



Evidence-based Indigenous Justice Policy

Presentation to Canberra Evaluation Forum

Roger Wilkins AO

16 February 2012





“They [policy makers] will and must make decisions based on whatever information they have available to them – information that often is little more than folklore, war stories, or a single, spectacular, high-profile, and possibly random event.”

Snyder, Howard N., ‘Socially responsible Criminology: Quality relevant research with targeted, effective dissemination’ in *Criminology & Public Policy*, Vol 10, Issue 2, p207-215



Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

Targets

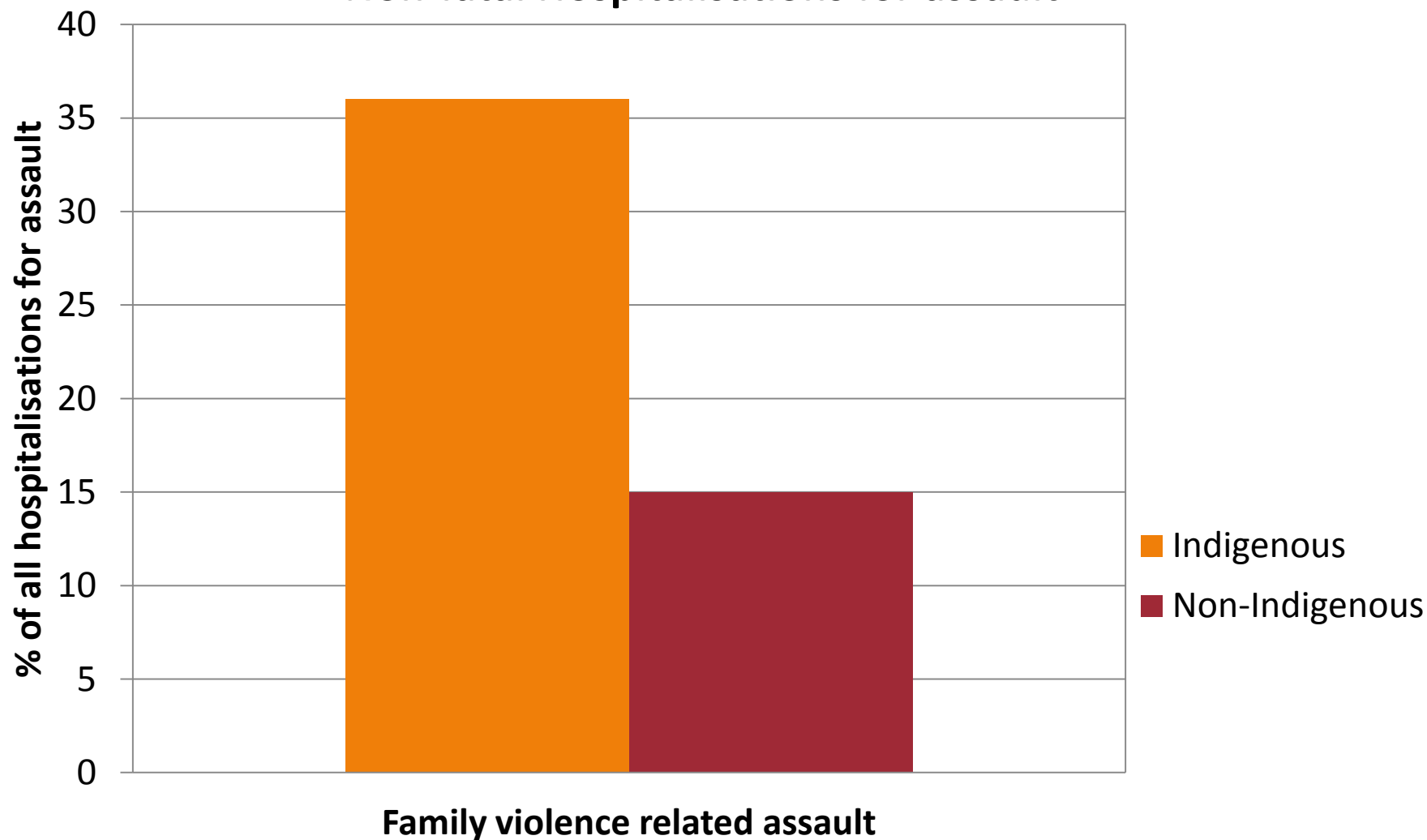
Life Expectancy: Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.	Young Child Mortality Halve the gap in mortality rates for children under five within a decade.	Reading, Writing and Numeracy Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade.	Employment Halve the gap in employment outcomes within a decade.	Early Childhood Education Access to early childhood education, within five years, for all Indigenous four year olds	Year 12 Attainment At least halve the gap in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.
---	---	---	--	---	---

