

Northern Territory

2020-2024 Drug-induced DEATHS



Drug
Induced
Deaths
in the

Northern Territory

DRUG INVOLVEMENT

(number of deaths)

27	Opioids
24	Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs
15	Amphetamine-type stimulants
13	Antidepressants
9	Antipsychotics & neuroleptics
7	Non-opioid analgesics
n<5	Cannabinoids
0	Cocaine



AGE

Percentage (number)

15-34	22% (13 deaths)
35-44	15% (9 deaths)
45-54	25% (15 deaths)
55-64	24% (14 deaths)
65+	14% (8 deaths)

For the Northern Territory, annual interpretation remains limited by small numbers, so data has been pooled across 2020-2024. Across this period, deaths were concentrated among people aged 35-64 years and were more common among males. Most deaths were overdose deaths and most overdose deaths were unintentional. The main drug classes identified across the five years were opioids, antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs, and amphetamine-type stimulants.

In 2024, there were 11 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in the [Northern Territory](#), which is equivalent to 0.89% 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 2020 and 2024 have been combined.

Pooled results, 2020-2024

A total of 59 overdose and other drug-induced deaths were registered in the Northern Territory between 2020 and 2024.

Sex

Males accounted for 58% of these deaths (34 deaths) compared to 25 deaths among females.

Age

The majority of deaths (64%) occurred among individuals aged 35 to 64 years. The most affected age groups were 45-54 and 55-64 years, accounting for 25% and 24% of all deaths, respectively.

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The Northern Territory does not include any major city or inner regional areas. Remoteness area data were unavailable for 3 cases.

Of the 56 cases with available data:

- 70% resided in outer regional areas.
- 30% lived in remote or very remote areas.

Intent of Drug Overdose Deaths

92% (54 deaths) of drug-induced deaths were due to drug overdose. Of these:

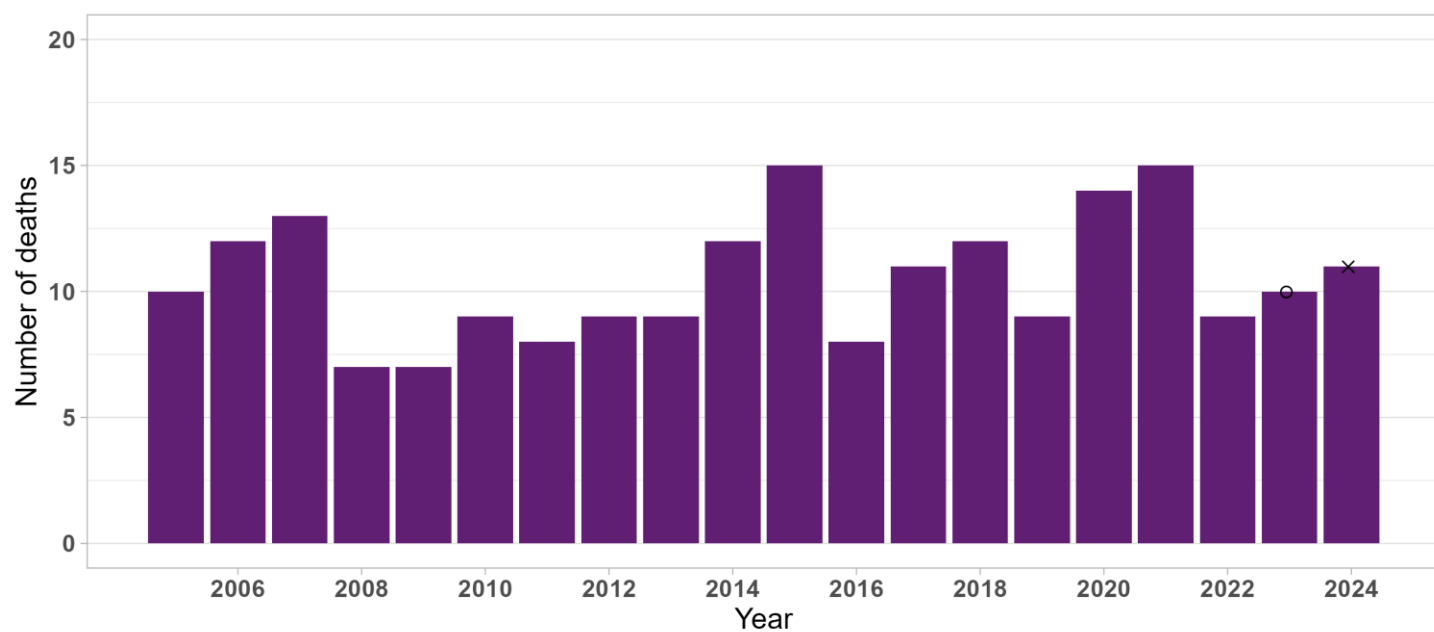
- 78% (42 deaths) were classified as unintentional.
- 20% (11 deaths) were intentional.

Drug Involvement

The three most commonly identified drug classes involved in deaths between 2020 and 2024 were:

- **opioids** – 27 deaths,
- **antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs** – 24 deaths,
- **amphetamine-type stimulants** – 15 deaths.

Caution note: Estimates for the Northern Territory are based on relatively small numbers of deaths and should therefore be interpreted with caution, as they may be subject to substantial year-to-year variation.

Figure 1. Number of drug-induced deaths, Northern Territory, 2005-2024

Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2023 and 2024 are not final and thus are subject to further revision. The symbol 'o' indicates revised estimates and 'x' preliminary revised estimates.

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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 lands on which this work was undertaken. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that same respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise their continuing connection to Country, culture and community.

Related Links

- For interactive data visualisations accompanying this report, go to: https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/deaths_2024
- For full details of the methods underpinning this report, go to: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/resources/trends-drug-induced-deaths-australia-2005-2024>
- 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/>