



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

AIC reports

Statistical Report

37

**Deaths in custody in Australia
2020–21**

Laura Doherty

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2021

ISSN 2206-7930 (Online)

ISBN 978 1 922478 43 6 (Online)

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr78436>

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

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology

GPO Box 1936 Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6268 7166

Email: front.desk@aic.gov.au

Website: aic.gov.au

Please note: Minor revisions are occasionally made to publications after release. The online versions available on the AIC website will always include any revisions.

Disclaimer: This research report does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Australian Government.

General editor: Dr Rick Brown, Deputy Director, Australian Institute of Criminology

Edited and typeset by the Australian Institute of Criminology

A full list of publications in the AIC Reports series can be found on the Australian Institute of Criminology website at aic.gov.au

DEATHS IN CUSTODY SNAPSHOT

1991–2021

There have been **489 Indigenous deaths in custody** since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

2020–2021

Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths in custody

82

66 deaths in prison custody

12 Indigenous prisoners
54 non-Indigenous prisoners

Indigenous people were less likely than non-Indigenous people to die as a proportion of relevant prisoners, but more likely to die as a proportion of the relevant general population



One in three deaths were self-inflicted*

16 deaths in police custody

3 Indigenous deaths
13 non-Indigenous deaths

15 deaths occurred while police were detaining or attempting to detain the individual



6 of these were police shootings

*21 of the 58 deaths for which manner of death was known

Contents

viii	Acknowledgements	19	References
ix	Acronyms and abbreviations	20	Appendix A: Methodology
x	Abstract	20	Background and purpose of the NDICP
1	Introduction	20	Scope
3	Deaths in prison custody	21	Data collection and coding
3	2020–21 findings	22	Indigenous status
3	Indigenous status	22	Cause versus manner of death
4	Sex	23	Most serious offence
5	Age	23	Location of death
5	Legal status	23	Type of custody
5	Cause of death	24	Borderline cases
6	Manner of death	24	Data revisions
7	Most serious offence	25	Calculation of death rates and population rates
7	Location of death	25	Limitations
7	Type of prison	25	Time frames
12	Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations	26	Contextual information
12	2020–21 findings	27	Appendix B: Data tables—Deaths in custody 2020–21 key findings
12	Indigenous status	34	Appendix C: Data tables—Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21
13	Sex	39	Appendix D: Data tables—Deaths in prison custody, 1979–80 to 2020–21
13	Age	74	Appendix E: Data tables—Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2020–21
13	Cause of death		
14	Manner of death		
14	Most serious offence		
15	Location of death		
15	Circumstances of custodial period		
16	Shooting deaths		
16	Motor vehicle pursuit deaths		

Boxes

- 2 Box 1: Definitions of deaths in custody

Figures

- 8 Figure 1: Deaths in prison custody, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)
- 8 Figure 2: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction and Indigenous status, 2020–21
- 9 Figure 3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 9 Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 10 Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)
- 10 Figure 6: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 11 Figure 7: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)
- 16 Figure 8: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 17 Figure 9: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 17 Figure 10: Deaths in police custody by select cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 18 Figure 11: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 18 Figure 12: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21

Tables

- 27 Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2020–21
- 29 Table B2: Deaths in prison custody, 2020–21 (rate per 100,000 population)
- 29 Table B3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, cause of death and manner of death, 2020–21
- 30 Table B4: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2020–21
- 32 Table B5: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2020–21 (rate per 100,000 population)
- 33 Table B6: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, cause of death and manner of death, 2020–21
- 34 Table C1: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 35 Table C2: Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 37 Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 39 Table D1: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 40 Table D2: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 42 Table D3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 43 Table D4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and sex, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 44 Table D5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

- 46 Table D6: Deaths in prison custody by sex, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 47 Table D7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 48 Table D8: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 50 Table D9: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 51 Table D10: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 52 Table D11: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and legal status, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 54 Table D12: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 55 Table D13: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 56 Table D14: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 58 Table D15: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 59 Table D16: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)
- 60 Table D17: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)
- 62 Table D18: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 63 Table D19: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 64 Table D20: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 66 Table D21: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)
- 67 Table D22: Deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 68 Table D23: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 70 Table D24: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 71 Table D25: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 72 Table D26: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2020–21
- 74 Table E1: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 76 Table E2: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 77 Table E3: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 78 Table E4: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by category of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 79 Table E5: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2020–21

- 80 Table E6: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status and sex, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 81 Table E7: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 82 Table E8: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 83 Table E9: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 84 Table E10: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 85 Table E11: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 86 Table E12: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 87 Table E13: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 88 Table E14: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 89 Table E15: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 90 Table E16: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 91 Table E17: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 92 Table E18: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 93 Table E19: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by location of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 94 Table E20: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by type of custody, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 95 Table E21: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 96 Table E22: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 97 Table E23: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 98 Table E24: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by Indigenous status and sex, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 99 Table E25: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 100 Table E26: Indigenous shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21
- 101 Table E27: Non-Indigenous shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21

Acknowledgements

The Australian Institute of Criminology gratefully acknowledges the ongoing assistance of each of Australia's police services, corrections departments and youth justice authorities in supplying the information that forms the basis of this report. The Institute further acknowledges the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety as the source organisation of the National Coronial Information System data, and the National Coronial Information System as the source of coronial data used in this report.

The author would like to thank Merran McAlister and Tom Sullivan for their generous contributions to this report.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
MSO	most serious offence
NCIS	National Coronial Information System
NDICP	National Deaths in Custody Program
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

Abstract

The National Deaths in Custody Program has monitored the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention in Australia since 1980. The Australian Institute of Criminology has coordinated the program since its establishment in 1992, the result of a recommendation made the previous year by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In 2020–21 there were 82 deaths in custody: 66 in prison custody and 16 in police custody or custody-related operations. This report contains detailed information on these deaths and compares the findings with longer term trends.

Introduction

The National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) has monitored the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention since 1980. The NDICP was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) in 1992 in response to recommendation 41 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC): ‘that statistics and other information on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention centres, and related matters, be monitored nationally on an ongoing basis...within the Australian Institute of Criminology’. The final report of the RCIADIC (1991, recommendation 41) outlined the types of deaths that would require notification to the NDICP. They are:

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

This report examines the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison and police custody and custody-related operations in 2020–21, and compares these findings with long-term trends. In 2020–21 there were 82 deaths in custody: 66 in prison custody and 16 in police custody or custody-related operations. Definitions of these categories are presented in Box 1.

Box 1: Definitions of deaths in custody

Deaths in prison custody

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

Deaths in police custody

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

Category 1

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

Category 2

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

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

Data used for the NDICP are based on two main sources: data provided by state and territory police services and corrections departments, and coronial records accessed through the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

As of this report, *Deaths in custody in Australia* is published within six months of the end of the relevant financial year. However, *Prisoners in Australia* data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) used to calculate rates in previous *Deaths in custody in Australia* reports had not been released before the preparation of this report. Consequently, rates in this report were calculated using the ABS *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data. As such, care should be taken when comparing rates of death over time.

For more information about the NDICP and its methodology, see *Appendix A*.

In the 30 years since the RCIADIC (1991), the NDICP has recorded 489 Indigenous deaths in custody (ie prison custody, police custody and custody-related operations and youth justice; see Table C2).

Deaths in prison custody

2020–21 findings

In 2020–21 there were 66 deaths in prison custody (see Table B1), 23 fewer than in 2019–20 (see Table D1). The death rate also decreased from 0.22 per 100 prisoners in 2019–20 to 0.15 in 2020–21 (see Figure 1). This was the lowest death rate since 2011–12 (0.14 per 100; see Table D5).

The largest number of deaths in prison custody occurred in New South Wales ($n=29$), followed by Western Australia ($n=13$) and Victoria ($n=10$; see Table B1). There were nine deaths in prison custody in Queensland, four in South Australia, one in the Northern Territory and no deaths in Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory. The death rate was also highest in New South Wales (0.22 per 100), Western Australia (0.19 per 100) and Victoria (0.14 per 100).

Between 2019–20 and 2020–21, there was an increase in the number of deaths in prison custody in Western Australia (+1; see Table D1). The number of deaths decreased in New South Wales (–13), Victoria (–3), Queensland (–2), South Australia (–3) and the Northern Territory (–3). The number of deaths remained the same in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory ($n=0$ for each).

Indigenous status

In 2020–21 there were 12 Indigenous deaths in prison custody (see Table B1), accounting for 18 percent of deaths in prison custody over the period. In comparison, Indigenous prisoners made up 30 percent ($n=13,062$) of the average daily Australian prisoner population in the June quarter 2021 (ABS 2021a). In the 30 years since the RCIADIC (1991), the NDICP has recorded 320 Indigenous deaths in prison custody (see Table C2).

The highest number of Indigenous deaths in prison custody in 2020–21 occurred in New South Wales and Western Australia ($n=5$ for each; see Figure 2). There was one death of an Indigenous prisoner in each of Victoria and Queensland. No Indigenous deaths occurred in South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory.

There were 54 non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody in 2020–21. The highest number of non-Indigenous deaths were in New South Wales ($n=24$), followed by Victoria ($n=9$), Queensland ($n=8$) and Western Australia ($n=8$).

The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was 0.09 per 100 Indigenous prisoners (see Table B1), or 2.28 per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 18 years and over (at 30 June 2020; see Table B2). This was the lowest death rate of Indigenous prisoners recorded since 2011–12 (0.08 per 100; see Table D5). The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was highest in Western Australia (0.19 per 100 prisoners), followed by New South Wales (0.14 per 100) and Victoria (0.13 per 100; see Table B1). In comparison, the death rate of non-Indigenous prisoners was 0.18 per 100 non-Indigenous prisoners (see Table B1), or 0.28 per 100,000 non-Indigenous population aged 18 years and over (at 30 June 2020; see Table B2). It was highest for non-Indigenous prisoners in the Northern Territory (0.38 per 100 prisoners), followed by New South Wales (0.25 per 100) and Western Australia (0.20 per 100; see Table B1).

Between 2019–20 and 2020–21, the number of Indigenous deaths in prison custody decreased by one (from $n=13$ to $n=12$; see Table D2) and the rate of Indigenous deaths in prison custody decreased by 18 percent (from 0.11 to 0.09 per 100; see Table D5). Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody also decreased over this period in both number (from $n=76$ to $n=54$; see Table D3) and rate (from 0.26 to 0.18 per 100; see Table D5).

The death rate of Indigenous prisoners was lower than the death rate of non-Indigenous prisoners nationally (0.09 and 0.18 per 100 respectively), and in all jurisdictions in which deaths occurred (see Table B1). The death rate of Indigenous prisoners has been lower than the death rate of non-Indigenous prisoners each year since 2003–04 (see Figure 3).

In 1991, the RCIADIC concluded that Indigenous people were no more likely to die in custody than non-Indigenous people, but were significantly more likely to be arrested and imprisoned. The same remains true today. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprise three percent of the Australian population (ABS 2019) but, as noted earlier, make up 30 percent of the Australian prisoner population (ABS 2021a).

Sex

Sixty-one male and five female prisoners died in prison custody in 2020–21. This represented a death rate of 0.15 per 100 relevant prisoners for both male and female prisoners (see Table B1). Between 2019–20 and 2020–21, the death rate decreased for male prisoners (from 0.23 to 0.15 per 100) and increased for female prisoners (from 0.10 to 0.15 per 100; see Table D6). The death rate of male prisoners was the lowest recorded since 2011–12 (0.15 per 100).

Of the 61 male prisoner deaths in 2020–21, 11 were of Indigenous prisoners. This represents a death rate of 0.09 per 100 prisoners (see Table B1) or 4.24 per 100,000 relevant population (at 30 June 2020; see Table B2). In comparison, 50 non-Indigenous male prisoners died, representing a death rate of 0.18 per 100 prisoners (see Table B1) or 0.52 per 100,000 relevant population (at 30 June 2020; see Table B2). Of the five female prisoner deaths over this period, one was of an Indigenous prisoner and four were of non-Indigenous prisoners. This represents a death rate of 0.08 and 0.20 per 100 prisoners respectively (see Table B1), or 0.37 and 0.04 per 100,000 relevant population (at 30 June 2020) respectively (see Table B2).

The number of male prisoner deaths in custody has been higher than the number of female prisoner deaths in custody each year since 1979–80 (see Table D4). This reflects the composition of the total Australian prisoner population (ABS 2021a, 2000–20). For every female death in prison custody since 1979–80, there have been approximately 24 male deaths in prison custody. In comparison, for every female imprisoned in Australia in the June quarter 2021, there were approximately 12 males imprisoned (ABS 2021a).

Age

The median age at time of death for prisoners in 2020–21 was 53 years (see Table B1), and was lower for Indigenous prisoners than for non-Indigenous prisoners (44 years vs 56 years). Half of Indigenous deaths in prison custody were of prisoners aged 40–54 years (50%, $n=6$; see Table B1). In comparison, over half of non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody were of prisoners aged 55 years and over (54%, $n=29$). Death rates by age were not calculated for this report due to a lack of available population data (see *Appendix A* for more detail).

Legal status

In 2020–21, 70 percent ($n=46$) of deaths in prison custody were of sentenced prisoners (see Table B1). This represents a seven percent decrease in the proportion of deaths that were of sentenced prisoners in 2019–20 (75%, $n=67$; see Table D11). In comparison, 64 percent ($n=27,793$) of all prisoners in Australia were serving a sentence at 1 June 2021 (ABS 2021a).

In 2020–21, the death rate of sentenced prisoners was higher than that of unsentenced prisoners (0.17 and 0.13 per 100 respectively; see Table B1). This was the seventh year since 1981–82, and the second consecutive year, that the death rate of sentenced prisoners was higher than that of unsentenced prisoners (see Table D12). The death rate of sentenced Indigenous prisoners was higher than it was for unsentenced Indigenous prisoners (0.12 vs 0.04 per 100; see Table B1). This was also true for non-Indigenous prisoners (0.18 vs 0.17 per 100).

The peak death rate of sentenced prisoners, recorded in 1989–90, 1996–97 and 1997–98, was 0.28 per 100. The death rate of unsentenced prisoners reached a peak of 1.16 per 100 in 1983–84 (see Figure 4).

Cause of death

The cause of death was recorded in 59 of the 66 deaths in prison custody in 2020–21. Of these, 61 percent ($n=36$) were due to natural causes (see Table B1). A further 16 deaths (27%) were due to hanging and related complications, the greatest number of hanging deaths recorded since 2002–03 ($n=19$; see Table D13). The remaining seven deaths were due to external trauma (including head injuries and gunshot wounds; 7%, $n=4$), alcohol and/or drugs (3%, $n=2$) or other causes (2%, $n=1$; see Table B1). Most natural cause deaths were of prisoners aged 55 years and over (64%, $n=23$), whereas most hanging deaths were of prisoners aged under 55 years (81%, $n=13$).

The number of natural cause deaths has exceeded the number of hanging deaths since 2001–02 (see Figure 5). However, between 2019–20 and 2020–21 there was an increase in the number (11 vs 16; see Table D13) and rate (0.03 vs 0.04 per 100; see Table D16) of hanging deaths. Conversely, there was a decrease in the number (59 vs 36) and rate (0.14 vs 0.08 per 100) of natural cause deaths over this period.

The cause of death was recorded for 10 of the 12 Indigenous prisoners and 49 of the 54 non-Indigenous prisoners who died in custody in 2020–21. Natural causes were the most common cause of death for both Indigenous (70%, $n=7$) and non-Indigenous prisoners (59%, $n=29$; see Table B1). The natural cause death rate was higher for non-Indigenous than Indigenous prisoners (0.10 and 0.05 per 100 respectively).

Of the 16 hanging deaths, three were of Indigenous prisoners and 13 were of non-Indigenous prisoners. This represented a death rate of 0.02 and 0.04 per 100 relevant prisoners respectively. The rate of Indigenous hanging deaths has remained the same or lower than the rate of non-Indigenous hanging deaths in all but one year over the last decade (see Figure 6). Consistent with previous years, most hanging deaths (81%, $n=13$) involved the use of sheets and the most common hanging point was a cell fitting other than cell bars (38%, $n=6$), such as a cell door. In 2020–21, cell bars were used as a hanging point in one death. The number of hanging deaths in which cell bars were used as the hanging point has decreased since 2004–05, totalling no more than three deaths per year.

Most natural cause deaths were of sentenced prisoners (89%, $n=32$), and the natural cause death rate was higher among sentenced than unsentenced prisoners (0.12 and 0.03 per 100 respectively). Conversely, most hanging deaths were of unsentenced prisoners (69%, $n=11$). The hanging death rate was 0.07 per 100 for unsentenced prisoners, compared with 0.02 per 100 for sentenced prisoners.

Manner of death

The NDICP collects information on both the cause and manner of each death. Cause of death information relates to the direct cause of death, whereas the manner of death refers to the accountability or responsibility for the death (see *Appendix A*).

In 2020–21 the manner of death was recorded for 58 deaths in prison custody. Of these, natural causes were the most common manner of death (62%, $n=36$), exceeding self-inflicted deaths (36%, $n=21$) for the eighteenth year in a row (see Table D18). The number of self-inflicted deaths was the greatest recorded since 2002–03 ($n=21$). One further death in 2020–21 was attributed to unlawful (prisoner-on-prisoner) homicide (see Table B1).

The death rate was highest for natural cause deaths (0.08 per 100), exceeding that of self-inflicted deaths (0.05 per 100; see Table B1). The death rate for natural cause deaths has exceeded that of self-inflicted deaths since 2004–05 (see Figure 7). Consistent with 2019–20, the rate of death attributable to natural causes was higher for non-Indigenous prisoners than for Indigenous prisoners (0.10 vs 0.05 per 100), as was the rate of self-inflicted deaths (0.06 vs 0.02 per 100; see Table B1).

Of the 21 self-inflicted deaths, 16 were due to hanging and related complications, two were due to external trauma, one was due to alcohol and/or drugs and one was due to other or multiple causes (see Table B3). The cause of death was not recorded for one self-inflicted death. The one unlawful homicide was attributed to external trauma.

Most serious offence

The NDICP collects information on the most serious offence (MSO) leading to custody (see *Appendix A* for details of the offence categories). The MSO was recorded for 64 of the 66 prisoners who died in prison custody in 2020–21. Of these, most had been incarcerated for violent offences (81%, $n=52$), followed by good order offences (8%, $n=5$; see Table B1). Violent offences have been the most common MSO recorded for those who died in prison custody each year since 1993–94 (see Table D22). Most Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners who died in custody in 2020–21 had been incarcerated for a violent offence (75%, $n=9$ and 80%, $n=43$, respectively; see Table B1).

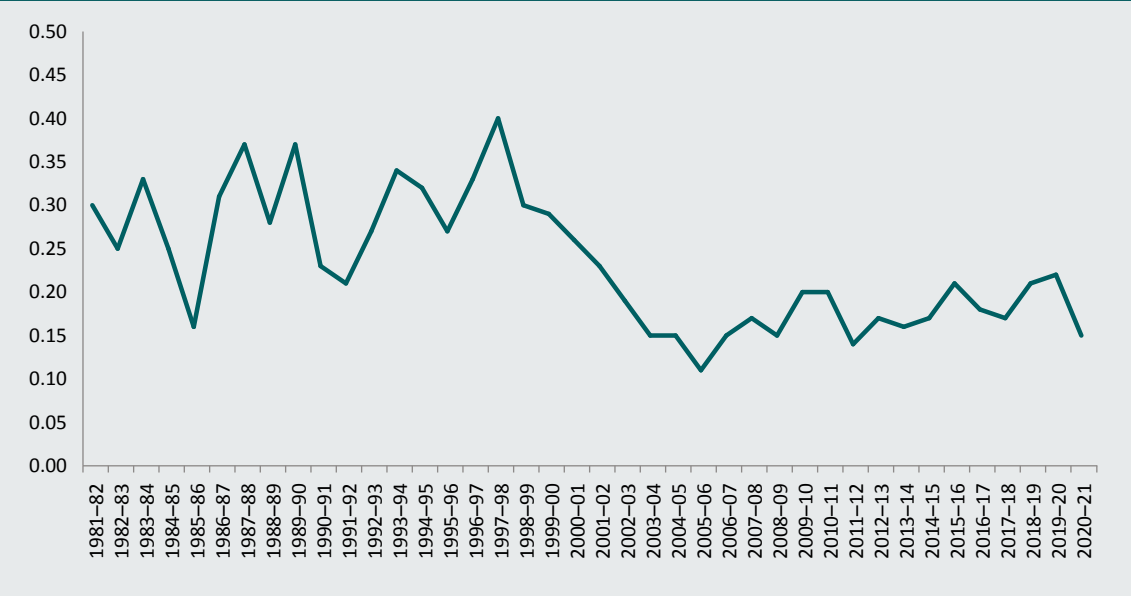
Location of death

In 2020–21, the most common location at time of death was a cell (50%, $n=33$), followed by a public hospital (32%, $n=21$) and a prison hospital (15%, $n=10$). This was the greatest proportion of deaths to occur in a cell since 2005–06 (50%, $n=14$; see Table D25). Seven Indigenous and 26 non-Indigenous prisoners died in a cell, while four Indigenous and 17 non-Indigenous prisoners died in a public hospital (see Table B1). Since 1979–80, half (50%, $n=996$) of prison deaths have occurred in a cell (see Table D25).

