

# Preventable mortality in justice-involved young people



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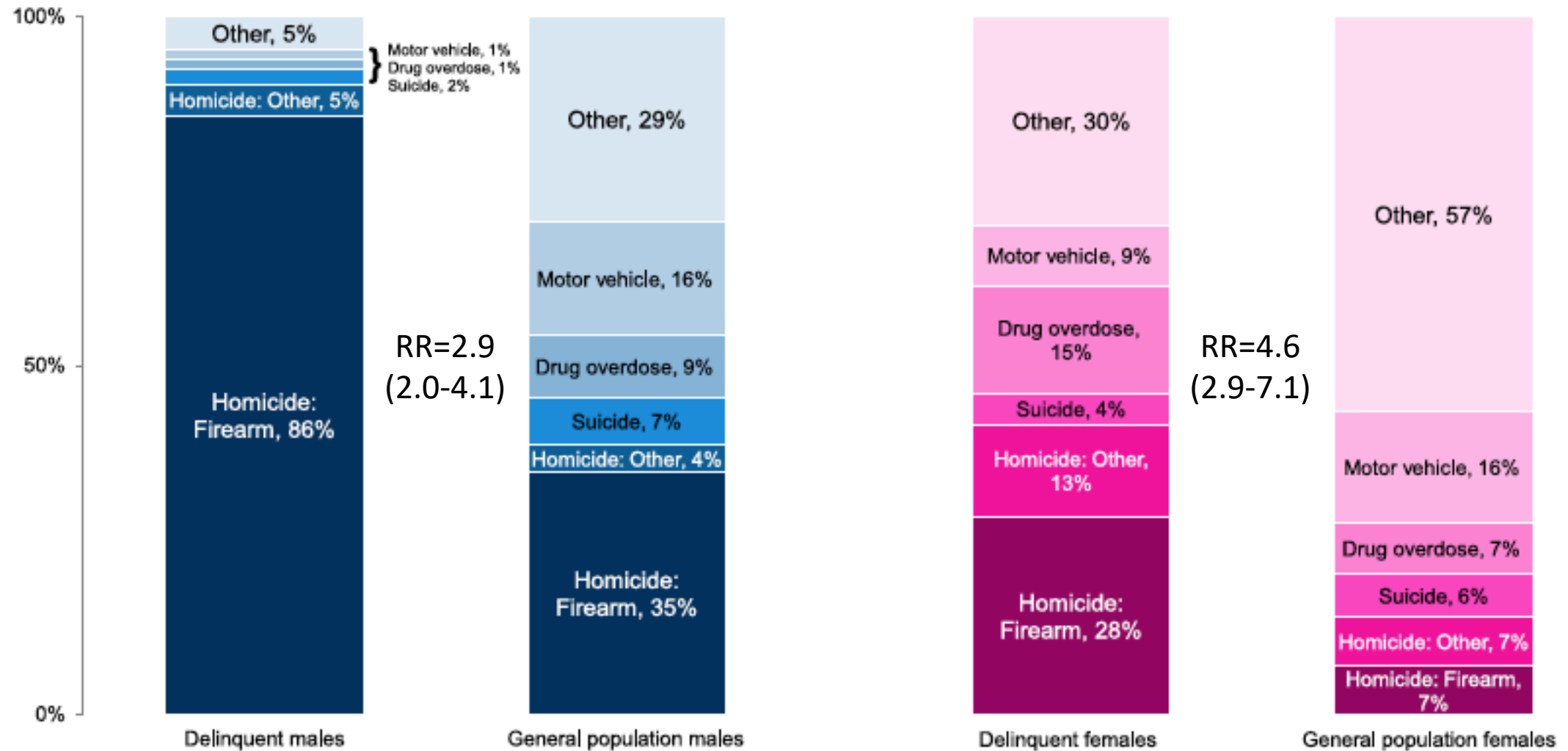
# Background

- Adults released from prison at increased risk of death
  - Numerous studies, 3 systematic reviews<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Young people who cycle through the youth justice system
  - Socio-economic disadvantage and marginalisation; Hx trauma
  - High prevalence of complex health and social needs
  - High risk of progression to adult correctional system
- Young people released from YJ supervision at increased risk of death
  - Few studies, small samples<sup>4,5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Addiction 2010;105:1545-1554. <sup>2</sup> AJP 2012;102:e67-e75. <sup>3</sup> Addiction 2012;108:38-49. <sup>4</sup> BMJ 2003;326:1064-1066.