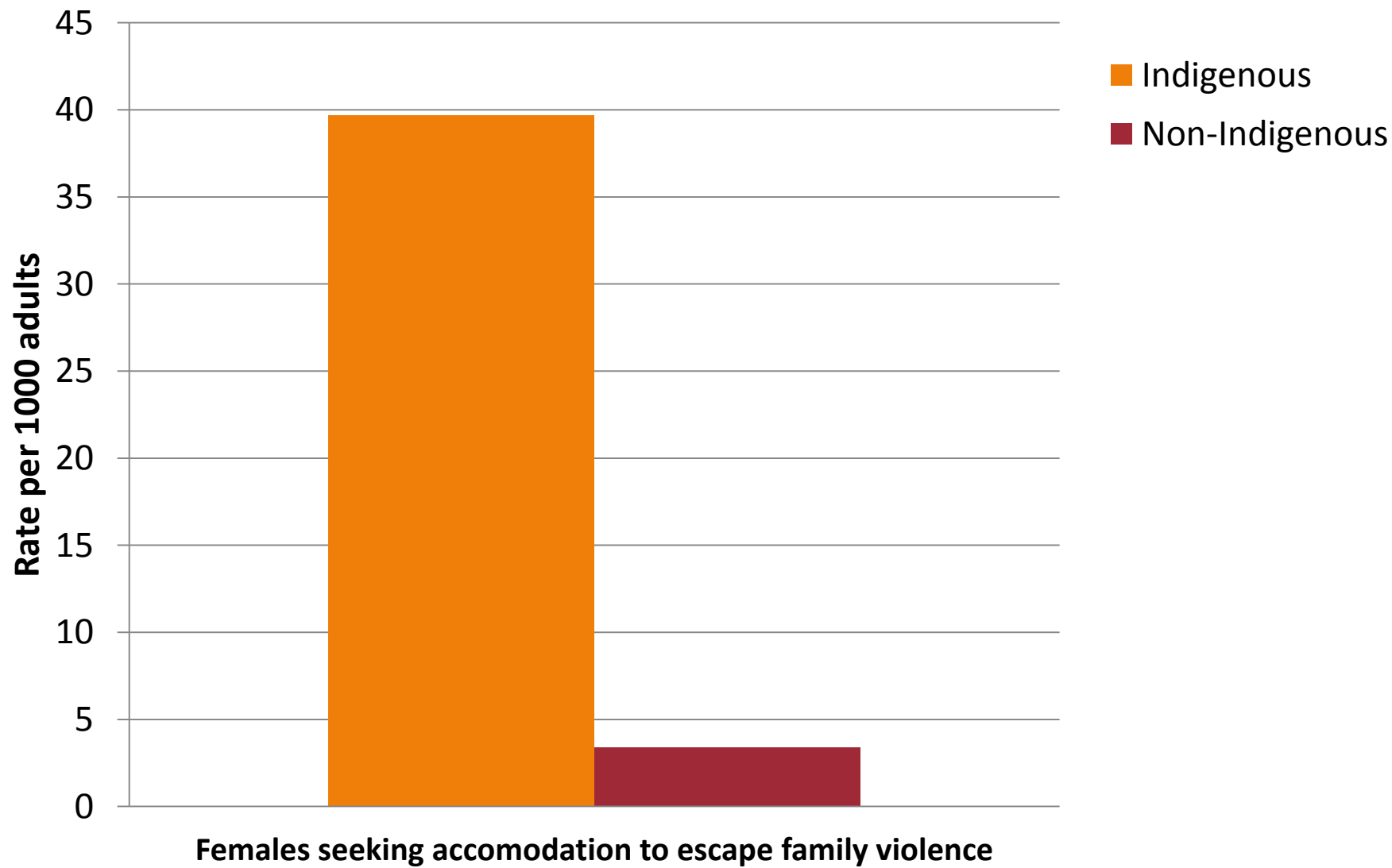
Building Blocks

Early Child Development	Education and Training	Healthy Lives	Economic Participation	Home Environment	Safe and Supportive Communities	Governance and Leadership
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------	------------------------	------------------	--	---------------------------



Non-fatal Hospitalisations for assault







Alcohol and violence

- A 2010 study by the Australian Institute of Criminology suggests that alcohol is regarded as one, if not the, primary risk factor for violence in Indigenous communities.

