



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Criminology

Homicide in Australia:
2010–11 to 2011–12:
National Homicide
Monitoring Program report

Willow Bryant
Tracy Cussen

AIC Reports
Monitoring
Reports **23**

Homicide in Australia: 2010–11 to 2011–12: National Homicide Monitoring Program report

*Willow Bryant
Tracy Cussen*

AIC Reports
Monitoring
Reports

23

www.aic.gov.au



© Australian Institute of Criminology 2015

ISSN 1836-2087 (print) 1836-2095 (online)

ISBN 978 1 922009 82 1 (print) 978 1 922009 83 8 (online)

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.

Project no. 0001

Dataset no. 001–003

Ethics no. P029

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology GPO Box 2944 Canberra
ACT 2601 Tel: (02) 6260 9200 Fax: (02) 6260 9299 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.

Edited and typeset by the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Foreword

The National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) commenced on 1 July 1989. Through it, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) monitors trends and patterns in homicide across Australian jurisdictions. The NHMP data are the most comprehensive collection on homicide in Australia, providing details of victims, offenders and the circumstances of the incident.

With more than 20 years of data on incidents, victims and offenders of homicide in Australia and numerous research reports on various elements of homicide, our understanding of this crime has improved. Consequently, law enforcement, policymakers, researchers and the general public are better informed in relation to its occurrence. The NHMP primarily circulates this knowledge through the compilation of annual reports and other papers. The current report depicts data on homicide in Australia for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012.

There were 479 homicide incidents involving 511 victims and 532 identified offenders over the two year reporting period. Following a decline in the number of incidents, victims and offenders in 2010–11 over the previously published 2009–10 figures, there was a marginal increase in the number of homicides in 2011–12. However, the rate of homicide continues to be historically low.

The NHMP owes its success to the cooperation and continued support of the data collection process provided by the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council and by police services around Australia. The AIC gratefully acknowledges the numerous individual police officers, analysts and statistical support staff of each state and territory police service for their assistance in compiling the data and their efforts to ensure that the data are accurate and complete.

Dr Adam Tomison
Director

Contents

iii	Foreword	
iv	Contents	
vi	Executive summary	
1	About the National Homicide Monitoring Program	
1	Purpose	
1	Definition of homicide	
1	Methodology	
3	Homicide in Australia, 2010–12	
3	Homicide incidents	
16	Homicide victims	
22	Homicide offenders	
25	Conclusion	
27	References	
29	Appendix A Homicide incidents, 2010–12	
36	Appendix B Homicide victims, 2010–12	
46	Appendix C Offender characteristics from NHMP findings	
14	Table 7 Apparent motive in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2010–12	
15	Table 8 Situational factors in homicide incidents, 2010–12	
16	Table 9 Homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2010–12	
17	Table 10 Type of homicide by sex of victims, 2010–12	
18	Table 11 Age of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12	
20	Table 12 Indigenous status of homicide victims by type of homicide, 2010–12	
21	Table 13 Employment status of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12	
22	Table 14 Number of offenders in homicide incident by principal incident classification, 2010–12	
24	Table 15 Homicide offender age in years by sex, 2010–12	
25	Table 16 Prior criminal history of homicide offenders by sex, 2010–11	
29	Table A1 Incidents of homicide by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12	
30	Table A2 Incidents of homicide by most serious charge and jurisdiction, 2010–12	
30	Table A3 Incidents of homicide by status at time of reporting and jurisdiction, 2010–12	
31	Table A4 Incidents of homicide by number of victims and offenders and jurisdictions, 2010–12	
32	Table A5 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2010–12	
33	Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2010–12	

Tables

5	Table 1 Homicide incidents by jurisdiction, 2010–12	
8	Table 2 Homicide by type of jurisdiction, 2010–12	
9	Table 3 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2010–12	
11	Table 4 Location of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12	
12	Table 5 Cause of death in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2010–12	
13	Table 6 Cause of death in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12	
14	Table 7 Apparent motive in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2010–12	
15	Table 8 Situational factors in homicide incidents, 2010–12	
16	Table 9 Homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2010–12	
17	Table 10 Type of homicide by sex of victims, 2010–12	
18	Table 11 Age of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12	
20	Table 12 Indigenous status of homicide victims by type of homicide, 2010–12	
21	Table 13 Employment status of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12	
22	Table 14 Number of offenders in homicide incident by principal incident classification, 2010–12	
24	Table 15 Homicide offender age in years by sex, 2010–12	
25	Table 16 Prior criminal history of homicide offenders by sex, 2010–11	
29	Table A1 Incidents of homicide by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12	
30	Table A2 Incidents of homicide by most serious charge and jurisdiction, 2010–12	
30	Table A3 Incidents of homicide by status at time of reporting and jurisdiction, 2010–12	
31	Table A4 Incidents of homicide by number of victims and offenders and jurisdictions, 2010–12	
32	Table A5 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2010–12	
33	Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2010–12	

- 34 Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 35 Table A7 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 36 Table B1 Homicide victims per incident by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 37 Table B2 Homicide victims by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12
- 38 Table B3 Homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 39 Table B4 Homicide victims by age and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 40 Table B5 Prior criminal history of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12)
- 41 Table B6 Employment status of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 42 Table B7 Indigenous status of homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 42 Table B8 Primary cause of death of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 43 Table B8 Primary cause of death of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 44 Table B9 Motives of homicide offenders by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 45 Table B10 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 46 Table C1 Number of offenders involved in homicide incident by jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 47 Table C2 Homicide offenders^a by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12
- 48 Table C3 Homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–12
- 49 Table C4 Homicide offenders by age and jurisdiction, 2010–11
- 50 Table C5 Prior history of homicide offenders and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 51 Table C6 Employment status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 52 Table C7 Indigenous status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 53 Table C8 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12
- 54 Table C8 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12

Figures

- 4 Figure 1 Homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12
- 4 Figure 2 Homicide incidents by year 1989–90 to 2011–12
- 7 Figure 3 Homicide incidents by classification, 2010–12
- 7 Figure 4 Domestic homicide incidents by sub-classification, 2010–12
- 8 Figure 5 Homicide type by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12
- 9 Figure 6 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2010–12
- 10 Figure 7 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12
- 10 Figure 8 Location of homicide incidents, 2010–12
- 13 Figure 9 Weapon use in homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12
- 15 Figure 10 Alcohol involvement in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12
- 17 Figure 11 Victimization rate by sex, 1989–90 to 2011–12
- 19 Figure 12 Age of homicide victim by type of homicide, 2010–12
- 20 Figure 13 Indigenous status of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12
- 21 Figure 14 Employment status of homicide victims by age group in years, 2010–12
- 23 Figure 15 Offending rate by sex and year, 1989–90 to 2009–10

Executive summary

In this National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) report, the nature and context of homicides occurring throughout the 2010–11 and 2011–12 financial years are described. Although much of the data are presented in the aggregate, figures for each financial year are provided in some circumstances to aid the monitoring of trends. Ongoing monitoring of homicide locates short-term changes within a longer timeframe and enables policymakers and law enforcement personnel to identify changes in risk markers associated with incidents, victims and offenders.

The results presented in this report are consistent with previous NHMP reports but demonstrate some fluctuation across various characteristics of homicide. Overall, the number of homicides generally continues to decline over time.

Key findings from this report include:

- From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012, there were a total of 479 homicide incidents—236 in 2010–11 and 243 in 2011–12.
- These incidents involved 511 victims and 532 offenders—247 victims and 260 offenders in 2010–11 and 264 victims and 272 offenders in 2011–12.
- Since 2001–02, there has been a downward trend in the homicide rate, decreasing from 1.8 per 100,000 to 1.1 in the 2010–11 and 2011–12 financial years.
- Males continued to be overrepresented as both victims (n=328; 64%) and offenders (n=453; 85%).
- Female victimisation reached an historic low and remained stable across 2010–11 (n=90) and 2011–12 (n=92), with a rate of 0.8 per 100,000. However, females remain overrepresented as victims of intimate partner homicide.
- Knives continue to be the most commonly used weapon, with 42 percent (n=98) of all homicide incidents in 2010–11 involving knives/sharp instruments. This decreased to 33 percent (n=79) in 2011–12.
- During the period between 2010–11 and 2011–12, approximately one in 10 (n=69; 14%) homicide incidents involved the use of a firearm.
- The most common relationship between homicide offender and victim throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12 was domestic (39%; n=187), closely followed by friends/acquaintance homicide (36%; n=175). Stranger homicides (including persons known for less than 24 hours) comprised 11 percent (n=51) of homicides.
- Of the 187 domestic homicide incidents recorded between July 2010 and June 2012, 58 percent (n=109) were classified as intimate partner homicide, 18 percent as filicides (n=34; 9 of which involved the death of a child under one year of age), 12 percent as parricides (n=22) and three percent as siblicides (n=6).
- Eighty-five homicide victims throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12 were identified as being Indigenous Australians (56 males, 28 females and 1 sex unspecified). Although the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous victims were similar (67 *cf* 64 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous males; 33 *cf* 35 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous females), according to victimisation rates, Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented. At a national level, the rate of Indigenous victimisation in 2011–12 (5.0 per 100,000) was five times higher than non-Indigenous victimisation (1.0 per 100,000).
- Sixty-one children aged 17 years and younger were killed throughout the period.
- More than one in 10 (n=72; 15%) homicides were committed during the course of another crime, including robbery (n=17; 4%), followed by drug offences (n=14; 3%).

About the National Homicide Monitoring Program

Purpose

Homicide is among the most serious of all crimes. Preventing homicide and other lethal violence remains a key priority for Australian criminal justice and law enforcement agencies. The NHMP and its collection of data are Australia's only national system with the capacity to monitor homicide rates, facilitate detailed analysis of homicide types and trends and communicate this to key stakeholders including police, government and non-government organisations, and the general public.

Definition of homicide

In this report, the term *homicide* refers to a person killed (unlawfully); a homicide incident is an event in which one or more persons are killed at the same place and time. Homicide is defined by the criminal law of each Australian state and territory, and varying definitions exist between states and territories in terms of its degree, culpability and intent. The definition of homicide in the NHMP reflects the operational definition used by police throughout Australia. As such, the NHMP collects data on the following incidents:

- all cases resulting in a person or persons being charged with murder or manslaughter. This excludes driving-related fatalities, except those that immediately follow a criminal event such as armed robbery or motor vehicle theft;
- all murder-suicides classed as murder by police; and
- all other deaths classed by police as homicides (including infanticides), whether or not an offender has been apprehended.

Excluded from this definition are attempted murder and violent deaths, such as industrial accidents involving criminal negligence (unless a charge of manslaughter is laid). Lawful homicide, including that by police in the course of their duties, is also excluded.

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) further classifies types of homicides by the relationship between victim and offender, these are described in the homicide incidents section (see *Homicide Incident Classification*).

Methodology

There are two key sources of data for the NHMP:

- offence records derived from each Australian state and territory police service, supplemented where necessary with information provided directly by investigating police officers and/or associated staff; and
- state coronial records such as toxicology and post-mortem reports. As of 1 July 2001, the National Coroners Information System enabled online access to coronial findings including toxicology reports.

Where appropriate, the data are further supplemented by newspaper clippings. Newspaper media nationwide are monitored daily by staff at the AIC.

Compilation of this report begins with obtaining police offence reports, forwarded directly to the AIC. The NHMP dataset created from these reports is based on 77 distinct variables and the relevant information pertaining to these variables is extracted for each homicide incident and entered into the NHMP database. The information is divided into four key areas:

- an incident file, which describes the case and its circumstances (for instance, location, date and time of the incident; status of investigation; whether the incident occurred during the course of another crime);
- a victim file, which contains sociodemographic information relating to the victim(s), details of the cause of death and the type of weapon used to kill the victims, and alcohol and illicit drug use;
- an offender file, which details persons who have been charged and includes data on the sociodemographic characteristics of the offender, his/her previous criminal history, alcohol/illicit drug use, mental health status and relationship to the victim (at all times, the term offender refers to suspected offenders only and not to convicted persons, unless otherwise stated); and
- a merged incident, victim and offender file, combining details from all three datasets.

A rigorous quality-control process is implemented to maximise the accuracy of the NHMP data. This involves crosschecking information contained in

each police offence record from additional data sources. These supplementary sources may include post-mortem coronial reports, information provided by other agencies in the police services (statistical services, homicide squads or major crime units, firearms registries) and press clippings. For any discrepancies that may occur between information provided in the police offence report and one of the additional sources, the police source is queried to verify the circumstances. Depending on the reliability of the additional source and the information in response to the NHMP query, the data relating to the homicide incident in the NHMP may be updated accordingly. A report detailing the NHMP quality-control process (see Mouzos 2002) provides a comprehensive examination of this process and cites examples of identifying inconsistencies in the various data sources. Finally, all of the rates in the NHMP have been calculated using the latest population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Homicide in Australia, 2010–12

The results presented in this report are consistent with previous NHMP reports but demonstrate some variation across various characteristics of homicide.