<sup>5</sup> Pediatrics 2005;115:1586-1593. <sup>6</sup> Drug Alcohol Rev 2015;34:46-50.

# Mortality in previously detained youth: Chicago



# Mortality after youth detention

- Record linkage with 2,849 detained juveniles in Victoria, AU
  - Released after 1<sup>st</sup> custodial sentence 1988-1999, age 10-20
  - All-cause CMR 7.2 per 1000 py (vs. 0.5 in community)
  - All-cause SMR 9.4 (male), 41.3 (female)
  - Risk factors: early detention, multiple detentions, drug-related offence

1 Number of deaths and death rates in 19 949 person-years of observation (PYO) in a cohort of 2849 young offenders

	No. of deaths	Rate per 1000 PYO (95% CI)
All causes	143	7.2 (6.1–8.4)
Substance related	65	3.3 (2.6–4.2)
Suicide/self-inflicted injury	34	1.7 (1.2–2.4)
Non-intentional injury	29	1.5 (1.0–2.1)
Homicide/probable homicide	4	0.2 (0.1–0.5)
Medical	6	0.3 (0.1–0.7)
Cause not known	5	—

Note: Medical causes of death were diseases of the circulatory system (1), infectious diseases (2), neoplasms (2), poorly defined illness (1).

## YJ-Mort study: Aim

- Describe the incidence, timing, causes, context and risk factors for death in young people who had contact with the youth justice system in Queensland 1993-2014
- Identify interventions that have the potential to reduce preventable deaths in justice-involved young people

