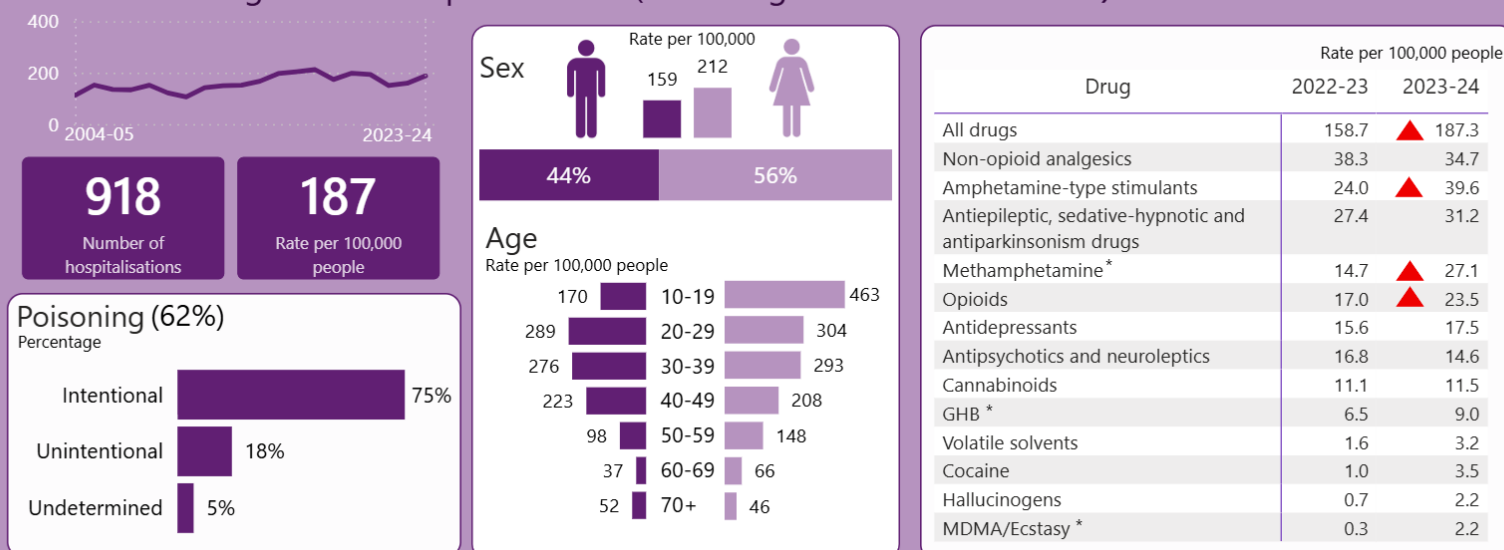




Australian Capital Territory

2023-24 Drug-related hospitalisations (excluding alcohol and tobacco)



Note: The ▲ up arrow indicates a statistically significant increase, while the ▼ down arrow indicates a statistically significant decrease in population rates from 2022-23 to 2023-24. *Indicates a specific drug type within a broader drug group.

Overall trend

There were 918 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in the [Australian Capital Territory](#) in 2023-24, representing 0.62% of all hospitalisations in public hospitals in the Australian Capital Territory.

This corresponds to a rate of 187 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was 18% higher than the rate in 2022-23 (159 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Table A17 in [Appendix](#)), representing a statistically significant increase ([Figure 1](#)).

Sex

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among [females](#) than males in 2023-24 (212 versus 159 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

Age

In 2023-24, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) among the 10-19 age group, followed by the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups (320, 302, and 285 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively). Females were younger than males, with the 10-19 age group having the highest rate of drug-related hospitalisations. Among males, the rate was highest in the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups.

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

Over 99% of the population in the Australian Capital Territory resided in major city areas and the remaining resided in inner regional areas. For this reason, data on hospitalisations by remoteness area are not presented.

External Cause of Drug Poisoning

In 2023-24, 62% of drug-related hospitalisations in the Australian Capital Territory were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 75% of drug poisoning-related hospitalisations were intentional (89 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 18% were unintentional (21 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 2](#)).

