

PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Nick Skondreas on Melbourne (03) 9615 7381.

NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents national statistics on prisoners who were in custody on 30 June 2004. These statistics describe the characteristics of prisoners, sentencing lengths, and offences for which offenders are imprisoned, and provide a basis for measuring change over time.
- CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** Historical rates for total prisoners, and Indigenous prisoners presented in table 17, have been revised using population estimates benchmarked on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and back cast for the period 1994 to 2003.
- Rates for the Indigenous adult population in this publication are based on the 'low series' projections for 30 June 2004 (*Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0)). These projections are based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Previous issues of this publication presented rates based on projections using the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates included in table 3 are presented as both crude and age standardised rates. Ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates are also included.
- Further information about the age standardisation of rates and Indigenous adult population estimates are provided in Appendix 2 - Indigenous imprisonment rates.
- Adult population figures used in the calculation of rates are for persons aged 18 years and over for all states and territories except for Victoria and Queensland, where the adult population used is that of persons aged 17 years and over (see paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes). In previous issues, rates were calculated using adult population figures for persons aged 17 years and over. Historical rates for total and Indigenous prisoners, presented in table 16, have been revised for 1994 to 2003 to reflect changes in the methodology used to create the adult population.
- The rules for determining the most serious offence for prisoners returning to prison with a breach of parole have been modified. Further information is available in paragraph 65 of the Explanatory Notes.
- FURTHER INFORMATION** More information about ABS activities in the field of crime and justice statistics is available from the Crime and Justice theme page on the ABS website. Details of other ABS publications relating to Crime and Justice statistics can be found in paragraphs 74–75 of the Explanatory Notes.
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** The ABS acknowledges the valuable contribution of the Board of Management and Advisory Group of the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit and the staff of the various agencies that provide the statistics that are presented in this publication.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents information from the National Prisoner Census about persons held in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2004. The National Prisoner Census covers all prisoners in the legal custody of adult corrective services, including periodic detainees in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, but excluding persons held in juvenile institutions, psychiatric custody and police custody. It is based on data extracted from administrative records held by the corrective services agencies in each Australian state and territory. These statistics provide a profile of the demographic characteristics, legal status and sentence details of Australian prisoners.

Users of this publication should note that it provides a picture of the persons in prison at a point in time, and does not describe the flow of prisoners during the year. The majority of prisoners in the annual Prisoner Census are serving long-term sentences for serious offences, whereas the flow of offenders in and out of prisons consists primarily of persons serving short sentences for lesser offences. The information in this publication is supplemented with monthly statistics about Australian prisoners in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) quarterly publication *Corrective Services, Australia* (cat. no. 4512.0).

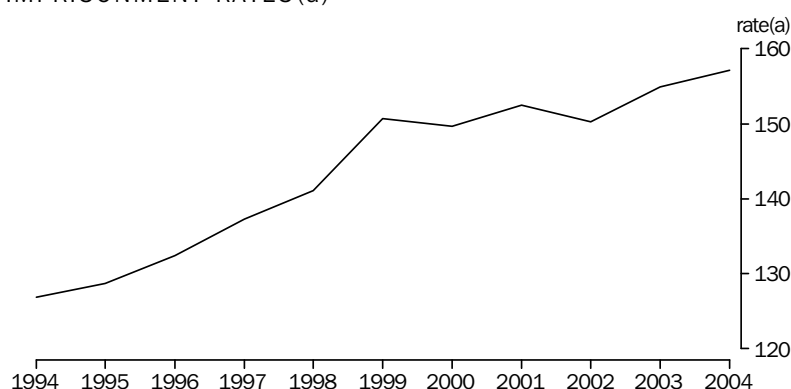
The Explanatory Notes provide detailed information on the data sources, definitions, counting rules and other technical matters associated with this publication.

PRISONERS

There were 24,171 prisoners in Australia on 30 June 2004, an increase of 3% on the 23,555 prisoners at 30 June 2003. The imprisonment rate of 157 prisoners per 100,000 adult population represents a 1% increase on the rate of 155 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2003.

The prisoner population has increased by 43% since 1994. This increase has exceeded the 15% growth in the Australian adult population, resulting in the adult imprisonment rate increasing from 127 to 157 prisoners per 100,000 adult population between 1994 and 2004.

IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population.

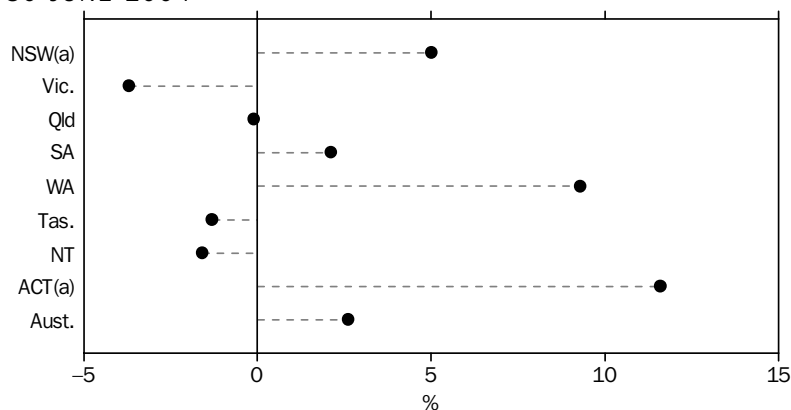
Three quarters of all prisoners are held in New South Wales (9,329 prisoners), Queensland (5,240) and Victoria (3,624). Between 2003 and 2004, the prison population increased in the Australian Capital Territory (12%), Western Australia (9%), New South Wales (5%) and South Australia (2%), while decreases occurred in Victoria,

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PRISONERS *continued*

the Northern Territory, Tasmania and Queensland (a decrease of 4%, 2%, 1% and less than 1% respectively).

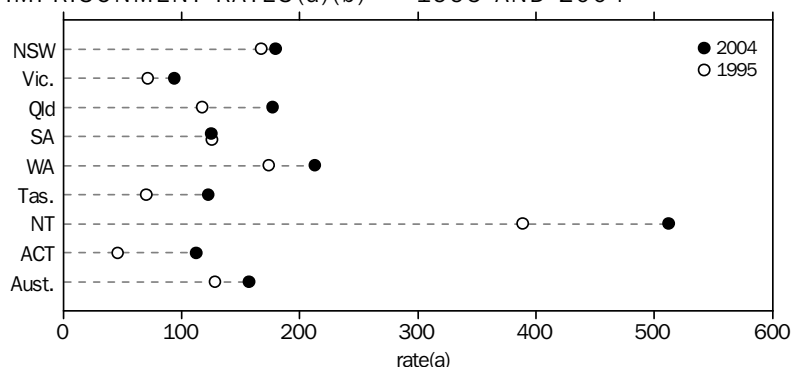
CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS BETWEEN 30 JUNE 2003 AND 30 JUNE 2004



(a) Includes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons.

The Northern Territory recorded the highest imprisonment rate of 513 prisoners per 100,000 adult population. While this is three times the national rate, the imprisonment rate for the Northern Territory decreased by 2% since 2003. Victoria recorded the lowest imprisonment rate of 94 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (113 prisoners per 100,000 adult population). The highest imprisonment rate increases between 2003 and 2004 were in the Australian Capital Territory (11%) and Western Australia (8%). The highest imprisonment rate decreases between 2003 and 2004 were in Tasmania and Victoria (a decrease of 3% and 2% respectively). Between 1995 and 2004, all states and territories (with the exception of South Australia) recorded an increase in imprisonment rates.

IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b) — 1995 AND 2004



(a) Rates per 100,000 adult population.

(b) Imprisonment rates by states and territories are not available on a comparable basis prior to 1995.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

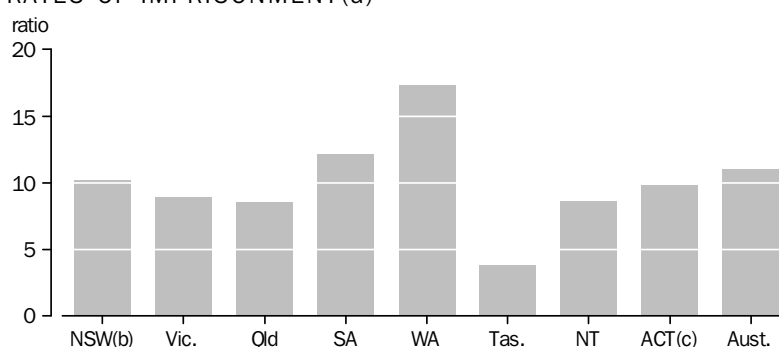
Indigenous prisoners

There were 5,048 Indigenous prisoners in Australia (21% of the prisoner population) at 30 June 2004.

The crude imprisonment rate for the Indigenous population was 1,852 prisoners per 100,000 population. After adjusting for age differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous people were 11 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to be imprisoned (age-standardised imprisonment ratio).

Western Australia recorded the highest age standardised ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment with Indigenous persons 17 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison. Tasmania had the lowest age standardised ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment, with Indigenous persons four times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison.

RATIO OF INDIGENOUS TO NON-INDIGENOUS AGE STANDARDISED RATES OF IMPRISONMENT (a)



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population.

(b) Data for NSW exclude ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons.

(c) Data for ACT include ACT prisoners held in NSW as well as ACT prisoners held in ACT.

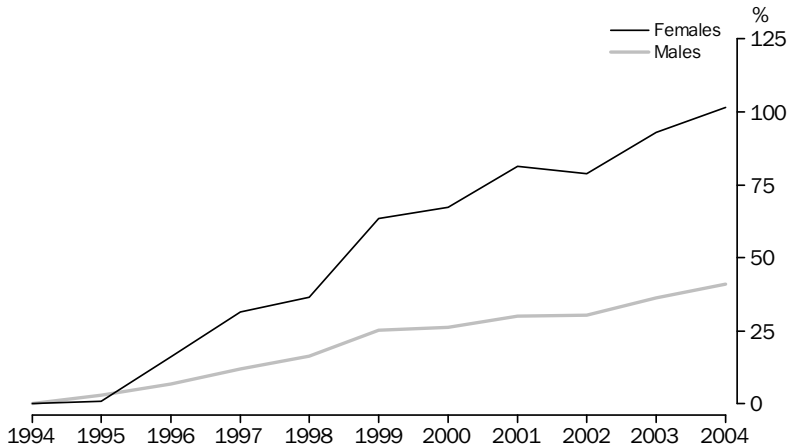
AGE AND SEX

There were 22,499 male prisoners at 30 June 2004 (93% of the prisoner population) and 1,672 female prisoners (7% of the prisoner population). The proportion of prisoners who were female ranged from 2% in Northern Territory to 8% in Western Australia. The imprisonment rate for males was 297 per 100,000 adult male population and for females it was 21 per 100,000 adult female population. While males were 14 times more likely than females to be in prison, over the past 10 years the female prisoner population has increased at a faster rate than the male prisoner population. Between 1994 and 2004, the female prisoner population has increased by 101%, in comparison to a 40% increase in the male prisoner population.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS continued

AGE AND SEX continued

CHANGE IN PRISONER NUMBERS BETWEEN 30 JUNE 1994 AND 30 JUNE 2004



Just over half of all prisoners were males aged between 20 and 34 years. The 25–29 year age group had the highest imprisonment rates for both males and females, with 641 male prisoners per 100,000 adult males aged 25–29, and 49 female prisoners per 100,000 adult females aged 25–29.

Indigenous prisoners

The age profile for Indigenous prisoners is younger than that for the overall prisoner population, with the median age for Indigenous prisoners of 29.8 years being 2.4 years less than the 32.2 years for all prisoners. Over one in twenty (6%) of all Indigenous males aged 25–29 years were in prison at 30 June 2004 (compared with 0.6% of all males aged 25–29 years).

BIRTHPLACE

Approximately three-quarters of prisoners were born in Australia (74%). Prisoners born in Viet Nam were the next largest birthplace grouping (2.8%), followed by those born in the country category of United Kingdom and Ireland (2.6%) and New Zealand (2.5%).

PREVIOUS IMPRISONMENT

The proportion of all prisoners with known prior imprisonment was 58% at 30 June 2004. The proportion of Indigenous prisoners with prior imprisonment was 77%.

MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE/CHARGE

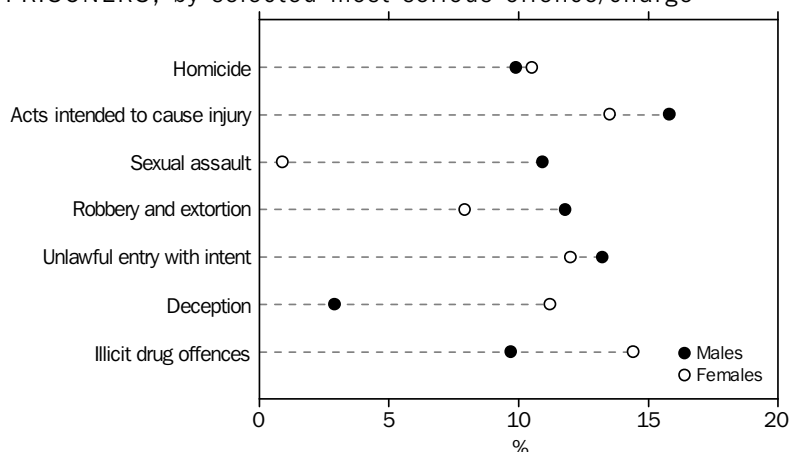
A most serious offence/charge is determined for each prisoner (see paragraphs 64–66 of the Explanatory Notes). The largest proportions of most serious offences/charges for which prisoners were either sentenced or being held on remand at 30 June 2004 were: acts intended to cause injury (16% of prisoners); unlawful entry with intent (13% of prisoners); and robbery/extortion (12% of prisoners). Prisoners within these offence categories also had a higher level of prior imprisonment than the overall prisoner population (63%, 74% and 62% of prisoners respectively).

There were proportionally more males in prison for sexual assault and related offences (11% of males, 1% of females), while deception and related offences was the most serious offence category for 11% of females and 3% of males. A higher proportion of females were also in prison for illicit drug offences (14% of females, 10% of males) and theft and related offences (12% of females and 6% of males).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE/CHARGE *continued*

PRISONERS, by selected most serious offence/charge



LEGAL STATUS

The prisoner population comprises persons who are either unsentenced or sentenced. The proportion of prisoners who were unsentenced decreased slightly between 2003 and 2004 from 21% to 20%. This proportion, however, varied across states and territories ranging from 15% in Tasmania to 35% in South Australia.

SENTENCED PRISONERS

Of those prisoners who were sentenced, the majority (56%) were serving a maximum-minimum sentence. This type of sentence relates to prisoners who may be eligible for release on parole after serving a minimum term in custody, and who must be released once the maximum term has been served. A further 34% of sentenced prisoners were serving a fixed term, while 5% were serving an indeterminate sentence (including life imprisonment).

Most prisoners were sentenced in either the District/County Court (49%) or the Magistrates' Court (27%), with 20% sentenced in the Supreme Court.

Most serious offence

Of the 19,236 sentenced prisoners, nearly one in two prisoners (47%) had a most serious offence involving violence or the threat of violence, including offences such as acts intended to cause injury (14%), robbery/extortion (12%), sexual assault and related offences (11%) and homicide and related offences (10%). Thirteen per cent of sentenced prisoners were convicted of unlawful entry with intent as their most serious offence and 10% of sentenced prisoners were convicted of illicit drug offences as their most serious offence.

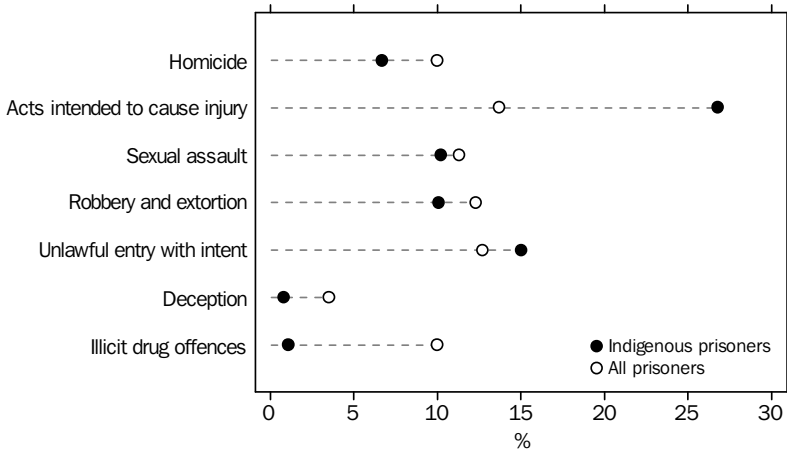
Between 1994 and 2004 there have been increases in the proportions of the sentenced prisoner population who had a most serious offence of acts intended to cause injury (increasing from 11% to 14%) and homicide and related offences (from 9% to 10%). During the same period, small decreases were recorded for unlawful entry with intent (decreasing from 14% to 13%), illicit drug offences (from 11% to 10%) and theft and related offences (from 7% to 6%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Most serious offence —
Indigenous prisoners

Of the 4,025 Indigenous sentenced prisoners, 27% had a most serious offence of acts intended to cause injury, almost twice the proportion for the overall sentenced prisoner population (14%). In contrast, 1% of the Indigenous prisoner population had a most serious offence relating to illicit drug offences, compared with 10% for the overall prisoner population.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by selected most serious offence



Sentence length

The median aggregate sentence length for all sentenced prisoners at the 30 June 2004 was 38 months or 3.2 years. (See paragraphs 60–63 of the Explanatory Notes for information about interpreting mean and median sentence lengths based on a census 'snapshot'). Prisoners who had received a 'Life' sentence comprised 4% of all sentenced prisoners while prisoners serving an aggregate sentence of less than one year comprised 17%. Nearly half (45%) of sentenced prisoners had an aggregate sentence of 2–10 years.