(Wundersitz, J. 2010 Indigenous perpetrators of violence: Prevalence and risk factors for offending, AIC Reports , Research and Public Policy Series 105, 43.)

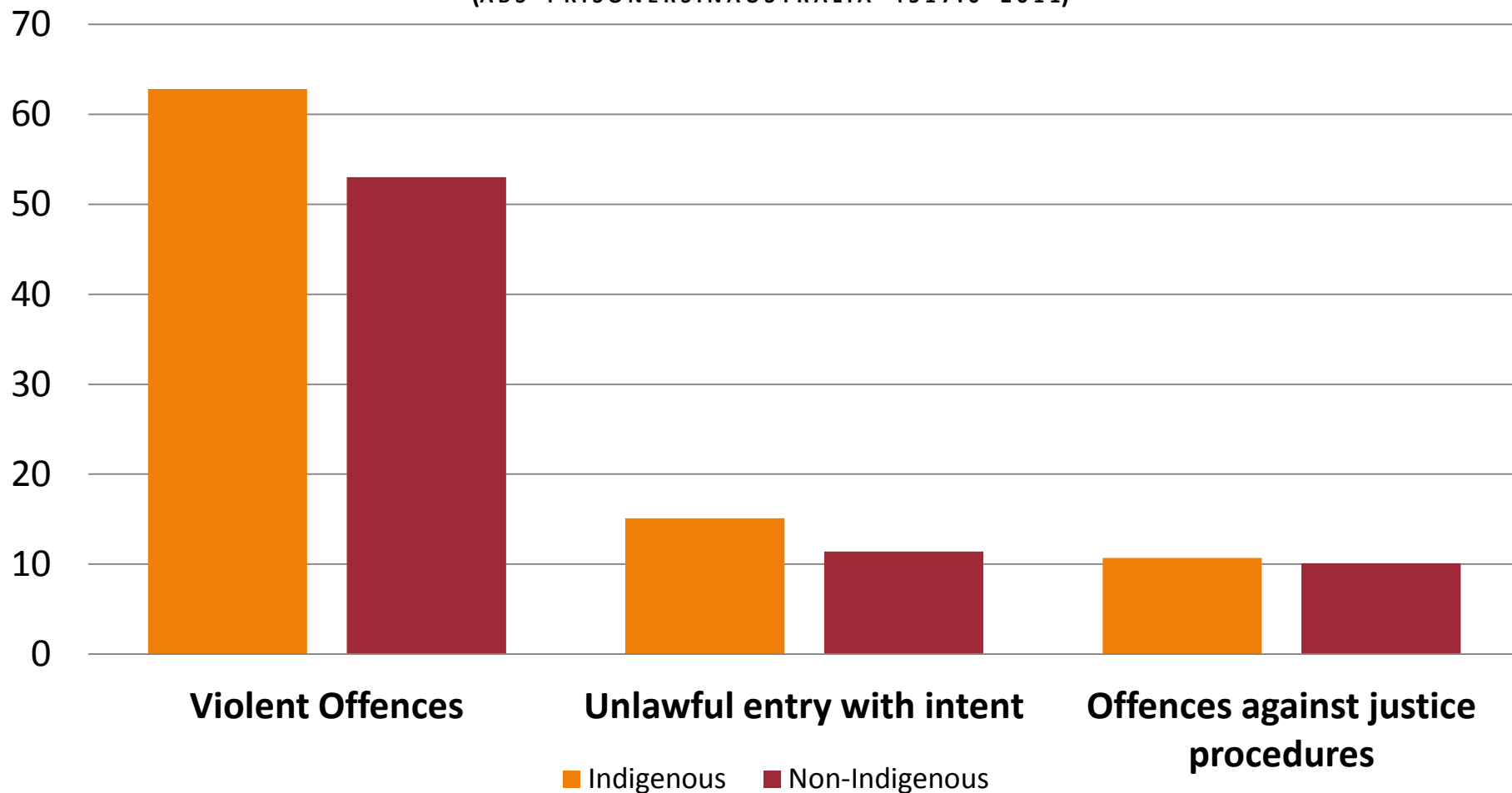
- Of the total recorded homicides between 1999-2000 and 2008-09, 71.4% of Indigenous homicides involved both the victim and offender having consumed alcohol at the time of the offences, compared with 24.7% of non-Indigenous homicides.

