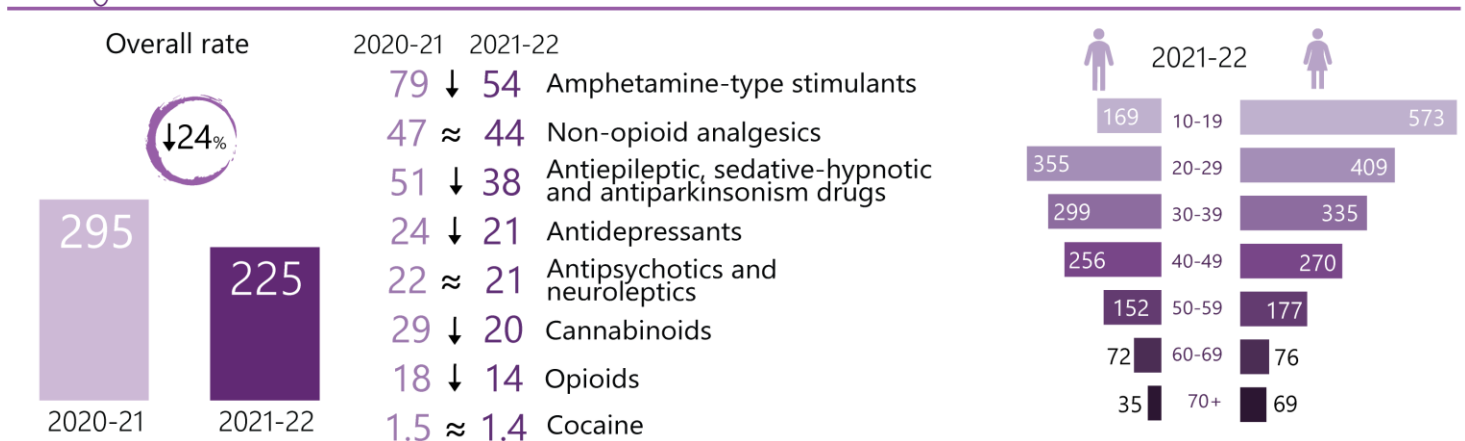


## South Australia



Drug-related hospitalisations per 100,000 people (excluding alcohol and tobacco)



Note: Arrows indicate a statistically significant increase/decrease between 2020-21 and 2021-22 ( $p < 0.05$ ); sign "≈" indicates no significant change.

There were 3,758 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in [South Australia](#) in 2021-22, equivalent to 0.46% of all hospitalisations in South Australia.

This is equivalent to 225 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was 24% lower than the 2020-21 rate (295 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Table A21, [Appendix](#)), although still higher than reported between 2002-03 and 2013-14 ([Figure 1](#)).

### Sex

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among [females](#) than males in 2021-22 (264 versus 186 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

### Age

In 2021-22, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) among the 20-29 age group, followed by the 10-19 and 30-39 age groups (382, 368, and 317 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively). Among males, the rate of drug-related hospitalisations was highest in the 20-29 age group, and among females in the 10-19 age group.

### Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The highest rate of hospitalisations in 2021-22 was observed in [inner regional](#) South Australia (301

hospitalisations per 100,000 people), while the number of hospitalisations was highest in major city areas (2,591 hospitalisations) ([Figure 2](#)).

### External Cause of Drug Poisoning

In 2021-22, 62% of drug-related hospitalisations in South Australia were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 77% of drug poisoning-related hospitalisations were intentional (108 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 16% were unintentional (21 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 3](#)).

### Drug Type

In 2021-22, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) where there was a principal diagnosis indicating amphetamine-type stimulants (54 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 4](#)).

Compared to 2020-21, there were significant decreases in the 2021-22 rates of hospitalisations related to:

- amphetamine-type stimulants (including methamphetamine),
- antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs (including GHB)
- cannabinoids,
- opioids, and
- hallucinogens (Table A21, [Appendix](#)).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by sex, South Australia, 2002-03 to 2021-22.

