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# Trends in the use of Opioid Agonist Treatment in Victoria, 2013-2022





# Trends in the use of Opioid Agonist Treatment in Victoria, 2013-2022

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Technical report number: 352

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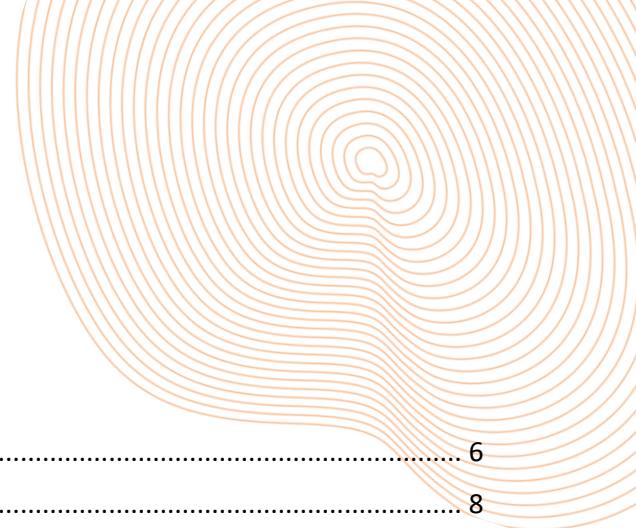
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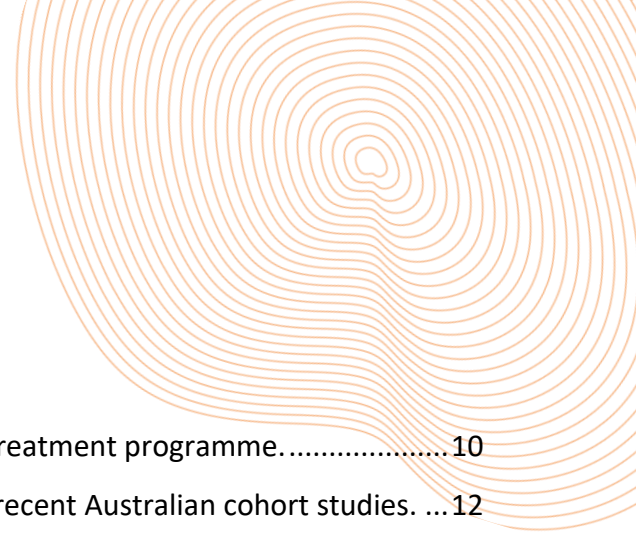
## Acknowledgements

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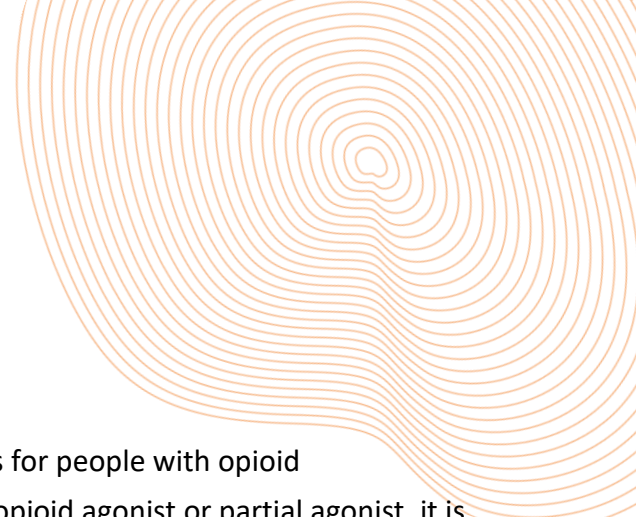


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# 1. Executive Summary

Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) is one of the main treatments for people with opioid dependence<sup>1</sup>. Involving long-term pharmacotherapy with an opioid agonist or partial agonist, it is well established that OAT reduces non-medical use of opioids, injecting and injecting-related injuries, criminal activity, and overall mortality, particularly overdose mortality<sup>2-5</sup>. The World Health Organization lists both methadone and buprenorphine<sup>6,7</sup> as essential medicines for opioid dependence<sup>8</sup>. In Australia, there are currently four OAT formulations subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS), including methadone liquid (PBS listed in 1974), sublingual (SL) buprenorphine (2001), SL buprenorphine-naloxone (2005) and long-acting injectable (LAI) buprenorphine (2019)<sup>9</sup>.

LAI formulations of buprenorphine represent a relatively new addition to OAT in Australia<sup>10</sup>, having been PBS-listed since September 2019. LAI buprenorphine is administered via weekly<sup>11</sup> or monthly<sup>12,13</sup> subcutaneous injections, providing an alternate treatment option that reduces the frequency of dosing visits compared to oral and sublingual OAT alternatives. Several factors may have impacted patterns of OAT medicine use in Victoria (VIC) over the past decade, including the introduction of LAI buprenorphine, the Victorian Government's SafeScript initiative and policy changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This technical report describes 10-year trends in the sales of OAT medicines in VIC. Aggregate monthly sales were used to estimate the number of OAT clients per month, based on average doses.

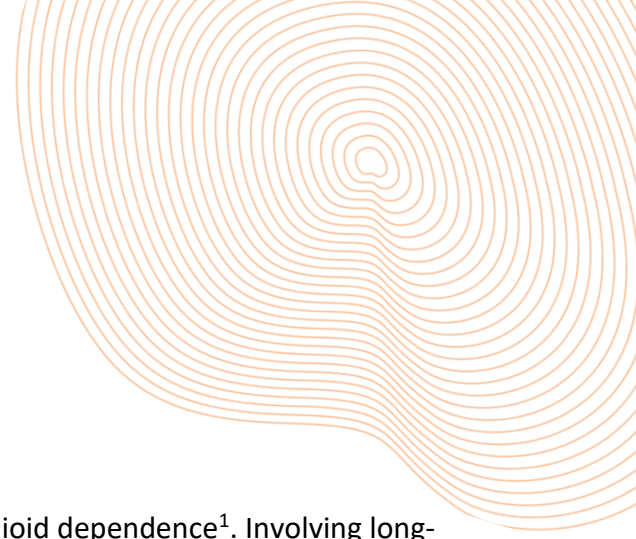
## Key findings

- VIC had the third highest level of OAT utilisation after New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory from 2013 to 2022.
- The estimated number of OAT clients in VIC increased by 54% from 9,227 in January 2013 to 14,169 in December 2022.
- Per capita, VIC saw a 31% increase in rates of use from 16 OAT clients per 10,000 population in January 2013 to 21 per 10,000 in December 2022.
- Patterns of OAT medicines in VIC also changed over this time. There was:
  - a decline (-4.9%) in clients receiving methadone (2013-2022),

- an almost 2-fold increase of clients receiving SL buprenorphine (2013-2022), and
- a substantial uptake of LAI buprenorphine following its introduction (35 clients in Sep 2019 to 3,601 clients in Dec 2022).
- Consequently, the distribution of OAT medicines has shifted in VIC:
  - In January 2013, four-fifths (80.3%) of OAT clients received methadone with the remainder receiving SL buprenorphine (19.7%).
  - In December 2022, 49.8% of clients received methadone and 50.2% buprenorphine (24.8% SL buprenorphine and 25.4% LAI buprenorphine).
- Across the decade in VIC, trends in the distribution of OAT by remoteness and socioeconomic status remained relatively consistent:
  - 78-80% of OAT in VIC was received in major cities, 16-18% in inner regional areas, and less than 1.0% in remote areas.
  - Over half (55%) of OAT in VIC was delivered in the most advantaged areas (quintiles 4 & 5) and around a fifth (15-20%) in the most disadvantaged areas (quintile 1).
- From 2013 to 2022, the greatest increases in OAT utilisation were observed in inner regional (+71%) areas compared to major cities (+50%).
- The majority (84-96%) of OAT in VIC was accessed through community pharmacies, however access from non-community pharmacy settings increased markedly since 2020.
- Most clients in community pharmacy received methadone whereas, since 2020, most OAT clients attending hospital/outpatient drug and alcohol services and clinics/medical centres received LAI buprenorphine.

## Conclusions

There has been an increase in OAT utilisation in VIC over the past decade, with around half of clients now receiving buprenorphine and the other half, methadone. Importantly, there has been an increase in access to OAT, overall, and particularly in settings outside of community pharmacy and in inner regional areas, since early 2020 - coinciding with the introduction of LAI buprenorphine, SafeScript and the COVID-19 pandemic. Determining the clinical outcomes of these changes, in terms of benefits, harms and cost-effectiveness, is now a priority.



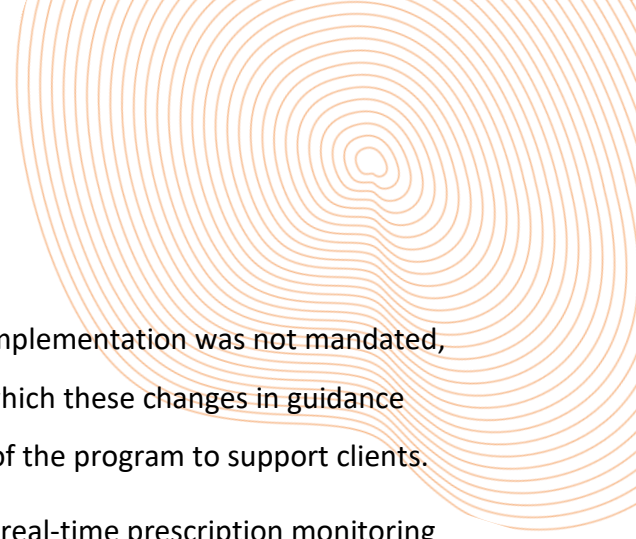
## 2. Background & Methods

### 2.1. Background

Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) is a first-line treatment for opioid dependence<sup>1</sup>. Involving long-term pharmacotherapy with an opioid agonist, or partial agonist, it is well established that OAT reduces non-medical use of opioids and related harms<sup>3</sup>. For example, there is strong evidence to show that OAT is effective at reducing injecting and injection related injuries, blood-borne viral spread, overdoses and overall mortality<sup>2-5</sup>, as well as improving physical health, social functioning and economic productivity<sup>1</sup>. Methadone and buprenorphine, two of the most common forms of OAT, are both listed by the World Health Organization as essential medicines<sup>8</sup>. In Australia, four formulations of these medicines are approved by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) and subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) for use as OAT. These include methadone liquid (PBS listed in 1974), sublingual (SL) buprenorphine (2001), SL buprenorphine-naloxone (2005: tablets, 2011: films) and long acting injection (LAI) buprenorphine (September 2019)<sup>9</sup>.

LAI formulations of buprenorphine have recently become available for the treatment of opioid dependence<sup>10</sup>, having been PBS-listed since September 2019. Depending on the formulation, LAI buprenorphine is administered via weekly<sup>11</sup> or monthly<sup>12,13</sup> subcutaneous injections, providing an alternate OAT option to oral methadone and SL buprenorphine, reducing the frequency of dosing visits and increasing flexibility<sup>14,15</sup>. LAI buprenorphine may offer a number of benefits including increased quality of life, employment, and treatment satisfaction<sup>16</sup>, however, the shift to monthly dosing may result in unintended consequences as well<sup>17-19</sup>. In Australia, the roll-out of LAI buprenorphine was stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to reduce face-to-face interactions and the frequency of visits by OAT clients to health services. National interim guidance developed by professional and consumer groups also recommended increasing the number of take-away doses for methadone and SL buprenorphine, greater use of telehealth appointments, and home delivery, including third party collections for clients in quarantine<sup>20</sup>. These recommendations addressed logistical barriers to OAT engagement, including the travel





burden associated with attending services<sup>21</sup>. Although their implementation was not mandated, and varied across jurisdictions, understanding the extent to which these changes in guidance impacted access to OAT will help determine the adaptability of the program to support clients.

In 2019 the Victorian Government implemented SafeScript, a real-time prescription monitoring tool, providing prescribers with access to their patients' prescription history for opioids and other high risk medicines.<sup>22</sup> SafeScript automatically collects details of prescriptions issued at a medical clinic or dispensed at a pharmacy in real time. In April 2020 it became mandatory to check SafeScript before prescribing one of the monitored medicines included in the initiative<sup>22</sup>. The potential exists for a new sub-group of people with iatrogenic opioid dependence, identified because of their patterns of opioid prescribing as recorded in SafeScript, to lead to an increase in OAT initiations in Victoria (VIC) from 2019.