Type of prison

In 2020–21, most deaths in prison custody occurred while the prisoner was in the custody of a government run prison (79%, $n=52$; see Table B1). Fewer deaths occurred while the prisoner was in the custody of a privately run prison (21%, $n=14$). Based on prison population estimates at 30 June 2020 from the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (2021), the rate of death was slightly higher in privately run prisons than in government run prisons (0.16 and 0.15 per 100 respectively; see Table B1).

Figure 1: Deaths in prison custody, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)



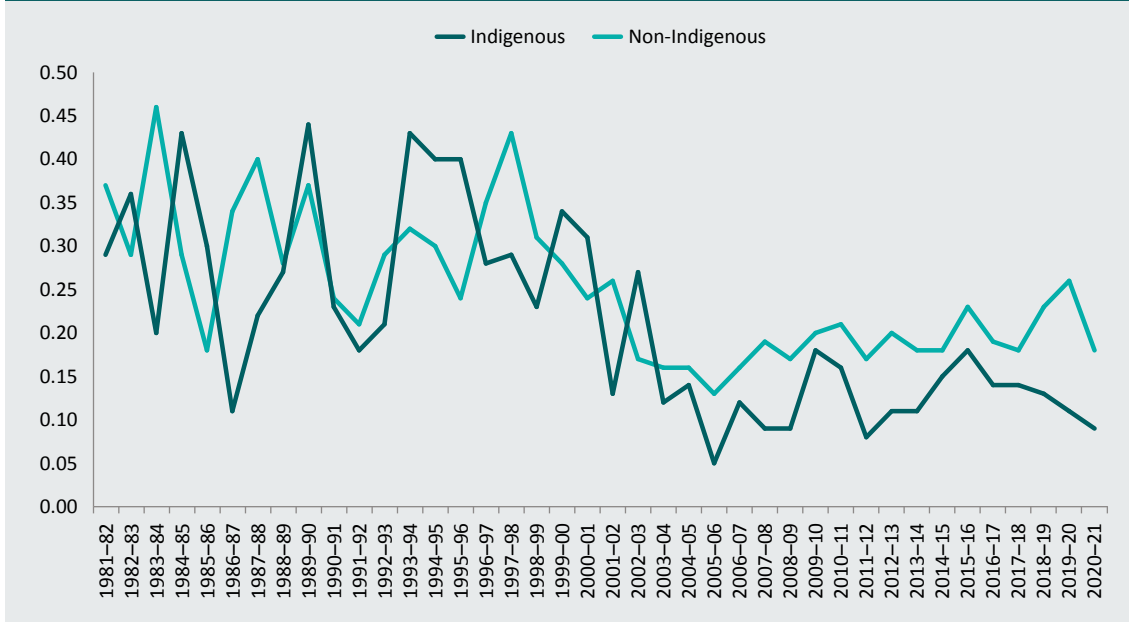
Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *ABS Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior
 Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D5

Figure 2: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction and Indigenous status, 2020–21 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]; see Table B1

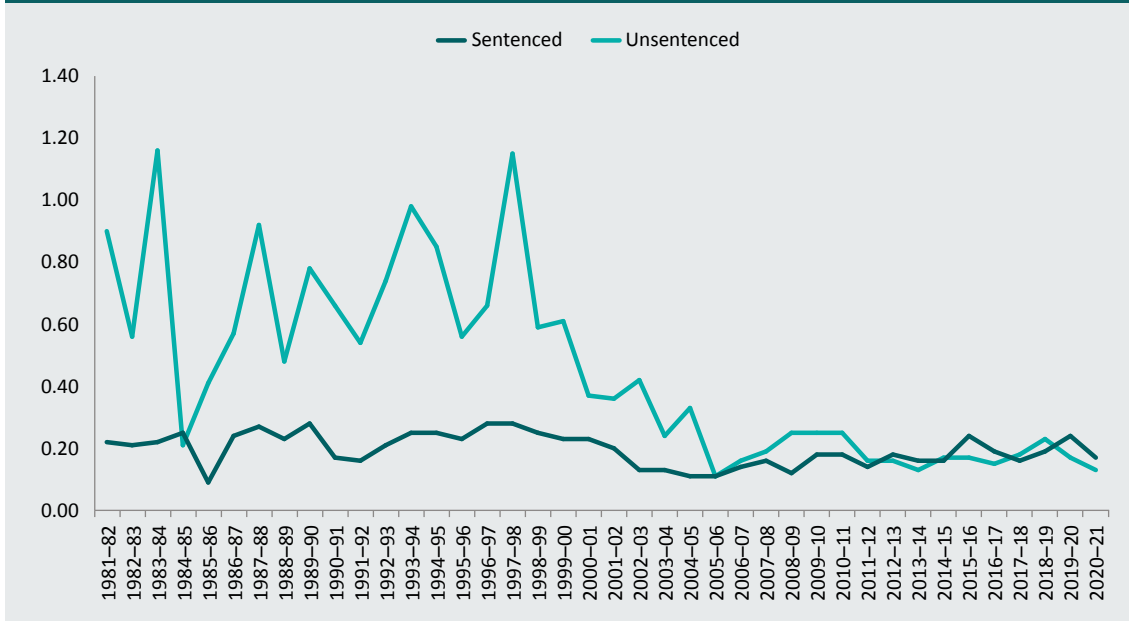
Figure 3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D5

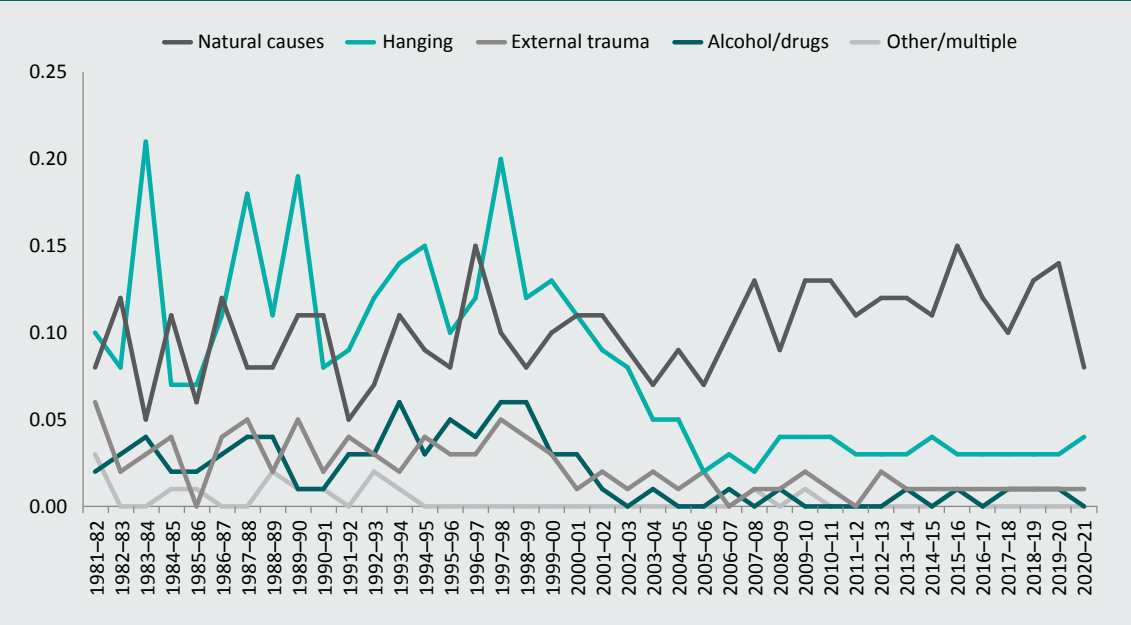
Figure 4: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior

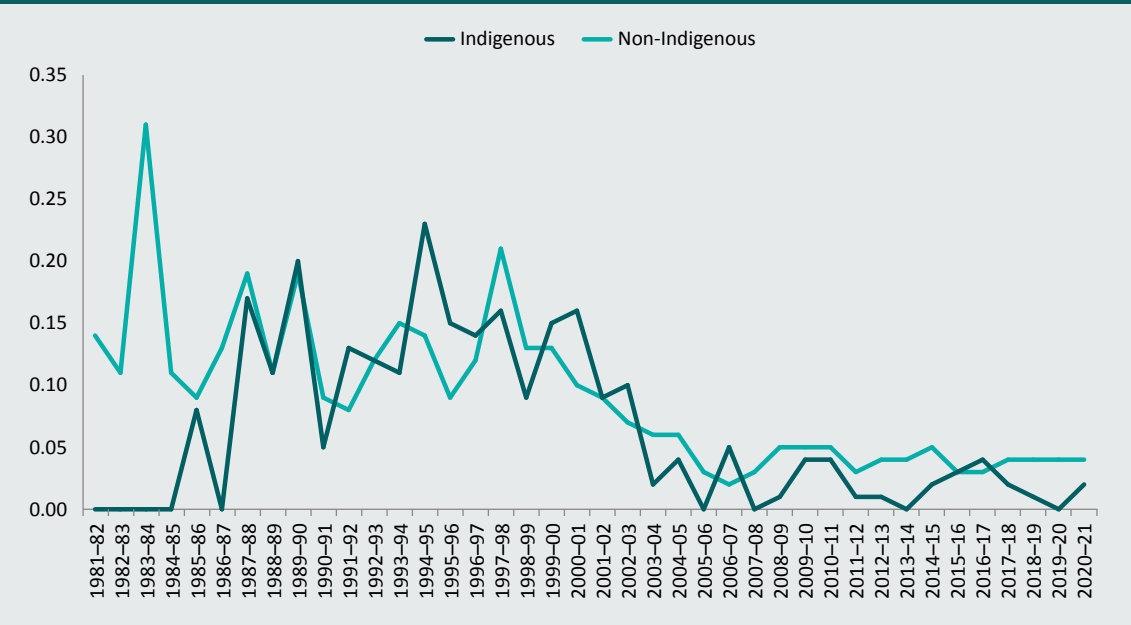
Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D12

Figure 5: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)



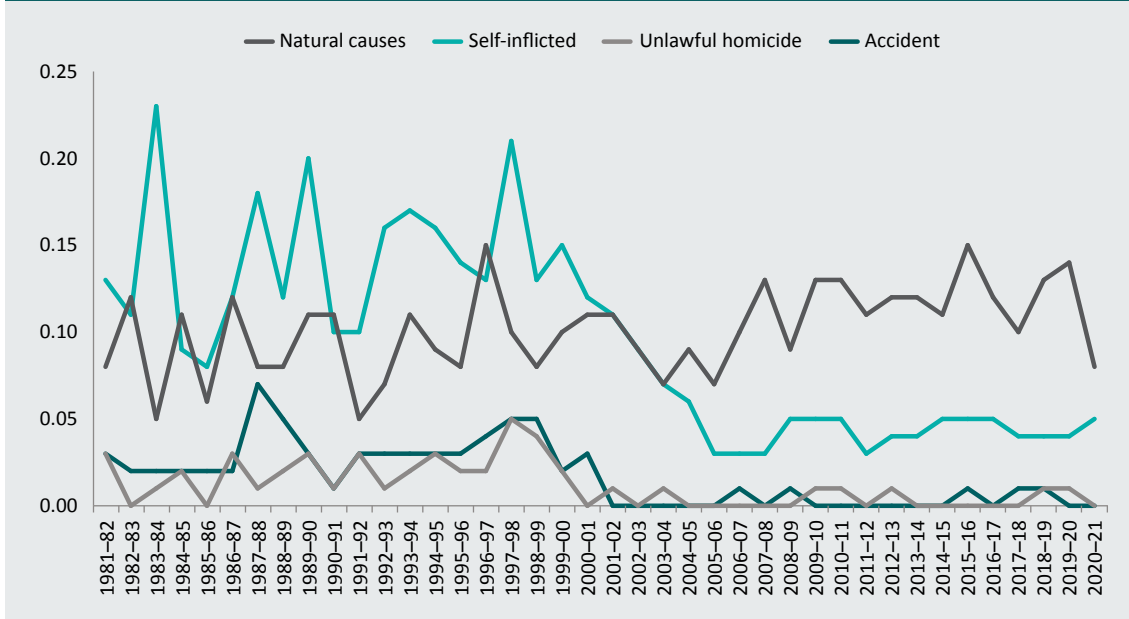
Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior. External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds
 Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D16

Figure 6: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)



Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior
 Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D17

Figure 7: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)



Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior. Self-inflicted includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown intent, and accidental hangings. Excludes justifiable homicides and deaths due to other or not determined manner due to low numbers

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]; see Table D21

Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations

2020–21 findings

In 2020–21 there were 16 deaths in police custody and custody-related operations (hereafter referred to as police custody) in Australia (see Table B4), eight fewer than the previous year (see Table E1). Typically, the number of deaths in police custody fluctuates annually (see Figure 8), which is attributable to the small number of deaths overall. Death rates in police custody are not calculated due to the lack of data on the national police custody population. Instead, the death rate by Indigenous status and sex described below is calculated as a proportion of the relevant population aged 10 years and over (the age of criminal responsibility).

The largest number of deaths in police custody occurred in New South Wales ($n=8$). There were four deaths in Queensland, three deaths in Victoria and one death in Tasmania. No deaths in police custody were recorded in Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory.

Eleven of the 16 deaths in police custody were Category 1 deaths (see Table B4). Category 1 deaths are those occurring during close police contact with the deceased, including deaths in police stations, and most police shootings and raids (see *Introduction*). The remaining five deaths in police custody in 2020–21 were Category 2 deaths, as they occurred during non-close police contact, such as motor vehicle pursuits.

Indigenous status

Of the 16 deaths in police custody in 2020–21, three were of Indigenous people and 13 were of non-Indigenous people (see Table B4). In the 30 years since the RCIADIC (1991), the NDICP has recorded 165 Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations (see Table C2).

The death rate of Indigenous people in police custody was 0.45 per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 10 years and over (at 30 June 2020; see Table B5). The death rate of non-Indigenous people in police custody was 0.06 per 100,000 non-Indigenous population aged 10 years and over (at 30 June 2020).

Consistent with all years of data on deaths in police custody (1989–90 onward), the number of non-Indigenous deaths exceeded the number of Indigenous deaths (see Figure 9). Since 1989–90, Indigenous people have comprised 20 percent ($n=177$) of all deaths in police custody (see Table E5).

Sex

In 2020–21, all deaths in police custody were of males (see Table B4). The number of male deaths in police custody has exceeded the number of female deaths in police custody for all 31 years of deaths in police custody data (see Table E6).

The death rate of Indigenous males was 0.90 per 100,000 relevant population, whereas it was 0.12 per 100,000 relevant population for non-Indigenous males (see Table B5).

Age

The median age at time of death in police custody was 31 years (see Table B4). The median age at time of death was the same for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people (31 years). Deaths in police custody in 2020–21 most commonly involved people aged 25–39 years (75%, $n=12$). Of the four further deaths, three were of individuals under 25 years, and the other was in the 40–54 years age category. For the third year since 1989–90, and the second consecutive year, there were no deaths of individuals aged 55 years or over (see Table E7).

Cause of death

The cause of death was recorded for 10 of the 16 deaths in police custody in 2020–21. Of these, seven were due to gunshot wounds, two to external trauma and one to natural causes (see Table B4). This was the equal lowest number of deaths attributed to external trauma in all years of deaths in police custody data (previously recorded in 2014–15; see Table E10). There were no hanging deaths in police custody for the fourth year in a row.

In 2020–21, one of the three Indigenous deaths in police custody was due to natural causes, and the cause of death was missing for the other two deaths (see Table B4). Seven of the non-Indigenous deaths in police custody were due to gunshot wounds and two were due to external trauma (see Table B4). The cause of death was missing for the remaining four non-Indigenous deaths.

In almost every year since 1989–90, the leading cause of death was either gunshot wounds or external trauma (see Figure 10). Overall, the greatest proportion of Indigenous deaths in police custody have been due to external trauma (33%, $n=57$), followed by natural causes (21%, $n=37$) and head injuries (14%, $n=24$; see Table E11). In comparison, most non-Indigenous deaths in police custody have been attributed to gunshot wounds (37%, $n=262$) or external trauma (30%, $n=211$; see Table E12).

Manner of death

As noted earlier, the NDICP collects information on both the cause and manner of each death (see *Appendix A*).

In 2020–21, manner of death information was available for 10 of the 16 deaths in police custody. Six of these were justifiable homicides (see Table B4), all caused by gunshot wounds from a police shooting (see Table B6). A further three deaths were self-inflicted and one was due to natural causes (see Table B4). Of the self-inflicted deaths, two were due to external trauma and one to gunshot wounds (see Table B6). For the first time in all years of deaths in police custody data, there were no accidental deaths in police custody (see Table E13).

Of the three Indigenous deaths in police custody, one was due to natural causes while the manner of death for the other two was not recorded (see Table B6). Of the 13 non-Indigenous deaths, six were justifiable homicides due to gunshot wounds, two were self-inflicted due to external trauma and one was self-inflicted due to gunshot wounds. The remaining four non-Indigenous deaths had no manner of death recorded.

Since 1989–90, the greatest proportion of Indigenous (48%, $n=79$; see Table E14) and non-Indigenous (35%, $n=244$; see Table E15) deaths in police custody have been accidental. However, the numbers of accidental deaths have been generally decreasing over the last decade (from $n=12$ in 2011–12 to $n=0$ in 2020–21; see Table E13). Deaths resulting from unlawful homicides have remained consistently low since 1989–90, comprising two percent ($n=16$) of all deaths in police custody.

Most serious offence

Data on the most serious offence the deceased was suspected of committing were available for 11 of the 16 deaths in police custody. Seven people were suspected of having committed violent offences, two of good order offences, one of a theft-related offence and one of an offence classified as 'other' (see Table B4). Since 1989–90, deaths of people suspected of committing a violent offence (36%, $n=313$) have been more common than deaths of those suspected of committing any other type of offence (see Table E16).

Two of the Indigenous people who died in police custody in 2020–21 were suspected of having committed violent offences, while the MSO was not recorded for the other (see Table B4). Five of the non-Indigenous deaths in police custody were of people suspected of having committed violent offences, two of good order offences, one of a theft-related offence and one of an offence classed as 'other'. The MSO of the other four non-Indigenous people was not recorded.

Since 1989–90, Indigenous people who have died in police custody have most commonly been suspected of having committed a theft-related (32%, $n=53$), good order (24%, $n=40$) or violent offence (23%, $n=38$; see Table E17). Over the same time period, non-Indigenous people have most commonly been suspected of committing a violent (39%, $n=271$), theft-related (17%, $n=116$) or traffic-related offence (16%, $n=109$; see Table E18).

Location of death

Location of death relates to the location at time of death only. It therefore does not capture the location of any events that caused the death, if this differs from where the individual ultimately died (see *Appendix A*). In 2020–21, the largest proportion of deaths in police custody occurred in a public place (38%, $n=6$), followed by a private property (31%, $n=5$) or a public hospital (31%, $n=5$; see Table B4). Of the five deaths that occurred in a public hospital, four were preceded by incidents occurring on private property and one by an incident in a public place.

The three Indigenous deaths in police custody occurred in a public hospital (see Table B4). The greatest proportion of non-Indigenous deaths in police custody occurred in a public place (46%, $n=6$). A further five non-Indigenous deaths occurred on private property and two occurred in a public hospital.

