	25
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	0	1	3	0	10
NT	Indigenous	2	6	0	0	7	1	16
	Non-Indigenous	6	0	0	4	1	2	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	1	3	0	6
Cwth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>364</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

**Table A19: Deaths in police custody by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

		Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	5	7	1	1	4	2	20
	Non-Indigenous	44	32	3	26	7	17	129
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
	Non-Indigenous	28	35	2	10	18	4	97
Qld	Indigenous	4	3	0	0	6	0	13
	Non-Indigenous	20	8	1	6	19	4	58
WA	Indigenous	2	16	0	4	3	0	25
	Non-Indigenous	11	4	0	5	3	1	24
SA	Indigenous	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	7	7	0	3	4	4	25
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	0	1	3	2	10
NT	Indigenous	2	2	0	2	8	2	16
	Non-Indigenous	7	2	0	0	4	0	13
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	1	0	1	1	1	6
Cwlth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>364</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>448</b>

\* Note: Four cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Location of death

Since 1990, most deaths in police custody have occurred in public places (n=170; Table A20).

**Table A20: Deaths in police custody by location of death, 1990–2004**

		Public hospital	Cell	Other custodial setting	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	8	1	1	3	7	0	20
	Non-Indigenous	33	7	4	23	62	2	131
Vic	Indigenous	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	22	11	7	14	35	2	91
Qld	Indigenous	7	3	0	0	2	1	13
	Non-Indigenous	13	14	1	7	18	2	55
WA	Indigenous	7	5	1	0	8	0	21
	Non-Indigenous	5	1	1	3	11	1	22
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	1	2	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	10	1	0	3	10	0	24
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	1	1	4	0	0	10
NT	Indigenous	7	1	1	0	6	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	1	3	0	1	6	1	12
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	0	0	1	2	0	5
Cwlth	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>79</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>352</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>431</b>

\* Note: Twenty-one cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Type of custody

**Table A21: Deaths in police custody and by type of custody, 1990–2004**

	Institution		Escaping		Detaining		Other		Total n
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
NSW	15.0	23	0.7	1	84.3	129	0.0	0	153
Vic	33.0	33	0.0	0	65.0	65	2.0	2	100
Qld	42.3	30	1.4	1	52.1	37	4.2	3	71
WA	30.6	15	0.0	0	69.4	34	0.0	0	49
SA	13.3	4	0.0	0	76.7	23	10.0	3	30
Tas	25.0	3	0.0	0	75.0	9	0.0	0	12
NT	37.9	11	0.0	0	58.6	17	3.4	1	29
ACT	33.3	2	0.0	0	66.7	4	0.0	0	6
Cwlth	100.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>452</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1990–2004

**Table A22: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits, 1990–2004**

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	Indigenous				3					3
	Non-Indigenous	2								2
1991	Indigenous				1					1
	Non-Indigenous	1								1
1992	Indigenous	1			1					2
	Non-Indigenous	1	2							3
1993	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	1		2				9
1994	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	1		3						4
1995	Indigenous	2			2					4
	Non-Indigenous	1	1				1			3
1996	Indigenous			1	2			1		4
	Non-Indigenous	4		1	1	1				7
1997	Indigenous	1			1					2
	Non-Indigenous	5	1							6
1998	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	3	1		1					5
1999	Indigenous			1				1		2
	Non-Indigenous	4		1				1		6
2000	Indigenous			1		1				2
	Non-Indigenous	6	1		1	3				11
2001	Indigenous				2	1				3
	Non-Indigenous	5	6	1	1	1				14
2002	Indigenous	1						1		2
	Non-Indigenous	6	6		1					13
2003	Indigenous				2					2
	Non-Indigenous	3	2	2					1	8
2004	Indigenous				1			1		2
	Non-Indigenous	2		1	1	1			1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

Since 1990, only ten motor vehicle pursuit deaths across Australia have been of females (Table A23).

**Table A23: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by sex, 1990–2004**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	94.3	50
	Female	5.7	3
Vic	Male	90.9	20
	Female	9.1	2
Qld	Male	84.6	11
	Female	15.4	2
WA	Male	90.5	19
	Female	9.5	2
SA	Male	100.0	10
	Female	0.0	0
Tas	Male	100.0	1
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	80.0	4
	Female	20.0	1
ACT	Male	100.0	2
	Female	0.0	0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>117</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>10</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

**Table A24: Mean age at death for motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1990–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	5	19.6	48	26.6	53	26.0
Vic	–	–	22	21.9	22	21.9
Qld	3	16.0	10	24.7	13	22.7
WA	15	18.1	6	27.2	21	20.7
SA	2	16.0	8	19.4	10	18.7
NT	4	22.3	1	23.0	5	22.4
ACT	–	–	2	26.0	2	26.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>23.3</b>

Note: One case in Tasmania has been excluded due to missing age data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]



**Table A25: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2004**

		less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	Indigenous	4	1	0	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	23	22	2	1	48
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	18	3	1	0	22
Qld	Indigenous	3	0	0	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	6	3	1	0	10
WA	Indigenous	13	1	1	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	0	0	6
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	7	1	0	0	8
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
NT	Indigenous	2	2	0	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Time of death

**Table A26: Motor vehicle pursuits by time of death\*, 1990–2004**

	12.01 am – 4.00 am	4.01 am – 8.00 am	8.01 am – 12.00 pm	12.01 pm – 4.00 pm	4.01 pm – 8.00 pm	8.01 pm – 12.00 am	Total
NSW	19	7	4	7	5	11	53
Vic	4	4	3	3	3	4	21
Qld	3	2	1	1	2	4	13
WA	5	4	4	1	1	5	20
SA	3	2	1	0	0	4	10
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
ACT	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total*</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>125</b>

\* Refers to the time of death not necessarily the time of pursuit.