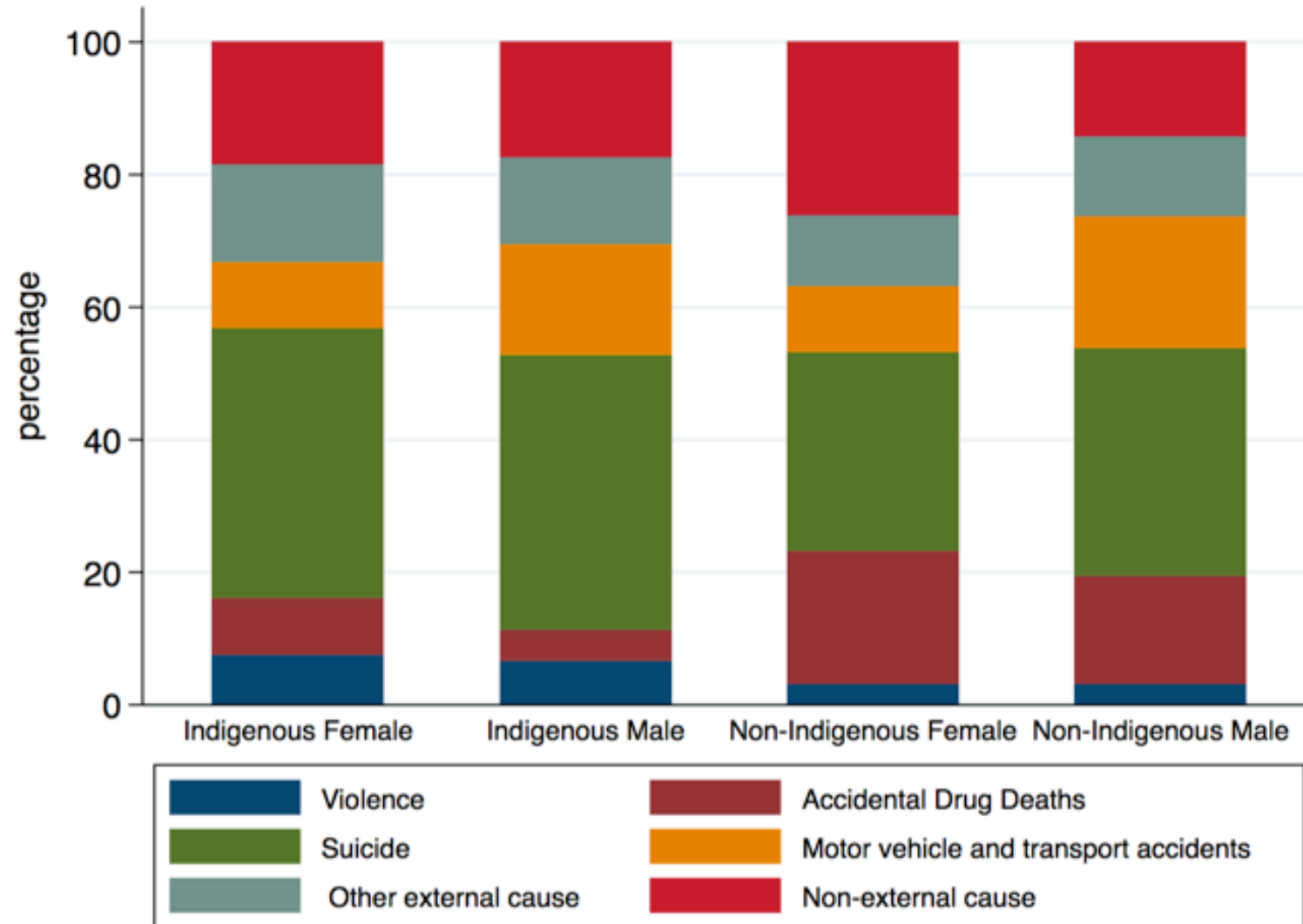
# YJ Mort study: Methods

- Data linkage between multiple agencies for a cohort of 46,387 YJ involved young people (QLD, 1993-2014)
  - Youth Justice
  - Queensland Corrective Services
  - National Death Index
  - National Coronial Information Systems
- Calculation and comparison of both crude mortality rates (CMR) and standardised mortality rates (SMR)
- Qualitative investigation and consultation