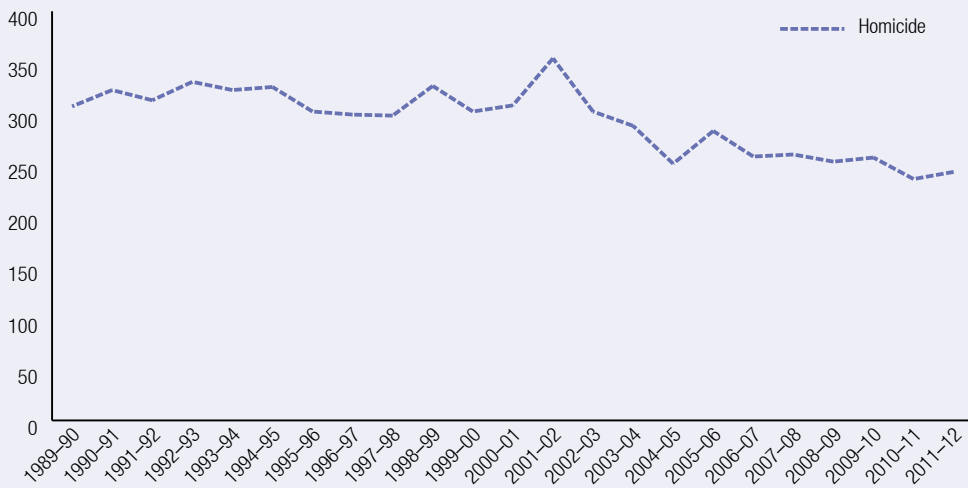
Homicide incidents

A total of 479 incidents of homicide were recorded in Australia throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12. A similar number of incidents were recorded in each of the two financial years, with 236 incidents recorded in 2010–11 and 243 incidents in 2011–12 (see Figure 1). From these incidents, 532 offenders were identified and 511 victims were killed. Both the number of victims and offenders is greater than the number of homicide events, due to the fact that incidents may involve multiple victims and/or multiple offenders. Across 2010–11 and 2011–12, there were 83 (17%) homicide events involving multiple victims and/or offenders. At the time of reporting, a total of 34 incidents did not have an identified offender.

The homicide rate has continued to decline (see Figure 2). For the most recent year of data (2011–12), the rate was 1.1 incidents per 100,000. This is the lowest homicide rate since the NHMP data collection began in 1989–90. Over the same time period, there has also been an overall decrease of approximately 21 percent ($n=307$ *cf* 243) in the number of homicide incidents (see Figure 1).

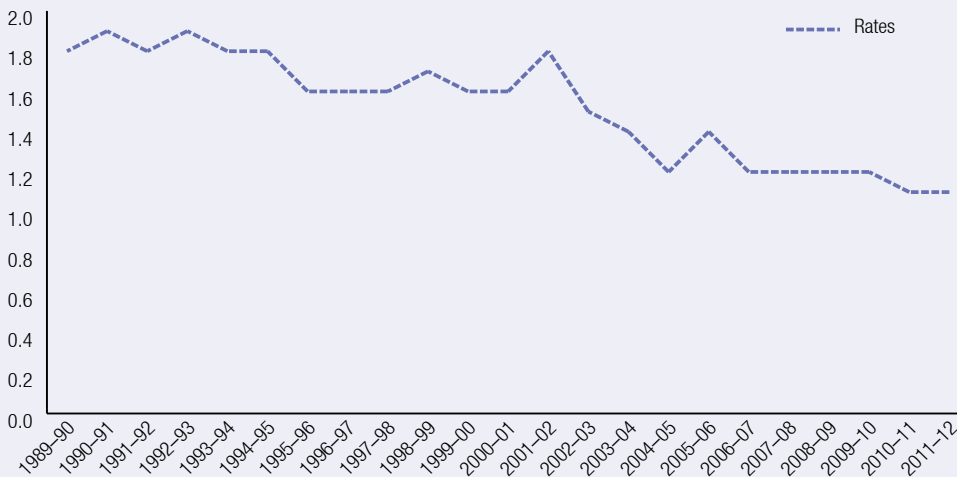
The number of homicides recorded in each jurisdiction is generally reflective of population size. Therefore, the largest number of homicide incidents were in New South Wales ($n=148$), followed by Victoria ($n=96$) and Queensland ($n=96$). Those jurisdictions with larger populations also typically demonstrated minimal fluctuation in rates (see Table 1). For example, in Victoria, the number of homicide incidents increased by 10 from 2010–11 to 2011–12 with a corresponding rate increase of 0.1 (from 0.8 to 0.9 per 100,000). Conversely, in the Northern Territory, an increase of two homicide incidents over the same timeframe led to an increase in the homicide rate of 0.7 (ie from 4.8 to 5.5 per 100,000).

Figure 1 Homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12 (n)



Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 2 Homicide incidents by year 1989–90 to 2011–12 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2013; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 1 Homicide incidents by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (rate per 100,000)

	2010–11		2011–12	
	n	rate	n	rate
New South Wales	77	1.1	71	1.0
Victoria	43	0.8	53	0.9
Queensland	49	1.1	47	1.0
Western Australia	32	1.4	34	1.4
South Australia	20	1.2	16	1.0
Tasmania	4	0.8	5	1.0
Northern Territory	11	4.8	13	5.5
Australian Capital Territory	0	0.0	4	1.1
Australia	236	1.1	243	1.1

Source: ABS 2013; AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Homicide incident classification

Several different methods may be used to classify homicide incidents including those that focus on qualitative characteristics (eg the relationship between victim and offender and precipitating events) and those based on more specific quantitative measures (eg the number of victims killed and offenders involved). Further, the triangulation of various victim, offender and incident characteristics complicates the development of homicide typologies such that with the exception of specific legal definitions, which may vary across jurisdictions (such as infanticide), there is no universally agreed method for classification.

In this report, homicide incidents are classified into three primary categories according to the principal relationship shared between the victim and the offender. The categories are:

- *domestic homicide*—an incident involving the death of a family member or other person from a domestic relationship. This includes:
 - *intimate partner homicide*—where the victim and offender share a current or former intimate relationship, including homosexual and extramarital relationships;
 - *filicide*—where a custodial or non-custodial parent (including step-parent) kills a child (including infanticide, which is defined as the killing of a child under 1 year of age);
 - *parricide*—where a child kills a custodial or non-custodial parent or step-parent;

- *siblicide*—where one sibling kills another; and
- *other family homicide*—where the victim and offender are related by family, but are not otherwise classified above (such as a cousin, aunt, grandparent etc);

- *acquaintance homicide*—an incident involving a victim and offender, who were known to each other but who were not related to each other, nor living in a domestic relationship; and
- *stranger homicide*—all other incidents in which the victim and offender were not known to each other, or were known less than 24 hours.

For the vast majority of homicide incidents that involve a single victim/single offender, classifying the principal relationship is relatively straightforward. However, for multiple victim and/or multiple offender homicide incidents, this process is complicated by the presence of two or more different relationships (one for each unique victim and offender pair). In this report, where an incident involves two or more relationship types, the principal relationship is taken to be the closest known relationship shared between any one victim and offender pair. Where an incident involves two victims (and 2 relationships) within the same category, the closest relationship is chosen for classification. For example, incidents involving the death of an intimate partner and one or more children will be classified as an intimate partner homicide for the purposes of this report.

Homicides are most likely to occur between people known to one another. Of particular interest to the

public and many stakeholder groups is the proportion of homicides that are classified as domestic. Of the 479 homicide incidents in 2010–11 and 2011–12, 187 were classified as domestic homicides. This is a slight increase in domestic homicides between the 2010–12 and 2008–10 reporting periods (39% *cf* 36% respectively). One-hundred and seventy-five incidents (36%) were classified as acquaintance homicides and 51 (11%) as stranger homicides (see Figure 3). For the remaining 66 homicide incidents (14%), a victim–offender relationship could not be classified.

Of the 187 domestic homicides recorded throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12, the majority were classified as intimate partner (n=109; 58%). There were also 34 incidents classified as filicide (18%), 22 as parricides (12%) and six of sibicide (3%; see Figure 4).

The proportion of homicide by principal relationship has fluctuated since 1989–90, particularly with regard to domestic homicides (see Figure 5). In 2007–08, domestic homicides accounted for 52 percent of all homicides (see Virueda & Payne 2010) but in more recent years, this proportion has decreased. In 2010–12, it accounted for 39 percent of all homicides.

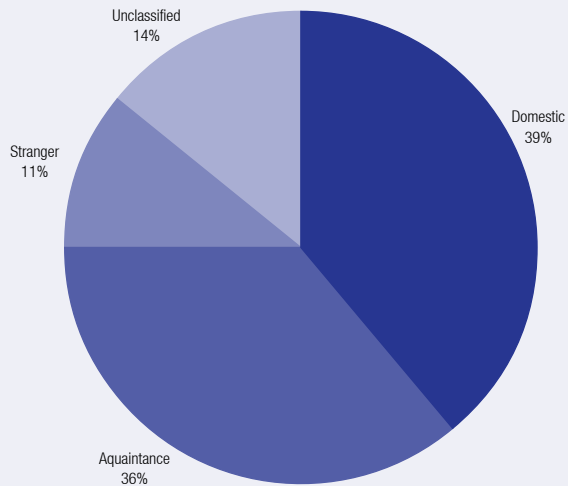
The proportion of domestic homicides varies between jurisdictions (see Table 2). Over the 2010–11 and 2011–12 period, more than two-thirds of all homicides in the Northern Territory (n=16; 67%) were classified as domestic, as were

half of homicides in Queensland (49%; n=47). Over a third of homicides in New South Wales (n=57; 39%) and South Australia (n=13; 36%) were classified as domestic, as were almost one-third of Victorian (n=30; 31%) and Western Australian homicides (n=20; 30%). These findings should be considered with caution as the total number of homicides in each jurisdiction varies considerably and in some cases is very small.

Acquaintance homicides were more prevalent in Western Australia (n=31; 47%) and Victoria (n=42; 44%) compared with other jurisdictions. Again, these results should be considered with caution, particularly for Tasmania, as the actual number of homicide types in these jurisdictions was smaller than in other jurisdictions. The proportion of homicides that occur between strangers varies between jurisdictions but is typically low. Of jurisdictions reporting more than 10 homicides over the reporting period, stranger homicides were most prevalent in South Australia (n=6; 17%) and ranged between four percent (n=1) in the Northern Territory to 12 percent (n=18) in New South Wales.

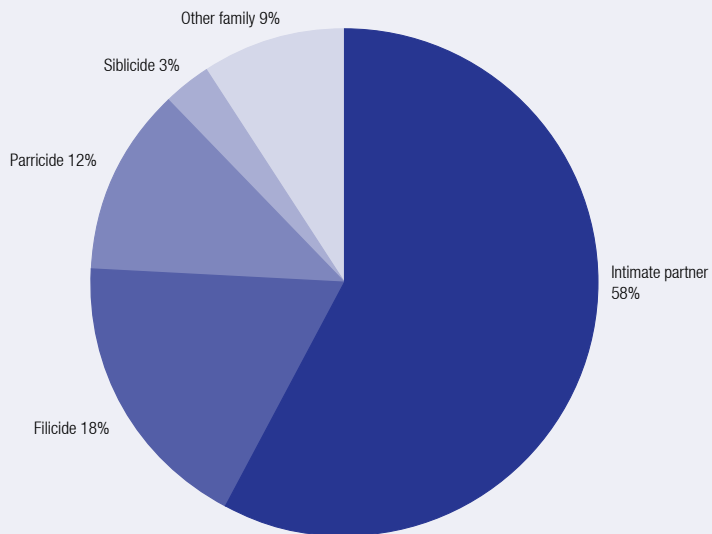
Throughout the different states and territories, 14 percent of cases (n=66) were unable to be classified, of which New South Wales (n=24), Victoria (n=15) and Queensland (n=15) had the highest proportion (16%), followed by Western Australia (n=8; 12%) and South Australia (n=4; 11%). No incidents in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory were unable to be classified.

