

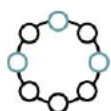


Deaths of females and children in Australia

DR22-29

Prepared for the Australian Parliament Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs

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National Coronial Information System

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Authorisation

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Disclaimer

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ABOUT THE NCIS

The National Coronial Information System (NCIS) is a data repository containing information on deaths reported to a coroner in Australia and New Zealand. It is an essential data tool for both coroners and researchers to obtain nationally standardised information about the causes of preventable death and injury.

As a voluntary collaboration between the Australian states and territories, and New Zealand, the NCIS is unique at both a national and international level. The NCIS is leading the way in the provision of data for evidence-based mortality research, given its comprehensive demographic data, medical cause of death and searchable medicolegal documentation.

History

The NCIS was established in 2000 to provide Australia-wide infrastructure to support the collection and management of coronial data. Previously, coronial data were held separately within each jurisdiction, often in paper files and without the ability to easily search, share or access information securely or across jurisdictions. Establishing the NCIS addressed these information access barriers.

Data collection

Information contained in the NCIS is prepared by, and belongs to, the respective Coroners Court from each of the participating jurisdictions. While the NCIS Unit hosts data and provides other services to the coroners courts of each participating jurisdiction, it does not form part of any coroners court.

The collection contains data on *reportable deaths* only. A reportable death is generally a death that: is unexpected or unexplained; is the result of an accident or injury; occurs in care or custody; is healthcare related; or is a case of unknown identity. The Coroners Act within each jurisdiction determines what constitutes a *reportable death* that must be investigated by a coroner.

The NCIS core data set was agreed upon by all participating jurisdictions at the establishment of the NCIS. The NCIS Unit monitors the provision of information from coroners courts against the core data set.

Data collection for all Australian states and territories commenced on 1 July 2000, except Queensland which commenced on 1 January 2001. The collection of New Zealand data commenced on 1 July 2007. Data collection for each participating jurisdiction remains ongoing.

National Coronial Information System

The NCIS holds 470,000 cases that have been recorded in the system since its establishment. The database contains coded and non-coded data including demographic information about the deceased, contextual information about the nature of the fatality, full-text copies of coronial findings, autopsy and toxicology reports, and police notification of death reports.

For more information about the database, refer to the [NCIS website](#)

OVERVIEW

Purpose

This report has been prepared in response to questions on notice from the Chair of the [Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs](#), Senator Paul Scarr, submitted to the NCIS Unit.

This report provides information about deaths reported to an Australian state or territory coroner. Cases were included where:

- the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) *Case type* was coded as *death due to external cause(s)* and the *Intent type* was coded as *assault*
- the NCIS *Case type* was coded as *body not recovered*, or
- the deceased was reported missing prior to their death being notified to a coroner.

Cases were included where the death was notified to a coroner between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019.¹

Cases were included only where the coronial investigation has concluded, and the case is closed in the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

Intended use of data

This report is provided for Sophie Dunstone, Committee Secretary, [Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs](#) (the Committee) at the [Australian Parliament Department of the Senate](#) (the Senate).

The information provided in this report is intended for use by the Committee as evidence in its inquiry into [missing and murdered First Nations women and children](#). This may include: informing the Committee's selection of locations for hearings; providing the Committee with a better understanding of the scale of the issue, trends over time, and trends between locations; and to contribute to recommendations that seek to address the issues underpinning the inquiry.

The Committee may publish this information on its website and in public reports. The Committee may also use this data for further analysis including, but not limited to, creating infographics, charts and tables for publication in its reports.

¹ Data in the NCIS is available for all Australian states and territories, except Queensland, from 1 July 2000. Queensland data is available from 1 January 2001

As a result, the data will be published in the public domain.

Any reproduction of this report or the data contained within it must acknowledge the NCIS as the source of the underlying data.

About the recipient

The [Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs](#) is an Australian Government legislative and general purpose standing committee governed by Senate Standing Order 25.