Each year, data collected on snapshot day/s by state and territory health departments are compiled to provide a national overview of pharmacotherapies used in the Australian OAT program.<sup>23</sup> Intermittent monitoring such as this, limits a nuanced understanding of how the profile of individual medicines in the OAT program has changed over time and how overall utilisation has changed in different settings (e.g., regional v. remote, community vs. prison). Monthly sales data provide a novel means to examine longitudinal trends of OAT.

This report aims to describe sales of OAT medicines in VIC over time and to consider factors that may have affected patterns of use.

## 2.2. Aims

This report aims to:

1. Examine trends in the estimated number of clients on all OAT medicines in VIC between 2013 and 2022, and
2. Examine variation in the number of OAT clients by jurisdiction, remoteness, socio-economic status and setting.



## 2.3. Methods

### 2.3.1. Study design and time period

This is a descriptive study of trends in the sales of OAT medicines (methadone, SL buprenorphine, SL buprenorphine-naloxone and LAI buprenorphine) in VIC from January 2013 to December 2022.

### 2.3.2. Data source

Data was provided by IQVIA (iqvia.com) who collect information on sales of medicines to community pharmacies, hospitals, and other providers, including prisons, by pharmaceutical wholesalers and manufacturers. IQVIA declares around 97% coverage of the Australian pharmacy and hospital market<sup>24</sup>. Data on all formulations of OAT medicines sold in VIC between January 2013 and December 2022 (inclusive) were included. Due to the legal requirements for secure storage and monitoring of OAT medicines in pharmacies, the number of packs sold over a 12-month period should closely approximate the number of medicines used by clients in the VIC OAT Program.

### 2.3.3. Medicines

Available OAT medicines, by formulation and strength, are summarised in Table 1. Formulations of methadone and buprenorphine used solely for the treatment of opioid dependence in Australia were included. In the uncommon event that methadone is used for pain, methadone tablets (which can be crushed) are generally preferred over liquid, in both the community and hospital setting. Methadone liquid 200mL, indicated in Australia for both pain and opioid dependence, was included because most use was assumed to be for opioid dependence. Sales of LAI buprenorphine were disaggregated into five groups relative to strength and injection frequency - weekly low and high strengths, and monthly low, medium and high strengths (see 'LAIB Group' in Table 1). These groups were selected to provide high level trends without identifying individual brands.

**Table 1. Medicines available in the Australian opioid agonist treatment programme.**

| Active Ingredient | Form              | Brand name                           | Strength (mg) | LAIB <sup>†</sup> Group | Entry to market <sup>‡</sup> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Methadone         | Oral (liquid)     | Biodone Forte,<br>Methadone<br>Syrup | 5mg / mL      | N/A                     | 1974 <sup>25</sup>           |
| Buprenorphine     | Sublingual tablet | Subutex                              | 0.4, 2, 8     | N/A                     | 2001 <sup>26</sup>           |

| Active Ingredient        | Form                     | Brand name      | Strength (mg) | LAIB† Group         | Entry to market‡   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Buprenorphine / naloxone | Sublingual tablet / film | Suboxone        | 2/0.5, 8/2    | N/A                 | 2005: Tablets <sup>27</sup><br>2011: Films <sup>28</sup> |
| Buprenorphine            | Long acting injection    | Buvidal weekly  | 8, 16         | Weekly LAIB - low   | September 2019 <sup>25</sup>                             |
| Buprenorphine            | Long acting injection    | Buvidal weekly  | 24, 32        | Weekly LAIB - high  | September 2019 <sup>25</sup>                             |
| Buprenorphine            | Long acting injection    | Buvidal monthly | 64            | Monthly LAIB - low  | September 2019 <sup>25</sup>                             |
| Buprenorphine            | Long acting injection    | Buvidal monthly | 96, 128       | Monthly LAIB - med  | September 2019 <sup>25</sup>                             |
| Buprenorphine            | Long-acting injection    | Buvidal monthly | 160           | Monthly LAIB - high | May 2022 <sup>25</sup>                                   |
| Buprenorphine            | Long-acting injection    | Sublocade       | 100           | Monthly LAIB - low  | May 2020 <sup>25</sup>                                   |
| Buprenorphine            | Long-acting injection    | Sublocade       | 300           | Monthly LAIB - high | May 2020 <sup>25</sup>                                   |

†LAIB: Long-acting injection buprenorphine, ‡Entry to market based on PBS listing as part of the Australian Opioid Dependence Treatment Program

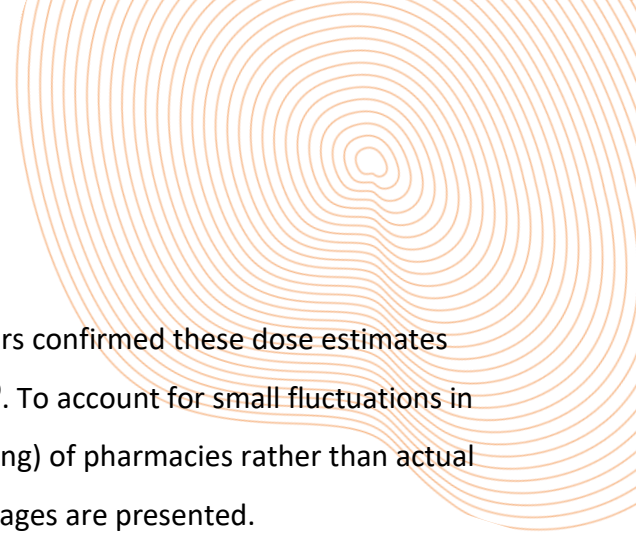
#### 2.3.4. OAT clients per month

Describing OAT utilisation based solely on packs sold does not enable a like-for-like comparison between different medicines. In some cases, one pack may be used to treat one or multiple clients - for example, one pack of LAI buprenorphine treats one client over 28 days, whereas one pack of methadone syrup (1L) may treat several clients. Oral morphine equivalents (OME) were considered less relevant for comparing OAT in a non-analgesia setting and could not be reliably estimated for LAI buprenorphine. For these reasons, the monthly number of packs sold was converted into an estimate of OAT clients per month.

For SL buprenorphine and methadone formulations, OAT clients per month were estimated by summing the total milligrams (mg) contained in the packs sold that month and dividing by the average dose (mg) to treat a single person for 28 days e.g.,

$$\text{OAT clients per month} = \frac{[\text{mg per pack} \times \text{Total number of packs sold that month}]}{[\text{Average daily dose (mg) for a single person} \times 28 \text{ days}]}$$

Average doses were estimated from previous research (see Table 2). For LAI buprenorphine formulations, estimates of clients per month were based on the number of packs (injections) sold. Specifically, one pack of weekly and one pack of monthly LAI buprenorphine were assumed to treat 0.25 and 1 client, respectively, over a 28-day period, aligning with the recommended dosing



schedules<sup>11-13</sup>. A chart review of three Australian OAT providers confirmed these dose estimates aligned with real-world LAI buprenorphine dosing schedules<sup>29</sup>. To account for small fluctuations in sales data, reflecting the ordering behaviour (such as stockpiling) of pharmacies rather than actual fluctuations in OAT client numbers, three-month moving averages are presented.

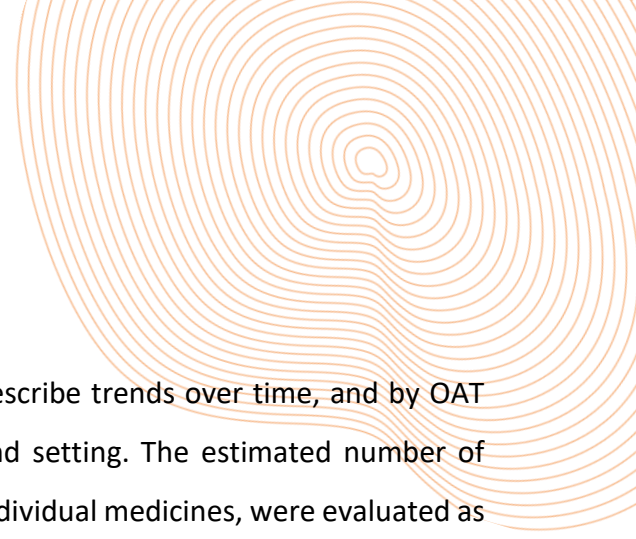
**Table 2. Average doses for OAT medicines; data pooled from recent Australian cohort studies.**

| Measure              | Methadone liquid         |         | Sublingual Buprenorphine |         |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
|                      | Pooled estimate (95% CI) | Sources | Pooled estimate (95% CI) | Sources |
| Mean dose (mg/day)   | 74.06 (69.44, 78.69)     | 30,31   | 16.00 (14.39, 17.61)     | 31      |
| Median dose (mg/day) | 75 (47,75)               | 31-35   | 13 (13, 16)              | 31-36   |

Where applicable  $I^2 = 0.0$ .

### 2.3.5. Geographical information and setting

Monthly OAT utilisation was summarised overall and disaggregated by jurisdiction, remoteness, socioeconomic status, and setting. The Australian jurisdictions includes six states (New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS), VIC, Western Australia (WA), and two territories (Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory (NT)). Setting refers to the outlet type which purchased the medicines, and includes ‘community pharmacy’, ‘hospital’ including outpatient drug and alcohol services, ‘aged and community healthcare’, ‘clinics and medical centres’ including general practice, and ‘other (including prisons)’. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) mapping of Postcode 2017 was used to map sales to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Areas 2016 data<sup>37</sup> and to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) 2016 data<sup>38</sup> (see Appendix 6.1 Mapping to postcode). Australian remoteness categories include ‘Major Cities’, ‘Inner Regional’, ‘Outer Regional’, ‘Remote’ and ‘Very Remote’. IRSAD summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area, with lower quintiles indicating relatively greater disadvantage and higher quintiles indicating relatively greater advantage.



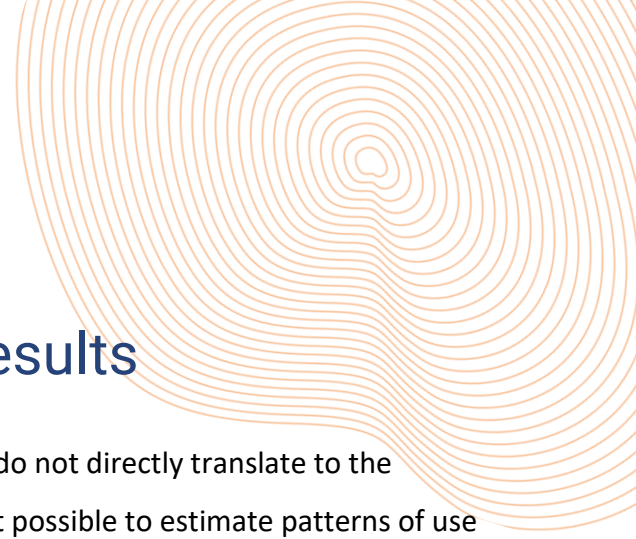
### 2.3.6. Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics and data visualisations were used to describe trends over time, and by OAT medicine, jurisdiction, remoteness, socioeconomic status and setting. The estimated number of clients receiving OAT medicines each month, overall and by individual medicines, were evaluated as a count standardised against population size and/or as a proportion (%) of the total number of OAT clients that month. Per capita estimates were based on the estimated residential population at June 30 each year, provided by the ABS<sup>39</sup>, overall and by jurisdiction.

Analyses were conducted using SAS Enterprise Guide 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) and Microsoft Excel for Microsoft 365 (Microsoft, Seattle, WA, USA).

#### Ethics approval

Ethics approval was not required as data from IQVIA were received in deidentified aggregated form.