The proportion of sentenced prisoners serving an aggregate sentence length of 10 years and over has increased over the past 10 years; 10% of sentenced prisoners in 1994 had an aggregate sentence length of 10 years and over, compared with 13% in 2004.

Sentence length — Most
serious offence

The highest median aggregate sentence length was for prisoners with a most serious offence of homicide (174 months or 14.5 years), followed by sexual assault and related offences (84 months or 7 years). In contrast, the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners with road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences, was 9 months.

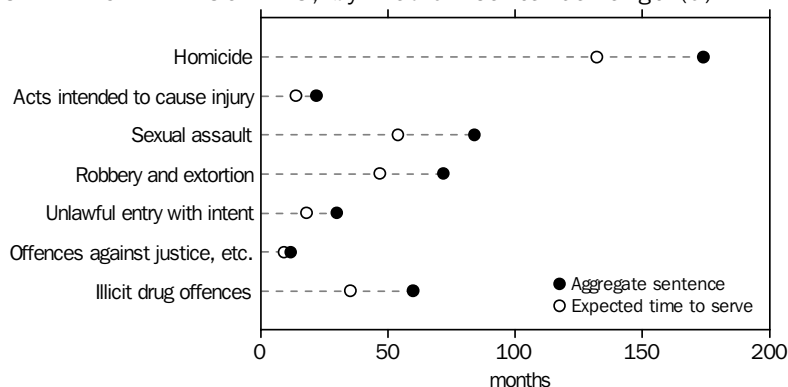
Sentence length —
Expected time to serve

Taking into account the earliest dates for release of sentenced prisoners, the median expected time to serve at 30 June 2004 was 24 months (2 years), up slightly from the 21 months (1.8 years) recorded at 30 June 2003. The proportion of prisoners with an expected time to serve of less than one year at 30 June has decreased from 31% in 2003 to 28% in 2004.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Sentence length —
Expected time to serve
continued

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by median sentence length(a)

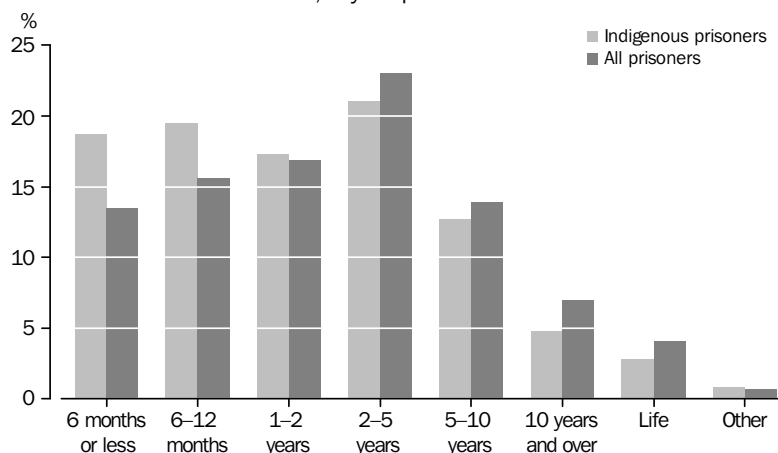


(a) Prisoners with indeterminate, life and periodic detention sentences are excluded from these calculations.

Sentence length —
Indigenous prisoners

Differences in offence types and severity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners are reflected in differences in sentence lengths. A larger proportion of Indigenous prisoners were serving shorter sentences than the overall prison population at 30 June 2004, with 39% of Indigenous prisoners expected to serve less than 12 months, compared with 28% of all prisoners.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by expected time to serve



The median aggregate sentence length for Indigenous prisoners was 24 months (2 years), while the median expected time to serve was 15 months (1.3 years).

PERIODIC DETAINEES

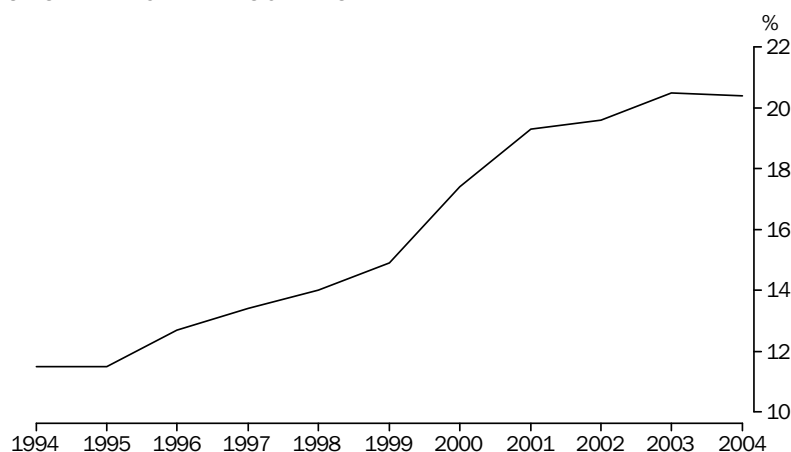
The sentencing option of periodic detainment, where detainees are in custody for two consecutive days in a week and remain at liberty for the rest of the week, applies only in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. There were 830 periodic detainees as at 30 June 2004, a decrease of 4% since 2003.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

Unsentenced (remand) prisoners include unconvicted prisoners awaiting a court hearing or trial, convicted prisoners awaiting sentencing and persons awaiting deportation. The proportion of unsentenced prisoners remained unchanged since 2003 with 20% (4,935) of the total prisoner population in this category at 30 June 2004. Over the past 10 years, unsentenced prisoners have accounted for an increasing number and proportion of the total prisoner population. The proportion of prisoners on remand has increased from 12% in 1994 to 20% in 2004.

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS



Most serious charge

Of the unsentenced prisoner population, 23% were awaiting trial or sentence for a most serious charge related to acts intended to cause injury (24% in 2003), 15% for unlawful entry with intent (16% in 2003) and 9% for robbery/extortion (11% in 2003).

Remand length

The median time spent on remand up to 30 June 2004 was 2.8 months. One in ten prisoners held on remand at 30 June had spent more than 12.5 months in custody (a 10% decrease on the previous year).

PRISONERS, annual comparisons, 1994–2004

	SEX		INDIGENOUS STATUS		LEGAL STATUS		ALL PRISONERS
	Males	Females	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous(a)	Sentenced	Unsentenced	
NUMBER							
1994	16 114	830	2 796	14 148	14 998	1 946	16 944
1995	16 591	837	2 980	14 448	15 429	1 999	17 428
1996	17 229	964	3 275	14 918	15 887	2 306	18 193
1997	18 038	1 090	3 577	15 551	16 522	2 606	19 128
1998	18 771	1 135	3 742	16 164	17 118	2 788	19 906
1999	20 181	1 357	4 308	17 230	18 332	3 206	21 538
2000	20 324	1 390	4 104	17 610	17 929	3 785	21 714
2001	20 953	1 505	4 447	18 011	18 123	4 335	22 458
2002	21 008	1 484	4 498	17 994	18 078	4 414	22 492
2003	21 953	1 602	4 829	18 726	18 738	4 817	23 555
2004	22 499	1 672	5 048	19 123	19 236	4 935	24 171
% CHANGE IN NUMBERS							
1994	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1995	3.0	0.8	6.6	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.9
1996	3.8	15.3	9.9	3.3	3.0	15.4	4.4
1997	4.7	13.1	9.2	4.2	4.0	13.0	5.1
1998	4.1	4.1	4.6	3.9	3.6	7.0	4.1
1999	7.5	19.6	15.1	6.6	7.1	15.0	8.2
2000	0.7	2.4	-4.7	2.2	-2.2	18.1	0.8
2001	3.1	8.3	8.4	2.3	1.1	14.5	3.4
2002	0.3	-1.3	1.2	-0.1	-0.2	1.8	0.2
2003	4.5	7.9	7.3	4.1	3.7	9.1	4.7
2004	2.5	4.4	4.5	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.6
.. not applicable							
(a) Includes unknown Indigenous status.							

PRISONERS, by states and territories

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in ACT	ACT in NSW(a)	ACT Total	Aust. (b)
NUMBER											
Males	8 671	3 380	4 881	1 393	2 900	425	701	148	111	259	22 499
Females	658	244	359	92	269	22	16	12	7	19	1 672
Indigenous	1 576	186	1 195	249	1 217	59	556	10	16	26	5 048
Non-Indigenous	7 629	3 438	3 989	1 069	1 952	388	161	150	102	252	18 776
Unknown	124	—	56	167	—	—	—	—	—	—	347
Sentenced	7 458	3 010	4 079	970	2 668	379	587	85	118	203	19 236
Unsented	1 871	614	1 161	515	501	68	130	75	—	75	4 935
All Prisoners	9 329	3 624	5 240	1 485	3 169	447	717	160	118	278	24 171
PROPORTION (%)											
Males	92.9	93.3	93.1	93.8	91.5	95.1	97.8	92.5	94.1	93.2	93.1
Females	7.1	6.7	6.9	6.2	8.5	4.9	2.2	7.5	np	6.8	6.9
Indigenous	16.9	5.1	22.8	16.8	38.4	13.2	77.5	6.3	13.6	9.4	20.9
Non-Indigenous	81.8	94.9	76.1	72.0	61.6	86.6	22.5	93.8	86.4	90.6	77.7
Unknown	1.3	—	1.1	11.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.4
Sentenced	79.9	83.1	77.8	65.3	84.2	84.8	81.9	53.1	100.0	73.0	79.6
Unsented	20.1	16.9	22.2	34.7	15.8	15.2	18.1	46.9	—	27.0	20.4
All Prisoners	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are not separately counted in the Australian totals. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

IMPRISONMENT RATES(a), by states and territories

	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(c)	Aust.
Males	339.4	178.9	333.2	239.8	391.6	239.9	946.1	214.1	297.2
Females	25.0	12.3	24.0	15.2	35.9	11.8	24.3	15.1	21.4
Crude rate									
Indigenous	2 012.2	1 068.8	1 572.2	1 623.7	3 114.4	597.2	1 589.4	1 094.7	1 851.9
Non-Indigenous	149.1	89.2	138.3	91.4	134.5	109.4	153.5	103.0	124.3
Ratio of Crude Rates(d)	13.5	12.0	11.4	17.8	23.2	5.5	10.4	10.6	14.9
Age Standardised rate									
Indigenous	1 561.9	810.5	1 203.5	1 218.5	2 358.7	467.2	1 218.7	867.8	1 416.9
Non-Indigenous	153.6	91.1	141.4	100.1	136.6	121.3	141.0	88.9	129.0
Ratio of Age Standardised Rates(d)	10.2	8.9	8.5	12.2	17.3	3.9	8.6	9.8	11.0
All prisoners	179.7	93.6	177.0	125.3	212.6	122.9	512.6	112.6	157.1

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–29 and Appendix 2.

(b) Data for NSW excludes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons.

(c) Data for ACT include ACT prisoners held in NSW as well as ACT prisoners held in ACT. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 20.

(d) The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment is calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

PRISONERS, by age and sex

Age group (years)	MALES			FEMALES			PERSONS		
	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)	no.	%	rate(a)
ALL PRISONERS									
Under 18(b)	36	0.2	58.4	3	np	np	39	0.2	32.4
18	261	1.2	182.6	5	np	np	266	1.1	95.2
19	450	2.0	312.1	25	1.5	18.1	475	2.0	168.2
20–24	4 107	18.3	572.9	289	17.3	42.1	4 396	18.2	313.3
25–29	4 387	19.5	640.6	334	20.0	49.4	4 721	19.5	346.9
30–34	4 289	19.1	568.5	353	21.1	46.1	4 642	19.2	305.5
35–39	3 192	14.2	440.1	251	15.0	34.2	3 443	14.2	235.8
40–44	2 229	9.9	290.9	189	11.3	24.5	2 418	10.0	157.2
45–49	1 424	6.3	201.3	108	6.5	15.1	1 532	6.3	107.6
50–54	883	3.9	134.6	55	3.3	8.3	938	3.9	71.2
55–59	600	2.7	99.9	33	2.0	5.6	633	2.6	53.2
60–64	327	1.5	72.3	17	1.0	3.8	344	1.4	38.4
65 years and over	295	1.3	25.5	10	0.6	0.7	305	1.3	11.8
Unknown	19	0.1	..	—	—	..	19	0.1	..
Total	22 499	100.0	297.2	1 672	100.0	21.4	24 171	100.0	157.1
Mean age	34.2	..	..	34.0	..	..	34.2	..	..
Median age	32.2	..	..	32.3	..	..	32.2	..	..

INDIGENOUS PRISONERS									
Under 18(b)	np	np	np	np	np	np	13	0.3	385.9
18	np	np	np	np	np	np	93	1.8	917.1
19	154	3.3	3 091.1	12	2.8	251.4	166	3.3	1 701.7
20–24	1 058	22.9	5 031.6	100	23.6	479.3	1 158	22.9	2 764.4
25–29	1 048	22.7	5 996.1	100	23.6	545.8	1 148	22.7	3 206.6
30–34	959	20.7	5 389.2	92	21.7	473.3	1 051	20.8	2 822.9
35–39	612	13.2	4 062.9	57	13.4	335.9	669	13.3	2 088.5
40–44	402	8.7	2 981.8	33	7.8	222.0	435	8.6	1 534.7
45–49	160	3.5	1 486.2	19	4.5	164.0	179	3.5	800.8
50–54	70	1.5	828.0	5	np	np	75	1.5	429.2
55–59	np	np	np	np	np	np	39	0.8	314.2
60–64	8	np	np	—	—	—	8	np	np
65 years and over	np	np	np	np	np	np	14	0.3	104.4
Total	4 624	100.0	3 511.3	424	100.0	300.9	5 048	100.0	1 851.9
Mean age	31.0	..	..	31.0	..	..	31.0	..	..
Median age	29.8	..	..	29.8	..	..	29.8	..	..

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–22.

(b) Rates for age group under 18 years are based on population aged 17 years in Victoria and Queensland only.

PRISONERS, by country of birth

ALL PRISONERS			
	no.	%	rate(a)
Australia	17 954	74.3	165.7
New Zealand	606	2.5	156.0
Papua New Guinea	53	0.2	212.9
Fiji	105	0.4	216.2
Samoa	66	0.3	444.7
Tonga	46	0.2	532.2
United Kingdom and Ireland	638	2.6	54.9
Germany	69	0.3	59.8
Netherlands	52	0.2	57.9
Italy	104	0.4	44.3
Malta	31	0.1	60.8
Greece	66	0.3	50.6
Romania	67	0.3	467.6
Former Yugoslavia(b)	175	0.7	86.9
Lebanon	180	0.7	225.2
Turkey	71	0.3	208.5
Cambodia	47	0.2	188.6
Laos	34	0.1	328.1
Viet Nam	668	2.8	395.8
Indonesia	82	0.3	149.4
Malaysia	70	0.3	80.6
Philippines	72	0.3	65.6
Singapore	47	0.2	131.3
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	144	0.6	90.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	65	0.3	90.6
India	42	0.2	39.7
United States of America	56	0.2	100.7
South Africa	57	0.2	64.8
Other	842	3.5	98.2
Unknown	1 662	6.9	—
Total	24 171	100.0	158.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 26-27.