Since 1989–90, the largest proportion of deaths in police custody have occurred in a public place (40%, $n=358$), followed by a public hospital (28%, $n=250$; see Table E19). Eight percent of deaths over this time period occurred in a cell ($n=75$).

Circumstances of custodial period

In 2020–21, most deaths in police custody occurred while police were detaining or attempting to detain the person (94%, $n=15$; see Table B4). The other death occurred in a circumstance categorised as ‘other’. All three Indigenous deaths occurred while police were detaining or attempting to detain the individual.

Deaths occurring while police were detaining or attempting to detain the individual have outnumbered deaths in any other type of police custody each year since 1992–93 (see Table E20). Since 1989–90, the most common method of detainment has been a motor vehicle pursuit (34%, $n=229$) or other circumstances (eg shooting not elsewhere classified; 37%, $n=249$; see Table E21).

Shooting deaths

In 2020–21 there were seven shooting deaths in police custody (see Table B4), nine fewer than in 2019–20 (see Table E25). Of these, six were police shootings and one was a self-inflicted shooting. Three shootings occurred in New South Wales and two occurred in each of Victoria and Queensland. Since 1989–90, there have been 170 police shootings and 110 self-inflicted shootings in police custody (see Table E25).

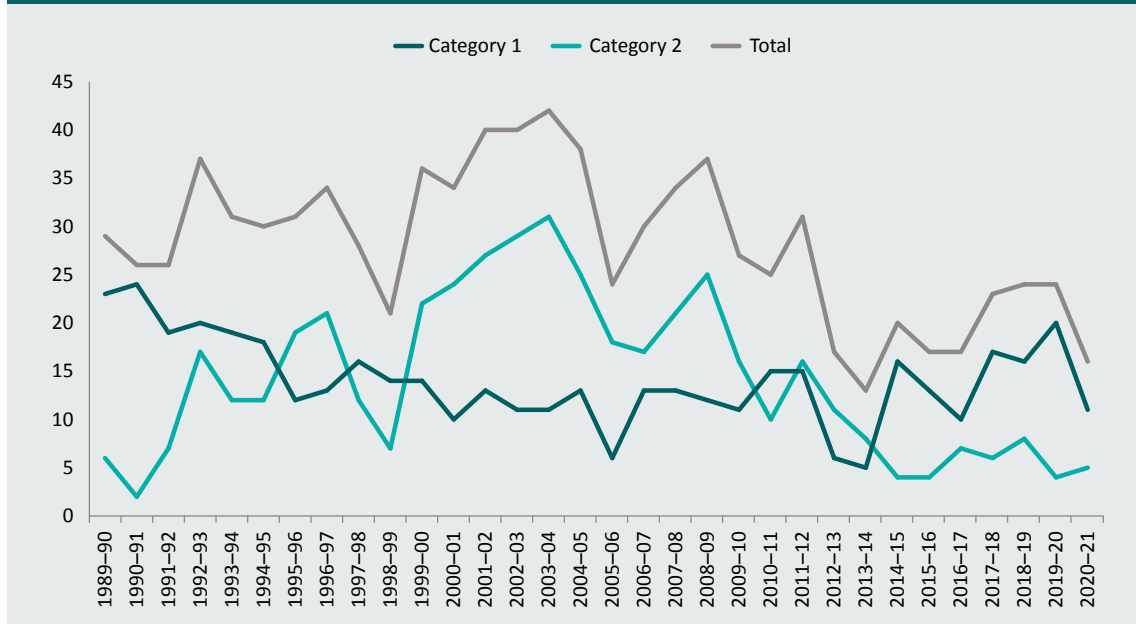
Of the six police shooting deaths in 2020–21:

- All were of non-Indigenous people. The number of police shootings of Indigenous people has been less than or equal to the number of police shootings of non-Indigenous people in all years since 1989–90.
- All were of males. More males than females have died in police shootings in all years since 1989–90.
- Three individuals were suspected of having committed a violent offence and one a theft-related offence. The most serious offence was not recorded for the remaining two deaths. Since 1989–90, just under three-quarters of all police shootings (74%, $n=125$) were of people suspected of having committed a violent offence.
- Three police shootings occurred on private property and three in a public place.

Motor vehicle pursuit deaths

In 2020–21, there were no deaths resulting from a motor vehicle pursuit. This was the third year since NDICP data collection began that there were no motor vehicle pursuit deaths (see Figure 11).

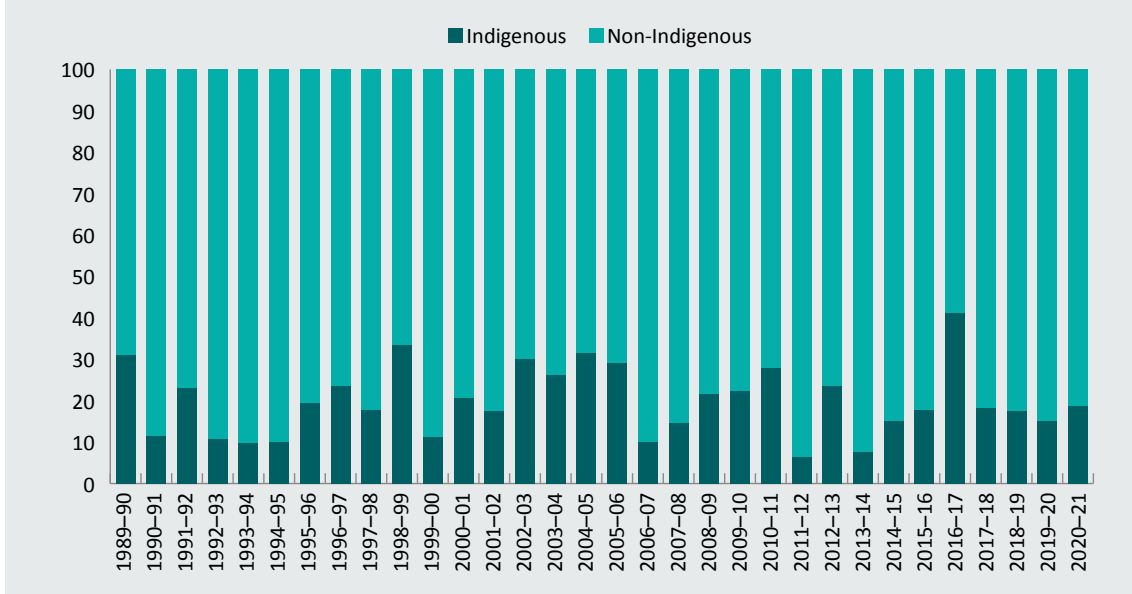
Figure 8: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)



Note: For a definition of these categories, see Box 1 in the *Introduction*

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]; see Table E4

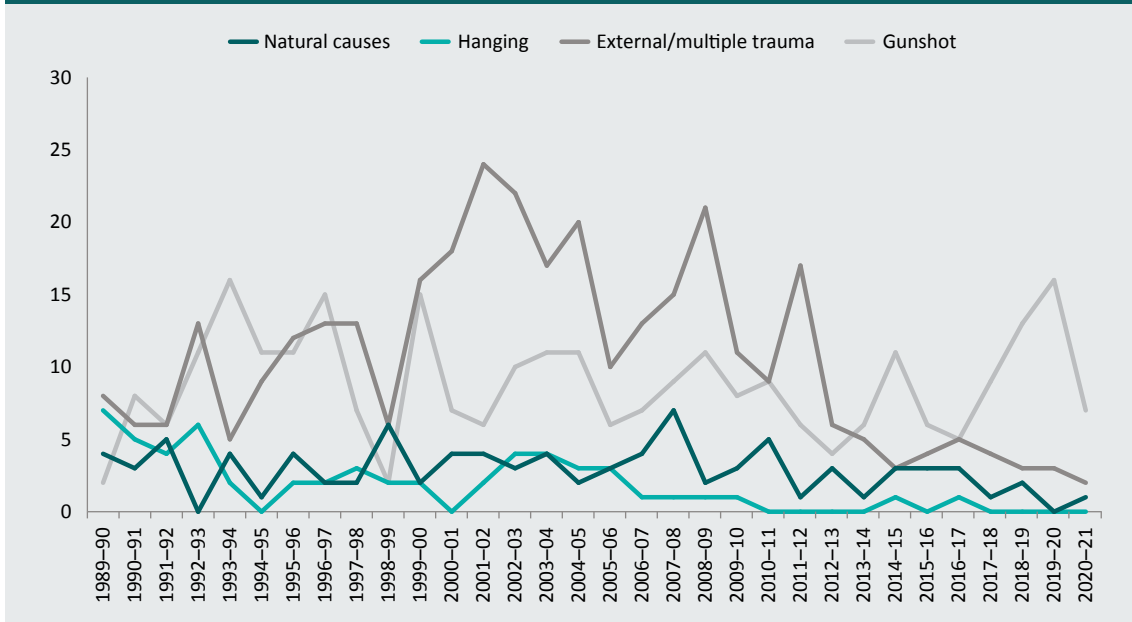
Figure 9: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (%)



Note: Excludes 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]; see Table E5

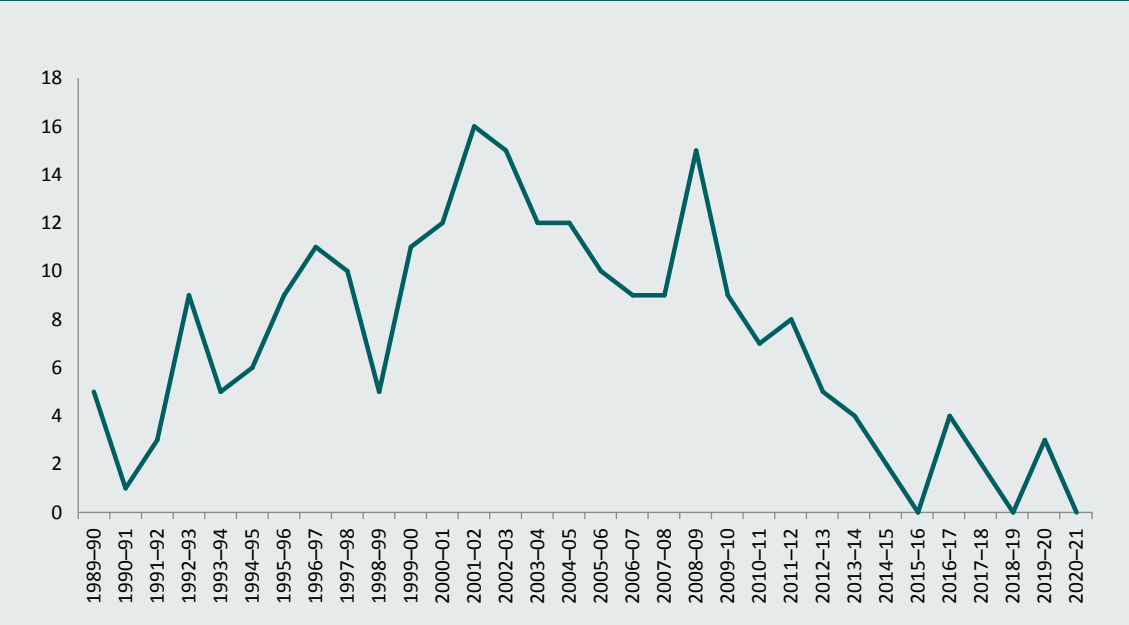
Figure 10: Deaths in police custody by select cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)



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

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]; see Table E10

Figure 11: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)



Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]; see Table E24

Figure 12: Shooting deaths, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)



Note: Excludes one case where deceased was shot by another person and one case where type of shooting death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]; see Table E25

References

URLs correct as at October 2021

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021a. *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021*. ABS cat.no. 4512.0. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/corrective-services-australia/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021b. *National, state and territory population*. ABS cat. no. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019. *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*. ABS cat. no. 3238.0. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/estimates-and-projections-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011. *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)*, 3rd ed. ABS cat. no. 1234.0. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1234.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2000–2020. *Prisoners in Australia* (various issues). ABS cat.no. 4517.0. Canberra: ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/prisoners-australia>

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) 1991. *National report volume 1*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service. <https://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/rciadic>

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) 2021. *Report on government services 2021*. Part C, chapter 8: Corrective services. Melbourne: Productivity Commission. <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2021/justice/corrective-services>

Appendix A: Methodology

Background and purpose of the NDICP

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

In response, the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology in 1992 and continues to provide comprehensive and authoritative data on all deaths that occur in custody and in custody-related police operations. The NDICP began recording information in 1992. The program collected data retrospectively for deaths in prison custody and category 1(a) deaths in police custody that occurred between 1980 and 1992. It also collected data retrospectively for police operational deaths (category 1(b) and category 2 deaths) that occurred between 1990 and 1992. This places the NDICP in the unique position of holding detailed information on custodial deaths in Australia spanning 42 years.

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

The NDICP is supported by a Steering Group which was established in 2021 to provide advice on matters associated with ongoing program implementation. This includes program design, definitions, data collection, analysis and reporting. The Steering Group helps to ensure that the NDICP is responsive to emerging issues associated with the monitoring of deaths in custody in Australia.

Scope

There are several key differences between the scope of the NDICP and legislated definitions of deaths in custody for coronial purposes. Thus, deaths that may require notification to the coroner under state or territory legislation may not fall within the scope of the NDICP.

The NDICP collects information about the incidence and circumstances of deaths of people who are detained, who are in the process of being detained or who are escaping or have escaped. Therefore, the NDICP only monitors deaths of people who are in custody or who are alleged offenders. The program does not include deaths of people who are clients of police services or innocent bystanders who die in the course of a police operation.

Consequently, deaths in the following circumstances are not recorded as a death in police custody in the NDICP:

- deaths during operations such as search and rescue, and evacuations, where the deceased was not being detained or in the process of being detained for breaching the law;
- deaths during operations to prevent a suicide, where the purpose was not to detain the deceased due to a breach of the law. For example, where police were responding to a concern for welfare notice and were attempting to stop a person suiciding, and the person was not threatening harm to others or not otherwise being sought by police;
- deaths of innocent bystanders killed during a police operation (eg a pedestrian or passenger who dies as a result of a motor vehicle pursuit and who the police were not seeking to detain). If the deceased passenger was involved in committing an offence such as an armed robbery or motor vehicle theft prior to the pursuit commencing, the death falls within the scope of the NDICP.

Data collection and coding

The information held in the NDICP database comes from two main sources:

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

NDICP data collection forms are provided for each death during the financial year. These data are entered and cross-referenced with coronial records sourced from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). The AIC has access to open cases (those for which the coronial investigation has not been finalised) and closed cases (those for which the coronial investigation has been finalised and the coroner has made a finding) from all jurisdictions.

The AIC confirms the number of deaths and the Indigenous status of deceased people with data providers at the end of each financial year and again prior to preparation of the annual *Deaths in custody in Australia* Statistical Report.

The following describes some of the data items used in this report and the method of coding. The categories used to describe cause of death, manner of death, method of detainment and most serious offence were derived at the inception of the NDICP and have been retained to allow trend analysis. The Indigenous status variable was revised to meet the Indigenous status standard developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Indigenous status

Indigenous status is classified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander. This information, supplied by data providers on the notification form, is cross-referenced with Indigenous status and Indigenous origin fields recorded on the NCIS. Indigenous status is drawn from the police report to the coroner and Indigenous origin, introduced in 2020, from Births, Deaths and Marriages records. Where Indigenous status information from data providers and the NCIS do not correspond, the AIC engages with the data provider to determine evidence of Indigenous status. Where these data cannot be reconciled, Indigenous status is reported as not stated or unknown.

Cause versus manner of death

The NDICP collects information on both the cause and manner of each death. Cause of death information relates to the direct cause of death as reported by the coroner or by police and prison authorities. Cause of death is categorised in the NDICP as:

- natural causes;
- hanging (which includes strangulation) and associated complications;
- head injury;
- gunshot;
- other external trauma/multiple trauma;
- alcohol and/or drugs;
- other/multiple causes; or
- unknown/not determined.

These terms have been used since the establishment of the NDICP and are retained to enable trend analysis.

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. It is categorised in the NDICP as:

- natural causes;
- self-inflicted;
- homicide (justifiable, excusable, or unlawful);
- accident (or misadventure); or
- other/not determined.

These categories were derived at the inception of the NDICP based on coronial terminology.

In some cases, cause and manner will correspond; for example, where a person dies as a result of natural causes (eg cancer), both the cause and manner of their death will be recorded as natural causes. In other cases, cause and manner of death will differ; for example, where a person dies after hanging themselves, the cause of death will be recorded as hanging and the manner of death will be recorded as either self-inflicted or accidental.

Most serious offence

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

- 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 possessing, using, dealing, trafficking or manufacturing/growing drugs;
- traffic offence—includes road traffic, driving and licence offences;
- good order offence—includes public drunkenness, protective custody for intoxication (in a jurisdiction where public drunkenness is not an offence), justice procedure offences, breaches of sentencing (including fine default) and other offences against good order (eg betting and gambling, disorderly conduct, vagrancy or offensive behaviour); and
- other—includes offences not elsewhere classified (eg weapons offences).

Location of death

The location information collected by the NDICP relates to the location at time of death. It therefore does not capture the location of any events that caused the death, if this differs from where the individual ultimately died. For example, where a person is shot on private property and later dies in a public hospital as a result of the gunshot wound, the location of death is recorded as public hospital.

Type of custody

Type of custody is based on the deaths requiring notification to the NDICP, as recommended by the RCIADIC (see *Introduction*). They are:

- institutional—deaths that occur in prisons, youth detention facilities, police stations or lock-ups, during transfer to or from such an institution, or in medical facilities following transfer from an institution;
- escaping—deaths that occur during the process of the person escaping or attempting to escape from prison, a youth detention facility or police custody;
- detaining—deaths that occur during the process of police detaining or attempting to detain the person; and
- other—all other deaths not elsewhere classified.

Borderline cases

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

For the purposes of the NDICP, a person is considered to be in custody when they are not free to leave the detention or arrest of police or corrections officials. As outlined in the definitions in Box 1 in the *Introduction*, this includes deaths that occur in a hospital if the injury 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 their death, such as during shootings, sieges, raids and pursuits, the person is considered to have been in custody at the time of death. In all cases, the question of inclusion centres on whether the deceased was in custody at the time of death.

Any borderline cases are excluded from analysis pending their coronial outcome. This can mean a delay of several years before data on those particular cases are included, as it may take months or years for a case to be heard in the relevant coroner's court. Despite this, relying on coronial decisions ensures the integrity and reliability of the NDICP over the longer term, as coronial findings are legally binding determinations based on all available evidence. It is important to note that this means the total number of deaths may be revised in future reports as the inclusion or exclusion of borderline cases is resolved.

Data revisions

NDICP data are reviewed annually to ensure the database is accurate and reliable. Where data are missing from the NDICP database, these are checked against coronial findings and other available data, and any necessary revisions made. Consequently, numbers and rates may differ between reports.

In 2021, the AIC began working with data providers in each state and territory to reconcile historical Indigenous status data and ensure that data held in the NDICP were consistent with agency records. At the time of publication, this process has been finalised with:

- corrections departments in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory; and
- Western Australia Police Force.

The process is ongoing with Corrective Services New South Wales, and police agencies in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Data revisions will be made where required in the *Deaths in custody in Australia 2021–22* report, to be released by the end of 2022.

Additionally, an audit was undertaken of the location of death variables. As such, numbers relating to the location of death published in this report differ from those in previous reports.

Calculation of death rates and population rates

Before 2021, death rates were calculated using the ABS *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–20), which counts all prisoners in legal custody in each jurisdiction as at midnight on 30 June each year. As of 2020–21, *Deaths in custody in Australia* reports are published within six months of the end of the financial year. This change in the timing of the publication means the ABS *Prisoners in Australia* data could not be used to calculate rates as these data were not publicly available during the preparation of this report. As such, rates of death in prison custody by prison population have been calculated using the ABS *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a). These data are provided to the ABS from administrative records held by corrective services agencies in each state and territory and refer to the average daily prisoner population throughout the month of June, or the prisoner population on 1 June. These data include a breakdown by legal status, custody type, Indigenous status and sex but not age. As such, death rates for each age group could not be calculated for this report. For these reasons, care should be taken when comparing rates of death over time.