Figure 3 Homicide incidents by classification, 2010–12 (%)



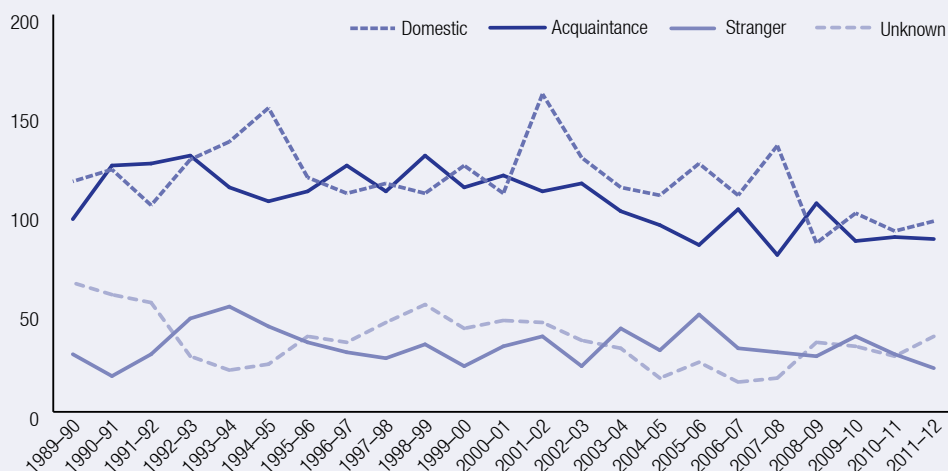
Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 4 Domestic homicide incidents by sub-classification, 2010–12 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 5 Homicide type by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12 (n)



Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 2 Homicide by type of jurisdiction, 2010–12 (%)

	NSW (n=148)	Vic (n=96)	Qld (n=96)	WA (n=66)	SA (n=36)	Tas (n=9)	NT (n=24)	ACT (n=4)	National (n=479)
Domestic	39	31	49	30	36	22	67	50	39
Acquaintance	33	44	27	47	36	78	29	0	37
Stranger	12	9	8	11	17	0	4	50	11
Unclassified	16	16	16	12	11	0	0	0	14

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Temporal characteristics

Homicide incidents were more likely to occur on a Saturday (n=85; 18%). Monday and Wednesday had the fewest homicides (12% each; n=56, n=55, respectively; see Table 3).

In 2010–11 and 2011–12, over half of the homicide incidents (n=270; 56%) occurred during evening hours between 6 pm and 6 am. The time period between 6 pm and midnight had the greatest number of homicides (n=155; 33%), while the morning hours between 6 am and midday recorded the lowest number of homicide incidents (n=57; 12%; see Table 3).

A more complete picture of the temporal nature of homicides across Australia is provided by the joint

distribution of time of day and day of week (see Figure 6). The single largest cluster of homicides occurred from 6 pm to midnight on Sunday (n=32), followed by midnight to 6 am on Saturday (n=28).

Different homicides may have different temporal characteristics (see Figure 7). For example, where both relationship classification and temporal data were known, stranger homicide appeared to be skewed towards the weekends—specifically Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings (from 6 pm to 6 am) with fewer homicides during the week. Domestic and acquaintance homicides were also more likely to occur during the evening; however, the distribution throughout the week was more even. These findings identify that homicides are more likely to occur during periods when individuals are most likely to gather to socialise.

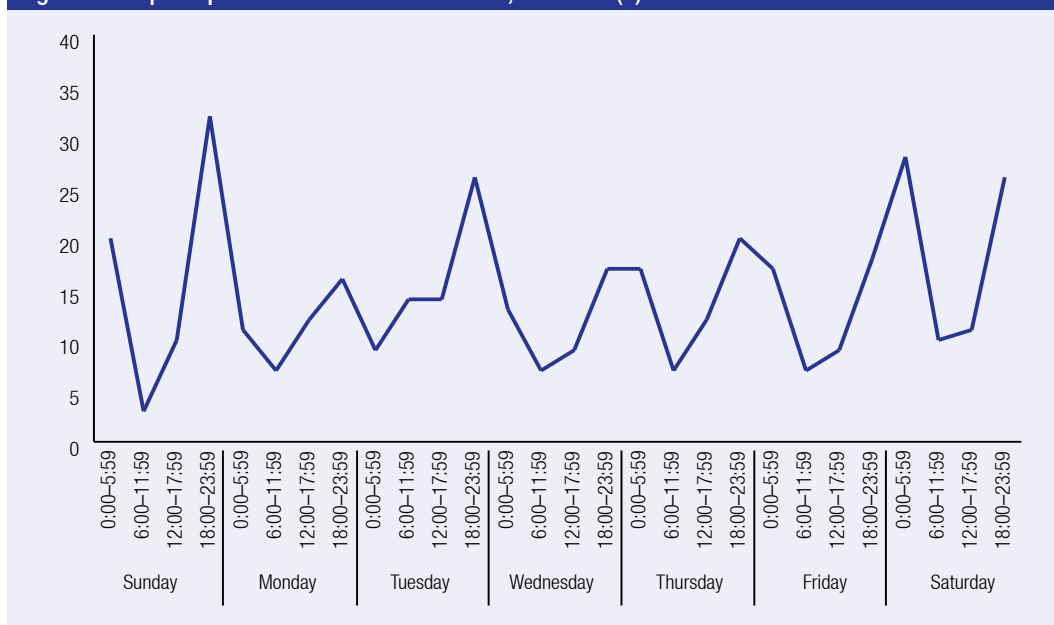
Table 3 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2010–12

	n	%
Time of day		
00:00–05:59	115	24
06:00–11:59	57	12
12:00–17:59	78	16
18:00–23:59	155	33
Unknown/not stated	70	15
Day of week		
Sunday	75	16
Monday	56	12
Tuesday	70	15
Wednesday	55	12
Thursday	70	15
Friday	60	13
Saturday	85	18
Unknown	0	0

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

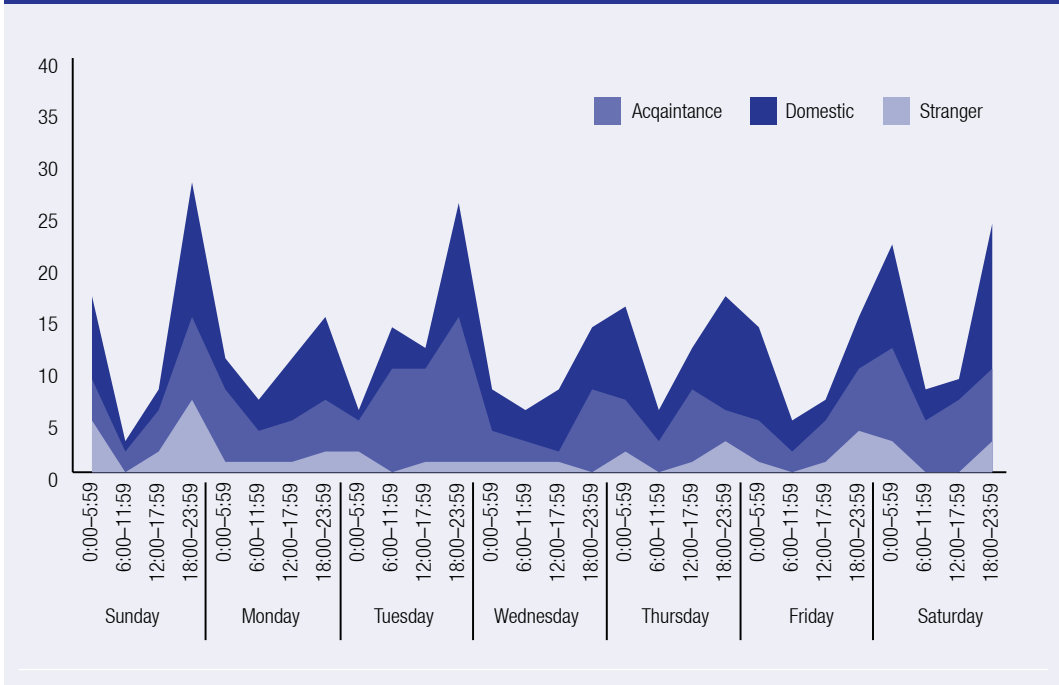
Figure 6 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents, 2010–12 (n)



Note: Missing data excluded

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

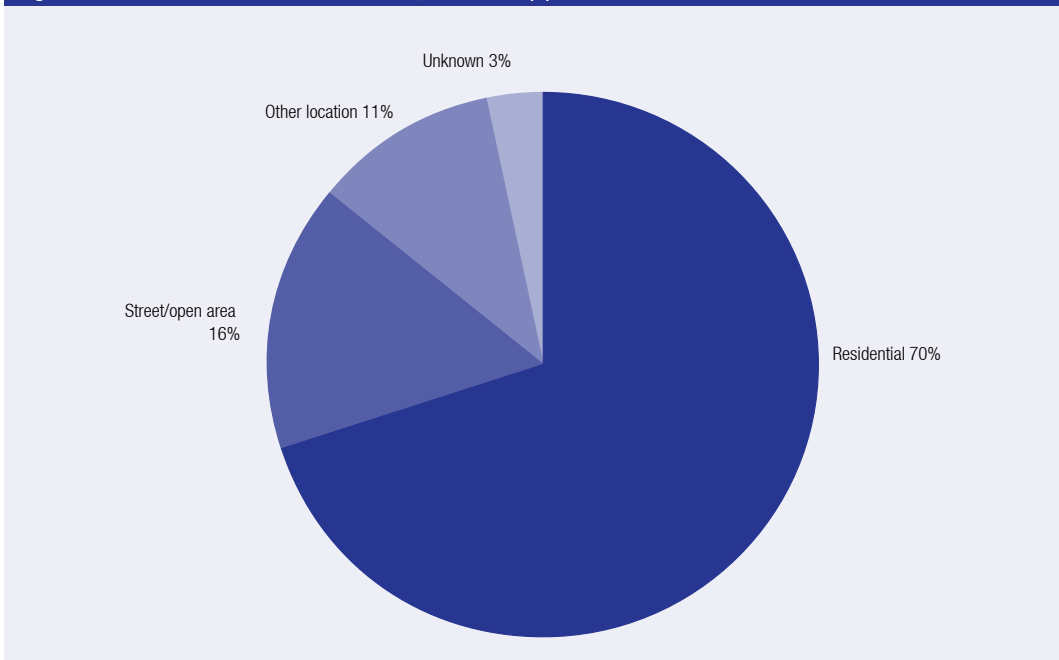
Figure 7 Temporal pattern of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12 (n)



Note: Excludes missing information

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 8 Location of homicide incidents, 2010–12 (n)



Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 4 Location of homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12

	Domestic homicide (n=187)		Acquaintance homicide (n=175)		Stranger homicide (n=51)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Residential						
Victim's home	141	75	73	42	17	33
Offender's home	9	5	24	14	3	6
Other home	8	4	22	13	1	2
Subtotal	158		119		21	
Street or open area						
Open area/waterway	8	4	6	3	2	4
Street/road/highway	9	5	22	13	12	24
Sporting oval/facility	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public transport	0	0	1	1	2	4
Car park/garage	0	0	4	2	2	4
Subtotal	17		33		18	
Other						
Hospital/healthcare	0	0	1	1	0	0
Shopping mall	0	0	3	2	2	4
Recreation venue	0	0	3	2	8	16
Workplace	1	1	1	1	0	0
Private motor vehicle	2	1	1	1	0	0
Corrective institution	0	0	0	0	1	2
Nursing home	0	0	1	1	0	0
Psychiatric facility	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other/not stated/unknown	9	5	12	7	1	2
Subtotal	12		23		12	

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. The location figures in Table 4 do not necessarily equate to those provided in Figure 8 as there were 66 incidents where the relationship between the parties was unknown even though location was recorded

Note: Percentages may not subtotal due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Location

From 2010–11 to 2011–12, just over two-thirds of all homicide incidents occurred in a residential premise (n=336; 70%; see Figure 8). Homicide incidents that occur in a dwelling shared by both the victim and the offender are recorded as the victim's home. The next most prevalent locations for homicide incidents were on a street (n=56) or in open areas (n=20).

The location of a homicide is largely influenced by the type of homicide. As might be expected, a larger

proportion of domestic homicides (n=158; 84%) as opposed to acquaintance (n=119; 68%) or stranger (n=21; 41%) homicides occurred in a residential location (see Table 4). Conversely, a larger number of acquaintance homicides occurred in a street or open area (n=33; 19%), as did 35 percent (n=18) of stranger homicides. A further 11 homicides involving acquaintances or strangers (18%) occurred at recreational venues (or in the vicinity of these premises).

Cause of death

It is worth noting that cause of death is specific to each victim within a homicide incident and where there are multiple victims within a homicide incident, the cause of death may be different for each victim. Therefore, the information in Table 5 presents the count for both victim and incident. The incident count reflects the number of incidents involving the specific cause of death based on coding used within the dataset.

During 2010–11 and 2011–12, the largest number of victim deaths were the result of stab wounds (n=187; 37%; see Table 5). This was followed by beatings (n=125; 24%) and gunshot wounds (n=69; 14%). A further 34 victims died from strangulation or suffocation (7%) and 24 died from smoke inhalation or burns (5%).

Stab wounds were the most commonly recorded cause of death for both domestic and acquaintance

homicides (42% and 39% respectively; see Table 6). Beatings (n=19, 37%) and stab wounds (n=18, 35%) were the most common causes of death in stranger homicides. A greater proportion of acquaintance homicide victims (n=25; 14%) were killed as a result of gunshot wounds than domestic homicide victims (n=13; 7%).

