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An analysis of the association between criminal behaviour and experience of maltreatment as a child in the Northern Territory

**For the Australasian Conference for Child Abuse and Neglect
(Melbourne, 10 -13 Nov 2013)**
organised by the Australian Institute of Criminology

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Introduction

1. Aims of this research
2. Child protection in the NT
3. Data source and scope
4. Limitations
5. Findings
6. Conclusion

Aims of This Research

- To explore the association between maltreatment as a child in the Northern Territory and criminal offending as juveniles and adults.
- To determine whether there are differences in the results for sub-populations (eg. Indigenous, non-Indigenous, male and female).
- The frequency of repeat offending will also be examined.

Child Protection in the NT

In 2011-12:

- 7970 child protection notifications
- 1705 were substantiated
- 398 children received a child protection order (s)

This research examines the subsequent criminal behaviour of children who have received one or more court issued child protection order. Child protection order is used as a proxy for maltreatment in this research.

Data Source and Scope

Data Sources:

- IJIS - contains child protection order and conviction records.
- Birth data – supplied by the Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Scope:

- Those who received one or more court issued child protection order;
- Born between 1985 and 2000; and
- Conviction Records 1995 to 30 June 2012.

Data – In scope Population (born between 1985 and 2000)

		<i>Received one or more protection order</i>	<i>Did not receive any protection order</i>	<i>Total</i>
Female	Indigenous	318 (3.4%)	9,033	9,351
Female	Non-Indigenous	123 (0.7%)	17,018	17,141
Male	Indigenous	247 (2.5%)	9,524	9,771
Male	Non-Indigenous	132 (0.7%)	17,808	17,940
Total		820 (1.5%)	53,383	54,203

Limitations

Limitations:

1. The level of under-reporting of child maltreatment is not known, particularly in the remote communities of the Northern Territory.
2. The types, severity and frequency of maltreatment were not separately analysed.
3. Other factors that may influence a person's criminal behaviour such as socio-economic disadvantage, social isolation and disability are not considered in this research.



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Findings

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Outline

Offending

- Juvenile offending
- Juvenile and adult offending
- All criminal offences
- Traffic offences
- Break-ins and Theft
- All except traffic related offences
- Violent offences

Repeat Offending/Conviction

- All except traffic related offences
- Violent crimes

Conclusion



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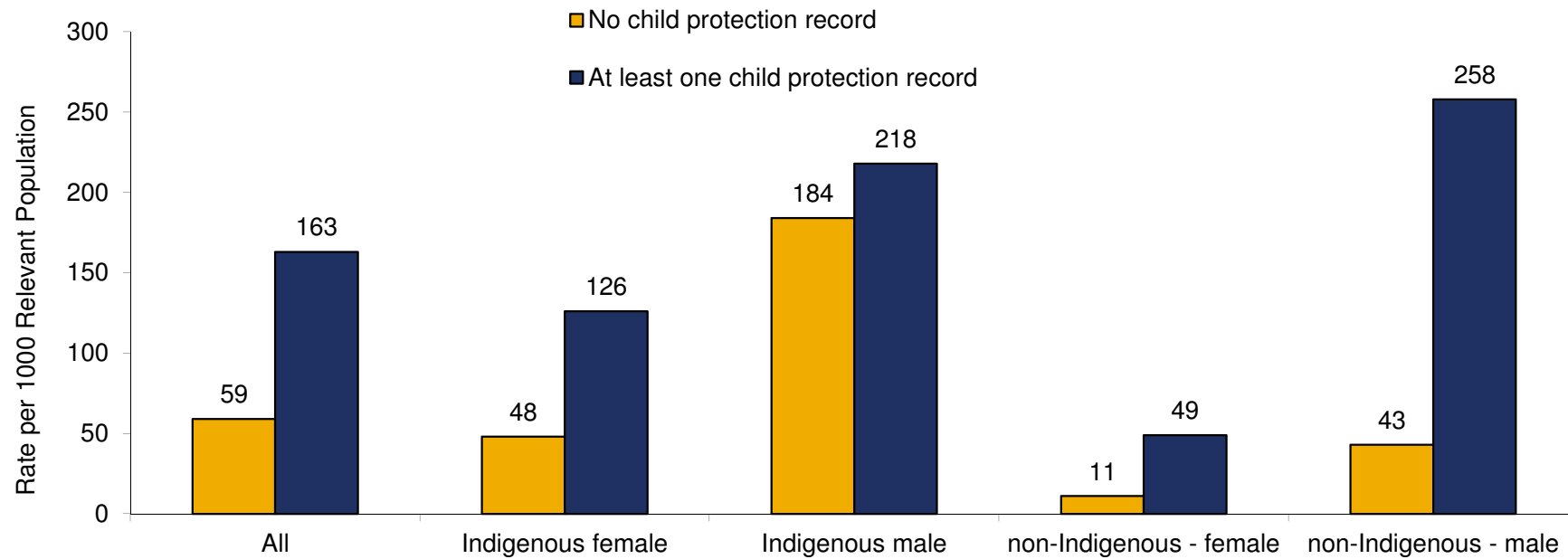
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Offending



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Juvenile Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population by Indigenous Status and Sex