Where trends in rates of death are presented, the rates are calculated back to 1982, as prison census data were not available until 1982. The prison population is the standard denominator for calculating death rates in prison custody, reflecting changes in prison demographic composition.

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

Population rates are presented for deaths in prison and police custody. Population rates are calculated using June 2020 population data from the ABS *National, state and territory population* (ABS 2021b) and the 2006–2031 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections (ABS 2019). Rates of death in prison custody are calculated using the population aged 18 years and over, as no deaths occurred in youth justice in 2020–21. Rates of death in police custody and custody-related operations are calculated based on the population aged 10 years and over (the legal age of criminal responsibility).

Limitations

Time frames

The release of NDICP reports relies on the availability of the two primary sources of data. Data for this report were prepared for publication in the three months after the conclusion of the financial year. This time period means that data for most cases available on the NCIS were limited by the number or comprehensiveness of coronial records. As such, details may change once coronial investigations are finalised.

Contextual information

The purpose of the NDICP is to monitor annual and trend information on the nature and extent of deaths in Australian prison and police custody. This function is performed through the collation and cross-referencing of quantitative data from police services, correctional departments and the NCIS on the characteristics of the deceased and the circumstances of the death. Compiling qualitative data from coronial findings sits outside the scope of the NDICP and these data are not routinely reported in the *Deaths in custody in Australia* series. These contextual data are instead collated for individual studies examining specific population groups or categories of deaths.

Appendix B: Data tables— Deaths in custody 2020–21 key findings

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2020–21^a

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate
Jurisdiction						
NSW	5	0.14	24	0.25	29	0.22
Vic	1	0.13	9	0.14	10	0.14
Qld	1	0.03	8	0.12	9	0.09
WA	5	0.19	8	0.20	13	0.19
SA	0	0.00	4	0.17	4	0.13
Tas	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
ACT	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
NT	0	0.00	1	0.38	1	0.06
Sex						
Male	11	0.09	50	0.18	61	0.15
Female	1	0.08	4	0.20	5	0.15
Age group (years)						
18–24	1	–	1	–	2	–
25–39	3	–	12	–	15	–
40–54	6	–	12	–	18	–
55+	2	–	29	–	31	–
Median (mean)	44 (45.1)		56 (55.8)		53 (53.9)	
Legal status						
Sentenced	10	0.12	36	0.18	46	0.17
Unsentenced	2	0.04	18	0.17	20	0.13

Table B1: Deaths in prison custody, 2020–21 ^a (cont.)						
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate	<i>n</i>	rate
Cause of death^b						
Natural causes	7	0.05	29	0.10	36	0.08
Hanging	3	0.02	13	0.04	16	0.04
External trauma ^c	0	0.00	4	0.01	4	0.01
Alcohol/drugs	0	0.00	2	0.01	2	<0.01
Other/multiple	0	0.00	1	<0.01	1	<0.01
Manner of death^d						
Natural causes	7	0.05	29	0.10	36	0.08
Self-inflicted	3	0.02	18	0.06	21	0.05
Unlawful homicide	0	0.00	1	<0.01	1	<0.01
Justifiable homicide	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Accident	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Most serious offence^e						
Violent	9	–	43	–	52	–
Theft-related	1	–	1	–	2	–
Drug-related	0	–	2	–	2	–
Traffic-related	1	–	0	–	1	–
Good order	1	–	4	–	5	–
Other offences	0	–	2	–	2	–
Location of death						
Cell	7	–	26	–	33	–
Other custodial setting	0	–	1	–	1	–
Public hospital	4	–	17	–	21	–
Prison hospital	1	–	9	–	10	–
Psychiatric hospital	0	–	0	–	0	–
Public place	0	–	1	–	1	–
Other	0	–	0	–	0	–
Type of prison^f						
Private	3	–	11	–	14	0.16
Government	9	–	43	–	52	0.15
Total	12	0.09	54	0.18	66	0.15

a: Rates (unless otherwise specified) have been calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a)

b: Excludes 7 cases where cause of death was not recorded

c: Includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

d: Excludes 8 cases where manner of death was not recorded

e: Excludes 2 cases where most serious offence was not recorded

f: Rates have been calculated using SCRGSP (2020) population estimates

Note: Rates per 100 relevant prisoners

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Table B2: Deaths in prison custody, 2020–21 (rate per 100,000 population^a)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Sex			
Male	4.24	0.52	0.62
Female	0.37	0.04	0.05
Age group (years)			
18–24	0.88	0.05	0.09
25–39	1.66	0.22	0.26
40–54	4.71	0.25	0.37
55+	1.88	0.41	0.43
Total	2.28	0.28	0.33

a: Rates have been calculated using population data from the *National, state and territory population* (ABS 2021b) and 2006–2031 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections (ABS 2019)

Note: Rates per 100,000 relevant population

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Table B3: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, cause of death and manner of death, 2020–21 (n)

	Manner of death					Total
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	
Indigenous						
Natural causes	7	0	0	0	0	7
Hanging	0	3	0	0	0	3
External trauma	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Indigenous						
Natural causes	29	0	0	0	0	29
Hanging	0	13	0	0	0	13
External trauma	0	2	1	0	0	3
Alcohol/drugs	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other/multiple	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total						
Natural causes	36	0	0	0	0	36
Hanging	0	16	0	0	0	16
External trauma	0	2	1	0	0	3
Alcohol/drugs	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other/multiple	0	1	0	0	0	1

Note: Excludes 9 cases where cause and/or manner of death were not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Table B4: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2020–21 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Jurisdiction			
NSW	2	6	8
Vic	0	3	3
Qld	1	3	4
WA	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Tas	0	1	1
ACT	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
Category of death			
Category 1	2	9	11
Category 2	1	4	5
Sex			
Male	3	13	16
Female	0	0	0
Age group (years)			
10 ^a –24	0	3	3
25–39	3	9	12
40–54	0	1	1
55+	0	0	0
Median (mean)	31 (32)	31 (31.8)	31 (31.9)
Cause of death^b			
Natural causes	1	0	1
Hanging	0	0	0
External trauma	0	2	2
Gunshot	0	7	7
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	0	0
Manner of death^c			
Natural causes	1	0	1
Self-inflicted	0	3	3
Unlawful homicide	0	0	0
Justifiable homicide	0	6	6
Accident	0	0	0
Other/not determined	0	0	0

Table B4: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2020–21 (n) (cont.)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Most serious offence^d			
Violent	2	5	7
Theft-related	0	1	1
Drug-related	0	0	0
Traffic-related	0	0	0
Good order	0	2	2
Other	0	1	1
Location of death			
Cell	0	0	0
Other custodial environment	0	0	0
Public hospital	3	2	5
Psychiatric hospital	0	0	0
Private property	0	5	5
Public place	0	6	6
Other	0	0	0
Circumstances of custodial period			
Institution	0	0	0
Detaining	3	12	15
Escaping	0	0	0
Other/marginal	0	1	1
Total	3	13	16

a: The legal age of criminal responsibility

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

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

d: Excludes 5 cases where most serious offence was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Table B5: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 2020–21 (rate per 100,000 population^a)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Sex			
Male	0.90	0.12	0.14
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00
Age group (years)			
10 ^b –24	0.00	0.07	0.06
25–39	1.66	0.16	0.21
40–54	0.00	0.02	0.02
55+	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.45	0.06	0.07

a: Rates have been calculated using population data from the *National, state and territory population* (ABS 2021b) and 2006–2031 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections (ABS 2019)

b: The legal age of criminal responsibility

Note: Rates per 100,000 relevant population

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Table B6: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, cause of death and manner of death, 2020–21 (n)							
	Manner of death						Total
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	
Indigenous							
Natural causes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hanging	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External trauma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gunshot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Indigenous							
Natural causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hanging	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External trauma	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gunshot	0	1	0	6	0	0	7
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total							
Natural causes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hanging	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External trauma	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gunshot	0	1	0	6	0	0	7
Alcohol/drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/multiple	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Excludes 6 cases where cause and/or manner of death were not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 2020–21 [computer file]

Appendix C: Data tables— Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21

Table C1: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
1979–80	15	5	1	0	21
1980–81	28	12	1	0	41
1981–82	29	15	0	0	44
1982–83	25	22	0	0	47
1983–84	32	14	1	0	47
1984–85	27	21	0	0	48
1985–86	18	20	0	0	38
1986–87	37	42	1	0	80
1987–88	45	23	2	0	70
1988–89	36	29	0	0	65
1989–90	53	29	1	0	83
1990–91	35	26	1	0	62
1991–92	32	26	0	0	58
1992–93	43	37	0	0	80
1993–94	57	31	2	0	90
1994–95	55	30	0	0	85
1995–96	49	31	2	0	82
1996–97	63	34	1	0	98
1997–98	80	28	0	0	108
1998–99	64	21	1	1	87

Table C1: Deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)					
	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
1999–2000	64	36	1	0	101
2000–01	58	34	1	1	94
2001–02	52	40	0	1	93
2002–03	44	40	0	0	84
2003–04	37	42	0	0	79
2004–05	39	38	0	0	77
2005–06	28	24	1	1	54
2006–07	40	30	0	0	70
2007–08	46	34	0	0	80
2008–09	43	37	0	0	80
2009–10	58	27	0	0	85
2010–11	58	25	1	0	84
2011–12	42	31	0	0	73
2012–13	53	17	0	0	70
2013–14	54	13	0	0	67
2014–15	61	20	0	0	81
2015–16	83	17	0	0	100
2016–17	74	17	0	0	91
2017–18	72	23	0	0	95
2018–19	89	24	0	0	113
2019–20	89	24	0	0	113
2020–21	66	16	0	0	82
Total	2,073	1,105	18	4	3,200

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

Note: Includes 616 Indigenous deaths in custody, 2,578 non-Indigenous deaths in custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)					
	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
1979–80	4	1	1	0	6
1980–81	2	7	1	0	10
1981–82	3	2	0	0	5
1982–83	4	5	0	0	9
1983–84	2	3	0	0	5
1984–85	5	8	0	0	13
1985–86	4	5	0	0	9

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)					
	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
1986–87	2	15	1	0	18
1987–88	4	6	1	0	11
1988–89	5	10	0	0	15
1989–90	9	9	0	0	18
1990–91	5	3	0	0	8
1991–92	4	6	0	0	10
1992–93	5	4	0	0	9
1993–94	12	3	0	0	15
1994–95	12	3	0	0	15
1995–96	13	6	0	0	19
1996–97	10	8	0	0	18
1997–98	11	5	0	0	16
1998–99	10	7	1	0	18
1999–2000	14	4	1	0	19
2000–01	14	7	0	0	21
2001–02	6	7	0	0	13
2002–03	13	12	0	0	25
2003–04	6	11	0	0	17
2004–05	8	12	0	0	20
2005–06	3	7	1	0	11
2006–07	8	3	0	0	11
2007–08	6	5	0	0	11
2008–09	7	8	0	0	15
2009–10	14	6	0	0	20
2010–11	12	7	1	0	20
2011–12	6	2	0	0	8
2012–13	9	4	0	0	13
2013–14	10	1	0	0	11
2014–15	15	3	0	0	18
2015–16	19	3	0	0	22
2016–17	16	7	0	0	23
2017–18	16	4	0	0	20
2018–19	16	4	0	0	20
2019–20	13	3	0	0	16
2020–21	12	3	0	0	15

Table C2: Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)					
	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
Total since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991–92 to 2020–21)					
Total	320	165	4	0	489
Total for all years of data collection (1979–80 to 2020–21)					
Total	369	239	8	0	616

a: Category 1(a) deaths have been included in the NDICP since 1980, whereas police operational deaths (category 1(b) and category 2 deaths) have only been collected by the NDICP since 1990. For more detail, see *Introduction*
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)					
	Prison	Police ^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
1979–80	11	4	0	0	15
1980–81	26	5	0	0	31
1981–82	26	13	0	0	39
1982–83	21	17	0	0	38
1983–84	30	11	1	0	42
1984–85	22	13	0	0	35
1985–86	14	15	0	0	29
1986–87	35	27	0	0	62
1987–88	41	17	1	0	59
1988–89	31	19	0	0	50
1989–90	44	20	1	0	65
1990–91	30	23	1	0	54
1991–92	28	20	0	0	48
1992–93	38	33	0	0	71
1993–94	45	28	2	0	75
1994–95	43	27	0	0	70
1995–96	36	25	2	0	63
1996–97	53	26	1	0	80
1997–98	69	23	0	0	92
1998–99	54	14	0	1	69
1999–2000	50	32	0	0	82
2000–01	44	27	1	1	73
2001–02	46	33	0	1	80
2002–03	31	28	0	0	59
2003–04	31	31	0	0	62
2004–05	31	26	0	0	57
2005–06	25	17	0	1	43

Table C3: Non-Indigenous deaths in custody by custodial authority, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)					
	Prison	Police^a	Youth justice	Other	Total
2006–07	32	27	0	0	59
2007–08	40	29	0	0	69
2008–09	36	29	0	0	65
2009–10	44	21	0	0	65
2010–11	46	18	0	0	64
2011–12	36	29	0	0	65
2012–13	44	13	0	0	57
2013–14	44	12	0	0	56
2014–15	46	17	0	0	63
2015–16	64	14	0	0	78
2016–17	58	10	0	0	68
2017–18	56	18	0	0	74
2018–19	73	19	0	0	92
2019–20	76	17	0	0	93
2020–21	54	13	0	0	67
Total	1,704	860	10	4	2,578

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

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Appendix D: Data tables— Deaths in prison custody, 1979–80 to 2020–21

Table D1: Deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	3	2	3	1	5	0	0	1	15
1980–81	8	6	8	3	3	0	0	0	28
1981–82	7	7	8	5	1	1	0	0	29
1982–83	5	4	5	5	6	0	0	0	25
1983–84	12	14	4	2	0	0	0	0	32
1984–85	10	5	5	5	2	0	0	0	27
1985–86	6	2	7	1	0	0	0	2	18
1986–87	17	7	7	3	2	0	0	1	37
1987–88	13	18	6	3	2	2	1	0	45
1988–89	7	11	5	6	1	4	0	2	36
1989–90	28	4	12	3	5	1	0	0	53
1990–91	18	2	4	6	3	1	0	1	35
1991–92	6	3	11	4	5	3	0	0	32
1992–93	20	6	6	6	4	0	0	1	43
1993–94	29	5	11	2	6	3	0	1	57
1994–95	22	7	12	6	7	0	0	1	55
1995–96	18	5	10	6	6	2	1	1	49
1996–97	30	5	13	9	5	1	0	0	63
1997–98	29	13	11	16	6	1	1	3	80
1998–99	27	9	19	6	1	1	0	1	64
1999–2000	23	3	14	15	4	5	0	0	64
2000–01	18	11	11	9	7	0	0	2	58
2001–02	18	6	14	10	2	1	0	1	52

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2002–03	16	5	7	8	5	1	0	2	44
2003–04	13	4	13	4	2	0	0	1	37
2004–05	15	4	4	7	6	2	0	1	39
2005–06	10	5	2	6	3	1	0	1	28
2006–07	22	3	6	3	4	1	0	1	40
2007–08	11	13	8	8	4	2	0	0	46
2008–09	15	8	9	4	5	1	1	0	43
2009–10	21	8	10	8	5	3	1	2	58
2010–11	20	10	11	5	4	2	0	6	58
2011–12	18	4	6	7	4	1	0	2	42
2012–13	19	13	9	10	0	1	0	1	53
2013–14	13	11	11	7	4	1	2	5	54
2014–15	21	15	7	4	7	3	1	3	61
2015–16	23	19	10	11	13	2	1	4	83
2016–17	21	20	12	14	2	1	1	3	74
2017–18	27	17	11	11	2	1	0	3	72
2018–19	33	19	11	15	6	2	0	3	89
2019–20	42	13	11	12	7	0	0	4	89
2020–21	29	10	9	13	4	0	0	1	66
Total	763	356	373	289	170	51	10	61	2,073

Note: Includes 369 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,704 non-Indigenous deaths in custody

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	4
1980–81	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1981–82	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
1982–83	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1984–85	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	5
1985–86	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
1986–87	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
1987–88	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
1988–89	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	5
1989–90	5	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	9

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1990–91	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
1991–92	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
1992–93	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	4	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	12
1994–95	5	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	12
1995–96	4	0	3	2	3	0	0	1	13
1996–97	3	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	10
1997–98	3	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	11
1998–99	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	10
1999–2000	7	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	14
2000–01	5	1	1	3	2	0	0	2	14
2001–02	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	6
2002–03	2	0	3	5	1	0	0	2	13
2003–04	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
2004–05	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	8
2005–06	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
2006–07	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	8
2007–08	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	6
2008–09	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	7
2009–10	4	1	4	4	0	0	0	1	14
2010–11	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	5	12
2011–12	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	6
2012–13	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	9
2013–14	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	4	10
2014–15	5	1	3	1	1	0	1	3	15
2015–16	2	1	3	6	3	0	1	3	19
2016–17	1	2	4	5	1	0	0	3	16
2017–18	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	16
2018–19	4	2	2	5	0	0	0	3	16
2019–20	5	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	13
2020–21	5	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	12
Total	101	19	80	93	26	3	2	45	369

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1979–80	2	2	2	0	5	0	0	0	11
1980–81	8	6	7	3	2	0	0	0	26
1981–82	7	7	8	2	1	1	0	0	26
1982–83	4	4	5	4	4	0	0	0	21
1983–84	11	14	4	1	0	0	0	0	30
1984–85	9	5	4	2	2	0	0	0	22
1985–86	6	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	14
1986–87	17	7	6	2	2	0	0	1	35
1987–88	12	18	5	2	1	2	1	0	41
1988–89	6	11	4	5	1	4	0	0	31
1989–90	23	4	10	3	3	1	0	0	44
1990–91	15	2	3	5	3	1	0	1	30
1991–92	5	3	10	3	5	2	0	0	28
1992–93	18	5	4	6	4	0	0	1	38
1993–94	25	4	8	0	5	3	0	0	45
1994–95	17	7	9	6	4	0	0	0	43
1995–96	14	5	7	4	3	2	1	0	36
1996–97	27	5	9	7	4	1	0	0	53
1997–98	26	13	10	12	5	1	1	1	69
1998–99	23	8	15	6	1	1	0	0	54
1999–2000	16	3	13	9	4	5	0	0	50
2000–01	13	10	10	6	5	0	0	0	44
2001–02	17	6	11	8	2	1	0	1	46
2002–03	14	5	4	3	4	1	0	0	31
2003–04	13	4	8	4	2	0	0	0	31
2004–05	11	4	4	4	6	2	0	0	31
2005–06	10	4	2	5	3	1	0	0	25
2006–07	18	3	5	1	4	1	0	0	32
2007–08	10	13	7	4	4	2	0	0	40
2008–09	14	8	7	1	4	1	1	0	36
2009–10	17	7	6	4	5	3	1	1	44
2010–11	19	9	10	3	3	1	0	1	46
2011–12	17	4	4	5	4	1	0	1	36
2012–13	17	12	7	8	0	0	0	0	44
2013–14	12	11	7	6	4	1	2	1	44

Table D3: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by jurisdiction, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2014–15	16	14	4	3	6	3	0	0	46
2015–16	21	18	7	5	10	2	0	1	64
2016–17	20	18	8	9	1	1	1	0	58
2017–18	22	14	8	8	2	1	0	1	56
2018–19	29	17	9	10	6	2	0	0	73
2019–20	37	12	9	9	6	0	0	3	76
2020–21	24	9	8	8	4	0	0	1	54
Total	662	337	293	196	144	48	8	16	1,704

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and sex, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1979–80	4	0	4	11	0	11	15	0	15
1980–81	2	0	2	26	0	26	28	0	28
1981–82	2	1	3	23	3	26	25	4	29
1982–83	4	0	4	20	1	21	24	1	25
1983–84	2	0	2	29	1	30	31	1	32
1984–85	5	0	5	22	0	22	27	0	27
1985–86	4	0	4	12	2	14	16	2	18
1986–87	2	0	2	32	3	35	34	3	37
1987–88	4	0	4	40	1	41	44	1	45
1988–89	5	0	5	30	1	31	35	1	36
1989–90	9	0	9	42	2	44	51	2	53
1990–91	5	0	5	29	1	30	34	1	35
1991–92	4	0	4	27	1	28	31	1	32
1992–93	5	0	5	38	0	38	43	0	43
1993–94	11	1	12	40	5	45	51	6	57
1994–95	12	0	12	42	1	43	54	1	55
1995–96	13	0	13	36	0	36	49	0	49
1996–97	9	1	10	52	1	53	61	2	63
1997–98	11	0	11	67	2	69	78	2	80
1998–99	9	1	10	52	2	54	61	3	64
1999–2000	14	0	14	46	4	50	60	4	64
2000–01	13	1	14	43	1	44	56	2	58
2001–02	5	1	6	43	3	46	48	4	52

