

WHAT'S NEW?

OCTOBER 2005

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has released the 2003/2004 National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) Annual Report (www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/66/index.html).

Homicide remains a rare event, with the rate of incidence relatively steady over time, despite fluctuations from year to year.

Women were most likely to be killed by assaultive force (32%), followed by a knife or sharp instrument (26%), or some 'other' method (15%).

49% of female victims were killed as a result of a domestic altercation. Of these cases, almost half (44%) occurred as the culmination of a history of domestic violence.

Indigenous women were disproportionately affected.

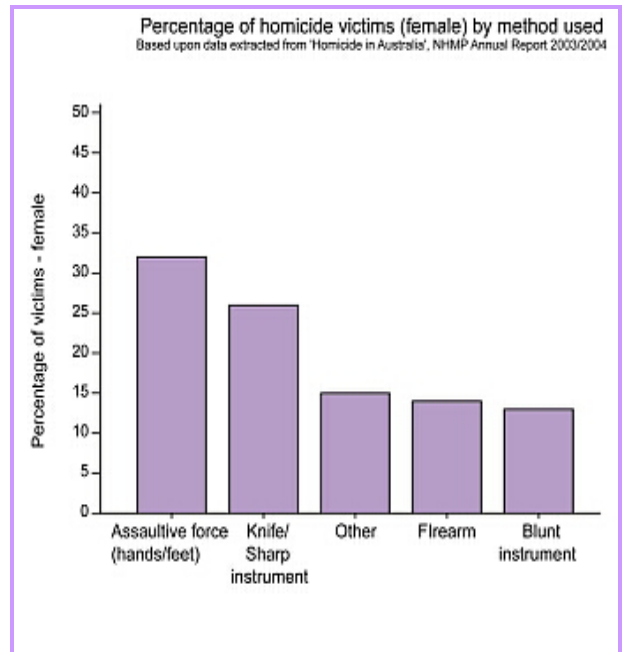
34 child homicides were recorded. Children were most likely to be killed by a knife or sharp instrument (10), followed by hands or feet (9), or some 'other' method (9).

IN OTHER NEWS...

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has just released its latest report on homelessness in Australia.

In 2003/2004, the average daily 'turn away' rate for women seeking emergency accommodation in an attempt to escape abusive and controlling relationships was 48%. Many of these women had already been seriously injured.

Source: AIHW, Bulletin No. 30, Sept. 2005.
(<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10136>)



Firearms accounted for 17% of all homicides, or 53 out of 305 homicides – the same number recorded for 2002/2003.

96% of firearms used in homicides were unregistered. 89% of perpetrators were not licensed to own a firearm.

Handguns accounted for 28 homicides in total, or 53% of all firearm-related homicides.

Not a single handgun used to commit a solved homicide was registered.

65% of solved firearm homicides involved a male victim and a male perpetrator.

Men aged 20-24 years had the highest overall rate of homicide offences, and 69% of male homicide offenders had a criminal history.