Alcohol involvement in Indigenous and non-Indigenous homicides, total recorded 1999-2000 to 2008-09, in SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2011, Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011, Productivity Commission, Canberra.



% Indigenous incarceration by offence category

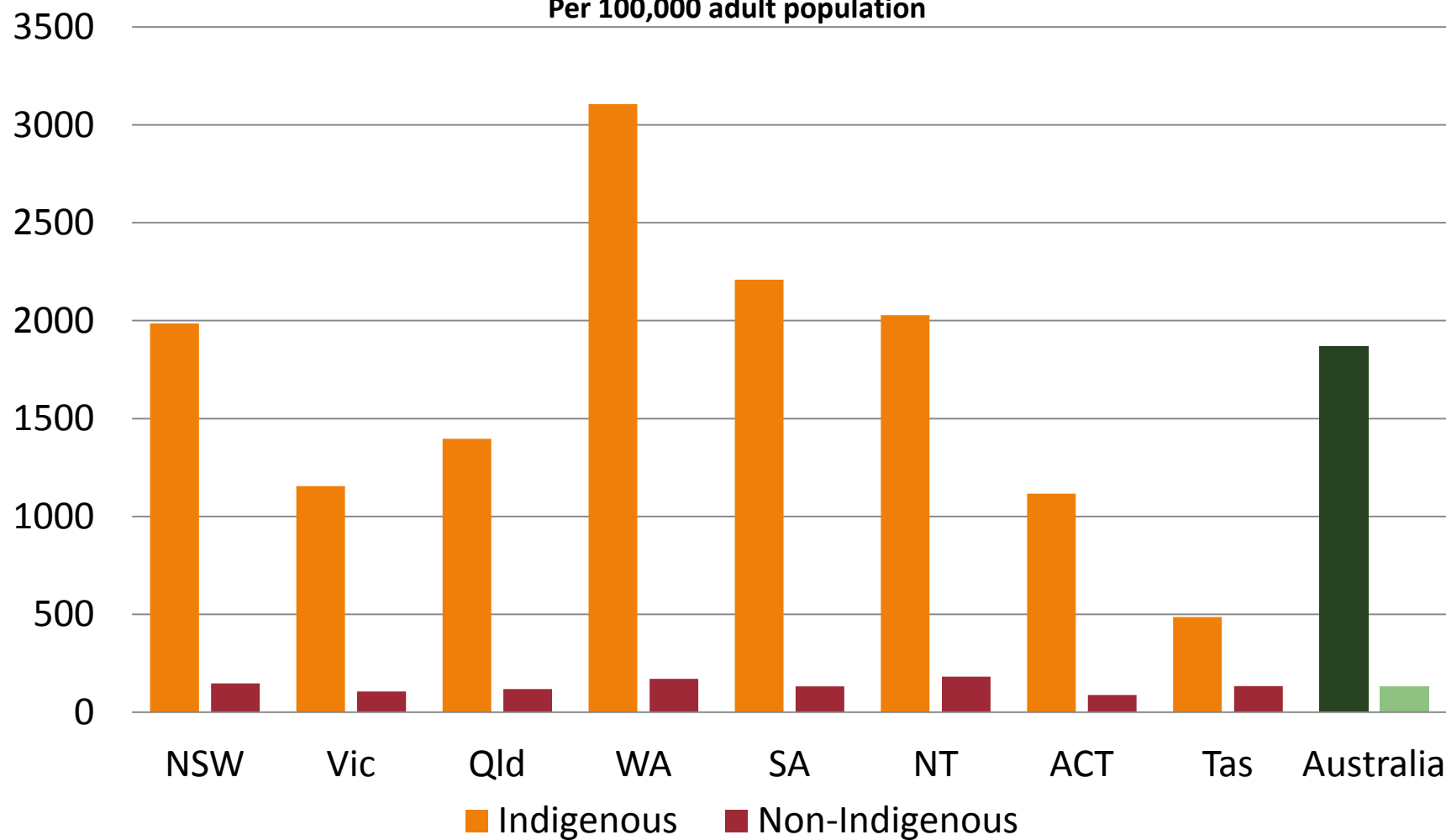
(ABS • PRISONERS IN AUSTRALIA • 4517.0 • 2011)