Table D4: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and sex, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2002–03	13	0	13	28	3	31	41	3	44
2003–04	5	1	6	31	0	31	36	1	37
2004–05	5	3	8	30	1	31	35	4	39
2005–06	3	0	3	24	1	25	27	1	28
2006–07	8	0	8	31	1	32	39	1	40
2007–08	6	0	6	37	3	40	43	3	46
2008–09	7	0	7	34	2	36	41	2	43
2009–10	14	0	14	44	0	44	58	0	58
2010–11	10	2	12	45	1	46	55	3	58
2011–12	6	0	6	36	0	36	42	0	42
2012–13	9	0	9	43	1	44	52	1	53
2013–14	10	0	10	41	3	44	51	3	54
2014–15	15	0	15	45	1	46	60	1	61
2015–16	19	0	19	63	1	64	82	1	83
2016–17	13	3	16	55	3	58	68	6	74
2017–18	15	1	16	55	1	56	70	2	72
2018–19	16	0	16	71	2	73	87	2	89
2019–20	11	2	13	75	1	76	86	3	89
2020–21	11	1	12	50	4	54	61	5	66
Total	350	19	369	1,640	64	1,704	1,990	83	2,073

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
1981–82	0.29	0.37	0.30
1982–83	0.36	0.29	0.25
1983–84	0.20	0.46	0.33
1984–85	0.43	0.29	0.25
1985–86	0.30	0.18	0.16
1986–87	0.11	0.34	0.31
1987–88	0.22	0.40	0.37
1988–89	0.27	0.28	0.28
1989–90	0.44	0.37	0.37
1990–91	0.23	0.24	0.23

Table D5: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners) (cont.)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
1991–92	0.18	0.21	0.21
1992–93	0.21	0.29	0.27
1993–94	0.43	0.32	0.34
1994–95	0.40	0.30	0.32
1995–96	0.40	0.24	0.27
1996–97	0.28	0.35	0.33
1997–98	0.29	0.43	0.40
1998–99	0.23	0.31	0.30
1999–2000	0.34	0.28	0.29
2000–01	0.31	0.24	0.26
2001–02	0.13	0.26	0.23
2002–03	0.27	0.17	0.19
2003–04	0.12	0.16	0.15
2004–05	0.14	0.16	0.15
2005–06	0.05	0.13	0.11
2006–07	0.12	0.16	0.15
2007–08	0.09	0.19	0.17
2008–09	0.09	0.17	0.15
2009–10	0.18	0.20	0.20
2010–11	0.16	0.21	0.20
2011–12	0.08	0.17	0.14
2012–13	0.11	0.20	0.17
2013–14	0.11	0.18	0.16
2014–15	0.15	0.18	0.17
2015–16	0.18	0.23	0.21
2016–17	0.14	0.19	0.18
2017–18	0.14	0.18	0.17
2018–19	0.13	0.23	0.21
2019–20	0.11	0.26	0.22
2020–21	0.09	0.18	0.15

Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D6: Deaths in prison custody by sex, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Male	Female
1981–82	0.26	1.19
1982–83	0.24	0.25
1983–84	0.33	0.26
1984–85	0.26	0.00
1985–86	0.15	0.36
1986–87	0.29	0.53
1987–88	0.38	0.15
1988–89	0.28	0.15
1989–90	0.38	0.26
1990–91	0.24	0.14
1991–92	0.21	0.13
1992–93	0.28	0.00
1993–94	0.32	0.72
1994–95	0.33	0.12
1995–96	0.28	0.00
1996–97	0.34	0.18
1997–98	0.42	0.18
1998–99	0.30	0.22
1999–2000	0.30	0.29
2000–01	0.27	0.13
2001–02	0.23	0.27
2002–03	0.19	0.19
2003–04	0.16	0.06
2004–05	0.15	0.23
2005–06	0.11	0.05
2006–07	0.15	0.05
2007–08	0.17	0.15
2008–09	0.15	0.09
2009–10	0.21	0.00
2010–11	0.20	0.15
2011–12	0.15	0.00
2012–13	0.18	0.04
2013–14	0.16	0.12
2014–15	0.18	0.03
2015–16	0.23	0.03

Table D6: Deaths in prison custody by sex, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners) (cont.)		
	Male	Female
2016–17	0.18	0.18
2017–18	0.18	0.06
2018–19	0.22	0.06
2019–20	0.23	0.10
2020–21	0.15	0.15

Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)					
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1979–80	4	4	5	2	15
1980–81	5	14	7	2	28
1981–82	9	11	7	2	29
1982–83	5	12	4	4	25
1983–84	14	12	3	3	32
1984–85	5	14	4	4	27
1985–86	3	9	1	5	18
1986–87	10	16	8	3	37
1987–88	16	20	5	4	45
1988–89	10	15	8	3	36
1989–90	16	23	8	6	53
1990–91	8	12	5	10	35
1991–92	7	13	8	4	32
1992–93	14	19	5	5	43
1993–94	12	27	10	8	57
1994–95	16	21	12	6	55
1995–96	12	21	11	5	49
1996–97	10	26	21	6	63
1997–98	25	30	16	9	80
1998–99	9	35	11	9	64
1999–2000	14	28	10	12	64
2000–01	7	32	6	13	58
2001–02	5	19	17	11	52
2002–03	6	17	12	9	44
2003–04	2	12	15	8	37

Table D7: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
2004–05	3	16	11	9	39
2005–06	1	8	6	13	28
2006–07	3	9	11	17	40
2007–08	2	14	12	18	46
2008–09	1	16	16	10	43
2009–10	5	10	18	25	58
2010–11	5	18	15	20	58
2011–12	3	8	11	20	42
2012–13	2	10	22	19	53
2013–14	1	9	20	24	54
2014–15	1	14	16	30	61
2015–16	5	16	19	43	83
2016–17	5	16	18	35	74
2017–18	5	14	27	26	72
2018–19	4	17	27	41	89
2019–20	1	19	23	46	89
2020–21	2	15	18	31	66
Total	293	691	509	580	2,073

Note: Includes 369 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,704 non-Indigenous deaths in custody

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D8: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1979–80	1	2	1	0	4
1980–81	0	1	1	0	2
1981–82	1	0	2	0	3
1982–83	0	4	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	1	0	2
1984–85	0	4	1	0	5
1985–86	0	2	1	1	4
1986–87	0	1	1	0	2
1987–88	1	3	0	0	4
1988–89	3	2	0	0	5
1989–90	5	4	0	0	9
1990–91	1	4	0	0	5
1991–92	3	0	1	0	4

Table D8: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)					
	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1992–93	3	1	0	1	5
1993–94	4	6	1	1	12
1994–95	5	5	2	0	12
1995–96	6	4	3	0	13
1996–97	1	9	0	0	10
1997–98	3	6	2	0	11
1998–99	3	3	4	0	10
1999–2000	2	9	3	0	14
2000–01	4	7	2	1	14
2001–02	1	3	2	0	6
2002–03	3	6	2	2	13
2003–04	1	3	2	0	6
2004–05	0	5	3	0	8
2005–06	0	1	2	0	3
2006–07	2	2	2	2	8
2007–08	0	1	4	1	6
2008–09	0	4	2	1	7
2009–10	2	3	5	4	14
2010–11	1	9	2	0	12
2011–12	0	2	2	2	6
2012–13	1	3	5	0	9
2013–14	0	2	5	3	10
2014–15	0	3	8	4	15
2015–16	0	9	5	5	19
2016–17	1	5	3	7	16
2017–18	3	5	6	2	16
2018–19	0	2	8	6	16
2019–20	1	4	4	4	13
2020–21	1	3	6	2	12
Total	64	152	104	49	369

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1979–80	3	2	4	2	11
1980–81	5	13	6	2	26
1981–82	8	11	5	2	26
1982–83	5	8	4	4	21
1983–84	13	12	2	3	30
1984–85	5	10	3	4	22
1985–86	3	7	0	4	14
1986–87	10	15	7	3	35
1987–88	15	17	5	4	41
1988–89	7	13	8	3	31
1989–90	11	19	8	6	44
1990–91	7	8	5	10	30
1991–92	4	13	7	4	28
1992–93	11	18	5	4	38
1993–94	8	21	9	7	45
1994–95	11	16	10	6	43
1995–96	6	17	8	5	36
1996–97	9	17	21	6	53
1997–98	22	24	14	9	69
1998–99	6	32	7	9	54
1999–2000	12	19	7	12	50
2000–01	3	25	4	12	44
2001–02	4	16	15	11	46
2002–03	3	11	10	7	31
2003–04	1	9	13	8	31
2004–05	3	11	8	9	31
2005–06	1	7	4	13	25
2006–07	1	7	9	15	32
2007–08	2	13	8	17	40
2008–09	1	12	14	9	36
2009–10	3	7	13	21	44
2010–11	4	9	13	20	46
2011–12	3	6	9	18	36
2012–13	1	7	17	19	44
2013–14	1	7	15	21	44

Table D9: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by age category, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
2014–15	1	11	8	26	46
2015–16	5	7	14	38	64
2016–17	4	11	15	28	58
2017–18	2	9	21	24	56
2018–19	4	15	19	35	73
2019–20	0	15	19	42	76
2020–21	1	12	12	29	54
Total	229	539	405	531	1,704

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D10: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years
1981–82	0.23	0.24	0.66	1.01
1982–83	0.12	0.25	0.36	1.92
1983–84	0.38	0.25	0.28	1.53
1984–85	0.12	0.27	0.34	1.99
1985–86	0.07	0.16	0.07	2.18
1986–87	0.23	0.27	0.53	1.15
1987–88	0.37	0.33	0.31	1.50
1988–89	0.23	0.23	0.45	1.24
1989–90	0.34	0.32	0.41	1.99
1990–91	0.16	0.16	0.24	3.04
1991–92	0.14	0.16	0.36	1.05
1992–93	0.29	0.23	0.21	1.09
1993–94	0.24	0.31	0.37	1.45
1994–95	0.32	0.24	0.40	0.98
1995–96	0.23	0.23	0.36	0.73
1996–97	0.18	0.27	0.63	0.82
1997–98	0.46	0.29	0.47	1.11
1998–99	0.16	0.31	0.29	1.02
1999–2000	0.25	0.25	0.26	1.25
2000–01	0.12	0.27	0.15	1.30
2001–02	0.09	0.16	0.41	1.06
2002–03	0.11	0.14	0.26	0.77
2003–04	0.04	0.09	0.31	0.62

Table D10: Deaths in prison custody by age category, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners) (cont.)

	Under 25 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years
2004–05	0.06	0.12	0.21	0.64
2005–06	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.88
2006–07	0.06	0.06	0.18	1.10
2007–08	0.04	0.10	0.19	1.05
2008–09	0.02	0.11	0.24	0.56
2009–10	0.09	0.07	0.26	1.33
2010–11	0.09	0.12	0.21	1.00
2011–12	0.06	0.05	0.15	0.97
2012–13	0.04	0.06	0.29	0.87
2013–14	0.02	0.05	0.24	1.01
2014–15	0.02	0.08	0.18	1.15
2015–16	0.08	0.08	0.19	1.54
2016–17	0.08	0.08	0.17	1.14
2017–18	0.08	0.06	0.24	0.79
2018–19	0.07	0.08	0.24	1.19
2019–20	0.02	0.09	0.21	1.33
2020–21	na	na	na	na

Note: na=not available. Rates were calculated using *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020)

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D11: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and legal status, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total		Total
	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Unsentenced	
1979–80	2	2	9	2	11	4	15
1980–81	2	0	18	7	20	7	27
1981–82	3	0	16	9	19	9	28
1982–83	4	0	15	6	19	6	25
1983–84	2	0	17	13	19	13	32
1984–85	4	1	19	2	23	3	26
1985–86	2	1	7	5	9	6	15
1986–87	2	0	23	9	25	9	34
1987–88	2	2	27	13	29	15	44
1988–89	5	0	21	8	26	8	34
1989–90	9	0	26	15	35	15	50
1990–91	4	1	18	12	22	13	35

Table D11: Deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status and legal status, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (*n*) (cont.)

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total		Total
	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Unsentenced	
1991–92	3	1	19	9	22	10	32
1992–93	3	2	26	12	29	14	43
1993–94	9	3	29	16	38	19	57
1994–95	7	5	31	12	38	17	55
1995–96	9	4	27	9	36	13	49
1996–97	7	3	39	14	46	17	63
1997–98	6	5	42	27	48	32	80
1998–99	8	2	37	17	45	19	64
1999–2000	8	6	33	17	41	23	64
2000–01	7	7	35	9	42	16	58
2001–02	4	2	32	14	36	16	52
2002–03	7	6	17	14	24	20	44
2003–04	5	1	20	11	25	12	37
2004–05	5	3	17	14	22	17	39
2005–06	3	0	19	6	22	6	28
2006–07	8	0	22	10	30	10	40
2007–08	4	2	30	10	34	12	46
2008–09	6	1	21	15	27	16	43
2009–10	11	3	31	13	42	16	58
2010–11	9	3	32	14	41	17	58
2011–12	6	0	25	11	31	11	42
2012–13	9	0	32	12	41	12	53
2013–14	9	1	33	10	42	11	53
2014–15	14	1	29	16	43	17	60
2015–16	14	5	49	15	63	20	83
2016–17	9	7	45	13	54	20	74
2017–18	9	7	38	18	47	25	72
2018–19	10	5	45	28	55	33	88
2019–20	8	5	59	17	67	22	89
2020–21	10	2	36	18	46	20	66
Total	268	99	1,166	522	1,434	621	2,055

Note: Excludes 15 cases where legal status was not recorded, and 3 cases where legal status was recorded as 'other'
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D12: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)		
	Sentenced	Unsentenced
1981–82	0.22	0.90
1982–83	0.21	0.56
1983–84	0.22	1.16
1984–85	0.25	0.21
1985–86	0.09	0.41
1986–87	0.24	0.57
1987–88	0.27	0.92
1988–89	0.23	0.48
1989–90	0.28	0.78
1990–91	0.17	0.66
1991–92	0.16	0.54
1992–93	0.21	0.74
1993–94	0.25	0.98
1994–95	0.25	0.85
1995–96	0.23	0.56
1996–97	0.28	0.66
1997–98	0.28	1.15
1998–99	0.25	0.59
1999–2000	0.23	0.61
2000–01	0.23	0.37
2001–02	0.20	0.36
2002–03	0.13	0.42
2003–04	0.13	0.24
2004–05	0.11	0.33
2005–06	0.11	0.11
2006–07	0.14	0.16
2007–08	0.16	0.19
2008–09	0.12	0.25
2009–10	0.18	0.25
2010–11	0.18	0.25
2011–12	0.14	0.16
2012–13	0.18	0.16
2013–14	0.16	0.13
2014–15	0.16	0.17

Table D12: Deaths in prison custody by legal status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners) (cont.)

	Sentenced	Unsentenced
2015–16	0.24	0.17
2016–17	0.19	0.15
2017–18	0.16	0.18
2018–19	0.19	0.23
2019–20	0.24	0.17
2020–21	0.17	0.13

Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D13: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1979–80	8	3	1	3	0	0	0	15
1980–81	13	9	1	4	1	0	0	28
1981–82	8	10	0	5	1	2	3	29
1982–83	12	8	0	2	0	3	0	25
1983–84	5	20	0	2	1	4	0	32
1984–85	12	8	0	4	0	2	1	27
1985–86	7	8	0	0	0	2	1	18
1986–87	15	13	2	3	0	4	0	37
1987–88	10	22	0	6	0	5	0	43
1988–89	11	14	1	2	0	5	2	35
1989–90	16	27	0	6	1	2	1	53
1990–91	17	12	1	2	0	1	2	35
1991–92	8	14	2	3	1	4	0	32
1992–93	11	19	1	3	1	5	3	43
1993–94	19	24	0	3	0	10	1	57
1994–95	15	27	0	7	0	6	0	55
1995–96	14	19	1	5	0	10	0	49
1996–97	28	23	1	4	0	7	0	63
1997–98	20	39	0	10	0	11	0	80
1998–99	18	26	0	8	0	12	0	64
1999–2000	21	29	1	6	0	6	1	64
2000–01	24	25	0	2	0	6	1	58
2001–02	24	21	0	3	1	2	1	52

Table D13: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
2002–03	21	19	0	2	0	1	1	44
2003–04	18	13	1	3	0	2	0	37
2004–05	23	13	1	2	0	0	0	39
2005–06	18	6	1	3	0	0	0	28
2006–07	27	8	1	0	0	3	1	40
2007–08	36	6	0	2	0	0	2	46
2008–09	26	12	1	1	0	2	1	43
2009–10	38	13	1	4	0	0	2	58
2010–11	38	13	2	2	0	1	1	57
2011–12	33	8	0	1	0	0	0	42
2012–13	36	9	1	5	0	1	1	53
2013–14	39	11	0	2	0	2	0	54
2014–15	41	14	1	2	0	1	1	60
2015–16	59	11	1	4	0	5	3	83
2016–17	50	14	2	3	0	2	1	72
2017–18	49	13	0	6	0	3	0	71
2018–19	55	15	1	4	1	6	1	83
2019–20	59	11	0	6	0	3	2	81
2020–21	36	16	1	2	1	2	1	59
Total	1,038	645	27	147	9	143	35	2,044

Note: Includes 359 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,685 non-Indigenous deaths in custody. Excludes 29 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D14: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
1979–80	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
1980–81	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1981–82	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
1982–83	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
1984–85	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
1985–86	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
1986–87	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1987–88	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1988–89	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	5
1989–90	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	9
1990–91	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
1991–92	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
1992–93	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	8	3	0	0	0	1	0	12
1994–95	4	7	0	0	0	1	0	12
1995–96	5	5	0	3	0	0	0	13
1996–97	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	10
1997–98	3	6	0	1	0	1	0	11
1998–99	4	4	0	1	0	1	0	10
1999–2000	6	6	0	1	0	1	0	14
2000–01	6	7	0	0	0	1	0	14
2001–02	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
2002–03	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	13
2003–04	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
2004–05	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	8
2005–06	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2006–07	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
2007–08	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
2008–09	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
2009–10	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	14
2010–11	8	3	0	0	0	0	1	12
2011–12	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
2012–13	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
2013–14	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
2014–15	10	2	0	2	0	0	0	14
2015–16	11	3	0	1	0	2	2	19
2016–17	10	4	0	0	0	0	1	15
2017–18	13	2	0	0	0	1	0	16
2018–19	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	14
2019–20	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
2020–21	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total	219	101	1	16	2	15	5	359

Note: Excludes 10 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
1979–80	7	1	1	2	0	0	0	11
1980–81	12	9	0	4	1	0	0	26
1981–82	6	10	0	5	0	2	3	26
1982–83	9	8	0	1	0	3	0	21
1983–84	4	20	0	2	1	3	0	30
1984–85	9	8	0	2	0	2	1	22
1985–86	4	7	0	0	0	2	1	14
1986–87	13	13	2	3	0	4	0	35
1987–88	9	19	0	6	0	5	0	39
1988–89	9	12	1	2	0	4	2	30
1989–90	11	23	0	6	1	2	1	44
1990–91	14	11	1	1	0	1	2	30
1991–92	7	11	2	3	1	4	0	28
1992–93	9	16	1	3	1	5	3	38
1993–94	11	21	0	3	0	9	1	45
1994–95	11	20	0	7	0	5	0	43
1995–96	9	14	1	2	0	10	0	36
1996–97	24	18	1	4	0	6	0	53
1997–98	17	33	0	9	0	10	0	69
1998–99	14	22	0	7	0	11	0	54
1999–2000	15	23	1	5	0	5	1	50
2000–01	18	18	0	2	0	5	1	44
2001–02	22	17	0	3	1	2	1	46
2002–03	13	14	0	2	0	1	1	31
2003–04	14	12	1	3	0	1	0	31
2004–05	18	11	1	1	0	0	0	31
2005–06	15	6	1	3	0	0	0	25
2006–07	22	5	1	0	0	3	1	32
2007–08	31	6	0	2	0	0	1	40
2008–09	21	11	1	1	0	1	1	36
2009–10	27	10	1	4	0	0	2	44
2010–11	30	10	2	2	0	1	0	45
2011–12	28	7	0	1	0	0	0	36

Table D15: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes	Total
2012–13	28	8	1	5	0	1	1	44
2013–14	30	11	0	2	0	1	0	44
2014–15	31	12	1	0	0	1	1	46
2015–16	48	8	1	3	0	3	1	64
2016–17	40	10	2	3	0	2	0	57
2017–18	36	11	0	6	0	2	0	55
2018–19	43	14	1	4	0	6	1	69
2019–20	51	11	0	5	0	3	2	72
2020–21	29	13	1	2	1	2	1	49
Total	819	544	26	131	7	128	30	1,685

Note: Excludes 19 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D16: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)

	Natural causes	Hanging	External trauma	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes
1981–82	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.02	0.03
1982–83	0.12	0.08	0.02	0.03	0.00
1983–84	0.05	0.21	0.03	0.04	0.00
1984–85	0.11	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.01
1985–86	0.06	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.01
1986–87	0.12	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.00
1987–88	0.08	0.18	0.05	0.04	0.00
1988–89	0.08	0.11	0.02	0.04	0.02
1989–90	0.11	0.19	0.05	0.01	0.01
1990–91	0.11	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.01
1991–92	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.00
1992–93	0.07	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.02
1993–94	0.11	0.14	0.02	0.06	0.01
1994–95	0.09	0.15	0.04	0.03	0.00
1995–96	0.08	0.10	0.03	0.05	0.00
1996–97	0.15	0.12	0.03	0.04	0.00
1997–98	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.06	0.00
1998–99	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.06	0.00
1999–2000	0.10	0.13	0.03	0.03	<0.01

Table D16: Deaths in prison custody by cause of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners) (cont.)

