

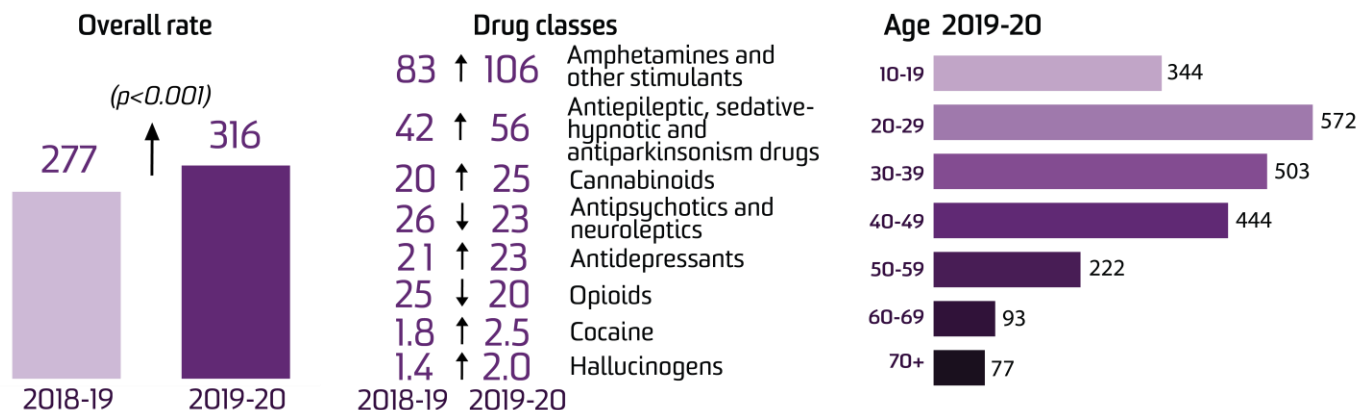
# Trends in drug-related hospitalisations, 1999-2020

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## South Australia



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



Note: Arrows indicate a statistically significant increase/decrease between 2018-19 and 2019-20 ( $p < 0.05$ )

There were 5,157 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in [South Australia](#) in 2019-20, equivalent to 0.66% of all hospitalisations in South Australia.

This is equivalent to 316 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was a significant increase from 2018-19 (277 hospitalisations per 100,000 people;  $p < 0.001$ ) ([Table 1](#)) and higher than reported in 1999-00 (208 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 1](#)).

### Sex

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among [females](#) than males in 2019-20 (323 versus 309 hospitalisations per 100,000 people).

### Age

In 2019-20, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) among the 20-29 age group, followed by the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups (572, 503, and 444 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

### Remoteness Area of Usual Residence

The highest rate of hospitalisations in 2019-20 was observed in [outer regional](#) South Australia (527 hospitalisations per 100,000 people), while the number of hospitalisations was highest in major cities (3,278 hospitalisations) ([Figure 2](#)).

### External Cause of Drug Poisoning

In 2019-20, 53% of drug-related hospitalisations in South Australia were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 67% of drug poisoning related hospitalisations were intentional (109 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 22% were unintentional (35 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 3](#)).

### Drug Type

In 2019-20, the rate of hospitalisations was [highest](#) where there was a principal diagnosis indicating amphetamines and other stimulants (106 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) ([Figure 4](#)).

Compared to 2018-19, there were significant decreases in 2019-20 in the rates of hospitalisations related to antipsychotics and neuroleptics; and opioids ( $p < 0.050$ ) ([Table 1](#)).

In contrast, there were significant increases in the rate of hospitalisations related to amphetamines and other stimulants; antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs; cannabinoids; antidepressants; multiple drug use; cocaine; and hallucinogens ( $p < 0.050$ ) ([Table 1](#)).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by sex, South Australia, 1999-00 to 2019-20.

