

# ALCOHOL

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## Prevalence

- The majority of Australians in the general population consume alcohol, with the 2010 figure of past year alcohol use (80.5%) representing a significant decline from 82.9% in 2007.
- Analysis by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that the proportions of Australians reporting risky patterns of alcohol consumption for short term harm (in accordance with 2001 guidelines) at least once in the past 12 months declined significantly between 2007 and 2010, while those reporting more frequent consumption at this level remained stable.
- Daily drinking declined significantly between 2007 and 2010 (from 8.1% to 7.2%) which was primarily due to a decline among older males.

## Treatment seeking

- Alcohol-related hospital separations have increased over time and outnumber hospital separations for the other major illicit drug classes. Alcohol-related separations are higher among older Australians.
- The number of treatment episodes for alcohol has steadily increased over the past six years and represent a greater proportion of all treatment episodes (from 37% of all treatment episodes in 2001 to 45.8% of all treatment episodes in 2011/12).

## Deaths

- Overall, alcohol-attributable deaths in Australia have declined between 1996 and 2005.
- Across all jurisdictions death rates were approximately 3 deaths per 10,000 population in 2005 (with the exception of the NT, where they were 8 per 10,000 population).
- In 2005, the most common cause of alcohol-attributable death was alcoholic liver cirrhosis.