Drug Type

In 2023-24, the hospitalisation rates were [highest](#) for amphetamine-type stimulants, reaching a record high of 40 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, and being driven by an increase in methamphetamine-related hospitalisations ([Figure 3](#); Table A17 in [Appendix](#)).

Compared to 2022-23, there were significant increases in the 2023-24 rates of hospitalisations related to:

- methamphetamine (▲85%),
- amphetamine-type stimulants (▲65%), and
- opioids (▲38%) (Table A17 in [Appendix](#)).

In contrast, there were no significant decreases compared to 2022-23 rates for any drug class.

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by sex, Australian Capital Territory, 2004-05 to 2023-24.

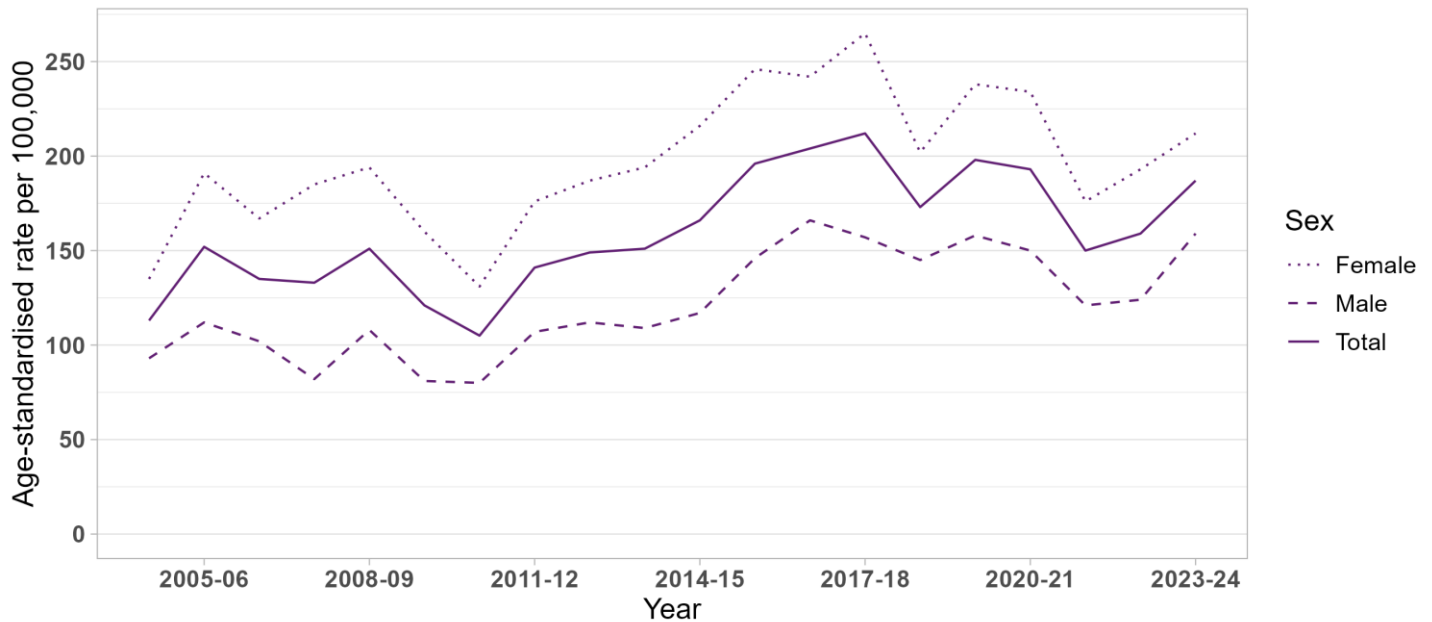


Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by principal diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorder due to substance use (A) and external cause of poisoning (B), Australian Capital Territory, 2004-05 to 2023-24.