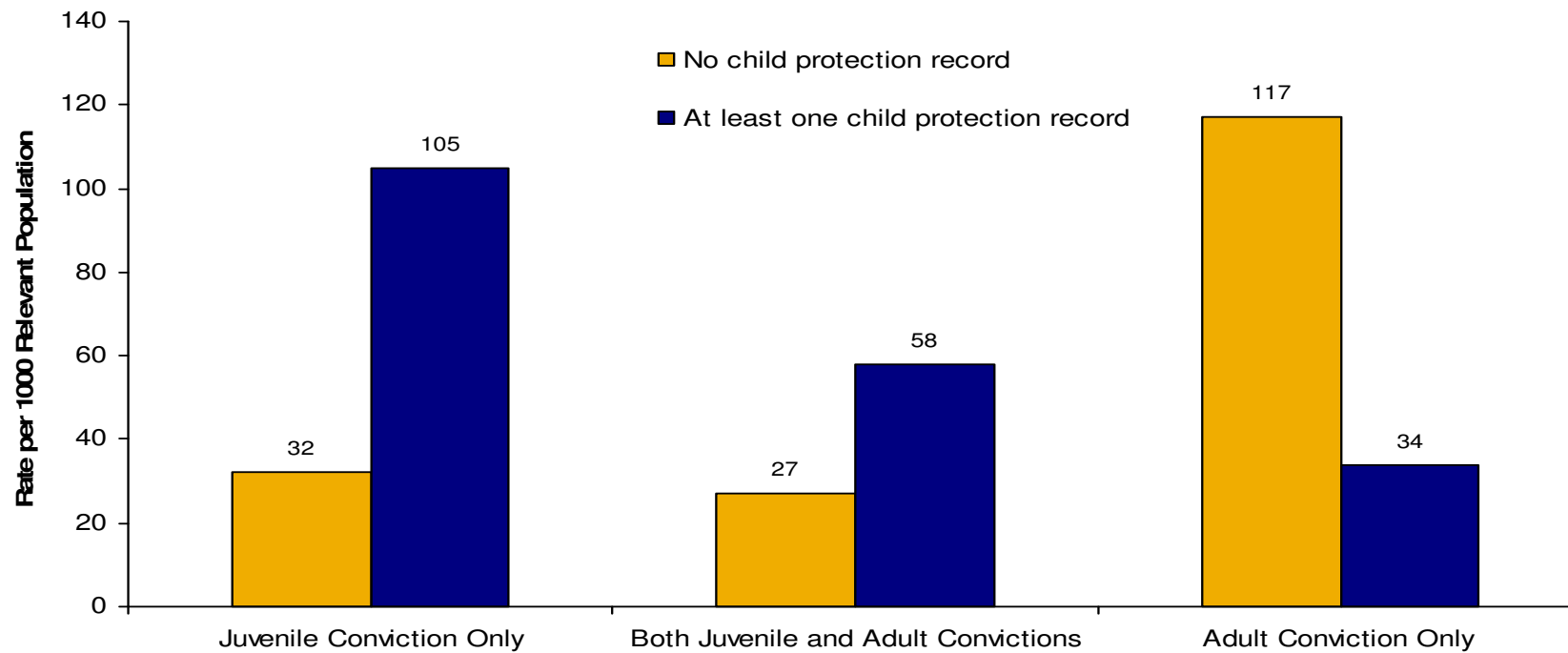


* Proven guilty by NT Courts

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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population by Adult and Juvenile