Knives were the most commonly used weapon in homicides where victims died from stab wounds (n=165; 88%). Another 11 victims (6%) died as a result of being stabbed with another sharp implement (such as broken glass).

Since the NHMP began in 1989–90, homicides resulting from firearm use have decreased (see Figure 9). In 1989–90, 25 percent of homicides (n=76) involved the use of a firearm, while in 2011–12 firearms were used in 16 percent of homicide incidents (n=38). By contrast, homicides involving the use of knives have remained relatively stable (32% in 1989–90; 33% in 2011–12).

Table 5 Cause of death in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2010–12

	Incidents (n)	Victims (n)	Victims (%)
Stab wounds	177	187	37
Beatings	125	125	24
Gunshot wounds	66	69	14
Criminal neglect	4	4	<1
Drug overdose	6	6	1
Strangulation/suffocation	31	34	7
Poisoning	3	3	<1
Smoke inhalation/burns	12	24	5
Shaking	1	1	<1
Other (eg hit by car)	17	17	3
Drowning	3	3	<1
Hanging	1	1	<1
Pushed from a high place	5	5	1
Not stated/unknown	28	32	6

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 6 Cause of death in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12

	Domestic homicide (n=187)		Acquaintance homicide (n=175)		Stranger homicide (n=51)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Stab wounds	78	42	68	39	18	35
Beatings	42	22	48	27	19	37
Gunshot wounds	13	7	25	14	8	16
Criminal neglect	4	2	0	0	0	0
Pushed from high place	3	2	1	1	1	2
Strangulation/suffocation	17	9	11	6	1	2
Poisoning	3	2	8	5	4	8
Smoke inhalation/burns	6	3	5	3	0	0
Other (eg hit by car/shaking)	3	2	8	5	4	8
Drowning	3	2	0	0	0	0
Not stated/unknown	15	8	9	5	0	0

Note: Excludes 66 incidents where victim–offender relationship and/or cause of death were unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 9 Weapon use in homicide incidents by year, 1989–90 to 2011–12 (%)



Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 7 Apparent motive in homicide incidents by victims and incidents, 2010–12

	Victims (n)	Incidents (n)	Incidents (%)
Revenge	23	20	4
Jealousy	17	15	3
Desertion/termination	6	6	1
Domestic argument	75	74	15
Money	33	32	7
Drugs	15	15	3
Alcohol-related argument	19	19	4
Other argument	118	111	23
Sexual vilification	2	2	<1
Sexual gratification	3	3	<1
No apparent motive	71	61	13
Unknown/not recorded	129	121	25

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Motive

Determining the motive behind a homicide can assist in understanding certain situations or factors that may trigger a homicide incident. However, assigning a motive to a homicide event is difficult because the reasons, or lack thereof, may be many, varied and complicated.

In the majority of incidents, the motive either could not be determined or was attributed to an unspecified altercation, either related to an ‘other’ argument (n=111; 23%) or domestic circumstances (n=74; 15%). Only in a small number of incidents was the precipitating cause identified; for example, alcohol-fuelled argument (n=19; 4%), money (n=32; 7%) or revenge (n=20; 4%; see Table 7).

Other situational factors

Over the 2010–12 period, almost three-quarters of homicide incidents (n=351; 73%) were recorded as isolated events and not as having been committed during the course of another crime. Where homicide did occur in the course of another crime (n=72 incidents; 15%), the most common precipitating

offence was robbery (n=17; 4%), followed by drug offences (n=14; 3%) and break and enter (n=11; 2%).

Alcohol consumption, by either the offender or the victim, preceded over a third (n=179; 37%) of all homicide events (see Table 8)—a decrease from 2008–09 to 2009–10 findings, which estimated alcohol consumption in almost half of all incidents. Alcohol consumption by the victim was more frequently recorded for acquaintance homicides (n=75; 52%) than for domestic (n=46; 32%) or stranger homicides (n=12; 8%; see Figure 10). Similarly, alcohol consumption by the offender was higher in acquaintance (n=53; 46%) than domestic homicide (n=44; 38%).

Illicit drug use preceded almost a quarter (n=101; 21%) of homicide events. Victim illicit drug use (n=92; 19%) was more commonly recorded than offender drug use (n=54; 12%; see Table 8). However, it is important to note that drug (and alcohol) use by the victim is more easily identified through post-mortem toxicological tests, whereas for the offender, identification of drug use may be based on the subjective assessment of the investigating officers for which there is not usually any toxicological confirmation.

Table 8 Situational factors in homicide incidents, 2010–12

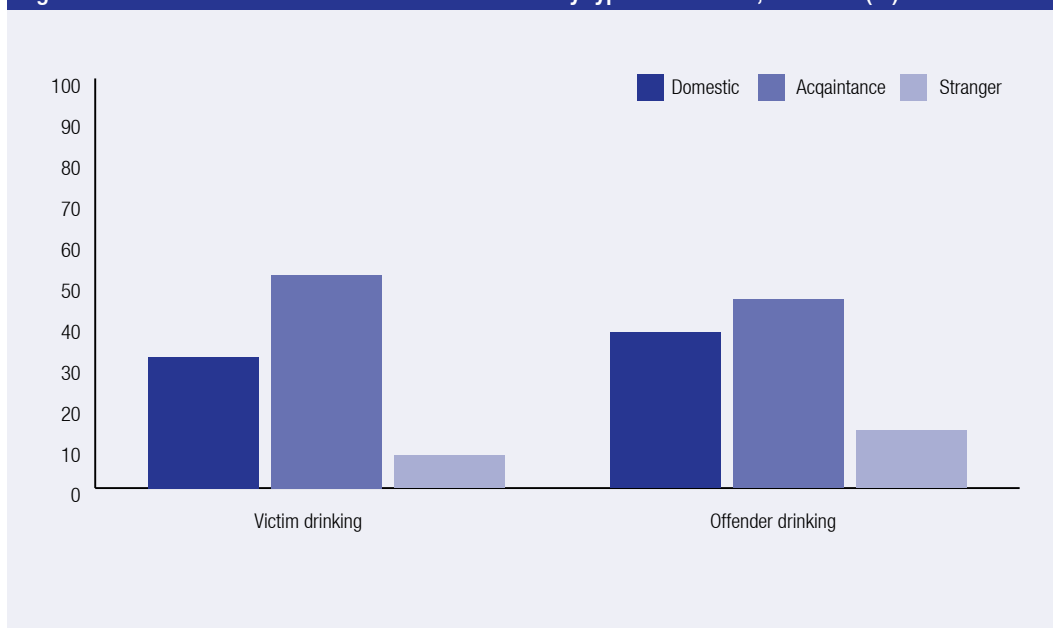
	n	%
Alcohol		
Victim drinking ^a	144	30
Offender drinking ^b	115	26
Any alcohol use	179	37
Victim drinking unknown/not stated	138	29
Offender drinking unknown/not stated	249	56
Drugs		
Victim used drugs ^a	92	19
Offender used drugs ^b	54	12
Any drug use	101	21
Victim drug use unknown/not stated	174	39
Offender drug use unknown/not stated	285	40

a: In 197 cases and 213 cases, the victim was not drinking or using drugs, respectively

b: In 81 cases and 106 cases, the offender was not drinking or using drugs, respectively

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 10 Alcohol involvement in homicide incidents by type of homicide, 2010–12 (%)



Note: Missing data excluded

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 9 Homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (rate per 100,000)

	2010–11		2011–12	
	n	Rate per 100,000	n	Rate per 100,000
NSW	77	1.1	81	1.1
Vic	47	0.8	59	1.0
Qld	53	1.2	48	1.1
WA	33	1.4	35	1.4
SA	22	1.3	17	1.0
Tas	4	0.8	5	1.0
NT	11	4.8	15	6.4
ACT	0	0.0	4	1.1
National	247	1.1	264	1.2

Homicide victims

Throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12, there were 511 victims of homicide—247 in 2010–11 and 264 in 2011–12. A total of 18 homicide incidents involved the death of more than one victim—12 incidents involved two victims, five incidents involved three victims and one incident involved four or more victims (see Table B1).

In 2010–11, the homicide victimisation rate was calculated at 1.1 victims per 100,000, the lowest rate recorded since NHMP data collection began in 1989–90 (see Table 9). In 2011–12, this rate increased slightly to 1.2 victims per 100,000. There has been an overall decrease of approximately 20 percent ($n=331$ cf 264) in the overall number of homicide victims recorded over the last 22 financial years.

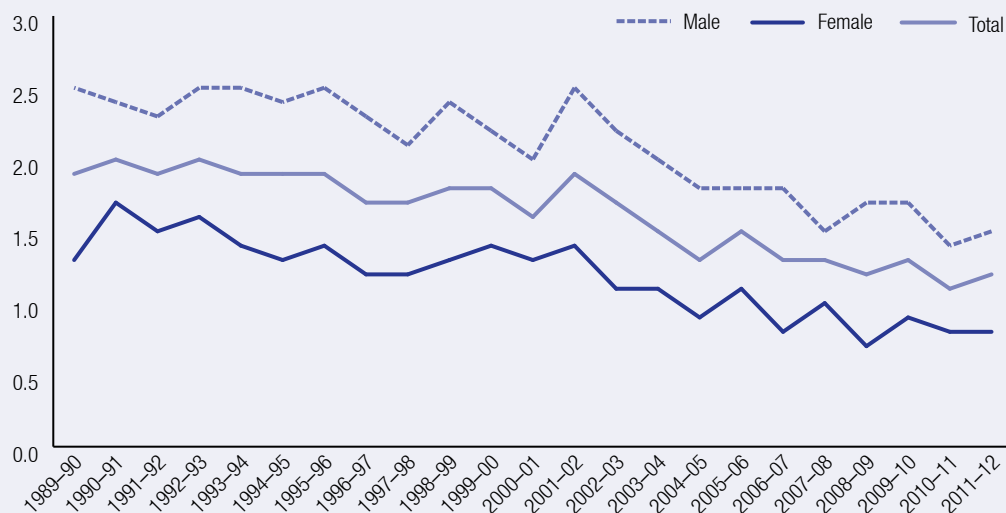
Victim sex

Males continue to be overrepresented as victims of homicide. Of the 511 homicide victims in 2010–11 and 2011–12, 328 were male (64%) and 182 were female (36%; see Table B3).

The victimisation rate by sex is shown in Figure 11. Both male and female rates have declined since the last reporting period, although there was a small increase from 2010–11 to 2011–12. In 2011–12, the victimisation rate for males was 1.51 per 100,000 relevant population and for females the rate was 0.81. The current male and female victimisation rates each represent a decrease of approximately 40 percent since the NHMP began in 1989–90.

The proportion of male and female homicide victims varies depending on the type of homicide (see Table 10). During 2010–11 and 2011–12, 196 victims were killed by an offender with whom they shared a domestic relationship, of which over one-third of victims were male ($n=75$; 38%) while nearly two-thirds were female ($n=121$; 62%). Where both victim sex and relationship classification could be determined, a higher proportion of victims of intimate partner homicide were female ($n=83$; 76% of domestic homicides), while a greater number of males were more likely to be killed by acquaintances ($n=154$; 81% of acquaintance homicides) or strangers ($n=44$; 85% of stranger homicides; see Table 10).

Figure 11 Victimisation rate by sex, 1989–90 to 2011–12 (rate per 100,000)



Source: ABS 2013; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table 10 Type of homicide by sex of victims, 2010–12

	Male (n=328)		Female (n=182)	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic				
Intimate partner	26	24	83	76
Filicide	21	50	21	50
Parricide	11	48	12	52
Sibicide	5	83	1	17
Other family homicide	12	75	4	25
Subtotal Domestic	75	38	121	62
Acquaintance homicide	154	81	37	19
Stranger homicide	44	85	8	15
Unclassified	55	77	16	23
Total	328	64	182	36

Note: One victim's sex was unknown. Percentages calculated from subtotal and associated n total value

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Victim age

The average age of homicide victims in 2010–11 and 2011–12 was 37.9 years of age (see Table 11). There was little difference in the average age of male and female homicide victims (37.6 and 38.6 years of age respectively).

Approximately 13 percent (n=61) of homicide victims were children under 18 years of age. This figure represents an increase from the 2008–09/2009–10

reporting period (n=49; 9%). The majority of these children were between one and nine years of age (n=24; 5% of all homicide victims); 12 victims were under one year of age (3%).

The average age of homicide victims varied according to the homicide relationship classification, from a low of 6.9 years of age for filicide victims (who are predominantly under 18 years of age), to a high of 59.3 years of age for parricides (usually parents killed by adult children; see Figure 12).

