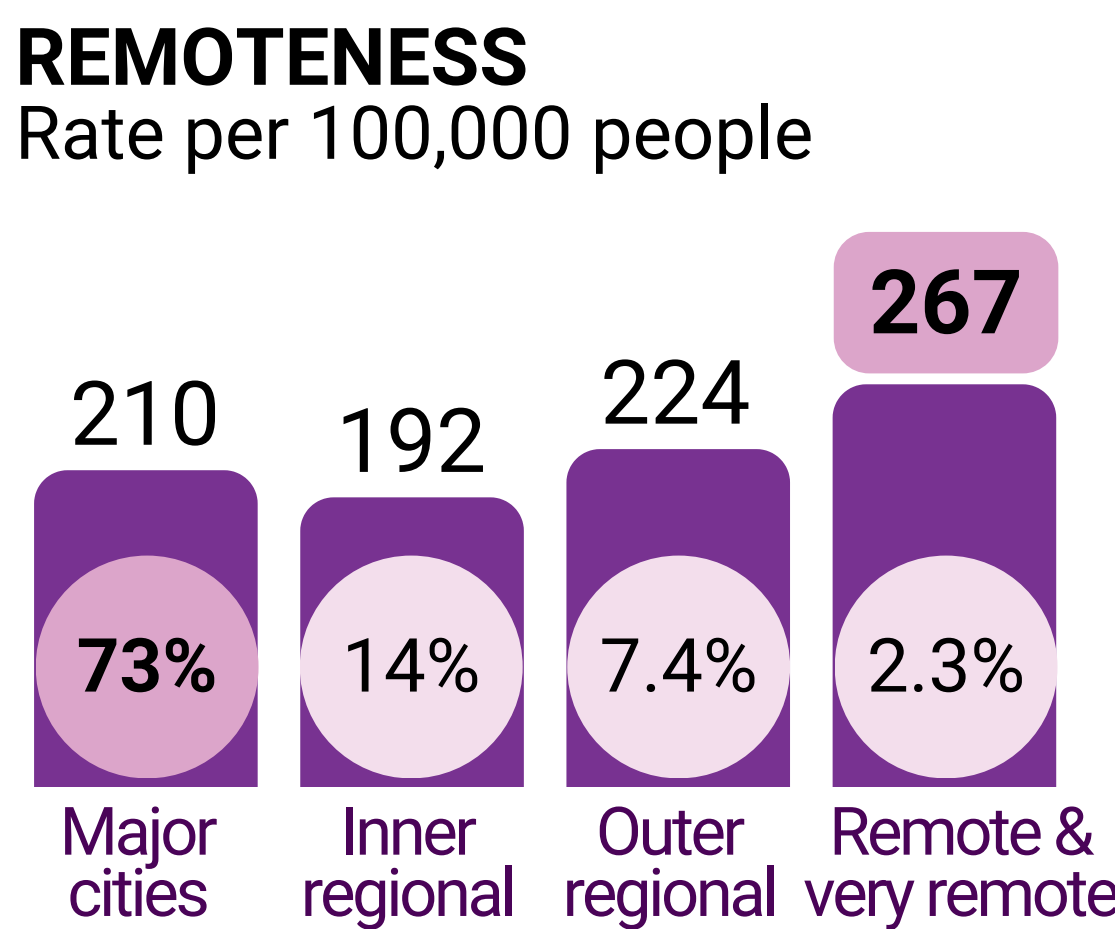
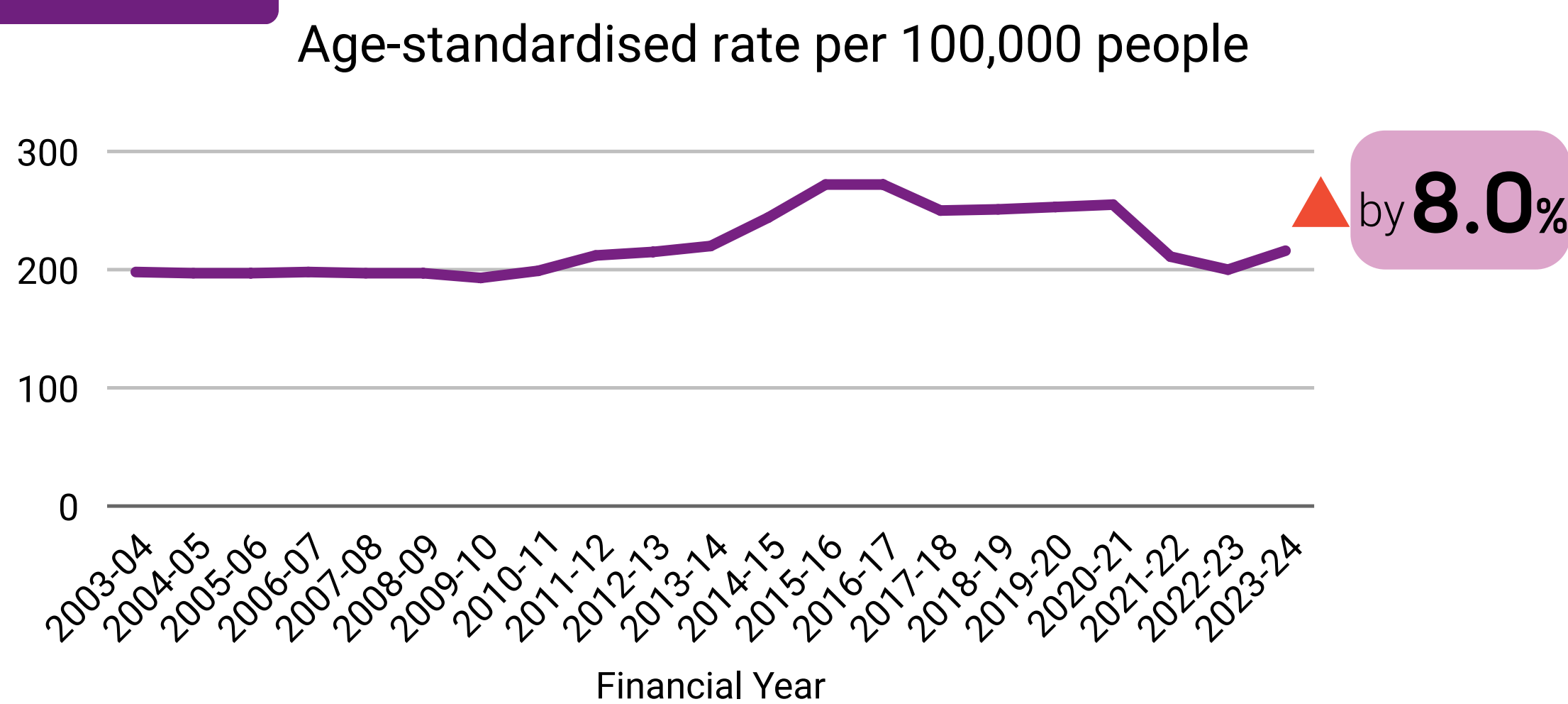