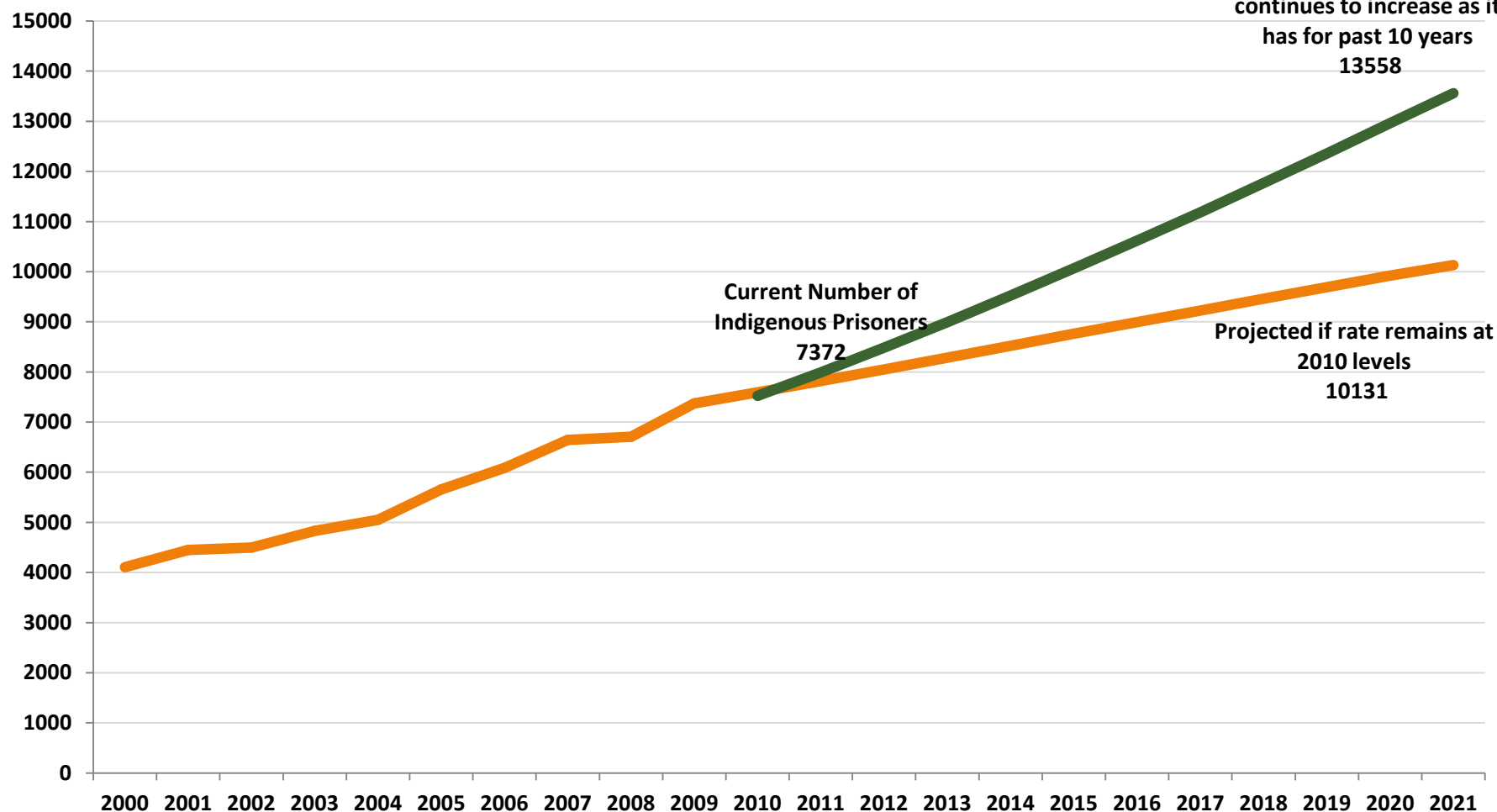
Age Standardised imprisonment rates

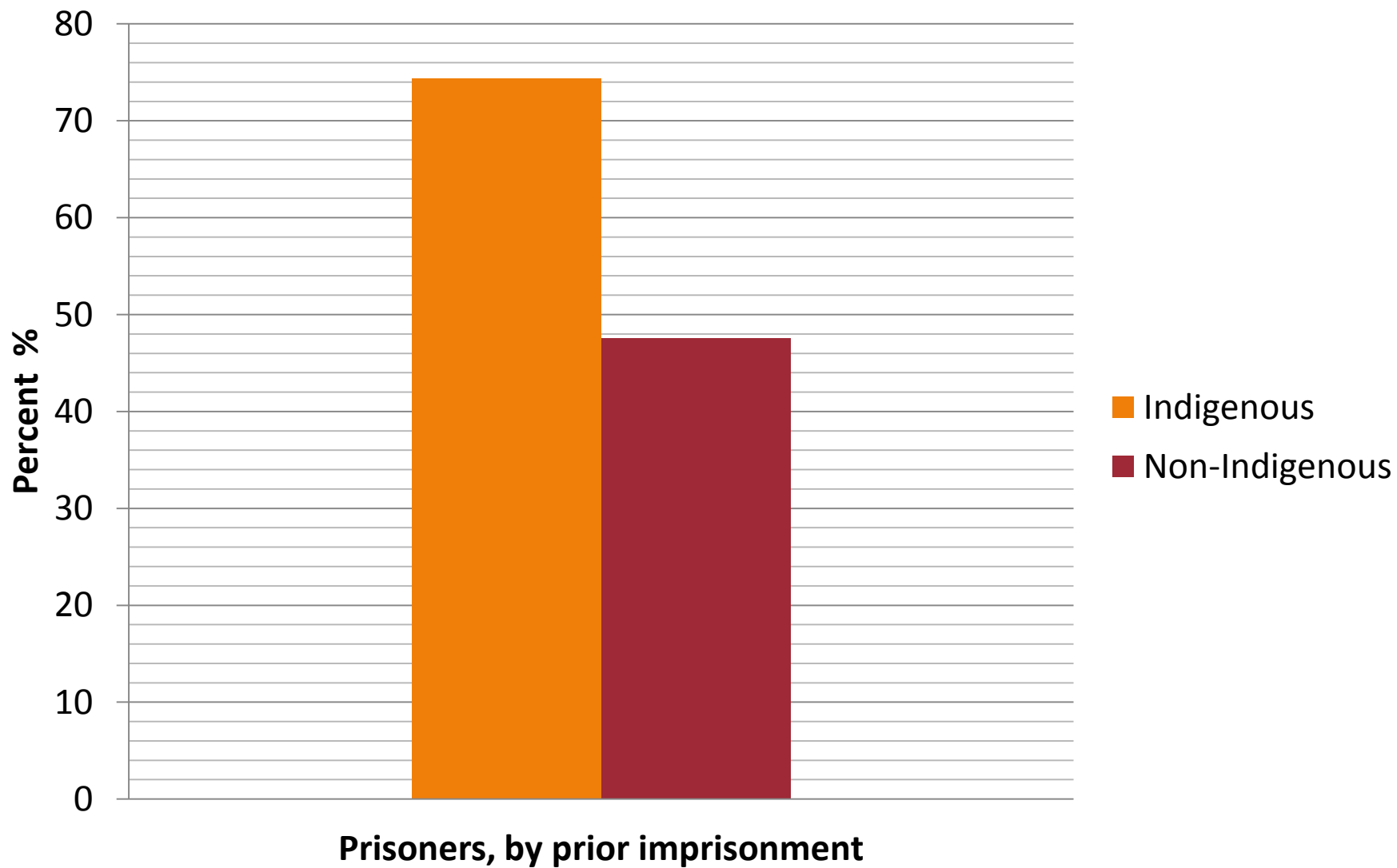
Per 100,000 adult population





Projected Indigenous Prison Numbers 2009-2021







Integrated
Prisoner
throughcare

Alcohol
Management
Planning

Community
policing

Multi-
systemic
therapy

Cognitive-
behavioural
therapy



Focus

- More evaluations focus on process than outcomes.

