

Overdose and other drug-induced deaths in Australia, 2020



Preliminary estimates indicate that there were 1,842 drug-induced deaths in 2020 (excluding deaths caused by alcohol and tobacco).



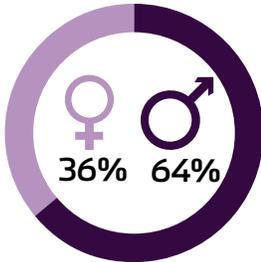
There were five drug-induced deaths per day among Australians, which is 1.1% of all registered deaths in Australia in 2020.



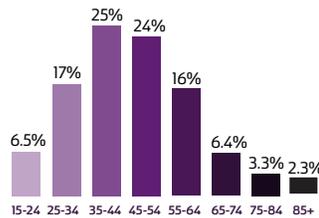
The national preliminary estimated rate of drug-induced deaths in 2020 was 7.2 deaths per 100,000 Australians.



Drug-induced death rate was 16% lower in 3rd quarter 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic) compared with 1st quarter 2020 and 3rd quarter 2019.

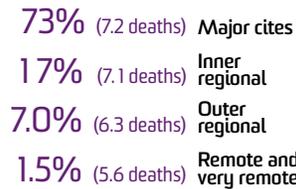


Approximately two-in-three deaths occurred among males and one-in-three among females.



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

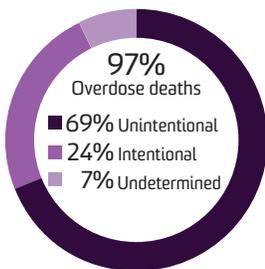
Percentage (rate per 100,000 people)



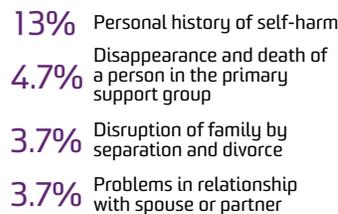
Although the majority of deaths occurred in major cities, the rate of deaths was similar in major cities and inner regional areas.



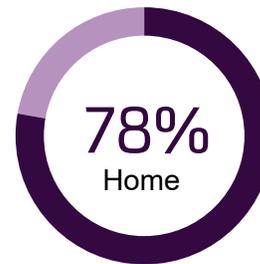
The highest rate of drug-induced deaths was observed in the Australian Capital Territory.



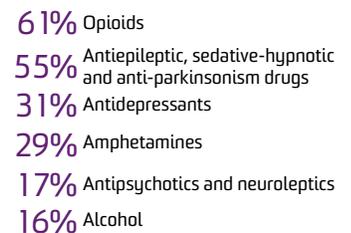
The majority of drug-induced deaths were due to unintentional drug overdose.



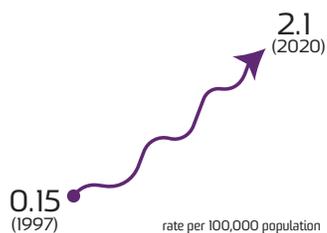
Personal history of self-harm was the most frequently identified psychosocial risk factor.



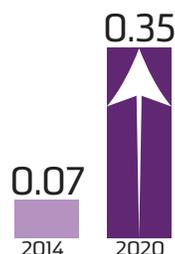
Home was the place of incidents underlying the majority of drug-induced deaths.



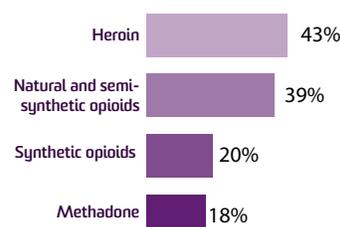
Opioids were the most commonly identified substances involved in drug overdose deaths.



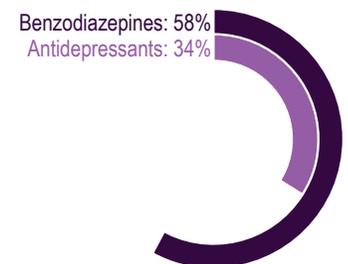
The rate of drug overdose deaths involving amphetamines in 2020 was the highest across the period of monitoring.



Although the absolute numbers remain small, the rate of drug overdose deaths involving cocaine has increased fivefold since 2014.



Heroin was the most commonly identified opioid in opioid-induced deaths in 2020.



In 2020, benzodiazepines and antidepressants remained the most common drug types involved in opioid-induced deaths.