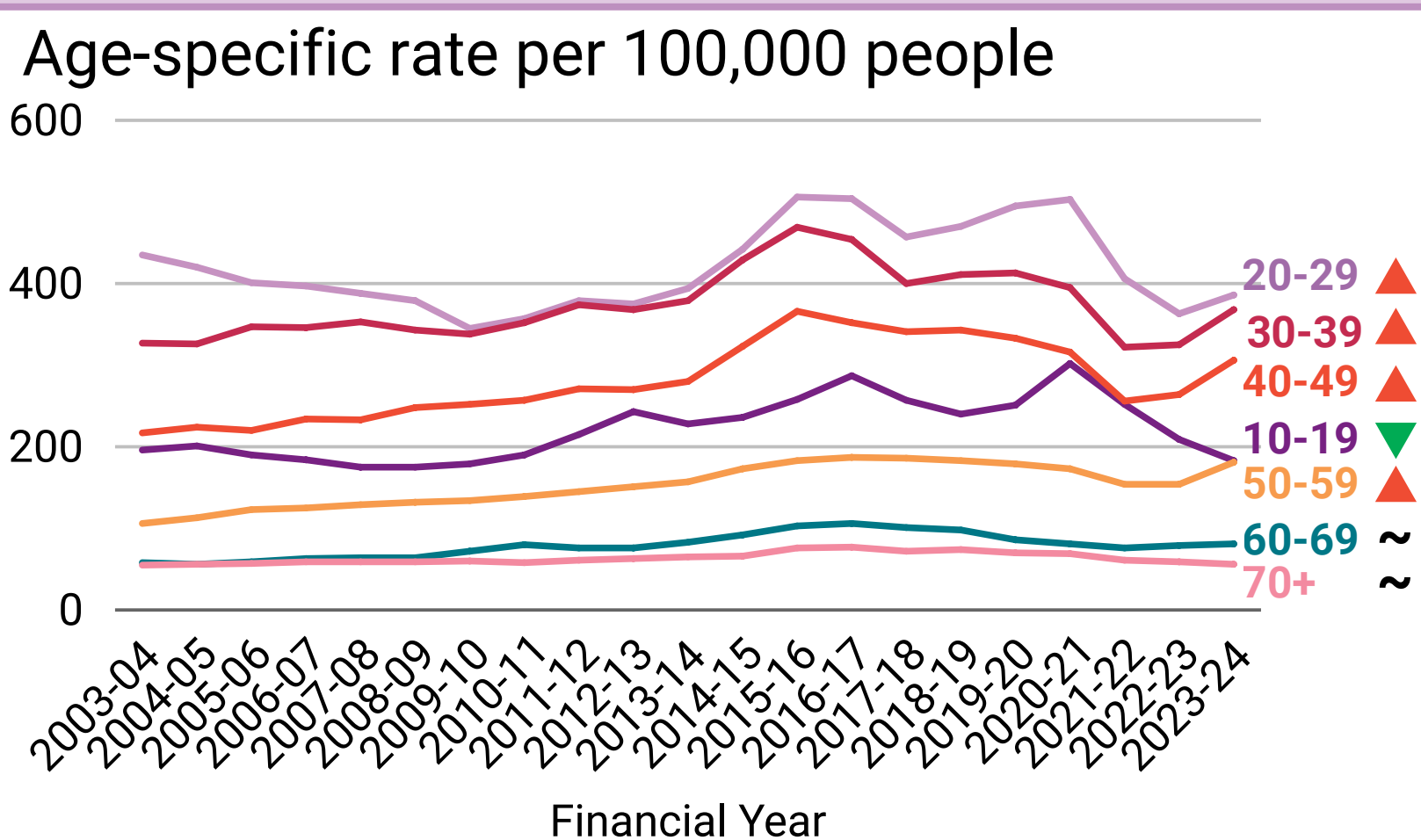
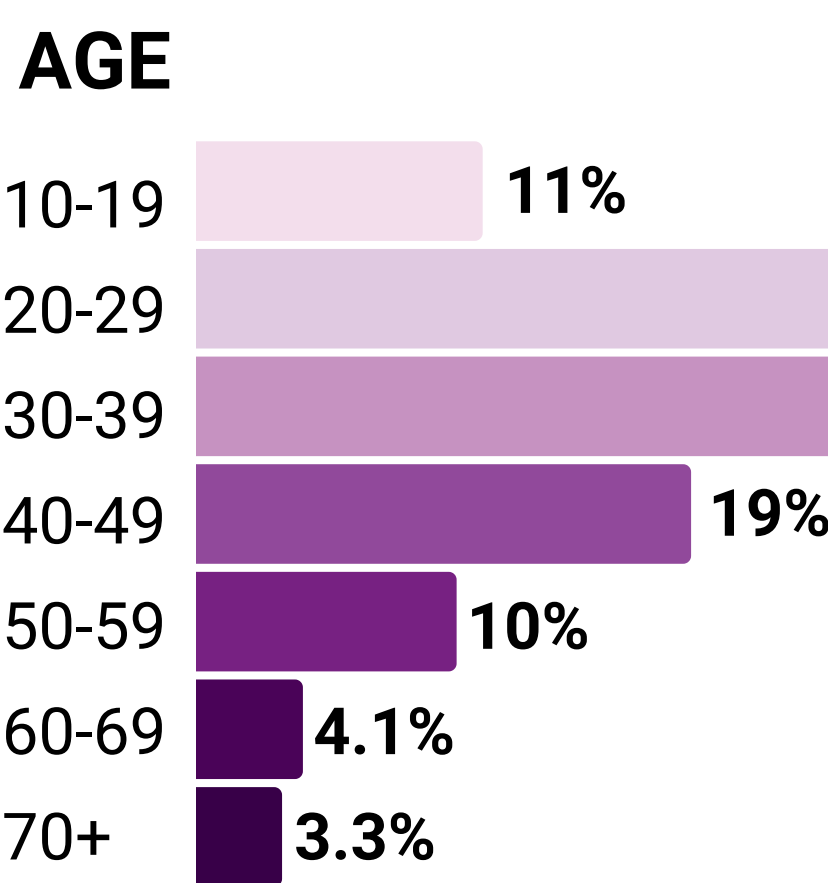
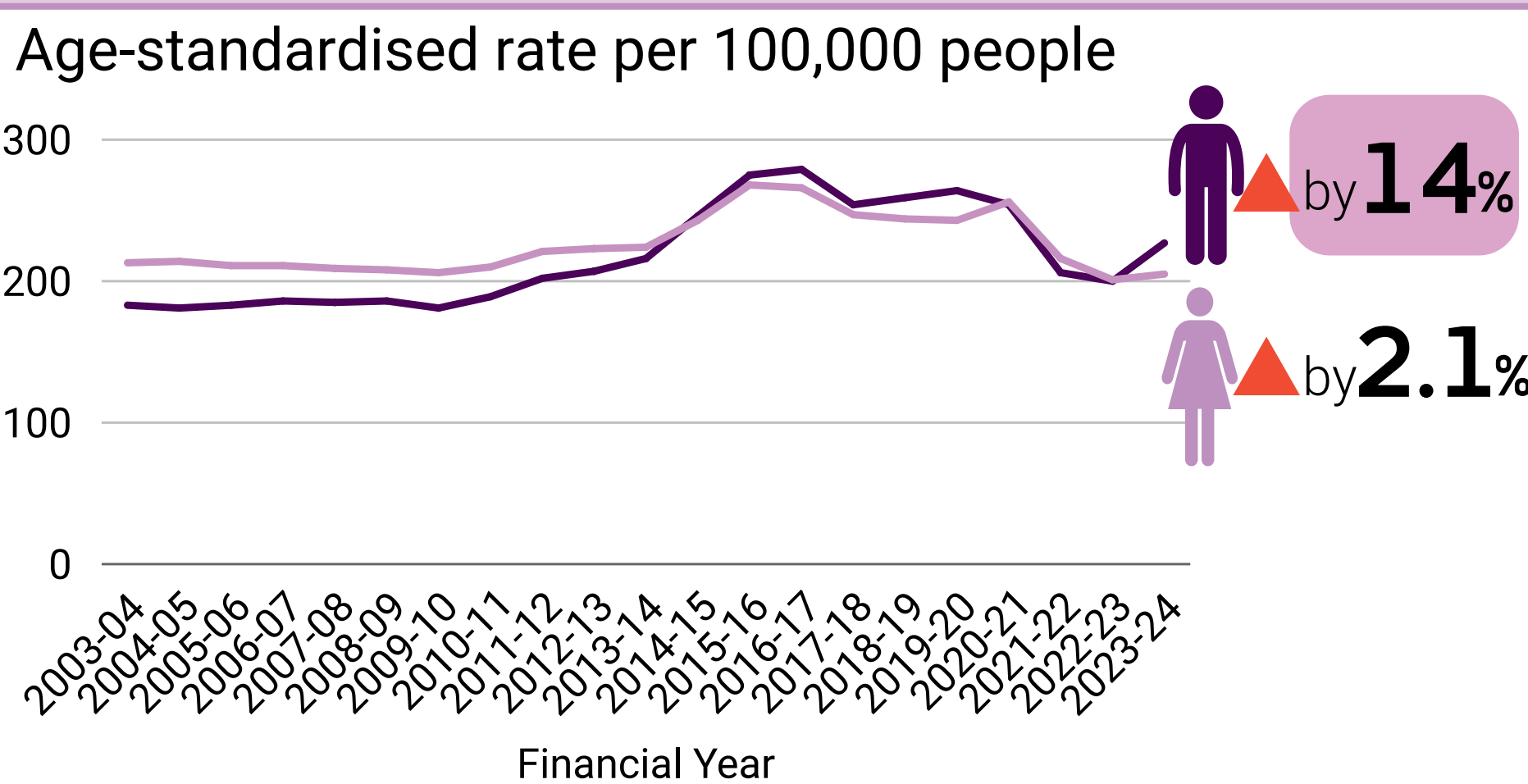