	Natural causes	Hanging	External trauma	Alcohol/drugs	Other/multiple causes
2000–01	0.11	0.11	0.01	0.03	<0.01
2001–02	0.11	0.09	0.02	0.01	<0.01
2002–03	0.09	0.08	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2003–04	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00
2004–05	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00
2005–06	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
2006–07	0.10	0.03	<0.01	0.01	<0.01
2007–08	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
2008–09	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.01	<0.01
2009–10	0.13	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.01
2010–11	0.13	0.04	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2011–12	0.11	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00
2012–13	0.12	0.03	0.02	<0.01	<0.01
2013–14	0.12	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00
2014–15	0.11	0.04	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2015–16	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
2016–17	0.12	0.03	0.01	<0.01	<0.01
2017–18	0.10	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00
2018–19	0.13	0.03	0.01	0.01	<0.01
2019–20	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.01	<0.01
2020–21	0.08	0.04	0.01	<0.01	<0.01

Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia* data (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior. External trauma includes head injuries and gunshot wounds

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D17: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
1981–82	0.00	0.14
1982–83	0.00	0.11
1983–84	0.00	0.31
1984–85	0.00	0.11
1985–86	0.08	0.09
1986–87	0.00	0.13
1987–88	0.17	0.19

Table D17: Hanging deaths in prison custody by Indigenous status, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 relevant prisoners) (cont.)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
1988–89	0.11	0.11
1989–90	0.20	0.19
1990–91	0.05	0.09
1991–92	0.13	0.08
1992–93	0.12	0.12
1993–94	0.11	0.15
1994–95	0.23	0.14
1995–96	0.15	0.09
1996–97	0.14	0.12
1997–98	0.16	0.21
1998–99	0.09	0.13
1999–2000	0.15	0.13
2000–01	0.16	0.10
2001–02	0.09	0.09
2002–03	0.10	0.07
2003–04	0.02	0.06
2004–05	0.04	0.06
2005–06	0.00	0.03
2006–07	0.05	0.02
2007–08	0.00	0.03
2008–09	0.01	0.05
2009–10	0.04	0.05
2010–11	0.04	0.05
2011–12	0.01	0.03
2012–13	0.01	0.04
2013–14	0.00	0.04
2014–15	0.02	0.05
2015–16	0.03	0.03
2016–17	0.04	0.03
2017–18	0.02	0.04
2018–19	0.01	0.04
2019–20	0.00	0.04
2020–21	0.02	0.04

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

Table D18: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1979–80	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
1980–81	13	9	3	1	1	1	28
1981–82	8	13	3	1	3	1	29
1982–83	12	11	0	0	2	0	25
1983–84	5	22	1	0	2	2	32
1984–85	12	10	2	0	2	1	27
1985–86	7	9	0	0	2	0	18
1986–87	15	15	4	0	3	0	37
1987–88	10	22	1	0	9	1	43
1988–89	11	15	3	0	6	0	35
1989–90	16	28	5	0	4	0	53
1990–91	17	15	1	0	2	0	35
1991–92	8	15	4	1	4	0	32
1992–93	11	25	2	1	4	0	43
1993–94	19	28	4	0	5	1	57
1994–95	15	28	6	0	6	0	55
1995–96	14	25	4	0	6	0	49
1996–97	28	24	4	0	7	0	63
1997–98	20	41	9	0	9	1	80
1998–99	18	27	8	0	11	0	64
1999–2000	21	32	5	0	5	1	64
2000–01	24	27	1	0	6	0	58
2001–02	24	24	3	1	0	0	52
2002–03	21	21	1	0	1	0	44
2003–04	18	16	2	0	1	0	37
2004–05	23	16	0	0	0	0	39
2005–06	18	9	1	0	0	0	28
2006–07	27	8	1	0	4	0	40
2007–08	36	8	0	0	1	0	45
2008–09	26	14	0	0	3	0	43
2009–10	38	16	4	0	0	0	58
2010–11	38	16	2	0	1	1	58
2011–12	33	8	1	0	0	0	42
2012–13	36	13	3	0	0	1	53
2013–14	39	14	1	0	0	0	54

Table D18: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
2014–15	41	18	0	0	0	2	61
2015–16	59	19	0	0	3	2	83
2016–17	50	19	2	0	0	1	72
2017–18	49	17	2	0	3	1	72
2018–19	55	17	5	0	3	0	80
2019–20	59	15	3	0	2	0	79
2020–21	36	21	1	0	0	0	58
Total	1,038	756	102	5	121	17	2,039

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Includes 359 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,680 non-Indigenous deaths in custody. Excludes 33 cases where manner of death was not recorded and one case classified as excusable homicide

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D19: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1979–80	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
1980–81	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1981–82	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
1982–83	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
1984–85	3	1	0	0	0	1	5
1985–86	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
1986–87	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
1987–88	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
1988–89	2	2	0	0	1	0	5
1989–90	5	4	0	0	0	0	9
1990–91	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
1991–92	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
1992–93	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	8	3	1	0	0	0	12
1994–95	4	7	0	0	1	0	12
1995–96	5	6	2	0	0	0	13
1996–97	4	5	0	0	1	0	10
1997–98	3	6	1	0	1	0	11
1998–99	4	4	1	0	1	0	10
1999–2000	6	6	1	0	1	0	14

Table D19: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
2000–01	6	7	0	0	1	0	14
2001–02	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
2002–03	8	5	0	0	0	0	13
2003–04	4	1	0	0	1	0	6
2004–05	5	3	0	0	0	0	8
2005–06	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
2006–07	5	3	0	0	0	0	8
2007–08	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2008–09	5	1	0	0	1	0	7
2009–10	11	3	0	0	0	0	14
2010–11	8	4	0	0	0	0	12
2011–12	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
2012–13	8	1	0	0	0	0	9
2013–14	9	1	0	0	0	0	10
2014–15	10	4	0	0	0	1	15
2015–16	11	6	0	0	0	2	19
2016–17	10	4	1	0	0	0	15
2017–18	13	3	0	0	0	0	16
2018–19	12	1	1	0	0	0	14
2019–20	8	1	0	0	0	0	9
2020–21	7	3	0	0	0	0	10
Total	219	116	8	1	10	5	359

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 9 cases where manner of death was not recorded and one case classified as excusable homicide
Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D20: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1979–80	7	3	0	0	0	0	10
1980–81	12	9	3	1	1	0	26
1981–82	6	13	3	0	3	1	26
1982–83	9	10	0	0	2	0	21
1983–84	4	22	1	0	1	2	30
1984–85	9	9	2	0	2	0	22
1985–86	4	8	0	0	2	0	14
1986–87	13	15	4	0	3	0	35
1987–88	9	19	1	0	9	1	39

Table D20: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)							
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1988–89	9	13	3	0	5	0	30
1989–90	11	24	5	0	4	0	44
1990–91	14	13	1	0	2	0	30
1991–92	7	12	4	1	4	0	28
1992–93	9	22	2	1	4	0	38
1993–94	11	25	3	0	5	1	45
1994–95	11	21	6	0	5	0	43
1995–96	9	19	2	0	6	0	36
1996–97	24	19	4	0	6	0	53
1997–98	17	35	8	0	8	1	69
1998–99	14	23	7	0	10	0	54
1999–2000	15	26	4	0	4	1	50
2000–01	18	20	1	0	5	0	44
2001–02	22	20	3	1	0	0	46
2002–03	13	16	1	0	1	0	31
2003–04	14	15	2	0	0	0	31
2004–05	18	13	0	0	0	0	31
2005–06	15	9	1	0	0	0	25
2006–07	22	5	1	0	4	0	32
2007–08	31	8	0	0	1	0	40
2008–09	21	13	0	0	2	0	36
2009–10	27	13	4	0	0	0	44
2010–11	30	12	2	0	1	1	46
2011–12	28	7	1	0	0	0	36
2012–13	28	12	3	0	0	1	44
2013–14	30	13	1	0	0	0	44
2014–15	31	14	0	0	0	1	46
2015–16	48	13	0	0	3	0	64
2016–17	40	15	1	0	0	1	57
2017–18	36	14	2	0	3	1	56
2018–19	43	16	4	0	3	0	66
2019–20	51	14	3	0	2	0	70
2020–21	29	18	1	0	0	0	48
Total	819	640	94	4	111	12	1,680

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 24 cases where manner of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D21: Deaths in prison custody by manner of death, 1981–82 to 2020–21 (rate per 100 prisoners)						
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined
1981–82	0.08	0.13	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01
1982–83	0.12	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
1983–84	0.05	0.23	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02
1984–85	0.11	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01
1985–86	0.06	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
1986–87	0.12	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00
1987–88	0.08	0.18	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.01
1988–89	0.08	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.00
1989–90	0.11	0.20	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
1990–91	0.11	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
1991–92	0.05	0.10	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.00
1992–93	0.07	0.16	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00
1993–94	0.11	0.17	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.01
1994–95	0.09	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
1995–96	0.08	0.14	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00
1996–97	0.15	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00
1997–98	0.10	0.21	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.01
1998–99	0.08	0.13	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00
1999–2000	0.10	0.15	0.02	0.00	0.02	<0.01
2000–01	0.11	0.12	<0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00
2001–02	0.11	0.11	0.01	<0.01	0.00	0.00
2002–03	0.09	0.09	<0.01	0.00	<0.01	0.00
2003–04	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.00	<0.01	0.00
2004–05	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2005–06	0.07	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006–07	0.10	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
2007–08	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.00	<0.01	0.00
2008–09	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
2009–10	0.13	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010–11	0.13	0.05	0.01	0.00	<0.01	<0.01
2011–12	0.11	0.03	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2012–13	0.12	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2013–14	0.12	0.04	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014–15	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined
2015–16	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
2016–17	0.12	0.05	<0.01	0.00	0.00	<0.01
2017–18	0.10	0.04	<0.01	0.00	0.01	<0.01
2018–19	0.13	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
2019–20	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.00	<0.01	0.00
2020–21	0.08	0.05	<0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Rates were calculated using *Corrective services, Australia, June quarter 2021* data (ABS 2021a) for 2020–21, and *Prisoners in Australia data* (ABS 2000–2020) for all years prior. Self-inflicted includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings

Source: AIC NDICP 1981–2021 [computer file]

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1979–80	8	3	1	1	1	1	15
1980–81	9	7	3	2	5	1	27
1981–82	10	12	3	0	3	0	28
1982–83	11	5	1	2	4	1	24
1983–84	14	13	0	0	5	0	32
1984–85	13	9	2	2	0	0	26
1985–86	8	6	1	0	1	0	16
1986–87	14	10	2	1	5	0	32
1987–88	18	18	2	1	3	2	44
1988–89	21	10	1	1	1	2	36
1989–90	28	16	3	0	2	2	51
1990–91	19	10	2	0	1	3	35
1991–92	16	9	2	0	4	1	32
1992–93	18	18	3	0	2	1	42
1993–94	25	22	2	2	5	1	57
1994–95	28	18	4	2	2	1	55
1995–96	21	20	5	2	0	1	49
1996–97	29	18	7	2	4	3	63
1997–98	38	23	11	1	6	0	79
1998–99	27	26	5	1	5	0	64
1999–2000	33	24	2	2	1	2	64
2000–01	33	9	7	2	4	3	58
2001–02	28	11	5	2	4	2	52

Table D22: Deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
2002–03	32	7	0	2	2	1	44
2003–04	29	2	3	0	1	2	37
2004–05	23	9	3	3	0	1	39
2005–06	22	4	1	0	1	0	28
2006–07	22	9	3	2	4	0	40
2007–08	31	5	4	3	3	0	46
2008–09	26	8	3	0	1	5	43
2009–10	39	5	3	5	0	6	58
2010–11	29	11	5	0	2	11	58
2011–12	27	5	7	0	3	0	42
2012–13	34	9	7	2	0	1	53
2013–14	36	9	5	0	1	3	54
2014–15	42	11	3	1	2	1	60
2015–16	62	5	4	3	7	2	83
2016–17	58	5	2	1	4	3	73
2017–18	59	5	3	1	4	0	72
2018–19	65	10	7	1	6	0	89
2019–20	67	4	11	2	4	1	89
2020–21	52	2	2	1	5	2	64
Total	1,224	442	150	53	118	66	2,053

Note: Includes 367 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,686 non-Indigenous deaths in custody. Excludes 20 cases where MSO was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D23: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1979–80	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
1980–81	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
1981–82	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
1982–83	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
1983–84	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
1984–85	4	0	0	1	0	0	5
1985–86	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
1986–87	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
1987–88	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
1988–89	2	2	0	0	1	0	5

Table D23: Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)							
	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1989–90	4	2	0	0	2	1	9
1990–91	2	2	0	0	0	1	5
1991–92	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
1992–93	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
1993–94	6	5	0	0	1	0	12
1994–95	8	2	0	1	0	1	12
1995–96	8	3	1	0	0	1	13
1996–97	6	2	1	0	0	1	10
1997–98	8	3	0	0	0	0	11
1998–99	4	4	0	0	2	0	10
1999–2000	8	6	0	0	0	0	14
2000–01	9	2	1	0	1	1	14
2001–02	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
2002–03	10	0	0	1	2	0	13
2003–04	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
2004–05	4	2	0	2	0	0	8
2005–06	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
2006–07	4	3	0	1	0	0	8
2007–08	3	0	0	3	0	0	6
2008–09	3	1	2	0	0	1	7
2009–10	9	2	1	1	0	1	14
2010–11	7	1	0	0	0	4	12
2011–12	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
2012–13	6	1	1	1	0	0	9
2013–14	7	2	0	0	0	1	10
2014–15	9	4	0	0	1	1	15
2015–16	16	0	0	2	1	0	19
2016–17	10	2	1	1	1	0	15
2017–18	14	2	0	0	0	0	16
2018–19	13	1	0	1	1	0	16
2019–20	9	1	1	1	1	0	13
2020–21	9	1	0	1	1	0	12
Total	232	69	11	20	20	15	367

Note: Excludes 2 cases where most serious offence was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D24: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1979–80	5	3	1	0	1	1	11
1980–81	9	7	3	2	3	1	25
1981–82	9	11	3	0	2	0	25
1982–83	8	5	1	1	4	1	20
1983–84	13	13	0	0	4	0	30
1984–85	9	9	2	1	0	0	21
1985–86	6	5	1	0	1	0	13
1986–87	13	9	2	1	5	0	30
1987–88	17	17	2	0	3	1	40
1988–89	19	8	1	1	0	2	31
1989–90	24	14	3	0	0	1	42
1990–91	17	8	2	0	1	2	30
1991–92	14	7	2	0	4	1	28
1992–93	15	16	3	0	2	1	37
1993–94	19	17	2	2	4	1	45
1994–95	20	16	4	1	2	0	43
1995–96	13	17	4	2	0	0	36
1996–97	23	16	6	2	4	2	53
1997–98	30	20	11	1	6	0	68
1998–99	23	22	5	1	3	0	54
1999–2000	25	18	2	2	1	2	50
2000–01	24	7	6	2	3	2	44
2001–02	25	9	4	2	4	2	46
2002–03	22	7	0	1	0	1	31
2003–04	23	2	3	0	1	2	31
2004–05	19	7	3	1	0	1	31
2005–06	21	3	1	0	0	0	25
2006–07	18	6	3	1	4	0	32
2007–08	28	5	4	0	3	0	40
2008–09	23	7	1	0	1	4	36
2009–10	30	3	2	4	0	5	44
2010–11	22	10	5	0	2	7	46
2011–12	24	3	6	0	3	0	36
2012–13	28	8	6	1	0	1	44
2013–14	29	7	5	0	1	2	44

Table D24: Non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody by most serious offence, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
2014–15	33	7	3	1	1	0	45
2015–16	46	5	4	1	6	2	64
2016–17	48	3	1	0	3	3	58
2017–18	45	3	3	1	4	0	56
2018–19	52	9	7	0	5	0	73
2019–20	58	3	10	1	3	1	76
2020–21	43	1	2	0	4	2	52
Total	992	373	139	33	98	51	1,686

Note: Excludes 18 cases where most serious offence was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D25: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Psychiatric hospital	Public place	Other	Total
1979–80	5	0	4	0	3	0	0	12
1980–81	14	0	5	1	0	0	0	20
1981–82	6	0	6	3	1	0	0	16
1982–83	13	0	7	0	1	0	0	21
1983–84	23	0	4	2	0	0	0	29
1984–85	10	0	8	2	0	0	0	20
1985–86	9	0	1	1	2	0	0	13
1986–87	15	0	12	1	1	0	0	29
1987–88	26	0	6	2	0	0	0	34
1988–89	19	1	7	3	1	0	0	31
1989–90	31	2	8	2	0	1	0	44
1990–91	21	0	13	1	0	0	0	35
1991–92	18	1	10	2	0	1	0	32
1992–93	26	2	12	3	0	0	0	43
1993–94	34	2	11	10	0	0	0	57
1994–95	33	3	10	8	0	0	1	55
1995–96	31	4	12	1	0	0	1	49
1996–97	32	4	20	5	0	1	1	63
1997–98	51	4	15	10	0	0	0	80
1998–99	41	8	9	5	1	0	0	64
1999–2000	38	5	14	7	0	0	0	64

Table D25: Deaths in prison custody by location of death, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Prison hospital	Psychiatric hospital	Public place	Other	Total
2000–01	35	2	19	1	0	1	0	58
2001–02	26	7	18	1	0	0	0	52
2002–03	21	3	15	5	0	0	0	44
2003–04	22	2	8	5	0	0	0	37
2004–05	14	1	19	5	0	0	0	39
2005–06	14	4	7	3	0	0	0	28
2006–07	14	2	14	10	0	0	0	40
2007–08	12	5	16	12	0	0	1	46
2008–09	18	1	16	8	0	0	0	43
2009–10	24	4	18	11	0	0	1	58
2010–11	21	0	27	10	0	0	0	58
2011–12	17	1	15	9	0	0	0	42
2012–13	23	4	20	6	0	0	0	53
2013–14	17	3	21	13	0	0	0	54
2014–15	29	2	10	18	0	0	2	61
2015–16	25	1	38	18	0	0	1	83
2016–17	36	0	29	7	1	0	1	74
2017–18	27	3	24	17	0	0	1	72
2018–19	42	4	25	16	0	1	1	89
2019–20	30	6	38	14	0	0	1	89
2020–21	33	1	21	10	0	1	0	66
Total	996	92	612	268	11	6	12	1,997