### 3. Guide to interpretation of results

- It is important to acknowledge that the amounts sold do not directly translate to the amounts dispensed or used. For this reason, it was not possible to estimate patterns of use at the client level nor determine the exact number of clients engaged in OAT in each month.
- The approach used in estimating the number of clients receiving OAT per month assumes that real-world OAT doses – and the factors known to influence dose, including disorder severity - have remained stable over time and across different settings. The parameters used to derive these estimates were informed by the literature but have not been validated against population-level data on OAT doses from Australia.
- The estimates assume clients are retained in OAT over the full 28-day interval; where this is not the case, the number of clients accessing OAT at least once a month would be higher.
- This report complements the National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD), which provide a national overview of OAT pharmacotherapies used in Australia on snapshot day/s by state and territory health departments<sup>23</sup>. Where comparisons with NOPSAD show varying trends, these may be explained by differences in client ascertainment and changes in the patterns of OAT retention<sup>40</sup> during the study period.
- Furthermore, IQVIA coverage is not 100%. In particular, there is incomplete capture of sales from VIC settings other than community pharmacy and hospitals in this report (e.g., prisons, clinics and medical centres), leading to an underestimate of the number of clients accessing OAT in these settings.
- If IQVIA coverage has improved over time, this could lead to an underestimate of OAT clients in earlier years of the study and an overestimate of the percentage change between 2013 to 2022.
- As the weekly low dose LAI buprenorphine formulation can be used for top-up or supplemental dosing, inclusion of these formulations may have resulted in a slight overestimate of the number of clients.

- The geographic information provided by IQVIA for non-community pharmacy/hospital settings was less granular (PHN level) so there may be some misclassification of remoteness and socioeconomic categories in these settings.
- It is possible that the socioeconomic status of clients may differ to the socioeconomic status of the area where they obtained their OAT medicine.



## 4. Findings

### 4.1. OAT utilisation by state/territory

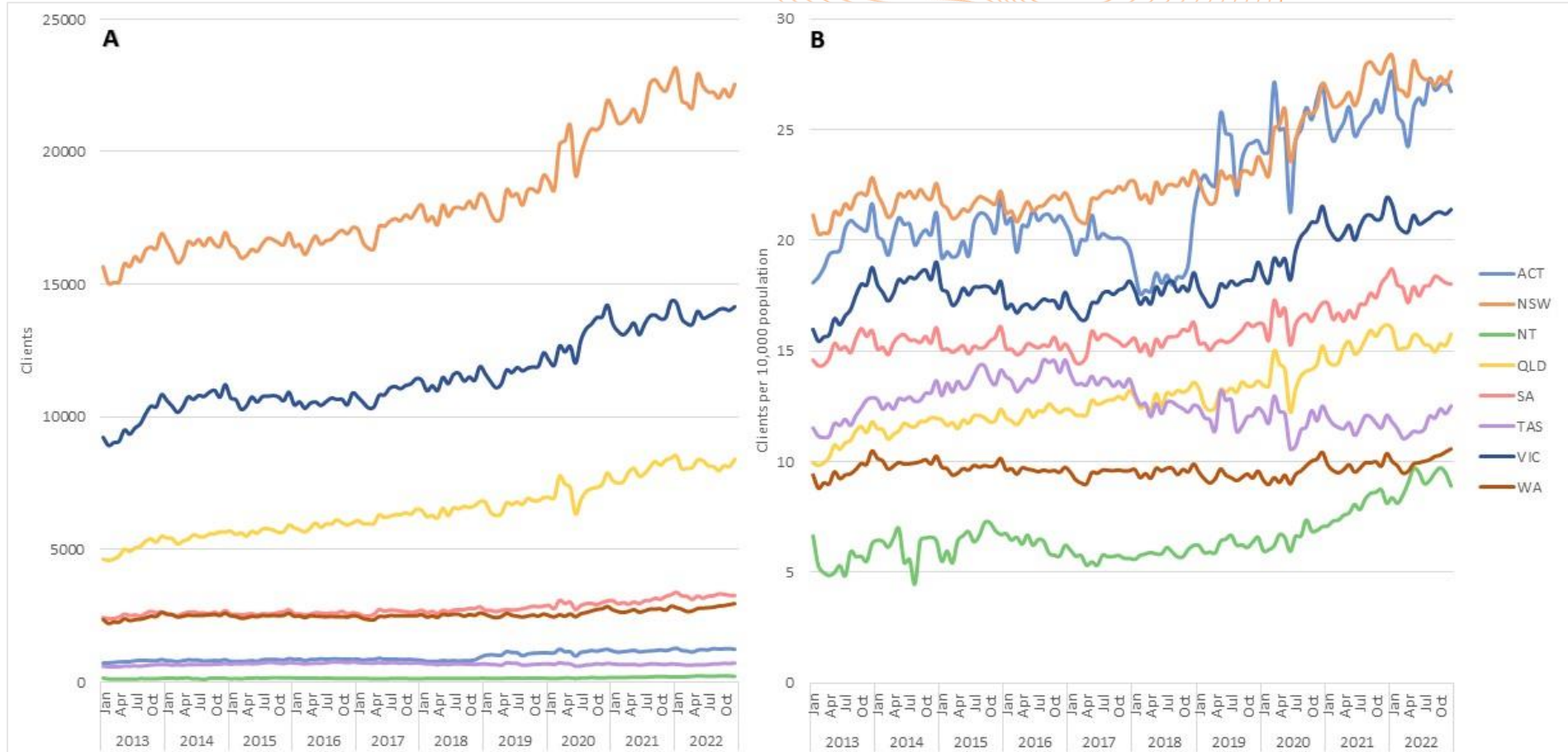
Across the decade, Victoria had the second highest number of OAT clients per month of all jurisdictions, after NSW and followed by QLD (Figure 1A). The estimated number of clients receiving OAT each month in VIC increased by 54% from 9,227 clients in January 2013 to 14,169 clients in December 2022 (Figure 1A, Table A1).

After accounting for population size, there was a 31% increase in use in VIC, from 16 OAT clients per 10,000 population in January 2013 to 21 per 10,000 in December 2022 (Figure 1B). By the end of the study (December 2022), the number of OAT clients per capita in VIC was 25% lower than in NSW (21 vs 28 per 10,000 population) and 31% higher than QLD (21 vs 16 per 10,000) (Figure 1B).

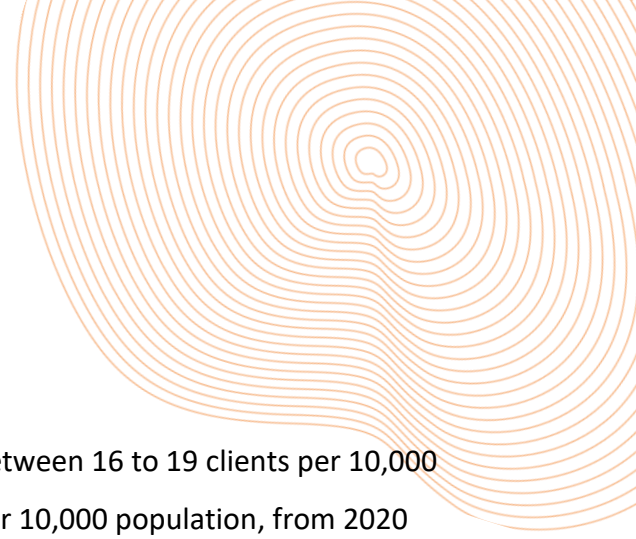




Figure 1. Number of OAT clients (A), and OAT clients per 10,000 population (B), per month by Australian state/territory (2013-2022).



ACT: Australian Capital Territory, NSW: New South Wales, NT: Northern Territories, QLD: Queensland, SA: South Australia, TAS: Tasmania, VIC: Victoria, WA: Western Australia



## 4.2. OAT utilisation in Victoria

### 4.2.1. All OAT medicines

In Victoria, per-capita estimates from 2013 to 2019 ranged between 16 to 19 clients per 10,000 population, before increasing to a range of 20 to 22 clients per 10,000 population, from 2020 onwards (Figure 2B).

Patterns of OAT have changed over time in VIC. Methadone use decreased (-4.9%) from 7,411 clients in 2013 to 7,051 in December 2022 (Figure 2A, Table A1). There was a 2.5-fold increase in the estimated number of clients receiving SL buprenorphine from January 2013 (1,816 clients) to December 2019 (4,465 clients), followed by a 21.3% decrease by December 2022 (3,517 clients). Following its introduction to the market, there was a substantial uptake of LAI buprenorphine from 35 clients in September 2019 to 3,601 clients in December 2022.

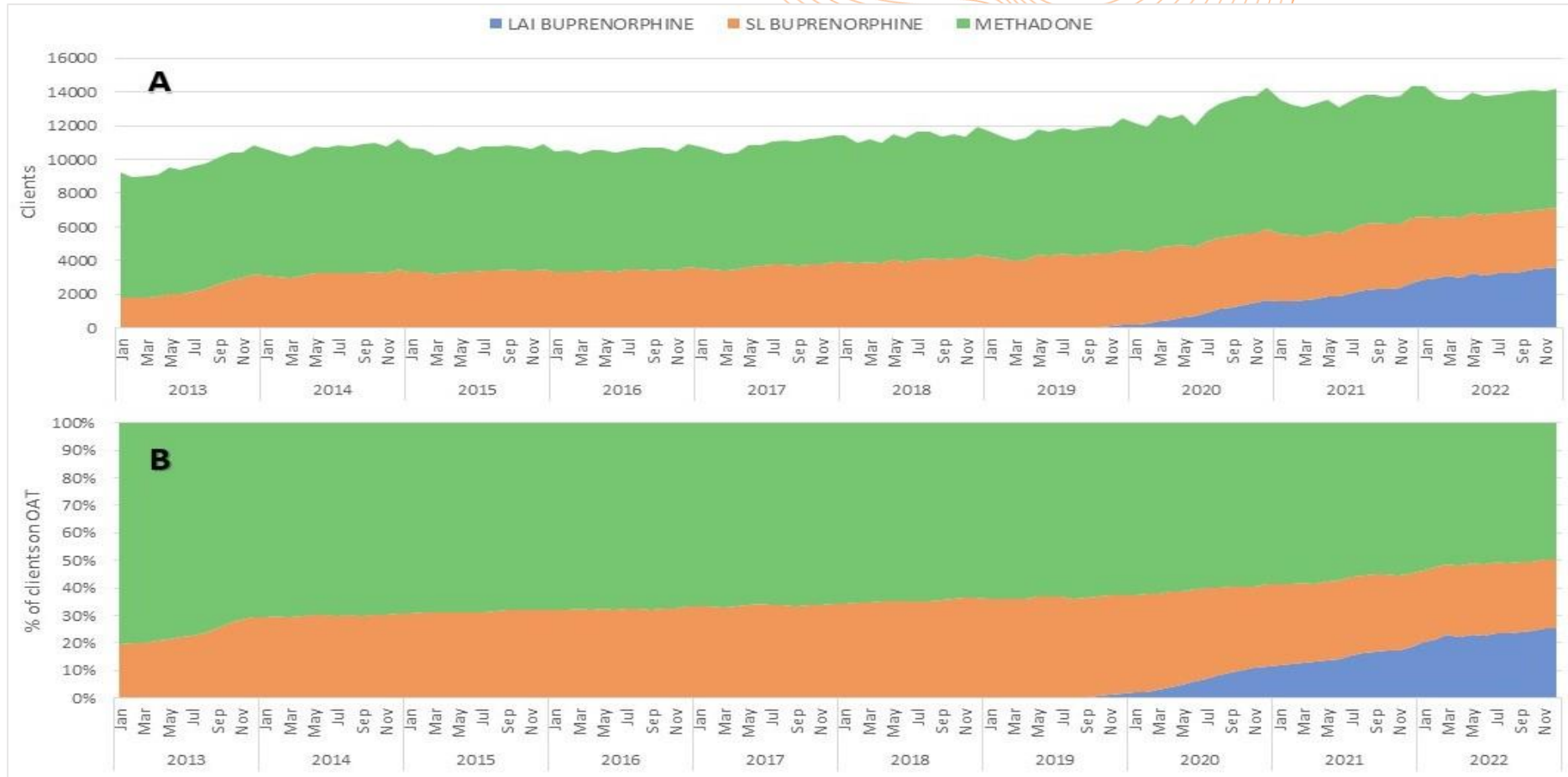
Subsequently, the distribution of medicines in the VIC OAT program evolved over time (Figure 2B). In January 2013, four-fifths (80.3%) of the estimated number of OAT clients in VIC received methadone with the remainder receiving SL buprenorphine (19.7%). In December 2022, 49.8% of clients received methadone, 24.8% SL buprenorphine, and 25.4% LAI buprenorphine (Figure 2B, Table A1).