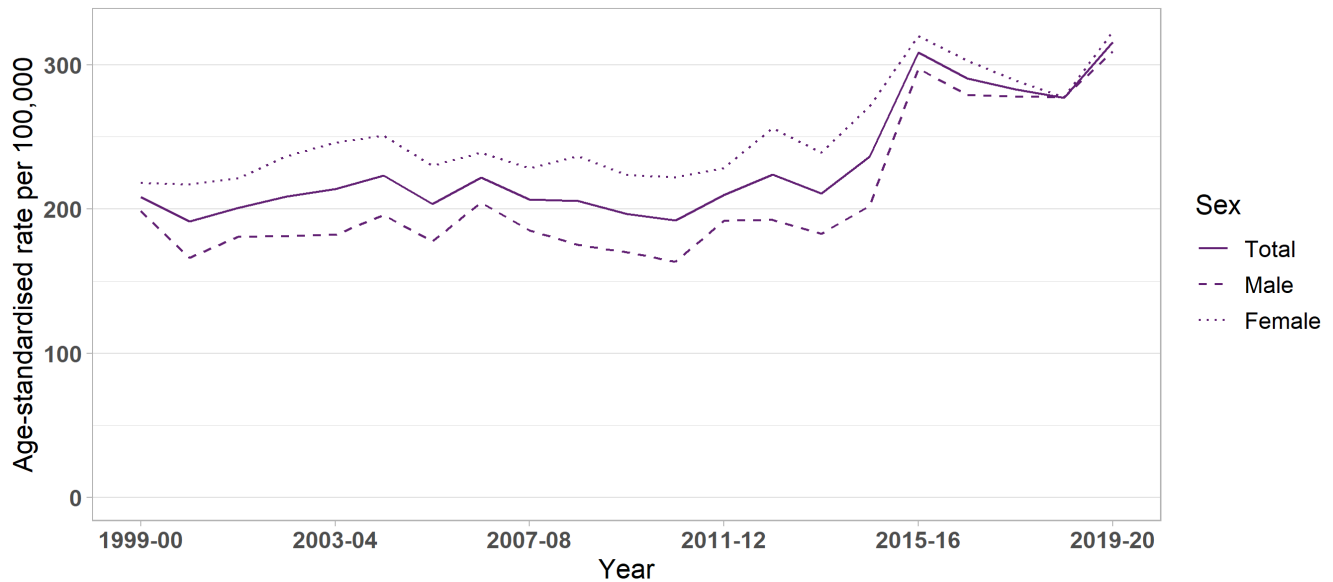
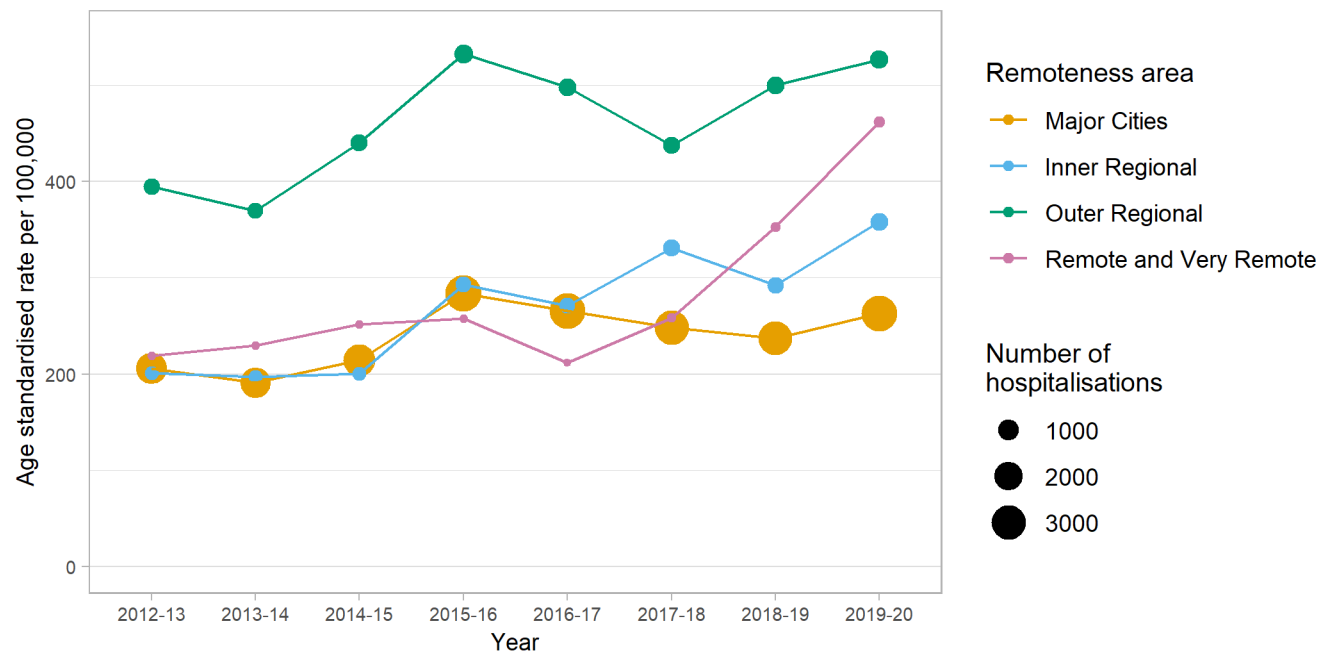


Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by remoteness, South Australia, 2012-13 to 2019-20.