(b) This comprises Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

PRISONERS, by type of sentence

	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in ACT	ACT in NSW(a)	ACT Total	Aust. (b)
NUMBER											
Sentenced											
Indeterminate	np	np	327	127	206	24	np	—	4	4	987
Max-min(c)	5 305	2 295	—	751	2 000	—	352	—	90	90	10 703
Fixed term	1 186	670	3 738	92	358	355	195	—	24	24	6 594
Fine default only	np	np	14	—	104	—	np	—	—	—	122
Periodic detention	745	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	..	85	830
Total	7 458	3 010	4 079	970	2 668	379	587	85	118	203	19 236
Unsentenced	1 871	614	1 161	515	501	68	130	75	—	75	4 935
Time on remand											
Mean (months)	5.1	5.2	7.0	3.8	3.7	2.0	3.9	2.2	—	2.2	5.2
Median (months)	2.9	2.6	3.7	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.2	1.3	—	1.3	2.8
90th percentile (months)	12.4	12.9	17.0	9.7	9.7	4.9	9.1	5.4	—	5.4	12.5
Total	9 329	3 624	5 240	1 485	3 169	447	717	160	118	278	24 171
PROPORTION (%)											
Sentenced											
Indeterminate	np	np	6.2	8.6	6.5	5.4	np	—	np	np	4.1
Max-min(c)	56.9	63.3	—	50.6	63.1	—	49.1	—	76.3	32.4	44.3
Fixed term	12.7	18.5	71.3	6.2	11.3	79.4	27.2	—	20.3	8.6	27.3
Fine default only	np	np	0.3	—	3.3	—	np	—	—	—	0.5
Periodic detention	8.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	53.1	..	30.6	3.4
Total	80.0	83.1	77.8	65.4	84.2	84.8	81.9	53.1	100.0	73.0	79.6
Unsentenced	20.1	16.9	22.2	34.7	15.8	15.2	18.1	46.9	—	27.0	20.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are not separately counted in the Australian totals. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

(c) See Glossary for definition of max-min sentence type.

PRISONERS, by legal status and most serious offence

	SENTENCED			UNSENTENCED			ALL PRISONERS		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Homicide and related offences	1 784	137	1 921	448	38	486	2 232	175	2 407
Acts intended to cause injury	2 483	157	2 640	1 069	69	1 138	3 552	226	3 778
Sexual assault and related offences	np	np	2 182	np	np	283	2 450	15	2 465
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	290	17	307	48	3	51	338	20	358
Abduction and related offences	108	13	121	69	4	73	177	17	194
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2 269	98	2 367	396	34	430	2 665	132	2 797
Unlawful entry with intent	2 307	127	2 434	668	73	741	2 975	200	3 175
Theft and related offences	1 075	152	1 227	367	42	409	1 442	194	1 636
Deception and related offences	509	165	674	145	22	167	654	187	841
Illicit drug offences	1 739	186	1 925	450	54	504	2 189	240	2 429
Weapons and explosive offences	np	np	104	np	np	60	np	np	164
Property damage and environmental pollution	239	11	250	74	5	79	313	16	329
Public order offences	119	5	124	36	3	39	155	8	163
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	np	np	1 073	np	np	52	np	np	1 125
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 431	131	1 562	267	27	294	1 698	158	1 856
Miscellaneous offences	307	18	325	111	17	128	418	35	453
Total^(a)	17 959	1 277	19 236	4 540	395	4 935	22 499	1 672	24 171

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes prisoners whose most serious offence was unknown.

PRISONERS, by prior imprisonment and most serious offence/charge(a)

	<i>PRIOR IMPRISONMENT</i>		<i>NO PRIOR IMPRISONMENT</i>		<i>TOTAL (b)</i>	
	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>
Homicide and related offences	992	41.2	1 391	57.8	2 407	100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	2 395	63.4	1 348	35.7	3 778	100.0
Sexual assault and related offences	1 007	40.9	1 381	56.0	2 465	100.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	234	65.4	123	34.4	358	100.0
Abduction and related offences	89	45.9	103	53.1	194	100.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	1 732	61.9	1 055	37.7	2 797	100.0
Unlawful entry with intent	2 347	73.9	817	25.7	3 175	100.0
Theft and related offences	1 132	69.2	499	30.5	1 636	100.0
Deception and related offences	338	40.2	487	57.9	841	100.0
Illicit drug offences	871	35.9	1 522	62.7	2 429	100.0
Weapons and explosives offences	92	56.1	71	43.3	164	100.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	184	55.9	139	42.2	329	100.0
Public order offences	99	60.7	63	38.7	163	100.0
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	774	68.8	345	30.7	1 125	100.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	1 430	77.0	422	22.7	1 856	100.0
Miscellaneous offences	191	42.2	240	53.0	453	100.0
Total(c)	13 907	57.5	10 007	41.4	24 171	100.0

(a) Prisoners who have had previous imprisonment in another state or territory may not be counted as having prior imprisonment. See Glossary for complete definition of prior imprisonment.

(b) Includes prisoners whose prior imprisonment status is unknown.

(c) Includes prisoners whose most serious offence/charge is unknown.

INDIGENOUS PRISONERS, by prior imprisonment and most serious offence/charge(a)

	PRIOR IMPRISONMENT		NO PRIOR IMPRISONMENT		TOTAL(b)	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Homicide and related offences	221	67.0	108	32.7	330	100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1 170	78.8	305	20.6	1 484	100.0
Sexual assault and related offences	328	69.8	139	29.6	470	100.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	107	83.6	21	16.4	128	100.0
Abduction and related offences	16	64.0	9	np	25	100.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	339	71.1	137	28.7	477	100.0
Unlawful entry with intent	605	77.3	178	22.7	783	100.0
Theft and related offences	206	76.9	61	22.8	268	100.0
Deception and related offences	24	57.1	18	42.9	42	100.0
Illicit drug offences	39	65.0	21	35.0	60	100.0
Weapons and explosives offences	15	75.0	5	np	20	100.0
Property damage and environmental pollution	60	74.1	20	24.7	81	100.0
Public order offences	28	71.8	11	28.2	39	100.0
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	229	86.7	35	13.3	264	100.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	432	84.7	78	15.3	510	100.0
Miscellaneous offences	57	85.1	9	np	67	100.0
Total	3 876	76.8	1 155	22.9	5 048	100.0

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Prisoners who have had previous imprisonment in another state or territory may not be counted as having prior imprisonment. See Glossary for complete definition of prior imprisonment.

(b) Includes prisoners whose prior imprisonment status is unknown.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by level of court and most serious offence

	<i>Supreme</i>	<i>District/County</i>	<i>Magistrates'</i>	<i>Other(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Homicide and related offences	1 647	251	np	np	1 921
Acts intended to cause injury	265	1 311	1 055	9	2 640
Sexual assault and related offences	378	1 713	65	26	2 182
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	18	103	186	—	307
Abduction and related offences	np	89	np	—	121
Robbery, extortion and related offences	560	1 721	64	22	2 367
Unlawful entry with intent	114	1 339	972	9	2 434
Theft and related offences	34	446	744	3	1 227
Deception and related offences	np	429	205	np	674
Illicit drug offences	542	1 183	179	21	1 925
Weapons and explosives offences	9	56	39	—	104
Property damage and environmental pollution	50	125	75	—	250
Public order offences	6	61	57	—	124
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	6	197	870	—	1 073
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	42	178	534	808	1 562
Miscellaneous offences	44	210	67	4	325
Total	3 784	9 412	5 123	917	19 236

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes Children's Court, administrative decision and the Federal Court of Australia.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by most serious offence and aggregate sentence(a)(b)

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 & under 6 months</i>	<i>6 & under 12 months</i>	<i>1 & under 2 years</i>	<i>2 & under 5 years</i>	<i>5 & under 10 years</i>	<i>10 & under 15 years</i>	<i>15 & under 20 years</i>
Homicide and related offences	5	—	np	np	10	33	312	178	305
Acts intended to cause injury	178	69	176	385	602	653	423	72	31
Sexual assault and related offences	20	3	15	28	98	398	955	438	118
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	np	np	21	73	93	62	14	—	—
Abduction and related offences	np	—	np	np	4	38	48	20	4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	41	—	np	38	110	666	1 049	298	99
Unlawful entry with intent	48	17	74	194	600	1 013	415	54	12
Theft and related offences	65	46	119	267	349	279	85	14	np
Deception and related offences	65	np	29	89	131	227	113	13	np
Illicit drug offences	104	np	45	101	200	489	606	225	68
Weapons and explosives offences	10	np	7	11	19	28	22	np	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	8	4	21	31	36	71	50	20	np
Public order offences	9	7	11	13	40	np	np	np	np
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	212	88	146	271	300	np	np	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	33	110	242	428	422	265	43	8	4
Miscellaneous offences	np	14	23	32	38	80	95	25	9
Total	830	394	937	1 964	3 052	4 382	4 243	1 370	657

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on aggregate sentence see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 41.

	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(e)	Median (months)(e)
Homicide and related offences	264	748	64	1 921	10.0	165.5	174.0
Acts intended to cause injury	7	4	40	2 640	13.7	36.8	22.0
Sexual assault and related offences	49	9	51	2 182	11.3	94.4	84.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	—	—	307	1.6	19.3	12.0
Abduction and related offences	np	—	np	121	0.6	81.4	72.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	43	np	16	2 367	12.3	82.6	72.0
Unlawful entry with intent	np	—	np	2 434	12.7	38.8	30.0
Theft and related offences	—	—	np	1 227	6.4	23.2	13.0
Deception and related offences	—	—	—	674	3.5	36.3	30.0
Illicit drug offences	48	30	np	1 925	10.0	73.7	60.0
Weapons and explosives offences	—	—	—	104	0.5	39.4	27.1
Property damage and environmental pollution	np	—	np	250	1.3	47.5	32.4
Public order offences	—	—	3	124	0.6	29.1	15.9
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	—	—	np	1 073	5.6	10.4	9.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	—	np	np	1 562	8.1	17.3	11.7
Miscellaneous offences	3	—	np	325	1.7	57.1	48.0
Total	420	795	192	19 236	100.0	59.0	38.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on aggregate sentence see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 41.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with a minimum.

(d) Refers to indeterminate other sentences.

(e) See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 62–63.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by most serious offence and expected time to serve(a)(b)

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 & under 6 months</i>	<i>6 & under 12 months</i>	<i>1 & under 2 years</i>	<i>2 & under 5 years</i>	<i>5 & under 10 years</i>	<i>10 & under 15 years</i>	<i>15 & under 20 years</i>
Homicide and related offences	5	np	np	5	23	202	284	342	191
Acts intended to cause injury	178	142	345	564	571	530	217	39	9
Sexual assault and related offences	20	7	36	84	242	772	723	193	31
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	np	28	63	91	59	39	np	—	—
Abduction and related offences	np	np	np	7	15	47	38	6	np
Robbery, extortion and related offences	41	np	26	97	383	974	628	153	34
Unlawful entry with intent	48	39	195	488	688	776	158	33	4
Theft and related offences	65	99	251	353	237	177	34	np	—
Deception and related offences	65	28	78	136	162	171	31	np	np
Illicit drug offences	104	26	92	208	364	603	389	81	25
Weapons and explosives offences	10	5	13	18	19	32	7	—	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	8	20	25	40	53	60	31	7	np
Public order offences	9	11	18	34	24	19	np	np	—
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	212	151	272	286	143	9	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	33	163	320	457	370	180	29	3	—
Miscellaneous offences	np	25	31	42	56	110	44	11	—
Total	830	753	1 771	2 910	3 409	4 701	2 618	882	297

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 42–43.

	20 years & over	Life(c)	Other(d)	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(e)	Median (months)(e)
Homicide and related offences	112	689	64	1 921	10.0	134.3	132.1
Acts intended to cause injury	np	np	40	2 640	13.7	25.4	13.9
Sexual assault and related offences	14	8	51	2 182	11.3	64.7	54.1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	—	—	307	1.6	13.1	8.9
Abduction and related offences	—	—	np	121	0.6	53.2	41.4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	7	np	16	2 367	12.3	56.4	46.8
Unlawful entry with intent	np	—	np	2 434	12.7	26.9	18.1
Theft and related offences	—	—	np	1 227	6.4	16.0	9.0
Deception and related offences	—	—	—	674	3.5	22.0	14.9
Illicit drug offences	np	26	np	1 925	10.0	46.5	35.4
Weapons and explosives offences	—	—	—	104	0.5	24.7	16.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	—	—	np	250	1.3	31.3	18.0
Public order offences	—	—	3	124	0.6	19.2	10.0
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	—	—	—	1 073	5.6	7.3	6.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	—	np	np	1 562	8.1	13.6	9.0
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	np	325	1.7	35.1	25.7
Total	141	731	192	19 236	100.0	41.4	23.8

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 42–43.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum.

(d) Refers to indeterminate other sentences.

(e) Prisoners with indeterminate, life and periodic detention sentences are excluded from these calculations. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 62–63.

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 & under 6 months</i>	<i>6 & under 12 months</i>	<i>1 & under 2 years</i>	<i>2 & under 5 years</i>	<i>5 & under 10 years</i>	<i>10 & under 15 years</i>
Homicide and related offences	—	—	—	—	np	np	59	40
Acts intended to cause injury	17	38	86	202	313	265	122	16
Sexual assault and related offences	np	np	np	6	16	62	163	95
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	14	7	31	42	19	4	—
Abduction and related offences	—	—	—	np	np	8	5	4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	—	np	5	21	117	177	53
Unlawful entry with intent	np	7	20	54	164	235	103	13
Theft and related offences	6	10	18	47	58	47	22	np
Deception and related offences	5	np	np	6	7	9	np	np
Illicit drug offences	np	np	np	8	3	14	11	np
Weapons and explosives offences	—	—	3	5	np	np	np	np
Property damage and environmental pollution	np	np	10	10	9	15	10	np
Public order offences	np	4	np	np	11	5	np	—
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	np	38	48	78	63	12	np	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	np	34	67	125	115	72	7	np
Miscellaneous offences	—	3	np	10	7	18	13	np
Total	51	152	271	590	834	907	700	232

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on aggregate sentence see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 41.

	15 years and over	Life(c)	Other(d)	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(e)	Median (months)(e)
Homicide and related offences	56	95	11	269	6.7	139.4	120.0
Acts intended to cause injury	10	—	11	1 080	26.8	29.3	16.2
Sexual assault and related offences	42	np	18	411	10.2	102.9	96.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	—	—	117	2.9	16.7	12.0
Abduction and related offences	—	—	—	20	0.5	69.7	54.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	23	—	np	406	10.1	81.3	72.0
Unlawful entry with intent	np	—	—	602	15.0	38.0	28.0
Theft and related offences	np	—	—	213	5.3	27.0	13.7
Deception and related offences	—	—	—	32	0.8	23.7	15.1
Illicit drug offences	np	—	—	43	1.1	45.9	36.0
Weapons and explosives offences	—	—	—	14	0.3	26.9	9.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	np	—	—	60	1.5	35.4	22.3
Public order offences	—	—	—	27	0.7	18.8	13.0
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	—	—	—	249	6.2	9.4	7.4
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	np	np	np	426	10.6	15.7	10.9
Miscellaneous offences	np	—	—	56	1.4	42.0	31.5
Total	141	102	45	4 025	100.0	45.8	24.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on aggregate sentence see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 41.

(c) Includes indeterminate life and life with minimum.

(d) Refers to indeterminate other sentences.

(e) Prisoners with indeterminate, life and periodic detention sentences are excluded from these calculations. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 62–63.

	<i>Periodic detention</i>	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 & under 6 months</i>	<i>6 & under 12 months</i>	<i>1 & under 2 years</i>	<i>2 & under 5 years</i>	<i>5 & under 10 years</i>	<i>10 & under 15 years</i>
Homicide and related offences	—	—	—	np	np	38	59	40
Acts intended to cause injury	17	74	179	277	257	186	64	11
Sexual assault and related offences	np	np	7	8	35	132	145	43
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	17	32	37	17	14	—	—
Abduction and related offences	—	—	np	np	6	5	6	np
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	np	5	21	58	165	108	35
Unlawful entry with intent	np	14	48	138	172	175	45	np
Theft and related offences	6	17	46	55	38	38	10	3
Deception and related offences	5	np	4	9	6	4	np	—
Illicit drug offences	np	np	8	6	11	7	7	np
Weapons and explosives offences	—	np	3	6	—	np	np	—
Property damage and environmental pollution	np	8	8	10	14	14	3	np
Public order offences	np	5	np	9	np	4	—	—
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	np	50	76	81	30	np	—	—
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	np	55	83	135	98	43	8	—
Miscellaneous offences	—	5	6	7	16	16	np	np
Total	51	254	508	802	767	847	461	145

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 42–43.

	15 years and over	Life(c)	Other(d)	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)(e)	Median (months)(e)
Homicide and related offences	34	81	11	269	6.7	117.1	102.9
Acts intended to cause injury	4	—	11	1 080	26.8	20.8	12.0
Sexual assault and related offences	15	np	18	411	10.2	73.0	63.3
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	—	—	—	117	2.9	10.7	6.5
Abduction and related offences	—	—	—	20	0.5	47.2	30.1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	4	—	np	406	10.1	56.4	47.4
Unlawful entry with intent	—	—	—	602	15.0	26.3	17.7
Theft and related offences	—	—	—	213	5.3	18.6	9.1
Deception and related offences	—	—	—	32	0.8	15.1	9.0
Illicit drug offences	—	—	—	43	1.1	30.0	18.1
Weapons and explosives offences	—	—	—	14	0.3	17.7	8.7
Property damage and environmental pollution	—	—	—	60	1.5	22.1	12.1
Public order offences	—	—	—	27	0.7	12.7	9.0
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	—	—	—	249	6.2	6.8	6.0
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	—	np	np	426	10.6	12.7	9.0
Miscellaneous offences	—	—	—	56	1.4	31.6	16.7
Total	57	88	45	4 025	100.0	33.2	15.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Refers to most serious offence. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 64–65.

