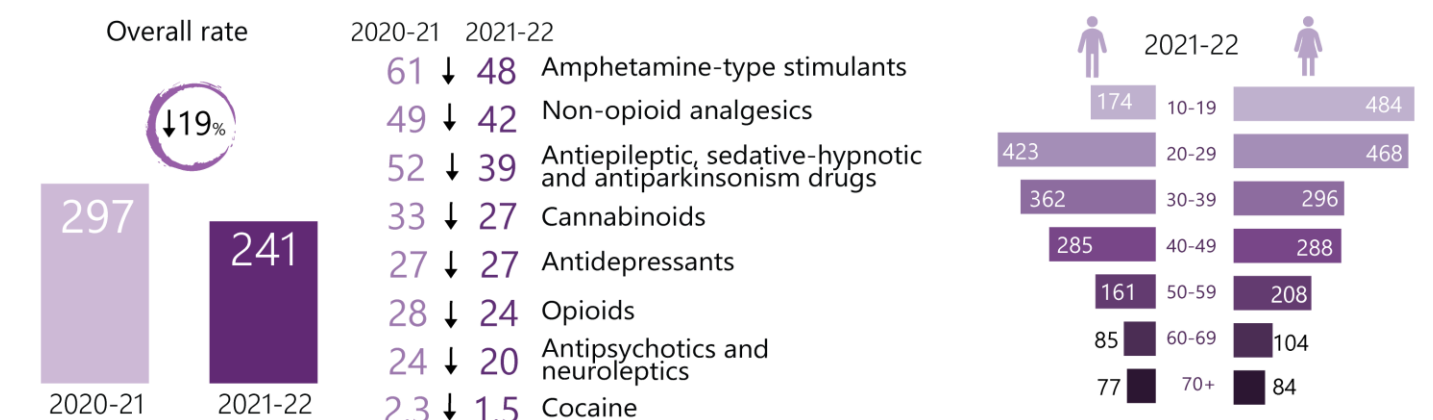


Queensland



Drug-related hospitalisations per 100,000 people (excluding alcohol and tobacco)



Note: Arrows indicate a statistically significant increase/decrease between 2020-21 and 2021-22 ($p < 0.05$); sign "≈" indicates no significant change.

There were 12,227 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in [Queensland](#) in 2021-22, equivalent to 0.42% of all hospitalisations in Queensland.

This is equivalent to 241 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was 19% lower than the 2020-21 rate (297 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Table A20, [Appendix](#)) and higher than reported between 2002-03 and 2012-13 ([Figure 1](#)).

Sex

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among [females](#) than males in 2021-22 (264 versus 218 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

Age

In 2021-22, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) among the 20-29 age group, followed by the 30-39 and 10-19 age groups (446, 329, and 326 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively). Among males, the rate of drug-related hospitalisations was highest in the 20-29 age group, and among females in the 10-19 age group.

Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The highest rate of hospitalisations in 2021-22 was observed in [outer regional](#) Queensland (284 hospitalisations per 100,000 people), while the number of hospitalisations was highest in major city areas (8,049 hospitalisations) ([Figure 2](#)).

External Cause of Drug Poisoning

In 2021-22, 61% of drug-related hospitalisations in Queensland were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 75% of drug poisoning-related hospitalisations were intentional (111 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 19% were unintentional (27 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 3](#)).

Drug Type

In 2021-22, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) where there was a principal diagnosis indicating amphetamine-type stimulants (48 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 4](#)).

Compared to 2020-21, there were significant decreases in the 2021-22 rates of hospitalisations related to:

- amphetamine-type stimulants (including methamphetamine),
- non-opioid analgesics,
- antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs (including GHB),
- cannabinoids,
- antidepressants,
- opioids,
- antipsychotics and neuroleptics,
- volatile solvents,
- hallucinogens,
- and cocaine (Table A20, [Appendix](#)).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by sex, Queensland, 2002-03 to 2021-22.

