



INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT

FACT SHEET



The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Indigenous Australians) in the criminal justice system is a serious social problem in Australia.

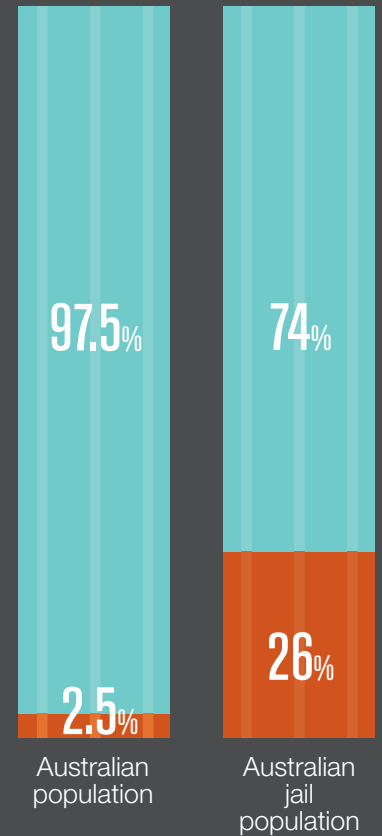
Indigenous Australians make up approximately **2.5%** of Australia's population, yet account for **26%** of the nation's jail population.



A recent Australian Institute of Criminology report found that the proportion of

INDIGENOUS PRISONERS HAS ALMOST DOUBLED

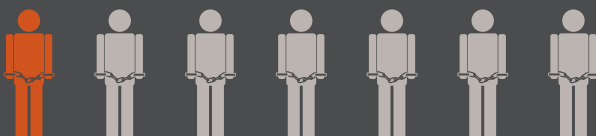
over the 20 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.



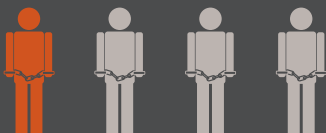
INDIGENOUS OVER-REPRESENTATION IN AUSTRALIA'S JAILS

■ non-Indigenous ■ Indigenous

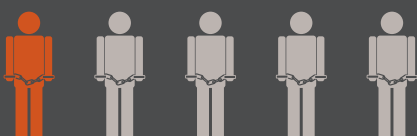
In 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reported that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were imprisoned at a rate **15 TIMES HIGHER** than that of non-Indigenous prisoners.



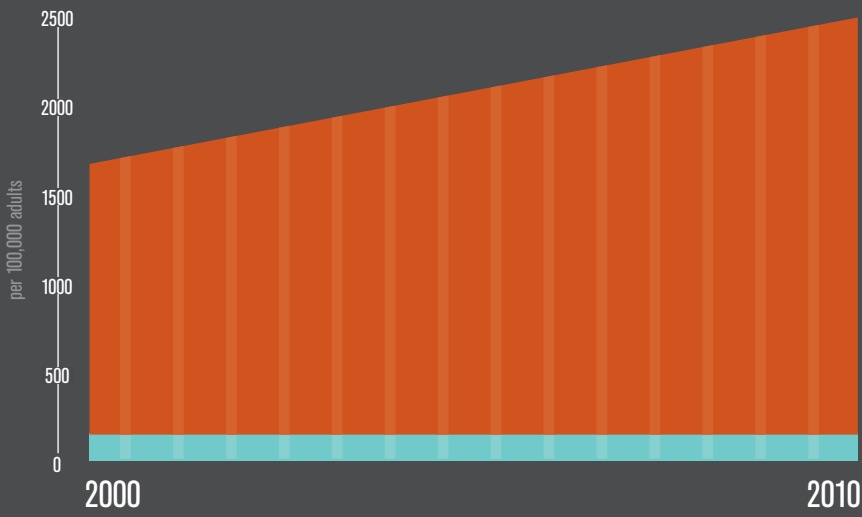
In 1991, Indigenous people represented around **1-in-7** people in Australian prisons (**14%**)



Currently, Indigenous people represent **1-in-4** people in prison (**26%**)



and **1-in-5** deaths in custody (**21%**)



AUSTRALIAN ADULT IMPRISONMENT RATES 2000-2010

■ non-Indigenous ■ Indigenous

THE RATE OF INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT HAS BEEN INCREASING STEADILY:

between 2000 and 2010, the Indigenous imprisonment rate increased by



while the non-Indigenous rate increased only slightly by



Research indicates that Indigenous juvenile offenders given a custodial sentence are



more likely to be reconvicted at any given time than those who receive a non-custodial penalty.

THE RATE OF INCREASE IN INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT IS FASTEST GROWING AMONG WOMEN AND JUVENILES:

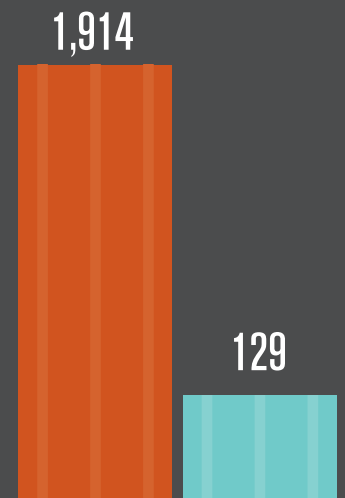


Indigenous juveniles are **31 TIMES MORE LIKELY** to be in detention than non-Indigenous juveniles.



The imprisonment rate for Indigenous females increased by **58.6%** between 2000 and 2010.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH RATES OF INDIGENOUS IMPRISONMENT ARE CYCLICAL AND DESTRUCTIVE, BOTH FOR THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND ENTIRE COMMUNITIES.



AUSTRALIAN ADULT IMPRISONMENT RATES

(per 100,000 Adults)

■ non-Indigenous ■ Indigenous

Significant contributing factors to the high rates of Indigenous imprisonment are the **state and territory government bail and sentencing policies**, which include mandatory sentencing, and provide few alternatives to remanding individuals in custody and imprisoning individuals for non-serious offending.