(b) For information on expected time to serve see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 42–43.

(c) Includes only indeterminate life and life with minimum.

(d) Refers to indeterminate other sentences.

(e) Prisoners with indeterminate, life and periodic detention sentences are excluded from these calculations. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 62–63.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by time on remand and most serious charge

	PRISONERS		TIME ON REMAND		
	no.	%	Mean months	Median months	90th percentile months
Homicide and related offences	486	9.8	10.4	8.0	20.3
Acts intended to cause injury	1 138	23.1	4.1	2.1	10.0
Sexual assault and related offences	283	5.7	6.0	4.1	13.1
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	51	1.0	2.8	1.4	6.7
Abduction and related offences	73	1.5	6.7	3.9	11.8
Robbery, extortion and related offences	430	8.7	5.4	3.7	12.7
Unlawful entry with intent	741	15.0	4.0	2.1	9.5
Theft and related offences	409	8.3	3.4	1.6	7.9
Deception and related offences	167	3.4	4.3	1.9	10.6
Illicit drug offences	504	10.2	6.0	3.6	13.4
Weapons and explosives offences	60	1.2	6.0	4.3	12.3
Property damage and environmental pollution	79	1.6	3.8	1.2	9.5
Public order offences	39	0.8	3.1	1.0	10.8
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	52	1.1	6.0	2.2	17.7
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	294	6.0	3.1	1.2	7.4
Miscellaneous offences	128	2.6	7.2	3.4	16.8
Total(a)	4 935	100.0	5.2	2.8	12.5

(a) Includes prisoners whose most serious charge is unknown.

PRISONER CHARACTERISTICS, by states and territories, 1994–2004

	ALL PRISONERS	MEAN AGE	FEMALES	INDIGENOUS PRISONERS	KNOWN PRIOR IMPRISONMENT	REMANDEES
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
NEW SOUTH WALES (a)(b)						
1994	7 711	31.9	5.3	10.7	56.0	9.6
1995	7 749	32.1	5.3	11.5	51.7	9.3
1996	7 691	32.1	5.7	12.4	54.4	10.5
1997	7 957	32.2	6.0	12.7	54.8	12.5
1998	7 810	32.9	6.0	14.0	65.8	13.5
1999	8 433	32.9	6.8	15.0	54.9	15.7
2000	8 547	33.1	6.7	14.6	51.5	17.4
2001	8 846	32.9	7.0	15.1	54.3	18.5
2002	8 759	33.0	6.9	17.2	54.4	18.7
2003	8 881	33.4	6.7	17.6	53.3	20.7
2004	9 329	33.8	7.1	16.9	55.8	20.1
VICTORIA (c)						
1994	2 522	32.7	5.3	5.6	65.9	13.2
1995	2 467	33.5	4.7	5.2	64.1	14.1
1996	2 440	34.2	5.2	4.5	64.9	15.7
1997	2 643	33.9	5.8	5.0	63.5	15.8
1998	2 858	34.4	5.3	4.4	62.9	15.3
1999	2 923	34.6	6.1	4.2	62.8	14.3
2000	3 153	34.5	5.8	4.4	60.4	13.8
2001	3 391	34.4	7.3	4.4	63.0	14.7
2002	3 540	34.8	7.2	4.5	63.0	16.4
2003	3 763	35.2	7.5	4.6	52.9	18.5
2004	3 624	35.8	6.7	5.1	52.6	16.9
QUEENSLAND (d)						
1994	2 491	30.4	4.0	22.2	60.7	13.1
1995	2 870	30.8	3.7	22.2	61.1	11.6
1996	2 528	30.7	4.9	22.9	61.1	12.5
1997	3 839	30.8	4.9	24.5	60.7	11.8
1998	4 466	31.7	4.8	23.1	62.3	12.5
1999	4 710	32.1	5.8	23.5	61.8	13.8
2000	4 482	32.6	5.8	23.4	65.2	15.6
2001	4 517	33.0	6.4	25.4	66.5	20.1
2002	4 721	33.5	6.1	25.1	65.2	20.5
2003	5 243	34.2	6.6	22.7	65.5	20.8
2004	5 240	34.5	6.9	22.8	64.1	22.2
SOUTH AUSTRALIA						
1994	1 348	30.0	5.3	17.1	80.9	16.2
1995	1 401	30.7	5.1	18.4	63.9	16.0
1996	1 475	31.0	6.2	17.6	62.8	18.4
1997	1 492	31.4	6.2	18.0	63.6	18.1
1998	1 385	32.1	6.2	17.5	62.6	18.1
1999	1 396	32.4	4.9	18.3	65.3	20.0
2000	1 299	32.5	5.8	17.3	66.4	27.4
2001	1 389	32.7	5.7	16.6	62.3	34.3
2002	1 461	33.4	5.7	16.6	55.9	33.5
2003	1 455	33.8	7.1	16.8	60.1	32.4
2004	1 485	34.5	6.2	16.8	49.1	34.7

(a) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 14–15.

(b) Information on ACT periodic detainees held in NSW prisons is unavailable before 1997.

(c) Refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 68.

(d) For changes in scope, refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

	ALL PRISONERS	MEAN AGE	FEMALES	INDIGENOUS PRISONERS	KNOWN PRIOR IMPRISONMENT	REMANDEES
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
WESTERN AUSTRALIA						
1994	2 137	30.5	4.6	32.2	54.6	9.9
1995	2 205	30.7	5.4	32.4	54.3	11.6
1996	2 254	30.8	5.3	33.3	53.2	11.0
1997	2 245	31.1	6.7	33.4	51.6	12.8
1998	2 352	31.5	6.7	32.2	50.4	12.7
1999	3 048	31.7	7.4	34.0	51.6	12.7
2000	3 124	32.2	7.9	32.1	48.7	15.8
2001	3 170	32.6	6.9	33.8	50.1	17.6
2002	2 800	32.8	6.9	31.1	51.3	17.8
2003	2 899	33.2	7.5	35.1	53.0	15.6
2004	3 169	33.5	8.5	38.4	55.5	15.8
TASMANIA						
1994	258	31.3	3.5	10.1	59.7	14.0
1995	244	30.1	2.5	5.7	62.7	17.6
1996	285	30.8	2.8	9.8	55.4	16.1
1997	263	31.8	1.9	12.9	60.8	12.2
1998	314	30.9	4.1	8.9	56.1	18.5
1999	343	31.2	5.5	10.5	60.1	11.7
2000	390	31.0	5.1	10.0	57.7	20.5
2001	346	32.2	5.8	11.6	62.7	21.4
2002	427	31.9	7.0	14.3	60.7	20.8
2003	453	33.5	5.3	11.7	58.7	21.6
2004	447	34.0	4.9	13.2	67.8	15.2
NORTHERN TERRITORY						
1994	455	29.4	2.6	72.7	74.5	13.0
1995	471	30.0	1.7	72.6	44.8	11.7
1996	482	30.2	2.5	74.7	45.6	15.6
1997	606	30.9	3.5	72.4	62.9	11.9
1998	635	30.9	4.7	72.6	61.9	14.0
1999	618	30.9	3.9	77.2	62.5	11.5
2000	635	31.3	2.4	60.8	59.1	27.2
2001	717	32.0	2.6	63.6	64.0	18.0
2002	667	32.4	3.1	68.8	73.9	15.3
2003	729	32.6	3.0	78.3	80.7	16.0
2004	717	33.0	2.2	77.5	81.7	18.1
PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY PRISONS (a)(b)						
1994	22	27.3	29.4	9.1	27.3	100.0
1995	21	28.0	5.0	14.3	38.1	100.0
1996	38	28.5	11.8	10.5	50.0	100.0
1997	83	27.6	3.6	10.8	56.8	44.6
1998	86	29.4	8.1	12.8	36.0	50.0
1999	67	31.4	10.4	10.4	14.9	61.2
2000	84	31.0	11.9	9.5	39.3	65.5
2001	82	29.7	6.1	14.6	43.9	64.6
2002	117	29.8	6.8	11.1	35.9	41.0
2003	132	31.2	4.5	3.0	28.8	42.4
2004	160	30.9	7.5	6.3	15.6	46.9

(a) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 14–15.

(b) The ABS began counting periodic detainees for the ACT in 1997. Prior to 1997 all information is for unsentenced prisoners in Belconnen Remand Centre only. In 2002 the ACT changed the way it counts periodic detainees. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 71.

	ALL PRISONERS	MEAN AGE	FEMALES	INDIGENOUS PRISONERS	KNOWN PRIOR IMPRISONMENT	REMANDEES
	no.	years	%	%	%	%
.....						
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (PRISONERS IN NSW PRISONS) (a)(b)						
1994	na	na	na	na	na	na
1995	82	31.0	4.9	6.1	na	—
1996	87	30.4	3.4	—	na	—
1997	110	31.1	8.1	6.3	48.2	—
1998	113	32.8	4.4	1.8	55.8	—
1999	125	33.1	5.6	1.0	51.2	—
2000	155	32.0	8.4	6.5	43.2	5.2
2001	129	31.8	9.3	6.2	58.9	—
2002	123	32.5	5.7	9.8	61.0	—
2003	117	33.8	5.1	10.3	77.8	—
2004	118	32.5	np	13.6	86.4	—
.....						
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (TOTAL) (b)(c)						
1994	na	na	na	na	na	na
1995	103	29.5	4.9	7.8	na	20.4
1996	125	29.5	5.6	3.2	na	30.4
1997	193	29.4	6.2	8.3	51.8	19.2
1998	199	31.1	6.0	6.5	47.2	21.6
1999	192	32.3	7.3	4.2	38.5	21.4
2000	239	31.5	9.6	7.5	41.8	26.4
2001	211	30.8	8.1	9.5	53.1	25.1
2002	240	31.2	6.3	10.4	48.8	20.0
2003	249	32.5	4.8	6.4	51.8	22.5
2004	278	31.6	6.8	9.4	45.7	27.0
.....						
AUSTRALIA (b)(c)(d)(e)						
1994	16 944	31.4	4.9	16.5	60.5	11.5
1995	17 428	31.7	4.8	17.1	56.3	11.5
1996	18 193	31.8	5.3	18.0	57.4	12.7
1997	19 128	31.9	5.7	18.7	57.9	13.4
1998	19 906	32.5	5.7	18.8	62.1	14.0
1999	21 538	32.7	6.3	20.0	57.9	14.9
2000	21 714	32.9	6.4	18.9	56.4	17.4
2001	22 458	33.0	6.7	19.8	58.4	19.3
2002	22 492	33.4	6.6	20.0	58.3	19.6
2003	23 555	33.8	6.8	20.5	57.2	20.5
2004	24 171	34.2	6.9	20.9	57.5	20.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 14–15.

(b) Information on ACT periodic detainees held in NSW prisons is unavailable before 1997.

(c) The ABS began counting periodic detainees for the ACT in 1997. Prior to 1997 all information is for unsentenced prisoners in Belconnen Remand Centre only. In 2002 the ACT changed the way it counts periodic detainees. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 71.

(d) Refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 68.

(e) For changes in scope, refer to Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

IMPRISONMENT RATES(a)(b), by states and territories, 1994–2004

	NSW(c)	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT Total(d)	Aust.
ALL PRISONERS									
1994	na	73.8	104.5	121.8	172.0	74.7	386.8	na	126.9
1995	167.7	71.5	117.3	126.1	173.8	70.4	388.9	46.2	128.7
1996	164.0	70.0	140.8	132.1	174.0	82.0	387.1	55.2	132.4
1997	161.3	75.0	150.4	132.8	169.8	75.5	471.9	84.7	137.3
1998	161.8	80.2	171.9	122.3	174.8	90.1	485.7	86.6	141.1
1999	172.3	81.0	178.1	122.4	222.7	98.2	463.3	82.6	150.7
2000	171.8	86.2	166.2	113.0	224.6	111.2	467.3	101.4	149.7
2001	175.7	91.3	164.2	120.0	224.0	98.3	520.7	87.9	152.5
2002	171.8	94.0	167.2	125.2	194.5	120.6	479.8	98.8	150.3
2003	172.4	98.3	180.7	123.5	197.5	126.1	524.3	101.5	154.9
2004	179.7	93.6	177.0	125.3	212.6	122.9	512.6	112.6	157.1
INDIGENOUS PRISONERS									
1994	na	1 024.0	908.2	1 834.4	2 139.4	319.6	1 153.5	na	1 250.6
1995	1 320.7	911.7	1 024.8	2 008.3	2 175.2	169.0	1 163.4	440.3	1 307.3
1996	1 399.4	768.5	1 275.1	1 978.9	2 241.5	330.7	1 197.0	213.1	1 405.9
1997	1 448.3	906.5	1 456.9	2 015.3	2 193.2	392.9	1 423.6	567.0	1 507.7
1998	1 543.3	848.3	1 565.9	1 783.0	2 164.6	316.2	1 453.1	646.8	1 546.0
1999	1 756.5	810.9	1 644.6	1 841.9	2 893.5	395.8	1 464.8	384.6	1 737.5
2000	1 683.3	888.3	1 523.0	1 578.2	2 737.8	415.4	1 157.3	834.9	1 614.2
2001	1 768.0	946.0	1 628.0	1 572.0	2 857.8	413.3	1 338.7	896.1	1 711.9
2002	1 938.5	978.9	1 638.6	1 614.2	2 264.8	617.4	1 317.6	1 084.1	1 689.2
2003	1 970.4	1 029.3	1 608.3	1 573.8	2 573.8	524.9	1 608.5	668.9	1 766.5
2004	2 012.2	1 068.8	1 572.2	1 623.7	3 114.4	597.2	1 589.4	1 094.7	1 851.9

na not available

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–25.

(b) Rate per 100,000 adult Indigenous population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–22 and paragraphs 28–29.

(c) Data for NSW excludes ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons.

(d) Data for ACT includes ACT prisoners held in ACT as well as ACT prisoners held in NSW.

SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS, by states and territories, 1994–2004

AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH						SELECTED SENTENCE TYPE(a)			
	<i>Under 1 year %</i>	<i>1 & under 5 years %</i>	<i>5 & under 10 years %</i>	<i>10 years & over %</i>	<i>Median years</i>	<i>Fixed term %</i>	<i>Max- min %</i>	<i>Indeterminate %</i>	<i>Total sentenced prisoners no.</i>
NEW SOUTH WALES (b)									
1994	15.7	38.2	17.2	8.2	3.3	17.6	61.6	2.2	6 970
1995	17.0	32.8	19.3	9.3	3.3	19.1	58.2	2.2	7 031
1996	17.1	31.4	18.9	9.6	3.0	18.8	56.8	2.4	6 887
1997	17.3	31.2	17.3	9.7	3.0	18.4	55.7	2.3	6 966
1998	17.3	32.0	18.1	10.6	3.0	19.7	58.2	2.4	6 755
1999	19.8	32.6	18.3	11.1	3.0	22.3	59.4	2.2	7 112
2000	17.3	32.3	20.3	11.4	3.3	19.6	61.7	1.7	7 057
2001	16.1	35.8	20.1	11.3	3.0	18.0	65.1	2.3	7 206
2002	16.1	37.3	20.1	12.0	3.2	17.2	68.2	2.2	7 117
2003	14.1	38.5	20.8	12.6	3.4	14.7	71.3	2.8	7 044
2004	14.3	38.6	21.5	12.6	3.5	15.9	71.1	np	7 458
VICTORIA									
1994	26.5	42.1	17.0	11.7	2.5	34.9	62.2	2.7	2 189
1995	26.1	39.4	19.5	13.1	3.0	32.9	65.0	1.9	2 118
1996	23.9	38.8	22.1	13.6	3.0	30.9	67.4	1.6	2 058
1997	29.3	37.2	19.8	11.7	2.3	35.2	62.8	1.9	2 226
1998	31.5	37.4	18.1	11.2	2.0	36.0	61.8	1.8	2 422
1999	30.2	36.7	19.1	12.4	2.3	33.7	64.4	1.6	2 506
2000	27.5	39.8	19.0	12.1	2.5	32.2	66.0	1.7	2 717
2001	25.3	41.2	19.8	12.0	2.8	28.4	70.0	1.6	2 892
2002	23.5	42.1	21.0	11.9	3.0	27.3	71.3	1.4	2 961
2003	21.5	43.7	21.2	12.1	3.0	26.0	72.5	1.5	3 068
2004	18.8	44.7	21.6	13.4	3.0	22.3	76.2	np	3 010
QUEENSLAND									
1994	17.4	36.0	24.6	13.5	4.0	—	90.3	8.5	2 165
1995	18.0	33.6	26.6	13.3	4.0	9.3	78.1	8.5	2 538
1996	20.2	34.7	25.0	12.8	3.6	9.0	77.9	7.4	3 088
1997	19.4	35.0	25.1	13.2	3.6	10.7	81.7	7.3	3 386
1998	17.8	35.1	26.6	13.8	4.0	6.8	83.7	6.8	3 908
1999	18.9	35.3	25.4	13.6	3.8	5.8	81.1	6.8	4 061
2000	16.1	35.1	26.6	13.7	4.0	91.4	..	8.5	3 781
2001	14.1	36.7	26.0	14.0	4.0	90.1	..	9.2	3 610
2002	20.6	32.4	25.0	13.6	3.6	91.4	..	8.5	3 755
2003	19.4	34.2	25.8	12.6	3.5	91.7	..	8.0	4 153
2004	21.5	31.8	26.2	12.4	3.5	91.6	..	9.0	4 079

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) For definitions of sentence types see Glossary, Type of sentence.