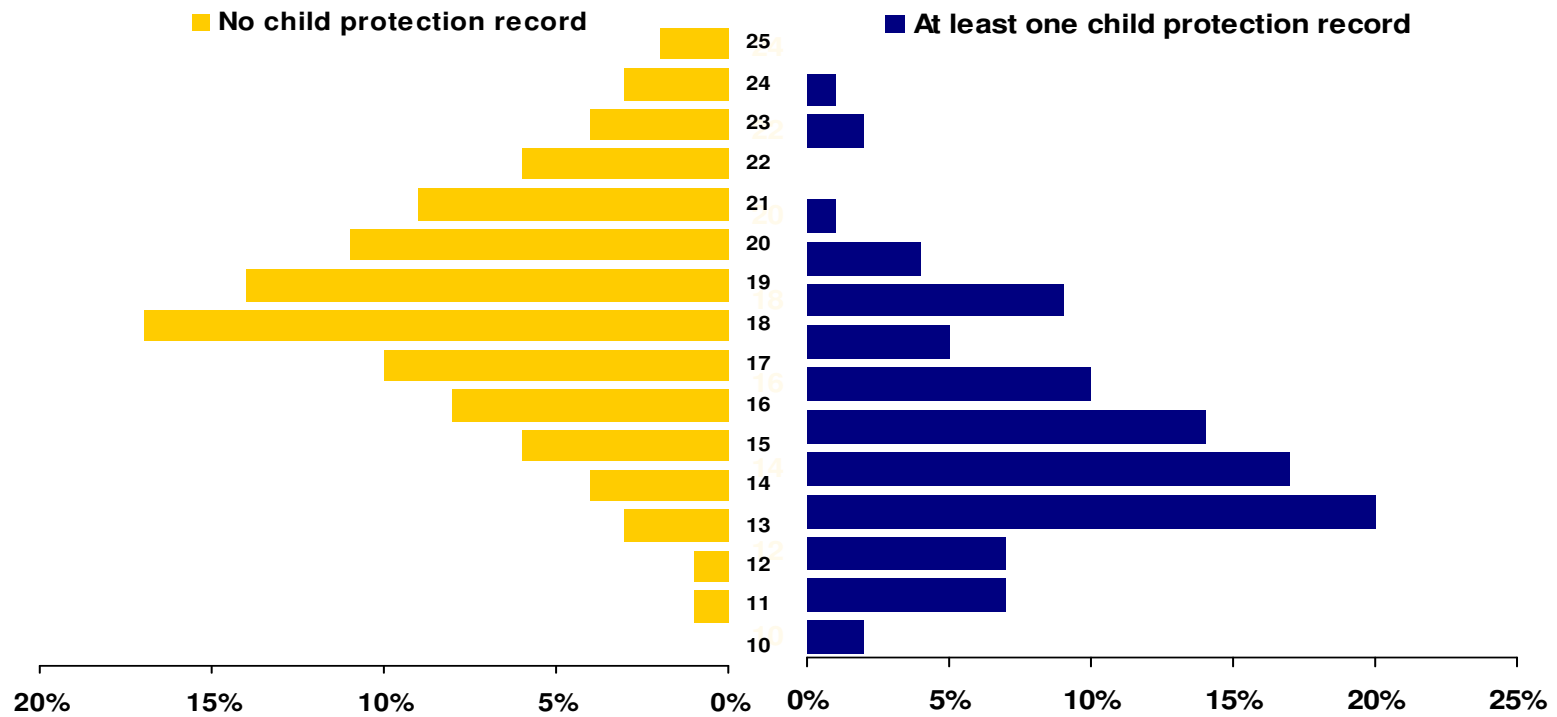


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Age at First Conviction

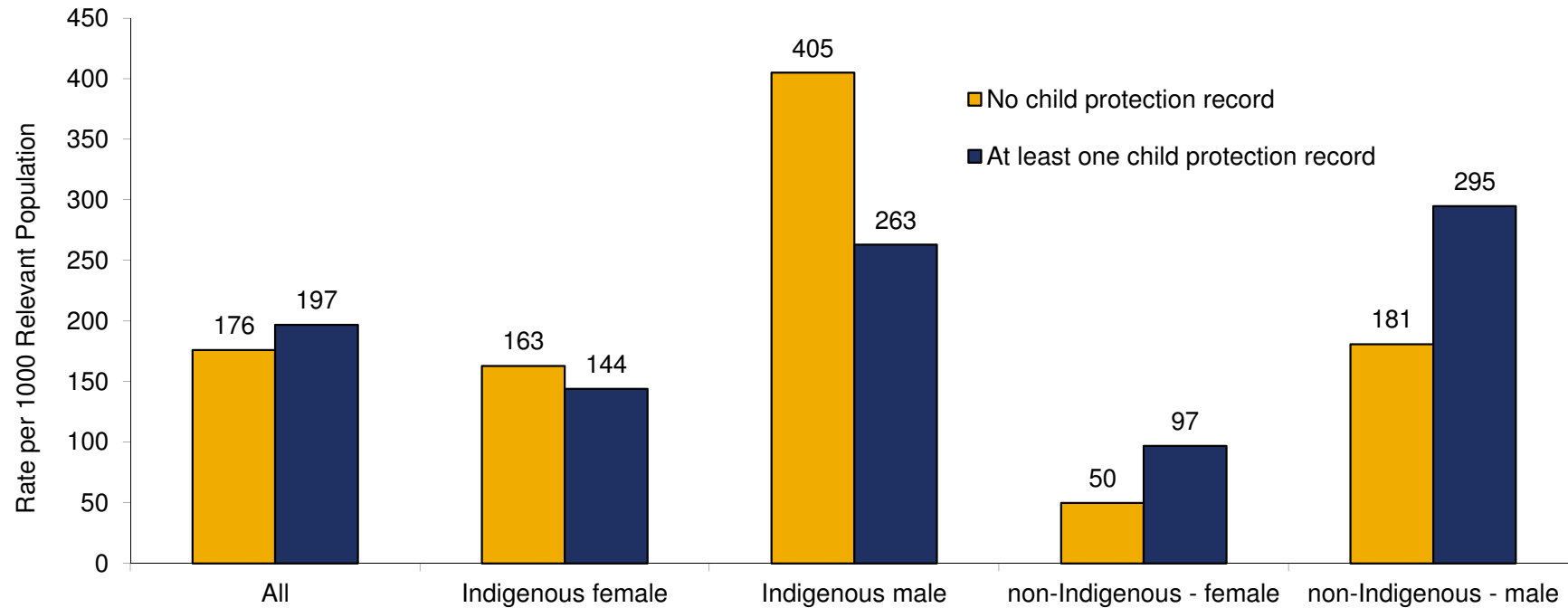


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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population by Indigenous Status by Sex: All ANZSOC categories