# Results: Cohort description

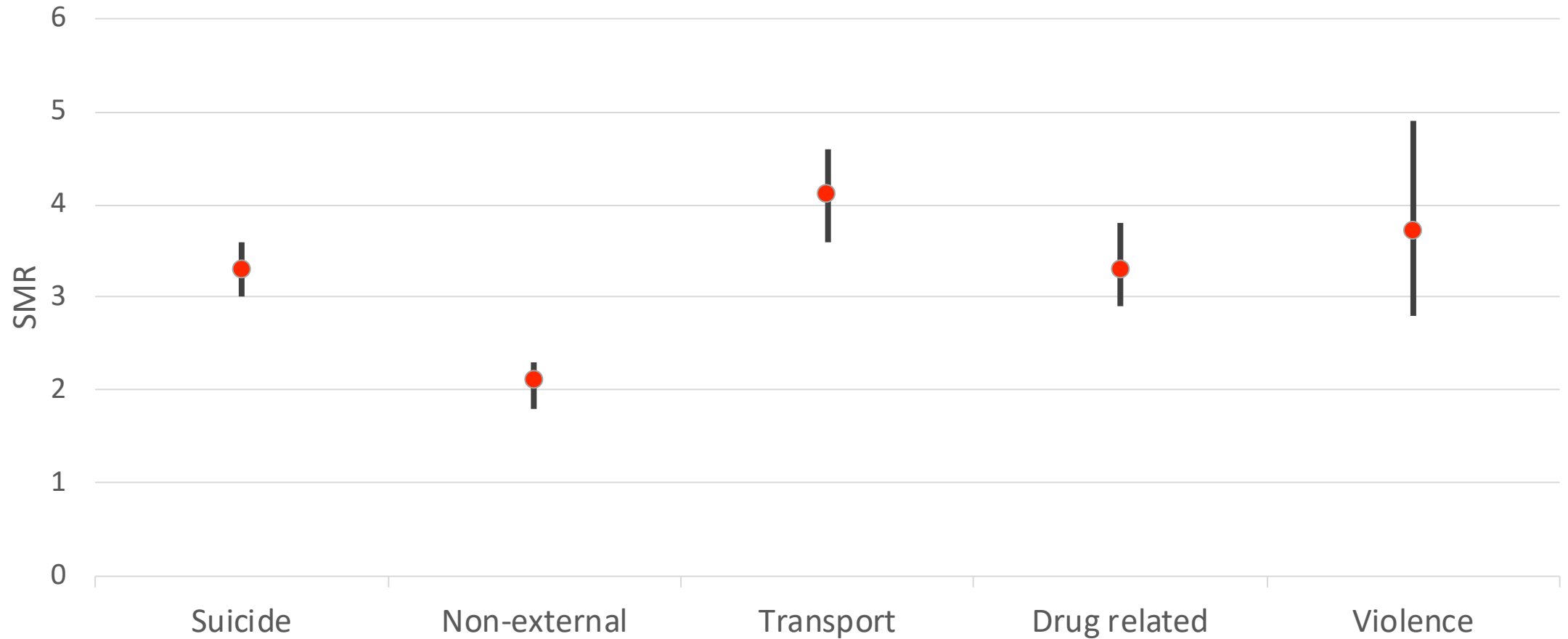
	Indigenous F (N=3,757)	Indigenous M (N=9,087)	Non-Indigenous F (N=7,682)	Non-Indigenous M (N=25,861)
Median follow-up time (IQR)	11.5 (7.3-16.9)	13.1 (8.3-18.4)	12.9 (8.2-17.5)	14.2 (9.1-18.7)
First YJ contact <15 years old (%)	44	46	28	24
Detention (%)	18	31	9	13
CBO (%)	46	62	26	40
Charge (%)	36	7	65	47
Adult prison (%)	21	51	10	26
Died (%)	2.3	3.4	2.0	3.3