Note: Includes 359 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,638 non-Indigenous deaths in custody. Excludes 76 cases where location of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Table D26: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n)

	Private	Government	Total
1979–80	0	15	15
1980–81	0	28	28
1981–82	0	29	29
1982–83	0	25	25
1983–84	0	32	32
1984–85	0	27	27
1985–86	0	18	18
1986–87	0	37	37

Table D26: Deaths in prison custody by prison type, 1979–80 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)			
	Private	Government	Total
1987–88	0	45	45
1988–89	0	36	36
1989–90	0	53	53
1990–91	0	35	35
1991–92	0	32	32
1992–93	3	40	43
1993–94	5	52	57
1994–95	2	53	55
1995–96	5	44	49
1996–97	4	59	63
1997–98	10	70	80
1998–99	10	54	64
1999–2000	5	59	64
2000–01	10	48	58
2001–02	7	45	52
2002–03	6	38	44
2003–04	4	33	37
2004–05	6	33	39
2005–06	5	23	28
2006–07	4	36	40
2007–08	18	28	46
2008–09	11	32	43
2009–10	7	51	58
2010–11	12	46	58
2011–12	10	32	42
2012–13	9	44	53
2013–14	11	43	54
2014–15	13	48	61
2015–16	17	66	83
2016–17	21	53	74
2017–18	19	53	72
2018–19	18	71	89
2019–20	13	76	89
2020–21	14	52	66
Total	279	1,794	2,073

Note: Includes 369 Indigenous deaths in custody and 1,704 non-Indigenous deaths in custody

Source: AIC NDICP 1979–2021 [computer file]

Appendix E: Data tables— Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations, 1989–90 to 2020–21

Table E1: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	5	7	7	5	2	1	1	1	29
1990–91	3	9	6	4	2	0	0	2	26
1991–92	4	9	5	1	2	3	1	1	26
1992–93	16	14	3	0	4	0	0	0	37
1993–94	8	10	7	0	1	2	1	2	31
1994–95	14	5	4	3	1	1	0	1	29
1995–96	9	7	5	4	1	3	1	1	31
1996–97	16	2	2	6	2	1	0	5	34
1997–98	14	8	1	3	0	0	0	2	28
1998–99	6	4	6	3	0	0	0	2	21
1999–2000	11	4	4	5	7	0	0	4	35
2000–01	17	4	3	4	5	0	0	1	34
2001–02	13	13	3	5	1	0	0	5	40
2002–03	14	6	7	6	3	1	0	3	40
2003–04	15	6	9	6	2	0	1	3	42
2004–05	11	7	10	7	2	0	0	0	37
2005–06	6	2	4	6	4	0	1	1	24
2006–07	10	6	4	4	4	0	1	1	30
2007–08	7	8	5	4	4	1	0	5	34

Table E1: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n) (cont.)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	6	3	8	8	6	0	1	5	37
2009–10	5	6	6	3	1	1	1	4	27
2010–11	6	1	7	6	2	2	1	0	25
2011–12	11	3	7	5	3	0	0	2	31
2012–13	6	2	2	6	1	0	0	0	17
2013–14	1	5	3	1	2	0	0	1	13
2014–15	7	2	5	3	1	0	0	2	20
2015–16	6	1	3	2	3	1	0	1	17
2016–17	6	0	2	2	5	0	0	2	17
2017–18	7	5	5	3	2	0	1	0	23
2018–19	5	5	5	6	2	1	0	0	24
2019–20	6	6	6	2	0	2	0	2	24
2020–21	8	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	16
Total	279	173	158	123	75	21	11	59	899

Note: Includes 177 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 716 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes 3 cases categorised as 'Other Commonwealth'

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E2: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	0	1	2	4	1	0	0	1	9
1990–91	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
1991–92	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	6
1992–93	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
1993–94	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
1994–95	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
1995–96	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	6
1996–97	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	8
1997–98	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
1998–99	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	7
1999–2000	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
2000–01	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	7
2001–02	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	7
2002–03	3	0	1	4	1	0	0	3	12
2003–04	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	3	11
2004–05	2	1	2	6	1	0	0	0	12
2005–06	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	7
2006–07	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
2007–08	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	5
2008–09	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	8
2009–10	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	6
2010–11	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	7
2011–12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
2012–13	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
2013–14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2014–15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
2015–16	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
2016–17	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	7
2017–18	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
2018–19	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4
2019–20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
2020–21	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	33	8	23	54	18	2	0	39	177

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E3: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1989–90	5	6	5	1	1	1	1	0	20
1990–91	3	9	4	3	2	0	0	2	23
1991–92	4	7	3	0	1	3	1	1	20
1992–93	13	14	2	0	4	0	0	0	33
1993–94	8	10	6	0	1	1	1	1	28
1994–95	14	4	4	2	0	1	0	1	26
1995–96	7	7	4	2	1	3	1	0	25
1996–97	14	2	2	3	2	0	0	3	26
1997–98	12	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	23
1998–99	4	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	14
1999–2000	11	4	3	3	6	0	0	4	31
2000–01	15	4	3	2	3	0	0	0	27
2001–02	12	13	3	4	1	0	0	0	33
2002–03	11	6	6	2	2	1	0	0	28
2003–04	11	6	8	3	2	0	1	0	31
2004–05	9	6	8	1	1	0	0	0	25
2005–06	6	1	3	3	3	0	1	0	17
2006–07	10	5	3	4	4	0	1	0	27
2007–08	7	8	4	4	2	1	0	3	29
2008–09	6	3	7	7	4	0	1	1	29
2009–10	3	6	6	1	1	1	1	2	21
2010–11	5	1	6	1	2	2	1	0	18
2011–12	11	3	7	5	3	0	0	0	29
2012–13	6	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	13
2013–14	1	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	12
2014–15	7	2	5	2	1	0	0	0	17
2015–16	6	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	14
2016–17	3	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	10
2017–18	5	4	4	3	1	0	1	0	18
2018–19	4	4	5	3	2	1	0	0	19
2019–20	6	6	3	1	0	1	0	0	17
2020–21	6	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	13
Total	245	164	132	69	57	18	11	20	716

Note: Excludes 3 cases categorised as 'Other Commonwealth'

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E4: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by category of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Category 1	Category 2	Total
1989–90	23	6	29
1990–91	24	2	26
1991–92	19	7	26
1992–93	20	17	37
1993–94	19	12	31
1994–95	18	12	30
1995–96	12	19	31
1996–97	13	21	34
1997–98	16	12	28
1998–99	14	7	21
1999–2000	14	22	36
2000–01	10	24	34
2001–02	13	27	40
2002–03	11	29	40
2003–04	11	31	42
2004–05	13	25	38
2005–06	6	18	24
2006–07	13	17	30
2007–08	13	21	34
2008–09	12	25	37
2009–10	11	16	27
2010–11	15	10	25
2011–12	15	16	31
2012–13	6	11	17
2013–14	5	8	13
2014–15	16	4	20
2015–16	13	4	17
2016–17	10	7	17
2017–18	17	6	23
2018–19	16	8	24
2019–20	20	4	24
2020–21	11	5	16
Total	449	453	902

Note: For a definition of these categories, see Box 1 in the *Introduction*. Includes 177 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 719 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E5: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total^a
1989–90	9	20	29
1990–91	3	23	26
1991–92	6	20	26
1992–93	4	33	37
1993–94	3	28	31
1994–95	3	27	30
1995–96	6	25	31
1996–97	8	26	34
1997–98	5	23	28
1998–99	7	14	21
1999–2000	4	32	36
2000–01	7	27	34
2001–02	7	33	40
2002–03	12	28	40
2003–04	11	31	42
2004–05	12	26	38
2005–06	7	17	24
2006–07	3	27	30
2007–08	5	29	34
2008–09	8	29	37
2009–10	6	21	27
2010–11	7	18	25
2011–12	2	29	31
2012–13	4	13	17
2013–14	1	12	13
2014–15	3	17	20
2015–16	3	14	17
2016–17	7	10	17
2017–18	4	18	23
2018–19	4	19	24
2019–20	3	17	24
2020–21	3	13	16
Total	177	719	902

a: Total includes 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E6: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by Indigenous status and sex, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total ^a		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1989–90	8	1	9	19	1	20	27	2	29
1990–91	3	0	3	22	1	23	25	1	26
1991–92	3	3	6	18	2	20	21	5	26
1992–93	3	1	4	30	3	33	33	4	37
1993–94	2	1	3	24	4	28	26	5	31
1994–95	2	1	3	26	1	27	28	2	30
1995–96	6	0	6	24	1	25	30	1	31
1996–97	8	0	8	26	0	26	34	0	34
1997–98	4	1	5	21	2	23	25	3	28
1998–99	5	2	7	13	1	14	18	3	21
1999–2000	4	0	4	32	0	32	36	0	36
2000–01	7	0	7	26	1	27	33	1	34
2001–02	4	3	7	31	2	33	35	5	40
2002–03	10	2	12	26	2	28	36	4	40
2003–04	11	0	11	29	2	31	40	2	42
2004–05	12	0	12	23	3	26	35	3	38
2005–06	6	1	7	16	1	17	22	2	24
2006–07	3	0	3	24	3	27	27	3	30
2007–08	4	1	5	28	1	29	32	2	34
2008–09	8	0	8	29	0	29	37	0	37
2009–10	5	1	6	21	0	21	26	1	27
2010–11	7	0	7	18	0	18	25	0	25
2011–12	2	0	2	28	1	29	30	1	31
2012–13	3	1	4	13	0	13	16	1	17
2013–14	1	0	1	12	0	12	13	0	13
2014–15	2	1	3	15	2	17	17	3	20
2015–16	3	0	3	14	0	14	17	0	17
2016–17	6	1	7	10	0	10	16	1	17
2017–18	3	1	4	14	4	18	18	5	23
2018–19	3	1	4	17	2	19	21	3	24
2019–20	2	1	3	17	0	17	23	1	24
2020–21	3	0	3	13	0	13	16	0	16
Total	153	24	177	679	40	719	838	64	902

a: Total includes 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E7: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)					
	10^a–24 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1989–90	10	10	6	3	29
1990–91	9	14	2	1	26
1991–92	7	10	6	3	26
1992–93	13	9	12	3	37
1993–94	9	13	7	2	31
1994–95	10	11	9	0	30
1995–96	13	10	5	3	31
1996–97	11	14	5	4	34
1997–98	7	16	4	1	28
1998–99	7	10	2	1	20
1999–2000	8	21	6	1	36
2000–01	13	11	7	3	34
2001–02	15	14	9	2	40
2002–03	13	16	8	3	40
2003–04	12	20	9	1	42
2004–05	11	19	7	1	38
2005–06	6	13	4	1	24
2006–07	5	17	6	2	30
2007–08	7	13	12	2	34
2008–09	14	15	5	3	37
2009–10	9	11	5	2	27
2010–11	6	10	6	3	25
2011–12	4	18	7	2	31
2012–13	0	7	8	2	17
2013–14	0	4	7	2	13
2014–15	4	6	7	3	20
2015–16	2	5	8	2	17
2016–17	4	7	5	1	17
2017–18	5	7	8	3	23
2018–19	7	10	5	2	24
2019–20	2	10	12	0	24
2020–21	3	12	1	0	16
Total	246	383	210	62	901

a: The legal age of criminal responsibility

Note: Includes 177 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 718 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes one case where age was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E8: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)					
	10^a–24 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1989–90	5	2	2	0	9
1990–91	1	2	0	0	3
1991–92	1	3	1	1	6
1992–93	2	1	1	0	4
1993–94	2	0	1	0	3
1994–95	0	2	1	0	3
1995–96	4	1	1	0	6
1996–97	6	1	1	0	8
1997–98	2	1	2	0	5
1998–99	4	2	0	1	7
1999–2000	2	2	0	0	4
2000–01	2	3	2	0	7
2001–02	1	4	2	0	7
2002–03	4	5	2	1	12
2003–04	6	3	2	0	11
2004–05	6	5	1	0	12
2005–06	2	5	0	0	7
2006–07	0	2	1	0	3
2007–08	1	2	2	0	5
2008–09	6	2	0	0	8
2009–10	3	3	0	0	6
2010–11	3	1	3	0	7
2011–12	0	2	0	0	2
2012–13	0	1	3	0	4
2013–14	0	1	0	0	1
2014–15	1	0	1	1	3
2015–16	0	1	1	1	3
2016–17	1	4	2	0	7
2017–18	1	1	1	1	4
2018–19	2	1	1	0	4
2019–20	1	1	1	0	3
2020–21	0	3	0	0	3
Total	69	67	35	6	177

a: The legal age of criminal responsibility

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E9: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by age category, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)					
	10^a–24 years	25–39 years	40–54 years	55+ years	Total
1989–90	5	8	4	3	20
1990–91	8	12	2	1	23
1991–92	6	7	5	2	20
1992–93	11	8	11	3	33
1993–94	7	13	6	2	28
1994–95	10	9	8	0	27
1995–96	9	9	4	3	25
1996–97	5	13	4	4	26
1997–98	5	15	2	1	23
1998–99	3	8	2	0	13
1999–2000	6	19	6	1	32
2000–01	11	8	5	3	27
2001–02	14	10	7	2	33
2002–03	9	11	6	2	28
2003–04	6	17	7	1	31
2004–05	5	14	6	1	26
2005–06	4	8	4	1	17
2006–07	5	15	5	2	27
2007–08	6	11	10	2	29
2008–09	8	13	5	3	29
2009–10	6	8	5	2	21
2010–11	3	9	3	3	18
2011–12	4	16	7	2	29
2012–13	0	6	5	2	13
2013–14	0	3	7	2	12
2014–15	3	6	6	2	17
2015–16	2	4	7	1	14
2016–17	3	3	3	1	10
2017–18	4	6	6	2	18
2018–19	5	8	4	2	19
2019–20	1	7	9	0	17
2020–21	3	9	1	0	13
Total	177	313	172	56	718

a: The legal age of criminal responsibility

Note: Excludes one case where age was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E10: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
1989–90	4	7	2	6	2	6	2	29
1990–91	3	5	3	3	8	2	2	26
1991–92	5	4	3	3	6	5	0	26
1992–93	0	6	6	7	11	4	3	37
1993–94	4	2	1	4	16	2	2	31
1994–95	1	0	4	5	11	7	2	30
1995–96	4	2	0	12	11	1	1	31
1996–97	2	2	3	10	15	2	0	34
1997–98	2	3	1	12	7	3	0	28
1998–99	6	2	0	6	2	4	1	21
1999–2000	2	2	3	13	15	1	0	36
2000–01	4	0	5	13	7	2	3	34
2001–02	4	2	8	16	6	1	3	40
2002–03	3	4	5	17	10	0	1	40
2003–04	4	4	1	16	11	3	3	42
2004–05	2	3	3	17	11	0	2	38
2005–06	3	3	6	4	6	2	0	24
2006–07	4	1	0	13	7	2	2	29
2007–08	7	1	2	13	9	1	1	34
2008–09	2	1	4	17	11	1	1	37
2009–10	3	1	3	8	8	1	3	27
2010–11	5	0	1	8	9	2	0	25
2011–12	1	0	2	15	6	2	5	31
2012–13	3	0	1	5	4	0	3	16
2013–14	1	0	1	4	6	0	1	13
2014–15	3	1	1	2	11	0	2	20
2015–16	3	0	1	3	6	0	4	17
2016–17	3	1	0	5	5	0	3	17
2017–18	1	0	1	3	9	3	3	20
2018–19	2	0	0	3	13	1	3	22
2019–20	0	0	0	3	16	3	0	22
2020–21	1	0	0	2	7	0	0	10
Total	92	57	71	268	282	61	56	887

Note: Includes 173 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 710 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and four deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes 15 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E11: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)								
	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
1989–90	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	9
1990–91	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
1991–92	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	6
1992–93	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4
1993–94	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
1994–95	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
1995–96	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	6
1996–97	1	0	2	4	1	0	0	8
1997–98	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	5
1998–99	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	7
1999–2000	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
2000–01	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	7
2001–02	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	7
2002–03	2	2	2	5	1	0	0	12
2003–04	2	0	1	6	0	0	2	11
2004–05	2	2	0	6	0	0	2	12
2005–06	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	7
2006–07	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2007–08	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
2008–09	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	8
2009–10	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	6
2010–11	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	7
2011–12	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2012–13	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
2013–14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
2014–15	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
2015–16	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
2016–17	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	7
2017–18	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
2018–19	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
2019–20	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
2020–21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	37	16	24	57	16	6	17	173

Note: Excludes 4 cases where cause of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E12: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by cause of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Hanging	Head injury	External trauma	Gunshot	Alcohol/ drugs	Other/ multiple causes	Total
1989–90	2	5	1	4	1	5	2	20
1990–91	2	5	2	2	8	2	2	23
1991–92	3	3	2	2	6	4	0	20
1992–93	0	5	6	6	11	3	2	33
1993–94	2	2	1	4	15	2	2	28
1994–95	0	0	4	5	9	7	2	27
1995–96	4	1	0	7	11	1	1	25
1996–97	1	2	1	6	14	2	0	26
1997–98	1	1	1	11	7	2	0	23
1998–99	4	1	0	4	1	4	0	14
1999–2000	2	0	3	11	15	1	0	32
2000–01	3	0	4	9	6	2	3	27
2001–02	2	2	6	15	5	1	2	33
2002–03	1	2	3	12	9	0	1	28
2003–04	2	4	0	10	11	3	1	31
2004–05	0	1	3	11	11	0	0	26
2005–06	2	2	3	2	6	2	0	17
2006–07	2	1	0	12	7	2	2	26
2007–08	4	1	2	12	8	1	1	29
2008–09	1	0	1	15	10	1	1	29
2009–10	2	1	2	6	7	1	2	21
2010–11	4	0	0	5	8	1	0	18
2011–12	1	0	1	15	6	2	4	29
2012–13	2	0	0	5	4	0	1	12
2013–14	1	0	1	3	6	0	1	12
2014–15	1	1	0	2	11	0	2	17
2015–16	3	0	0	2	6	0	3	14
2016–17	1	1	0	3	5	0	0	10
2017–18	0	0	0	3	8	2	3	16
2018–19	2	0	0	3	12	1	1	19
2019–20	0	0	0	2	11	3	0	16
2020–21	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	9
Total	55	41	47	211	262	55	39	710

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

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E13: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)							
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1989–90	4	9	1	1	13	0	28
1990–91	3	10	0	3	7	0	23
1991–92	5	9	0	4	8	0	26
1992–93	0	13	1	4	17	2	37
1993–94	4	11	0	9	6	1	31
1994–95	1	10	0	6	13	0	30
1995–96	4	12	0	4	11	0	31
1996–97	2	12	1	7	12	0	34
1997–98	2	8	1	5	12	0	28
1998–99	6	2	0	2	11	0	21
1999–2000	2	9	0	11	12	1	35
2000–01	4	8	1	2	19	0	34
2001–02	4	12	2	2	20	0	40
2002–03	3	16	1	4	15	0	39
2003–04	4	14	0	6	18	0	42
2004–05	2	13	3	6	13	0	37
2005–06	3	8	2	3	8	0	24
2006–07	4	10	0	3	12	1	30
2007–08	7	12	0	3	12	0	34
2008–09	2	10	1	4	18	1	36
2009–10	3	7	0	3	13	1	27
2010–11	6	5	0	6	8	0	25
2011–12	1	11	1	4	12	1	30
2012–13	3	5	0	1	7	1	17
2013–14	1	5	0	3	3	1	13
2014–15	3	3	0	10	4	0	20
2015–16	3	4	0	5	1	4	17
2016–17	3	3	0	4	5	2	17
2017–18	1	1	1	8	6	3	20
2018–19	2	7	0	9	3	1	22
2019–20	0	1	0	14	4	0	19
2020–21	1	3	0	6	0	0	10
Total	93	263	16	162	323	20	877

