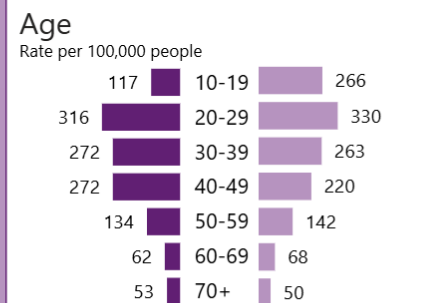
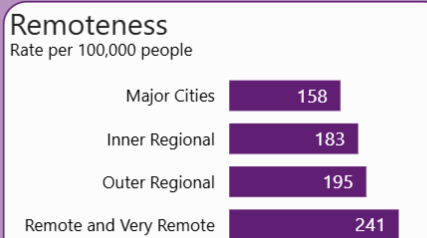
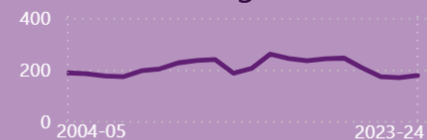




2023-24 Drug-related hospitalisations (excluding alcohol and tobacco)



Drug	Rate per 100,000 people	
	2022-23	2023-24
All drugs	168.6	176.9 ▲
Amphetamine-type stimulants	42.5	52.7 ▲
Methamphetamine*	33.9	42.8 ▲
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs	27.3	30.6 ▲
Non-opioid analgesics	23.8	19.7 ▼
Cannabinoids	21.1	19.2
Opioids	14.7	15.6
Antipsychotics and neuroleptics	12.8	12.1
Antidepressants	11.4	9.5 ▼
GHB *	5.1	7.1 ▲
Volatile solvents	2.1	2.0
MDMA/Ecstasy *	0.7	1.2 ▲
Hallucinogens	0.8	0.9
Cocaine	0.5	0.8

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 5,131 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in [Western Australia](#) in 2023-24, representing 0.43% of all hospitalisations in Western Australia.

This corresponds to a rate of 177 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was 5% higher than the rate in 2022-23 (169 per 100,000 people) (Table A24 in [Appendix](#)) ([Figure 1](#)).

Sex

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among [females](#) than males in 2023-24 (185 versus 169 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

Age

In 2023-24, hospitalisation rates were highest among those aged 20-29, followed by 30-39 and 40-49 (323, 268, and 246 per 100,000 people, respectively). Females tended to be younger than males, with rates among those aged 10-19 more than twice the rate among males. For both sexes, however, the rates were highest in the 20-29 age group.

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The rate of hospitalisations in 2023-24 was highest in the [remote and very remote](#) Western Australia (241 hospitalisations per 100,000 people), while the number of

hospitalisations was highest in major city areas (3,665 hospitalisations; [Figure 2](#)).

External Cause of Drug Poisoning

In 2023-24, 50% of drug-related hospitalisations in Western Australia were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 63% of drug poisoning-related hospitalisations were intentional (56 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 30% were unintentional (26 hospitalisations per 100,000 people; [Figure 3](#)).

Drug Type

In 2023-24, the hospitalisation rates were [highest](#) for amphetamine-type stimulants, at 53 hospitalisations per 100,000 people ([Figure 4](#)).

Compared to 2022-23, there were statistically significant increases in the rate of hospitalisations with principal diagnosis related to

- MDMA/ecstasy (▲86%),
- GHB (▲40%),
- methamphetamine (▲26%),
- amphetamine-type stimulants (▲24%), and
- antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs (▲12%).

In contrast, the rate significantly decreased for hospitalisations related to:

- non-opioid analgesics (▼17%) and
- antidepressants (▼17%) (Table A24 in [Appendix](#)).