### 4.2.2. LAI buprenorphine

Since the introduction of LAI buprenorphine, the majority of use was for monthly rather than weekly formulations (Figure 3, Table A2). The formulations in the 'Monthly LAIB – medium' group were used most commonly, until late 2021 when the 'Monthly LAIB – low' group became more frequently used. From September 2019 to December 2022, the uptake of formulations in the 'Monthly LAIB – medium' group increased from 20 to 1,233 clients, 'Monthly LAIB – low' from 9 to 1954 clients and 'Monthly LAIB – high' from <10 clients in March 2020 to 802 clients in December 2022 (Figure 3, Table A2).



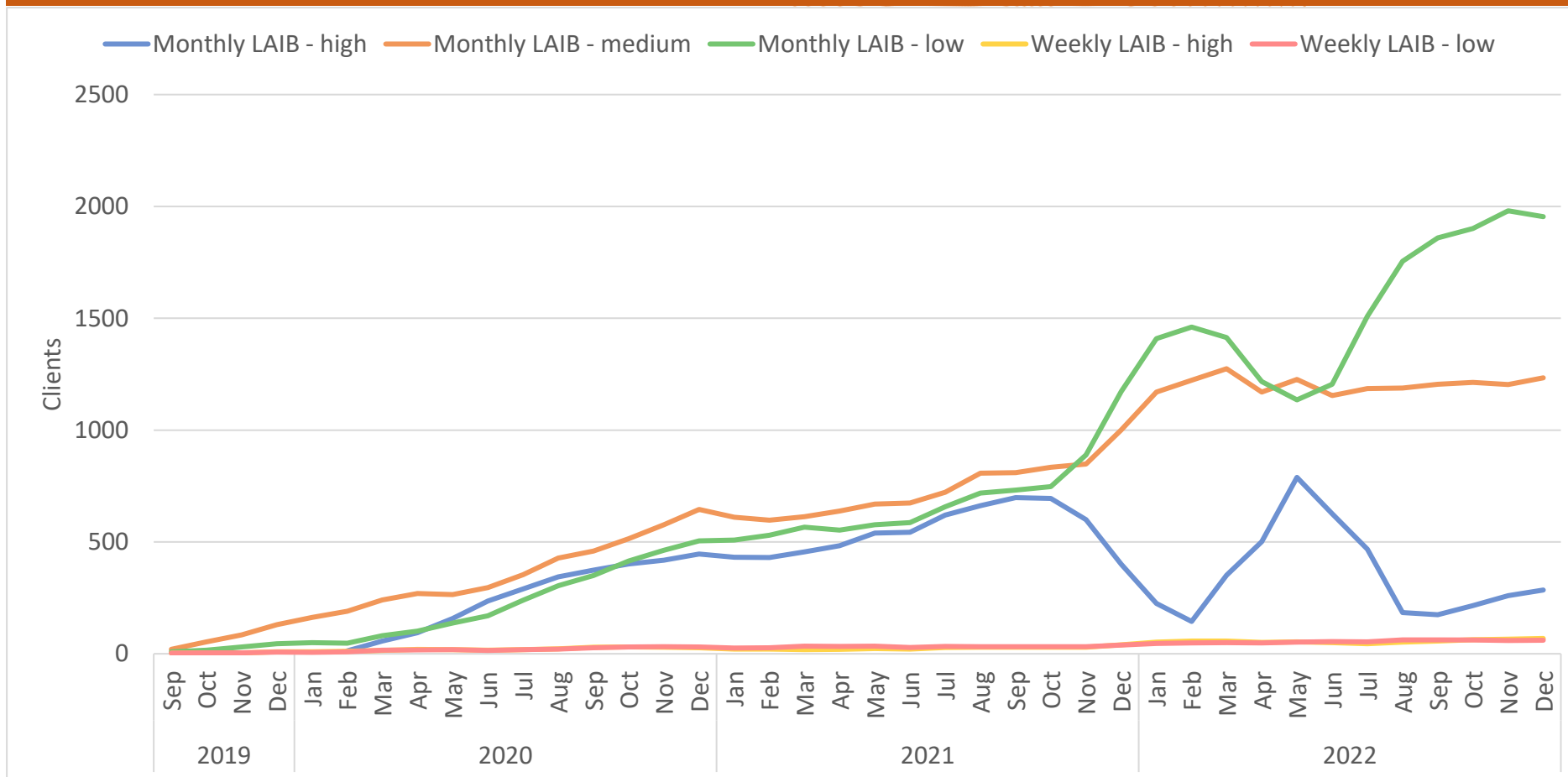
Figure 2. Cumulative number of OAT clients (A) and proportion of total OAT clients (B), per month by medicine (Victoria, 2013-2022)



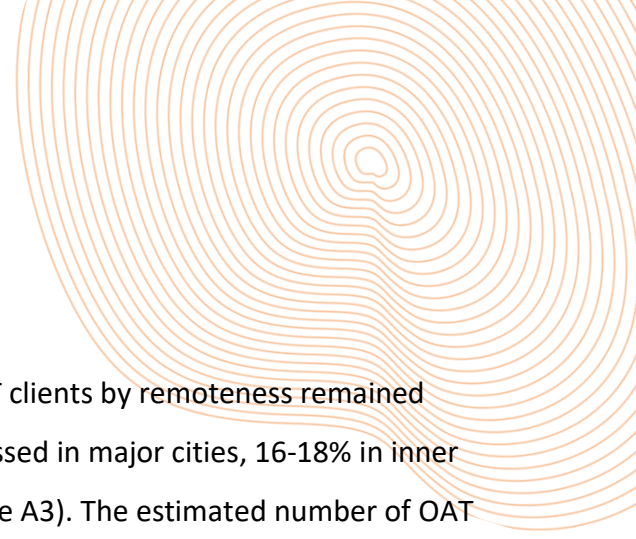
LAI: Long Acting Injection, OAT: Opioid Agonist Treatment, SL: Sublingual



Figure 3. Number of OAT clients by LAI buprenorphine (LAIB) group\* (Victoria, 2019-2022).



\* LAIB groups are defined in Table 1



#### 4.2.1. Remoteness

Over the study period in VIC, trends in the distribution of OAT clients by remoteness remained relatively consistent. Approximately 78-80% of OAT was accessed in major cities, 16-18% in inner regional areas, and less than 1.0% were in remote areas (Table A3). The estimated number of OAT clients increased across all remoteness categories over the decade (Figure 4). From 2013 to 2022, greater increases in OAT utilisation were observed in inner regional (1,511 to 2,586 clients: +71%), areas compared with major cities (7,379 to 11,061 clients: +50%; Figure 4, Table A3).

#### 4.2.2. Socioeconomic status (IRSAD)

Across the decade in VIC, trends in the distribution of OAT utilisation by socioeconomic status remained relatively consistent. Over a half (55%) of the estimated number of OAT clients received OAT in the most advantaged areas (quintiles 4 and 5) and the proportion of clients in the most disadvantaged areas (quintile 1) decreased from around 19% in 2013 to 15% in 2022 (Table A4). From 2013 to 2022, rates of OAT use increased across all IRSAD quintiles, however the greatest increases in OAT use were observed in IRSAD quintiles 3 and 4 (+75%), compared with the most disadvantaged quintile, 1 (+26%) (Figure 5, Table A4).



Figure 4. Number of OAT clients per month by remoteness (Victoria, 2013-2022).

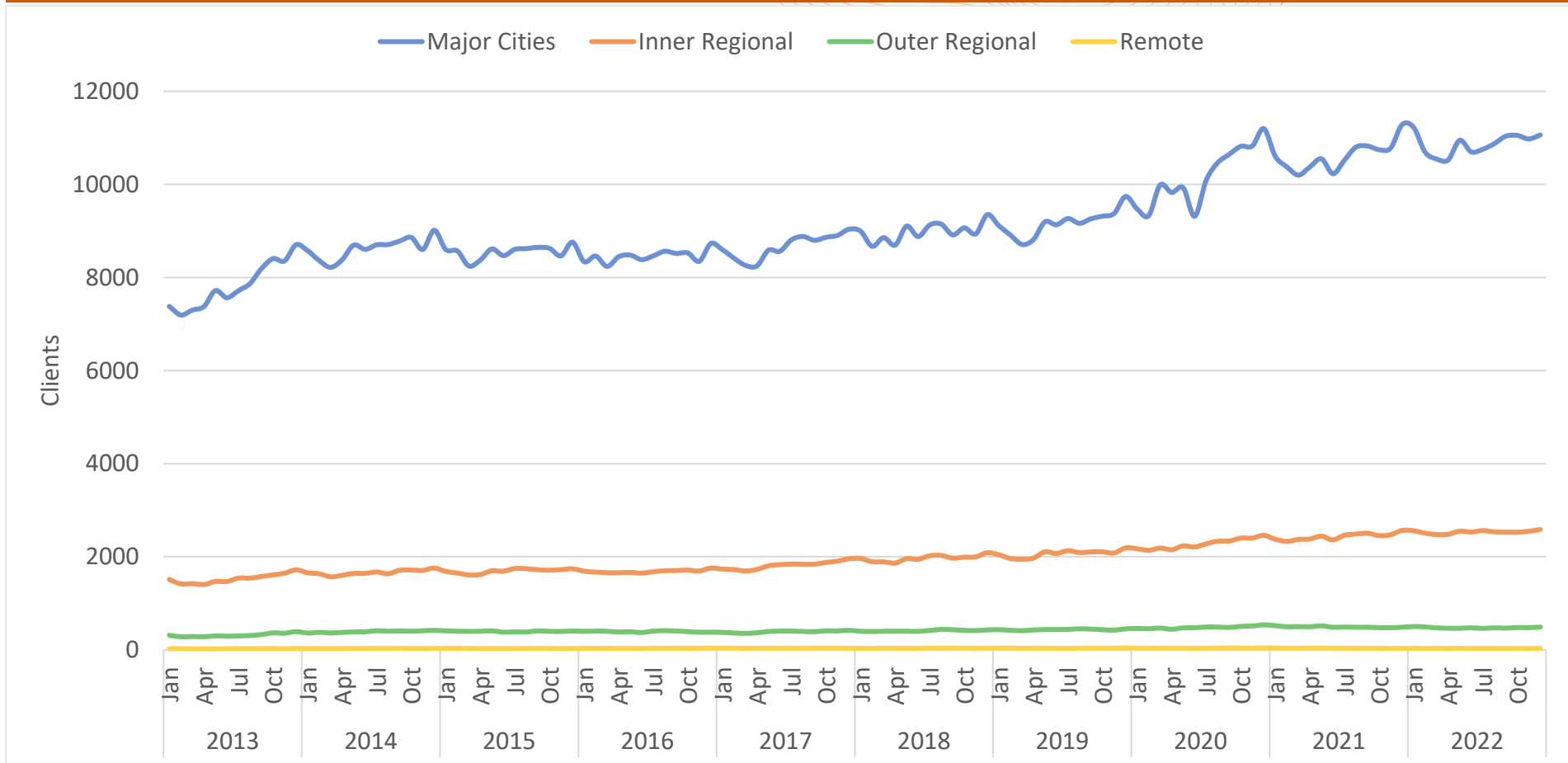
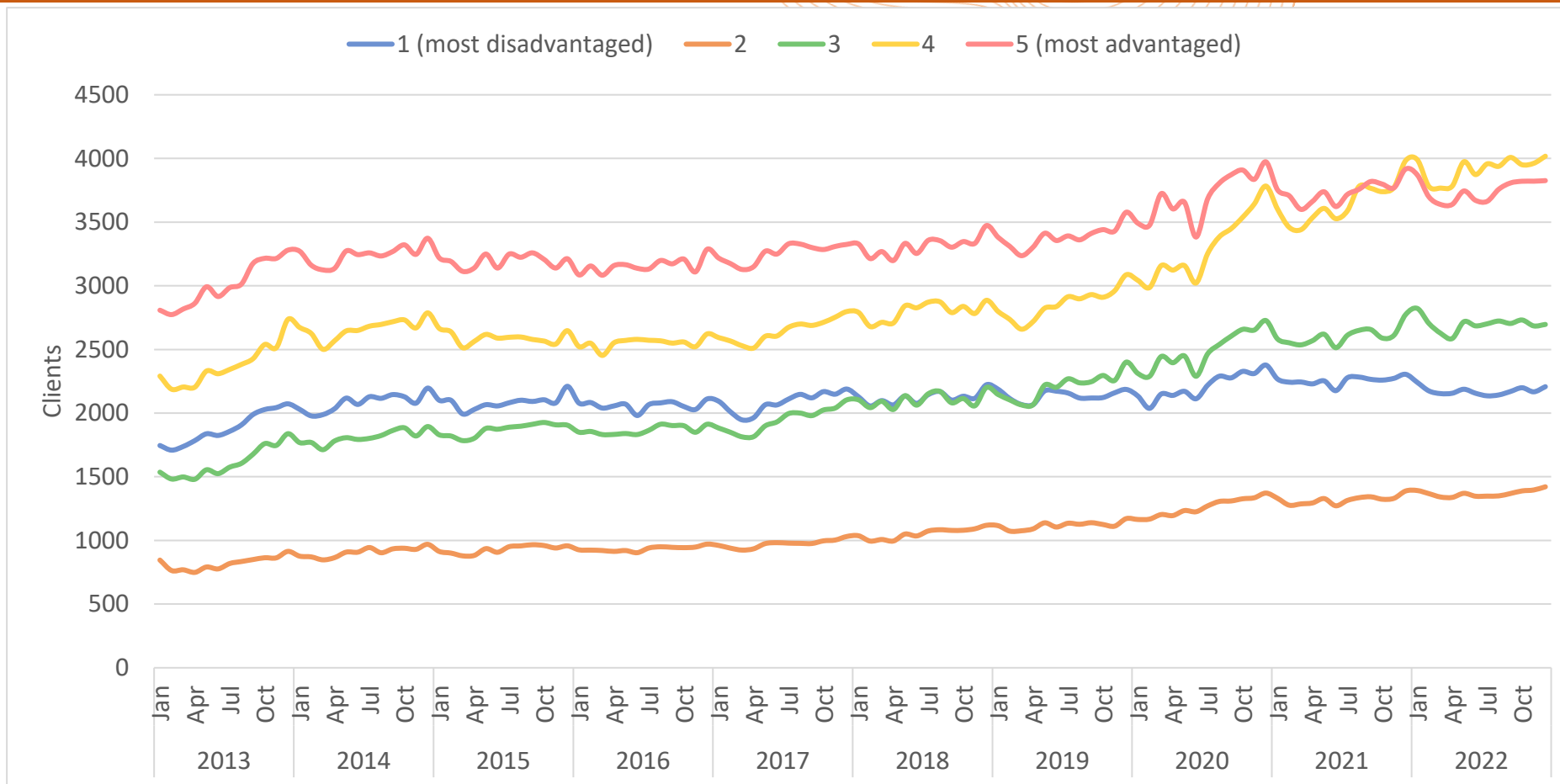




