

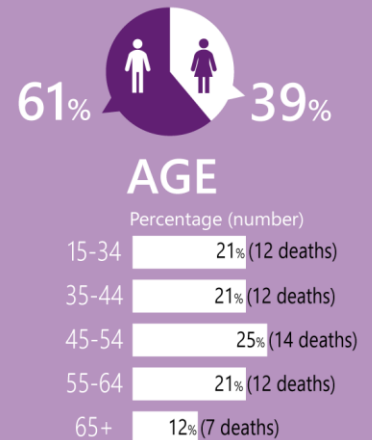
Northern Territory



DRUG INVOLVEMENT

(number of deaths)

| | |
|----|--|
| 24 | Opioids |
| 24 | Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs |
| 14 | Amphetamine-type stimulants |
| 12 | Antidepressants |
| 7 | Antipsychotics & neuroleptics |
| 7 | Non-opioid analgesics |
| 7 | Cannabinoids |
| 0 | Cocaine |



In 2023, there were 10 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in the [Northern Territory](#) in 2023, which is equivalent to 1.6% of all registered deaths in this jurisdiction ([Figure 1](#)). Due to the small number of drug-induced deaths recorded each year, it was not feasible to analyse annual trends or detailed profiles. To address this, data from the five-year period between 2019 and 2023 have been combined.

2019-2023

A total of 57 overdose and other drug-induced deaths were registered in the Northern Territories between 2019 and 2023.

Sex

Males accounted for 61% of these deaths (35 deaths) compared to 22 deaths among females.

Age

The majority of deaths (67%) occurred among individuals aged 35 to 64 years. The most affected age group was 45–54 years, accounting for 25% of all deaths.

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The Northern Territory does not include any major city or inner regional areas. Remoteness area data were unavailable for 4 cases.

Of the 53 cases with available data:

- 68% resided in outer regional areas.
- 32% lived in remote or very remote areas.

Intent of Drug Overdose Deaths

89% (51 deaths) of drug-induced deaths were due to drug overdose. Of these:

- 75% (38 deaths) were classified as unintentional.
- 20% (10 deaths) were intentional.

Drug Involvement

The three most commonly identified drug classes involved in deaths between 2019 and 2023 were:

- **opioids** – 24 deaths,
- **antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs** – 24 deaths,
- **amphetamine-type stimulants** – 14 deaths.

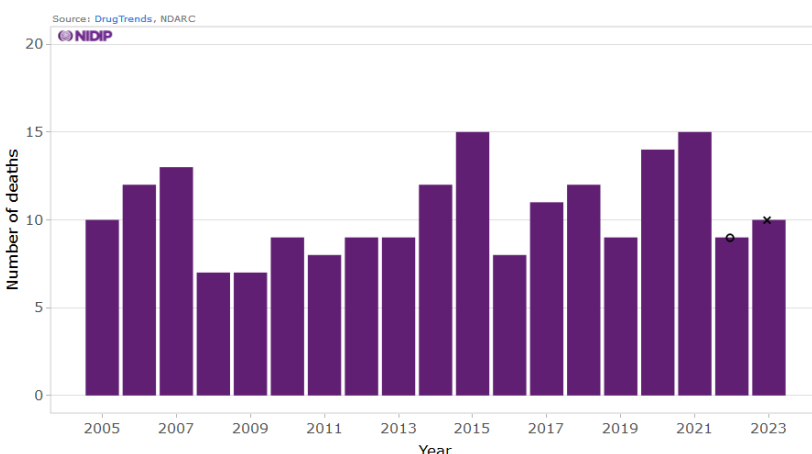


Figure 1. Number of drug-induced deaths, Northern Territory, 2004-2023

Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2022 and 2023 are not final and thus are subject to further revision. The symbol 'o' indicates revised estimates and 'x' preliminary estimates. Numbers less or equal to 5 (i.e., data in the years 2004 and 2004) are not shown.

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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.

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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 respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Related Links

- For interactive data visualisations accompanying this report, go to: https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/deaths_2023
- For full details of the methods underpinning this report, go to: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/resources/trends-drug-induced-deaths-australia-2004-2023>
- For other Drug Trends publications on drug-related hospitalisations and drug-induced deaths in Australia, go to: [National Illicit Drug Indicators Project \(NIDIP\) \(unsw.edu.au\)](#)
- For more information on NDARC research, go to: [National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre | Medicine & Health - UNSW Sydney](#)
- For more information about the ABS, go to: <http://www.abs.gov.au>
- For more information on ICD coding go to: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>
- For more information on the Remoteness Areas Structure within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), go to: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.005>
- For more research from the Drug Trends program and to subscribe to our newsletter, go to: [Drug trends | National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre - UNSW Sydney](#)
- For details on the collection, organisation and interpretation of NCIS data, go to: <https://www.ncis.org.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes/>
- For statistics about case closure statistics in NCIS, go to: <https://www.ncis.org.au/about-the-data/operational-statistics/>