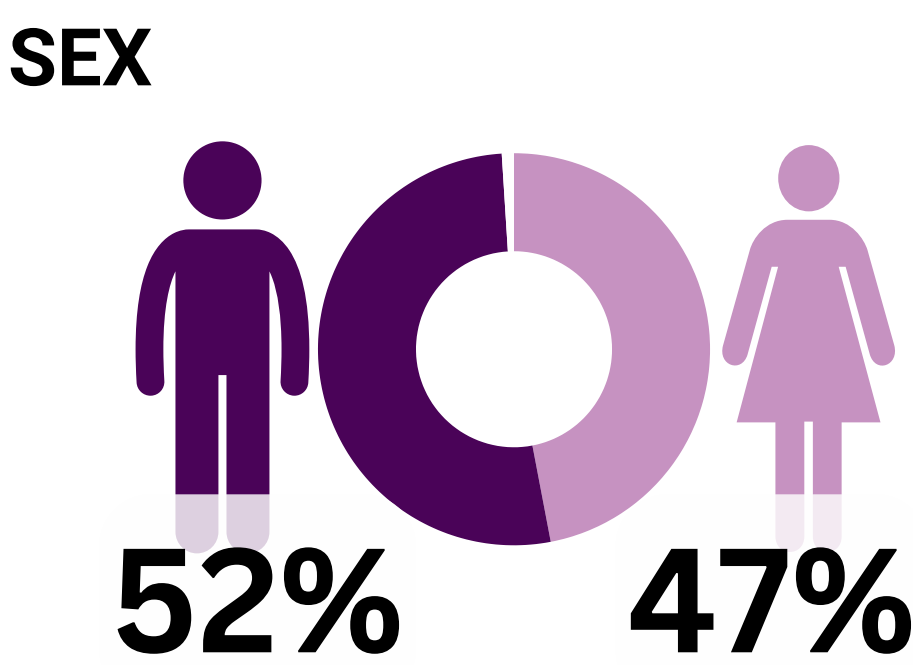
Two Decades of Drug-Related Harms in Australia