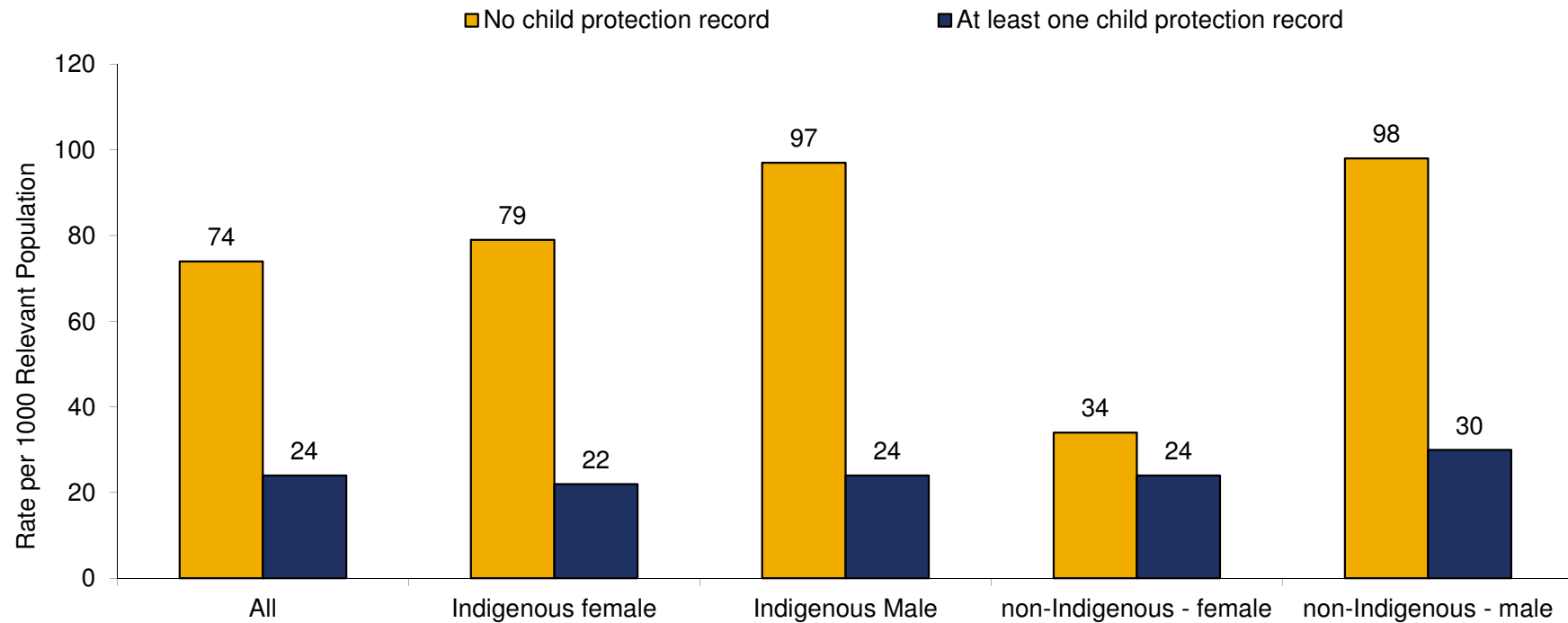
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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population: Traffic Related Offences (ANZSOC Division 14)



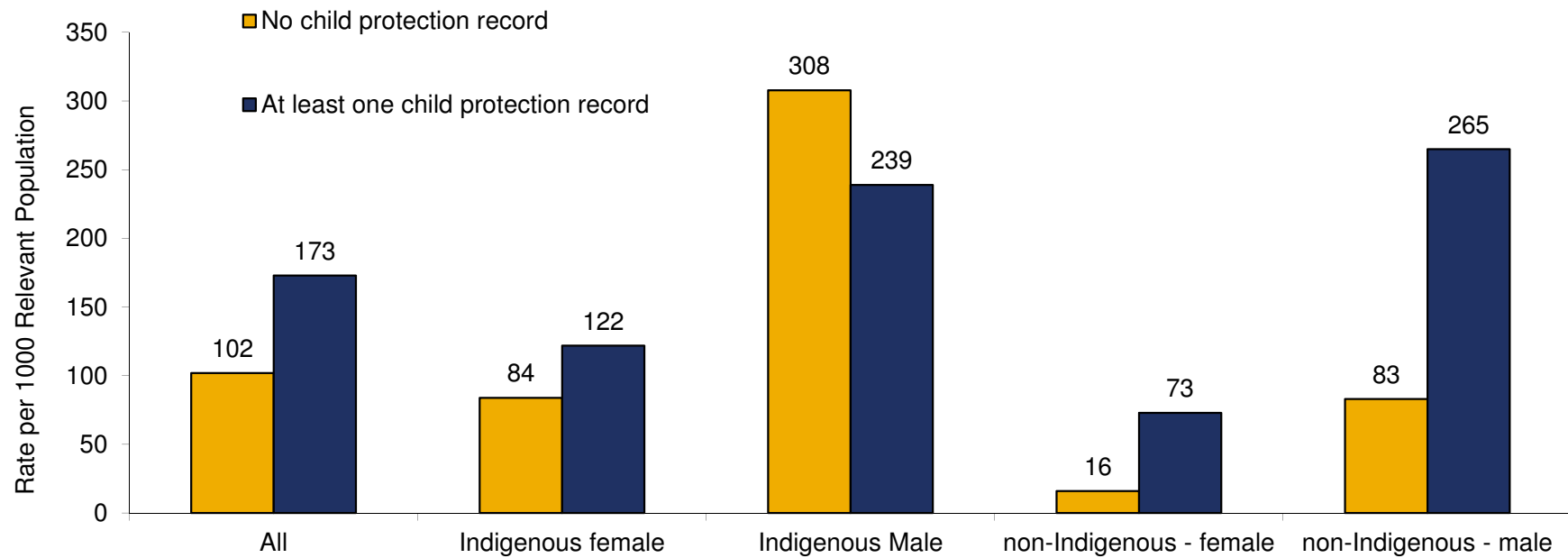
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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population: All ANZSOC Categories Except Traffic (Division 14) by Indigenous Status and Sex