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Includes 166 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 707 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and four deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes 8 cases classified as excusable homicide and 17 cases where manner of death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E14: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1989–90	2	2	0	0	4	0	8
1990–91	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
1991–92	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
1992–93	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
1993–94	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
1994–95	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
1995–96	0	1	0	0	5	0	6
1996–97	1	1	1	0	5	0	8
1997–98	1	3	0	0	1	0	5
1998–99	2	1	0	1	3	0	7
1999–2000	0	2	0	0	2	0	4
2000–01	1	1	0	1	4	0	7
2001–02	2	1	1	0	3	0	7
2002–03	2	5	1	0	3	0	11
2003–04	2	1	0	0	8	0	11
2004–05	2	2	2	0	5	0	11
2005–06	1	2	2	0	2	0	7
2006–07	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
2007–08	3	1	0	0	1	0	5
2008–09	1	2	1	0	4	0	8
2009–10	1	1	0	0	4	0	6
2010–11	2	0	0	1	4	0	7
2011–12	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2012–13	1	0	0	0	3	0	4
2013–14	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2014–15	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
2015–16	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
2016–17	2	0	0	0	3	2	7
2017–18	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
2018–19	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
2019–20	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2020–21	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	38	32	8	6	79	3	166

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 5 cases classified as excusable homicide and 6 cases where manner of death was not recorded
Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E15: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by manner of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)							
	Natural causes	Self-inflicted	Unlawful homicide	Justifiable homicide	Accident	Other/not determined	Total
1989–90	2	7	1	1	9	0	20
1990–91	2	10	0	3	6	0	21
1991–92	3	7	0	4	6	0	20
1992–93	0	12	1	4	14	2	33
1993–94	2	11	0	8	6	1	28
1994–95	0	10	0	4	13	0	27
1995–96	4	11	0	4	6	0	25
1996–97	1	11	0	7	7	0	26
1997–98	1	5	1	5	11	0	23
1998–99	4	1	0	1	8	0	14
1999–2000	2	7	0	11	10	1	31
2000–01	3	7	1	1	15	0	27
2001–02	2	11	1	2	17	0	33
2002–03	1	11	0	4	12	0	28
2003–04	2	13	0	6	10	0	31
2004–05	0	11	1	6	8	0	26
2005–06	2	6	0	3	6	0	17
2006–07	2	10	0	3	11	1	27
2007–08	4	11	0	3	11	0	29
2008–09	1	8	0	4	14	1	28
2009–10	2	6	0	3	9	1	21
2010–11	4	5	0	5	4	0	18
2011–12	1	11	1	4	11	1	29
2012–13	2	5	0	1	4	1	13
2013–14	1	4	0	3	3	1	12
2014–15	1	3	0	10	3	0	17
2015–16	3	3	0	5	0	3	14
2016–17	1	3	0	4	2	0	10
2017–18	0	1	1	7	4	3	16
2018–19	2	6	0	9	1	1	19
2019–20	0	1	0	11	3	0	15
2020–21	0	3	0	6	0	0	9
Total	55	231	8	152	244	17	707

Note: The self-inflicted category includes self-harm, whether intentional, unintentional or unknown, and accidental hangings. Excludes 3 cases classified as excusable homicide and 9 cases where manner of death was not recorded
Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E16: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1989–90	4	6	0	3	15	1	29
1990–91	7	7	0	0	12	0	26
1991–92	5	3	1	2	11	4	26
1992–93	8	15	2	5	4	3	37
1993–94	14	7	0	3	4	3	31
1994–95	13	7	3	3	3	0	29
1995–96	13	9	0	4	4	1	31
1996–97	14	10	1	1	6	2	34
1997–98	6	6	0	4	9	1	26
1998–99	6	9	0	1	2	2	20
1999–2000	18	10	2	2	3	1	36
2000–01	9	7	0	6	7	5	34
2001–02	8	14	0	5	3	10	40
2002–03	7	8	1	9	4	10	39
2003–04	16	9	1	7	5	3	41
2004–05	16	9	3	6	2	1	37
2005–06	8	3	3	4	3	3	24
2006–07	9	2	1	6	0	8	26
2007–08	9	4	1	7	2	10	33
2008–09	11	3	0	12	5	4	35
2009–10	7	2	1	7	3	6	26
2010–11	9	3	0	7	2	1	22
2011–12	13	2	0	8	3	5	31
2012–13	7	2	0	2	1	3	15
2013–14	4	2	0	3	0	3	12
2014–15	13	1	1	2	1	2	20
2015–16	11	0	0	1	3	2	17
2016–17	6	2	0	2	1	5	16
2017–18	9	1	1	0	6	5	22
2018–19	12	3	1	0	1	3	20
2019–20	14	3	0	0	2	2	21
2020–21	7	1	0	0	2	1	11
Total	313	170	23	122	129	110	867

Note: Includes 168 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 693 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes 35 cases where most serious offence was not recorded or police were responding to mental health welfare concerns

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E17: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)							
	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1989–90	1	4	0	1	3	0	9
1990–91	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
1991–92	1	1	0	0	3	1	6
1992–93	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
1993–94	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
1994–95	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
1995–96	0	4	0	1	1	0	6
1996–97	1	5	0	0	2	0	8
1997–98	0	1	0	0	4	0	5
1998–99	2	4	0	0	1	0	7
1999–2000	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
2000–01	3	2	0	0	1	1	7
2001–02	2	1	0	0	1	3	7
2002–03	1	2	0	2	2	4	11
2003–04	2	4	0	1	3	0	10
2004–05	5	5	0	1	1	0	12
2005–06	2	3	0	1	1	0	7
2006–07	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2007–08	2	1	0	0	0	2	5
2008–09	3	1	0	0	3	1	8
2009–10	0	2	0	1	1	1	5
2010–11	1	3	0	1	1	0	6
2011–12	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
2012–13	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
2013–14	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2014–15	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
2015–16	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
2016–17	2	1	0	1	1	2	7
2017–18	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
2018–19	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
2019–20	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2020–21	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	38	53	2	13	40	22	168

Note: Excludes 9 cases where most serious offence was not recorded or police were responding to mental health welfare concerns

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E18: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by most serious offence, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Violent	Theft-related	Drug-related	Traffic-related	Good order	Other	Total
1989–90	3	2	0	2	12	1	20
1990–91	7	6	0	0	10	0	23
1991–92	4	2	1	2	8	3	20
1992–93	8	13	1	5	3	3	33
1993–94	13	7	0	3	2	3	28
1994–95	10	7	3	3	3	0	26
1995–96	13	5	0	3	3	1	25
1996–97	13	5	1	1	4	2	26
1997–98	6	5	0	4	5	1	21
1998–99	4	5	0	1	1	2	13
1999–2000	17	8	2	2	2	1	32
2000–01	6	5	0	6	6	4	27
2001–02	6	13	0	5	2	7	33
2002–03	6	6	1	7	2	6	28
2003–04	14	5	1	6	2	3	31
2004–05	11	4	3	5	1	1	25
2005–06	6	0	3	3	2	3	17
2006–07	9	1	1	6	0	7	24
2007–08	7	3	1	7	2	8	28
2008–09	8	2	0	12	2	3	27
2009–10	7	0	1	6	2	5	21
2010–11	8	0	0	6	1	1	16
2011–12	13	2	0	7	2	5	29
2012–13	7	1	0	1	1	2	12
2013–14	4	2	0	2	0	3	11
2014–15	13	1	0	2	1	0	17
2015–16	9	0	0	1	3	1	14
2016–17	4	1	0	1	0	3	9
2017–18	8	1	1	0	3	4	17
2018–19	11	1	1	0	0	3	16
2019–20	11	2	0	0	1	1	15
2020–21	5	1	0	0	2	1	9
Total	271	116	21	109	88	88	693

Note: Excludes 26 cases where most serious offence was not recorded or police were responding to mental health welfare concerns

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E19: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by location of death, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Cell	Other custodial setting	Public hospital	Psychiatric hospital	Private property	Public place	Other	Total
1989–90	10	5	7	0	1	6	0	29
1990–91	5	4	8	0	5	4	0	26
1991–92	5	3	11	0	3	4	0	26
1992–93	3	1	13	1	4	13	2	37
1993–94	2	2	8	0	5	13	1	31
1994–95	2	2	7	0	5	14	0	30
1995–96	3	1	11	0	7	7	2	31
1996–97	2	1	13	0	4	12	2	34
1997–98	6	1	8	0	3	9	1	28
1998–99	3	2	12	0	1	3	0	21
1999–2000	1	1	8	0	9	17	0	36
2000–01	5	0	8	0	3	18	0	34
2001–02	2	2	10	0	4	22	0	40
2002–03	2	2	7	0	4	24	1	40
2003–04	4	0	4	0	8	26	0	42
2004–05	2	2	8	0	7	18	1	38
2005–06	2	0	7	0	4	11	0	24
2006–07	2	0	9	0	5	13	1	30
2007–08	1	0	18	0	6	9	0	34
2008–09	1	0	9	0	7	19	1	37
2009–10	3	1	9	0	5	8	1	27
2010–11	1	0	4	0	8	12	0	25
2011–12	1	1	7	0	8	14	0	31
2012–13	1	0	2	0	2	12	0	17
2013–14	0	0	1	0	5	6	1	13
2014–15	2	0	5	0	6	6	1	20
2015–16	0	1	6	0	6	4	0	17
2016–17	1	0	4	0	5	7	0	17
2017–18	3	0	6	1	5	6	2	23
2018–19	0	0	7	0	9	8	0	24
2019–20	0	3	8	0	4	7	2	24
2020–21	0	0	5	0	5	6	0	16
Total	75	35	250	2	163	358	19	902

Note: Includes 177 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 719 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E20: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by type of custody, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Institutional	Escape	Detainment	Other	Total
1989–90	20	0	9	0	29
1990–91	16	0	10	0	26
1991–92	13	0	12	1	26
1992–93	11	0	25	1	37
1993–94	8	0	21	2	31
1994–95	7	0	23	0	30
1995–96	7	0	24	0	31
1996–97	5	1	28	0	34
1997–98	10	0	18	0	28
1998–99	9	0	10	2	21
1999–2000	4	0	32	0	36
2000–01	6	0	27	1	34
2001–02	6	0	28	6	40
2002–03	6	1	30	3	40
2003–04	5	2	35	0	42
2004–05	7	0	30	1	38
2005–06	5	0	19	0	24
2006–07	5	0	23	2	30
2007–08	4	0	30	0	34
2008–09	4	1	32	0	37
2009–10	5	0	21	1	27
2010–11	3	0	22	0	25
2011–12	3	0	23	5	31
2012–13	1	0	15	1	17
2013–14	1	0	12	0	13
2014–15	5	0	15	0	20
2015–16	4	0	11	2	17
2016–17	4	0	13	0	17
2017–18	4	0	19	0	23
2018–19	2	0	19	3	24
2019–20	3	0	20	1	24
2020–21	0	0	15	1	16
Total	193	5	671	33	902

Note: Includes 177 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 719 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 6 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E21: Deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment ^a , 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)						
	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Other/shooting	Total
1989–90	5	1	0	0	3	9
1990–91	1	0	1	2	6	10
1991–92	3	2	1	0	6	12
1992–93	9	4	3	0	9	25
1993–94	5	1	4	1	10	21
1994–95	6	2	3	1	11	23
1995–96	9	0	3	1	11	24
1996–97	11	1	7	2	7	28
1997–98	10	1	2	0	5	18
1998–99	5	0	1	0	4	10
1999–2000	11	2	3	5	11	32
2000–01	12	6	6	2	1	27
2001–02	16	2	3	1	6	28
2002–03	15	4	3	1	7	30
2003–04	12	7	7	2	7	35
2004–05	12	4	2	1	11	30
2005–06	10	0	3	0	6	19
2006–07	9	1	4	0	9	23
2007–08	9	4	5	0	12	30
2008–09	15	0	6	3	8	32
2009–10	9	1	7	1	3	21
2010–11	7	0	5	5	5	22
2011–12	8	0	6	5	4	23
2012–13	5	3	2	4	1	15
2013–14	4	0	2	1	5	12
2014–15	2	0	2	0	11	15
2015–16	0	0	4	0	7	11
2016–17	4	1	1	1	6	13
2017–18	2	0	2	0	15	19
2018–19	0	2	3	0	14	19
2019–20	3	0	3	0	14	20
2020–21	0	0	1	0	14	15
Total	229	49	105	39	249	671

a: Includes detainment-related deaths only

Note: Includes 104 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 562 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and 5 cases where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E22: Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment^a, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)

	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Other/shooting	Total
1989–90	3	0	0	0	1	4
1990–91	1	0	0	0	0	1
1991–92	1	0	0	0	1	2
1992–93	1	1	0	0	0	2
1993–94	0	0	0	0	1	1
1994–95	0	0	0	0	2	2
1995–96	5	0	0	0	0	5
1996–97	5	0	1	0	1	7
1997–98	0	0	0	0	1	1
1998–99	2	0	0	0	2	4
1999–2000	2	0	0	0	0	2
2000–01	2	1	0	1	1	5
2001–02	1	1	1	0	0	3
2002–03	1	2	0	0	3	6
2003–04	3	3	0	0	1	7
2004–05	4	3	0	0	0	7
2005–06	4	0	1	0	0	5
2006–07	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007–08	1	0	1	0	2	4
2008–09	2	0	1	0	2	5
2009–10	3	1	1	0	0	5
2010–11	4	0	0	1	0	5
2011–12	1	0	0	0	0	1
2012–13	1	2	0	0	0	3
2013–14	1	0	0	0	0	1
2014–15	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015–16	0	0	1	0	0	1
2016–17	2	1	0	0	2	5
2017–18	0	0	0	0	2	2
2018–19	0	2	0	0	0	2
2019–20	1	0	0	0	2	3
2020–21	0	0	0	0	3	3
Total	51	17	7	2	27	104

a: Includes detainment-related deaths only

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E23: Non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and custody-related operations by method of detainment ^a , 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)						
	Motor vehicle pursuit	Other pursuit	Siege	Raid	Other/shooting	Total
1989–90	2	1	0	0	2	5
1990–91	0	0	1	2	6	9
1991–92	2	2	1	0	5	10
1992–93	8	3	3	0	9	23
1993–94	5	1	4	1	9	20
1994–95	6	2	3	1	9	21
1995–96	4	0	3	1	11	19
1996–97	6	1	6	2	6	21
1997–98	10	1	2	0	4	17
1998–99	3	0	1	0	2	6
1999–2000	9	2	3	5	11	30
2000–01	10	5	6	1	0	22
2001–02	15	1	2	1	6	25
2002–03	14	2	3	1	4	24
2003–04	9	4	7	2	6	28
2004–05	8	1	2	1	11	23
2005–06	6	0	2	0	6	14
2006–07	9	1	4	0	9	23
2007–08	8	4	4	0	10	26
2008–09	13	0	5	3	6	27
2009–10	6	0	6	1	3	16
2010–11	3	0	5	4	5	17
2011–12	7	0	6	5	4	22
2012–13	4	1	2	4	1	12
2013–14	3	0	2	1	5	11
2014–15	2	0	2	0	11	15
2015–16	0	0	3	0	7	10
2016–17	2	0	1	1	4	8
2017–18	2	0	2	0	12	16
2018–19	0	0	3	0	13	16
2019–20	2	0	2	0	10	14
2020–21	0	0	1	0	11	12
Total	178	32	97	37	218	562

a: Includes detainment-related deaths only

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

Table E24: Motor vehicle pursuit deaths by Indigenous status and sex, 1989–90 to 2020–21 (n)									
	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1989–90	2	1	3	2	0	2	4	1	5
1990–91	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
1991–92	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3
1992–93	1	0	1	7	1	8	8	1	9
1993–94	0	0	0	4	1	5	4	1	5
1994–95	0	0	0	6	0	6	6	0	6
1995–96	5	0	5	4	0	4	9	0	9
1996–97	5	0	5	6	0	6	11	0	11
1997–98	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	10
1998–99	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	5
1999–2000	2	0	2	9	0	9	11	0	11
2000–01	2	0	2	10	0	10	12	0	12
2001–02	0	1	1	15	0	15	15	1	16
2002–03	1	0	1	12	2	14	13	2	15
2003–04	3	0	3	9	0	9	12	0	12
2004–05	4	0	4	7	1	8	11	1	12
2005–06	3	1	4	6	0	6	9	1	10
2006–07	0	0	0	8	1	9	8	1	9
2007–08	0	1	1	8	0	8	8	1	9
2008–09	2	0	2	13	0	13	15	0	15
2009–10	2	1	3	6	0	6	8	1	9
2010–11	4	0	4	3	0	3	7	0	7
2011–12	1	0	1	7	0	7	8	0	8
2012–13	1	0	1	4	0	4	5	0	5
2013–14	1	0	1	3	0	3	4	0	4
2014–15	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
2015–16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016–17	2	0	2	2	0	2	4	0	4
2017–18	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2
2018–19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019–20	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3
2020–21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	45	6	51	169	9	178	214	15	229

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

	Shot by self	Shot by police	Shot by other person	Total
1989–90	0	2	0	2
1990–91	3	5	0	8
1991–92	2	4	0	6
1992–93	5	4	1	10
1993–94	7	9	0	16
1994–95	5	6	0	11
1995–96	7	4	0	11
1996–97	8	7	0	15
1997–98	2	5	0	7
1998–99	0	2	0	2
1999–2000	4	11	0	15
2000–01	4	3	0	7
2001–02	4	2	0	6
2002–03	5	5	0	10
2003–04	5	6	0	11
2004–05	5	6	0	11
2005–06	3	3	0	6
2006–07	4	3	0	7
2007–08	6	3	0	9
2008–09	6	5	0	11
2009–10	5	3	0	8
2010–11	3	6	0	9
2011–12	2	4	0	6
2012–13	3	1	0	4
2013–14	3	3	0	6
2014–15	1	10	0	11
2015–16	1	5	0	6
2016–17	1	4	0	5
2017–18	1	8	0	9
2018–19	4	9	0	13
2019–20	0	16	0	16
2020–21	1	6	0	7
Total	110	170	1	281

Note: Includes 16 Indigenous deaths in police custody, 261 non-Indigenous deaths in police custody and four deaths where Indigenous status was not stated or unknown. Excludes one case where type of shooting death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

	Shot by self	Shot by police	Shot by other person	Total
1989–90	0	1	0	1
1990–91	0	0	0	0
1991–92	0	0	0	0
1992–93	0	0	0	0
1993–94	0	1	0	1
1994–95	0	2	0	2
1995–96	0	0	0	0
1996–97	1	0	0	1
1997–98	0	0	0	0
1998–99	0	1	0	1
1999–2000	0	0	0	0
2000–01	0	1	0	1
2001–02	1	0	0	1
2002–03	0	1	0	1
2003–04	0	0	0	0
2004–05	0	0	0	0
2005–06	0	0	0	0
2006–07	0	0	0	0
2007–08	1	0	0	1
2008–09	1	0	0	1
2009–10	1	0	0	1
2010–11	0	1	0	1
2011–12	0	0	0	0
2012–13	0	0	0	0
2013–14	0	0	0	0
2014–15	0	0	0	0
2015–16	0	0	0	0
2016–17	0	0	0	0
2017–18	0	0	0	0
2018–19	1	0	0	1
2019–20	0	2	0	2
2020–21	0	0	0	0
Total	6	10	0	16

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

	Shot by self	Shot by police	Shot by other person	Total
1989–90	0	1	0	1
1990–91	3	5	0	8
1991–92	2	4	0	6
1992–93	5	4	1	10
1993–94	7	8	0	15
1994–95	5	4	0	9
1995–96	7	4	0	11
1996–97	7	7	0	14
1997–98	2	5	0	7
1998–99	0	1	0	1
1999–2000	4	11	0	15
2000–01	4	2	0	6
2001–02	3	2	0	5
2002–03	5	4	0	9
2003–04	5	6	0	11
2004–05	5	6	0	11
2005–06	3	3	0	6
2006–07	4	3	0	7
2007–08	5	3	0	8
2008–09	5	5	0	10
2009–10	4	3	0	7
2010–11	3	5	0	8
2011–12	2	4	0	6
2012–13	3	1	0	4
2013–14	3	3	0	6
2014–15	1	10	0	11
2015–16	1	5	0	6
2016–17	1	4	0	5
2017–18	1	7	0	8
2018–19	3	9	0	12
2019–20	0	11	0	11
2020–21	1	6	0	7
Total	104	156	1	261

Note: Excludes one case where type of shooting death was not recorded

Source: AIC NDICP 1989–2021 [computer file]

AIC reports
Statistical Report

Laura Doherty is a Research Analyst at the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Australia's national research and
knowledge centre on crime and justice

aic.gov.au