Figure 5. Number of OAT clients per month by IRSAD quintile (Victoria, 2013-2022).



IRSAD: Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage

#### 4.2.3. Setting

In VIC, trends in the distribution of OAT utilisation by setting remained relatively consistent between 2013 and 2019, with changes observed from 2020 to 2022. Very few sales in non-community pharmacy settings in VIC were identified in this study. Almost all (around 95%) OAT in VIC was accessed through community pharmacies, until late 2019, when access from non-community pharmacy settings increased. The estimated number of clients accessing OAT each month in community pharmacy increased by 38% from 8,700 in January 2013 to 12,886 in December 2020, remaining relatively stable to the end of 2022 (Figure 6). In contrast, the estimated number of clients accessing OAT in clinical and medical centres remained relatively stable from 2013 to 2019/2020, at 0-13 clients per month, before increasing steadily to 860 clients in December 2022 (Figure 6, Table A5). By the end of the study (December 2022) community pharmacies accounted for 85% of OAT in VIC, hospitals 6% and clinics and medical centres 6% (Table A5).

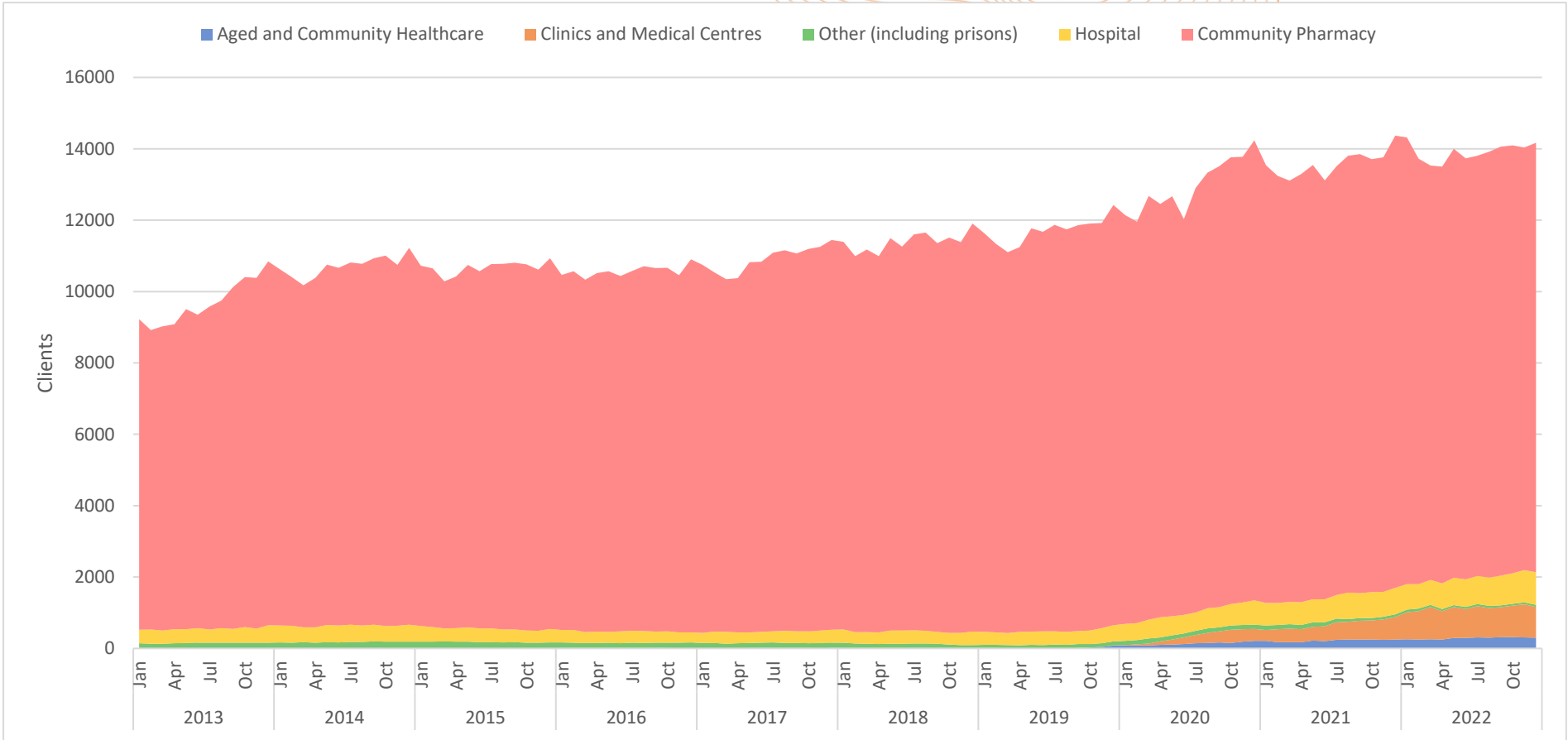
The distribution of medicines in the VIC OAT program varied by setting (Figure 7, Table A6). The majority of clients accessing OAT in community pharmacy each month received methadone whereas, since 2020, the majority of clients accessing OAT in settings other than community pharmacy each month received buprenorphine. By the end of the study (December 2022) in VIC (Figure 7, Table A6):

- 12,033 clients accessed OAT from community pharmacy, of whom 6,822 (56.7%) received methadone, 3,458 (28.7%) SL buprenorphine and 1,753 (14.5%) LAI buprenorphine;
- 914 clients accessed OAT from hospitals (including outpatient drug and alcohol services), of whom 166 (18.2%) received methadone, 58 (6.4%) SL buprenorphine and 689 (75.5%) LAI buprenorphine, and;
- Almost all clients accessing OAT from clinics and medical centre received LAI buprenorphine.



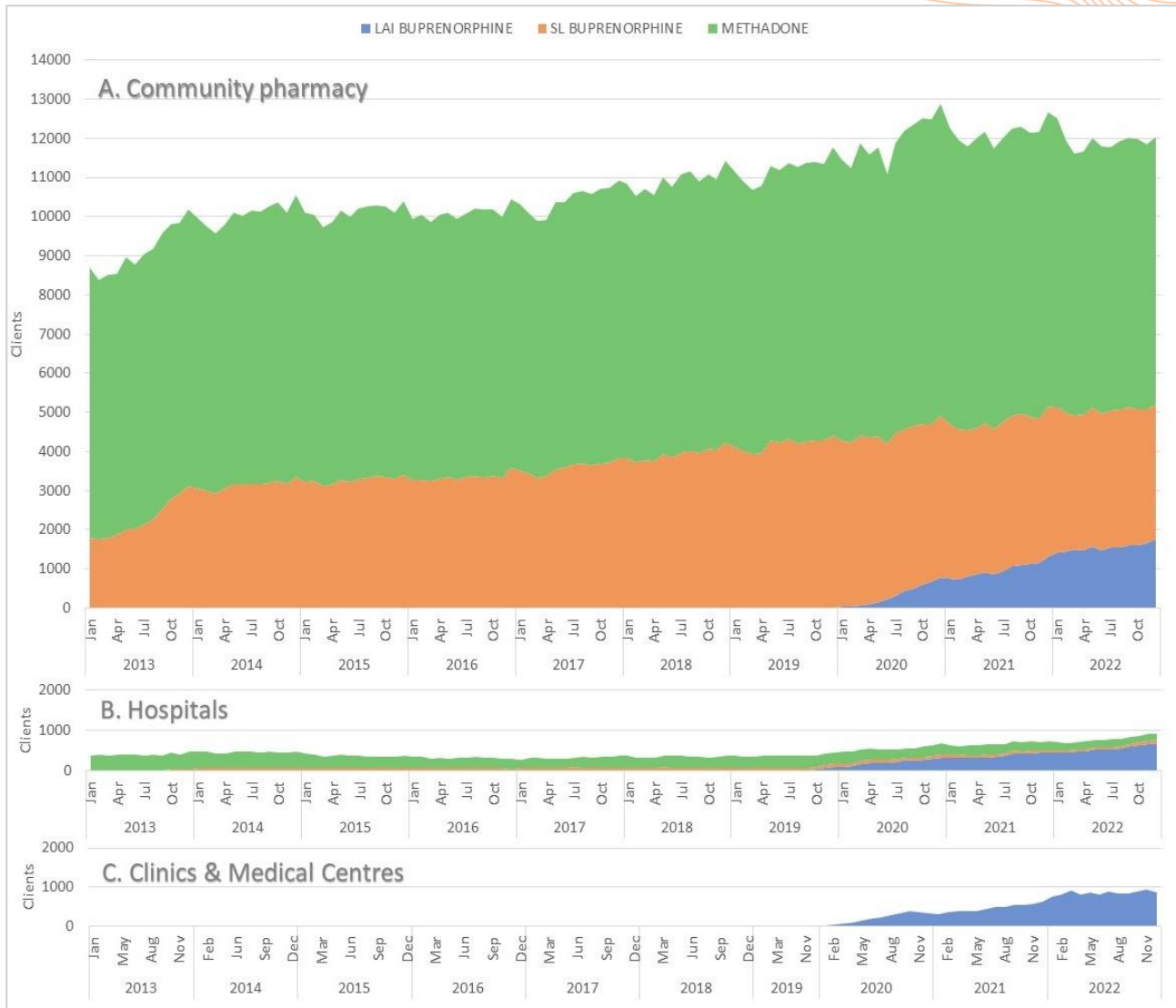


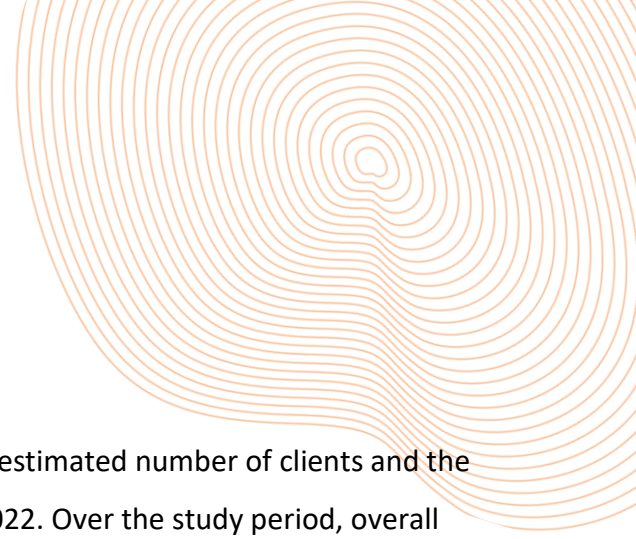
Figure 6. Number of OAT clients per month, by setting (VIC, 2013-2022).