On 4 August 2022, the Senate referred an inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 31 July 2023. Further details about the scope of the inquiry are available in its [terms of reference](#).

NCIS resources available

There are a number of additional NCIS resources available that may be of interest:

- [Direct system access](#) is available to authorised experts who investigate mortality and develop death and injury prevention strategies, allowing them to view coronial case information via a secure online interface. Applicants must have a bona fide interest or professional role in public health and safety or a statutory requirement to collect and publish data. [Research publications and reports](#) using NCIS data are available on the NCIS website.
- [NCIS fact sheets](#) report on coronial data held in the collection. Fact sheets include statistical information on deaths reported to a coroner and cover specific topics of public interest.
- [NCIS Fatal facts](#) is a unique service providing access to coronial recommendations from across all Australian states and territories. Fatal facts search is a publicly accessible online tool that enables searching for coronial recommendations by topic. Fatal facts includes cases where coronial recommendations were made, regardless of whether an inquest was held. Fatal facts is based on information available in the NCIS at the time of reporting. It is a separate tool from the NCIS database and is not intended to be representative of the contents of the NCIS.

NCIS Mailing list

Find out the latest NCIS news about recent research, database updates, training, media releases and access application deadlines by subscribing to the [NCIS mailing list](#).

METHOD

The data presented in this report was obtained by conducting a search of the NCIS. The NCIS is a database containing information on deaths reported to a coroner in Australia and New Zealand. Data collection from Australian states and territories commenced on 1 July 2000 (Queensland from 1 January 2001) and from New Zealand on 1 July 2007.

For more information about the database, refer to the [NCIS website](#)

Case identification

Data was extracted on 6 September 2022 using the following criteria for case identification:

Part A: Assault deaths

Field	Criteria
Date of notification	Between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019
Jurisdiction	All Australian states and territories
Case status	Closed
AND	
Case type (completion)	Death due to external cause(s)
Intent type (completion)	Assault

Part B: Body not recovered deaths

Field	Criteria
Date of notification	Between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019
Jurisdiction	All Australian states and territories
Case status	Closed
AND	
Case type (completion)	Body not recovered

Part C: Missing persons deaths

Field	Criteria
Date of notification	Between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019
Jurisdiction	All Australian states and territories
Case status	Closed
AND	
Keyword search: <i>Cause of death</i> (1a–3)	'body not recovered' or 'missing'

Field	Criteria
OR	
Keyword search: coronial findings, police narrative of circumstances, autopsy report	'missing'

Data analysis

A manual review was undertaken of the coding of all cases to ascertain their relevance.

Cases were included where the deceased was a female aged 18 years or over, or was a child aged under 18 years.

Deceased persons' Indigenous identification was determined based on the values coded in the *Indigenous origin (Coronial)* and *Indigenous status (BDM)* fields.²

No further analysis was undertaken for cases included in Part A or Part B.

Cases were excluded from Part C where they were identified in either Part A or Part B. Due to the volume of cases requiring review, a manual review was undertaken of the attached documentation (coronial findings, police narrative of circumstances and autopsy report, where available) of all remaining cases identified in Part C where the deceased person was identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander only. Cases were included where the deceased was reported missing and was considered a missing person prior to their death being notified to a coroner. Cases were not included where the deceased had historically been reported missing but had since been found alive, as their historical missing persons status was unrelated to the incident leading to their death. Cases were not included where it was unclear if the deceased had been reported missing.

No further analysis other than described was carried out for the cases included in this report.