(b) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

	AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH					SELECTED SENTENCE TYPE(a)			
	Under 1 year %	1 & under 5 years %	5 & under 10 years %	10 years & over %	Median years	Fixed term %	Max- min %	Indeterminate %	Total sentenced prisoners no.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA									
1994	20.7	38.5	23.5	11.2	3.5	15.1	72.7	6.0	1 130
1995	22.9	41.5	22.0	6.5	3.0	15.5	70.3	7.2	1 177
1996	22.4	39.4	22.9	7.4	3.0	18.0	69.7	7.9	1 203
1997	19.5	40.0	24.1	7.9	2.4	16.5	70.4	8.6	1 222
1998	18.0	38.7	26.1	8.4	4.0	12.2	71.4	8.8	1 134
1999	19.8	37.5	24.7	8.6	3.5	11.5	70.7	9.4	1 117
2000	9.1	40.7	28.4	10.4	4.2	9.0	79.5	11.5	943
2001	12.2	36.8	27.3	11.5	4.1	11.9	75.6	12.3	913
2002	9.4	39.8	26.8	11.8	4.1	9.4	78.3	12.2	971
2003	8.4	38.6	27.6	13.2	4.5	8.0	79.7	12.2	983
2004	7.9	31.8	26.2	12.4	5.0	9.5	77.4	13.1	970
WESTERN AUSTRALIA									
1994	16.4	46.8	20.6	9.0	2.8	19.4	67.1	7.3	1 926
1995	9.5	51.5	22.4	8.9	3.0	17.4	74.3	7.6	1 948
1996	11.2	50.0	22.3	9.3	3.0	17.1	75.3	7.2	2 005
1997	8.1	49.6	24.5	10.1	3.5	13.7	77.6	7.8	1 957
1998	11.6	44.8	24.2	11.2	3.4	14.4	75.1	8.2	2 054
1999	16.1	43.3	22.4	11.3	3.0	20.0	70.3	6.9	2 660
2000	13.9	43.0	22.8	12.9	3.5	18.7	71.9	7.3	2 630
2001	12.2	43.4	22.0	14.3	3.5	18.3	72.1	8.1	2 613
2002	9.7	41.6	24.0	16.1	4.0	13.2	76.8	8.6	2 302
2003	9.3	41.9	24.2	16.1	4.0	12.0	77.3	8.4	2 447
2004	13.8	45.0	19.8	13.7	3.0	13.4	75.0	7.7	2 668
TASMANIA									
1994	39.3	25.2	14.4	3.6	1.1	78.3	1.8	17.6	222
1995	38.3	26.8	11.9	4.5	1.0	78.1	1.5	18.4	201
1996	36.4	29.3	14.2	5.4	1.4	82.4	1.7	14.6	239
1997	31.6	33.3	13.4	8.2	1.5	80.9	1.3	13.4	231
1998	41.8	27.7	11.7	6.6	1.2	83.6	1.2	12.1	256
1999	40.6	32.0	10.2	6.9	1.0	82.8	1.7	10.2	303
2000	31.3	42.9	9.0	7.4	1.8	90.3	—	9.4	310
2001	29.0	39.4	10.3	11.4	1.9	86.8	—	9.9	272
2002	33.9	40.2	9.8	8.6	1.4	89.1	—	7.4	338
2003	30.7	41.7	11.0	10.1	1.7	92.1	—	6.5	355
2004	31.1	42.0	11.6	8.9	1.8	93.7	—	6.3	379

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) For definitions of sentence types see Glossary, Type of sentence.

	AGGREGATE SENTENCE LENGTH					SELECTED SENTENCE TYPE(a)			
	Under 1 year %	1 & under 5 years %	5 & under 10 years %	10 years & over %	Median years	Fixed term %	Max- min %	Indeterminate %	Total sentenced prisoners no.
NORTHERN TERRITORY									
1994	29.8	41.7	17.2	5.3	2.2	28.8	63.4	6.1	396
1995	31.8	40.9	16.1	5.5	1.9	21.4	69.7	5.8	416
1996	29.5	39.8	17.7	5.9	1.8	25.8	64.6	7.1	407
1997	39.1	38.2	12.9	4.9	1.3	37.3	57.1	4.9	534
1998	39.3	39.0	11.9	5.1	1.2	39.0	52.9	4.6	546
1999	36.7	43.2	9.7	5.3	1.3	35.8	55.2	5.1	547
2000	31.4	43.0	12.8	6.3	1.5	28.6	59.3	6.5	462
2001	32.5	45.6	11.9	4.1	1.7	26.5	63.9	6.0	588
2002	28.6	46.9	13.5	4.8	1.9	25.3	68.3	6.4	565
2003	36.3	39.7	13.4	4.4	1.4	30.9	62.7	6.2	612
2004	36.6	37.8	12.8	6.2	1.5	33.2	60.0	np	587
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (PRISONERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES PRISONS) (b)									
1994	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1995	10.9	39.0	34.1	11.0	4.3	9.8	84.1	4.9	82
1996	3.4	37.9	39.1	13.8	5.0	5.7	88.5	5.7	87
1997	8.1	40.0	30.9	17.3	4.9	8.2	88.2	3.6	110
1998	8.9	35.4	32.7	19.5	5.0	10.6	85.8	3.5	113
1999	6.4	32.8	37.6	19.2	5.9	12.8	83.2	4.0	125
2000	10.9	38.1	31.3	17.0	4.5	8.8	88.4	2.7	147
2001	4.7	48.9	28.7	13.2	4.0	10.1	85.3	4.7	129
2002	7.3	41.4	31.7	16.2	4.8	15.4	81.3	3.3	123
2003	4.3	41.9	35.9	14.5	5.0	17.1	79.5	3.4	117
2004	5.9	44.1	32.2	14.4	4.4	20.3	76.3	3.4	118
AUSTRALIA									
1994	18.7	39.5	19.1	9.7	3.0	18.8	66.5	4.4	14 998
1995	18.6	37.0	20.9	10.1	3.0	19.7	64.9	4.6	15 429
1996	18.8	36.1	21.1	10.4	3.0	19.3	65.0	4.6	15 887
1997	19.3	35.9	20.4	10.4	3.0	19.9	64.9	4.6	16 522
1998	19.8	35.5	21.0	11.1	3.0	19.4	66.3	4.6	17 118
1999	21.3	35.8	20.6	11.5	3.0	20.6	66.0	4.5	18 332
2000	18.3	36.4	21.8	11.9	3.3	37.4	50.6	4.7	17 929
2001	17.1	38.3	21.4	12.2	3.3	35.0	53.3	5.1	18 123
2002	17.7	38.0	21.7	12.5	3.3	34.9	54.6	4.9	18 078
2003	16.6	38.8	22.2	12.6	3.3	34.8	55.0	5.1	18 738
2004	17.2	38.7	22.1	12.7	3.3	34.3	55.6	5.1	19 236

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) For definitions of sentence types see Glossary, Type of sentence.

(b) The majority of full-time prisoners sentenced in the ACT are held in NSW prisons. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 15.

SENTENCED PRISONERS, by selected most serious offence, 1994–2004(a)(b)

	<i>Homicide & related offences %</i>	<i>Acts intended to cause injury %</i>	<i>Sexual assault & related offences %</i>	<i>Robbery, extortion & related offences %</i>	<i>Unlawful entry with intent %</i>	<i>Deception & related offences %</i>	<i>Theft & related offences %</i>	<i>Offences against justice %(c)</i>	<i>Illicit drug offences %</i>	<i>Sentenced Prisoners no.</i>
MALES										
1994	8.9	10.9	na	13.7	13.5	na	6.6	na	11.2	14 280
1995	9.4	11.6	na	13.1	13.2	na	6.6	na	10.6	14 720
1996	9.3	12.1	14.3	13.2	13.4	4.3	6.6	5.7	9.9	15 071
1997	9.4	12.3	13.8	13.2	14.0	4.1	6.7	6.0	9.6	15 603
1998	9.1	12.2	14.0	13.2	13.5	3.7	6.0	8.3	8.5	16 179
1999	9.0	12.1	12.9	13.2	13.2	3.7	5.6	9.9	8.9	17 208
2000	9.7	11.0	13.0	14.0	11.9	3.2	6.0	9.1	9.7	16 846
2001	10.0	11.9	12.3	13.9	12.0	2.8	6.4	8.3	9.9	16 978
2002	10.4	12.2	11.8	14.5	12.4	2.6	6.7	7.5	9.9	16 958
2003	10.3	13.4	12.0	13.4	12.9	2.9	5.5	7.1	9.5	17 540
2004	9.9	13.6	12.1	12.4	12.8	2.8	6.0	8.0	9.7	17 959
FEMALES										
1994	9.8	9.6	na	6.7	12.3	na	10.7	na	16.5	718
1995	10.2	9.9	na	7.2	12.7	na	8.9	na	18.4	709
1996	9.3	8.7	1.0	9.1	11.3	16.4	9.9	9.4	16.8	816
1997	8.7	9.8	1.6	10.2	11.4	17.1	9.9	8.6	13.7	919
1998	10.0	10.0	1.3	10.8	11.6	12.8	9.8	12.8	11.7	939
1999	9.4	12.1	1.0	10.2	10.9	12.4	8.8	14.1	11.7	1 124
2000	11.0	9.2	0.9	12.7	10.1	12.1	9.4	10.8	13.1	1 083
2001	11.3	10.6	1.1	12.5	10.0	12.2	8.6	14.2	10.6	1 145
2002	10.9	11.4	0.8	12.5	10.3	9.7	11.0	10.3	14.8	1 120
2003	11.2	11.8	1.1	11.7	10.9	11.7	9.1	9.1	13.8	1 198
2004	10.7	12.1	1.1	7.5	9.9	12.9	11.9	10.3	14.6	1 277
PERSONS										
1994	9.0	10.8	na	13.3	13.4	na	6.8	na	11.5	14 998
1995	9.3	11.5	na	12.8	13.2	na	6.7	na	11.1	15 429
1996	9.3	12.0	13.6	12.9	13.3	4.9	6.7	5.9	10.3	15 887
1997	9.3	12.1	13.1	13.1	13.8	4.8	6.8	6.2	9.8	16 522
1998	9.2	12.0	13.3	13.1	13.4	4.2	6.2	8.5	9.2	17 118
1999	9.1	12.1	12.2	13.0	13.0	4.2	5.8	10.1	9.1	18 332
2000	9.7	10.9	12.3	13.9	11.8	3.8	6.2	9.2	9.9	17 929
2001	10.1	11.8	11.6	13.8	11.9	3.2	6.8	8.5	10.2	18 123
2002	10.4	12.1	11.2	14.4	12.3	3.0	7.0	7.7	10.2	18 078
2003	10.4	13.3	11.3	13.3	12.8	3.5	5.7	7.3	9.7	18 738
2004	10.0	13.7	11.3	12.0	12.7	3.5	6.4	8.1	10.0	19 236

na not available

(a) Due to changes in offence classifications, some data items are not available for the full 10-year period. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 72.

(b) Data are presented at ASOC division level, see Appendix 3 and Glossary.

(c) Full ASOC division title is 'Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents information on all prisoners who were in custody on 30 June 2004. The statistics are derived from information collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from administrative records held by corrective services agencies in each state and territory. A range of information is presented on the demographic and legal characteristics of prisoners such as age, sex, legal status and the nature of the offence for which the person has been charged or convicted. The publication also provides details of the type and length of sentences being served.

2 In March 1995 the Corrective Services Ministers' Council resolved that the responsibility for the collection and dissemination of corrective services statistics should be transferred from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The AIC ceased publishing the Australian Prisoners series after June 1993. As part of the transfer of responsibilities, the ABS has undertaken the publication of all national corrective services statistics from June 1994 onwards.

3 The ABS has developed national standards for correctional statistics to ensure the comparability of data between states and territories. There is different legislation and/or different administrative recording practices in the states and territories, and while efforts have been made to attain maximum comparability between states and territories, some problems with jurisdictional comparability remain. Further detail on these differences is provided in the Explanatory Notes paragraphs 67–71.

REFERENCE DATE

4 The 2004 National Prisoner Census is a census of all persons in the legal custody of adult corrective services in each jurisdiction as at midnight 30 June 2004.

SCOPE

5 The types of correctional facilities and programs where prisoners are held varies between the states and territories.

6 Included in the collection are:

- gazetted prisons in all jurisdictions
- periodic detention centres in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory
- community custody centres and work outreach camps in Queensland
- cells in court complexes administered by corrective services in New South Wales
- transitional centres in New South Wales
- lock-ups in Western Australia operated by the police but designated as a prison by the Chief Executive Officer of Corrective Services
- gazetted police prisons in the Northern Territory which are administered and controlled by the Director of Corrective Services.

7 Excluded from the collection are:

- police lock-ups, police prisons and cells in court complexes not administered and controlled by corrective services
- immigration detention centres
- home detention programs
- military prisons.

8 Included in the National Prisoner Census are prisoners in the legal custody of corrective services but who, at the time of the census, were:

- absent on an authorised temporary leave permit
- absent from the correctional facility on a work release permit or program
- located in secure wards in a hospital outside the correctional facility
- periodic detainees.

9 Excluded from the collection are:

- prisoners who were unlawfully absent from corrective services legal custody, e.g. escapees or prisoners who failed to return from an authorised temporary absence from a correctional facility

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE *continued*

- prisoners whose legal custody had been transferred to another agency, e.g. police or mental health institutions.

10 The count of periodic detainees covers the number of persons with an active periodic detainee warrant, excluding those with orders suspended by court action.

11 In all states and territories except Victoria and Queensland, persons remanded or sentenced to adult custody are aged 18 years and over. Persons under 18 years are treated as juveniles in most Australian courts and are not remanded or sentenced to custody in adult prisons, other than in exceptional circumstances. However, in Victoria and Queensland 'adult' refers to persons aged 17 years and over.

12 In addition to the general rules of inclusion and exclusion for the scope of the National Prisoner Census, the following should be noted:

- In Tasmania, persons aged 18 years or younger and sentenced to a term of imprisonment may be held in a juvenile detention centre. These offenders are included in this collection.

13 Commencing from 2003, the prisoner census includes those prisoners who are held in community custody centres and work outreach camps in Queensland. These locations housed 270 prisoners at 30 June 2003 (representing 5% of the Queensland prisoner population and 1% of the national prisoner population).

JURISDICTION OF CUSTODY

14 Persons included in the National Prisoner Census were counted in the state or territory in which they were held in custody regardless of which state or territory imposed the sentence being served.

15 Although the Australian Capital Territory commenced detaining some sentenced fine default only prisoners at their remand centre during 2000, persons sentenced to full-time custody by Australian Capital Territory courts are primarily held in New South Wales prisons. Some unsentenced persons from the Australian Capital Territory may also be held in New South Wales prisons when the capacity of the Australian Capital Territory remand centre is exceeded. The publication includes 'Total Australian Capital Territory' prisoner numbers and 'Total Australian Capital Territory' imprisonment rates to provide a greater understanding of the number of prisoners sentenced in the Australian Capital Territory. Data continue to be provided in the tables based on counts of Australian Capital Territory prisoners in New South Wales prisons as a subset of the New South Wales figures (labeled ACT in NSW), and Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in the Australian Capital Territory (labeled ACT in ACT).

DATA SOURCE

16 Statistics in this publication are derived from information on each prisoner collected by corrective services agencies within each state and territory.

INDIGENOUS IDENTIFICATION

17 In all states and territories persons are asked during entry into custody whether they identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. It is uncommon for corrective services agencies to collect Indigenous status from anyone other than the individual prisoner themselves.

RATES

18 Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner populations across states and territories. Prisoner rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population, which is in accord with international, state and territory practices.

19 For the purpose of this publication, the adult population figures used in the calculation of rates are for persons aged 18 years and over for all states and territories except for Victoria and Queensland, where the adult population used is that of persons aged 17 years and over (see paragraph 11 of these Explanatory Notes). In previous issues, rates for all states and territories included in this publication were calculated using adult population figures for persons aged 17 years and over. This change has been made following consultation with the National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RATES *continued*

Group and brings this collection into alignment with *Corrective Services, Australia* (cat. no. 4512.0).

20 Imprisonment rate data for the Australian Capital Territory are calculated on the basis of the total number of Australian Capital Territory prisoners, held in both New South Wales prisons and the Australian Capital Territory. For New South Wales, the imprisonment rate is based on the count of New South Wales prisoners, excluding Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in New South Wales prisons. Time series data have also been derived on this basis. All estimates and projections for the Australian Capital Territory exclude Jervis Bay Territory. All estimates and projections for Australia exclude the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

21 Rates for the general adult population are calculated using the preliminary March 2004 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures (refer to table A1 in Appendix 1 and to *Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2004* (cat. no. 3101.0)).