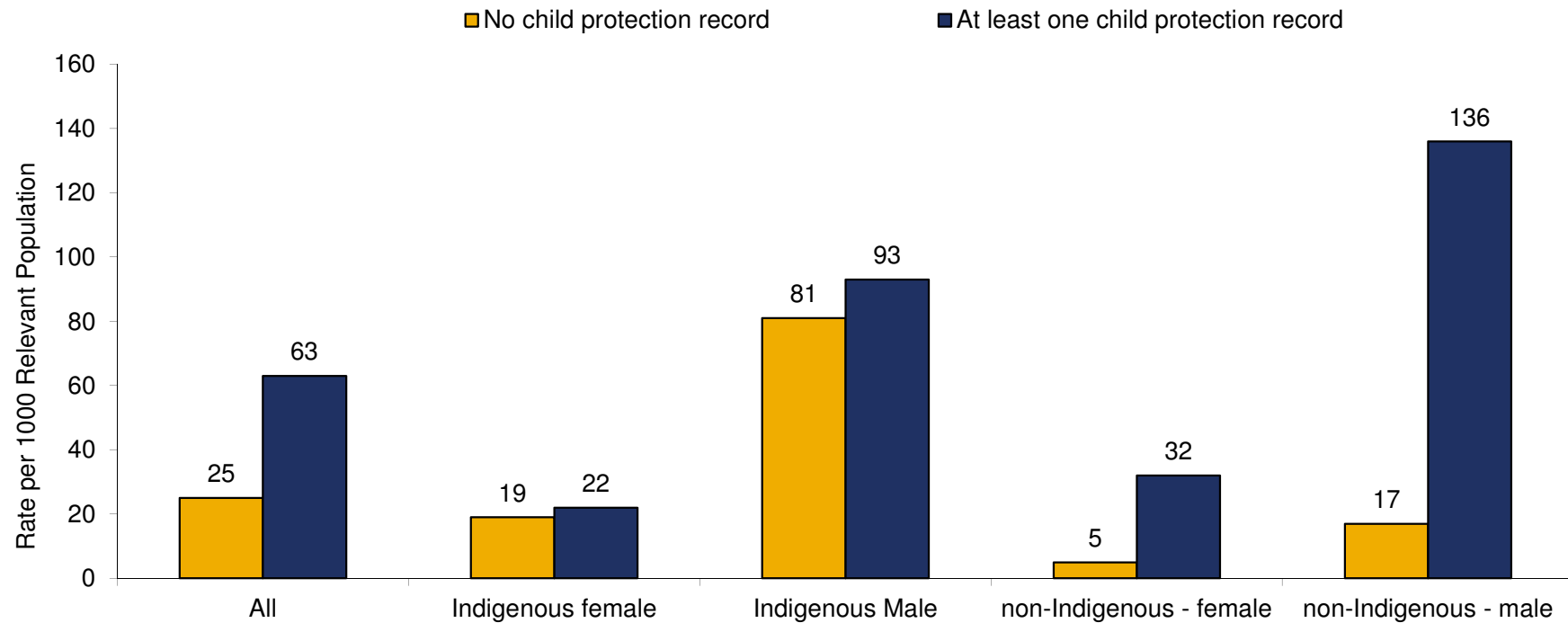
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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population: Break-in and Theft (ANZSOC Division 07 and 08)