² See [Error! Reference source not found.](#) for further information

DEFINITIONS

Assault – a value in the NCIS *Intent type* field that indicates that a death occurred due to an injury that was inflicted by other person(s) with the intent of injuring or killing. Not all *assault* cases necessarily refer to ‘murder’ or ‘homicide’ incidents

Body not recovered – a value in the NCIS *Case type* field that allows for the coding and identification of cases where it is known that death occurred however, the body of deceased has not been recovered during the police and coronial investigation. In some instances, an alternative *Case type* value may be applied to a case where the body was not recovered based on the determination of the coroner

Children – refers to persons under 18 years of age at the time of their death for the purposes of this report

Deaths reported to an Australian coroner – this report provides data on deaths reported to an Australian state or territory coroner. This does not necessarily refer to deaths or fatal incidents that occurred in Australia, nor does it necessarily refer to persons whose nationality was Australian

Indigenous origin (coronial) – a field in the NCIS that provides a measure of whether a person identifies or is identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent or origin based on coronial data

Indigenous status (BDM) – a field in the NCIS that provides a measure of whether a person identifies or is identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent or origin based on supplementary data provided by the Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) registries

Jurisdiction – the state or territory of the Coroner’s Office in which the death was reported and investigated

Missing person – for the purposes of this report, refers to a case where the person was reported missing to police and was considered a missing person prior to their death being notified to a coroner based on information available in the attached case documentation. Does not necessarily imply that the person’s details were added to or active in a missing persons register. Missing persons cases identified in this report are distinct from cases identified in Parts A and B

National Coronial Information System (NCIS) – an [online database](#) containing information about deaths reported to a coroner in Australia and New Zealand

National Coronial Information System (NCIS) Unit – the business unit that manages the NCIS. The NCIS Unit operates within the [Department of Justice and Community Safety](#) (Victoria)

Sex – a field in the NCIS that denotes the sex of the deceased. Sex refers to the biological differences between males and females, while the term 'gender' refers to the social identification of sex. The Australian Bureau of Statistics advises that the correct terminology for this data item is 'sex'. Some tables in this report provide information based on cases where the Sex was coded as *female*. The NCIS does not contain coded data fields in relation to gender

LIMITATIONS

Data availability

Australian data is available in the NCIS from 1 July 2000. This refers to all Australian states and territories, except Queensland, for which data is available from 1 January 2001.

Reporting via the NCIS data report service is subject to at least 80 per cent of cases for the relevant calendar years in every Australian jurisdiction being closed in the NCIS. The latest national data available via the NCIS data report service is for deaths reported up until 31 December 2019. This is due to case closure rates for some Australian jurisdictions not having yet met the required threshold for later years. As a result, this report only includes closed cases reported to an Australian state or territory coroner from 1 July 2000 to 31 December 2019.

Only closed cases included

Only cases that are closed in the NCIS following coronial investigation are included in this report. Some coded fields are only required to be completed on case closure in the NCIS. Information available in coded fields in open cases may be subject to change upon conclusion of the coronial investigation. It is possible cases of relevance may still be under coronial investigation and not included in this report.

For more information about NCIS case closure, refer to the [NCIS operational statistics](#)

Indigenous identification coding

There are two fields in the NCIS that relate to the Indigenous identification of deceased persons:

- Indigenous origin (coronial) based on coronial data
- *Indigenous status (BDM)* based on supplementary data provided by Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM).

Indigenous origin (coronial) data is included in the NCIS by each state/territory Coroners Court from the information provided in coronial files. The NCIS Unit conducts a quality assessment of the coding when the case is closed in the NCIS.

Indigenous status (BDM) data is collected by each state/territory Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) registry from the death registration application form and/or the medical certificate of cause of death. The NCIS Unit does not undertake any quality assessment of BDM data.

BDM data is available in the NCIS for deaths registered from 1 January 2006. While a small number of cases between 2000 and 2005 may have BDM values, these cases are likely a result of delayed registration of death with BDM.

Data in this report is based on both the *Indigenous origin (coronial)* and *Indigenous status (BDM)* data, where available. Cases were only included in tables regarding Indigenous people where:

- both values indicated that the person was Indigenous
- either value indicated that the person was Indigenous, and data for the other field was either unavailable or unknown.

