

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Drug addiction victims have extremely limited support spaces resulting in dangerous habits and unsafe communities.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

The 1 safe injection room in Melbourne has had over 322,000 visits since July 2019, showing the desperate need for more support and services.

1 in 20 Australians suffer from substance addiction.

Drug addiction affects not only the users but also their friends and family. They often feel isolated with minimal opportunities for support without judgement.

The Richmond injection room assists with over 1000 overdose cases per year since its opening in 2019.

The stigma that comes with substance addiction often results in delayed or avoided assistance.



2-3 KEY USERS:

Oscar is a 28-year-old that has suffered from addiction his whole life, reaching out for help makes him feel judged.

Jess has suffered from addiction her whole life and been admitted to hospital multiple times for drug related issues.

Ben wants to get help for his addiction but feels ashamed each time he talks to someone.



2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Oscar wishes his family could understand his problem better.

Jess never had any family and uses drugs to escape, finding good support is extremely difficult.

Ben tends to keep to himself and the handful of friends he does have also regularly use drugs.

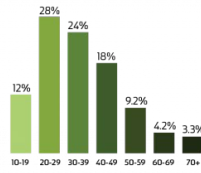
Drug-related hospitalisations, Australia 2018-19



There were 61,780 drug-related hospitalisations in Australia in 2018-19 (excluding alcohol and tobacco).



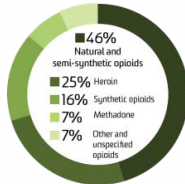
There was a near-equal split in the number of hospitalisations involving males and females.



The highest percentage of drug-related hospitalisations occurred amongst Australians aged 20-29 and 30-39 years.

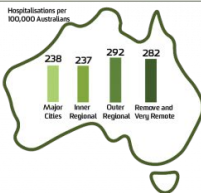
- 25% Amphetamines and other stimulants
- 15% Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
- 14% Opioids
- 11% Non-opioid analgesics
- 10% Cannabinoids

The five drug classes most commonly identified as the principal diagnosis in drug-related hospitalisations.

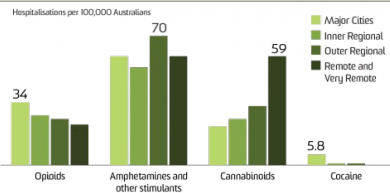


Natural and semi-synthetic opioids were the principal diagnosis in nearly half of opioid poisoning hospitalisations.

Remoteness Area

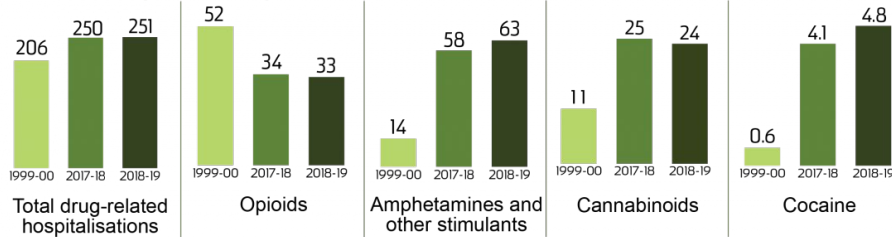


The rate of hospitalisations was highest in outer regional Australia.



The highest rates of opioid- and cocaine-related hospitalisations were in major cities, amphetamines and other stimulants in outer regional areas and cannabinoids in remote and very remote areas.

The rate of hospitalisations per 100,000 Australians



Drug related hospitalisations according to then National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

Hospitals

GPs

Mental health support

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Richmond safe-injecting room 'saving lives'. (2022). Retrieved 15 October 2022, from <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/richmond-safe-injecting-centre>

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Trends in drug-related hospitalisations in Australia, 1999-2019. (2021). Retrieved 15 October 2022, from <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/resource-analytics/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-1999-2019>

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