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

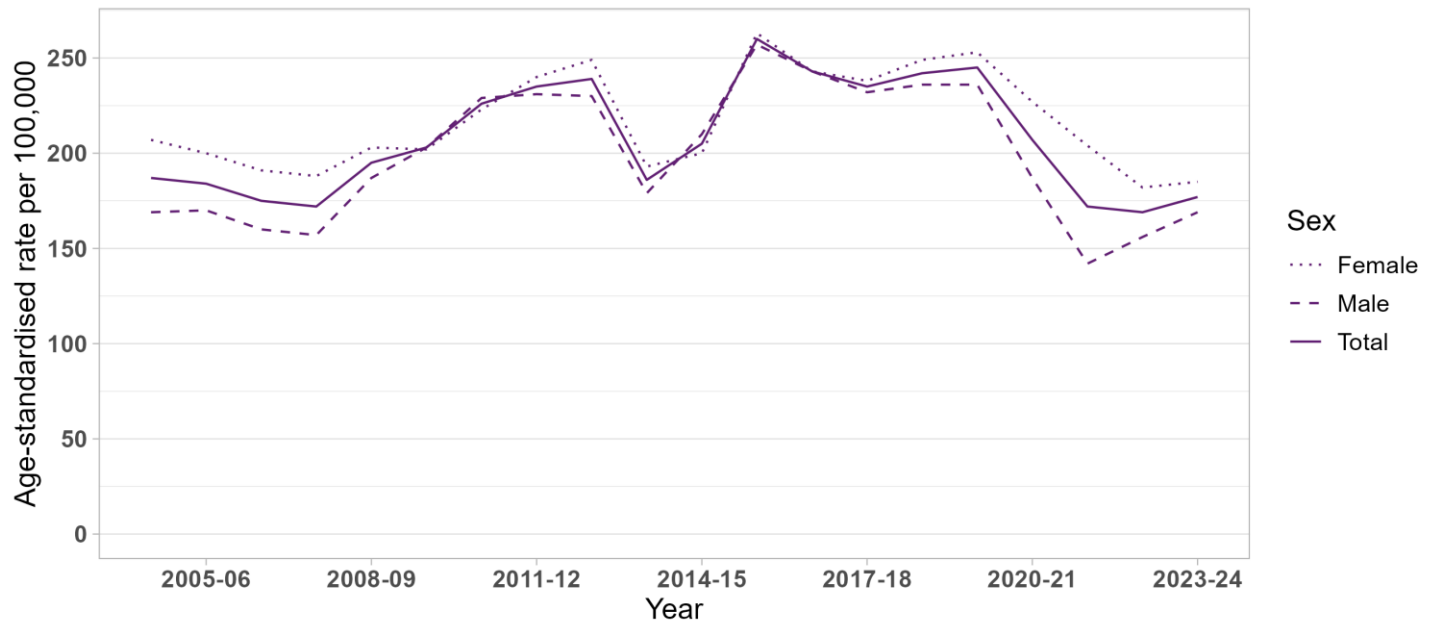
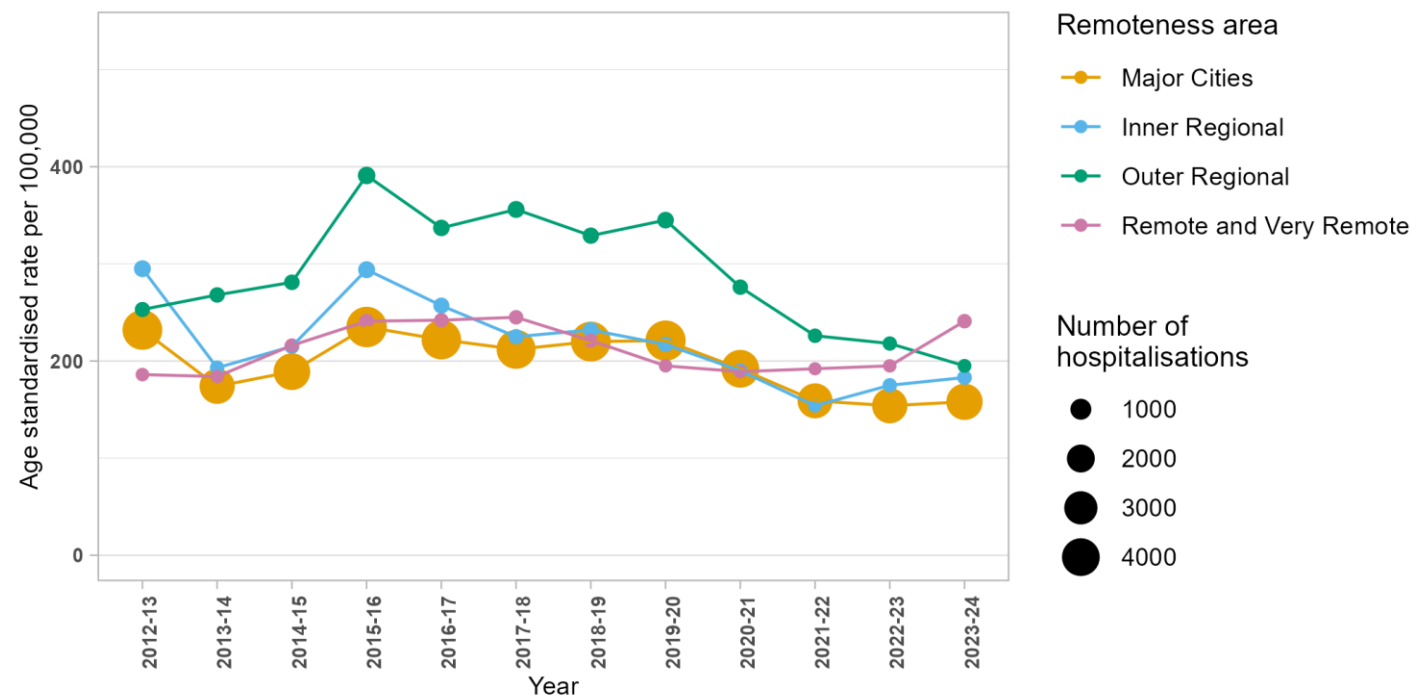