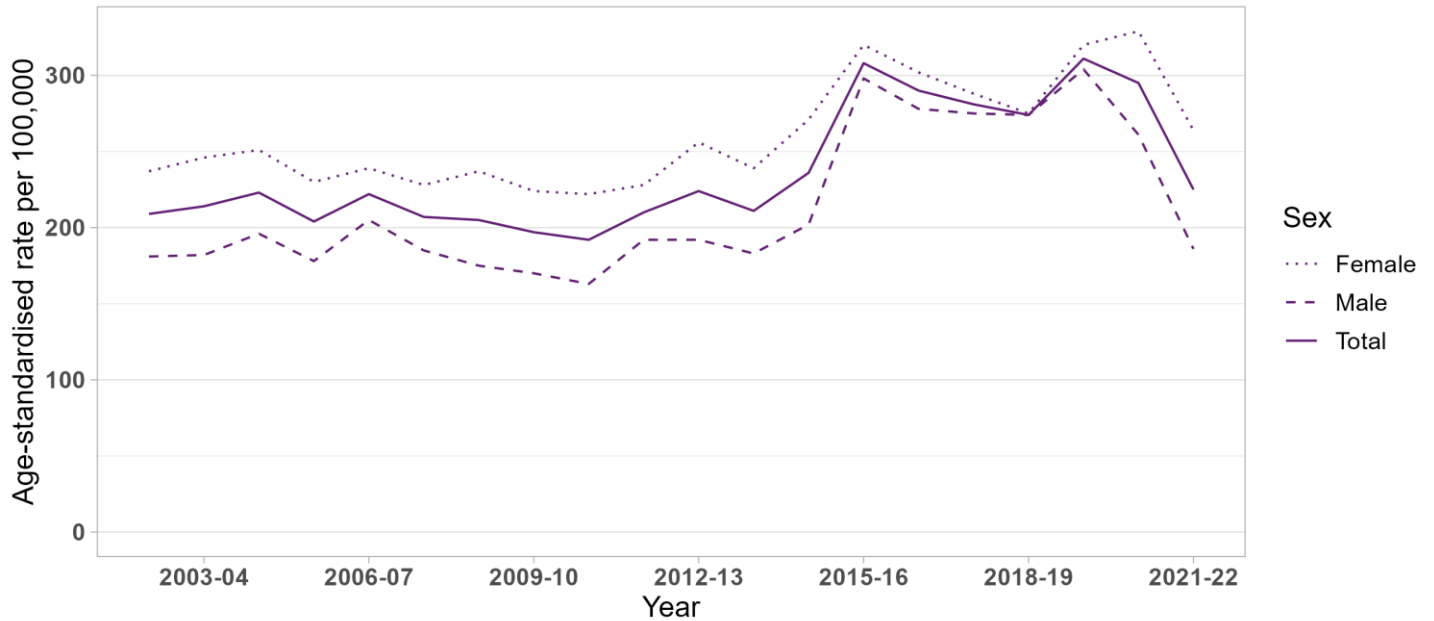
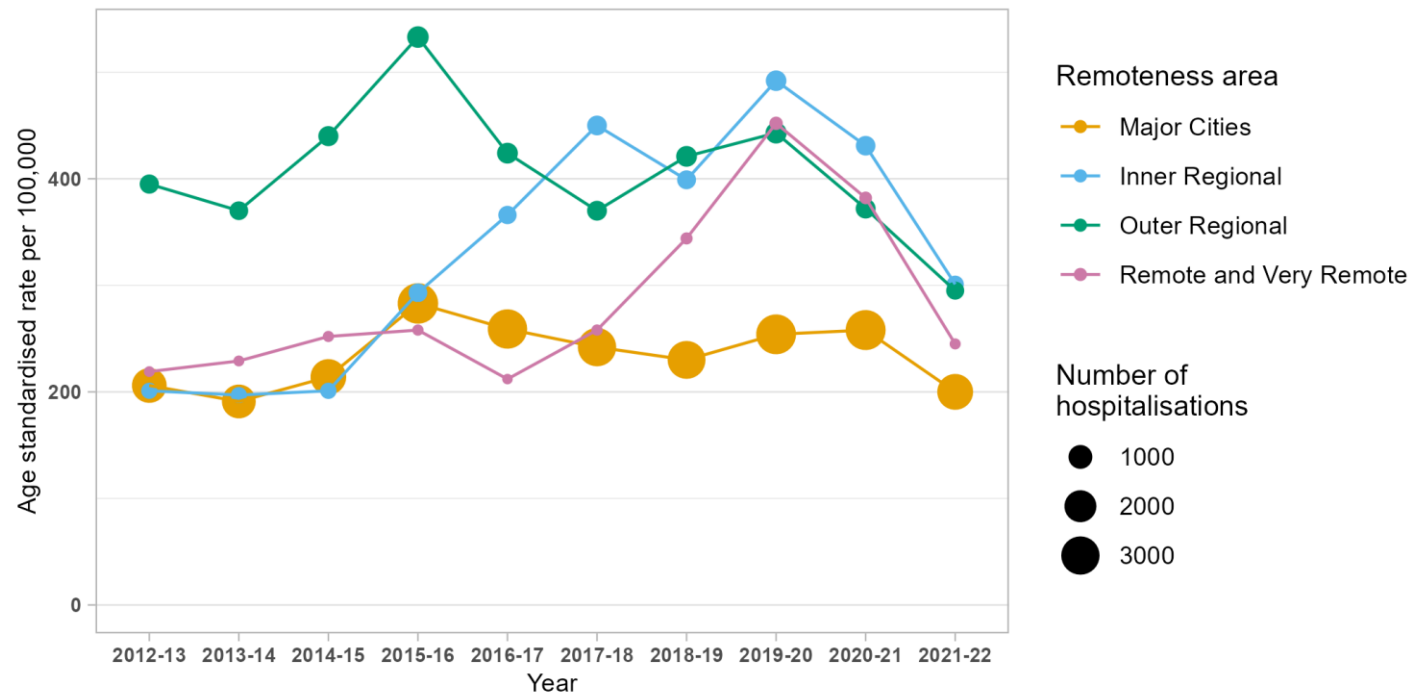


Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by remoteness, South Australia, 2012-13 to 2021-22.



Note: The size (area) of the bubble is proportional to the number of hospitalisations. Data on remoteness are only available from 2012-13.

Figure 3. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by principal diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorder due to substance use (A) and external cause of poisoning (B), South Australia, 2002-03 to 2021-22.

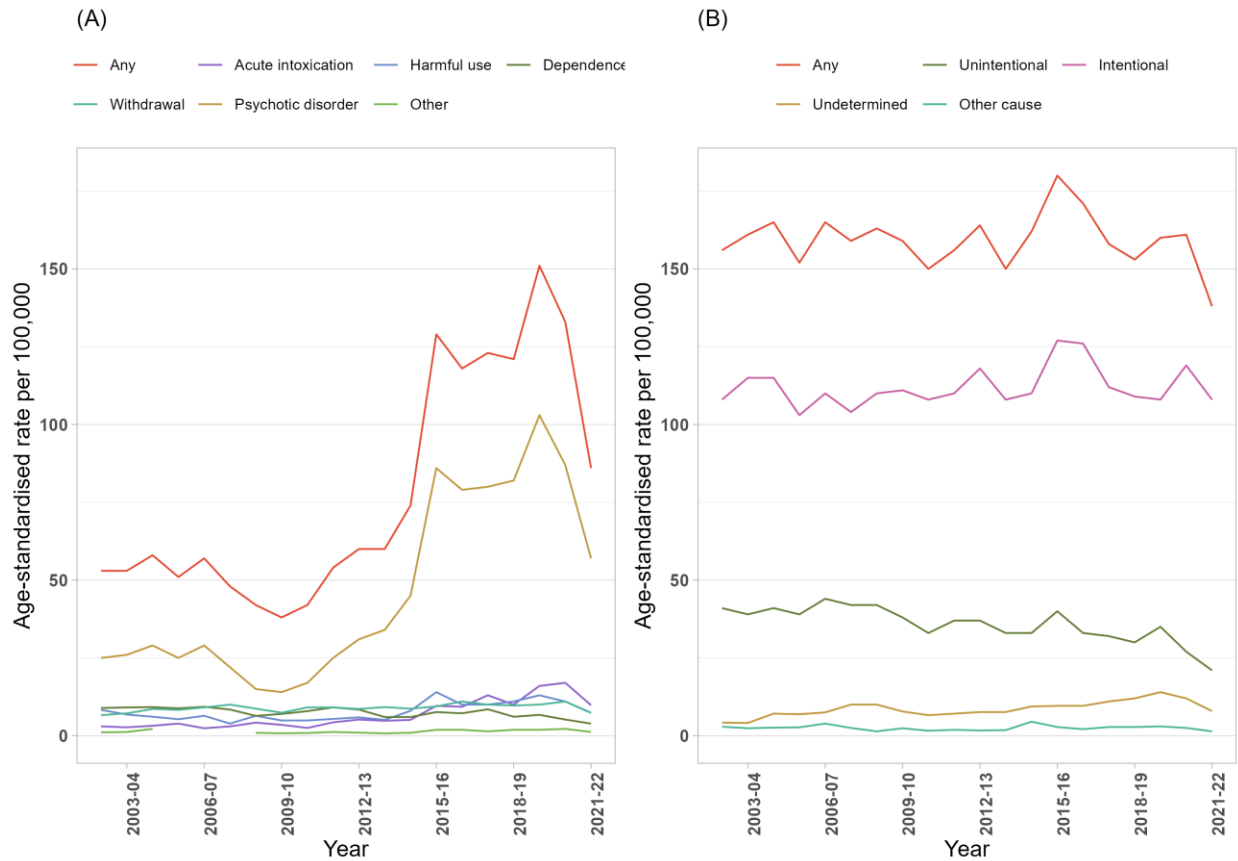
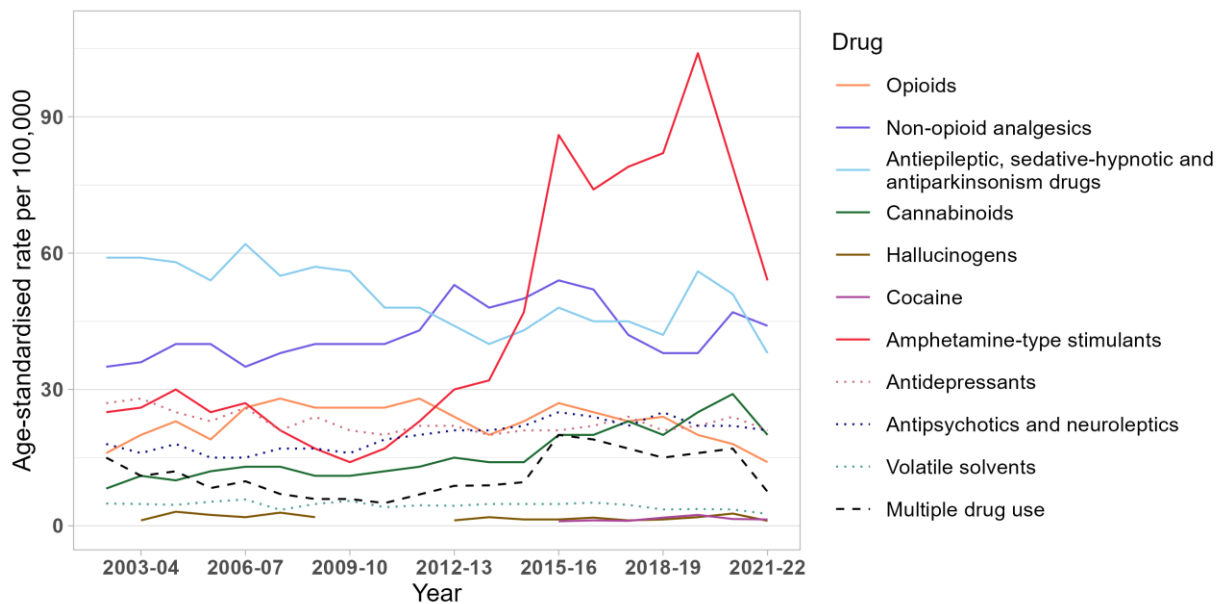