Changing Patterns of Hospitalisations

Drug-Related Hospitalisations, Australia, 2023-24

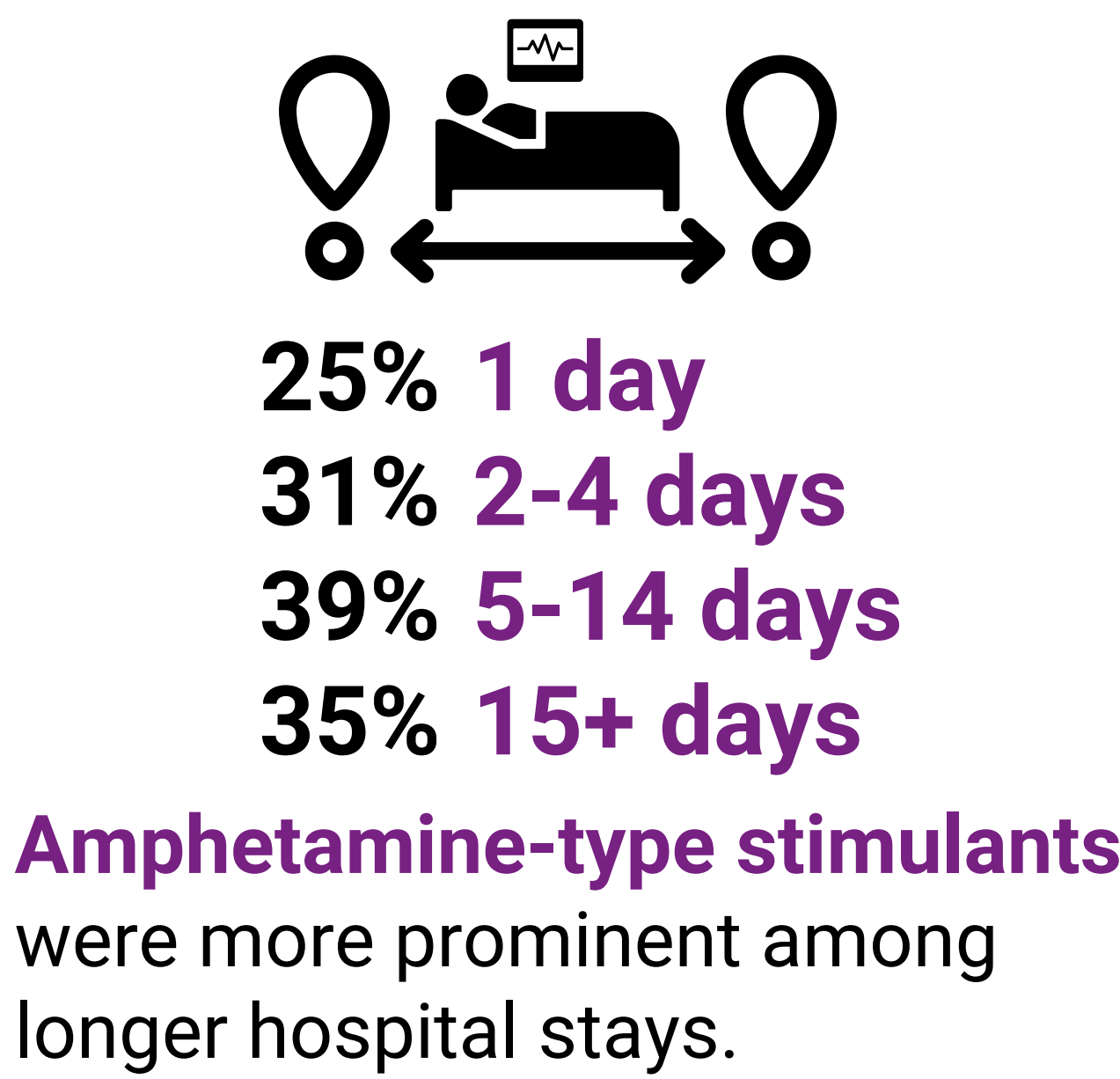
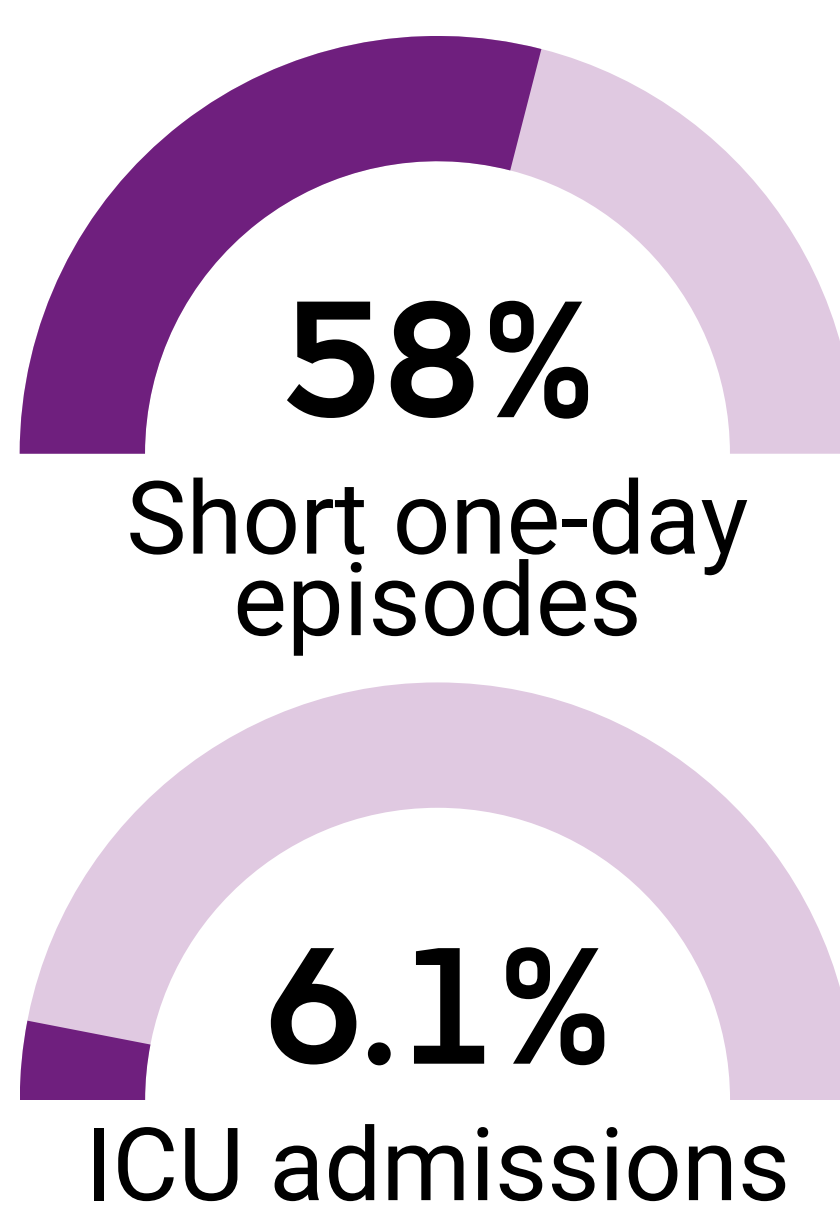
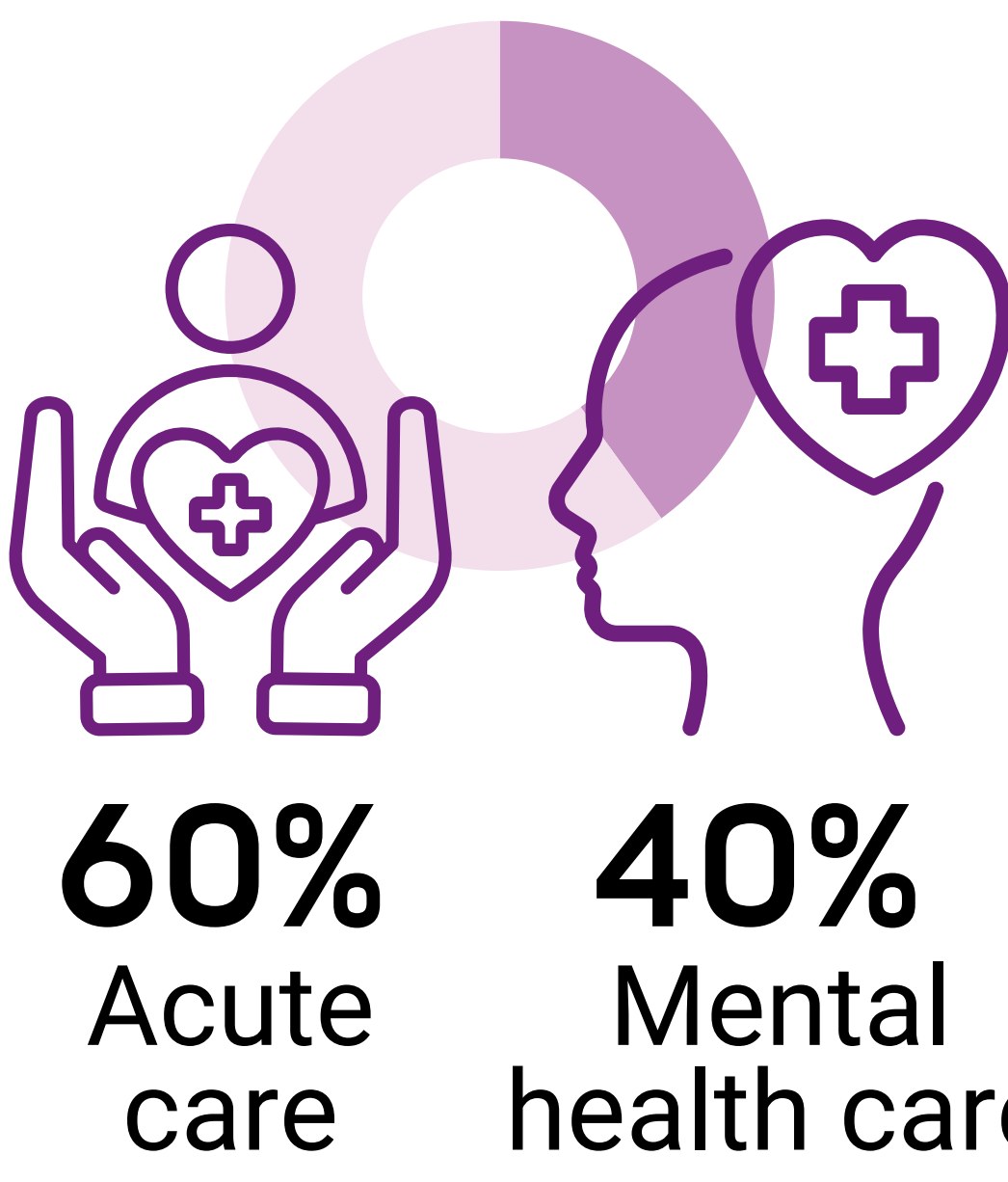