Independence

- Too many evaluations conducted internally.

Availability

- Findings of evaluations not made public.

Targeting

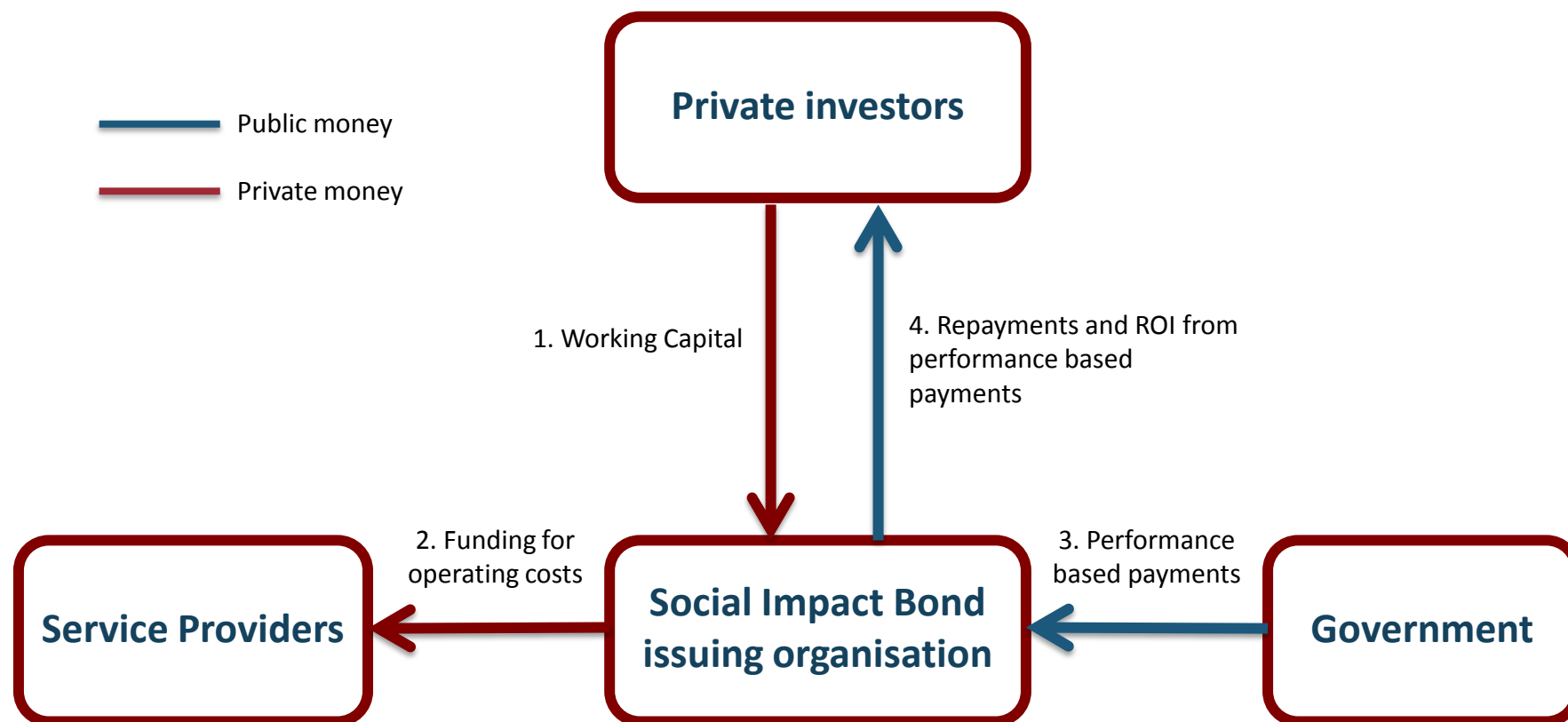
- Evaluations focus on programs that don't address violence.

Methods

- Lack of balance between theoretical and experimental methods



The Social Impact Bond Model





Evaluations under the National
Indigenous Law and Justice Framework

Trial of Community Engagement Police
Officers

Work to improve Corrections data sets