As a result, cases were not included in tables relating to Indigenous people where conflicting data was available in the coronial and BDM data fields as to whether the deceased identified as Indigenous or non-Indigenous. For example, cases were not included in these tables where the coronial field identified the deceased as *Aboriginal not Torres Strait Islander* and the BDM field identified the deceased as *non Indigenous*. Such conflicts affect a small number of cases.

Cases were included in tables relating to Indigenous people where both the coronial and BDM data fields identified the deceased as Indigenous, but where there was a conflict between the values in these fields. For example, cases were included where the coronial field identified the deceased as *Aboriginal not Torres Strait Islander* and the BDM field identified the deceased as *both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander*. Such conflicts affect a small number of cases.

For more information about Indigenous identification coding, refer to the data quality statement in the [NCIS explanatory notes](#)

Closure of assault cases

Coroners may elect to or may be required to suspend closure of coronial investigations in relation to assault deaths until applicable criminal court processes have been finalised. This may impact the time taken to complete case coding and closure in the NCIS for assault cases. As a result, assault death figures for more recent years of data may be under-representative. Caution is advised regarding interpretation of figures for assault deaths.

Identification of missing persons cases

Relevant cases were only able to be included in the missing persons deaths table of this report if the attached documentation contained reference to the item or factor requested. Attached documentation in the NCIS is a subset of the information collected as part of the coronial investigation and is not a replication of the full coronial file. Reference to whether a person was reported missing within coronial investigations is not standardised in terms of whether it will be noted within the documentation and the information requested may not always be available.

In addition, missing persons cases are not available in the NCIS until the case is reported to the coroner as a suspected death. Policing and coronial practices may vary within and between

jurisdictions regarding the reporting of missing persons cases and determination that a reportable death has occurred. As a result, identification of missing persons cases should be considered a minimum prevalence and may be under-representative.

Keyword search case identification

Relevant cases were only able to be included in Part C of this report if the attached documentation or relevant data fields contained a keyword that was searched. Reference to particular items, characteristics and other elements within coronial investigations is not standardised in terms of terminology or whether it will be noted within the documentation. As a result, this may influence the identification of relevant cases.

Availability of documentation in NCIS

The level of document attachment varies within the NCIS according to the reporting jurisdiction. Coronial findings in relation to non-inquest cases may not contain details about the circumstances surrounding death. While best efforts are made to obtain reports for all cases in the NCIS (where relevant investigations are conducted), the proportion of report attachment varies across jurisdictions. This variation has the potential to impact the accurate identification of relevant cases via keyword searching and review of documents in the NCIS.

For more information about document attachment, refer to the [NCIS website](#)

Comparison with other data sets

Data in this report refers only to cases contained in the NCIS. Information contained in the NCIS may not be comparable with other data sources due to differences in data collection and classification. In addition, reporting of cases from the NCIS may vary over time due to differences in methodology and changes in case data, such as increases in case closure and data availability.

Quality assessment of closed cases

The NCIS Unit conducts a quality assessment of the coding associated with closed cases. While every effort is made to quality review closed cases in a timely manner, there may be a delay between the case being closed and the completion of the quality review. It cannot be guaranteed that all cases included in this report have been quality assessed.

The NCIS Unit does not undertake quality assessment of data integrated from supplementary data sources.

For further information about data sources, coverage and limitations, refer to the [NCIS explanatory notes](#)

Suppression of figures

Low frequencies in data reports are suppressed to ensure the data is appropriately de-identified. As a result, figures below four in this report are presented as '<4'.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following sections provide responses to the [Appendix A: Questions on Notice](#) outlined in Appendix A.

Data in Parts A, B and C are mutually exclusive.

Dashes (-) indicate that no deaths were identified. In order to ensure the data is appropriately de-identified, figures below four are presented as '<4'.

Part A: Assault deaths

This section provides responses to questions 1a–e of the [Appendix A: Questions on Notice](#).

Cases in this section were identified and analysed according to the [Method](#) section of this report.

Data contained in this section is mutually exclusive from data provided in [Part B: Body not recovered deaths](#) and [Part C: Missing persons deaths](#).

