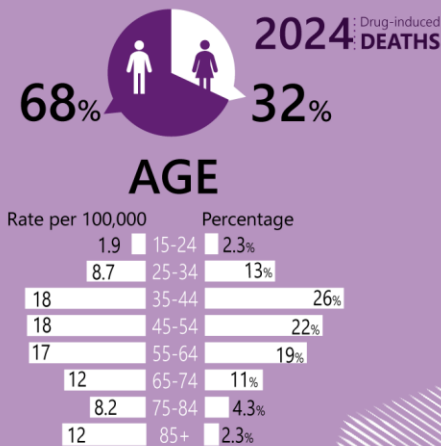
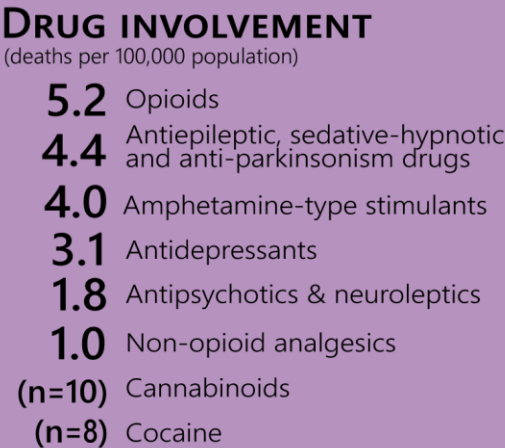


Western Australia



The age-standardised rate of drug-induced deaths in Western Australia remained broadly unchanged in 2024 compared with 2023. Deaths remained concentrated among males and people aged 35-64 years. Most deaths occurred among residents of major cities, which also recorded the highest mortality rate. Opioids remained the leading drug class, followed by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs, and amphetamine-type stimulants.

There were 300 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in [Western Australia](#) in 2024, which is equivalent to 1.7% of all registered deaths in this jurisdiction.

The rate of drug-induced deaths increased from 5.0 in 2005 to 10 deaths per 100,000 people in 2023, peaking at 11 deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. The preliminary age-standardised rate of drug-induced deaths in 2024 was 9.7 deaths per 100,000 people (10 deaths per 100,000 people in 2023) ([Figure 1](#)). The estimates for 2023 and 2024 are subject to revision and may increase ([Table A47](#)).

Sex



In 2024, [males](#) accounted for 68% (203 deaths) of drug-induced deaths. The rate of drug-induced deaths was also higher among males than females (13 versus 6.1 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively).

Analyses did not indicate a statistically significant difference between 2023 and 2024 in the estimated rates for males and females ([Table A47](#)).

Age



In 2024, drug-induced deaths were most common among the [35-44 age group](#) (26%, 79 deaths). The rate in 2024 was equally high in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups (18 deaths per 100,000 people), followed closely by the 55-64 age group (17 deaths per 100,000 people).

Analyses did not indicate a statistically significant difference in the estimated rates between 2023 and 2024 for any of the age groups ([Table A48](#)).

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The greatest proportion of drug-induced deaths and the highest rate in 2024 occurred among people residing in major city areas (82%, 246 deaths, 10 per 100,000 people). The 2024 rates were comparable to those observed in 2023 ([Table A49](#)).

Intent of Drug Overdose Deaths

In 2024, 99% (296 deaths) of drug-induced deaths were due to overdose. Unintentional drug overdose accounted for 78% (232 deaths) and intentional drug overdose for 19% (57 deaths) of these deaths. This profile was largely

consistent over time. Analyses did not indicate a statistically significant difference in the estimated rates between 2023 and 2024 (Table A50).

Place of Occurrence



In 2024, the incident leading to death occurred at home for 78% of drug overdose deaths in Western Australia (231 deaths).

Drug Involvement

In Western Australia, the three [most common drug types](#) involved in drug overdose deaths in 2024 were:

- **opioids** (5.2 deaths per 100,000 people, 159 deaths),
- **antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs** (4.4 deaths per 100,000 people, 135 deaths), and
- **amphetamine-type stimulants** (4.0 deaths per 100,000 people, 121 deaths) ([Figure 2](#)).

Comparison of estimated rates of drug overdose deaths in Western Australia did not identify a significant change in rates of drug involvement between 2023 and 2024 (Table A51).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-induced deaths, by sex, Western Australia, 2005-2024

