

**16**  
Drug-induced deaths in the Northern Territory

**7.4**  
deaths per 100,000 population



**63%**  
Unintentional drug overdose

There were 16 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in the Northern Territory in 2021, which is equivalent to 1.3% of all registered deaths in this jurisdiction.

The preliminary age-standardised rate of drug-induced deaths was 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people in 2021 (Figure 1). This rate was not statistically different from that in 2020 (5.7 deaths per 100,000 people), noting that estimates for 2020 and 2021 are subject to revision and may increase (Table A28).

**Sex**  
In 2021, males accounted for 56% (23 deaths) of drug-induced deaths.

**Age**  
Due to the small number of drug-induced deaths in the Northern Territory, data on age could not be reported.

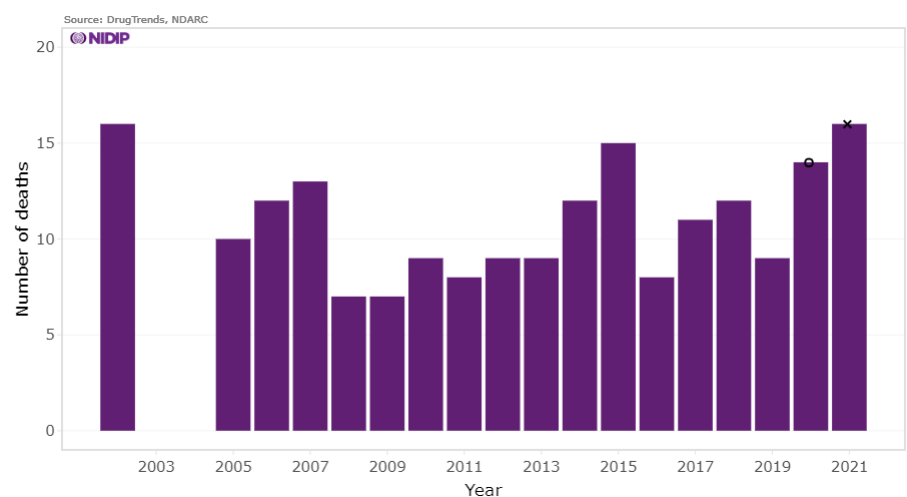
**Remoteness Area of Usual Residence**  
There are no major city or inner regional areas in the Northern Territory. This factor, coupled with the small number of deaths, precluded disaggregation because of issues of confidentiality.

**Intent of Drug Overdose Deaths**  
In 2021, 88% (14 deaths) of drug-induced deaths in the Northern Territory were due to overdose, of which 11 deaths were deemed unintentional.

**Place of Occurrence**  
In 2021, the location of the incident underlying death was coded as home for half (50%, 8 deaths) of drug-induced deaths.

**Drug Involvement**  
In the Northern Territory, the small number of drug-induced death did not allow for further disaggregation by drug involvement.

Figure 1. Number of drug-induced deaths, Northern Territory, 2002-2021



Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2020 and 2021 are not final and thus are subject to further revision. The symbol 'o' indicates revised estimates and 'x' preliminary estimates. Numbers less or equal to 5 (i.e., data in the years 2003 and 2004) are not shown.

**Table 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-induced deaths in Northern Territory in 2020 and 2021, and average percent change (APC) for difference between 2021 and 2020 (with 95% confidence intervals), by sex**

Sex	Rate in 2020 (95% CI)	Rate in 2021 (95% CI)	APC (95% CI)
Total	5.7 (3.1, 9.6)	7.4 (4.1, 12)	31 (-37, 172)

Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2020 and 2021 are preliminary and thus are subject to further revision. 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 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

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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](mailto:drugtrends@unsw.edu.au).

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## Data source

We acknowledge all state and territory Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the Coroners and the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) for enabling Cause of Death Unit Record File (COD URF) data to be used for this publication.

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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.

## Related Links

- For interactive data visualisations accompanying this report, go to: [https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/Deaths\\_2021](https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/Deaths_2021)
- For full details of the methods underpinning this report, go to: <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/resource-analytics/trends-drug-induced-deaths-australia-2002-2021>
- 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>
- For more information on NDARC research, go to: <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/>
- For more information about the ABS, go to: <http://www.abs.gov.au>
- For more information on ICD coding go to: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>
- For more information on the Remoteness Areas Structure within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), go to: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.005>
- For more research from the Drug Trends program and to subscribe to our newsletter, go to: <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/program/drug-trends>
- For details on the collection, organisation and interpretation of NCIS data, go to: <https://www.ncis.org.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes/>
- For statistics about case closure statistics in NCIS, go to: <https://www.ncis.org.au/about-the-data/operational-statistics/>