Table 11 Age of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12

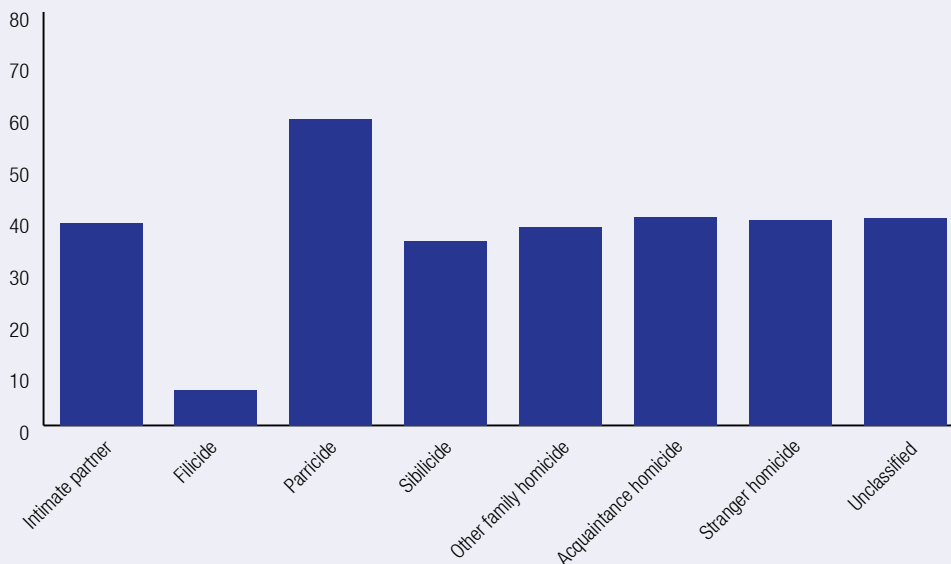
Age (yrs)	Male victims (n=328) ^a		Female victims (n=182) ^a		All victims (n=510)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under 1	7	2	6	3	13	3
1–9	13	4	11	6	24	5
10–14	4	1	5	3	9	2
15–17	13	4	3	2	16	3
18–24	42	13	19	10	61	12
25–34	68	21	38	21	106	21
35–49	99	30	52	29	151	30
50–64	63	19	26	14	89	18
65+	18	6	21	12	39	8
Total	327		181		508	
Mean age	37.6		38.6		37.9	
Median age	37		37		37	

a: One male and female victim age was unknown

Note: One victim sex and age was unknown. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 12 Age of homicide victim by type of homicide, 2010–12 (mean age in years)



Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Victim's Indigenous status

Throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12, 85 of the 511 homicide victims (17%) were identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (50 in 2010–11 and 35 in 2011–12). Of these, 56 were male (67%), 28 were female (33%) and in one case the sex of the victim was unrecorded (see Table B7). Just under half (n=40; 47%) of Indigenous victims were killed in a domestic homicide event, of which the most common subcategory was intimate partner homicide (n=23; 27%; see Table 12). Approximately 31 percent (n=26) of Indigenous victims were killed by an acquaintance. The frequency of stranger-related homicides has remained consistently low and at times non-existent since the data collection began.

The proportion of Indigenous homicide victims who are female has declined since the previous reporting period (33% of 43% in 2008–10) and is proportionate with non-Indigenous victims who are female.

Rates of Indigenous homicide are derived from projected population statistics prepared by the ABS. In April 2014, the ABS released new estimates and projections to 2026. These latest figures suggest that the population figures used in previous reports underestimated the Indigenous population and therefore, rates provided in this report will not be comparable to previous reports.

Given that the overall number of Indigenous homicides is small, there is greater fluctuation in the annual rate of homicide compared with non-Indigenous victims; however, Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented as victims of homicide. For the 2011–12 financial year, the overall Indigenous homicide rate was 5.0 per 100,000 or five times the non-Indigenous rate (1.0). The victimisation rate for Indigenous males was 6.7 per 100,000 compared with 1.3 for non-Indigenous males. The rate of Indigenous female victimisation was 3.2 per 100,000 compared with 0.7 for non-Indigenous females.

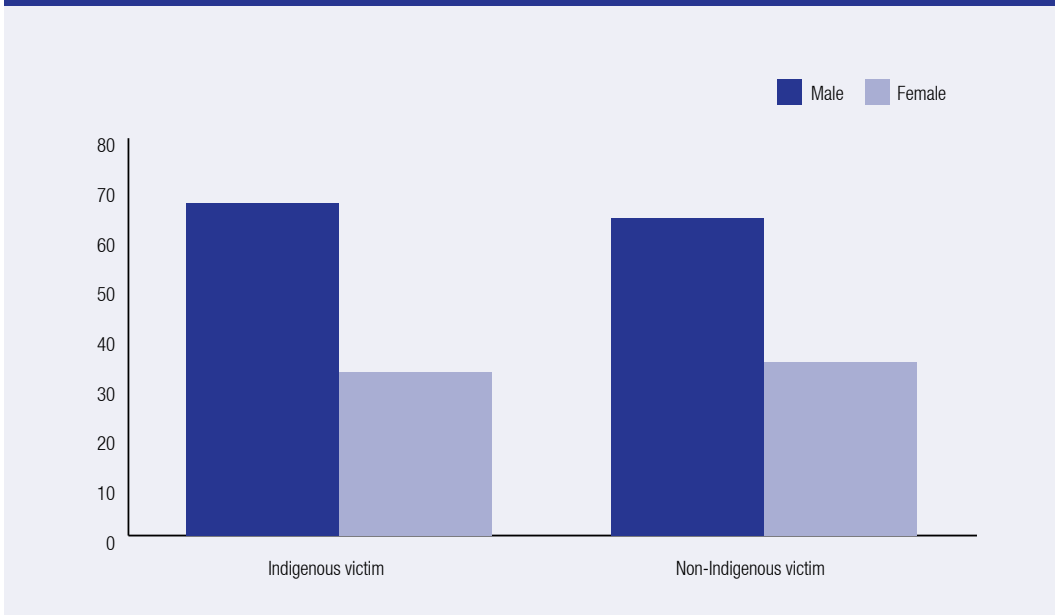
Table 12 Indigenous status of homicide victims by type of homicide, 2010–12

	Indigenous (n=85)		Non-Indigenous (n=426)	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic				
Intimate partner	23	27	86	20
Filicide	7	8	35	8
Parricide	1	1	22	5
Sibicide	2	2	4	<1
Other family homicide	7	8	9	<1
Subtotal	40		156	
Acquaintance homicide	26	31	165	39
Stranger homicide	7	8	45	11
Unclassified	12	14	60	14

Note: Percentages calculated from subtotal and associated n total value. Percentages may not sub-total due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 13 Indigenous status of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12 (%)



Note: In one case Indigenous status was known but sex was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Victim's employment status

Information concerning employment status was available for 352 individuals (69%). Of these, similar proportions of victims were employed (n=130; 37%) as were unemployed (n=116; 33%; see Table 13). Two in five victims were receiving a pension (n=75; 21%) and only a small proportion were studying (n=21; 6%) at the time of their death.

Proportionally, male victims were more likely than female victims to have been employed (40% *cf* 31%), while females were more likely to be receiving an age, sole parent or disability pension (29% *cf* 17%). Unemployment was also much higher among male victims (38% *cf* 23%). By age group, victims aged 18–24 and 25–34 years were most likely to be recorded as unemployed when compared with all other age categories (see Figure 14).

Table 13 Employment status of homicide victims by sex, 2010–12

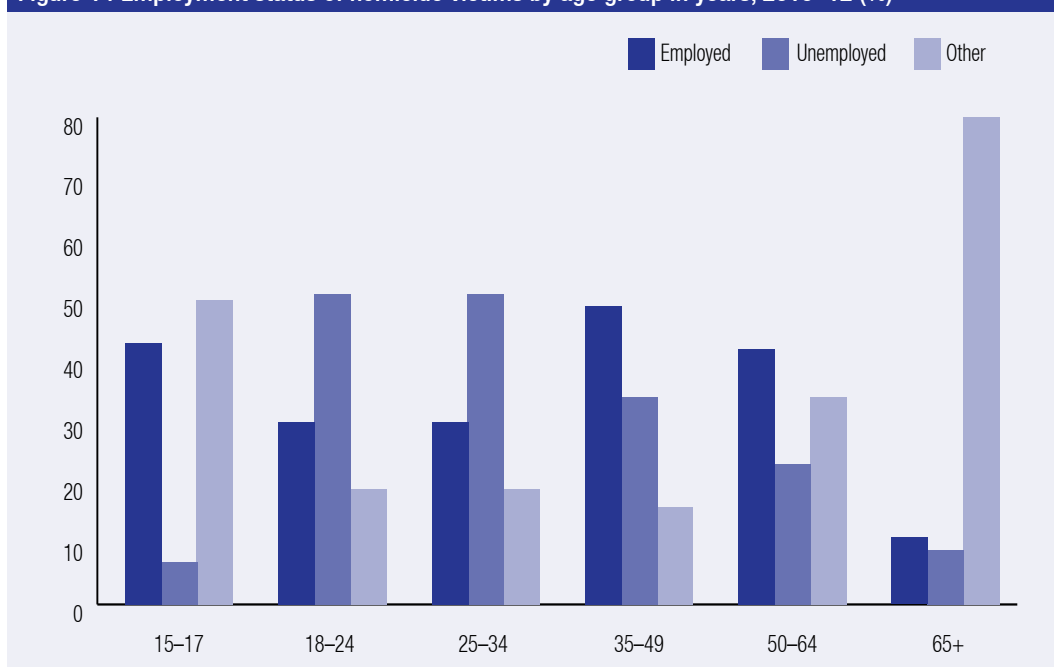
	Male victims (n=233)		Female victims (n=119)		All victims (n=352)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Studying	10	4	11	9	21	6
Unemployed	89	38	27	23	116	33
Home/domestic duties	1	0	9	8	10	3
Age, disability or sole parent pension	40	17	35	29	75	21
Employed ^a	93	40	37	31	130	37

a: One employed victim was on leave

Note: Employment status was not available for 93 male and 63 female victims as well as one unknown victim

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 14 Employment status of homicide victims by age group in years, 2010–12 (%)



Note: Other includes studying, domestic duties and sole parent, age or disability welfare recipients. One victim in the 50–64 years age group was on leave and one case is missing as employment status was missing. A total of 166 were excluded as victim was under 15 years of age

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Homicide offenders

There were a total of 532 identified homicide offenders in 2010–12. At the time of reporting, 34 of the 479 homicide incidents that occurred from 2010–11 to 2011–12, did not have an identified offender. Of the 445 incidents with an identified offender, 378 (85%) had one offender, 51 involved two offenders (11%) and 16 events had three or more offenders (4%). By relationship status, homicides involving multiple offenders were more prevalent among strangers (n=15; 29%) than those in either a domestic (n=10; 5%) or acquaintance (n=32; 18%) relationship (see Table 14).

Sex of offenders

Across 2010–11 and 2011–12, there were 453 (85%) male offenders (85%) and 79 female offenders (15%) (see Table C3). This is consistent with historical trends, which have seen males comprise more than 80 percent of all known homicide offenders.

The rate of offending demonstrated relative stability among the female offender population (approximately 0.4 per 100,000). For male offenders, the rate of offending has continued to decline (see Figure 15). In 2011–12, there were approximately 2.0 male homicide offenders per 100,000. This has decreased by approximately 20 percent from 2.5 per 100,000 in 2009–10 and by approximately 47 percent from a peak of 3.8 per 100,000 in 1992–93.