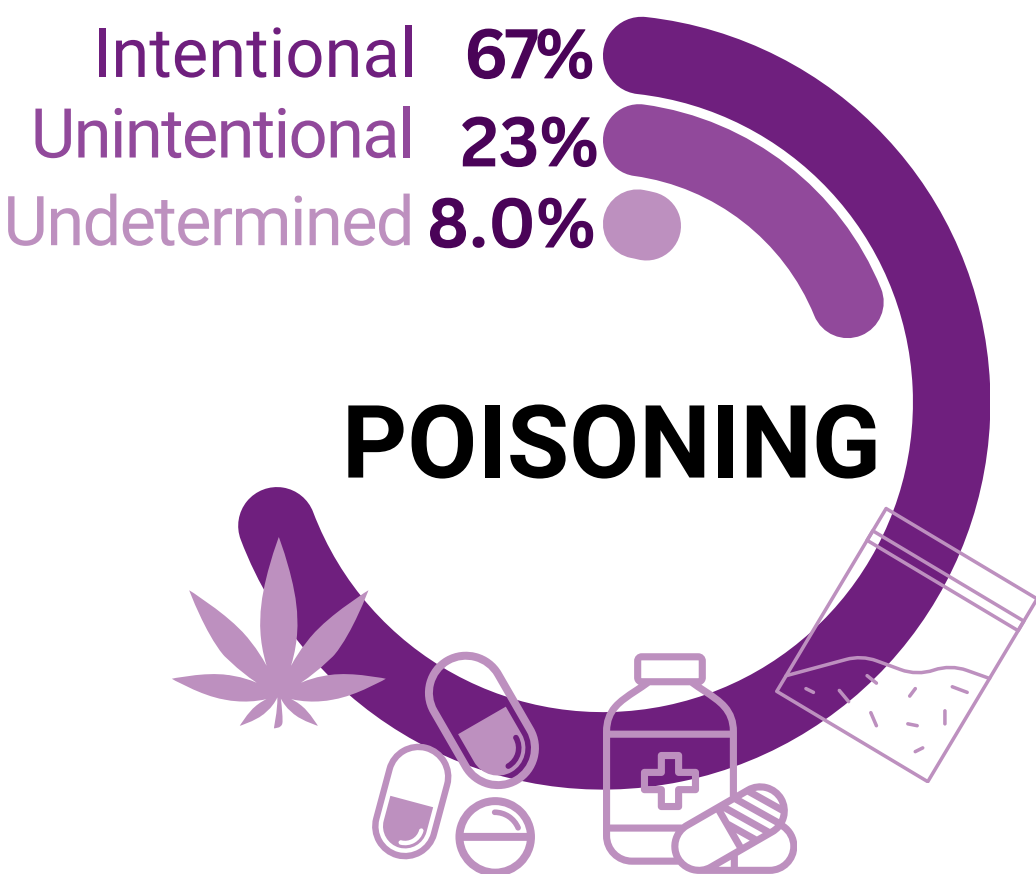
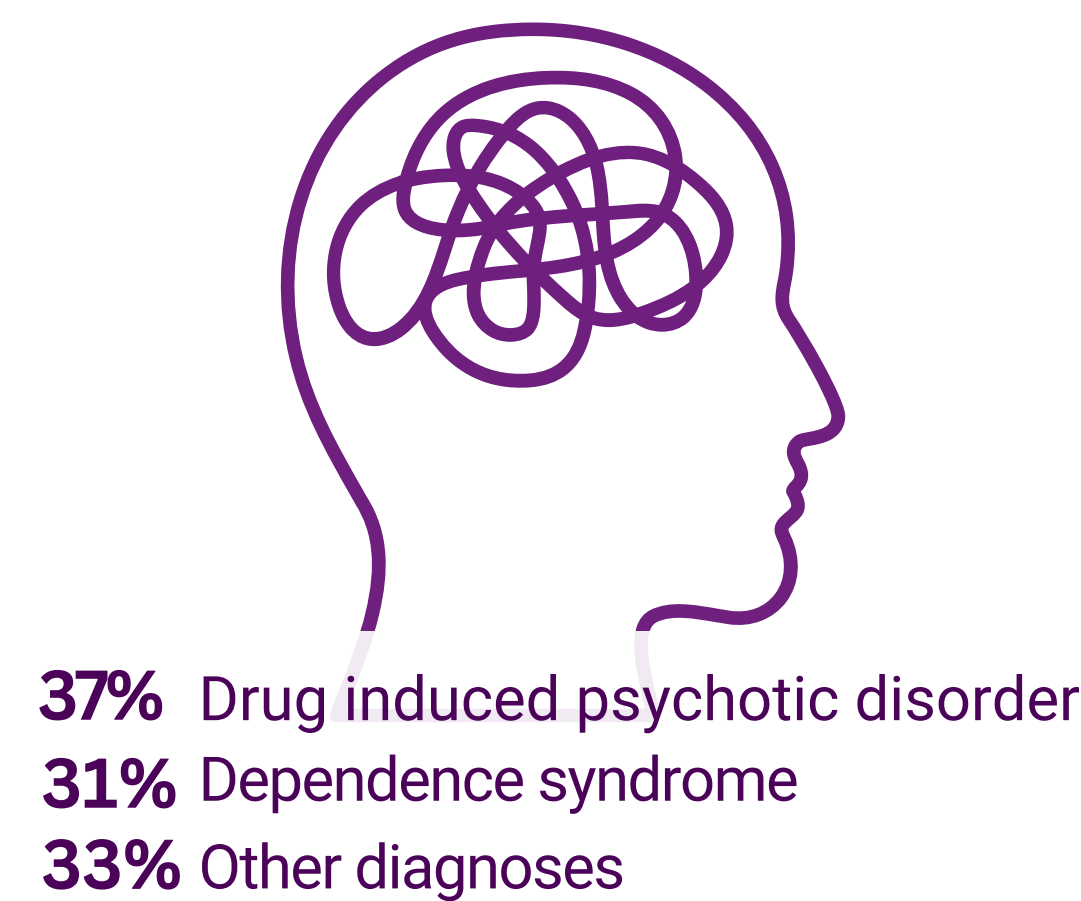