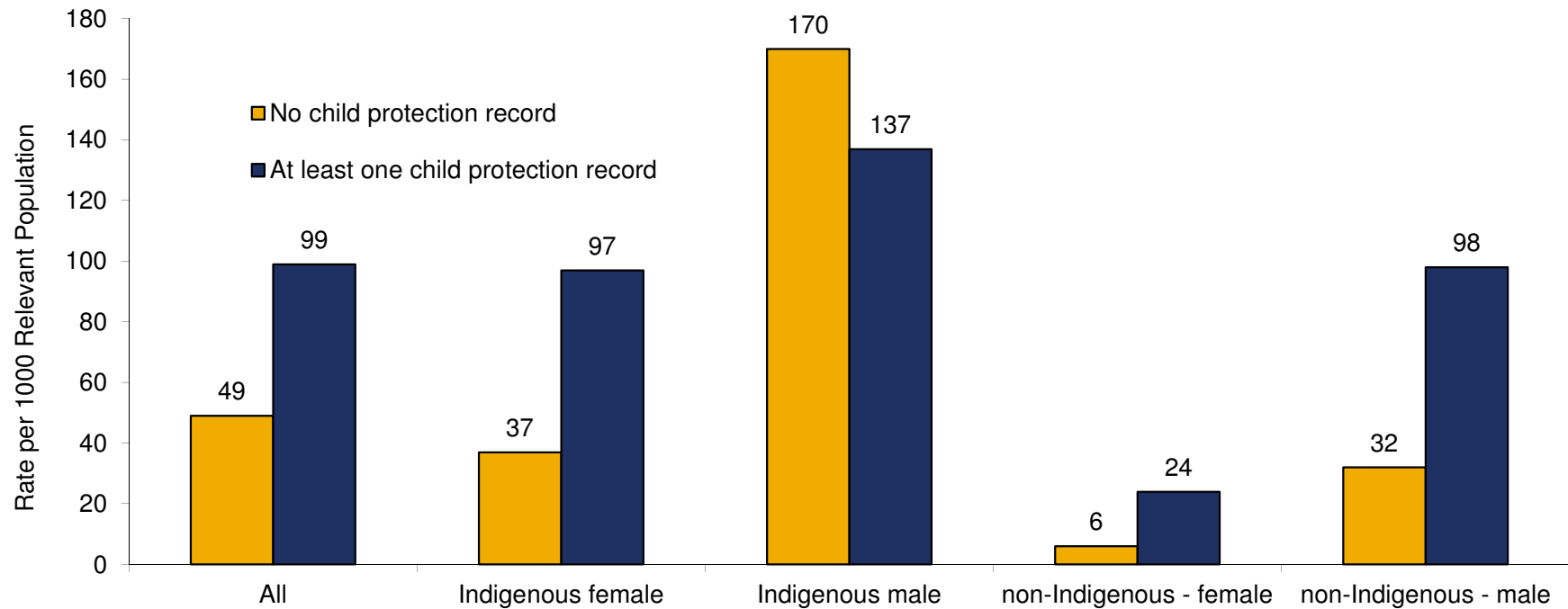
* Proven guilty by NT Courts

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Offending* Rate Per 1000 Relevant Population by Indigenous Status and Sex : Violent Crimes (Division 01 to 06)



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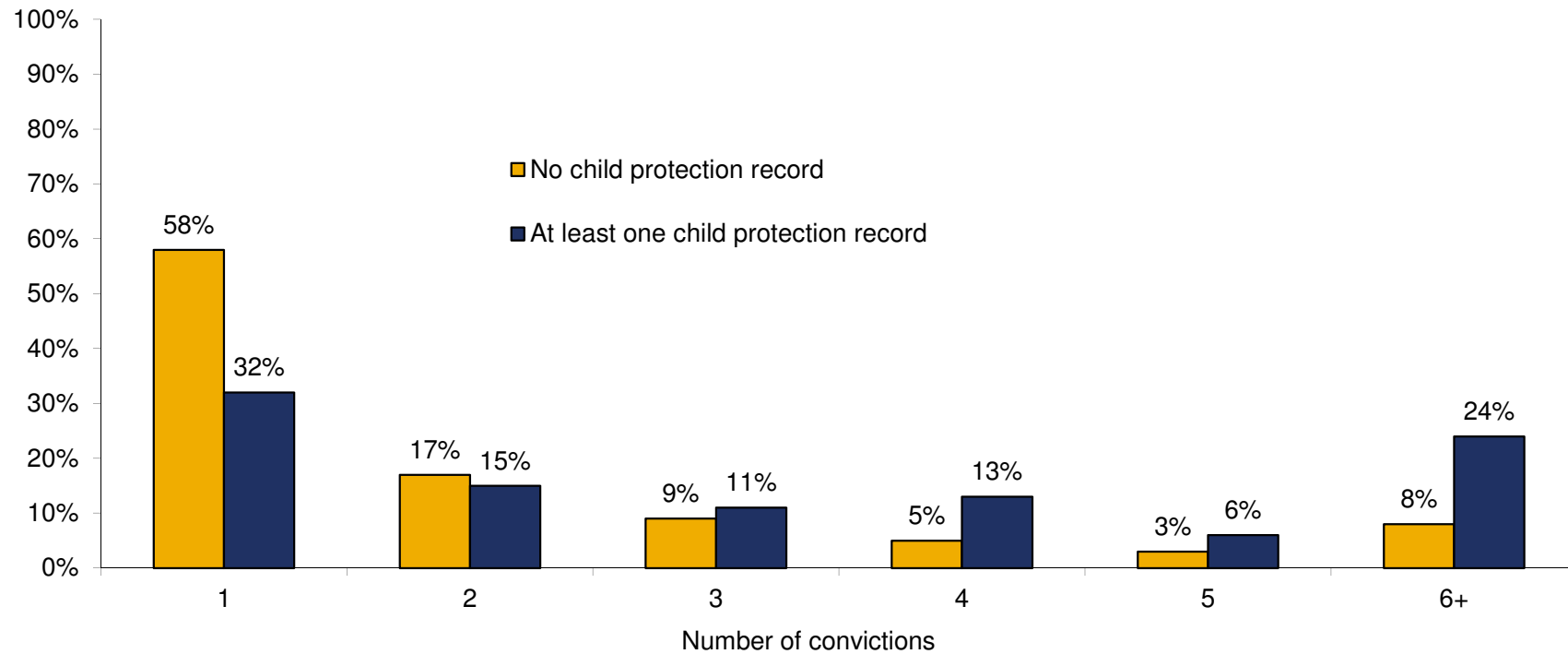
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Repeat Offending/Conviction



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Proportion of Repeat Convictions: All Offences Except Traffic Related (ANZSOC Division 14)