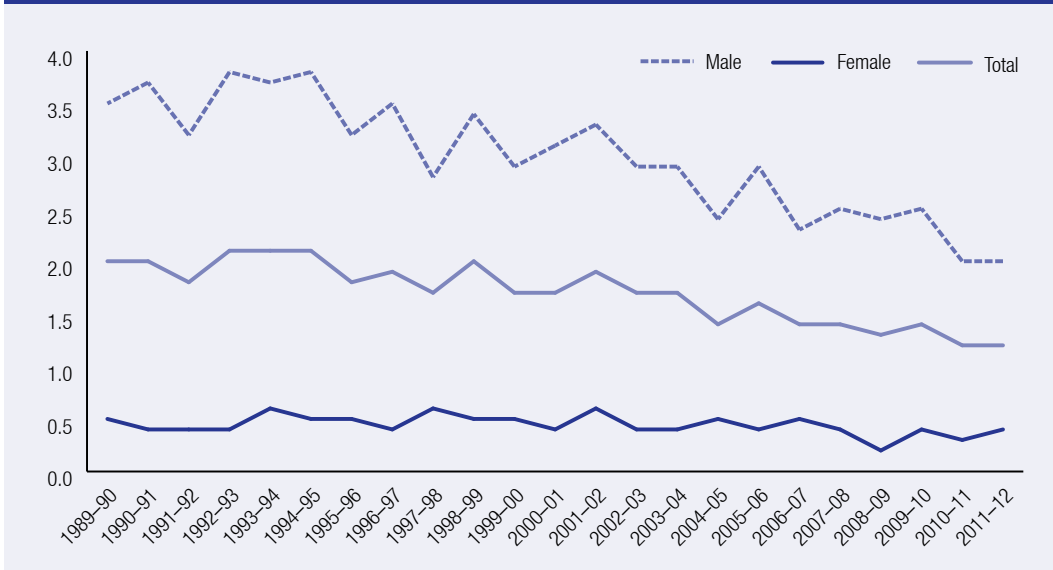
Table 14 Number of offenders in homicide incident by principal incident classification, 2010–12

	One offender		Two offenders		Three or more offenders	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Domestic						
Intimate partner	107	98	0	0	2	2
Filicide	30	88	4	12	0	0
Parricide	20	91	1	5	1	5
Siblicide	6	100	0	0	0	0
Other family homicide	14	88	2	13	0	0
Subtotal	177	95	7	4	3	2
Acquaintance homicide	143	82	26	15	6	3
Stranger homicide	36	71	12	24	3	6
Unknown	22	69	6	19	4	13
Total	378	85	51	11	16	4

Note: Percentages are calculated by row. An incident is classified by the principle relationship. For multiple offender homicides, this is the closest relationship between any one of the offenders and victims

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Figure 15 Offending rate by sex and year, 1989–90 to 2009–10 (per 100,000)



Note: Calculated as the estimated number of known offenders per 100,000 of the Australian population

Source: ABS 2010; AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2009–10 [computer file]

Offender age

The average age of all known homicide offenders in 2011–12 was 33.2 years, slightly younger than the average of victims (see Table 15). There was a relatively even distribution of offenders across the range 18 to 49 years of age. The average age of offenders has remained relatively stable since the NHMP commenced, with a modest decrease in mean age between 1989–90 (36 years of age) and 2011–12 (33 years of age).

Overall, there were 17 offenders over the age of 65 years, the oldest being 81 years of age. Sixteen

offenders were under 18 years of age, only one of whom was female. The youngest offender was 14 years old at the time of the homicide incident. The age of 25 offenders was not reported or unknown.

Since the 2008–10 reporting period, the average age of female offenders has decreased by approximately three years (34.6 *cf* 37.8), while the average age of male offenders has remained the same (32.9 *cf* 32.7). It should be noted that female offender data is more significantly affected by changes in offender demographics due to the relatively low numbers of female offenders.

Table 15 Homicide offender age in years by sex, 2010–12 (n)

Age (yrs)	Male offenders		Female offenders		All offenders	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1–9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10–14	2	0	0	0	2	0
15–17	13	3	1	1	14	3
18–24	89	21	14	18	103	20
25–34	133	31	20	26	153	30
35–49	130	30	38	49	168	33
50–64	47	11	3	4	50	10
65+	15	3	2	3	17	3
Total	429		78		507	
Mean age	32.9		34.6		33.2	
Median age	32		36		32	

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Data excludes 25 offenders whose age was not reported or unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Offender Indigenous status

Consistent with historical trends, Indigenous Australians were again overrepresented among homicide offenders. For the 2011–12 financial year, the rate of Indigenous offending was 4.7 per 100,000, approximately four times the non-Indigenous rate of 1.1 per 100,000. In 2010–11, 42 offenders (16%) were identified as Indigenous. In 2011–12, this figure declined to 32 (12%).

Like their non-Indigenous counterparts, Indigenous offenders were more likely to be male (n=52; 70%) than female (n=22; 30%: see Table C7). Both male and female Indigenous offenders were overrepresented; however, the extent of overrepresentation was greatest among the Indigenous male population. In 2010–11, the rate of offending for Indigenous males was 8.7 per 100,000 (*cf* 1.8 for non-Indigenous males) and for Indigenous females it was 3.9 per 100,000 (*cf* 0.2 for non-Indigenous females). In 2011–12, these rates declined to 6.7 and 2.6 for Indigenous males and females respectively.

The majority of incidents involving an Indigenous offender also involved an Indigenous victim (n=54; 82%). This was evident for both Indigenous male offenders (n=43; 83%) and female offenders (n=18; 82%). The types of homicides committed by Indigenous male offenders were more varied. For

example, of the known relationships, 44 percent killed a friend or acquaintance (n=23), 36 percent killed an intimate partner or family member (n=19) and 11 percent killed a stranger (n=6). Four homicides involving male Indigenous offenders could not be classified. For Indigenous female offenders, 67 percent of homicides (n=14) were classified as domestic related, 23 percent (n=5) were classified as acquaintance homicides and only five percent were classified as stranger (n=1). Two homicides involving female offenders were unable to be classified.

Offender criminal history

Throughout 2010–11 and 2011–12, almost one-third (n=161; 30%) of homicide offenders had a prior criminal history (see Table 16). Fourteen percent (n=76) did not have a criminal history. Male offenders (n=150, 33%) were more likely than female offenders (n=11, 14%) to have a prior criminal history.

Where information on types of offences previously committed were available (see Table 16), assault (n=75; 14%) was the single most commonly recorded offence for both males (15%) and females (8%). Although less frequent, the next most commonly recorded prior conviction was for property offences (n=23; 4%). This was followed by, drug offences (n=15; 3%) and robbery (n=11; 2%).

Table 16 Prior criminal history of homicide offenders by sex, 2010–11

	Male offenders (n=453)		Female offenders (n=79)		All offenders (n=532)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Murder	3	<1	0	0	3	<1
Sexual assault	6	<1	0	0	6	1
Other assault	69	15	6	8	75	14
Robbery	11	2	0	0	11	2
Drug offences	15	3	0	0	15	3
Property offences	20	4	3	4	23	4
Other offences	15	3	2	3	17	3
Any criminal history	150	33	11	14	161	30
No criminal history	55	12	21	27	76	14
Criminal history unrecorded	248	55	47	59	295	55

Note: Percentages may not total due to rounding

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Offender employment status

The employment status of 273 offenders was recorded. The remaining 254 offenders' employment status was not known or not stated by data providers at the time of reporting (see Table C6). Of those offenders whose employment status was known, one-third were employed (n=91; 33%), nearly half were unemployed (n=131; 48%) and 39 (n=14%) were recipients of age, disability or sole parent pensions.

By contrast with historical trends, which found unemployment more prevalent among male homicide offenders, the prevalence of unemployment was slightly higher among female homicide offenders (n=20; 49%) compared with male offenders in 2010–12 (n=111; 47%). Only female offenders were recorded as undertaking domestic duties at the time of the homicide event (12%).

Offender suicide

Of the 532 homicide offenders identified in 2010–11 and 2011–12, 31 committed suicide (6%) at the time or shortly after the homicide event. This represents a modest proportional increase in 2010–12 compared with the 2008–10 reporting period (n=20; 3%). The majority of these offenders were male (n=24; 77%). All of these suicides were committed prior to the arrest of the offender. The majority of offenders who

committed suicide did so following a domestic homicide (n=28; 90%). Of the 28 offender suicides:

- nine involved the death of a current intimate partner;
- eight involved the death of a former partner;
- one involved the death of a current intimate partner and child or children;
- one involved the death of a former intimate partner and child or children; and
- nine involved the death of child or children only.

Conclusion

In 2010–12, there were 479 homicide incidents, involving 511 victims and 532 offenders. Of the victims, 327 were male and 182 were female, and of the offenders, 453 were male and 79 were female offenders.

When examined by rate, ongoing monitoring of homicide trends over the last 22 years demonstrates the overall national rate of victimisation has been on a downward trend since 2001–02 and at 1.1 homicides per 100,000 persons is currently at its lowest since NHMP was initiated in 1989–90. Both male and female rates have declined since the last reporting period in 2008–10. In 2011–12, the

victimisation rate for males was 1.51 per 100,000 and for females the rate was 0.81 per 100,000.

Of the homicide victims in 2010–12, 85 were identified as Indigenous Australians—56 males and 28 females. The rate of Indigenous homicide victimisation was close to four times higher than for non-Indigenous Australians. However, more recent ABS data suggest the population figures used in previous reports were an underestimate of the Indigenous population and therefore, rates provided in this report will not be comparable to previous reports.

The proportion of domestic homicides has continued to fall, reaching a historic low in recent years. It would appear that the 2007–08 finding that 52 percent of homicides were domestic related was a statistical anomaly from what has otherwise been a downward trend (Virueda & Payne 2010). Of the domestic homicides recorded in the NHMP in 2010–12, the majority were classified as an intimate partner homicide. The frequency of intimate partner homicides has remained stable and while, overall, female victims are not as prevalent as males, they remain overrepresented in this category of homicide.

In 2010–12, approximately 12 percent (n=61) of homicide victims were 17 years of age or younger. This represents an increase of 24 percent in the number of victims for this age group and an overall proportional increase of approximately three percent from the 2008–10 reporting period (n=49; 9%). The majority of child homicide victims were killed by a custodial parent.

Sixteen children 17 years of age or younger were identified as homicide offenders. The majority of child homicide offenders killed a friend or acquaintance.

Other analysis revealed that in 2010–12:

- Males continued to be overrepresented as both the victims and perpetrators of offences.
- Knives and other sharp instruments are the most common weapon used in homicide incidents. This has been a consistent finding since 1989–90 (with the exception of 1995–96). The use of firearms in homicide continues to decline, with 69 victims dying as a result of gunshot wounds in the 2010–12 financial years.
- Alcohol consumption, by either the offender or the victim, preceded over a third of all homicide events—a decrease from 2008–09 to 2009–10 findings, which estimated alcohol consumption in almost half of all incidents. Illicit drug use preceded two in five homicide incidents.
- Since the last NHMP annual report (2008–10), there has been no change in the average age of male offenders, while the average age of female offenders has decreased by approximately three years.
- Almost one-third of homicide offenders had a prior criminal history. Male offenders were more likely than female offenders to have a prior criminal conviction.
- There was a modest proportional increase in offenders who committed suicide in 2010–12 compared with the 2008–10 reporting period. Most committed suicide following a domestic homicide.

References

All URLs are correct at October 2014

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2013. *Australian demographic statistics Sep 2013, population by age and sex tables*. ABS cat no. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS

Mouzos J 2002. *Quality control in the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP)*. Technical and Background paper series no. 2. Canberra: Australia Insitute of Criminology. <http://aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tbp/1-20/tbp002.html>

Virueda M & Payne J 2010. *Homicide in Australia: 2006–07 to 2007–08 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/mr/1-20/13.html>



Appendices

Appendix A Homicide incidents, 2010–12

Table A1 Incidents of homicide by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	95	74	68	25	20	5	20	0	307
1990–91	118	72	56	22	22	5	28	0	323
1991–92	106	54	68	29	27	9	18	2	313
1992–93	111	59	73	34	30	6	17	1	331
1993–94	118	48	62	36	29	5	23	2	323
1994–95	90	73	59	46	29	5	20	4	326
1995–96	110	52	65	33	13	6	22	1	302
1996–97	100	51	80	23	22	3	18	2	299
1997–98	107	41	73	34	27	4	11	1	298
1998–99	111	54	64	33	38	7	18	2	327
1999–00	106	62	58	34	23	9	7	3	302
2000–01	116	53	65	28	21	8	17	0	308
2001–02	97	82	75	33	31	9	24	3 ^a	354
2002–03	103	57	62	32	22	6	17	3	302
2003–04	81	68	58	36	28	3	11	3	288
2004–05	73	55	51	27	20	10	12	3 ^a	251
2005–06	85	67	56	30	21	3	16	5	283
2006–07	89	47	53	27	12	8	18	4	258
2007–08	88	44	54	30	18	5	18	3	260
2008–09	77	51	46	30	26	8	11	4	253
2009–10	76	59	56	23	21	6	13	3	257
2010–11	77	43	49	32	20	4	11	0	236
2011–12	71	53	47	34	16	5	13	4	243

a: Includes one incident on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A2 Incidents of homicide by most serious charge and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Murder	61	33	44	16	17	4	4	0	179
Manslaughter	16	9	5	14	3	0	7	0	54
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated/unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	77	43	49	30	20	4	11	0	234
2011–12									
Murder	64	39	40	22	14	5	13	3	200
Manslaughter	5	10	4	12	2	0	0	1	34
Infanticide	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Not stated/unknown	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total	71	53	47	34	16	5	13	4	243

Note: Two cases missing from 2010–11 pending police confirmation

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A3 Incidents of homicide by status at time of reporting and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Solved ^a	69	35	48	29	18	4	11	0	214
Not yet solved	8	8	1	3	2	0	0	0	22
Total	77	43	49	32	20	4	11	0	236
2011–12									
Solved ^a	67	43	42	28	14	5	13	4	216
Not yet solved	4	10	5	6	2	0	0	0	27
Total	71	53	47	34	16	5	13	4	243

a: Solved incidents include those for which an offender has been identified and charged, those in which the offender has suicided and incidents otherwise cleared, such as subsequent death of the offender, the death having been ruled not homicide

