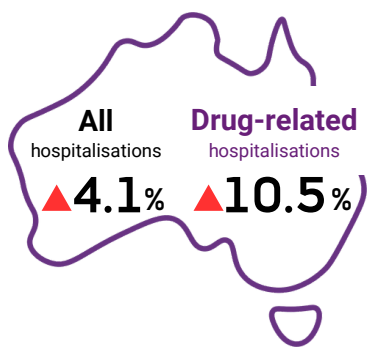


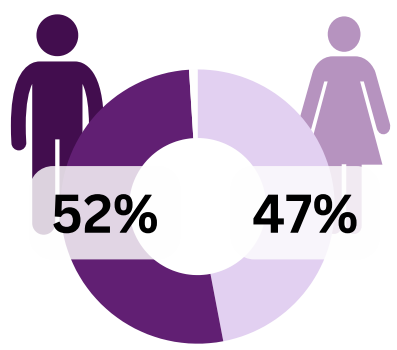
Drug-Related Hospitalisations, Australia, 2023-24



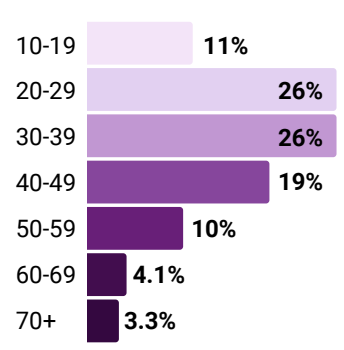
There were 56,797 drug-related hospitalisations (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in Australia in 2023-24.



The number of drug-related hospitalisations increased by 10.5% in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, more than double the 4.1% increase in all-cause hospitalisations.

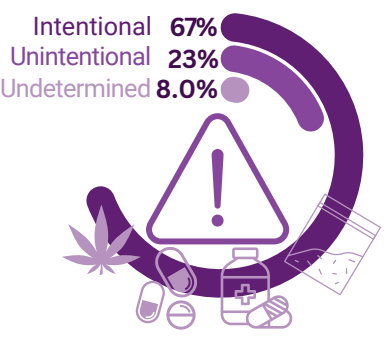


Drug-related hospitalisations were more common among males than females, both increased from 2022-23 to 2023-24, although the increase was greater among males.

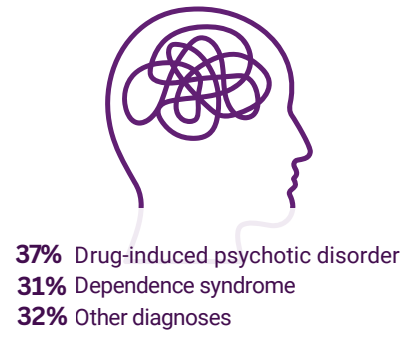


The highest percentage of drug-related hospitalisations occurred amongst Australians aged 20-29 and 30-39 years.

Poisoning 41% 59% Mental and behavioural disorders

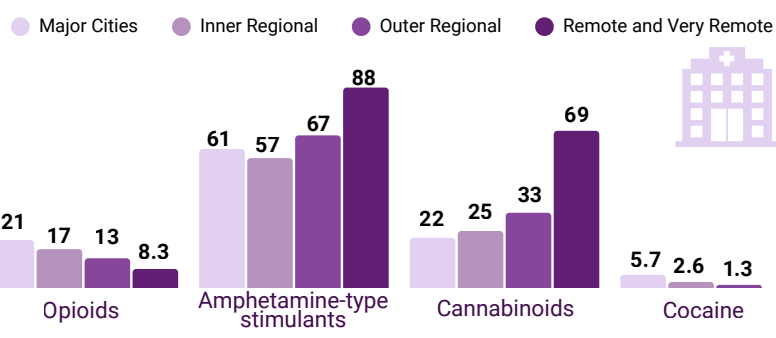


Intentional poisoning was the most common external cause of hospitalisations due to drug poisoning.

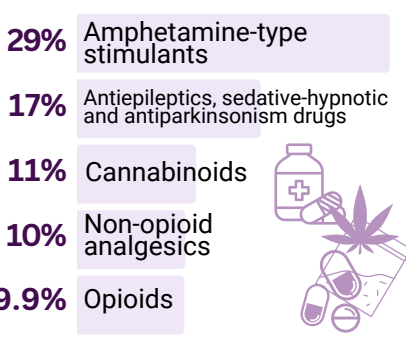


Drug-induced psychotic disorder and dependence syndrome were the leading diagnoses of mental and behavioural disorders due to substance use.