PATIENT PROFILE, 2023-24

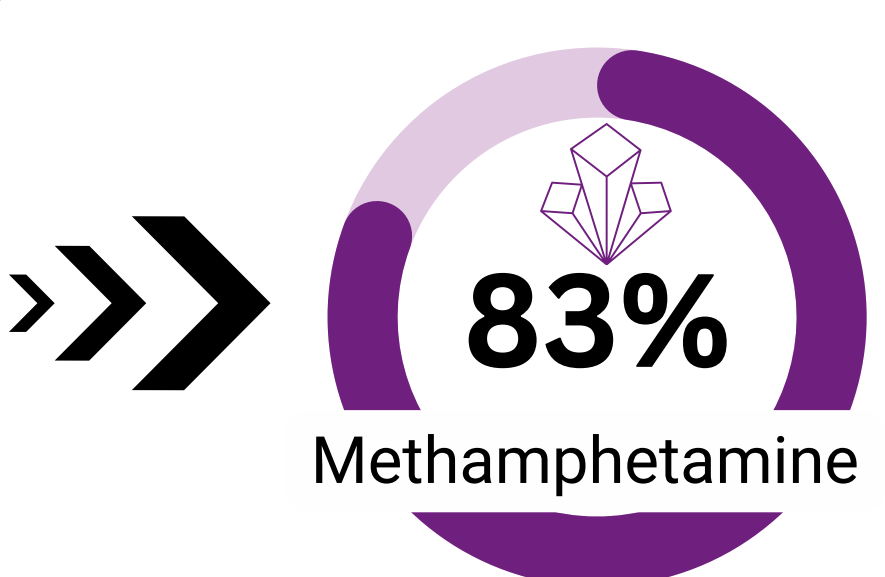
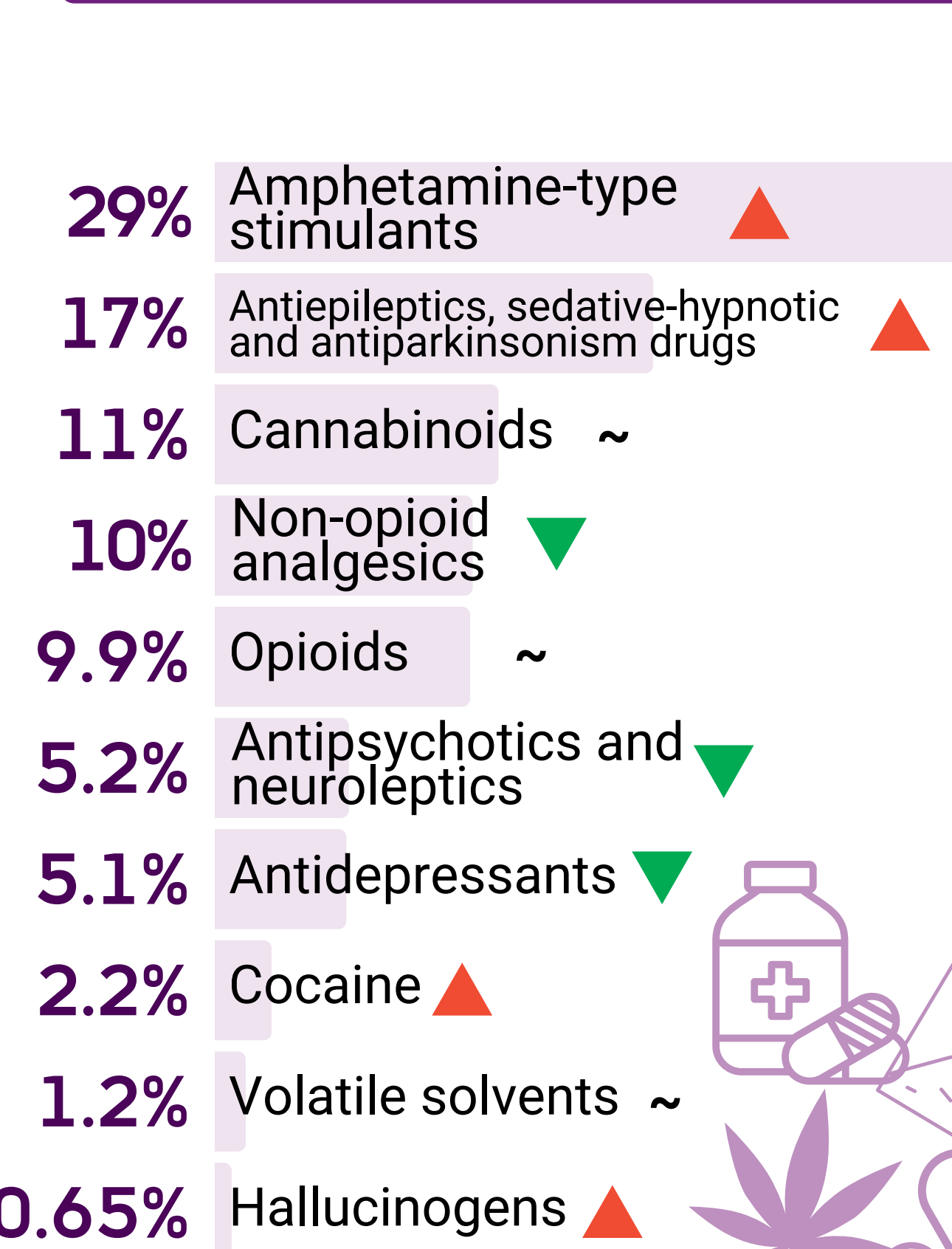