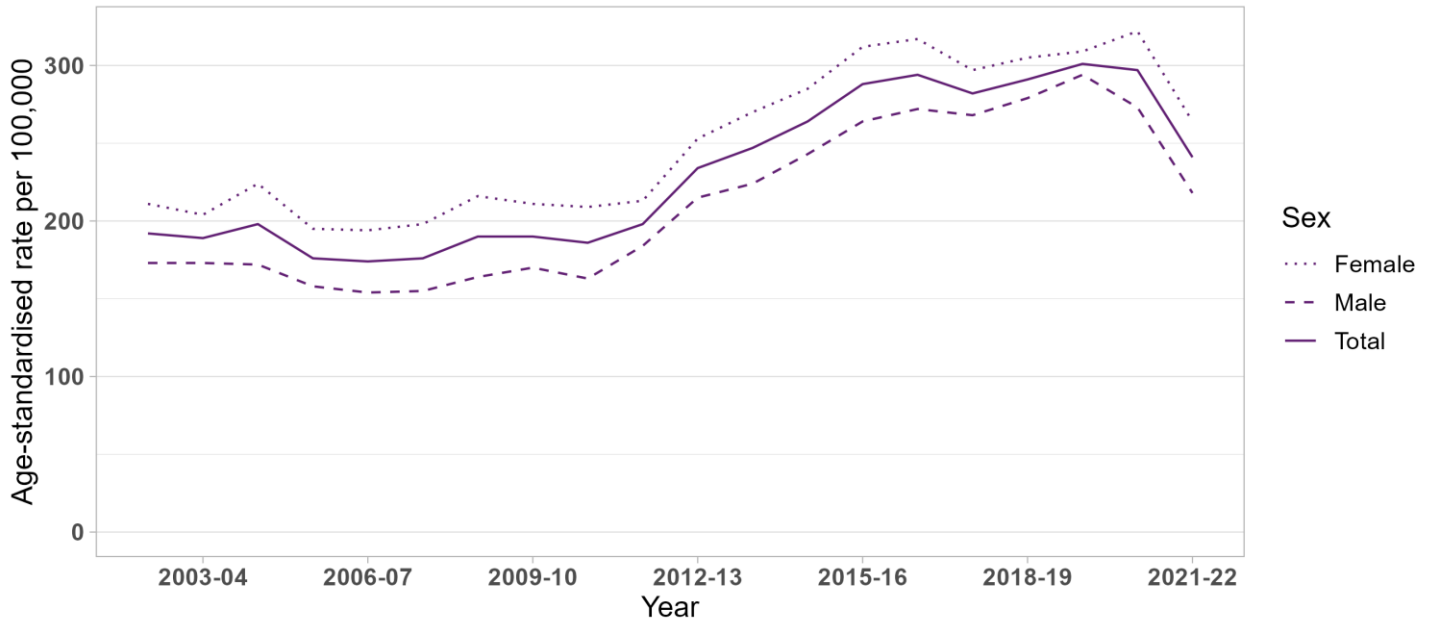
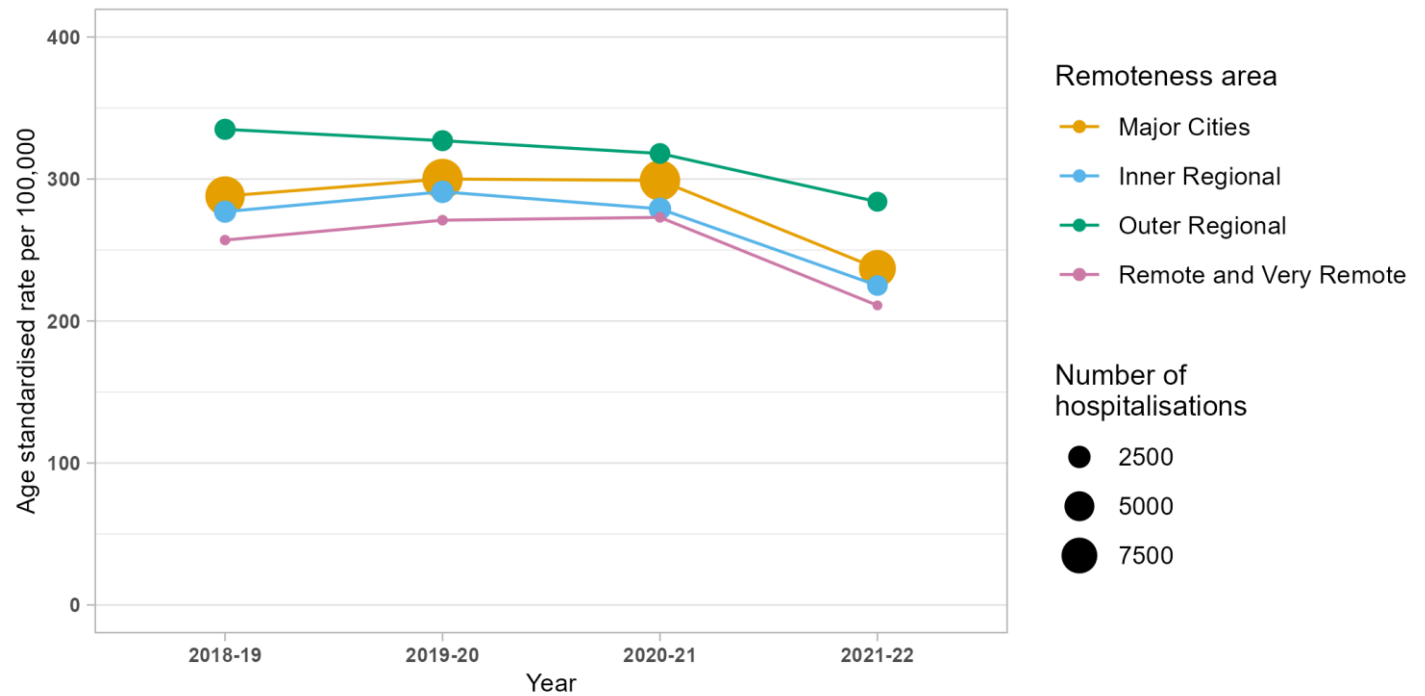


Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by remoteness, Queensland, 2018-19 to 2021-22.



Note: The size (area) of the bubble is proportional to the number of hospitalisations. In Queensland, data by remoteness area are only available from 2018-19.

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), Queensland, 2002-03 to 2021-22.

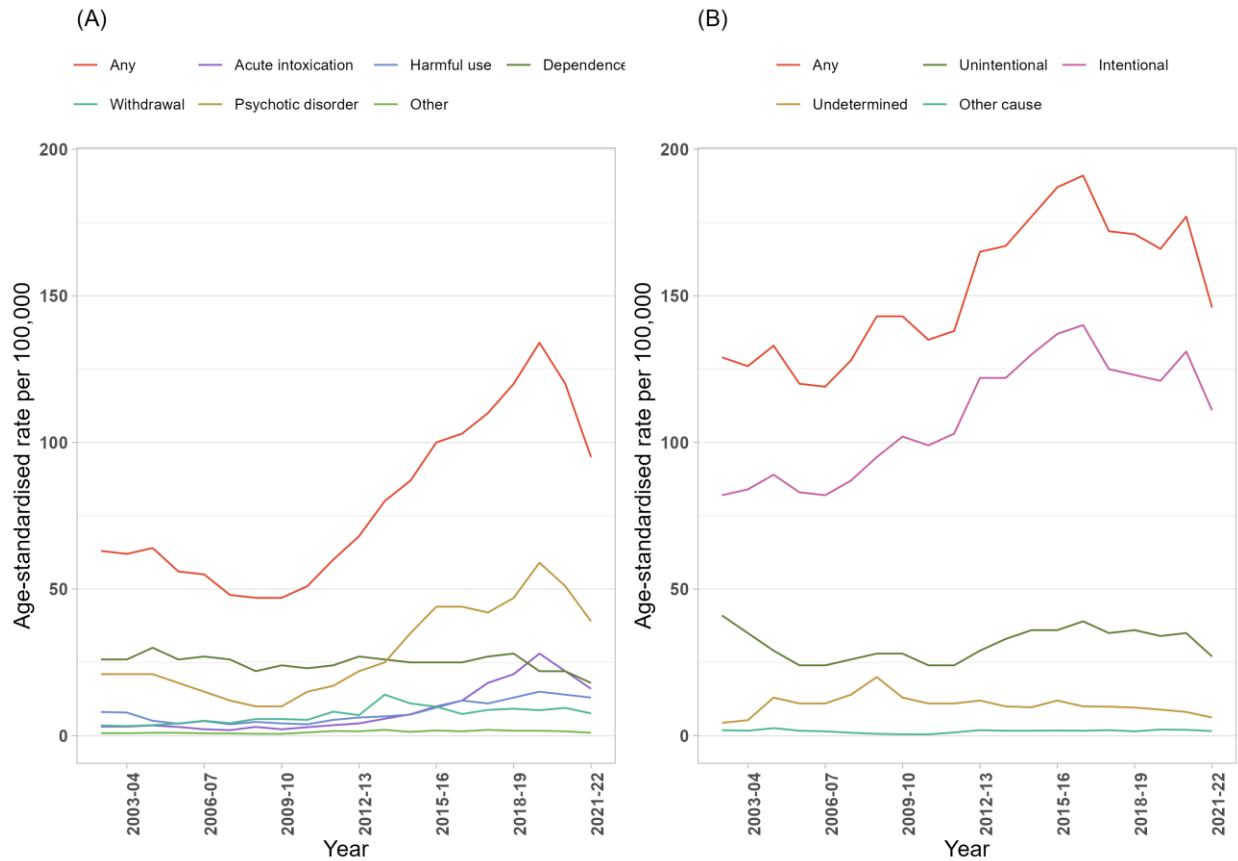
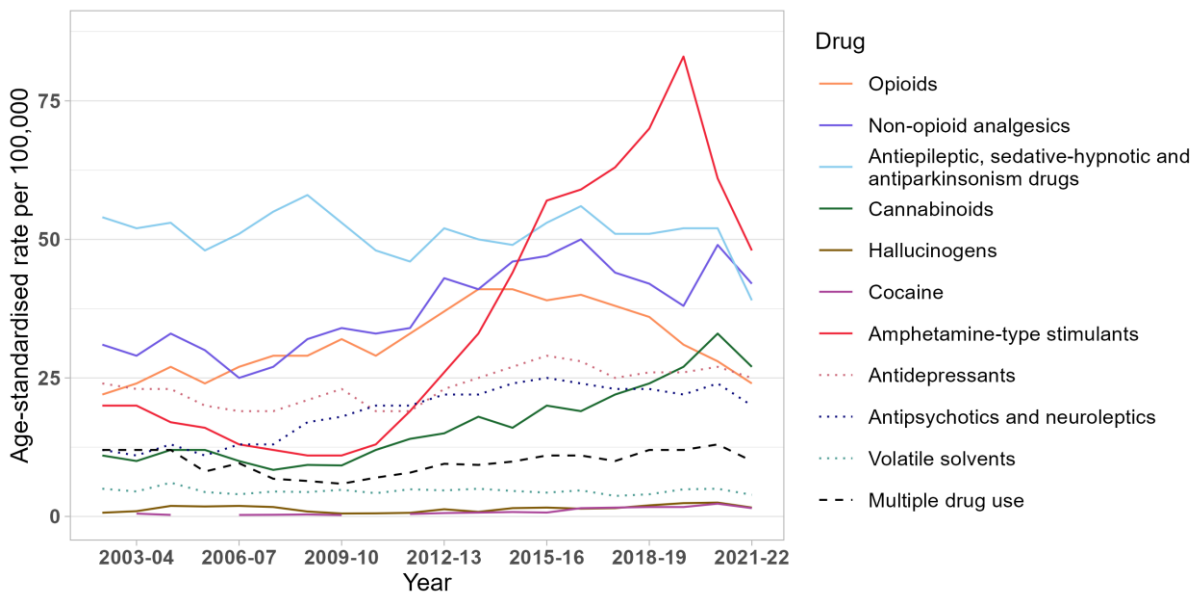