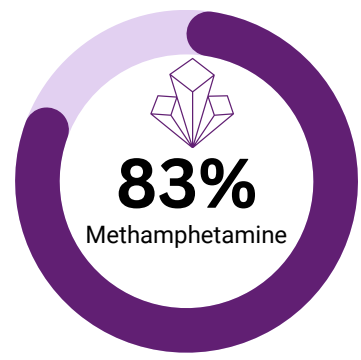
Hospitalisations per 100,000 Australians



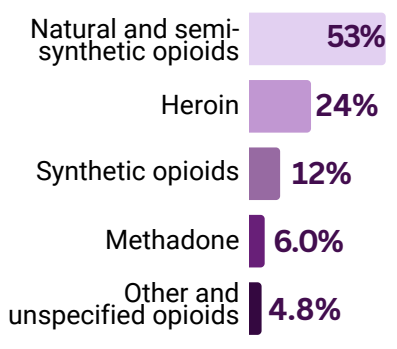
The highest rates of opioid- and cocaine-related hospitalisations were in major city areas. In contrast, amphetamine-type stimulant- and cannabinoid-related hospitalisations had the highest rates in remote and very remote areas.



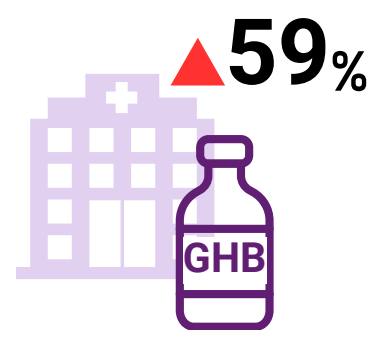
The five drug classes most commonly identified as the principal diagnosis in drug-related hospitalisations.



Methamphetamine-related hospitalisations comprised 83% of all hospitalisations related to amphetamine-type stimulants.

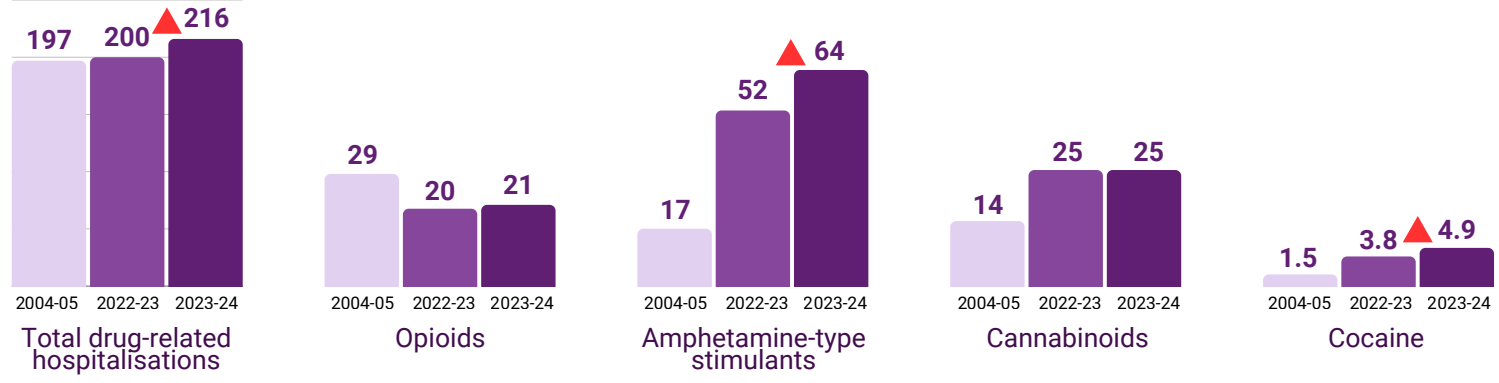


Natural and semi-synthetic opioids were the principal diagnosis in over half of opioid-poisoning hospitalisations.



GHB-related hospitalisations increased 59% from 2022-23 to 2023-24, with 72% (2,497 hospitalisations) among the 20-39 age group.

Change in Rate of Hospitalisations (per 100,000 people)



The rate of drug-related hospitalisations generally rose from 2004-05 to 2015-16, then declined, especially from 2020-21. The rate increased again in 2023-24 but remained lower than rates observed between 2016-17 and 2020-21. Each drug type exhibited its own distinct pattern of change over time, but many saw an increase from 2022-23 to 2023-24.