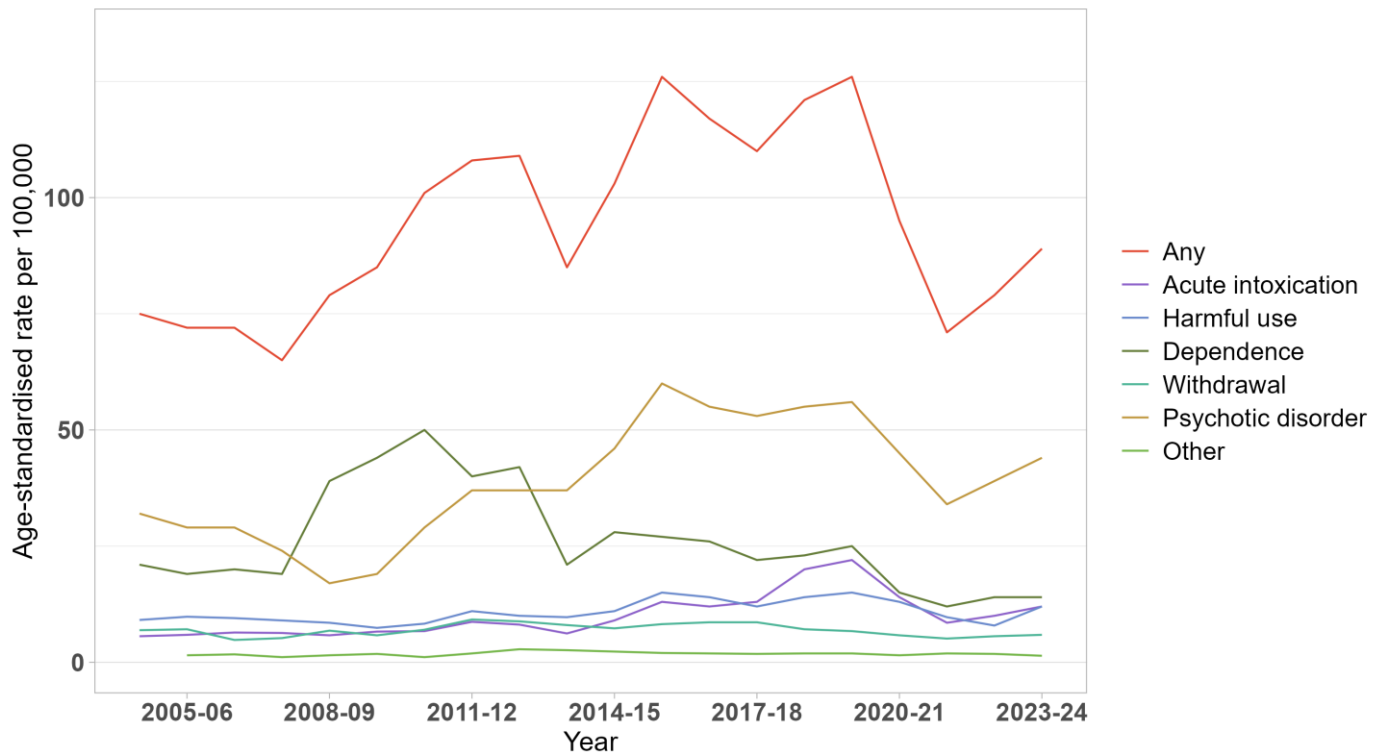
Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by remoteness, Western Australia, 2012-13 to 2023-24.