# Causes of death



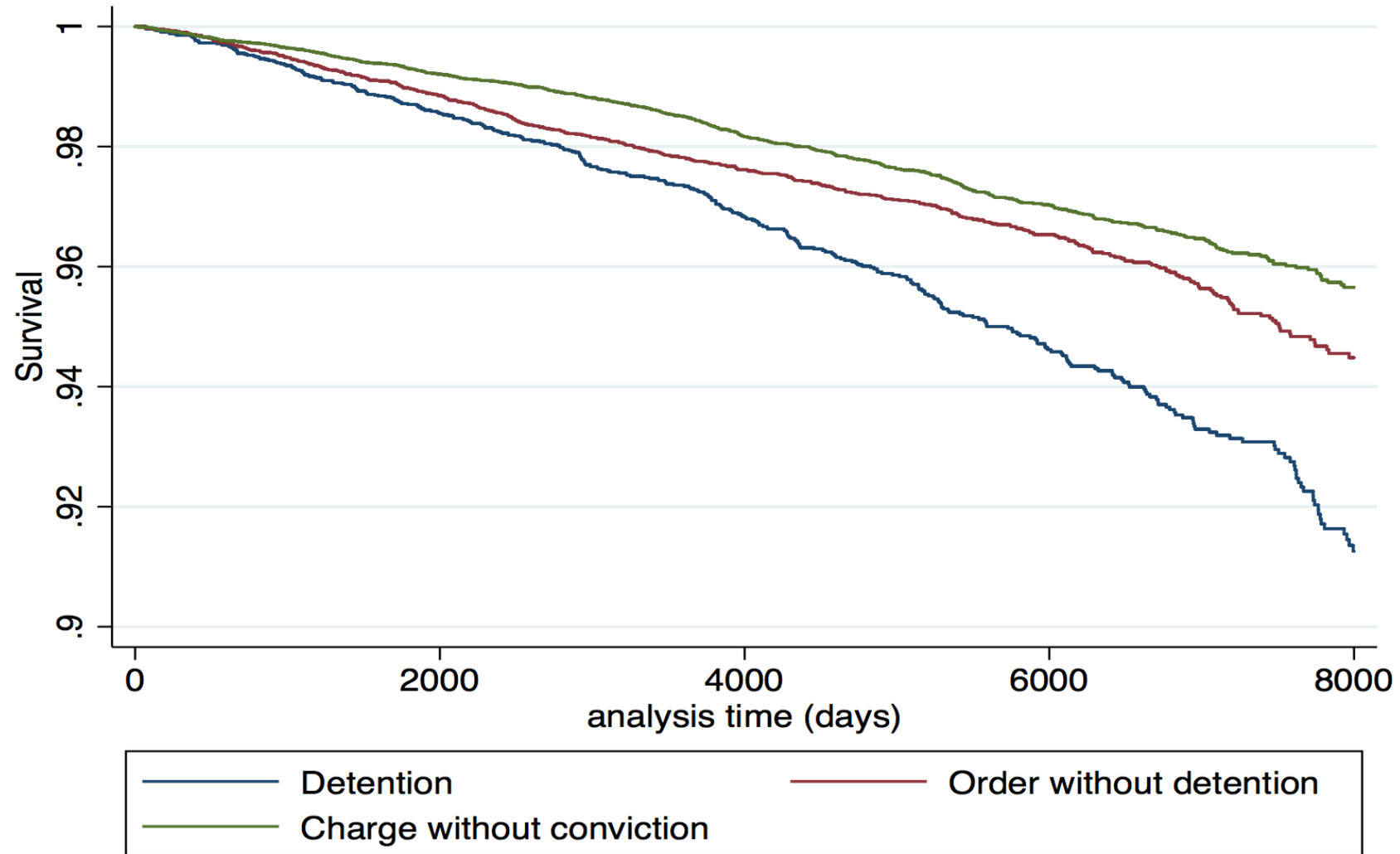


# Standardised\* mortality ratio by cause

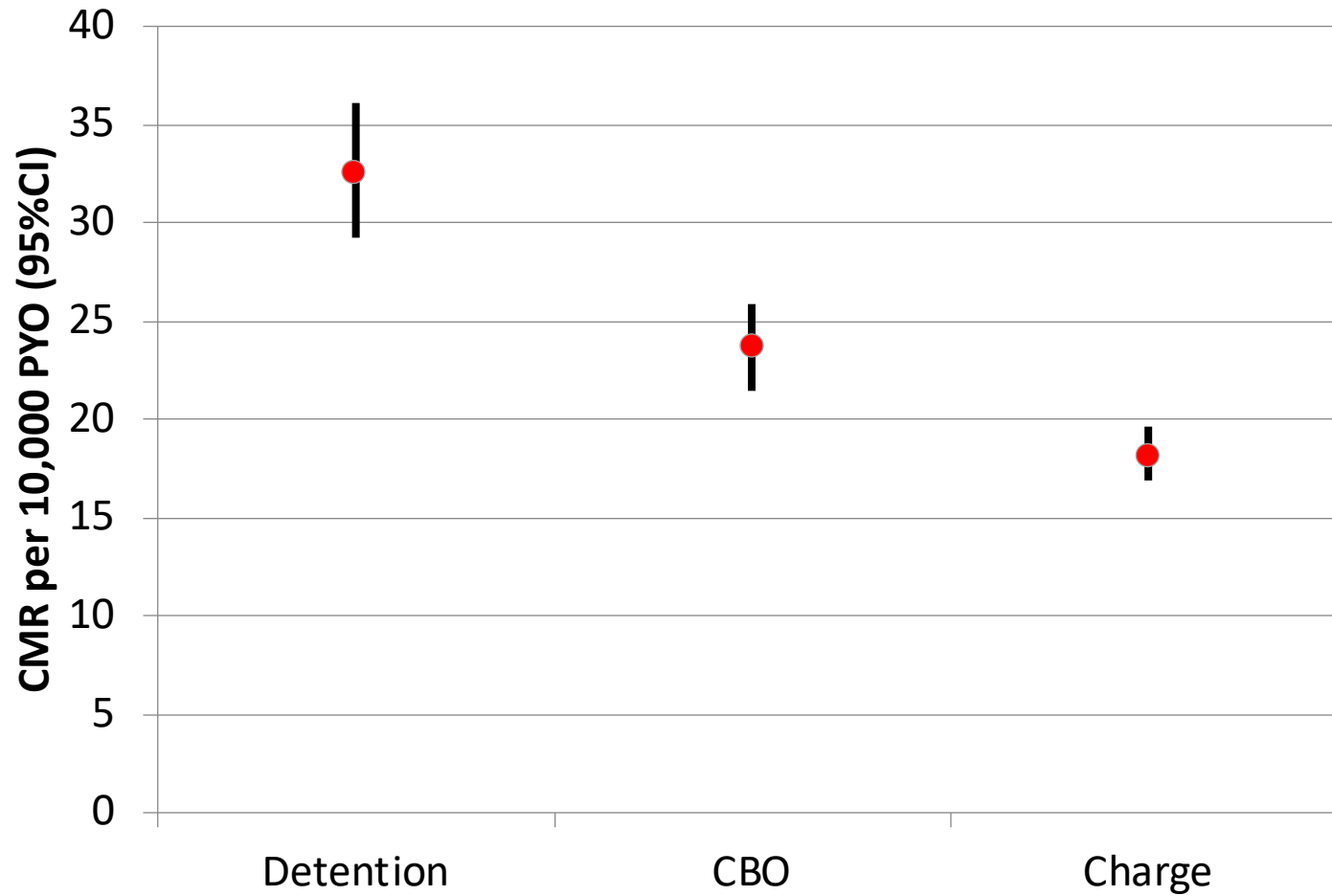


\* Standardised on age and sex

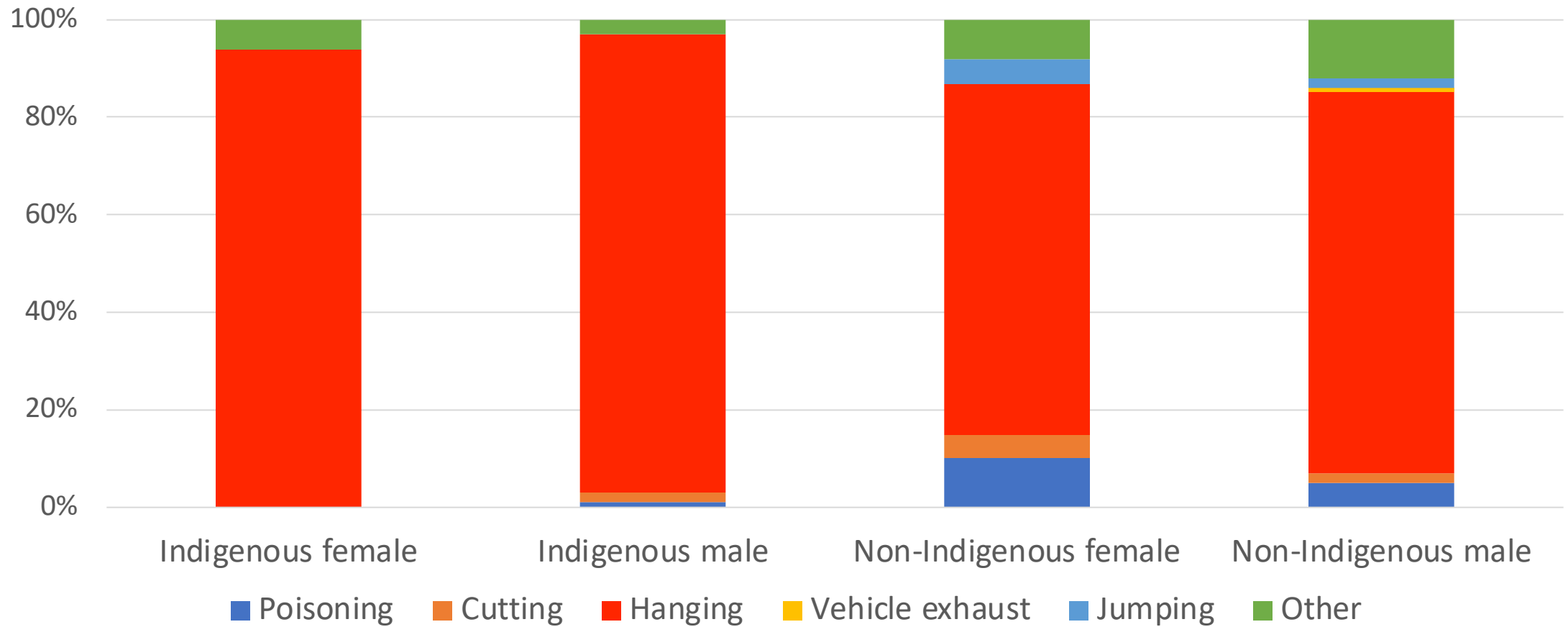