**Figure 7. Number of OAT clients per month by medicine in: community pharmacy (A), hospitals (B), and other (including prisons) (C) (VIC, 2013-2022).**



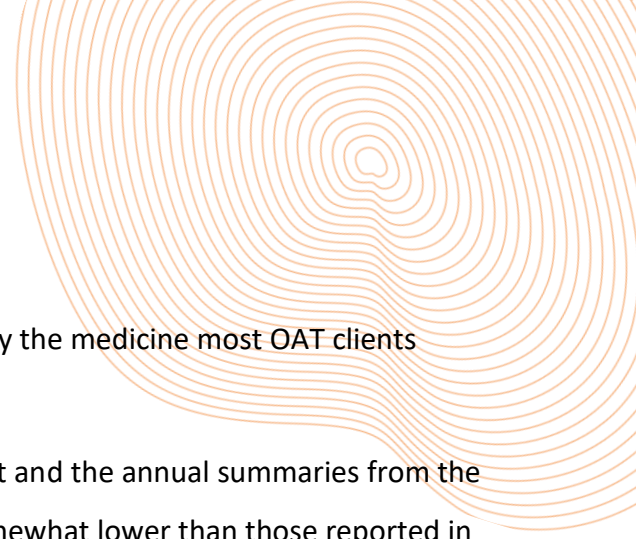


## 5. Discussion

This report used monthly sales data to evaluate trends in the estimated number of clients and the types of OAT medicines used in Victoria between 2013 and 2022. Over the study period, overall utilisation of OAT in VIC increased steadily, with a +31% estimated increase in the per-capita number of OAT clients. The pattern of OAT medicines used in VIC changed over time; in 2013, methadone was most common while in 2022, levels of buprenorphine and methadone were approximately equal. Considerable increases in OAT access were observed, overall, and particularly in settings other than community pharmacies, and in inner regional geographic areas from early 2020 – coinciding with the introduction of LAI buprenorphine, SafeScript and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Importantly this report demonstrates a substantial increase in the use of LAI buprenorphine for OAT in VIC. Between September 2019 (the month LAI buprenorphine was PBS-listed) and December 2022, the estimated number of clients accessing LAI buprenorphine increased substantially, accounting for a quarter of all VIC OAT clients by the end of the study period. By December 2022, most clients in community pharmacy received methadone whereas the majority of clients at hospital/outpatient drug and alcohol services and clinics/medical centres received LAI buprenorphine. This will in part reflect the scale-up of LAI buprenorphine during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was implemented in an effort to reduce exposure to infection, and help adhere with social distancing<sup>20</sup>. At a public hospital in Melbourne, a rapid-access clinic, dedicated to the provision of LAI buprenorphine during the COVID-19 pandemic, was launched that accepted a wide range of referral pathways, at no expense to attendees<sup>41</sup>.

With this significant uptake of LAI buprenorphine, there has been a shift in the distribution of OAT, with equality in the number of clients estimated to be receiving buprenorphine (incl. SL and LAI buprenorphine formulations) and methadone in VIC in the most recent year of data capture. The estimated proportion of all OAT clients receiving buprenorphine increased from a fifth (19.7%) in January 2013 to half (50.2%) of all estimated OAT clients in December 2022. Given the estimated number of clients receiving methadone over the study period decreased only slightly, this finding



aligns with previous reports that buprenorphine is increasingly the medicine most OAT clients initiate on in Australia<sup>40</sup>.

Differences were observed between the findings in this report and the annual summaries from the NOPSAD collection. The client estimates in this report are somewhat lower than those reported in NOPSAD<sup>23</sup>; as the data used in this report has incomplete capture of sales from VIC OAT settings other than community pharmacy and hospitals (e.g., prisons, clinics and medical centres), this was not unexpected. At the beginning of the study period the estimated number of OAT clients in VIC in this report was 33% lower than the figure quoted by NOPSAD (June 2013: 9,351 clients vs 13,961 clients in NOPSAD) and by the end of the study period this difference had reduced to 9% lower (June 2022: 13,733 clients vs 15,153 clients in NOPSAD). Furthermore, 2013 to 2022 data indicates per capita OAT use in VIC increased by +31% in this report (from 16 to 21 OAT clients per 10,000 population) whereas per-capita OAT use remained steady (24 to 23 OAT clients per 10,000 population) according to the NOPSAD collection over the same time period<sup>23</sup>. These differences may be explained by variation in the methods used for client ascertainment, changes in the patterns of OAT retention during the study period<sup>40</sup>, and incomplete capture of sales data (from settings other than community pharmacy and hospital) used in this report. For example, the NOPSAD collection identifies seventeen OAT dosing points at correctional facilities in VIC<sup>23</sup>, however no more than 2% of clients in this report accessed OAT in the 'other (incl. prisons)' setting. NOPSAD collects data on clients receiving OAT on specific day/s per year, whereas the client estimates in this report are based on a conversion of packs sold into clients treated over a month, with the assumption that clients are retained in OAT over the full 28-day interval. As some attrition from OAT is expected this report may underestimate the total number of clients accessing OAT over the month, however, if OAT retention rates have improved over time<sup>40</sup> the potential for this source of underestimation would have diminished over the study time period.

In conclusion, the findings in this report suggest that in VIC, changes in service organisation and delivery during COVID, as well as the introduction of LAI buprenorphine, improved access to OAT for people with opioid dependence, especially in settings other than community pharmacy and



inner regional areas. It is yet to be determined if the increased utilisation is associated with net benefits or harms for people with opioid dependence.

## 6. Appendices

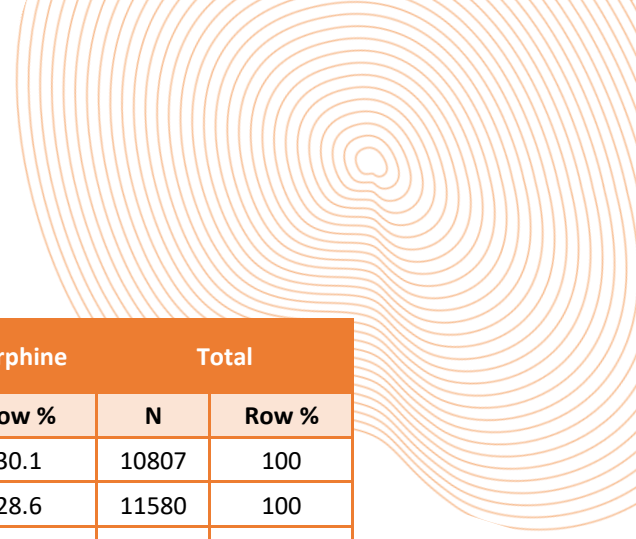
### 6.1. Mapping to postcodes

Data on sales to community pharmacy and hospitals were provided in 'bricks', which are geographic boundaries developed by IQVIA containing clusters of pharmacies, for medicine sales and distribution purposes across Australia. Data on sales to all other settings were provided at the Primary Health Network (PHN) level. Sales bricks and PHNs were mapped to postcodes.

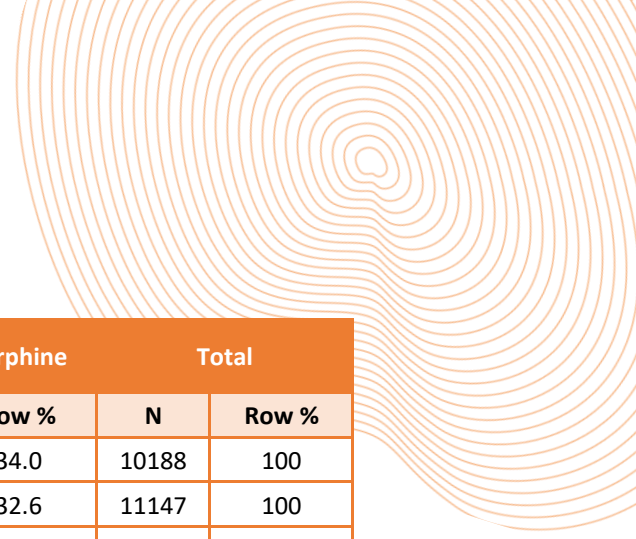
### 6.2. Appendix Tables

Table A1. Estimated number and proportion of OAT clients per month (VIC, 2013-2022)

| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine |       | Methadone |       | SL Buprenorphine |       | Total |       |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | n                 | Row % | n         | Row % | n                | Row % | N     | Row % |
| <b>2013</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7411      | 80.3  | 1816             | 19.7  | 9227  | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7143      | 83.0  | 1774             | 20.6  | 8607  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 7218      | 78.0  | 1811             | 19.6  | 9251  | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7192      | 76.6  | 1889             | 20.1  | 9383  | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7491      | 75.8  | 2016             | 20.4  | 9886  | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7300      | 83.1  | 2051             | 23.4  | 8783  | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7426      | 73.7  | 2155             | 21.4  | 10075 | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7437      | 71.7  | 2306             | 22.2  | 10369 | 100   |
| September   |                   |       | 7546      | 76.1  | 2574             | 26.0  | 9915  | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7583      | 69.3  | 2824             | 25.8  | 10937 | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7418      | 72.1  | 2964             | 28.8  | 10295 | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7682      | 68.0  | 3160             | 28.0  | 11295 | 100   |
| <b>2014</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7507      | 73.1  | 3112             | 30.3  | 10268 | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7332      | 76.0  | 3073             | 31.8  | 9653  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 7190      | 67.8  | 2985             | 28.2  | 10603 | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7274      | 66.7  | 3111             | 28.5  | 10898 | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7529      | 70.0  | 3223             | 30.0  | 10755 | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7431      | 71.9  | 3233             | 31.3  | 10339 | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7581      | 66.8  | 3235             | 28.5  | 11354 | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7539      | 70.9  | 3235             | 30.4  | 10629 | 100   |



| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine |       | Methadone |       | SL Buprenorphine |       | Total |       |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | n                 | Row % | n         | Row % | n                | Row % | N     | Row % |
| September   |                   |       | 7678      | 71.0  | 3252             | 30.1  | 10807 | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7690      | 66.4  | 3315             | 28.6  | 11580 | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7506      | 76.2  | 3239             | 32.9  | 9848  | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7775      | 63.5  | 3446             | 28.2  | 12235 | 100   |
| <b>2015</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7423      | 73.5  | 3303             | 32.7  | 10094 | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7346      | 76.3  | 3306             | 34.3  | 9627  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 7105      | 63.8  | 3178             | 28.6  | 11129 | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7178      | 68.4  | 3240             | 30.9  | 10496 | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7402      | 69.7  | 3347             | 31.5  | 10622 | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7273      | 68.8  | 3292             | 31.1  | 10578 | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7400      | 66.7  | 3367             | 30.3  | 11102 | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7381      | 69.3  | 3397             | 31.9  | 10652 | 100   |
| September   |                   |       | 7358      | 69.0  | 3449             | 32.3  | 10668 | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7340      | 66.9  | 3424             | 31.2  | 10972 | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7236      | 71.0  | 3375             | 33.1  | 10192 | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7441      | 63.9  | 3492             | 30.0  | 11637 | 100   |
| <b>2016</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7115      | 74.4  | 3347             | 35.0  | 9556  | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7202      | 68.5  | 3365             | 32.0  | 10508 | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 6995      | 64.1  | 3333             | 30.5  | 10921 | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7139      | 70.6  | 3376             | 33.4  | 10114 | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7137      | 66.9  | 3430             | 32.2  | 10665 | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7084      | 67.3  | 3350             | 31.8  | 10522 | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7138      | 67.7  | 3438             | 32.6  | 10543 | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7240      | 65.4  | 3470             | 31.4  | 11063 | 100   |
| September   |                   |       | 7240      | 69.8  | 3420             | 33.0  | 10373 | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7215      | 68.3  | 3450             | 32.7  | 10559 | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7052      | 67.5  | 3406             | 32.6  | 10440 | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7250      | 61.9  | 3654             | 31.2  | 11712 | 100   |
| <b>2017</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7165      | 71.0  | 3581             | 35.5  | 10086 | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7035      | 71.6  | 3506             | 35.7  | 9824  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 6947      | 62.5  | 3395             | 30.5  | 11117 | 100   |



| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine |       | Methadone |       | SL Buprenorphine |       | Total  |       |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|             | n                 | Row % | n         | Row % | n                | Row % | N      | Row % |
| April       |                   |       | 6910      | 67.8  | 3467             | 34.0  | 10188  | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7184      | 64.4  | 3634             | 32.6  | 11147  | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7148      | 64.0  | 3685             | 33.0  | 11165  | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7337      | 67.0  | 3752             | 34.2  | 10956  | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7383      | 65.1  | 3768             | 33.2  | 11333  | 100   |
| September   |                   |       | 7362      | 67.5  | 3704             | 34.0  | 10906  | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7424      | 65.5  | 3764             | 33.2  | 11327  | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7458      | 64.7  | 3796             | 32.9  | 11528  | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7535      | 65.6  | 3912             | 34.1  | 11487  | 100   |
| <b>2018</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |        |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7489      | 67.1  | 3901             | 35.0  | 11155  | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7181      | 69.6  | 3807             | 36.9  | 10322  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 7304      | 60.6  | 3876             | 32.1  | 12062  | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7150      | 67.5  | 3844             | 36.3  | 10600  | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7476      | 63.2  | 4021             | 34.0  | 11831  | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7309      | 64.5  | 3947             | 34.8  | 11335  | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7544      | 64.8  | 4057             | 34.9  | 11637  | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7554      | 63.0  | 4098             | 34.2  | 11983  | 100   |
| September   |                   |       | 7321      | 70.1  | 4035             | 38.6  | 10445  | 100   |
| October     |                   |       | 7366      | 60.8  | 4146             | 34.2  | 12107  | 100   |
| November    |                   |       | 7256      | 62.6  | 4125             | 35.6  | 11591  | 100   |
| December    |                   |       | 7591      | 63.2  | 4313             | 35.9  | 12012  | 100   |
| <b>2019</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |        |       |
| January     |                   |       | 7431      | 65.9  | 4196             | 37.2  | 11278  | 100   |
| February    |                   |       | 7242      | 67.6  | 4094             | 38.2  | 10719  | 100   |
| March       |                   |       | 7100      | 62.8  | 4003             | 35.4  | 11313  | 100   |
| April       |                   |       | 7213      | 61.6  | 4032             | 34.4  | 11706  | 100   |
| May         |                   |       | 7431      | 60.4  | 4340             | 35.3  | 12294  | 100   |
| June        |                   |       | 7376      | 66.9  | 4297             | 39.0  | 11020  | 100   |
| July        |                   |       | 7474      | 60.8  | 4394             | 35.8  | 12289  | 100   |
| August      |                   |       | 7488      | 62.8  | 4254             | 35.7  | 11915  | 100   |
| September   | 35                | 0.3   | 7518      | 66.3  | 4317             | 38.1  | 11336* | 100   |
| October     | 77                | 0.6   | 7506      | 60.4  | 4336             | 34.9  | 12430* | 100   |
| November    | 124               | 1.0   | 7459      | 62.2  | 4334             | 36.2  | 11984  | 100   |



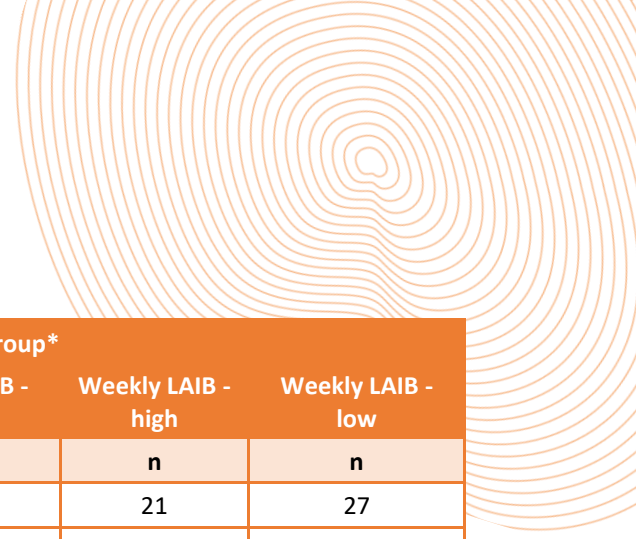
| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine |       | Methadone |       | SL Buprenorphine |       | Total |       |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | n                 | Row % | n         | Row % | n                | Row % | N     | Row % |
| December    | 191               | 1.5   | 7767      | 60.4  | 4465             | 34.7  | 12852 | 100   |
| <b>2020</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     | 227               | 2.0   | 7607      | 65.6  | 4310             | 37.2  | 11598 | 100   |
| February    | 261               | 2.3   | 7436      | 65.2  | 4257             | 37.3  | 11413 | 100   |
| March       | 390               | 2.6   | 7895      | 52.5  | 4395             | 29.2  | 15028 | 100   |
| April       | 501               | 4.6   | 7634      | 69.8  | 4323             | 39.5  | 10931 | 100   |
| May         | 596               | 4.9   | 7765      | 64.4  | 4309             | 35.8  | 12053 | 100   |
| June        | 734               | 5.6   | 7253      | 55.3  | 4046             | 30.9  | 13113 | 100   |
| July        | 919               | 6.8   | 7757      | 57.4  | 4220             | 31.2  | 13523 | 100   |
| August      | 1119              | 8.4   | 7990      | 59.9  | 4217             | 31.6  | 13343 | 100   |
| September   | 1240              | 9.1   | 8056      | 59.0  | 4214             | 30.8  | 13661 | 100   |
| October     | 1392              | 9.8   | 8199      | 57.4  | 4169             | 29.2  | 14274 | 100   |
| November    | 1519              | 11.3  | 8171      | 61.0  | 4087             | 30.5  | 13396 | 100   |
| December    | 1652              | 11.0  | 8377      | 55.7  | 4204             | 28.0  | 15029 | 100   |
| <b>2021</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     | 1597              | 13.1  | 7916      | 65.0  | 4022             | 33.0  | 12179 | 100   |
| February    | 1605              | 12.8  | 7735      | 61.9  | 3898             | 31.2  | 12505 | 100   |
| March       | 1687              | 11.5  | 7642      | 52.2  | 3779             | 25.8  | 14639 | 100   |
| April       | 1727              | 13.6  | 7764      | 61.0  | 3801             | 29.9  | 12729 | 100   |
| May         | 1844              | 13.9  | 7837      | 59.0  | 3867             | 29.1  | 13275 | 100   |
| June        | 1853              | 13.9  | 7516      | 56.4  | 3743             | 28.1  | 13331 | 100   |
| July        | 2061              | 14.8  | 7588      | 54.5  | 3862             | 27.7  | 13925 | 100   |
| August      | 2249              | 15.9  | 7656      | 54.0  | 3902             | 27.5  | 14167 | 100   |
| September   | 2302              | 17.1  | 7630      | 56.7  | 3918             | 29.1  | 13456 | 100   |
| October     | 2337              | 17.3  | 7557      | 56.0  | 3815             | 28.2  | 13505 | 100   |
| November    | 2398              | 16.8  | 7615      | 53.2  | 3746             | 26.2  | 14314 | 100   |
| December    | 2653              | 17.4  | 7843      | 51.3  | 3872             | 25.3  | 15284 | 100   |
| <b>2022</b> |                   |       |           |       |                  |       |       |       |
| January     | 2902              | 21.7  | 7677      | 57.5  | 3738             | 28.0  | 13352 | 100   |
| February    | 2933              | 23.4  | 7186      | 57.3  | 3604             | 28.8  | 12534 | 100   |
| March       | 3145              | 21.4  | 6939      | 47.2  | 3443             | 23.4  | 14696 | 100   |
| April       | 2988              | 22.5  | 6991      | 52.7  | 3522             | 26.5  | 13273 | 100   |
| May         | 3255              | 23.2  | 7134      | 50.9  | 3606             | 25.7  | 14015 | 100   |
| June        | 3089              | 22.2  | 7080      | 50.9  | 3565             | 25.6  | 13911 | 100   |

| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine |       | Methadone |       | SL Buprenorphine |       | Total |       |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | n                 | Row % | n         | Row % | n                | Row % | N     | Row % |
| July        | 3261              | 24.2  | 7000      | 51.9  | 3545             | 26.3  | 13491 | 100   |
| August      | 3242              | 22.6  | 7083      | 49.4  | 3587             | 25.0  | 14336 | 100   |
| September   | 3358              | 23.4  | 7127      | 49.7  | 3573             | 24.9  | 14346 | 100   |
| October     | 3455              | 25.4  | 7126      | 52.4  | 3510             | 25.8  | 13592 | 100   |
| November    | 3568              | 25.2  | 7002      | 49.5  | 3462             | 24.5  | 14157 | 100   |
| December    | 3601              | 24.4  | 7051      | 47.8  | 3517             | 23.8  | 14758 | 100   |

LAI: Long acting injectable, SL: Sublingual \* Due to the calculation of 3 month moving averages the sum of the number of clients on individual OAT medicines does not tally up to the total number of clients on OAT for the first two months since launch of LAI buprenorphine (i.e., September and October 2019)

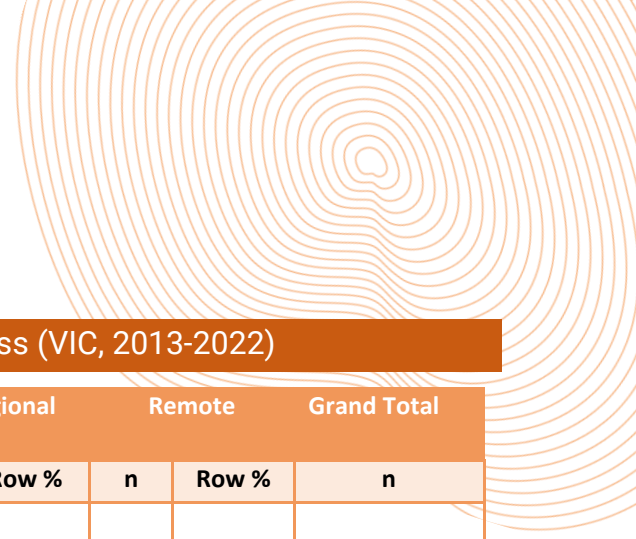
**Table A2. Estimated number of LAI buprenorphine clients per month (VIC, 2019-2022)**

| Time period | LAI Buprenorphine group* |                       |                    |                    |                   |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|             | Monthly LAIB - high      | Monthly LAIB - medium | Monthly LAIB - low | Weekly LAIB - high | Weekly LAIB - low |
|             | n                        | n                     | n                  | n                  | n                 |
| <b>2019</b> |                          |                       |                    |                    |                   |
| September   |                          | 20                    | 9                  | <5                 | <5                |
| October     |                          | 54                    | 16                 | <5                 | <5                |
| November    |                          | 84                    | 31                 | <5                 | <5                |
| December    |                          | 130                   | 45                 | 8                  | 7                 |
| <b>2020</b> |                          |                       |                    |                    |                   |
| January     |                          | 163                   | 49                 | 9                  | 7                 |
| February    | 13                       | 190                   | 48                 | 11                 | 9                 |
| March       | 58                       | 241                   | 80                 | 14                 | 16                |
| April       | 94                       | 269                   | 101                | 19                 | 17                |
| May         | 158                      | 264                   | 137                | 18                 | 19                |
| June        | 236                      | 296                   | 170                | 17                 | 15                |
| July        | 290                      | 353                   | 239                | 19                 | 19                |
| August      | 344                      | 428                   | 304                | 23                 | 21                |
| September   | 374                      | 459                   | 350                | 30                 | 26                |
| October     | 401                      | 514                   | 414                | 31                 | 31                |
| November    | 418                      | 577                   | 463                | 29                 | 32                |
| December    | 446                      | 645                   | 505                | 27                 | 30                |
| <b>2021</b> |                          |                       |                    |                    |                   |
| January     | 431                      | 611                   | 509                | 20                 | 26                |