Cases were not included in Tables 3–6 where conflicting data was available in the coronial and BDM data fields as to whether the deceased identified as Indigenous or non-Indigenous. As a result, the total number of cases referring to all deaths is greater than the sum of the total number of cases referring to Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons. See [Limitations](#) for further information.

Question 1a: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of Australian women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).

Response: Refer to *Table 1* and *Table 2*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Intent type* was coded as *assault*.

Table 1. Assault deaths of females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	22	<4	<4	4	<4	10	4	46
2001	<4	30	7	15	11	<4	23	7	97
2002	<4	30	7	17	12	<4	17	15	102
2003	<4	21	6	11	5	<4	20	10	75
2004	<4	20	<4	10	7	<4	20	15	79

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2005	<4	23	7	17	7	<4	13	7	77
2006	<4	27	5	18	5	<4	19	4	81
2007	<4	22	11	14	4	<4	18	13	86
2008	<4	29	8	19	5	-	16	13	92
2009	-	23	4	9	9	<4	12	8	66
2010	<4	20	5	21	8	-	16	13	84
2011	-	26	6	15	5	<4	15	6	74
2012	<4	18	5	19	7	5	12	14	82
2013	-	29	7	16	4	<4	18	14	90
2014	<4	24	4	9	<4	<4	15	11	67
2015	<4	12	5	10	7	<4	11	8	58
2016	-	16	<4	14	4	<4	14	11	62
2017	-	9	<4	6	<4	-	13	6	39
2018	-	13	-	5	<4	-	10	13	42
2019	-	9	<4	<4	<4	-	6	<4	24
Total	17	423	98	250	110	32	298	195	1423

Table 2. Assault deaths of children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	10	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	14
2001	-	12	-	12	<4	-	5	<4	33
2002	<4	7	5	9	<4	<4	7	<4	35
2003	-	15	<4	12	<4	<4	10	4	47
2004	-	11	-	7	5	-	4	<4	30
2005	<4	19	-	7	<4	<4	10	4	46
2006	-	12	-	9	6	-	4	9	40
2007	-	9	<4	10	<4	<4	<4	<4	27
2008	-	11	-	<4	4	<4	7	<4	27
2009	-	9	-	7	5	-	-	8	29
2010	-	11	-	5	<4	-	6	<4	25
2011	-	9	<4	5	<4	-	4	4	25
2012	<4	<4	<4	6	<4	<4	7	<4	25

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2013	-	<4	-	5	<4	-	<4	<4	12
2014	-	7	<4	11	<4	<4	5	<4	29
2015	-	7	-	7	<4	-	8	<4	25
2016	<4	6	-	<4	<4	<4	<4	5	21
2017	-	4	-	<4	<4	-	<4	<4	10
2018	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	7	11
2019	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	5
Total	6	169	15	120	41	10	86	69	516

Question 1b: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of First Nations women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).

Response: Refer to *Table 3* and *Table 4*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Intent* type was coded as *assault*.

Table 3. Assault deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	6	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	13
2001	-	<4	7	4	-	-	-	4	16
2002	-	-	7	4	-	-	-	6	17
2003	-	<4	5	<4	-	-	-	<4	14
2004	-	-	<4	5	-	-	-	<4	9
2005	-	<4	7	<4	-	-	<4	<4	14
2006	-	4	5	-	<4	-	-	<4	12
2007	-	<4	11	<4	<4	-	<4	<4	20
2008	-	<4	7	<4	<4	-	-	4	16
2009	-	-	4	<4	<4	-	-	5	11
2010	-	-	4	4	<4	-	-	<4	13
2011	-	4	4	4	-	-	-	<4	14
2012	-	<4	<4	<4	<4	-	-	5	13
2013	-	<4	7	4	<4	-	-	4	17
2014	-	4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	9
2015	-	<4	5	-	<4	-	-	4	12

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2016	-	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	<4	8
2017	-	<4	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	8
2018	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2019	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	4
Total	-	34	88	45	13	-	<4	61	243

Table 4. Assault deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2001	-	<4	-	-	<4	-	-	<4	<4
2002	-	<4	4	-	-	-	-	-	6
2003	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	7
2004	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4
2005	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4	5
2006	-	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	<4	4
2007	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	5
2008	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	-	<4
2009	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2010	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	4
2011	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2012	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	4
2013	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
2014	-	-	<4	7	-	-	-	<4	9
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
Total	<4	16	10	21	<4	-	<4	15	66

Question 1c: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of non-First Nations women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).