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A4 Incidents of homicide by number of victims and offenders and jurisdictions, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
One victim, one offender	61	29	42	27	12	2	10	0	183
One victim, multiple offenders	9	3	5	3	7	2	1	0	30
Multiple victims, one offender	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	7
Multiple victims, multiple offenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	70	35	49	31	20	4	11	0	220
2011–12									
One victim, one offender	53	34	37	28	9	5	10	3	179
One victim, multiple offenders	13	8	5	4	3	0	1	1	35
Multiple victims, one offender	1	4	0	1	1	0	2	0	9
Multiple victims, multiple offenders	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	67	47	43	33	13	5	13	4	225

Note: Excludes 34 cases in which an offender has not been identified or formally charged

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A5 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Sexual assault	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnapping/ abduction	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	5	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
Other violent crime ^a	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Arson	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Break and enter	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	5
Theft	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Prostitution	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Drug offences	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Other ^c	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
No precipitating crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown/not stated	64	40	45	26	15	4	10	0	204
Total	77	43	49	32	20	4	11	0	236
2011–12									
Kidnapping/abduction	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	9
Other violent crime	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Arson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Break and enter	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Theft	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other property ^a	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Drug offences	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	8
Other ^b	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	1	8
No precipitating crime	47	39	28	26	9	5	11	2	167
Unknown/not stated	15	1	10	7	1	0	1	0	35
Total	71	53	46	34	16	5	13	4	242

a: Examples include fraud etc

b: Examples include dangerous driving etc

Note: Data excludes one case which was missing

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Time of day									
Midnight to 6 am	15	7	14	4	10	1	4	0	55
6 am to noon	9	8	6	4	2	0	1	0	30
Noon to 6 pm	6	10	10	8	1	0	1	0	36
6 pm to midnight	33	12	17	8	2	0	4	0	76
Not stated/unknown	14	6	1	6	5	3	1	0	36
Day of week									
Sunday	10	13	13	7	0	0	0	0	43
Monday	9	4	5	5	3	1	0	0	27
Tuesday	8	7	11	3	3	0	0	0	32
Wednesday	10	6	5	2	2	1	2	0	28
Thursday	12	4	5	5	5	1	2	0	34
Friday	12	5	6	5	0	1	3	0	32
Saturday	16	4	4	5	6	0	4	0	39
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Month of year									
January	9	4	3	2	5	0	3	0	26
February	6	6	3	5	0	1	1	0	22
March	8	4	3	2	2	2	0	0	21
April	9	3	4	3	4	0	0	0	23
May	5	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	14
June	1	3	5	1	2	0	1	0	13
July	6	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	17
August	6	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	17
September	5	2	3	3	3	0	1	0	17
October	8	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	16
November	9	5	4	3	3	0	1	0	25
December	5	4	8	4	0	1	3	0	25
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011–12									
Time of day									
Midnight to 6 am	8	19	14	10	4	2	2	1	60
6 am to noon	11	5	6	2	2	0	1	0	27
Noon to 6 pm	13	10	7	5	2	1	3	1	42
6 pm to midnight	18	17	17	12	5	1	7	2	79
Not stated/unknown	20	2	3	5	3	1	0	0	34

Table A6 Temporal characteristics of homicides by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
Day of week									
Sunday	10	6	3	7	4	2	0	0	32
Monday	6	6	5	6	2	1	2	1	29
Tuesday	12	8	9	2	0	1	5	1	38
Wednesday	10	2	6	5	2	0	2	0	27
Thursday	11	10	5	5	2	0	1	2	36
Friday	5	8	7	4	3	0	1	0	28
Saturday	14	12	11	5	2	1	1	0	46
Not stated	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	7
Month of year									
January	3	3	8	6	3	0	1	0	24
February	5	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	15
March	4	2	1	3	1	0	3	1	15
April	6	2	6	1	2	1	1	1	20
May	9	2	4	4	1	1	2	1	24
June	6	4	3	4	2	0	1	0	20
July	6	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	16
August	8	3	0	4	2	0	0	1	18
September	5	3	4	3	0	0	1	0	16
October	8	10	8	1	0	0	1	0	28
November	5	4	2	0	2	1	2	0	16
December	6	9	4	5	2	2	1	0	29
Not stated/unknown	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

Note: Data excluded a further 3 cases in 2010–11 and 1 cases in 2011–12 where time and state or territory were unknown or not stated

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table A7 Incidents of homicide occurring during the course of another crime by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Residential	57	30	37	18	15	3	6	0	166
Street/open area	9	8	6	11	4	1	3	0	42
Other location ^a	10	5	3	2	1	0	1	0	22
Unknown/not stated	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	6
2011–12									
Residential	52	39	30	20	12	5	10	2	170
Street/open area	11	4	6	7	2	0	2	2	34
Other location ^a	6	9	9	3	2	0	1	0	30
Unknown/not stated	2	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	9

a: Includes shops, shopping malls, bank/credit unions/post offices, car parks/public garages/service stations, workplaces, other commercial premises, public transport and related facilities, places of entertainment and corrective/health institutions

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Appendix B Homicide victims, 2010–12

Table B1 Homicide victims per incident by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
One victim	77	40	47	31	19	4	11	0	229
Two victims	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
Three victims	0	3	6	0	3	0	0	0	12
Total incidents	77	43	49	32	20	4	11	0	236
Total victims	77	47	53	33	22	4	11	0	247
2011–12									
One victim	70	48	46	33	15	5	11	4	232
Two victims	0	8	2	2	2	0	4	0	18
Three victims	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Four or more victims	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Total incidents	71	53	47	34	16	5	13	4	243
Total victims	81	59	48	35	17	5	15	4	264

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B2 Homicide victims by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	104	79	71	28	21	7	21	0	331
1990–91	134	77	59	23	25	5	28	0	351
1991–92	115	59	70	30	28	9	18	2	331
1992–93	125	62	79	39	30	7	17	1	360
1993–94	132	51	62	38	29	5	23	2	342
1994–95	95	79	61	47	31	5	20	4	342
1995–96	118	55	75	33	14	40	22	1	358
1996–97	108	56	81	24	24	6	18	2	319
1997–98	112	44	75	36	29	4	11	1	312
1998–99	117	56	68	35	38	7	18	2	341
1999–00	113	63	75	44	26	9	7	3	340
2000–01	117	55	69	28	23	8	17	0	317
2001–02	111	86	79	35	33	10	24	3	381 ^a
2002–03	109	69	70	32	22	6	18	3	329
2003–04	85	73	63	38	28	3	12	3	305
2004–05	81	55	55	29	20	11	12	3	266 ^a
2005–06	89	73	60	33	22	3	16	5	301
2006–07	92	47	56	28	12	9	18	4	266
2007–08	98	44	57	30	18	5	18	3	273
2008–09	81	51	48	30	27	8	11	6	262
2009–10	83	64	59	27	21	6	14	5	279
2010–11	77	47	53	33	22	4	11	0	247
2011–12	81	59	48	35	17	5	15	4	264

a: Includes one victim on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B3 Homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld ^a	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Number	55	31	27	21	14	3	6	0	157
Rate per 100,000	1.5	1.1	1.2	2.6	1.2	1.2	4.9	0	1.4
Female									
Number	22	16	26	12	8	1	5	0	90
Rate per 100,000	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.4	4.6	0.0	0.8
2011–12									
Male									
Number	48	42	32	22	12	4	10	1	171
Rate per 100,000	1.3	1.5	1.4	2.7	1.0	1.6	8.1	0.5	1.5
Female									
Number	33	17	15	13	5	1	5	3	92
Rate per 100,000	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.4	0.4	4.5	1.6	0.8

Note: One case missing for Queensland, 2011–12

Source: ABS 2013, AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B4 Homicide victims by age and jurisdiction, 2010–12

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Mean age	36	43.7	35.1	34.9	38	41	32.6	0	37.4
Median age	36	43	35	30	40	41	27.5	0	37
Female									
Mean age	34.3	28.5	36.8	31.3	46.3	24	44.2	0	35.1
Median age	35.5	28	35	27.5	42.5	24	44	0	32.5
Persons									
Mean age	35.5	38.5	36	33.6	41.0	36.7	37.9	0	36.5
Median age	36	37	35	29	42	40	43	0	35
2011–12									
Male									
Mean age	43.9	36.1	30.9	33.6	40.3	41.7	40.9	27	37.7
Median age	42.5	35.5	30	31.5	41.5	41.5	43.5	27	36
Female									
Mean age	47.5	38.5	32.6	35.0	60.2	77	35.8	47.3	42.0
Median age	44	40	40	29	59	77	35	38	42
Persons									
Mean age	45.4	36.7	30.8	34.2	46.1	48.8	39.2	42.2	39.0
Median age	44	37	30.5	30	43	46	41	34	38

Note: Data excluded for one case in Queensland 2011–12 because age was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B5 Prior criminal history of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Prior criminal history	8	15	0	0	6	1	6	0	36
No prior history	10	12	5	2	6	0	0	0	35
Unknown/not stated	37	4	22	19	2	2	0	0	86
Female									
Prior criminal history	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	6
No prior history	12	11	2	3	7	1	1	0	37
Unknown/not stated	9	3	24	9	0	0	2	0	47
Persons									
Prior criminal history	9	17	0	0	7	1	8	0	42
No prior history	22	23	7	5	13	1	1	0	72
Unknown/not stated	46	7	46	28	2	2	2	0	133
2011–12									
Male									
Prior criminal history	5	20	5	0	10	2	5	0	47
No prior history	5	19	9	0	2	1	5	1	42
Unknown/not stated	38	3	18	22	0	1	0	0	82
Female									
Prior criminal history	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
No prior history	15	12	9	3	5	1	5	0	50
Unknown/not stated	18	1	4	10	0	0	0	3	36
Persons									
Prior criminal history	5	24	7	0	10	2	5	0	53
No prior history	20	31	18	3	7	2	10	1	92
Unknown/not stated	56	4	23	32	0	1	0	3	119

Note: Data excluded for one case in Queensland, 2011–12 where sex was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B6 Employment status of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld ^a	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Employed ^b	29	11	3	2	6	0	0	0	51
Other	19	18	9	5	4	3	6	0	64
Unknown/not stated	7	2	15	14	4	0	0	0	42
Female									
Employed ^a	6	4	2	0	2	0	1	0	15
Other	9	10	10	4	6	1	4	0	44
Unknown/not stated	7	2	14	8	0	0	0	0	31
Persons									
Employed ^a	35	15	5	2	8	0	1	0	66
Other	28	28	19	9	10	4	10	0	108
Unknown/not stated	14	4	29	22	4	0	0	0	73
2011–12									
Male									
Employed ^b	15	14	9	2	2	0	0	0	42
Other	24	20	6	5	9	4	9	1	78
Unknown/not stated	9	8	17	15	1	0	1	0	51
Female									
Employed ^a	8	8	1	2	0	0	1	2	22
Other	16	6	4	3	5	1	2	1	38
Unknown/not stated	9	3	10	8	0	0	2	0	32
Persons									
Employed ^a	23	22	10	4	2	0	1	2	64
Other	40	26	10	8	14	5	11	2	116
Unknown/not stated	18	11	28	23	1	0	3	0	84

a: In full- or part-time employment

Note: One case in Queensland, 2011–12 where sex was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B7 Indigenous status of homicide victims by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Indigenous	5	0	11	7	3	1	6	0	33
Non-Indigenous	22	27	12	10	11	0	0	0	82
Unknown/not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female									
Indigenous	2	0	9	2	0	0	4	0	17
Non-Indigenous	10	16	15	8	8	1	0	0	58
Unknown/not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons									
Indigenous	7	0	20	9	3	1	10	0	50
Non-Indigenous	32	43	27	18	19	1	0	0	140
Unknown/not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011–12									
Male									
Indigenous	4	3	4	5	1	0	6	0	23
Non-Indigenous	26	38	22	14	11	3	4	1	119
Female									
Indigenous	2	0	1	5	0	0	3	0	11
Non-Indigenous	12	15	9	6	5	1	2	1	51
Persons									
Indigenous	6	3	5	10	1	0	9	0	34
Non-Indigenous	38	53	31	20	16	4	6	2	170
Unknown/not stated	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Note: One case in Queensland 2011–12 where Indigenous status known but sex unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B8 Primary cause of death of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Gunshot	12	7	4	1	0	1	0	0	25
Stab wound	17	15	10	12	5	0	5	0	64
Beating	17	7	10	2	6	2	1	0	45
Other ^a	6	1	2	5	2	0	0	0	16
Unknown/not stated	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7