Figure 4. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, South Australia, 2002-03 to 2021-22.



Note: Age-standardised rates were not calculated if the number of hospitalisations was less than or equal to 10 (please refer to our [methods](#) document for details). Suppressed data are visible as gaps in the data series.

Table A21. Age-standardised rate (per 100,000 people) of drug-related hospitalisations in 2021-22 and average percent change for difference compared to 2020-21, in South Australia by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

Drug	Rate in 2021-22 (95% CI)	Rate in 2020-21 (95% CI)	APC (95% CI)
All drugs	225 (217, 232)	295 (286, 303)	-24 (-27, -20)
Amphetamine-type stimulants	54 (50, 58)	79 (75, 83)	-31 (-37, -25)
Non-opioid analgesics	44 (41, 48)	47 (43, 50)	-4.8 (-14.1, 5.5)
Methamphetamine	43 (40, 46)	63 (59, 67)	-31 (-38, -25)
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs	38 (35, 41)	51 (48, 54)	-26 (-33, -18)
Antidepressants	21 (19, 23)	24 (22, 27)	-14 (-25, -0)
Antipsychotics and neuroleptics	21 (19, 23)	22 (20, 25)	-6.0 (-18.9, 9.0)
Cannabinoids	20 (18, 22)	29 (26, 32)	-30 (-40, -20)
Opioids	14 (12, 16)	18 (16, 20)	-24 (-36, -10)
Multiple drug use	7.5 (6.2, 8.9)	17 (15, 19)	-56 (-64, -45)
GHB	5.3 (4.2, 6.5)	13 (11, 15)	-59 (-68, -47)
Volatile solvents	2.6 (1.9, 3.5)	3.6 (2.7, 4.6)	-27 (-50, 8)
Cocaine	1.4 (0.9, 2.1)	1.5 (0.9, 2.2)	-3.9 (-45.5, 69.5)
Hallucinogens	1.1 (0.7, 1.8)	2.7 (2.0, 3.6)	-58 (-75, -27)

Note: 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and average percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of average percent change. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Scope of the data' and 'Coding of hospitalisations' for specifications of data selected and all exclusions.

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Please note that as with all statistical reports there is the potential for minor revisions to data in this report. Please refer to the online version at [Drug Trends](#).

Please contact the Drug Trends team with any queries regarding this publication: [drugtrends@unsw.edu.au](mailto:drugtrends@unsw.edu.au).

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## Data source

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the work for this report was undertaken. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

## Related Links

- Hospitalisations data visualisations: [https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital\\_separations](https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital_separations)
- Full report and the methods document: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/resources/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-2002-2022>
- For other Drug Trends publications on drug-related hospitalisations and drug-induced deaths in Australia, go to: [National Illicit Drug Indicators Project \(NIDIP\)](#)
- For more information on NDARC research, go to: [National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre | Medicine & Health - UNSW Sydney](#)
- For more information about the AIHW and NHMD, go to: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/>
- For more information on ICD coding go to: [ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Eleventh Edition | Resources | IHACPA](#)
- For more research from the Drug Trends program go to: [Drug trends | National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre - UNSW Sydney](#)