



Government of Western Australia
Mental Health Commission

An issue for us all: AOD and comorbidity in WA

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Overview

- Nature and extent of AOD use in WA
- Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025: Better Choices. Better Lives Overview (*the Plan*)
- Current services and programs

Nature and extent of AOD use in WA

Table 1: Recent use (% in the last 12 months) of AOD, persons aged 14 years or older, WA 2001 to 2013

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013
Alcohol	84.3	86.9	86.3	83.0	81.8
Cannabis	17.5	13.7	10.8	13.4	11.3
Ecstasy ¹	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.7	2.6
Meth/amphetamine	5.8	4.5	4.2	3.4	3.8
Cocaine	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.2	1.6
Hallucinogens	2.0	0.6*	1.0	1.9	1.9
Inhalants	0.6*	0.5*	0.3*	0.4*	0.5*
Heroin	0.3*	0.2**	0.2**	0.3*	0.3**
Ketamine	N/C	<0.1**	<0.1**	<0.1**	Nil/0
GHB	N/C	<0.1**	<0.1**	0.1**	<0.1**
Injected drugs	1.3	0.9	0.7*	0.8*	0.6*
Novel Psychoactive Substances	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	0.5*
Synthetic cannabis	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	2.5
Painkillers/analgesics ²	3.9	2.7	2.5	3.6	4.4
Tranquilisers/sleeping pills ²	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.8
Steroids ²	<0.1**	Nil/0	0.1**	0.2**	<0.1**
Methadone/buprenorphine ²	0.1**	<0.1**	<0.1**	<0.1**	<0.1**
Other opiates/opioids ²	0.6*	0.3*	0.3*	0.5*	0.5
Any illicit ³	22.1	17.3	16.2	18.6	17.0

Source: 2013 NDSHS WA Supplementary Tables

Table 2: Recent use (% in the last 12 months) of AOD, persons aged 12 -17 years, WA - 1996 to 2014

	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014
Alcohol	74.2	74.3	73.1	65.2	63.9	53.3	44.3
Cannabis	36.4	33.2	26.8	19.0	14.9	15.4	16.4
Amphets	5.4	11.9	10.3	6.5	5.3	3.4	2.8
Any illicit	37.1	34.8	28.5	20.3	17.0	17.2	17.0

Source: 2014 ASSAD WA Alcohol and Illicit Drug Bulletins.

Table 3: Number of Opened Treatment Episodes by Primary Drug of Concern

Year	Alcohol	Amphets	Cannabinoids	Opioids	Other	Total
2009	6,611	2,183	2,028	2,420	297	13,539
2010	6,421	1,858	2,045	1,993	274	12,591
2011	6,204	2,290	2,246	2,072	322	13,134
2012	6,504	3,127	2,517	2,483	386	15,017
2013	6,410	3,682	2,740	2,365	375	15,572
2014	6,547	4,479	2,654	2,482	337	16,499
2015	6,439	6,705	2,932	2,533	251	18,860
2016	6,190	7,868	2,765	2,191	259	19,273

Source: De-identified treatment agency databases at MHC

Co-morbidity

- It is estimated that at least 30 – 50 per cent of people with an alcohol and/or other drug problem also have a co-occurring mental illness.

Sources:

Buckley PF. Prevalence and consequences of the dual diagnosis of substance abuse disorders and severe mental illness. *J Clin Psych*. 2006; 6: 5-9.

Chambers R. et al. A neurobiological basis for Substance Abuse Co morbidity in Schizophrenia. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2001; 50: 71-83.

El-Guebaly N. Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders: The Dual Diagnosis Concept. *Can J Psychiatry*. 1990; 35: 261-267.

Current services and programs

State-wide funded services

The Mental Health Commission funds over 60 Alcohol and Other Drug Services across the State, through:

- State-wide network of Community Alcohol and Drug Services;
- Residential treatment services;
- Specialist treatment services; and
- Diversion services.