Figure 4. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, Queensland, 2002-03 to 2021-22.



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 A20. Age-standardised rate (per 100,000 people) of drug-related hospitalisations in 2021-22 and average percent change for difference compared to 2020-21, in Queensland by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

Drug	Rate in 2021-22 (95% CI)	Rate in 2020-21 (95% CI)	APC (95% CI)
All drugs	241 (236, 245)	297 (292, 302)	-19 (-21, -17)
Amphetamine-type stimulants	48 (46, 50)	61 (59, 64)	-22 (-26, -18)
Non-opioid analgesics	42 (40, 43)	49 (47, 50)	-14 (-19, -9)
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs	39 (37, 41)	52 (50, 54)	-26 (-30, -21)
Methamphetamine	35 (33, 37)	43 (41, 45)	-18 (-23, -13)
Cannabinoids	27 (25, 28)	33 (31, 34)	-18 (-24, -12)
Antidepressants	25 (23, 26)	27 (26, 29)	-10.0 (-16.6, -2.7)
Opioids	24 (23, 25)	28 (27, 30)	-15 (-21, -8)
Antipsychotics and neuroleptics	20 (18, 21)	24 (23, 25)	-18 (-24, -10)
Multiple drug use	10 (10, 11)	13 (12, 14)	-20 (-28, -10)
Volatile solvents	3.9 (3.4, 4.5)	5.0 (4.4, 5.7)	-22 (-35, -6)
GHB	2.8 (2.3, 3.3)	4.3 (3.7, 4.9)	-35 (-48, -20)
Hallucinogens	1.6 (1.3, 2.0)	2.5 (2.1, 3.0)	-34 (-51, -13)
Cocaine	1.5 (1.1, 1.8)	2.3 (1.9, 2.7)	-36 (-52, -14)

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.

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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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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the work for this report was undertaken. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Related Links

- Hospitalisations data visualisations: https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital_separations
- Full report and the methods document: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/resources/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-2002-2022>
- 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](#)