Response: Refer to *Table 5* and *Table 6*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Intent type* was coded as *assault*.

Table 5. Assault deaths of non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	15	-	-	<4	<4	10	<4	29
2001	<4	27	-	8	4	<4	21	<4	67
2002	<4	27	-	11	4	<4	14	9	69
2003	<4	16	<4	8	<4	<4	15	7	51
2004	<4	19	<4	4	-	<4	14	12	55
2005	<4	20	-	13	-	<4	10	6	52
2006	<4	23	-	18	4	<4	18	<4	68
2007	<4	20	-	11	<4	<4	16	9	63
2008	<4	27	<4	16	<4	-	16	8	73
2009	-	22	-	8	8	<4	12	<4	52
2010	<4	19	<4	17	6	-	16	10	70
2011	-	22	<4	11	5	<4	14	<4	58
2012	<4	17	<4	16	6	5	12	9	69
2013	-	28	-	10	<4	<4	17	10	70
2014	<4	20	<4	8	<4	<4	15	9	57
2015	<4	9	-	10	6	<4	11	<4	44
2016	-	16	-	12	<4	<4	14	8	53
2017	-	7	-	6	<4	-	13	<4	31
2018	-	10	-	5	<4	-	10	11	37
2019	-	8	-	<4	<4	-	6	<4	19
Total	17	372	10	194	61	32	274	127	1087

Table 6. Assault deaths of non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	9	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	12
2001	-	11	-	10	<4	-	4	-	27
2002	-	5	<4	8	-	<4	4	<4	22
2003	-	14	<4	8	-	<4	5	<4	32

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2004	-	10	-	6	<4	-	<4	<4	21
2005	<4	16	-	7	-	<4	6	<4	35
2006	-	12	-	8	4	-	<4	5	31
2007	-	7	-	6	<4	<4	<4	<4	20
2008	-	10	-	<4	4	<4	5	<4	23
2009	-	8	-	7	4	-	-	7	26
2010	-	7	-	4	<4	-	6	<4	20
2011	-	7	-	5	<4	-	<4	<4	20
2012	<4	<4	-	6	<4	<4	7	-	18
2013	-	<4	-	-	<4	-	<4	<4	6
2014	-	6	<4	4	<4	<4	4	<4	18
2015	-	6	-	7	<4	-	8	<4	24
2016	<4	6	-	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	18
2017	-	<4	-	<4	<4	-	<4	<4	9
2018	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	6	10
2019	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	4
Total	4	145	<4	93	27	10	65	49	396

Question 1d: Please provide the committee with information on the *rate* of:

- i. First Nations women and children,
- ii. non-First Nations women and children,
- iii. Australian (both First Nations and non-First Nations) women and children, and
- iv. all Australians

who have been murdered by state/territory and by year (1980 – present if available).

Response: The NCIS Unit is unable to provide this information. See response to question 1e.

Question 1e: If you are unable to provide this information, please explain the reasons for not being able to do so (e.g. certain data isn't collected in a particular state or territory, or isn't captured by your agency etc.). Are there other sources that may reliably record this information? If so, what are they?

Response: The NCIS Unit is unable to provide information requested as part of question 1d as the NCIS does not contain population data. The Australian Bureau of Statistics may publish population data that enables the calculation of rates of death.