Note: The size (area) of the bubble is proportional to the number of hospitalisations. Data on remoteness are only available from 2012-13.

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), South Australia, 1999-00 to 2019-20.

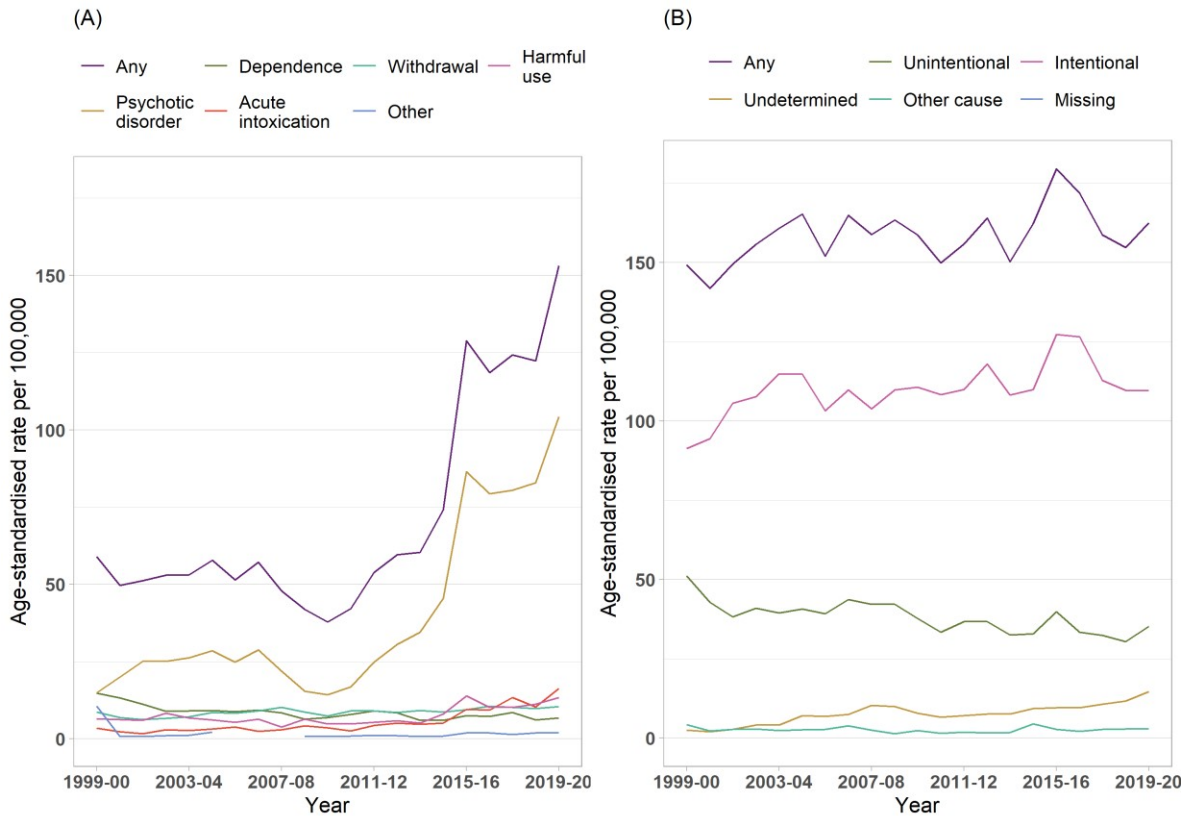
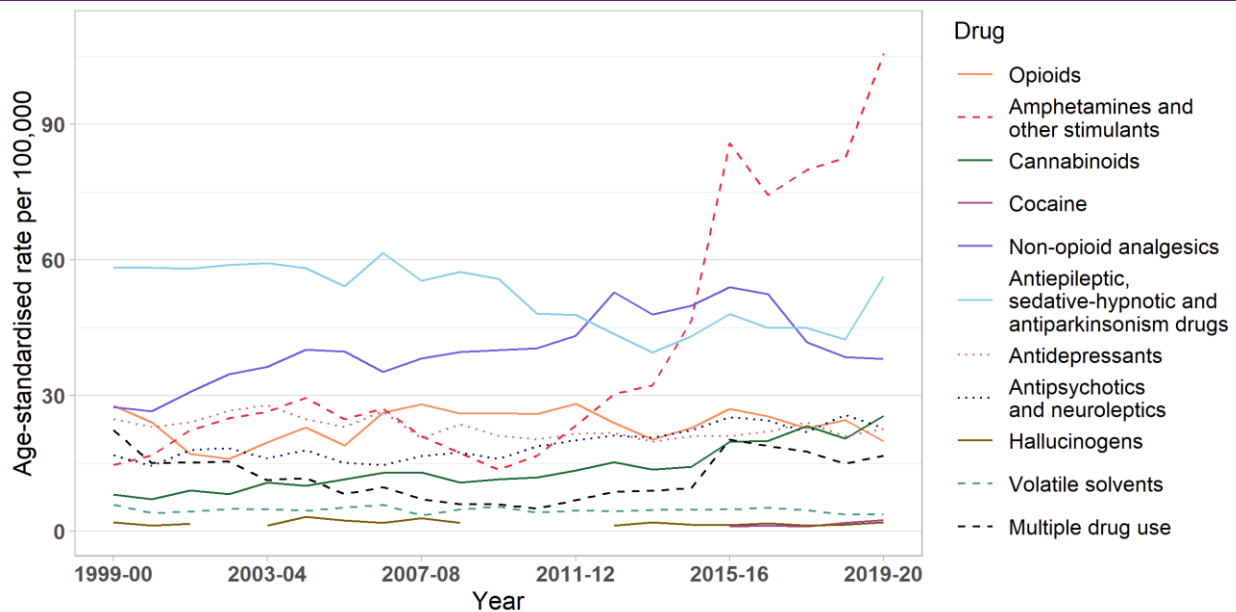