Table B8 Primary cause of death of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
Female									
Gunshot	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Stab wound	9	7	12	3	4	1	3	0	39
Beating	2	2	4	4	2	0	1	0	15
Other ^a	9	5	3	2	2	0	1	0	22
Unknown/not stated	1	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	10
Persons									
Gunshot	13	8	6	1	0	1	0	0	29
Stab wound	26	22	22	15	9	1	8	0	103
Beating	19	9	14	6	8	2	2	0	60
Other ^a	15	6	5	7	4	0	1	0	38
Unknown/not stated	4	2	6	4	1	0	0	0	17
2011–12									
Male									
Gunshot	11	6	5	4	5	1	0	0	32
Stab wound	16	15	8	10	1	2	7	1	60
Beating	11	13	11	4	5	1	1	0	46
Other ^a	7	7	7	3	0	0	2	0	26
Unknown/not stated	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
Female									
Gunshot	2	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	8
Stab wound	7	4	5	4	0	0	3	1	24
Beating	8	3	2	4	1	0	1	0	19
Other ^a	15	7	3	3	2	1	1	2	34
Unknown/not stated	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	7
Persons									
Gunshot	13	9	6	4	7	1	0	0	40
Stab wound	23	19	13	14	1	2	10	2	84
Beating	19	16	13	8	6	1	2	0	65
Other ^a	22	14	10	6	2	1	3	2	60
Unknown/not stated	4	1	5	3	1	0	0	0	14

a: Includes drug overdose, drowning/submersion, neglect, smoke inhalation/burns, shaking, pushed from a high place and other cause of death

Note: One case in Queensland, 2011–12 where sex of victim was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B9 Motives of homicide offenders by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Revenge	2	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	11
Domestic ^a	1	4	5	1	1	0	2	0	14
Money/drugs	8	4	1	2	3	1	0	0	19
Alcohol-related argument	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	0	11
Other argument	26	14	11	6	6	1	5	0	69
Other motive ^b	7	8	9	5	3	1	2	0	35
No apparent motive ^c	33	11	23	14	6	1	0	0	88
2011–12									
Revenge	1	4	0	3	0	1	3	0	12
Domestic ^a	3	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	9
Money/drugs	8	8	3	3	4	0	2	1	29
Alcohol-related argument	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	8
Other argument	12	14	11	8	1	1	2	0	49
Other motive ^b	16	10	11	4	1	0	3	2	47
No apparent motive ^c	41	17	23	13	10	1	4	1	110

a: Includes jealousy, desertion/termination

b: Includes racial vilification, sexual vilification, political/sexual gratification

c: Includes unknown and not stated

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table B10 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide victims by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld ^a	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Alcohol only	11	4	3	6	6	0	3	0	33
Drugs only	6	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	15
Alcohol and drugs	11	7	1	1	0	2	3	0	25
Unknown/not stated	27	13	23	13	7	1	0	0	84
Female									
Alcohol only	4	2	5	2	1	0	4	0	18
Drugs only	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Alcohol and drugs	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Unknown/not stated	15	8	20	9	7	1	1	0	61
Persons									
Alcohol only	15	6	8	8	7	0	7	0	51
Drugs only	7	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	20
Alcohol and drugs	13	10	1	2	0	2	3	0	31
Unknown/not stated	42	21	43	22	14	2	1	0	145
2011–12									
Male									
Alcohol only	6	11	13	3	1	1	6	0	41
Drugs only	4	5	3	2	6	0	0	0	20
Alcohol and drugs	1	5	0	2	0	2	1	0	11
Unknown/not stated	37	21	16	15	5	1	3	1	99
Female									
Alcohol only	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	7
Drugs only	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	10
Alcohol and drugs	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Unknown/not stated	27	12	11	10	5	1	2	2	70
Persons									
Alcohol only	7	12	14	4	1	1	9	0	48
Drugs only	7	8	5	3	6	0	0	1	30
Alcohol and drugs	3	6	1	3	0	2	1	0	16
Unknown/not stated	64	33	27	25	10	2	5	3	169

Note: One case in Queensland, 2011–12 where victim intoxication and drug and alcohol consumption was unknown

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Appendix C Offender characteristics from NHMP findings

Table C1 Number of offenders involved in homicide incident by jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
One offender	61	32	44	28	13	2	10	0	190
Two offenders	14	4	8	6	8	4	0	0	44
Three offenders	3	3	3	0	9	0	0	0	18
Four or more offenders	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8
Total incidents	70	35	49	31	20	4	11	0	220
Total offenders	82	39	55	34	30	6	14	0	260
2011–12									
One offender	54	38	37	29	10	5	12	3	188
Two offenders	22	16	10	4	4	0	0	2	58
Three offenders	3	3	3	6	3	0	0	0	18
Four or more offenders	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8
Total incidents	67	47	43	33	13	5	4	13	225
Total offenders	83	57	50	39	17	5	16	5	272

Note: Data excluded 34 homicide incidents which were not yet solved or had no identified offender (16 cases in 2010–11 and 18 cases in 2011–12)

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C2 Homicide offenders^a by year and jurisdiction, 1989–90 to 2010–12

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
1989–90	112	76	79	24	22	6	20	0	339
1990–91	116	74	60	22	24	5	45	0	346
1991–92	103	48	73	29	25	12	18	2	310
1992–93	118	64	92	35	37	7	18	2	373
1993–94	142	52	75	43	34	6	28	2	382
1994–95	101	82	75	61	30	6	25	4	384
1995–96	120	52	75	34	20	7	22	3	333
1996–97	117	63	88	25	39	3	18	5	358
1997–98	122	40	75	34	26	3	15	2	317
1998–99	109	56	73	40	64	11	3	18	374
1999–00	109	55	69	37	28	13	7	4	322
2000–01	119	61	65	32	25	10	25	0	337
2001–02	104	79	82	38	42	9	25	2 ^b	381
2002–03	105	63	79	38	22	7	17	3	334
2003–04	89	76	67	37	40	5	18	2	334
2004–05	80	65	64	27	26	15	13	2 ^b	292
2005–06	113	70	62	32	23	3	28	7	338
2006–07	103	52	59	28	18	8	22	4	294
2007–08	97	49	64	37	31	5	22	3	308
2008–09	93	56	62	27	27	12	12	4	293
2009–10	92	77	59	27	28	8	23	4	318
2010–11	82	39	55	34	30	6	14	0	260
2011–12	83	57	50	39	17	5	16	5	272

a: Known offenders

b: Includes one offender on Norfolk Island

Source: AIC NHMP 1989–90 to 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C3 Homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2008–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Number	71	35	49	26	27	6	8	0	222
Rate per 100,000	2.0	1.3	2.2	3.2	2.3	2.4	6.6	0.0	2.0
Female									
Number	11	4	6	8	3	0	6	0	38
Rate per 100,000	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.3
2011–12									
Male									
Number	74	47	40	32	14	5	14	5	231
Rate per 100,000	2.0	1.7	1.8	3.9	1.1	2.0	11.3	2.7	2.0
Female									
Number	9	10	10	7	3	0	2	0	41
Rate per 100,000	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.4

Source: ABS 2013, AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C4 Homicide offenders by age and jurisdiction, 2010–11

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Mean age	31	35.4	35.9	34.9	25.1	29.7	34	0	32.6
Median age	30	36	34.5	33	21.5	32	32.5	0	31.5
Female									
Mean age	31	36	35.5	36.9	41.3	0	42.3	0	36.1
Median age	28	36	37	37.5	44	0	45	0	36
Persons									
Mean age	31	35.5	35.8	35.4	26.8	29.7	37.6	0	33.1
Median age	30	36	35.5	35	25	32	40.5	0	32
2011–12									
Male									
Mean age	32.4	33	32	34.4	39	44.2	34.3	24.2	33.3
Median age	32.5	31	30.5	30	36	46	35	24	32
Female									
Mean age	31.7	34.6	33.5	31.7	39	0	29	0	33.2
Median age	27	37	35.5	29	29	0	29	0	30
Persons									
Mean age	32.3	33.3	32.3	33.9	39.1	44.2	33.6	24.2	33.3
Median age	32	32	32.5	29	32.5	46	35	24	32

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C5 Prior history of homicide offenders and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Prior criminal history	16	26	2	9	15	6	5	0	79
No prior history	6	9	1	3	9	0	1	0	29
Unknown/not stated	49	0	46	14	3	0	2	0	114
Female									
Prior criminal history	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	0	8
No prior history	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
Unknown/not stated	9	0	6	7	0	0	2	0	24
Persons									
Prior criminal history	16	28	2	9	17	6	9	0	87
No prior history	8	11	1	4	10	0	1	0	35
Unknown/not stated	58	0	52	21	3	0	4	0	138
2011–12									
Male									
Prior criminal history	3	32	5	8	10	3	9	1	71
No prior history	2	10	2	3	4	1	4	0	26
Unknown/not stated	69	5	33	21	0	1	1	4	134
Female									
Prior criminal history	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
No prior history	1	7	2	1	3	0	1	0	15
Unknown/not stated	8	1	8	6	0	0	0	0	23
Persons									
Prior criminal history	3	34	5	8	10	3	10	1	74
No prior history	3	17	4	4	7	1	5	0	41
Unknown/not stated	77	5	41	26	0	1	1	4	155

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C6 Employment status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Employed ^a	7	13	6	4	5	1	1	0	37
Other	20	22	8	2	13	4	5	0	74
Unknown/not stated/ not applicable	44	0	35	20	9	1	2	0	111
Female									
Employed ^a	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
Other	0	3	4	2	2	0	4	0	15
Unknown/not stated	9	0	2	5	0	0	2	0	18
Persons									
Employed ^a	9	14	6	5	6	1	1	0	42
Other	20	25	12	4	15	4	9	0	89
Unknown/not stated/ not applicable	53	0	37	25	9	1	4	0	129
2011–12									
Male									
Employed ^a	5	18	9	6	1	2	4	0	45
Other	12	24	12	5	11	3	8	1	76
Unknown/not stated	57	5	19	21	2	0	2	4	110
Female									
Employed ^a	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other	1	6	5	0	3	0	2	0	17
Unknown/not stated	7	1	5	7	0	0	0	0	20
Persons									
Employed ^a	6	21	9	6	1	2	4	0	49
Other	13	30	17	5	14	3	10	1	93
Unknown/not stated/ not applicable	64	6	24	28	2	0	2	4	130

a: In full or part-time employment

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C7 Indigenous status of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Indigenous	3	0	14	2	4	0	6	0	29
Non-Indigenous	68	35	35	24	23	6	2	0	193
Female									
Indigenous	1	0	2	3	1	0	6	0	13
Non-Indigenous	10	4	4	5	2	0	0	0	25
Persons									
Indigenous	4	0	16	5	5	0	12	0	42
Non-Indigenous	78	39	39	29	25	6	2	0	218
2011–12									
Male									
Indigenous	2	3	6	6	0	0	5	1	23
Non-Indigenous	72	44	34	26	14	5	9	4	208
Female									
Indigenous	1	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	9
Non-Indigenous	8	8	9	4	3	0	0	0	32
Persons									
Indigenous	3	5	7	9	0	0	7	1	32
Non-Indigenous	80	52	43	30	17	5	9	4	240

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

Table C8 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
2010–11									
Male									
Alcohol only	7	12	4	5	11	4	4	0	47
Drugs only	4	5	2	3	1	0	0	0	15
Alcohol and drugs	4	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	11
None	3	10	1	5	4	1	2	0	26
Unknown/not stated	53	3	41	13	11	1	1	0	123
Female									
Alcohol only	1	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	8
Drugs only	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Alcohol and drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
None	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	5
Unknown/not stated	9	2	5	4	1	0	0	0	21
Persons									
Alcohol only	8	12	5	9	11	4	6	0	55
Drugs only	4	7	2	3	2	0	0	0	18
Alcohol and drugs	4	5	1	0	0	0	2	0	12
None	4	10	1	5	5	1	5	0	31
Unknown/not stated	62	5	46	17	12	1	1	0	144
2011–12									
Male									
Alcohol only	4	8	9	7	1	3	6	1	39
Drugs only	4	3	7	6	1	0	0	0	21
Alcohol and drugs	2	4	0	1	0	0	5	1	13
None	3	16	3	2	2	0	1	0	27
Unknown/not stated	61	16	21	16	10	2	2	3	131
Female									
Alcohol only	0	5	2	2	0	0	2	0	11
Drugs only	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol and drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
Unknown/not stated	7	1	7	4	2	0	0	0	21

Table C8 Alcohol and drug consumption of homicide offenders by sex and jurisdiction, 2010–12 (n)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	National
Persons									
Alcohol only	4	13	11	9	1	3	8	1	50
Drugs only	4	3	7	7	1	0	0	0	22
Alcohol and drugs	2	4	0	1	0	0	5	1	13
None	5	20	4	2	3	0	1	0	35
Unknown/not stated	68	17	28	20	12	2	2	3	152

Source: AIC NHMP 2010–12 [computer file]

AIC Reports
Monitoring Reports 23

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

www.aic.gov.au