# Survival by YJ order history



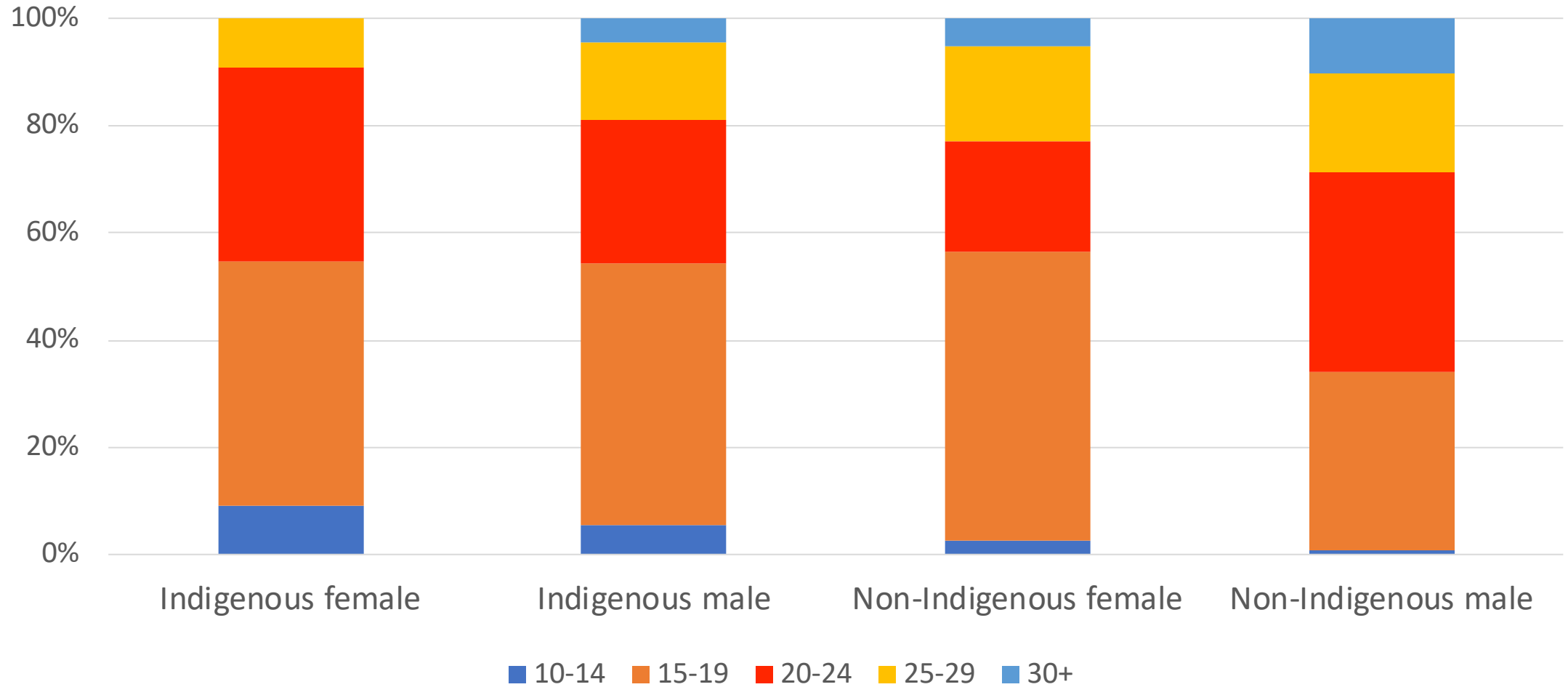
# All-cause CMR by YJ order history



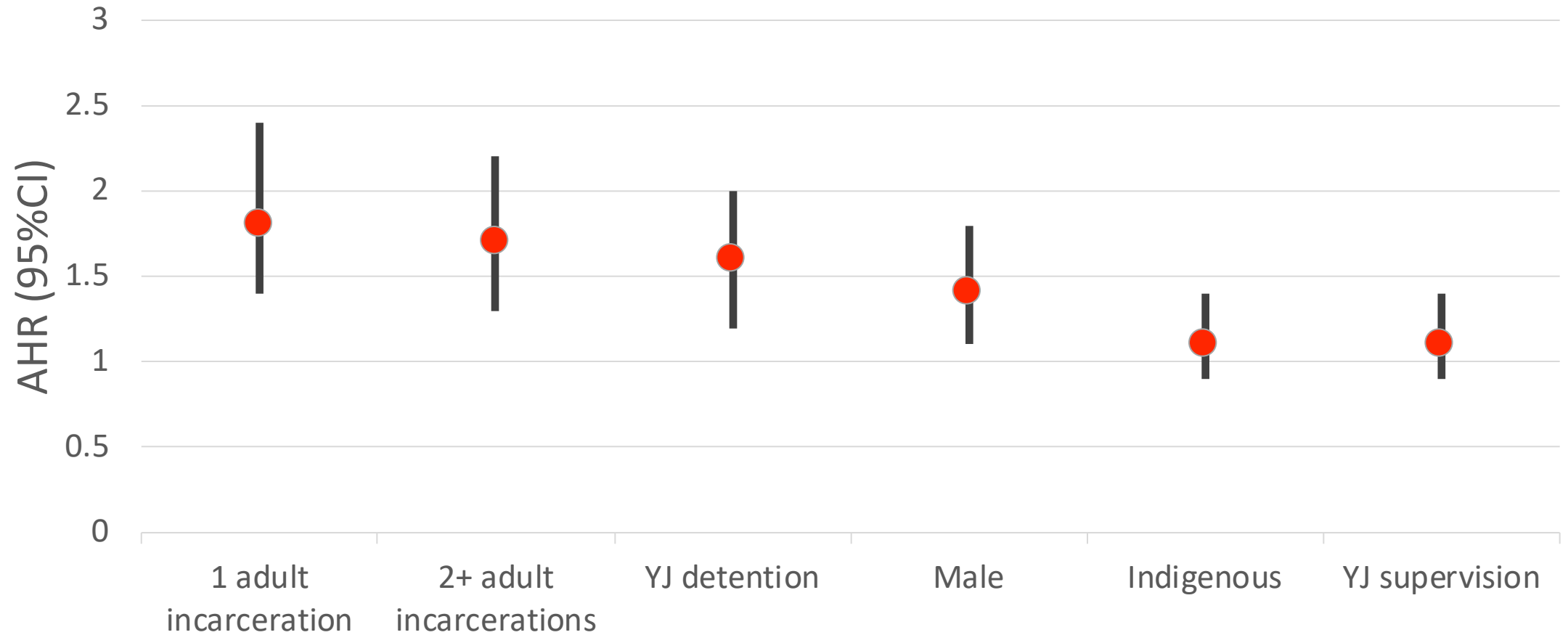
# Mechanism of death by suicide



# Age at death by suicide



# Risk factors for suicide death



# Preliminary thoughts and next steps

- Justice-involved young people are at increased risk of preventable death
  - Suicide the leading cause
  - Indigenous over-representation
  - Justice contact and mortality risk
  - Beyond detention
- Risk & protective factors? Prevention?
- Next steps: Delphi panel



# Questions?

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