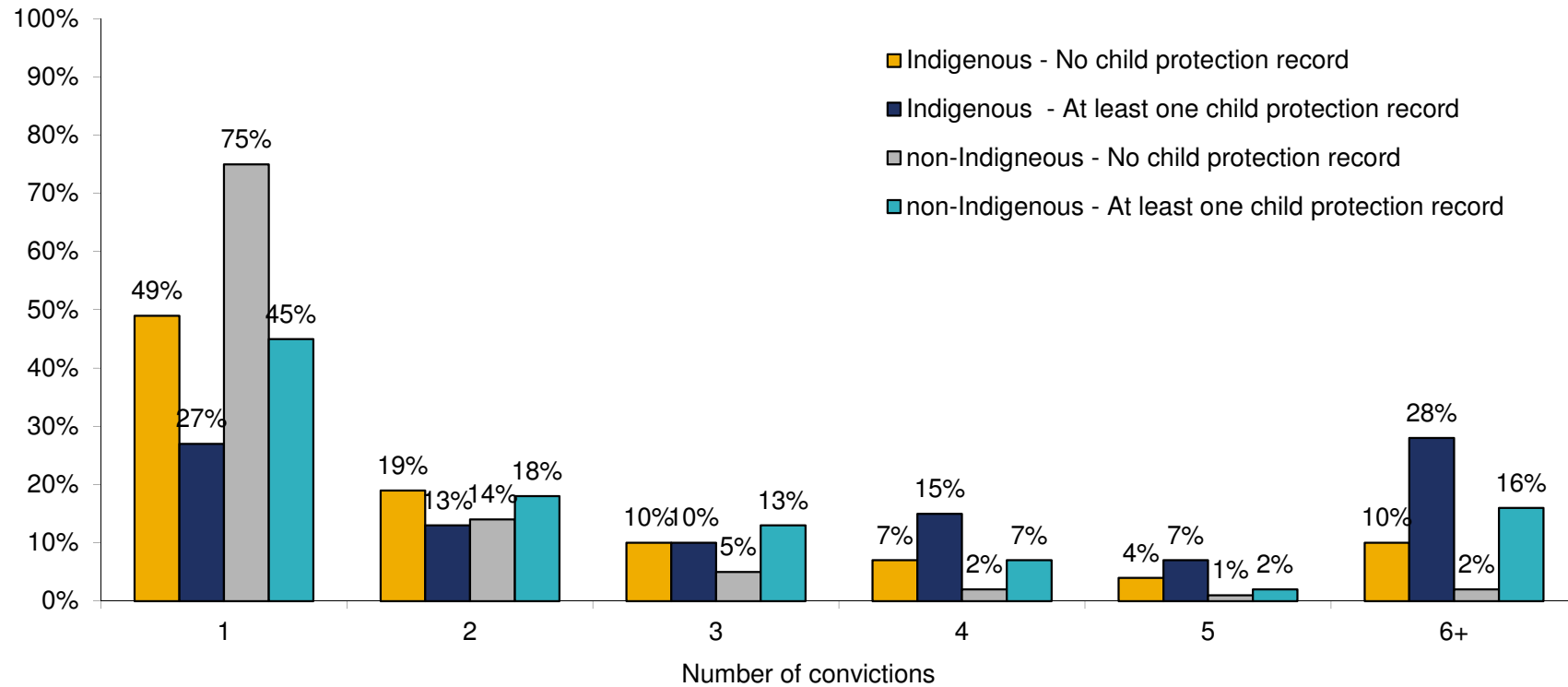


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Proportion of Repeat Convictions by Indigenous Status: All Offences Except Traffic Related (ANZSOC Division 14)

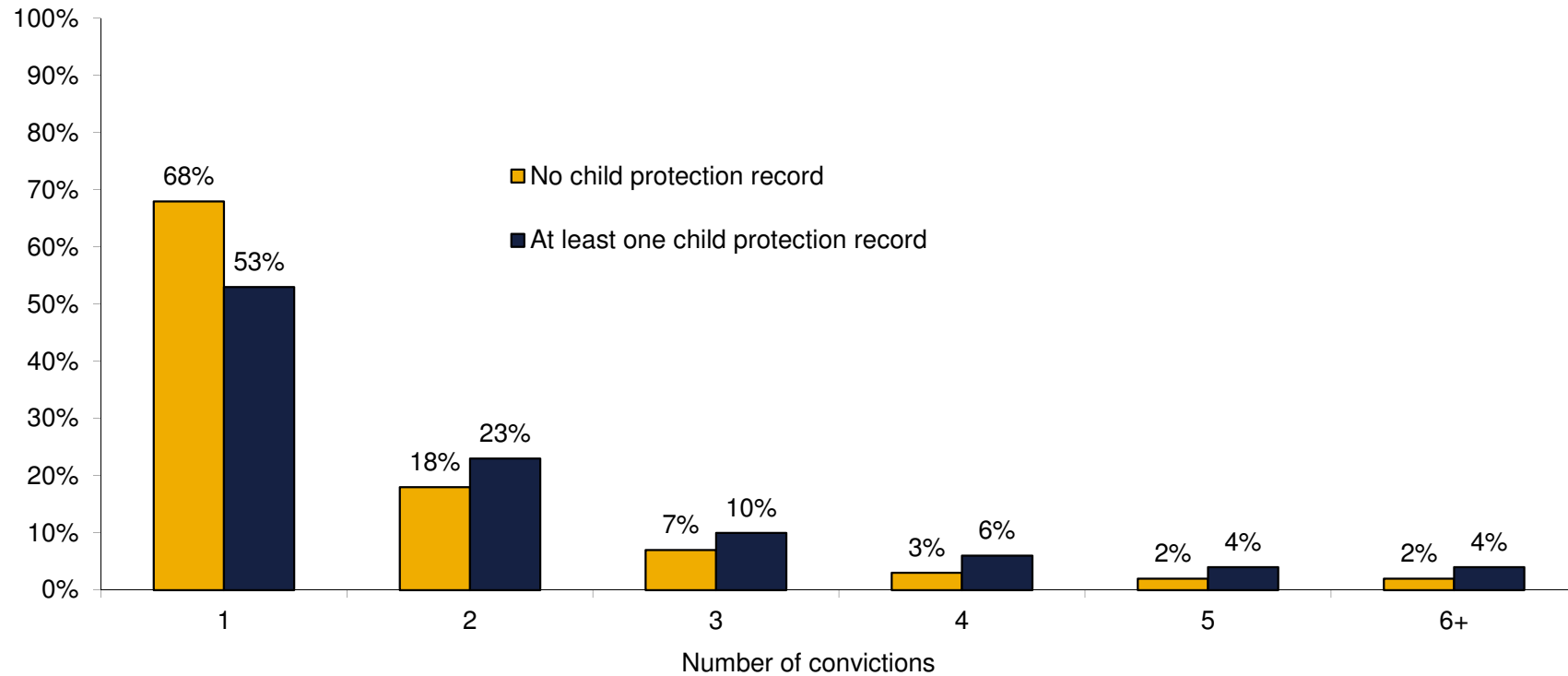


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Proportion of Repeat Convictions: Violent Offences (ANZSOC Division 01 to 06)