Suppression of rates and proportions

22 In some instances rates and proportions have not been published. Where this occurs, the cell concerned contains the symbol 'np'. This happens where, either the number of persons in custody is less than 10, or where the denominator population on which the rate or proportion is calculated is less than 5,000. This has been done because such rates and proportions can vary widely with small variations in numbers of persons, and therefore may give an inaccurate reflection of the involvement of persons in custody.

Revisions to historical rates

23 Historical rates for total and Indigenous prisoners, presented in table 17, have been revised for 1994 to 2003 to reflect changes in the age used to create the adult population (see paragraph 19 of these Explanatory Notes).

24 Historical rates for total prisoners, presented in table 17, have also been revised using population estimates benchmarked on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and back cast for the period 1994 to 2003.

25 Historical rates for Indigenous prisoners, presented in table 17, have also been revised using back cast Indigenous population estimates benchmarked on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing for 1994 to 2001, and Indigenous population projections based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing (low series) for 2002 to 2003.

Country of birth

26 Imprisonment rates by birthplace, presented in table 5, are calculated using data for June 2002 ERP by Country of Birth (from *Migration, Australia* (cat. no. 3412.0)) as the denominator for each birthplace. Caution should be exercised as this data has not been age standardised (see Appendix 2 - Indigenous imprisonment rates). The adult population used for the denominator is persons aged 17 years and over and are the latest available at the time of preparing this publication. Although the estimates are for a point in time two years earlier than the prisoner census counts by birthplace, it is not anticipated that the difference in the reference period will have a noticeable impact on these rates.

27 The published list of countries of birth does not cover all birthplaces of prisoners and it is possible that for some birthplaces not listed in table 5, their imprisonment rates may be higher than those published. The list of published birthplaces has been kept constant since 1998 to maximise time series comparison. The 1998 list was based on publishing data only for those birthplaces which had a population of 25 or more prisoners. Future issues of the publication may add to the list where a birthplace records counts of 25 or more prisoners on a consistent basis.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Indigenous imprisonment rates

28 Rates for the Indigenous adult population in this publication are based on the 'low series' projections for 30 June 2004 (refer to table A4 in Appendix 2 and *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0)). These projections are based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Further information about these estimates is provided in Appendix 2 – Indigenous imprisonment rates.

29 Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates included in table 3 are presented as both crude and age standardised rates. Ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates are included. Further information about age standardisation of rates is provided in Appendix 2 - Indigenous imprisonment rates.

LEGAL STATUS

30 The legal status of an offender is determined by the warrant(s) or court order(s) which provide the legal basis for the detention in custody of the offender. The classification is as follows:

31 Sentenced

- no appeal current
- awaiting appeal
- unfit to plead, not guilty on grounds of insanity, preventative detention.

32 Unsented

- unconvicted awaiting court hearing or trial
- awaiting sentence
- awaiting deportation.

33 Some offenders may have more than one type of warrant issued against them; therefore it is possible for an offender to have dual status (e.g. under sentence for some offences and awaiting appeal results for others, or under sentence and awaiting deportation). The counting rules for determining the legal status of an offender at the time of the National Prisoner Census are as follows:

- If the prisoner has been sentenced for any offence then this takes precedence over any other offence(s) for which the prisoner is unsentenced.
- If the sentenced prisoner has appealed against all of his/her sentences then that prisoner is counted as under sentence awaiting determination of appeal. If any sentence is uncontested then this takes precedence over any offence(s) for which appeals are in progress.
- If the prisoner is convicted but as yet unsentenced for any offence then this takes precedence over any other offence(s) for which the prisoner may be on remand.
- A prisoner is counted as awaiting deportation if the prisoner is held in custody for this alone. If the prisoner is sentenced or held on remand for any other offences and is also awaiting deportation, then the other offences take precedence over the deportation warrant.

COURT OF SENTENCE/REMAND

34 The court of sentence/remand refers to whether the offender was sentenced or remanded to custody by the Supreme Court, the District or County Court or the Lower Courts such as the Magistrates' or Children's Courts. The rules adopted for coding the level of court are:

- Where an episode comprises orders/sentences of various levels of court, the level of court relating to the most serious offence (MSO) is recorded.
- An appeal court is recorded when it has altered the length of sentence of the MSO/charge.
- For prisoners not under sentence, the level of court which has issued the most recent remand in custody warrant is recorded.
- Prisoners held under a Department of Immigration order or under the authority of the Parole Board are recorded as 'other'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

EPISODE

35 An episode is defined as the period from an offender's latest date of reception into the custody of a corrective services agency for a particular offence(s)/charge(s) until the person is released from custody or remand. When a prisoner breaches parole conditions and is returned to custody, a new episode is deemed to have commenced and a new reception date is provided. Differences in the application of this rule occur in Western Australia. Further detail on these differences is provided in the Explanatory Notes, paragraph 69.

36 In consultation with the National Corrective Services Advisory Group, the definition of episode changed from the 2003 Prisoner Census. The definition of episode was altered to maximise data comparability across states and territories. For New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there has been no change to the data provided for the Prisoner Census collection. That is, these jurisdictions have always provided data based on the definition of episode as outlined in the previous paragraph. These jurisdictions accounted for 65% of the prisoner population in 2002. For Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the definition of episode has changed from data provided prior to 2003 when the definition of episode treated persons who breached parole and returned to custody as continuing a prior episode (the date of reception was the date the person originally entered into custody prior to the breach of parole). In Western Australia, as noted in the previous paragraph, there remain differences in the application of the national counting rule (further detail on these differences is provided in the Explanatory Notes, paragraph 69). As the revised definition of episode only impacts on prisoners who have breached parole, the impact of this change in definition on time series data will be low at the national level.

DATE OF RECEPTION

37 Date of reception is defined as the date the prisoner was received into prison in a state or territory for the current episode. Counting rules for persons returning to custody from an escape attempt or parole are as follows:

- If an offender escapes from custody and is recaptured and returned to custody, the date of reception is the date the person originally entered into custody prior to the escape.
- If parole is revoked resulting in an offender returning to custody, the date of reception is the date the person was returned to custody. That is, a new episode is deemed to have commenced.

38 Since the 1996 National Prisoner Census, Victorian and Northern Territory corrective service agencies have supplied the reception date for prisoners according to the following definition: the reception date is the latest date at which the prisoner is received into prison, whether at the commencement of the current episode or after returning to prison after having breached parole or having been captured following escape.

SENTENCING

39 Courts can set a term of imprisonment as either a fixed sentence — one that specifies a single term of custody without parole — or a 'parole' sentence comprising a maximum term and a minimum term. Alternatively, courts may not set a term of imprisonment, but rather, may apply an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment such as life.

40 The minimum term is that period that must be served before the prisoner is eligible for release from custody to parole, and the difference between the maximum and minimum term is the period that will be served on parole if the prisoner is released at his or her earliest eligibility date. While parole is generally granted at the earliest eligibility date, prisoners may be denied parole for some or all of the period up to the expiry of their maximum term. For both fixed and maximum-minimum sentences, the period actually served in custody may be less than the stated time to serve where administrative mechanisms such as sentence remissions are applied.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Aggregate sentence

41 The aggregate sentence is the longest period that the offender may be detained under sentence in the current episode. Charges pending which are likely to extend the current episode are ignored. Where a new episode is counted when a person returns to prison from parole, the unexpired portion of the prior episode is usually incorporated into the aggregate sentence for the new episode.

Expected time to serve

42 The expected time to serve is the period of imprisonment which a convicted prisoner is expected to serve and in most cases refers to the time elapsed between the date of reception for this episode (see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 35–36) and the earliest date of release.

43 The time a prisoner is expected to serve in custody depends upon the sentence(s) originally handed down, the system of remissions and the forms of parole available in the various states and territories and whether any time was spent in custody prior to reception, for example, time on remand or in police custody. The rules governing date of release are complex and differ between the states and territories. The calculation of the earliest date of release in each state and territory is described in the Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 44–59.

NEW SOUTH WALES

44 In New South Wales significant legislative amendments came into force on 3 April 2000, repealing a number of Acts of Parliament which were administered by the Department of Corrective Services, namely:

- *Correctional Centres Act 1952*
- *Sentencing Act 1989*
- *Periodic Detention of Prisoners Act 1981*
- *Home Detention Act 1996*
- *Community Service Orders Act 1979.*

45 These Acts were replaced by the following:

- *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*
- *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999.*

46 The consolidation of the sentencing legislation into two Acts was achieved with only minor changes of substance to existing law. One effect of the legislative amendments was the removal of the terms 'minimum', 'additional' and 'fixed' used in describing sentence types. Under current legislation a court, in setting a term of imprisonment, is required to first set a 'Non-Parole' period and then a 'Sentence' period. Alternatively a court may decline to set a 'Non-Parole' period. These sentences are referred to as 'Sentence/Non-Parole' and 'Sentence/Parole declined' sentence types respectively.

47 Amendments to the *Periodic Detention of Prisoners Act 1981* (*Periodic Detention of Prisoners Amendment Act 1998* (No. 43)) enabled courts to set 'minimum' and 'additional' terms when imposing a sentence to be served by way of periodic detention. These changes were incorporated in the new legislation (*Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*) with respective changes to the sentence type terminology, as explained above. Periodic detention sentences are described as either 'Periodic (Sentence/Non-Parole)' or 'Periodic (Sentence/Parole declined)'.

48 A new fine enforcement system for NSW was introduced from 27 January 1998 under the *Fines Act 1996* and is based on a hierarchy of civil and non-custodial sanctions with imprisonment as a sanction of last resort. Inmates with a sentence type of 'Fine default' are held only for reason of commonwealth fine default (i.e. there are no outstanding charges or current sentences).

Expected time to serve continued

49 Those prisoners with a sentence of three years or less, being a sentence that has a non-parole period, are automatically released from custody at the expiry of the non-parole term. Those with a non-parole term greater than three years may be released by the NSW Parole Board at any time after serving the non-parole term.

VICTORIA

50 In Victoria, the calculation of expected time to serve is based on either the non-parole period set by court or the aggregate sentence. Time spent in detention prior to the commencement of the sentence counts toward the time expected to be served under sentence. Under the provisions of the *Sentencing Act 1991* (as amended), the sentencing rules in Victoria are as follows:

- If a sentence of Life or a term of two years or more is imposed, the court must fix a period during which the offender is not eligible to be released on parole, unless it considers that the nature of the offence or the past history of the offender make the fixing of such a period inappropriate.
- If a sentence of less than two years but not less than one year is imposed, the court may set a non-parole period.
- The non-parole period must be at least six months less than the term of imprisonment and must be in respect of the aggregate sentence that the offender is liable to serve under all the sentences imposed.

51 Expected time to serve is not calculated for prisoners sentenced to an Indefinite term or to Life where no minimum term has been fixed.

QUEENSLAND

52 In Queensland, with the exception of sentences of indefinite length such as Life, calculations are based on the date an offender was eligible for parole.

53 Release dates are calculated as follows:

- Unless otherwise specified by the court, the parole eligibility date is at half the aggregate sentence length.
- The earliest discharge date indicates when an offender might be discharged if remissions on each term of imprisonment are granted. For those prisoners ineligible for remission, this date would be the same as the full-time discharge date.
- The new *Corrective Services Act 2000 (Qld)* commenced on 1 July 2001. Offenders convicted of an offence that was committed on or after 1 July 2001 and sentenced to a term of imprisonment are not eligible to have that term remitted. Offenders convicted of an offence that was committed prior to the commencement of the new Act and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of two months or more are eligible to be considered for a remission of up to one-third of that term of imprisonment.
- New corrective services legislation (*Section 135 of the Corrective Services Act 2000 (Qld)*) enables prisoners with life sentences to apply for parole:
 - if the prisoner is serving a life sentence under the *Criminal Code section 305(2)15* — once the prisoner has served 20 years or longer
 - if the prisoner is serving a life sentence under another code — once the prisoner has served 15 years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

54 In South Australia, the Truth in Sentencing legislation implemented on 1 August 1994 changed the way in which release dates are calculated in comparison to previous years. The major changes to the sentencing legislation affected by the Truth in Sentencing were the abolition of remissions, the requirement for prisoners with an aggregate sentence of five years or more to formally apply to the Parole Board for release on parole, the ability of the Parole Board to release prisoners with an aggregate sentence of five years or more at its discretion and directions for the judiciary to take the abolition of remissions into account when ordering sentences. Prisoners with a non-parole

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Expected time to serve continued

period(NPP) and an aggregate sentence of less than five years continue to be paroled automatically. Release dates for prisoners are now calculated as follows:

- Where a prisoner has not had a NPP set, the earliest date of release is the aggregate sentence end date.
- Where a prisoner has a NPP, and an aggregate sentence of less than five years, the earliest date of release is the end date of the NPP.

55 Where a prisoner has a NPP, and an aggregate sentence of five years or more, the earliest date of release is the earliest date the prisoner can be released by the Parole Board. If this date has expired and no further release date has been set by the Parole Board, the earliest date of release becomes the aggregate sentence end date, which in the case of Life or Other indeterminate sentences would be unknown.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

56 In Western Australia,

- Where no minimum sentence is specified, the calculation is based on the total effective sentence minus one-third — known as the two-thirds time date or effective date of release (EDR) — less any special time off granted by the executive director at census date. Should there be an earlier Home Detention Eligibility Date, that date will be taken into account.
- Where a parole term has been specified the calculation is based on the minimum sentence (i.e. the Earliest Eligibility Date (EED) as presently calculated). If this date has already passed and parole was denied, the next review date or the EDR, whichever comes first, is used.
- In all cases above, should the parole board set a release date or review date prior to the EDR or EED and such date has not already passed, that date is used.

TASMANIA

57 In Tasmania the calculation is based on the totality of the sentence liable to be served minus one-third but shall not operate so as to reduce the sentence below three months.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

58 In the Northern Territory sentence remissions for new prisoners were abolished on 1 July 1996. Expected time to serve is calculated as follows:

- Prisoners whose sentences commenced prior to 1 July 1996 will be discharged with one-third remissions or at the expiry of the non-parole period, as approved by the Northern Territory Parole Board. If the parole date has elapsed, the date eligible for remission is used (if applicable) else the full-term expiry date is used.
- Prisoners sentenced after 1 July 1996 have an expected time to serve based on their non-parole period, a fixed release date or an earliest release date based on a suspension of sentence after a set period of time.
- Life sentenced prisoners do not have an earliest expected release date.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

59 Prisoners sentenced in the Australian Capital Territory and who are held in New South Wales prisons are subject to New South Wales calculations for date of release.

Mean/median sentence length

60 Calculations of mean and median sentence lengths are affected by the reference period used. For the Prisoner Census, information relates to the characteristics of prisoners at a point in time (the night of 30 June), rather than the total prisoner population during the year. During a year, a large proportion of prisoners who go through the prison system are those who are serving short sentences (i.e. less than a year), while at any point in time the majority tend to be prisoners serving longer sentences. The impact of this is that when the total stock of prisoners during a year is considered, the large number of short sentences will result in lower mean and median

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Mean/median sentence length
continued

sentence length values compared with means and medians calculated from point in time data.

61 In some instances mean and median sentence lengths have not been published. Where this occurs, the cell concerned contains the symbol 'np'. This happens where the number of persons in custody is less than 10. This has been done because calculations such as means and medians can vary widely with small variations in numbers of persons, and therefore may give an inaccurate reflection of the involvement of persons in custody.

62 From 1994, indeterminate or part-time sentences are excluded from the calculation of mean and median sentence lengths. Therefore, prisoners with Indeterminate and Periodic detention sentences are excluded from the calculation of the mean and median aggregate sentence length and expected time to serve.

63 Changes to the treatment of prisoners who have a 'Life with minimum' sentence occurred from 2002. Between 1994 and 2001, these sentences were not included as part of the calculation of the mean and median sentence lengths for prisoners' expected time to serve in prison. Their inclusion has slightly increased the mean for the expected time to serve, but has had a negligible impact on the median value for expected time to serve.

MOST SERIOUS
OFFENCE/CHARGE

64 For sentenced prisoners, the Most Serious Offence (MSO) is the offence for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence in the 'current episode' for a single count of the offence, regardless of the possible result of any appeals, and regardless of whether the sentence for that offence has actually expired at census date. Where sentences are equal, or the longest sentence cannot be determined, the MSO is the offence with the lowest Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) code.

65 From 2004, the MSO for prisoners who have breached parole and returned to prison, is determined only from the breach offence and any new offence(s) committed while on parole (the original MSO is excluded from the determination). There are some state and territory variations:

- In Western Australia, the MSO is selected from all offences recorded during the whole of the 'current episode'. However differences in the definition of an episode exist in Western Australia (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 69).