Part B: Body not recovered deaths

This section provides responses to questions 2a–e of the [Appendix A: Questions on Notice](#), and is intended to be read in conjunction with [Part C: Missing persons deaths](#)

Cases in this section were identified and analysed according to the [Method](#) section of this report.

Data contained in this section is mutually exclusive from data provided in [Part A: Assault deaths](#) and [Part C: Missing persons deaths](#).

Cases were not included in Tables 9–12 where conflicting data was available in the coronial and BDM data fields as to whether the deceased identified as Indigenous or non-Indigenous. As a result, the total number of cases referring to all deaths is greater than the sum of the total number of cases referring to Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons. See [Limitations](#) for further information.

Question 2a: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of Australian women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 – present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

To assist the Committee, data from the NCIS has been included in relation to relevant *body not recovered* cases.

Refer to [Table 7](#) and [Table 8](#). These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner from 1 July 2000 to 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Case type* was coded as *body not recovered*.

Table 7. Body not recovered deaths of females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2002	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
2003	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2004	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2005	-	5	-	<4	-	-	-	-	6
2006	-	5	-	-	-	-	<4	-	6

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2007	-	4	-	-	-	-	<4	-	6
2008	-	6	-	<4	-	-	-	-	7
2009	<4	<4	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	5
2010	-	4	<4	<4	-	<4	-	4	11
2011	-	6	-	<4	-	<4	<4	-	11
2012	-	<4	-	<4	-	<4	<4	<4	11
2013	-	6	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	8
2014	-	<4	-	<4	-	<4	<4	-	7
2015	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	<4	8
2016	-	<4	<4	4	-	<4	-	<4	11
2017	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	<4	<4
2018	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	<4	6
2019	-	<4	-	4	-	-	-	<4	8
Total	<4	64	<4	24	-	9	12	16	129

Table 8. Body not recovered deaths of children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2002	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2005	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	-	4
2006	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	-	5
2007	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2008	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2009	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2010	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	7	12
2011	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2012	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	-	-	<4
2013	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4
2014	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2015	-	-	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4
2016	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2017	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2019	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
Total	<4	22	<4	7	-	<4	4	12	51

Question 2b: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

To assist the Committee, data from the NCIS has been included in relation to relevant *body not recovered* cases.

Refer to *Table 9* and *Table 10*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner from 1 July 2000 to 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Case type* was coded as *body not recovered*.

Table 9. Body not recovered deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2012	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2016	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4
2017	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2019	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
Total	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	4	12

Table 10. Body not recovered deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2019	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Total	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	9

Question 2c: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of non-First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

To assist the Committee, data from the NCIS has been included in relation to relevant *body not recovered* cases.

Refer to *Table 11* and *Table 12*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner from 1 July 2000 to 31 December 2019 where the NCIS *Case type* was coded as *body not recovered*.

Table 11. Body not recovered deaths of non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2003	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2004	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2005	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2006	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2007	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	-	5
2008	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2009	<4	<4	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	5
2010	-	4	-	-	-	<4	-	4	9
2011	-	6	-	<4	-	<4	<4	-	10
2012	-	<4	-	<4	-	<4	<4	<4	8
2013	-	6	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	8
2014	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4	-	6
2015	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	5
2016	-	<4	<4	<4	-	<4	-	-	8

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2018	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4	-	<4
2019	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	5
Total	<4	57	<4	14	-	9	6	10	98

Table 12. Body not recovered deaths of non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2005	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2006	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
2007	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2008	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2009	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2010	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	7	10
2011	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2012	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	-	-	<4
2013	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2014	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2015	-	-	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	<4
2016	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2017	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<4	18	-	4	-	<4	<4	9	36

Question 2d: Please provide the committee with information on the *rate* of:

- i. First Nations women and children,
- ii. non-First Nations women and children,

- iii. Australian (both First Nations and non-First Nations) women and children, and
- iv. all Australians

who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 – present if available).

Response: The NCIS Unit is unable to provide this information. See response to question 2e.