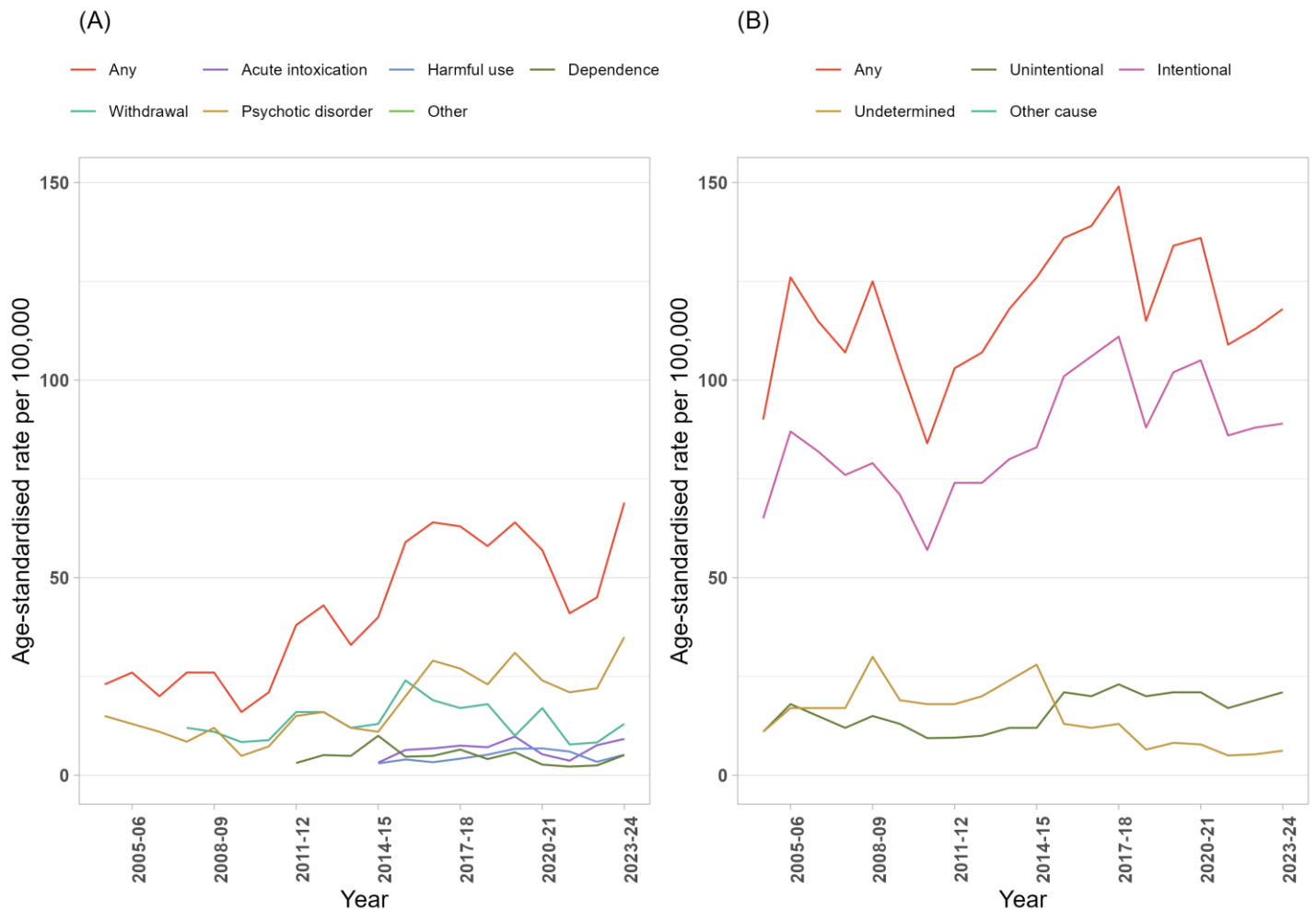
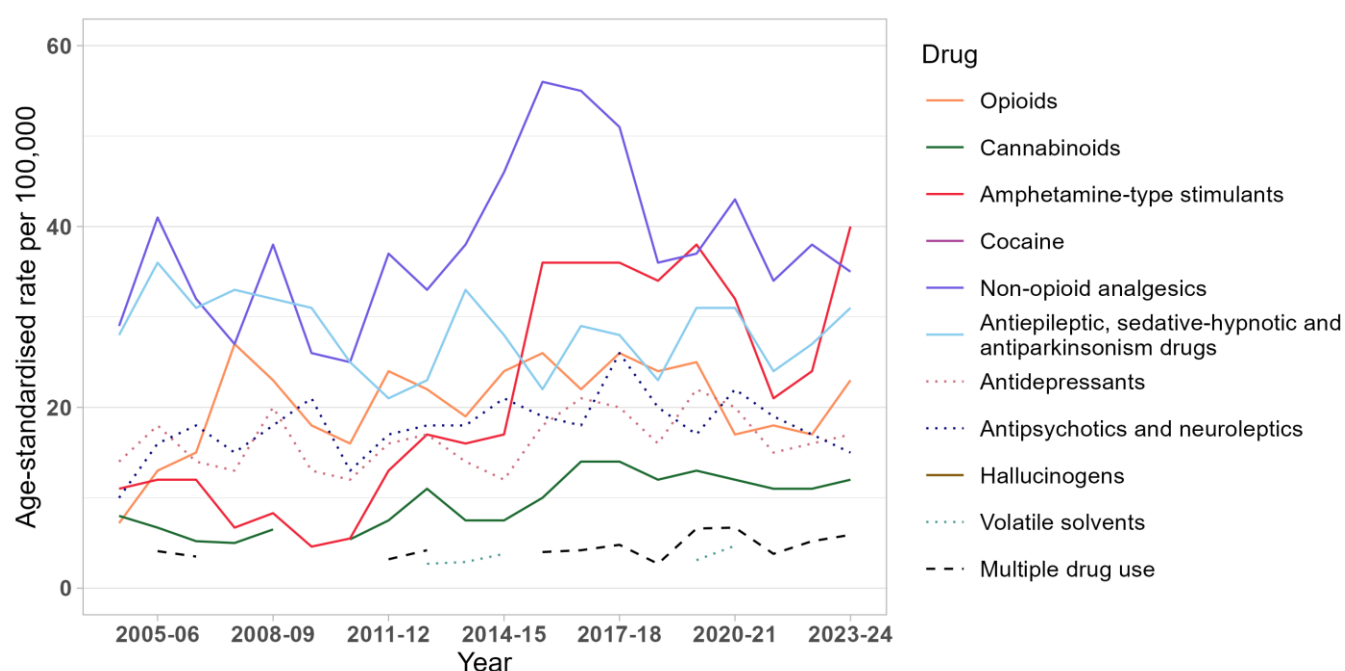