Metropolitan CADS

- North Metropolitan
- Northeast Metro
- South Metropolitan
- Southeast Metropolitan

Regional/Remote CADS

- Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Goldfields
- Midwest
- Great Southern
- South West
- Wheatbelt



Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS)

Provide treatment and support for individuals seeking to address their own or another person's AOD use. Target groups for support include:

- Aboriginal people and communities;
- Children and young people;
- People with co-occurring mental health and AOD problems;
- People in rural and remote areas;
- Families/significant others, including AOD using parents;
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse populations; and
- Offenders (including youth).

Residential Treatment Services

- Generally AOD residential treatment for adults.
- Support is provided to families through outpatient services.
- One metropolitan service provides residential treatment and accommodation for mothers and their young children.

Specialist Treatment Services

Specialist services provided for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
- Young people (outpatient and residential).
- Home-based withdrawal service.
- Women and their families.
- Offenders (including youth) - Diversion.

WA Diversion Program

- A State-wide suite of programs aiming to divert offenders with AOD related problems into AOD treatment, and break the cycle of offending.
- Offenders include young people and adults apprehended by WA Police and those appearing in courts.
- Programs vary from providing brief early intervention sessions to more intensive, supervised programs.
- Diversion from the criminal justice system can lead to family and/or significant others accessing support.
- Further information is available via the MHC website:
<https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/getting-help/diversion-support-programs/>

ALCOHOL & DRUG SUPPORT SERVICE

Confidential. Anonymous. Professional. 24 Hours.

ALCOHOL
& DRUG
SUPPORT LINE
9442 5000
1800 198 024
(country callers)

PARENT &
FAMILY DRUG
SUPPORT LINE
9442 5050
1800 653 203
(country callers)

WORKING AWAY
ALCOHOL & DRUG
SUPPORT LINE
1800 721 997

METH
HELPLINE
1800 874 878

ADSS provides 24/7, WA state-wide telephone support lines for anyone concerned about their own or another person's alcohol or drug (AOD) use:

- Alcohol and Drug Support Line.
- Parent and Family Drug Support Line.
- Working Away Alcohol and Drug Support Line.
- Meth Helpline.

**PARENT &
FAMILY DRUG
SUPPORT LINE**
9442 5050
1800 653 203
(country callers)

Parent and Family Drug Support Line

- Established in 1996 as part of a state-wide strategy to support parents and families by offering a 24 hour telephone counselling referral & information service.
- Operated by professionally qualified counsellors.
- In 2000, the first Parent Peer Volunteers with lived experience were trained and recruited to provide peer support to distressed parent callers.
- A free “Parent and Family Information and Support Pack” for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Parents and Families is widely distributed across the state.

PFDS Parent Support Network

- Telephone support between 8am – 9.30pm, 7 days a week.
- Ongoing support through parent follow up calls.
- Face to Face Support for parents attending Perth Drug Court.
- Fortnightly Parent Support Group.
- Participation in Consumer Advisory Groups and Media campaigns/articles providing the voice of the family member.
- Presentations/testimonies to local community groups and forums.

Who ADSS Talked to in 2016

TOTAL CALLS 23,000 (approx)

Who	%
Men	52%
Women	35%
Self as user	62%
Mother	11%
Health professional	4%
Partner	3.5%
Father	3%
Concerned other	2.1%
Aboriginal	5.4%
CALD	2.4%

About what	%
Amphetamines	21.8%
(Meth only)	19.6%
Cannabis	19.8%
Alcohol	18.3%
Analgesics	1.64%
Heroin	1.07%
Methadone	0.67%
Benzos	0.50%
Synthetic cannabinoids	0.35%

Harm reduction programs

- Naloxone Peer Education Project
- Methamphetamine Peer Education Project
- Frontline worker training - methamphetamine intoxication/toxicity & opioid overdose

Thank you

