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Australian Institute of Criminology

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How police body-worn cameras can facilitate misidentification of domestic and family violence victims as offenders

Link to: [How police body-worn cameras can facilitate misidentification in domestic and family violence responses](#)

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released a new study by researchers from Deakin University and Monash University examining victim-survivor perspectives on police use of body-worn cameras when responding to domestic and family violence callouts.

- The research examines data collected through an anonymous online survey of 119 victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, and semi-structured interviews with 14 victim-survivors, from across Australia.
- While victim-survivors generally saw the use of body-worn cameras as beneficial, they also identified a number of concerns regarding their use in responses to family and domestic violence.
- Two key concerns identified by victim-survivors relate to the potential for body-worn camera footage to facilitate their misidentification as primary aggressors, and the use of footage by perpetrators to present (false) evidence of themselves as blameless.

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New AIC report examines criminal justice involvement of 10-13 year old children

Link to: [Police and Children's Court outcomes for children aged 10 to 13](#)

The AIC has released a new study by researchers from Monash University and Swinburne University of Technology on children involved in the criminal justice system. It shows:

- Across all 10-13 year olds with criminal justice involvement in 2017 in Victoria, 55 percent received a police caution, 25 percent had police contact other than a caution and without court involvement, 18 percent had court involvement without youth justice supervision and 2 percent had court involvement with youth justice supervision.
- While 13.7 percent of the sample were Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander children, those whose matters proceeded to Children's Court were significantly more likely to be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander than those whose matters did not proceed to Children's Court (21.1% vs 11.8%).
- At the time of their index matter, half of children had a prior intervention order. Of these, 96.7 percent were the complainant (victim-survivor) in their first IVO, while 3.3 percent were respondents.

- Among children aged 10-12 years whose index matter proceeded to court, 65.9% had their charges struck out or dismissed. This trend was different for 13 year olds, who were more likely to have received a court outcome of diversion (53.5%) or a youth justice order in the community (13.0%) or a sentence of detention (0.5%).

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New AIC research examines child maltreatment and involvement in the criminal justice system

Link to: [Child maltreatment and criminal justice system involvement in Australia: Findings from a national survey](#)

The AIC has released new research by the Queensland University of Technology which analysed data from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study, a nationally representative survey of 8,500 Australians asking about experiences of all five child maltreatment types.

- Respondents who had experienced any child maltreatment were more likely to be arrested and convicted, and men maltreated as children were more likely to be imprisoned.
- Stronger associations were found for those who had experienced three or more types of child maltreatment.
- Findings will be of significant interest to policymakers and practitioners involved in understanding and preventing child sexual abuse and developing rehabilitation programs for offenders.

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New AIC report estimates the scale of viewing child sexual abuse material

Link to: [Prevalence of viewing online child sexual abuse material among Australian adults](#)

Based on an online survey of over 13,000 adults, this study finds that:

- 0.8 percent of those surveyed had intentionally viewed child sexual abuse material in the last year—lower than international estimates, which have ranged from 2.2 to 4.6 percent.
- Rates of CSAM viewing were estimated to be higher than average for 18–34 year olds, those living with disability, those who have served in the military and those who most often spoke a language other than English at home.
- The results can help in tailoring prevention initiatives to target particular groups who may be more vulnerable to viewing online CSAM.

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New research reveals the impact of darknet market seizures on opioid availability

Opioids, including the highly potent synthetic opioids fentanyl and carfentanil, are commonly sold on darknet markets.

- The voluntary closure of a major market for opioids in 2019 was followed by an increase in opioid availability, as was a subsequent law enforcement takedown of a major supplier of fentanyl. A further takedown of a large, growing market was followed by a significant decrease in overall opioid listings.
- Repeated takedowns of markets by law enforcement contribute to an overall suppression effect on drug availability on the darknet.

The report is available for free download on the AIC website:

<https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rr/rr18>

More information: <https://www.aic.gov.au/media-centre/news/new-research-reveals-impact-darknet-market-seizures-opioid-availability>

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New report released by the Australian Institute of Criminology on deaths in custody in 2022-23

Link to: [Deaths in custody in Australia 2022-23](#)

Data from the most recent National Deaths in Custody Program Statistical Report *Deaths in custody in Australia 2022–23* shows that:

- In the 32 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody to 30 June 2023, there have been 545 Indigenous deaths in custody.
- In 2022–23, there were 110 deaths in custody: 70 in prison custody and 40 in police custody and custody-related operations.
- Thirty-one deaths in custody in 2022–23 were of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—21 deaths in prison custody and 10 deaths in police custody. Of the 79 non-Indigenous deaths in custody, 49 were in prison custody and 30 in police custody.

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Earlier documentation(s) on Deaths in Custody

New Deaths in Custody Report released.

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has released the latest report from the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) *Deaths in custody in Australia 2018-19* Statistical Report.

Deputy Director of the AIC, Dr Rick Brown said that the NDICP examines the circumstances of deaths in prison, police custody and juvenile detention around Australia **since 1979**.

“Here at the AIC we have coordinated the NDICP since its establishment in 1992, reporting on the number of deaths in custody in Australia, and the patterns and trends observed in those deaths”, Dr Rick Brown said.

In the 28 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991), there have been 455 Indigenous deaths in custody—295 in prison, 156 in police custody or custody-related operations and four in juvenile detention.

The latest report details the 113 deaths in custody in 2018-19—89 in prison custody and 24 in police custody or custody-related operations—and compares these findings to longer term trends.

“Deaths in prison custody include deaths that occur in prison or youth detention facilities. This also includes the deaths that occur during transfer to or from prison or youth detention centres, or in medical facilities following transfer from adult or youth detention centres,” Dr Brown said.

Of the 89 deaths in prison custody, 18 per cent were of Indigenous persons and 82 per cent were of non-Indigenous persons, with the majority of these deaths being of males.

More than half of the deaths in prison custody were caused by natural causes, this being the most common cause of death for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners.

“Deaths in police custody include deaths in institutional settings like police stations or lock-ups, police vehicles, during transfers, or in hospitals following transfer from an

institution, and deaths in police operations including raids, sieges and police pursuits,” Dr Brown said.

Of the 24 deaths in police custody, four were of Indigenous persons, 19 were of non-Indigenous persons, and the Indigenous status was unknown in one further case.

Just over half of the deaths in police custody were caused by gunshot wounds—nine were police shootings and four were self-inflicted.

Two of the four Indigenous deaths in police custody were accidental deaths attributable to other/multiple causes, one was a self-inflicted death attributable to gunshot wounds, and one had no cause or manner of death recorded.

“Information collected through the NDICP including on cause of death, manner of death, the number of Indigenous persons who die in custody and the age and gender of deceased persons is vital to monitoring trends in deaths in custody, and will be used to inform policy and develop initiatives to reduce the number of deaths that occur in police and prison custody”, Dr Rick Brown said.

To read the *Deaths in custody in Australia 2018-19* Statistical Report visit <https://www.aic.gov.au/>

For statistics and data from the long-term monitoring visit <https://www.aic.gov.au/statistics>

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