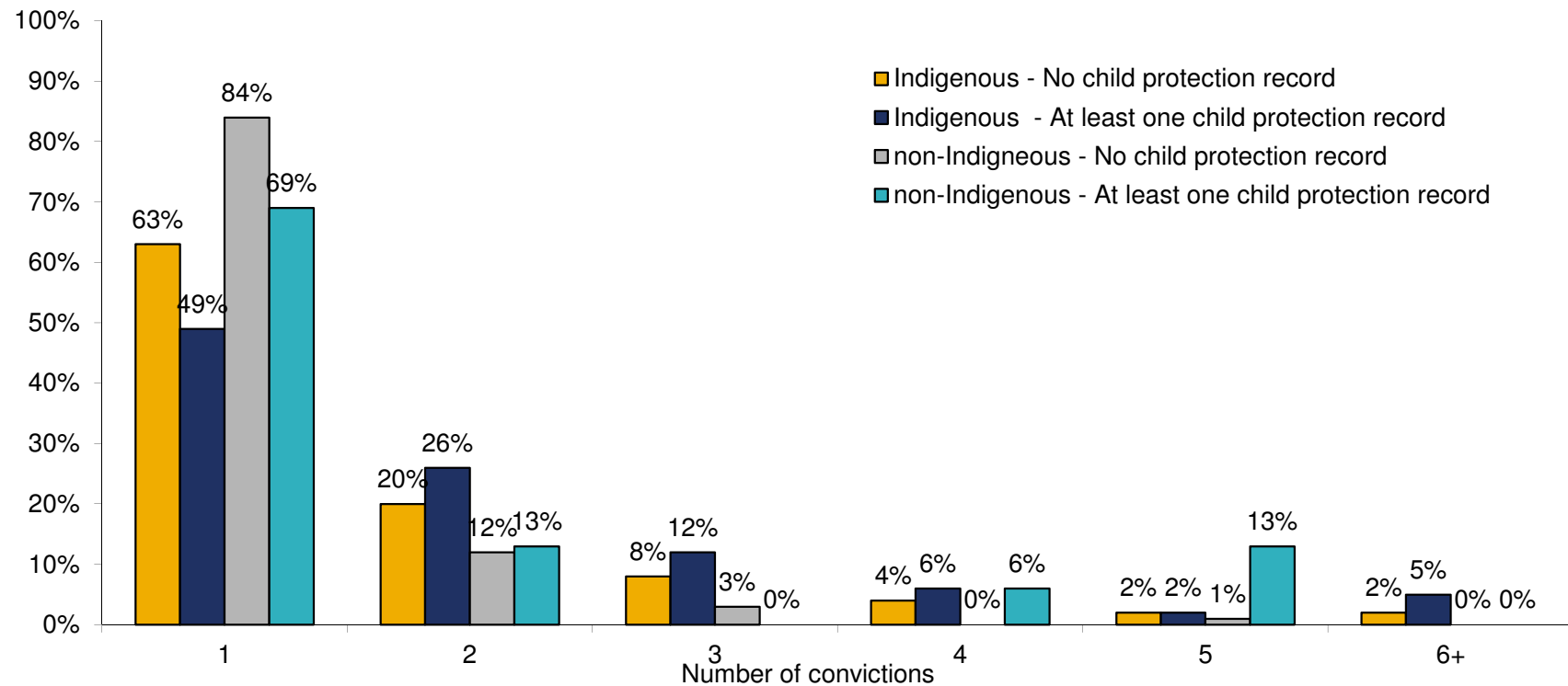


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Proportion of Repeat Convictions by Indigenous Status: Violent Offences (ANZSOC Division 01 to 06)



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Conclusions

Conclusions

- Consistent with previous research on this topic, maltreated children in the NT are more likely to offend as a juvenile compared with children for whom there is no evidence of maltreatment.
- Maltreated children who did not have a conviction as a juvenile have a much lower likelihood of offending as an adult compared with those who were not maltreated.
- Maltreated children have a much lower likelihood of being convicted of a traffic related offences.
- Excluding Traffic Related Offences, maltreated children have a higher likelihood of offending overall and all of the sub-populations except Indigenous males.



Conclusions continued

- Maltreated non-Indigenous males have a higher offending rate than maltreated Indigenous males for break-in and theft offences. This is an unexpected finding given the offending rate (ABS Record Crime - Offenders 2011-12) for Indigenous males (12258.3) in NT is more than seven times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous males (1449.6) in the general population.
- The results of the offending rate for violent crimes are similar to those of all offences excluding traffic. The exception is that maltreated non-Indigenous males have a lower offending rate than maltreated Indigenous males for violent crimes.
- Maltreated children are more likely to re-offend than those who were not maltreated overall as well as for all sub-population groups for all offences excluding traffic as well as violent crimes.



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Questions

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