66 For unsentenced prisoners, whether convicted or not, the most serious charge (MSC) is the charge which carries the longest statutory maximum penalty. Where penalties are equal, the MSC is the charge with the lowest ASOC code.

- In New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, if a prisoner is convicted but as yet unsentenced for at least one charge, the MSC is selected from those offences for which convictions have been recorded.
- In Tasmania, the MSC is always determined by the lowest ASOC.
- In Western Australia, the MSC is selected from all charges recorded during the whole of the 'current episode'. However differences in the definition of an episode exist in Western Australia (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 69).

DATA COMPARABILITY AND
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

67 National corrections statistics are compiled in order to maximise comparability across states and territories. Although differences have been overcome through the introduction of national standards, some legislative, interpretive and processing differences remain.

Victoria

68 For 2002 and previous years, when a prisoner was held on remand and then sentenced to a term of imprisonment as part of the one episode, the time on remand was considered a separate episode of imprisonment for the purposes of determining whether a prisoner had known prior adult imprisonment. This practice was inconsistent with the national counting rule for the Prisoner Census and resulted in an inflated number (and proportion) of Victoria's prisoner population with known prior adult

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Victoria continued

imprisonment. From 2003 the national counting rule was adopted for recording known prior adult imprisonment in Victoria.

Western Australia

69 Where prisoners were returned to prison partly or wholly as a result of breach or suspension of early release orders, a new episode is not deemed to have commenced and the date of reception is based on the date the person originally entered into custody, prior to being released on the early release order. Therefore, time spent in prison for the original sentence has continued to be included in the calculation of expected time to serve and aggregate sentence length data and will result in a higher mean and median duration for these data items in comparison with other states and territories. In light of legislative changes effective from 31 August 2003, it is essential for Western Australia to have a continuous series of comparable information to enable the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the new legislation.

70 The increase in Indigenous imprisonment rates in 2003 was due mainly to a 6.1% increase in the number of sentenced imprisonments commenced by Indigenous persons. This increase was accentuated by corresponding reductions in sentenced imprisonments commenced by non-Indigenous persons (9.8%). The main areas of increase in relation to most serious offence were Justice/good order offences (37.7%), Offences against the person (6.6%) and Unlawful entry with intent (5.3%). Remand only receptions (where prisoners were unsentenced at the 30 June 2003) increased by 9.6% for Indigenous persons and decreased by 15.1% for non-Indigenous persons. Offences against the person (28.9%) and Unlawful entry with intent (6.1%) showed the largest increases.

Australian Capital Territory

71 In 2002 all periodic detainees with a current warrant were included in the census count (i.e. including those who were in breach of an order). Consequently, the periodic detainee population increased from 2002.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD OFFENCE CLASSIFICATION

72 The offence categories for national corrective services statistics used in this publication are based on the *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC), 1997* (cat. no. 1234.0). The classification replaced the previous national offence classification, *Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO), 1985* (cat. no. 1234.0), and provides a national framework for classifying offences for statistical purposes. While the ABS is publishing 2004 Prisoner Census offence data based on ASOC, the data recorded by some of the corrective services agencies are still coded according to ANCO. ANCO data is then mapped to the relevant ASOC category. Where there is no direct concordance between the two classifications the ANCO codes have been mapped as closely as possible to the relevant ASOC categories. The ABS will be continuing its work with the data providers to have the ASOC codes used within their systems, to ensure better quality national offence data.

ADDITIONAL DATA

73 A standard set of additional tables containing state and territory equivalents of the tables in this publication are available on the ABS web site. Special tabulations can be produced on request to meet individual user requirements. For further information, contact the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics by email through <crime.justice@abs.gov.au> or the contact person listed on the front cover of this publication.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS *ABS publications*

74 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:
Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) - issued quarterly
Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) - issued annually
Australian Standard Offence Classification (cat. no. 1234.0) - irregular
Corrective Services, Australia (cat. no. 4512.0) - issued quarterly
Crime and Safety, Australia (cat. no. 4509.0) - irregular

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

ABS publications *continued*

Criminal Courts, Australia (cat. no. 4513.0) - issued annually (previously titled *Higher Criminal Courts, Australia*)
Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009 (cat. no. 3238.0)
General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0) - irregular
Information Paper: Measuring Crime Victimisation, Australia: The Impact of Different Collection Methodologies (cat. no. 4522.0.55.001) - single issue
Measuring Australia's Progress (cat. no. 1370.0) - issued annually
Migration, Australia (cat. no. 3412.0)
Prisoners in Australia (cat. no. 4517.0) - issued annually
Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia (cat. no. 4510.0) - issued annually (previously titled *Recorded Crime, Australia*)
Sexual Assault in Australia: A Statistical Overview (cat. no. 4523.0) - single issue
Working Papers in Econometrics and Applied Statistics: No 2003/2 Dynamics in Repeat Imprisonment: Utilising Prison Census Data (cat. no. 1351.0)
Year Book Australia (cat. no. 1301.0) - issued annually

75 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications and Products (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead. The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics releases a biannual newsletter that is published on the ABS web site. The Centre can be contacted by email through <crime.justice@abs.gov.au>.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ANCO	Australian National Classification of Offences
ASOC	Australian Standard Offence Classification
Aust.	Australia
EDR	Effective Date of Release
EED	earliest eligibility date
ERP	estimated resident population
MSC	most serious charge
MSO	most serious offence
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
NPP	non-parole period
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

APPENDIX 1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATIONS

A1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (a)

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
MALES									
0–16	772 188	558 565	463 790	167 599	233 726	57 006	29 203	36 809	2 318 886
17	46 251	33 842	27 750	10 557	14 872	3 543	1 497	2 354	140 666
18	46 946	34 432	28 346	10 809	14 902	3 479	1 501	2 536	142 951
19	46 937	35 261	28 398	10 942	14 849	3 494	1 552	2 772	144 205
20–24	234 525	178 423	140 561	52 624	72 124	15 572	8 519	14 551	716 899
25–29	230 923	172 129	130 634	48 536	67 700	13 288	8 731	12 861	684 802
30–34	255 155	189 465	144 208	53 885	74 534	15 144	9 312	12 715	754 418
35–39	241 810	182 513	137 139	54 453	73 102	15 630	8 736	11 883	725 266
40–44	258 266	187 087	145 926	58 670	77 425	18 099	8 612	12 085	766 170
45–49	235 804	173 033	135 110	54 901	72 375	17 609	7 092	11 355	707 279
50–54	217 706	158 131	126 936	51 742	67 216	16 652	6 706	10 984	656 073
55–59	200 138	143 987	118 775	47 793	59 627	15 388	5 190	9 615	600 513
60–64	152 235	109 709	88 892	35 898	43 503	12 178	3 527	6 255	452 197
65 years and over	401 730	291 255	212 189	100 628	103 257	30 603	4 618	13 366	1 157 646
Total adult population (b)	2 522 175	1 889 267	1 464 864	580 881	740 614	177 136	74 096	120 978	7 570 011
Total population	3 340 614	2 447 832	1 928 654	759 037	989 212	237 685	104 796	160 141	9 967 971
FEMALES									
0–16	732 463	532 458	439 899	159 500	222 631	54 067	27 225	35 454	2 203 697
17	44 012	32 412	26 266	10 084	14 024	3 377	1 392	2 280	133 847
18	44 545	33 320	26 806	10 375	14 265	3 376	1 362	2 400	136 449
19	44 743	34 108	27 274	10 395	14 267	3 292	1 387	2 682	138 148
20–24	224 350	173 359	134 632	49 398	68 703	14 664	7 207	13 720	686 033
25–29	229 303	171 311	129 491	45 857	65 746	13 488	8 123	12 657	675 976
30–34	258 292	195 994	146 420	52 836	73 476	16 236	9 066	12 963	765 283
35–39	242 618	187 384	140 901	53 961	73 270	16 635	7 908	12 231	734 908
40–44	256 857	190 686	149 458	58 871	77 433	18 839	7 555	12 781	772 480
45–49	237 410	176 715	137 167	55 816	73 003	17 878	6 655	12 303	716 947
50–54	217 896	163 047	127 253	53 148	66 577	16 886	5 747	11 647	662 201
55–59	195 818	145 020	114 666	48 588	56 358	15 401	4 126	9 685	589 662
60–64	149 616	109 617	85 230	36 200	41 884	11 958	2 616	6 324	443 445
65 years and over	501 273	368 777	249 437	129 115	124 935	37 876	4 035	16 618	1 432 066
Total adult population (b)	2 602 721	1 981 750	1 495 001	604 560	749 917	186 529	65 787	126 011	7 812 276
Total population	3 379 196	2 514 208	1 934 900	774 144	986 572	243 973	94 404	163 745	10 091 142
PERSONS									
0–16	1 504 651	1 091 023	903 689	327 099	456 357	111 073	56 428	72 263	4 522 583
17	90 263	66 254	54 016	20 641	28 896	6 920	2 889	4 634	274 513
18	91 491	67 752	55 152	21 184	29 167	6 855	2 863	4 936	279 400
19	91 680	69 369	55 672	21 337	29 116	6 786	2 939	5 454	282 353
20–24	458 875	351 782	275 193	102 022	140 827	30 236	15 726	28 271	1 402 932
25–29	460 226	343 440	260 125	94 393	133 446	26 776	16 854	25 518	1 360 778
30–34	513 447	385 459	290 628	106 721	148 010	31 380	18 378	25 678	1 519 701
35–39	484 428	369 897	278 040	108 414	146 372	32 265	16 644	24 114	1 460 174
40–44	515 123	377 773	295 384	117 541	154 858	36 938	16 167	24 866	1 538 650
45–49	473 214	349 748	272 277	110 717	145 378	35 487	13 747	23 658	1 424 226
50–54	435 602	321 178	254 189	104 890	133 793	33 538	12 453	22 631	1 318 274
55–59	395 956	289 007	233 441	96 381	115 985	30 789	9 316	19 300	1 190 175
60–64	301 851	219 326	174 122	72 098	85 387	24 136	6 143	12 579	895 642
65 years and over	903 003	660 032	461 626	229 743	228 192	68 479	8 653	29 984	2 589 712
Total adult population (b)	5 124 896	3 871 017	2 959 865	1 185 441	1 490 531	363 665	139 883	246 989	15 382 287
Total population	6 719 810	4 962 040	3 863 554	1 533 181	1 975 784	481 658	199 200	323 886	20 059 113

(a) These are preliminary figures from *Australian Demographic Statistics*, March 2004 (cat. no. 3101.0).

(b) Total adult population includes persons aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except for Victoria and Queensland, where it includes persons aged 17 years and over.

APPENDIX 1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATIONS *continued*

A2 ESTIMATED INDIGENOUS POPULATION (a)

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
MALES									
0-16	31 406	6 182	29 640	5 620	14 949	4 011	12 022	877	104 707
17	1 610	296	1 433	297	792	259	678	50	5 415
18	1 491	328	1 417	294	721	215	601	49	5 116
19	1 404	309	1 340	298	728	194	657	52	4 982
20-24	6 003	1 309	5 519	1 228	3 051	796	2 945	176	21 027
25-29	4 680	1 115	4 812	987	2 596	570	2 544	174	17 478
30-34	4 952	1 157	4 763	1 066	2 616	522	2 538	181	17 795
35-39	4 242	928	4 112	829	2 281	523	2 009	139	15 063
40-44	4 039	813	3 616	773	1 907	514	1 684	136	13 482
45-49	3 325	696	2 784	593	1 575	468	1 217	108	10 766
50-54	2 523	605	2 207	492	1 166	379	1 019	63	8 454
55-59	1 950	409	1 587	320	814	235	647	43	6 005
60-64	1 339	238	927	218	534	172	505	19	3 952
65 years and over	1 769	348	1 560	314	894	223	696	36	5 840
Total adult population (b)	37 717	8 551	36 077	7 412	18 883	4 811	17 062	1 176	131 689
Total population	70 733	14 733	65 717	13 329	34 624	9 081	29 762	2 103	240 082
FEMALES									
0-16	29 478	6 098	28 365	5 506	14 067	3 739	11 234	854	99 341
17	1 513	300	1 340	302	781	198	593	48	5 075
18	1 474	319	1 350	307	724	210	585	56	5 025
19	1 349	283	1 302	277	685	211	618	48	4 773
20-24	5 620	1 257	5 851	1 154	3 104	820	2 876	180	20 862
25-29	4 889	1 115	5 316	1 038	2 666	609	2 519	171	18 323
30-34	5 473	1 189	5 598	1 067	2 711	615	2 607	176	19 436
35-39	4 922	1 049	4 676	975	2 492	563	2 139	154	16 970
40-44	4 328	925	4 058	844	2 135	597	1 828	148	14 863
45-49	3 485	701	3 093	694	1 639	466	1 391	118	11 587
50-54	2 663	575	2 447	482	1 351	350	1 094	57	9 019
55-59	2 069	380	1 736	372	892	200	718	39	6 406
60-64	1 303	288	1 186	268	610	162	585	20	4 422
65 years and over	2 234	471	1 978	445	1 184	266	959	32	7 569
Total adult population (b)	39 809	8 852	39 931	7 923	20 193	5 069	17 919	1 199	140 895
Total population	70 800	14 950	68 296	13 731	35 041	9 006	29 746	2 101	243 761
PERSONS									
0-16	60 884	12 280	58 005	11 126	29 016	7 750	23 256	1 731	204 048
17	3 123	596	2 773	599	1 573	457	1 271	98	10 490
18	2 965	647	2 767	601	1 445	425	1 186	105	10 141
19	2 753	592	2 642	575	1 413	405	1 275	100	9 755
20-24	11 623	2 566	11 370	2 382	6 155	1 616	5 821	356	41 889
25-29	9 569	2 230	10 128	2 025	5 262	1 179	5 063	345	35 801
30-34	10 425	2 346	10 361	2 133	5 327	1 137	5 145	357	37 231
35-39	9 164	1 977	8 788	1 804	4 773	1 086	4 148	293	32 033
40-44	8 367	1 738	7 674	1 617	4 042	1 111	3 512	284	28 345
45-49	6 810	1 397	5 877	1 287	3 214	934	2 608	226	22 353
50-54	5 186	1 180	4 654	974	2 517	729	2 113	120	17 473
55-59	4 019	789	3 323	692	1 706	435	1 365	82	12 411
60-64	2 642	526	2 113	486	1 144	334	1 090	39	8 374
65 years and over	4 003	819	3 538	759	2 078	489	1 655	68	13 409
Total adult population (b)	77 526	17 403	76 008	15 335	39 076	9 880	34 981	2 375	272 584
Total population	141 533	29 683	134 013	27 060	69 665	18 087	59 508	4 204	483 753

(a) Projections (low series) for June 2004 from *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0).

(b) Total adult population includes persons aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except for Victoria and Queensland, where it includes persons aged 17 years and over.

APPENDIX 1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATIONS *continued*

A3 ESTIMATED ADULT RESIDENT POPULATION, By country of birth(a)

	Males	Females	Persons
Australia	5 298 278	5 536 244	10 834 522
New Zealand	212 866	175 482	388 348
Papua New Guinea	11 926	12 964	24 890
Fiji	24 109	24 464	48 573
Samoa	7 473	7 369	14 842
Tonga	4 541	4 103	8 644
United Kingdom and Ireland	596 968	564 590	1 161 558
Germany	57 075	58 400	115 475
Netherlands	47 016	42 789	89 805
Italy	123 752	110 819	234 571
Malta	26 589	24 374	50 963
Greece	66 388	64 157	130 545
Romania	7 529	6 799	14 328
Former Yugoslavia(b)	107 550	93 937	201 487
Lebanon	42 528	37 402	79 930
Turkey	17 998	16 053	34 051
Cambodia	12 222	12 702	24 924
Laos	5 168	5 194	10 362
Viet Nam	83 637	85 136	168 773
Indonesia	27 574	27 305	54 879
Malaysia	42 080	44 799	86 879
Philippines	40 326	69 354	109 680
Singapore	17 822	17 982	35 804
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	78 286	80 858	159 144
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	37 325	34 433	71 758
India	58 945	46 838	105 783
United States of America	31 080	24 558	55 638
South Africa	47 570	40 384	87 954
Total(c)	7 578 402	7 682 807	15 261 209

(a) These figures are from *Migration, Australia, June 2002* (cat. no. 3412.0), see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 26.

(b) This comprises Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

(c) Includes other countries not listed and unknown.

APPENDIX 2 INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT RATES

INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT RATES

There have been a number of changes to the calculation of Indigenous imprisonment rates in the 2004 issue of Prisoners in Australia. This Appendix addresses two of these issues - the selection of high or low series Indigenous population projections and age standardisation of Indigenous imprisonment rates. Other issues impacting on the calculation of imprisonment rates include revised definition of the adult population and the re-benchmarking of data used for historical rates. For further information regarding these last two issues, refer to the Explanatory notes of this publication (see paragraphs 19 and 24 respectively).

*Indigenous population
projections: selection of high
or low series*

Imprisonment rates enable comparison of the incidence of imprisonment across states and territories and over time. Rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population, which is in accord with international, state and territory practices. The denominator for calculating the Indigenous imprisonment rate is the Indigenous adult population. In order for comparisons of these rates to be meaningful, the use of appropriate population data in the denominator is important.