Figure 4. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, South Australia, 1999-00 to 2019-20.



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 1. Age-standardised rate (per 100,000 people) of drug-related hospitalisations in 2019-20 and rate ratio and p-value for difference compared to 2018-19, in South Australia by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

Drug	Rate in 2019-20 (95% CI)	Rate in 2018-19 (95% CI)	Rate ratio	P-value
<b>All drugs</b>	316 (307.1,324.6)	277 (269,285)	1.14 (1.13,1.15)	<0.001
<b>Amphetamines and other stimulants</b>	106 (100.7,110.9)	83 (78,87)	1.28 (1.25,1.31)	<0.001
<b>Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs</b>	56 (52.8, 60.1)	42 (39,46)	1.33 (1.29,1.37)	<0.001
<b>Non-opioid analgesics</b>	38 (35.1, 41.2)	39 (36,42)	0.99 (0.96,1.02)	0.478
<b>Cannabinoids</b>	25 (23.1, 28.1)	20 (18,23)	1.25 (1.20,1.30)	<0.001
<b>Antipsychotics and neuroleptics</b>	23 (20.5, 25.3)	26 (23,28)	0.89 (0.85,0.92)	<0.001
<b>Antidepressants</b>	23 (20.3, 25.0)	21 (19,23)	1.07 (1.03,1.12)	0.001
<b>Opioids</b>	20 (17.8, 22.1)	25 (22,27)	0.81 (0.77,0.84)	<0.001
<b>Multiple drug use</b>	17 (14.7, 18.8)	15 (13,17)	1.11 (1.06,1.17)	<0.001
<b>Volatile solvents</b>	3.7 (2.87, 4.79)	3.7 (2.8, 4.7)	1.02 (0.92,1.13)	0.762
<b>Cocaine</b>	2.5 (1.76, 3.36)	1.8 (1.2, 2.6)	1.35 (1.17,1.54)	<0.001
<b>Hallucinogens</b>	2.0 (1.32, 2.80)	1.4 (0.9, 2.1)	1.38 (1.18,1.61)	<0.001

Note: 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and rate ratio are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of rate ratios. 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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## Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for data from the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of those who have been involved in past reporting on drug-related hospitalisations by Drug Trends, specifically: A/Prof Timothy Dobbins, Dr Amanda Roxburgh, and A/Prof Lucinda Burns.

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

### Funding:

The Drug Trends program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the Drug and Alcohol Program.

Please note that as with all statistical reports there is the potential for minor revisions to data in this report over its life. Please refer to the online version at [Drug Trends](#).

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### Recommended citation:

Chrzanowska, A., Man, N., Sutherland, R., Degenhardt, L. & Peacock, A. (2021). Trends in drug-related hospitalisations in Australia, 1999-2020. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.

### Related Links

- Hospitalisations data visualisations: [https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital\\_separations](https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital_separations)
- Hospitalisations methods document: <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/resource-analytics/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-1999-2020>
- For other Drug Trends publications on drug-related hospitalisations and drug-induced deaths in Australia, go to: <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/project/national-illicit-drug-indicators-project-nidip>
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