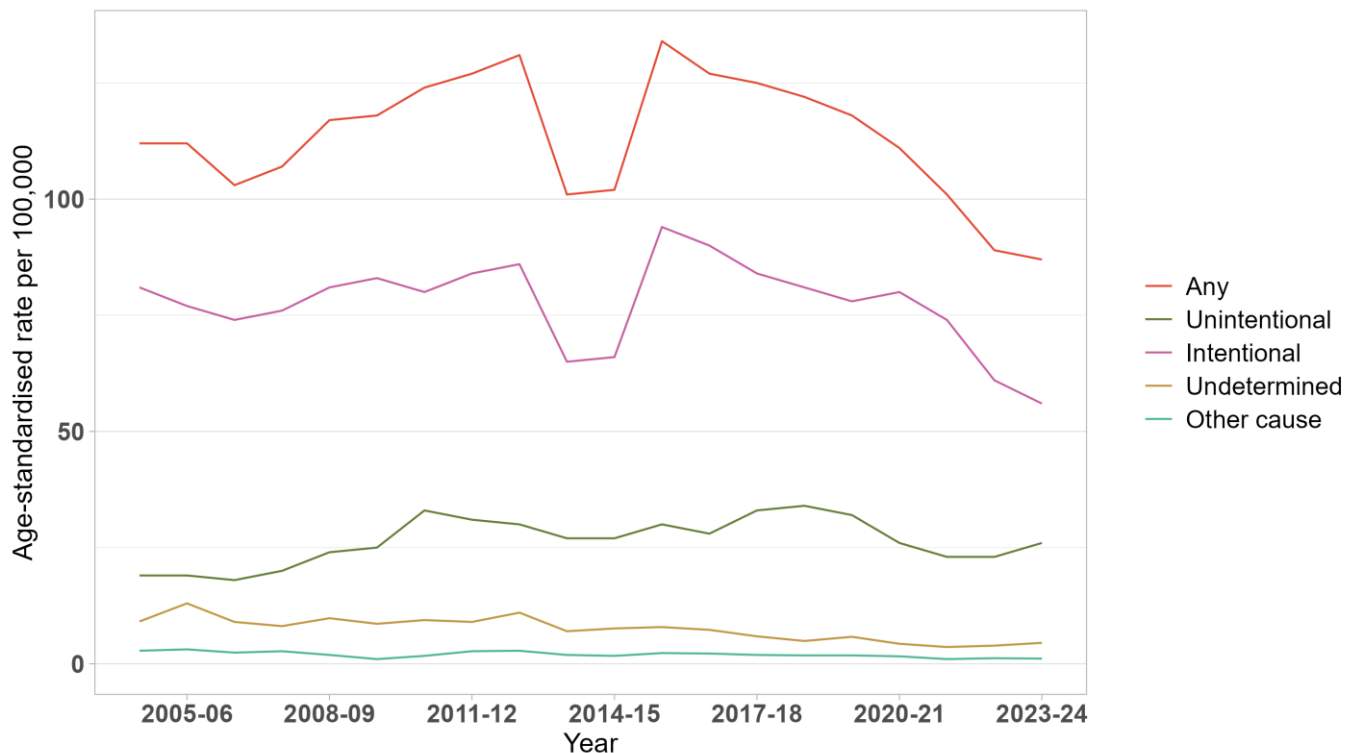
Note: The size (area) of the bubble is proportional to the number of hospitalisations. Data on remoteness are only available from 2012-13.

Figure 3. 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), Western Australia, 2004-05 to 2023-24.