Rates for the Indigenous adult population in this publication are calculated using data from *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0) released in September 2004. Backcast estimates are available for the period 1991 to 2001 (see paragraph 25 of the Explanatory Notes) and two series of projections have been published for 2002 to 2009. In the case of the projections:

- The lower of the two series assumes no 'unexplained growth' – that is, the Indigenous population recorded in the 2001 Census of Population and Housing is projected to change only as a result of births and deaths (natural increase) and, for the states and territories, as a result of interstate migration.
- The higher of the two series assumes that there will be 'unexplained growth' in the Indigenous population – that is, the projected Indigenous population growth cannot be explained fully by births, deaths and interstate migration; and that the additional growth is based on the 'unexplained growth' observed over the 1996 and 2001 period.

The reasons for the 'unexplained growth' in Indigenous population counts are varied. They include changes within households in the person completing the Population Census form, changes in attitudes toward Indigenous identification in the Census of Population and Housing, and improvements in field collection and data processing procedures, including procedures aimed specifically at improving Indigenous enumeration.

Following consultation with the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit Advisory Group and other internal and external stakeholders, it has been decided to use the low series as the denominator in the calculation of Indigenous imprisonment rates from 2002. The low series has been used because, over time, it behaves in the same way as the 2001 backcast estimates, with the level adjusted to incorporate the 'unexplained growth' in Indigenous population estimates from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. The low series allows no 'unexplained growth' between 2001 and 2009.

An impact of using the 2001 based 'low series' is that, for the same number of Indigenous prisoners, a smaller estimate for the denominator would result in a higher rate of imprisonment compared to one calculated using the 'high series'.

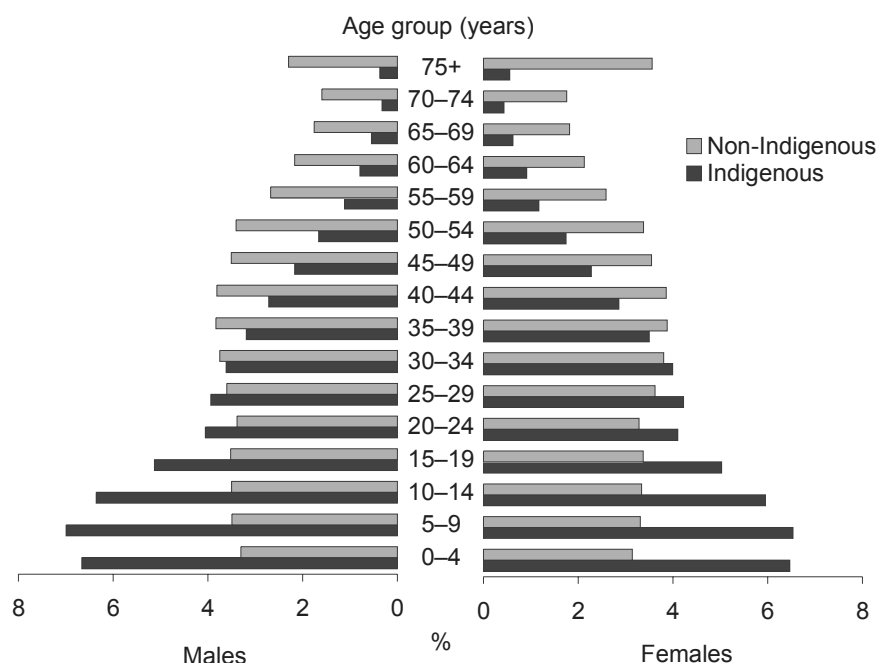
Some users may consider it more appropriate to use the 2001 based 'high series' projections for their own purposes. These data are available in the publication *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0).

APPENDIX 2 INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT RATES *continued*

Age standardisation of Indigenous imprisonment rates

There are differences in the age distributions between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. In 2001, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over was 54.6%, compared with 75.8% of non-Indigenous people (and 75.3% of the total Australian population). The diagram below illustrates the differences in age distributions.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, AUSTRALIA - 30 JUNE 2001



Using crude rates to examine differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations may lead to erroneous conclusions being drawn about variables that are correlated with age. By making comparisons across age groups, we know that imprisonment rates decrease in older age groups. Further, we know that the Indigenous population is much younger than the non-Indigenous population. If we compare overall imprisonment rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, it is likely that the imprisonment rate in the Indigenous population will be higher because of the larger proportion of young people in the Indigenous population.

Age standardisation is a statistical method that can be used to remove the effect of age to enable valid comparisons between different populations. In the context of such a comparison, the key variable of interest is the *ratio of rates*, rather than the age standardised rates alone.

Age standardisation adjusts crude rates for age differences between study populations by weighting the data by the population in each age group of the standard population (direct method), or by the age-specific rates of the standard population (indirect method). Age standardised Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates have been calculated and included in table 3 of this publication. Ratios of the rates are also included.

Calculation of age standardised rates for other populations of interest will be considered for future issues of this publication.

The table below presents age specific crude rates and age standardised rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous adult imprisonment. It also includes the ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates.

APPENDIX 2 INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT RATES *continued*

Age standardisation of Indigenous imprisonment rates continued

The standard population (reference population), against which each population is age standardised, is the Total Australian Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2001. Because the age distributions and age specific imprisonment rates of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are known, the 'Direct Method' of age standardisation has been used.

The results indicate that, using the crude rates, Indigenous adults were 15 times more likely to be imprisoned at 30 June 2004 than non-Indigenous adults. However, when the data are adjusted to remove the effect of the different age distributions of the two populations, the results indicate that Indigenous adults were 11 times more likely to be imprisoned at 30 June 2004 than non-Indigenous adults.

A4 INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT, Age specific and age standardised rates(a)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates(b)
Age specific rates			
Under 20 years(c)	1 169.1	73.9	15.8
20–24 years	2 764.4	234.2	11.8
25–29 years	3 206.6	265.5	12.1
30–34 years	2 822.9	239.1	11.8
35–39 years	2 088.5	191.4	10.9
40–44 years	1 534.7	128.0	12.0
45–54 years	637.8	80.2	8.0
55 years and over	178.4	25.6	7.0
Crude rates	1 851.9	124.3	14.9
Age standardised rates	1 416.9	129.0	11.0

- (a) Rate per 100,000 adult population. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 18–21.
- (b) The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous imprisonment rates is calculated by dividing the Indigenous imprisonment rate by the non-Indigenous imprisonment rate.
- (c) Refers to persons aged 18–19 years in all states and territories except Victoria and Queensland, where it refers to persons aged 17–19 years.

APPENDIX 3 AUSTRALIAN STANDARD OFFENCE CLASSIFICATION

Code Division/Subdivision

- 01 **Homicide and related offences**
 - Murder
 - Conspiracies and attempts to murder
 - Manslaughter and driving causing death
- 02 **Acts intended to cause injury**
 - Assault
 - Other acts intended to cause injury
- 03 **Sexual assault and related offences**
 - Sexual assault
 - Non-assaultive sexual offences
- 04 **Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons**
 - Dangerous or negligent operations of a vehicle
 - Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons
- 05 **Abduction and related offences**
 - Abduction and kidnapping
 - Deprivation of liberty/False imprisonment
- 06 **Robbery, extortion and related offences**
 - Robbery
 - Blackmail and extortion
- 07 **Unlawful entry with intent/Burglary, break and enter**
 - Unlawful entry with intent/Burglary, break and enter
- 08 **Theft and related offences**
 - Motor vehicle theft and related offences
 - Theft (except motor vehicles)
 - Receiving or handling proceeds of crime
 - Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)
- 09 **Deception and related offences**
 - Fraud, forgery or false financial instruments
 - Counterfeiting currency and related offences
 - Dishonest conversion
 - Bribery
 - Other deception offences
- 10 **Illicit drug offences**
 - Import or export illicit drugs
 - Deal or traffic in illicit drugs
 - Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs
 - Possess and/or use illicit drugs
 - Other illicit drug offences
- 11 **Weapons and explosive offences**
 - Prohibited weapons/Explosives offences
 - Regulated weapons/Explosives offences
- 12 **Property damage and environmental pollution**
 - Property damage
 - Environmental pollution
- 13 **Public order offences**
 - Disorderly conduct
 - Regulated public order offences
- 14 **Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences**
 - Driving licence offences
 - Road vehicle registration and road worthiness offences
 - Regulatory driving offences
 - Pedestrian offences
- 15 **Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations**
 - Breach of justice order
 - Other offences against justice procedures
 - Offences against government security
 - Offences against government operations
- 16 **Miscellaneous offences**
 - Harassment and related offences
 - Public health and safety offences
 - Commercial/Industry/Financial regulation
 - Other miscellaneous offences

GLOSSARY

Abduction and related offences	Acts intended to unlawfully deprive another person of their freedom of movement against that person's will or against the will of any parent, guardian or other person having lawful custody or care of that person.
Acts intended to cause injury	Acts, excluding attempted murder and those resulting in death, which are intended to cause non-fatal injury or harm to another person and where there is no sexual or acquisitive element.
Adult	An adult prisoner is a person who is aged 18 years and over in all states and territories except Victoria and Queensland where an adult prisoner is a person aged 17 years and over. See also paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.
Age standardised imprisonment rates	Age standardised imprisonment rates enable the comparison of imprisonment rates between populations with different age structures by relating them to a standard population. The current standard population is all persons in the 2001 Australian population. Age standardised imprisonment rates are expressed per 100,000 persons. For further information refer to Appendix 2 – Indigenous Imprisonment Rates.
Aggregate sentence	The longest period that the offender may be detained under sentence in the current episode.
Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC)	The ASOC is a hierarchical classification developed by the ABS for use in the collection and publication of crime and justice statistics. It provides a classificatory framework for the comparison of statistics on offences across Australia. It replaces the Australian National Classification of Offences and resulted both from the need to update the existing classification and to address its recognised deficiencies.
Country of birth	This is determined by corrective services agencies from prisoner interviews. Information in this report on country of birth is classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)</i> (cat. no. 1269.0). Most corrective services agencies do not yet use SACC in their information systems, so information supplied by these agencies has been derived from data coded to local country of birth classifications.
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	Dangerous or negligent acts which, though not intended to cause harm, actually or potentially result in injury to oneself or another person.
Deception and related offences	The use of deception, secret agreements or the making of false instruments with the intent of dishonestly obtaining property, services or other advantage.
Expected time to serve	The period of imprisonment which a convicted prisoner is expected to serve. In most cases this refers to the time elapsed between the date of reception for this episode and the earliest date of release.
Homicide and related offences	The unlawful killing, attempted unlawful killing or conspiracy to kill another person.
Illicit drug offences	The possession, sale, dealing or trafficking, importing or exporting, manufacture or cultivation of drugs or other substances prohibited under legislation.
Imprisonment rate	Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner populations across states and territories. Imprisonment rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population (see also <i>Age standardised imprisonment rates</i> in this Glossary).
Indigenous prisoners	The Indigenous prisoner count is the total of all prisoners who self identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin at the time of reception.
Jurisdiction	The state or territory in which a prisoner is held in custody, regardless of which state or territory has imposed the sentence being served (see paragraphs 14–15 of Explanatory Notes).
Level of court	A separate tier of the court system, each of which is established under legislation and has certain prescribed powers. Court levels are distinguished from one another on the basis of the extent of their legal powers.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Maximum-minimum(max-min)	See <i>Type of sentence</i> in this Glossary.
Miscellaneous offences	<p>Offences involving the breach of statutory rules or regulations governing activities that are prima facie legal, where such offences are not explicitly dealt with under any other division of ASOC, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ harassment and related offences ■ public health and safety offences ■ commercial/industry/financial regulations.
Most serious charge	For unsentenced prisoners, whether convicted or not, the most serious charge is the charge which carries the longest statutory maximum penalty (see paragraph 66 of Explanatory Notes).
Most serious offence	For sentenced prisoners, the most serious offence is the offence for which the prisoner has received the longest sentence in the current episode for a single count of the offence (see paragraphs 64–65 of Explanatory Notes).
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	An act or omission that is deemed to be prejudicial to the effective carrying out of justice procedures or any government operations. This includes general government operations as well as those specifically concerned with maintaining government security.
Periodic detainees	Sentenced prisoners who are required to be held in custody for two consecutive days in a one-week period. See also <i>Type of sentence — Periodic detention</i> in this Glossary.
Prior imprisonment	Persons known to have been imprisoned under sentence in an adult prison. Prior sentence of periodic detention is included as prior imprisonment. Prisoners who have had previous adult imprisonment in another state or territory may not be counted as having prior imprisonment.
Prisoner	A person held in custody. For the purposes of this collection, prisoners are those whose confinement is the responsibility of a corrective services agency.
Property damage and environmental pollution	The wilful and unlawful destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property, or the pollution of property or a definable entity held in common by the community.
Public order offences	<p>Offences involving personal conduct that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ involves or may lead to a breach of public order and decency ■ is indicative of criminal intent ■ is otherwise regulated or prohibited on moral or ethical grounds. <p>In general these offences do not involve a specific victim or victims, however some offences, such as offensive language and offensive behaviour, may be directed towards a single victim.</p>
Remand prisoners (remandees)	Remand prisoners are those persons who have been placed in custody while awaiting the outcome of their court hearing. They may be unconvicted (remanded in custody for trial), convicted but awaiting sentence (remanded in custody for sentence) or awaiting deportation. Some sentenced prisoners also have active remand warrants against them. In such cases, these prisoners are counted as sentenced.
Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences	Offences relating to vehicles and most forms of road traffic, including offences pertaining to the licensing, registration, roadworthiness or use of vehicles, bicycle offences and pedestrian offences.
Robbery, extortion and related offences	Acts intended to unlawfully gain money, property or other thing of value from, or to cause detriment to, another person by using the threat of force or any other coercive measure.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Sentenced prisoners	Sentenced prisoners are those persons who have received a term of imprisonment from a court. This includes offenders who have been given an indeterminate sentence or custodial order, for example, persons detained under the 'Governor's/Queen's Pleasure' and 'Forensic Patients', or those who have received a life sentence. Also included are persons sentenced to part-time imprisonment, that is, periodic detainees in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
Sexual assault and related offences	Acts of a sexual nature against another person which are non-consensual or consent is proscribed.
Theft and related offences	The unlawful taking or obtaining of money or goods not involving the use of force, threat of force or violence, coercion or deception, with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner or possessor of the use of the money or goods, or the receiving or handling of money or goods obtained unlawfully.
Time on remand	For unsentenced prisoners, time on remand is calculated as the period between the date of reception and the prisoner census date. It represents only that period of time spent on remand up to 30 June of the reference year.
Type of sentence	<p>The classification of sentence types used in this report is as follows:</p> <p><i>Indeterminate — life.</i> Persons sentenced to life imprisonment. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the person will be held in custody for the term of their natural life. In some states or territories a minimum time to serve in custody is specified by the court, while in others this decision is made by an administrative body such as a Parole Board.</p> <p><i>Indeterminate — other.</i> Persons declared as habitual criminals, persons who are either permanently or temporarily deemed not responsible for their actions because of a mental disorder or intellectual disability and prisoners who are sentenced to imprisonment but have not had a release date set. That is, the prisoner may be released at any time, at the discretion of the administrative body within each jurisdiction responsible for making that decision.</p> <p><i>Life with minimum.</i> Persons sentenced to life imprisonment, where a minimum time to serve in custody has been specified by the court.</p> <p><i>Maximum-minimum (or max-min).</i> Sentences where a person may be eligible to be released on parole after serving a minimum term in custody, and who must be released once a maximum term has been served.</p> <p><i>Fixed term.</i> Sentences where there is no minimum term or non-parole period set. The prisoner is required to serve the whole sentence, less any remission allowed, in custody and when released from custody is not subject to any further correctional intervention.</p> <p>The situation in Tasmania differs in that while no minimum term or non-parole period is set by the court, it is understood that the prisoner will usually be released on parole at a time determined by the Parole Board.</p> <p><i>Periodic detention.</i> A sentencing option which at the time of the 30 June 2004 National Prisoner Census was available only to New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory courts. Persons given periodic detention are in custody for two consecutive days in a week (periodic detainee week), and remain at liberty during the rest of the week.</p> <p><i>Fine default only.</i> Persons who are serving a sentence for non-payment of a fine and are subject to no other sentence type at the time. Offenders who are serving fine default sentences while on remand are counted as sentenced (fine default) prisoners. Offenders who are serving fine default sentences concurrently with other sentences of imprisonment are counted under the other sentence type and not as fine default only prisoners.</p>
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	The unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence where the entry is either forced or unforced.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Unsentenced prisoners

A legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody on remand while awaiting the outcome of their trial. They may be unconvicted (remanded in custody for trial), convicted but awaiting sentence (remanded in custody for sentence) or awaiting deportation.

**Weapons and explosives
offences**

Offences involving weapons and explosives.

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