Figure 3. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, Australian Capital Territory, 2004-05 to 2023-24.



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 A17. Age-standardised rate (per 100,000 people) of drug-related hospitalisations in 2023-24 and average percent change for difference compared to 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

Drug	Number 2023-24	Age-standardised rate (95% CI) 2023-24	Age-standardised rate (95% CI) 2022-23	APC (95% CI) 2023-24 vs 2022-23
All drugs	918	187 (175, 200)	159 (147, 170)	18 (7, 30)
Amphetamine-type stimulants	201	40 (34, 45)	24 (20, 29)	65 (31, 108)
Non-opioid analgesics	158	35 (29, 41)	38 (33, 45)	-9.6 (-27.3, 12.5)
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs	155	31 (26, 37)	27 (23, 32)	14 (-10, 44)
<i>Methamphetamine*</i>	139	27 (23, 32)	15 (11, 18)	85 (39, 146)
Opioids	114	23 (19, 28)	17 (13, 21)	38 (4, 84)
Antidepressants	83	17 (14, 22)	16 (12, 20)	12 (-19, 54)
Antipsychotics and neuroleptics	72	15 (11, 18)	17 (13, 21)	-13 (-37, 20)
Cannabinoids	58	12 (9, 15)	11 (8, 15)	3.2 (-28.8, 49.6)
<i>GHB*</i>	45	9.0 (6.6, 12.1)	6.5 (4.5, 9.1)	39 (-11, 117)
Multiple drug use	32	5.9 (4.0, 8.3)	5.2 (3.4, 7.6)	13 (-32, 89)
Cocaine	18	3.5 (2.1, 5.6)	--	--
Volatile solvents	16	3.2 (1.8, 5.2)	--	--
<i>MDMA/ecstasy*</i>	11	2.2 (1.1, 3.9)	--	--
Hallucinogens	11	2.2 (1.1, 3.9)	--	--

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. *Indicates a specific drug type within a broader drug group.

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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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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
- Hospitalisations methods document: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/resources/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-2004-2024>
- 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](#)