(A) Mental & behavioural disorder due to substance use

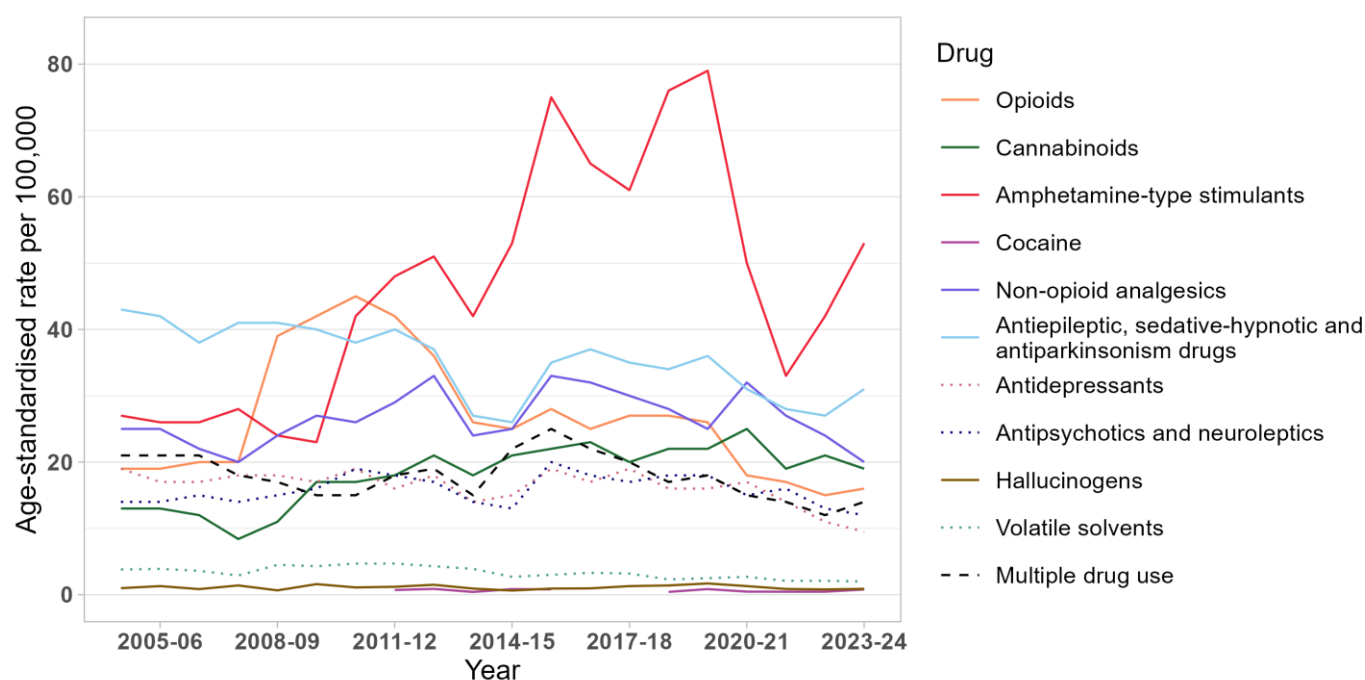


(B) Drug poisoning



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.

Figure 4. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, Western Australia, 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 A24. 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 Western Australia by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

Drug	Number	Age-standardised rate (95% CI)		APC (95% CI)
		2023-24	2022-23	2023-24 vs 2022-23
All drugs	5,131	177 (172, 182)	169 (164, 173)	5.0 (0.9, 9.2)
Amphetamine-type stimulants	1,516	53 (50, 55)	42 (40, 45)	24 (15, 34)
<i>Methamphetamine*</i>	1,232	43 (40, 45)	34 (32, 36)	26 (16, 37)
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs	906	31 (29, 33)	27 (25, 29)	12 (2, 24)
Non-opioid analgesics	560	20 (18, 21)	24 (22, 26)	-17 (-26, -7)
Cannabinoids	548	19 (18, 21)	21 (19, 23)	-8.7 (-18.8, 2.6)
Opioids	473	16 (14, 17)	15 (13, 16)	6.2 (-6.9, 21.2)
Multiple drug use	398	14 (12, 15)	12 (10, 13)	18 (2, 36)
Antipsychotics and neuroleptics	352	12 (11, 13)	13 (12, 14)	-5.5 (-18.5, 9.4)
Antidepressants	272	9.5 (8.4, 10.7)	11 (10, 13)	-17 (-29, -2)
<i>GHB*</i>	206	7.1 (6.1, 8.1)	5.1 (4.3, 6.0)	40 (13, 74)
Volatile solvents	58	2.0 (1.5, 2.6)	2.1 (1.6, 2.7)	-4.2 (-33.5, 37.9)
<i>MDMA/ecstasy*</i>	35	1.2 (0.9, 1.7)	0.66 (0.39, 1.04)	86 (5, 228)
Hallucinogens	25	0.89 (0.57, 1.31)	0.80 (0.50, 1.21)	10 (-38, 96)
Cocaine	23	0.79 (0.50, 1.18)	0.46 (0.25, 0.79)	69 (-14, 235)

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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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](#)