

Overdose and Other Drug-Induced Deaths in Australia, 2021



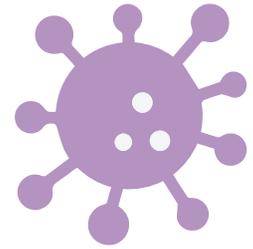
Preliminary estimates indicate that there were 1,788 drug-induced deaths in 2021 (excluding deaths caused by alcohol and tobacco).



There were five drug-induced deaths per day among Australians, which is 1.0% of all registered deaths in Australia in 2021.



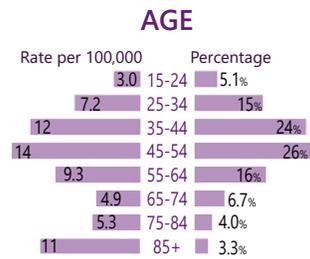
The national preliminary revised rate of drug-induced deaths in 2021 was lower than the revised rate in 2020; these rates are likely to further increase with data revisions.



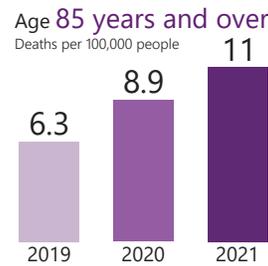
The 2020 and 2021 quarterly rates were similar to or lower than the corresponding 2019 estimates.



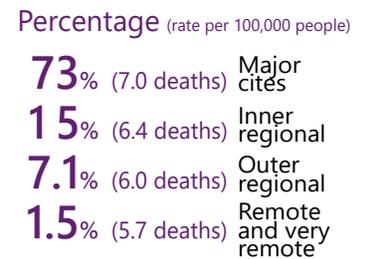
More than three in five drug-induced deaths occurred among males.



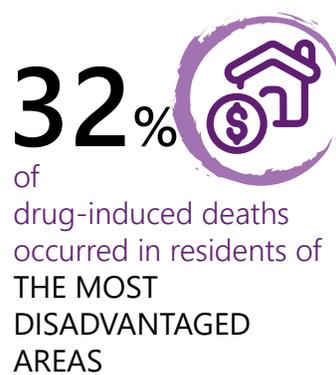
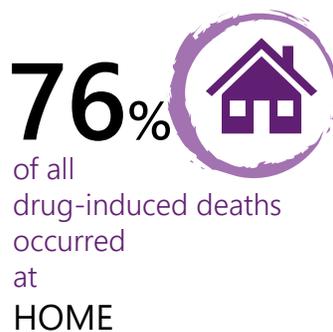
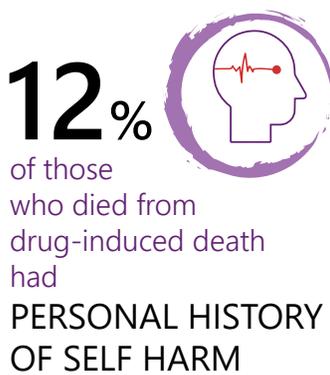
Overdose and other drug-induced deaths were most common among 45-54 and 35-44 year olds.



The 85 and over age group was the only age group where both 2020 and 2021 estimated rates were higher than the 2019 rate; these rates are likely to further increase with data revisions.

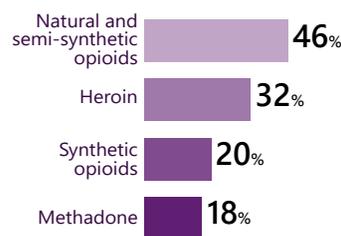


The majority of deaths occurred in major cities however the rate of deaths was similar in major cities and inner regional areas.



- 58% Opioids
- 54% Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism
- 32% Antidepressants
- 26% Amphetamine-type stimulants
- 21% Antipsychotics and neuroleptics
- 16% Alcohol

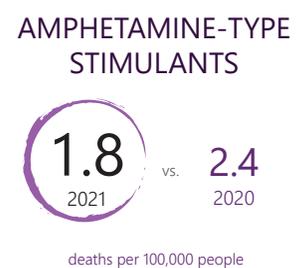
Opioids were the most commonly identified substances involved in drug overdose deaths.



Natural and semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., morphine, oxycodone) was the most commonly identified opioid type in opioid overdose deaths.



Estimated rate of overdose deaths involving opioids in 2021 was lower compared to 2020, which was particularly evident for deaths involving heroin and synthetic opioids.



The rate of drug overdose deaths involving amphetamine-type stimulants was lower in 2021 compared to the peak recorded in 2020.