Question 2e: If you are unable to provide this information, please explain the reasons for not being able to do so (e.g. certain data isn't collected in a particular state/territory, or isn't captured by your agency etc.). Are there other sources that may reliably record this information? If so, what are they?

Response: The NCIS Unit is unable to provide information requested as part of question 2d as the NCIS does not contain population data. The Australian Bureau of Statistics may publish population data that enables the calculation of rates of death.

Part C: Missing persons deaths

This section provides responses to questions 2a–e of the [Appendix A: Questions on Notice](#), and is intended to be read in conjunction with [Part B: Body not recovered deaths](#).

Cases in this section were identified and analysed according to the [Method](#) section of this report.

Data contained in this section is mutually exclusive from data provided in [Part A: Assault deaths](#) and [Part B: Body not recovered deaths](#).

Cases were not included in Tables 13–14 where conflicting data was available in the coronial and BDM data fields as to whether the deceased identified as Indigenous or non-Indigenous. See [Limitations](#) for further information.

Question 2a: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of Australian women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

Question 2b: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

To assist the Committee, data from the NCIS has been included in relation to cases of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females and children reported missing prior to their death being notified to a coroner. Missing persons deaths are only able to be identified via review of attached case documentation in the NCIS (refer to Limitations).

Refer to *Table 13* and *Table 14*. These tables refer only to deaths notified to a coroner from 1 July 2000 to 31 December 2019 where the deceased was reported missing and was considered a missing person prior to their death being notified to a coroner

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Table 13. Missing persons deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander females (18 years and over) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2002	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2003	-	-	<4	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2006	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	4
2007	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2009	-	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	4
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	-	<4
2019	-	<4	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	5
Total	-	<4	8	8	<4	-	4	7	30

Table 14. Missing persons deaths of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (under 18 years) reported to an Australian coroner by year of notification and jurisdiction of investigation

Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2003	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4

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Year of notification	Jurisdiction of investigation								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
2007	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2011	-	<4	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2012	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4	<4
2013	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4
2014	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	<4	<4
2015	-	-	-	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	<4	-	-	-	-	-	-	<4
2019	-	-	<4	<4	-	-	-	-	<4
Total	-	<4	8	8	-	-	-	5	24

Question 2c: Please provide the committee with information on the *number* of non-First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).

Response: The NCIS contains deaths reported to a coroner only; it is not a register of missing persons. As a result, the NCIS Unit cannot provide information on persons who have been reported missing where a reportable death has not been notified to a coroner.

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Murdered women and children

1. Please provide the committee with:

- a. information on the *number* of Australian women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).
- b. information on the *number* of First Nations women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).
- c. information on the *number* of non-First Nations women and children who have been murdered, disaggregated by state/territory and by year (1980 - present if available).
- d. information on the *rate* of:
 - i. First Nations women and children,
 - ii. non-First Nations women and children,
 - iii. Australian (both First Nations and non-First Nations) women and children, and
 - iv. all Australianswho have been murdered by state/territory and by year (1980 – present if available).
- e. If you are unable to provide this information, please explain the reasons for not being able to do so (e.g. certain data isn't collected in a particular state or territory, or isn't captured by your agency etc.). Are there other sources that may reliably record this information? If so, what are they?

Missing women and children

2. Please provide the committee with:

- a. information on the *number* of Australian women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).
- b. information on the *number* of First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).
- c. information on the *number* of non- First Nations women and children who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 - present if available).
- d. information on the *rate* of:
 - i. First Nations women and children,
 - ii. non-First Nations women and children,
 - iii. Australian (both First Nations and non-First Nations) women and children, and

iv. all Australians

who have been reported as missing, disaggregated by state/territory and year (1980 – present if available).

- e. If you are unable to provide this information, please explain the reasons for not being able to do so (e.g. certain data isn't collected in a particular state/territory, or isn't captured by your agency etc.). Are there other sources that may reliably record this information? If so, what are they?

Note: For this inquiry, children are aged under 18 years.