CLINICAL PROFILE, 2023-24

59% Were related to mental and behavioural disorder due to substance use



SUBSTANCE PROFILE, 2023-24



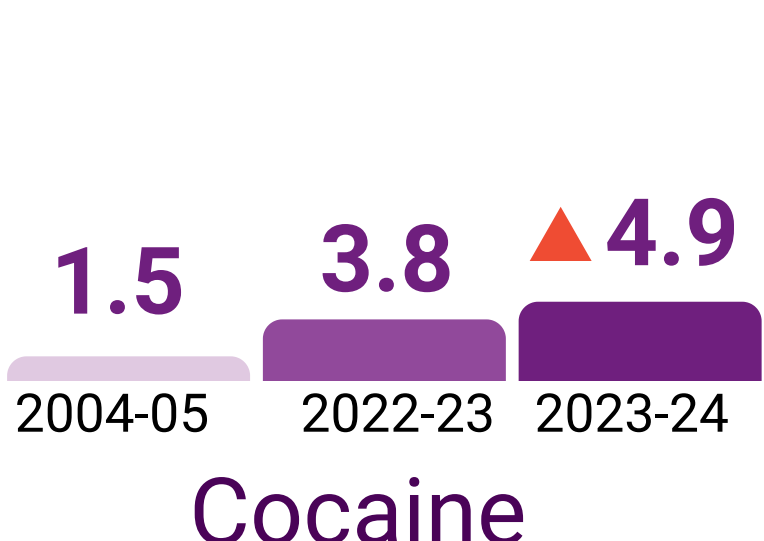
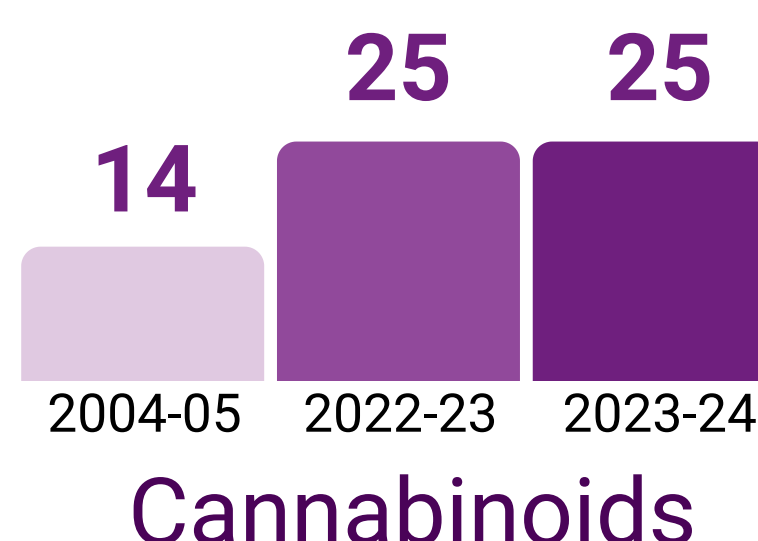
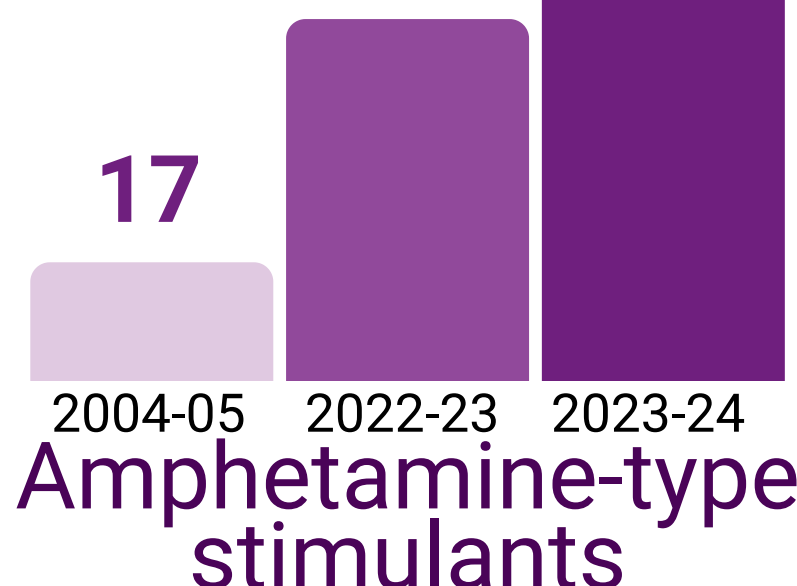
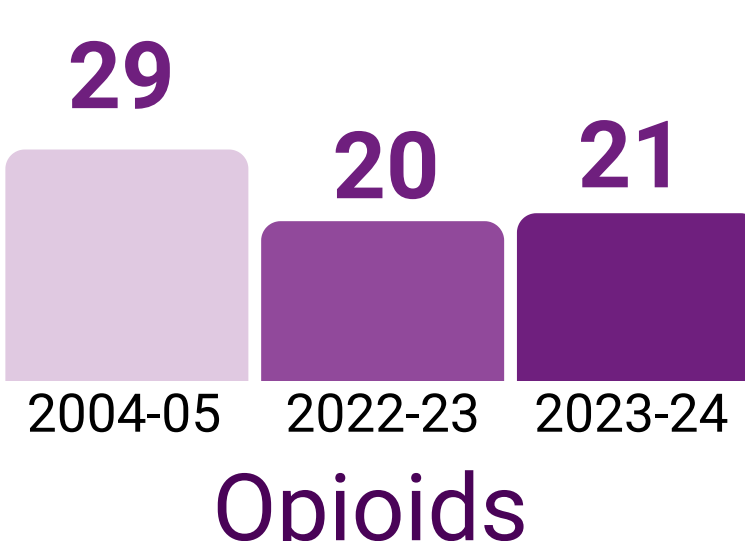
Amphetamine-type stimulant- and cannabinoid-related hospitalisations had the highest rates in remote and very remote areas

Opioid- and cocaine-related hospitalisations had the highest rates in major city areas

GHB-related hospitalisations increased by 59%

Cocaine-related hospitalisations increased in young adults aged 10-29

Age-standardised rate 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.

▲ ▼ Indicate significant increase or decrease (respectively) observed in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23

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Key message

Overall, drug-related hospitalisations increased in 2023-24, reversing recent declines, although rates remain below those observed in 2020-21 and earlier. Growth was concentrated among males, older adults, and hospitalisations related to amphetamine-type stimulants. These findings highlight the importance of ongoing monitoring of drug-related hospitalisations, including differences by drug type, age, sex, and geography, to inform public health responses and service planning.