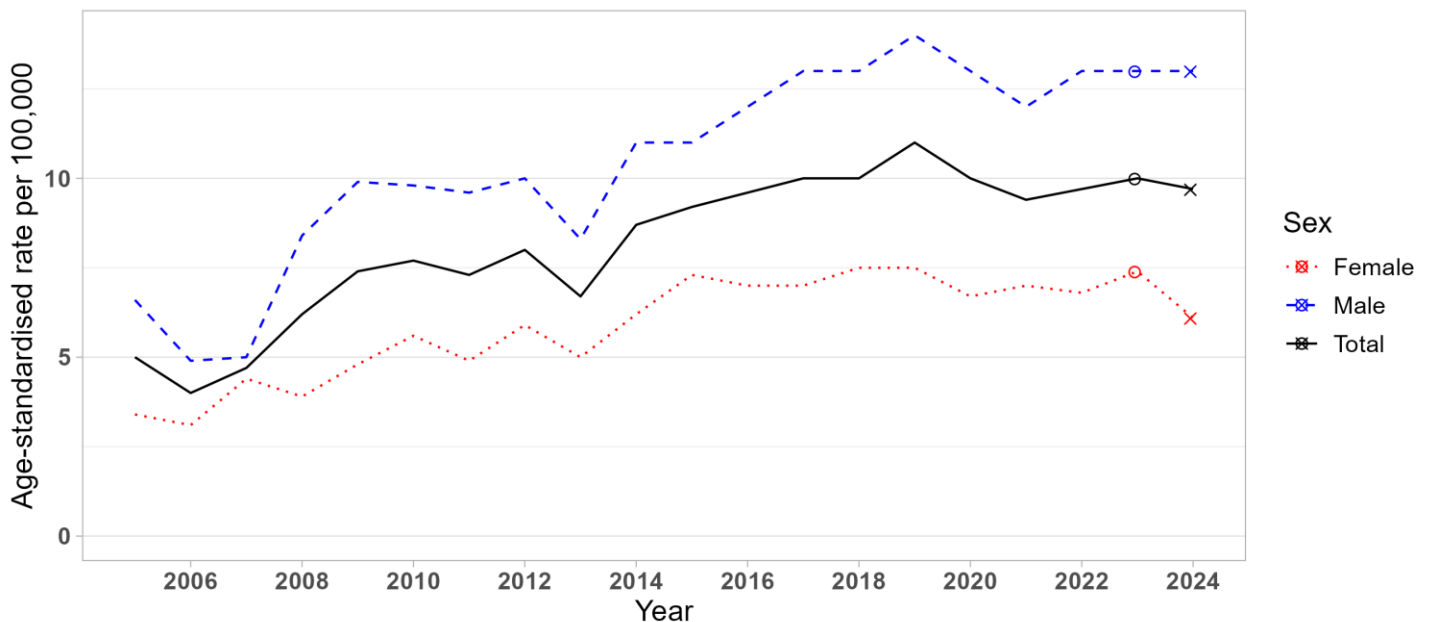
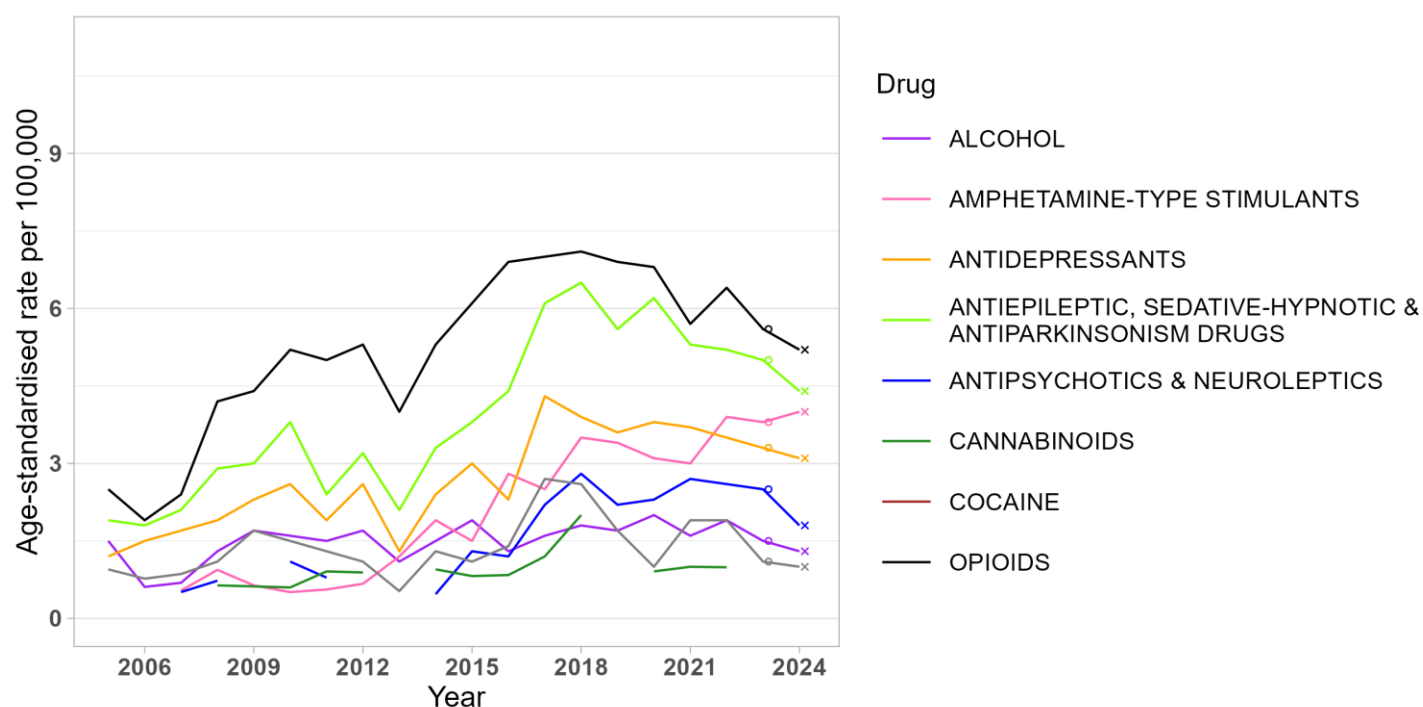


Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug overdose deaths, by drug class, Western Australia, 2005-2024

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. Age-standardised rates were not calculated if the number of deaths 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 A47. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-induced deaths in Western Australia in 2023 and 2024, and percent change for difference between 2024 and 2023 (with 95% confidence intervals), by sex

Sex	Rate in 2023	Rate in 2024	Percent change for 2024 vs 2023
Female	7.4 (6.0, 8.9)	6.1 (5.0, 7.5)	-17 (-37, 10)
Male	13 (11, 15)	13 (11, 15)	5.4 (-13.8, 28.9)
Total	10.0 (8.9, 11.2)	9.7 (8.6, 10.9)	-3.0 (-17.6, 14.1)

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. 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of percent change. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

Table A48. Crude rate per 100,000 people of drug-induced deaths in Western Australia in 2023 and 2024, and percent change for difference between 2024 and 2023 (with 95% confidence intervals), by age

Age	Rate in 2023	Rate in 2024	Percent change for 2024 vs 2023
15-64	13 (12, 15)	13 (11, 14)	-4.9 (-20.5, 13.8)
15-24	4.0 (2.2, 6.7)	1.9 (0.8, 3.9)	-52 (-84, 27)
25-34	7.3 (5.0, 10.4)	8.7 (6.2, 11.9)	19 (-28, 98)
35-44	18 (14, 22)	18 (14, 22)	2.4 (-26.4, 42.5)
45-54	23 (18, 28)	18 (14, 23)	-21 (-44, 10)
55-64	16 (12, 20)	17 (13, 22)	12 (-24, 67)

65-74	10 (7, 15)	12 (8, 17)	20 (-31, 110)
75-84	6.0 (2.7, 11.4)	8.2 (4.4, 14.0)	37 (-46, 263)
85+	11 (4, 24)	12 (5, 25)	12 (-68, 302)

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. 95% confidence intervals for the crude rate and percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of percent change. The estimates for the 0-14 years age group are not presented due to sensitivity of the data. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

Table A49. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-induced deaths in Western Australia in 2023 and 2024, and percent change for difference between 2024 and 2023 (with 95% confidence intervals), by remoteness area

Remoteness	Rate in 2023	Rate in 2024	Percent change for 2024 vs 2023
Major Cities	9.3 (8.1, 10.7)	10 (9, 11)	8.5 (-9.8, 30.4)
Regional and Remote	10 (8, 13)	7.1 (5.2, 9.5)	-32 (-53, 1)

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. 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of percent change. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

Table A50. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of overdose deaths in Western Australia in 2023 and 2024, and percent change for difference between 2024 and 2023 (with 95% confidence intervals), by intent

Intent	Rate in 2023	Rate in 2024	Percent change for 2024 vs 2023
Unintentional	7.5 (6.5, 8.5)	7.6 (6.6, 8.6)	1.5 (-15.8, 22.4)
Intentional	2.1 (1.6, 2.7)	1.8 (1.3, 2.3)	-16 (-42, 20)

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. 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of percent change. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

Table A51. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of overdose deaths in Western Australia in 2023 and 2024, and percent change for difference between 2024 and 2023 (with 95% confidence intervals), by drugs involved

Drug	Rate in 2023	Rate in 2024	Percent change for 2024 vs 2023
Opioids	5.6 (4.7, 6.5)	5.2 (4.4, 6.0)	-7.7 (-26.0, 15.1)
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic & antiparkinsonism drugs	5.0 (4.2, 5.9)	4.4 (3.7, 5.2)	-12 (-31, 11)
Amphetamine-type stimulants	3.8 (3.1, 4.6)	4.0 (3.4, 4.8)	7.2 (-17.5, 39.4)
Antidepressants	3.3 (2.7, 4.1)	3.1 (2.5, 3.8)	-7.2 (-30.1, 23.3)
Antipsychotics & neuroleptics	2.5 (1.9, 3.1)	1.8 (1.3, 2.3)	-28 (-49, 3)
Alcohol	1.5 (1.1, 2.0)	1.3 (0.9, 1.8)	-14 (-45, 33)
Non-opioid analgesics	1.1 (0.7, 1.5)	1.0 (0.7, 1.4)	-4.0 (-41.2, 56.9)
Cannabinoids	—	—	—
Cocaine	—	—	—

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. 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of percent change. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used. * Indicates a statistically significant difference.

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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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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>
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- 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/>