+ Note: Two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

Since 1990, the most serious offences committed immediately prior to the motor vehicle pursuit were theft related offences (n=64; Table A27).

**Table A27: Deaths during motor vehicle pursuits by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

		Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Total
NSW	Indigenous	0	4	0	1	0	5
	Non-Indigenous	4	18	1	23	1	47
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	11	1	9	0	22
Qld	Indigenous	1	2	0	0	0	3
	Non-Indigenous	2	4	0	4	0	10
WA	Indigenous	0	12	0	3	0	15
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	0	4	0	6
SA	Indigenous	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	5	0	2	1	8
Tas	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Indigenous	0	2	0	2	0	4
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	1
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>97</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>

\* Note: One case has been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Shooting deaths, 1990–2004

**Table A28: Shootings deaths by method of detainment, 1990–2004**

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raids	Shooting/ other	Total n
Shot by self	3	3	26	1	18	51
Shot by police	3	2	10	5	55	75
Shot by other official	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total*</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>127</b>

\* Note: Five cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table A29: Shooting deaths in police custody, 1990–2004**

		Shot by police	Shot by self	Shot by other official	Total n
NSW	Indigenous	1	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	17	24	1	42
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	28	7	0	35
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	11	8	0	19
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	4	2	0	6
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	0	6
Tas	Indigenous	1	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	1	5	0	6
NT	Indigenous	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	1	0	5
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>121</b>
	<b>All persons*</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>130</b>

\* Note: Two cases have been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Police shooting deaths

**Table A30: Police shooting deaths in custody, 1990–2004**

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
1990	Indigenous							1		1
	Non-Indigenous	1	2							3
1991	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous		2	1	1		1			5
1992	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	2	2							4
1993	Indigenous						1			1
	Non-Indigenous	1	1							2
1994	Indigenous		1			1				2
	Non-Indigenous		8	1	1					10
1995	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous		3	1					1	5
1996	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	1						1		2
1997	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	3	2					1		6
1998	Indigenous	1								1
	Non-Indigenous	2	3							5
1999	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous			1	1	2		2		6
2000	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	1	1					6
2001	Indigenous					1				1
	Non-Indigenous	1				1				2
2002	Indigenous							1		1
	Non-Indigenous		1	3						4
2003	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	1		2						3
2004	Indigenous									0
	Non-Indigenous	2	3	1						6
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Sex

Since 1990, only three deaths during police shootings across Australia have been of females (Table A31).

**Table A31: Police shooting deaths by sex, 1990–2004**

		%	Total n
NSW	Male	100.0	18
	Female	0.0	0
Vic	Male	89.7	26
	Female	10.3	3
Qld	Male	100.0	11
	Female	0.0	0
WA	Male	100.0	4
	Female	0.0	0
SA	Male	100.0	5
	Female	0.0	0
Tas	Male	100.0	2
	Female	0.0	0
NT	Male	100.0	6
	Female	0.0	0
ACT	Male	100.0	1
	Female	0.0	0
Cwlth	Male	96.1	73
	Female	3.9	3

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Age

**Table A32: Mean age at death for police shooting deaths, 1990–2004**

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Persons	
	n	Mean age	n	Mean age	Total n	Mean age
NSW	1	15.0	17	33.0	18	32.0
Vic	1	41.0	28	31.5	29	31.8
Qld	–	–	11	33.9	11	33.9
WA	–	–	4	29.5	4	29.5
SA	2	35.0	3	35.0	5	35.0
Tas	1	16.0	1	42.0	2	29.0
NT	2	30.0	4	34.0	6	32.7
ACT	–	–	1	37.0	1	37.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>32.3</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

**Table A33: Police shooting deaths by age at time of death, 1990–2004**

		less than 25	25–39	40–54	55+	Total
NSW	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	3	11	2	1	17
Vic	Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	7	16	5	0	28
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	2	5	4	0	11
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	1	2	1	0	4
SA	Indigenous	0	2	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	2	1	0	3
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	1	0	1
NT	Indigenous	1	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	0	3	1	0	4
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Time of death

**Table A34: Police shooting deaths by time of death\*, 1990–2004**

	12.01 am – 4.00 am	4.01 am – 8.00 am	8.01 am – 12.00 pm	12.01 pm – 4.00 pm	4.01 pm – 8.00 pm	8.01 pm – 12.00 am	Total
NSW	5	3	2	3	2	3	18
Vic	4	1	5	4	10	5	29
Qld	1	0	1	1	4	3	10
WA	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
SA	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
Tas	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
NT	2	0	2	1	1	0	6
ACT	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75</b>

\* Refers to the time of death not necessarily the time of shooting.

+ Note: One case has been excluded due to missing data.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

## Most serious offence

**Table A35: Police shooting deaths by most serious offence, 1990–2004**

		Violent	Theft related	Drug related	Traffic	Good order	Other	Total
NSW	Indigenous	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	10	4	1	0	0	2	17
Vic	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	20	7	0	0	1	0	28
Qld	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	6	2	0	1	1	1	11
WA	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
SA	Indigenous	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tas	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NT	Indigenous	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Non-Indigenous	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
ACT	Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>69</b>
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>76</b>

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, NDICP 1990–2004 [computer file]