| LAI Buprenorphine group* |                     |                       |                    |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Time period              | Monthly LAIB - high | Monthly LAIB - medium | Monthly LAIB - low | Weekly LAIB - high | Weekly LAIB - low |
|                          | n                   | n                     | n                  | n                  | n                 |
| February                 | 430                 | 597                   | 530                | 21                 | 27                |
| March                    | 456                 | 613                   | 566                | 19                 | 34                |
| April                    | 483                 | 638                   | 553                | 20                 | 33                |
| May                      | 540                 | 670                   | 576                | 24                 | 35                |
| June                     | 543                 | 674                   | 587                | 21                 | 28                |
| July                     | 620                 | 723                   | 657                | 28                 | 33                |
| August                   | 662                 | 808                   | 718                | 29                 | 32                |
| September                | 698                 | 810                   | 732                | 30                 | 32                |
| October                  | 695                 | 834                   | 748                | 29                 | 31                |
| November                 | 600                 | 848                   | 889                | 29                 | 32                |
| December                 | 400                 | 1000                  | 1173               | 41                 | 39                |
| <b>2022</b>              |                     |                       |                    |                    |                   |
| January                  | 225                 | 1170                  | 1409               | 53                 | 46                |
| February                 | 144                 | 1223                  | 1461               | 57                 | 49                |
| March                    | 352                 | 1274                  | 1413               | 57                 | 49                |
| April                    | 501                 | 1170                  | 1217               | 51                 | 48                |
| May                      | 789                 | 1226                  | 1135               | 53                 | 52                |
| June                     | 626                 | 1154                  | 1205               | 49                 | 54                |
| July                     | 467                 | 1186                  | 1509               | 45                 | 54                |
| August                   | 185                 | 1188                  | 1755               | 53                 | 62                |
| September                | 174                 | 1205                  | 1860               | 57                 | 62                |
| October                  | 215                 | 1213                  | 1902               | 63                 | 62                |
| November                 | 259                 | 1204                  | 1980               | 65                 | 59                |
| December                 | 285                 | 1233                  | 1954               | 69                 | 61                |

\* LAIB groups are defined in Table 1

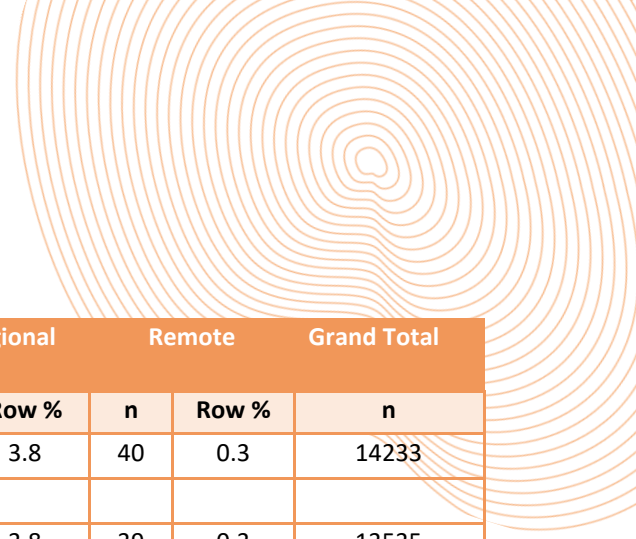


**Table A3. Estimated OAT clients per month by remoteness (VIC, 2013-2022)**

| Time period | Major Cities |       | Inner Regional |       | Outer Regional |       | Remote |       | Grand Total |
|-------------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|
|             | n            | Row % | n              | Row % | n              | Row % | n      | Row % | n           |
| <b>2013</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 7379         | 80.0  | 1511           | 16.4  | 313            | 3.4   | 23     | 0.3   | 9227        |
| February    | 7193         | 80.7  | 1417           | 15.9  | 281            | 3.1   | 26     | 0.3   | 8917        |
| March       | 7299         | 80.8  | 1422           | 15.8  | 286            | 3.2   | 21     | 0.2   | 9028        |
| April       | 7374         | 81.2  | 1403           | 15.4  | 282            | 3.1   | 21     | 0.2   | 9080        |
| May         | 7718         | 81.2  | 1469           | 15.5  | 299            | 3.1   | 20     | 0.2   | 9506        |
| June        | 7565         | 80.9  | 1468           | 15.7  | 293            | 3.1   | 25     | 0.3   | 9351        |
| July        | 7717         | 80.5  | 1541           | 16.1  | 299            | 3.1   | 25     | 0.3   | 9581        |
| August      | 7868         | 80.8  | 1541           | 15.8  | 308            | 3.2   | 25     | 0.3   | 9743        |
| September   | 8191         | 80.9  | 1577           | 15.6  | 328            | 3.2   | 24     | 0.2   | 10120       |
| October     | 8405         | 80.8  | 1611           | 15.5  | 365            | 3.5   | 27     | 0.3   | 10407       |
| November    | 8355         | 80.5  | 1646           | 15.9  | 357            | 3.4   | 25     | 0.2   | 10382       |
| December    | 8704         | 80.3  | 1719           | 15.9  | 392            | 3.6   | 28     | 0.3   | 10842       |
| <b>2014</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 8576         | 80.8  | 1655           | 15.6  | 360            | 3.4   | 27     | 0.3   | 10619       |
| February    | 8365         | 80.4  | 1636           | 15.7  | 377            | 3.6   | 27     | 0.3   | 10405       |
| March       | 8217         | 80.8  | 1568           | 15.4  | 362            | 3.6   | 27     | 0.3   | 10174       |
| April       | 8382         | 80.7  | 1601           | 15.4  | 375            | 3.6   | 27     | 0.3   | 10384       |
| May         | 8695         | 80.9  | 1642           | 15.3  | 385            | 3.6   | 30     | 0.3   | 10752       |
| June        | 8604         | 80.7  | 1643           | 15.4  | 387            | 3.6   | 30     | 0.3   | 10664       |
| July        | 8702         | 80.5  | 1673           | 15.5  | 410            | 3.8   | 31     | 0.3   | 10816       |
| August      | 8707         | 80.8  | 1635           | 15.2  | 400            | 3.7   | 31     | 0.3   | 10774       |
| September   | 8783         | 80.4  | 1709           | 15.6  | 406            | 3.7   | 32     | 0.3   | 10930       |
| October     | 8861         | 80.5  | 1715           | 15.6  | 401            | 3.6   | 29     | 0.3   | 11005       |
| November    | 8601         | 80.0  | 1706           | 15.9  | 410            | 3.8   | 28     | 0.3   | 10745       |
| December    | 9015         | 80.3  | 1756           | 15.7  | 419            | 3.7   | 31     | 0.3   | 11221       |
| <b>2015</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 8599         | 80.2  | 1685           | 15.7  | 408            | 3.8   | 33     | 0.3   | 10725       |
| February    | 8570         | 80.5  | 1650           | 15.5  | 399            | 3.7   | 33     | 0.3   | 10652       |
| March       | 8246         | 80.2  | 1609           | 15.6  | 398            | 3.9   | 30     | 0.3   | 10283       |
| April       | 8375         | 80.4  | 1617           | 15.5  | 398            | 3.8   | 28     | 0.3   | 10417       |
| May         | 8614         | 80.1  | 1699           | 15.8  | 408            | 3.8   | 28     | 0.3   | 10749       |
| June        | 8469         | 80.2  | 1689           | 16.0  | 380            | 3.6   | 27     | 0.3   | 10565       |

| Time period | Major Cities |       | Inner Regional |       | Outer Regional |       | Remote |       | Grand Total |
|-------------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|
|             | n            | Row % | n              | Row % | n              | Row % | n      | Row % | n           |
| July        | 8606         | 79.9  | 1748           | 16.2  | 385            | 3.6   | 28     | 0.3   | 10767       |
| August      | 8620         | 80.0  | 1743           | 16.2  | 384            | 3.6   | 31     | 0.3   | 10777       |
| September   | 8648         | 80.0  | 1721           | 15.9  | 408            | 3.8   | 31     | 0.3   | 10807       |
| October     | 8625         | 80.1  | 1712           | 15.9  | 397            | 3.7   | 30     | 0.3   | 10764       |
| November    | 8465         | 79.8  | 1724           | 16.2  | 395            | 3.7   | 27     | 0.3   | 10610       |
| December    | 8758         | 80.1  | 1740           | 15.9  | 405            | 3.7   | 30     | 0.3   | 10933       |
| <b>2016</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 8339         | 79.7  | 1692           | 16.2  | 398            | 3.8   | 33     | 0.3   | 10461       |
| February    | 8462         | 80.1  | 1670           | 15.8  | 403            | 3.8   | 32     | 0.3   | 10567       |
| March       | 8237         | 79.8  | 1658           | 16.1  | 399            | 3.9   | 34     | 0.3   | 10328       |
| April       | 8445         | 80.3  | 1657           | 15.8  | 382            | 3.6   | 30     | 0.3   | 10514       |
| May         | 8482         | 80.3  | 1664           | 15.8  | 389            | 3.7   | 32     | 0.3   | 10567       |
| June        | 8383         | 80.3  | 1649           | 15.8  | 373            | 3.6   | 29     | 0.3   | 10434       |
| July        | 8463         | 80.0  | 1677           | 15.9  | 403            | 3.8   | 34     | 0.3   | 10577       |
| August      | 8563         | 80.0  | 1700           | 15.9  | 412            | 3.8   | 35     | 0.3   | 10709       |
| September   | 8517         | 79.9  | 1704           | 16.0  | 405            | 3.8   | 35     | 0.3   | 10660       |
| October     | 8527         | 80.0  | 1713           | 16.1  | 391            | 3.7   | 33     | 0.3   | 10665       |
| November    | 8347         | 79.8  | 1695           | 16.2  | 379            | 3.6   | 36     | 0.3   | 10457       |
| December    | 8730         | 80.1  | 1756           | 16.1  | 379            | 3.5   | 38     | 0.4   | 10904       |
| <b>2017</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 8598         | 80.0  | 1735           | 16.1  | 376            | 3.5   | 37     | 0.3   | 10746       |
| February    | 8417         | 79.9  | 1726           | 16.4  | 362            | 3.4   | 36     | 0.3   | 10541       |
| March       | 8261         | 79.9  | 1694           | 16.4  | 355            | 3.4   | 33     | 0.3   | 10342       |
| April       | 8248         | 79.5  | 1727           | 16.6  | 366            | 3.5   | 35     | 0.3   | 10376       |
| May         | 8585         | 79.4  | 1805           | 16.7  | 394            | 3.6   | 34     | 0.3   | 10817       |
| June        | 8564         | 79.0  | 1832           | 16.9  | 403            | 3.7   | 35     | 0.3   | 10833       |
| July        | 8809         | 79.4  | 1843           | 16.6  | 403            | 3.6   | 34     | 0.3   | 11089       |
| August      | 8880         | 79.6  | 1841           | 16.5  | 395            | 3.5   | 36     | 0.3   | 11152       |
| September   | 8799         | 79.5  | 1840           | 16.6  | 390            | 3.5   | 36     | 0.3   | 11065       |
| October     | 8863         | 79.2  | 1879           | 16.8  | 409            | 3.7   | 38     | 0.3   | 11189       |
| November    | 8904         | 79.1  | 1905           | 16.9  | 406            | 3.6   | 39     | 0.3   | 11254       |
| December    | 9037         | 78.9  | 1957           | 17.1  | 420            | 3.7   | 34     | 0.3   | 11447       |
| <b>2018</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 8994         | 79.0  | 1963           | 17.2  | 400            | 3.5   | 33     | 0.3   | 11390       |
| February    | 8670         | 78.9  | 1894           | 17.2  | 393            | 3.6   | 31     | 0.3   | 10988       |

| Time period | Major Cities |       | Inner Regional |       | Outer Regional |       | Remote |       | Grand Total |
|-------------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|
|             | n            | Row % | n              | Row % | n              | Row % | n      | Row % | n           |
| March       | 8856         | 79.2  | 1890           | 16.9  | 399            | 3.6   | 35     | 0.3   | 11180       |
| April       | 8694         | 79.1  | 1865           | 17.0  | 401            | 3.6   | 34     | 0.3   | 10995       |
| May         | 9105         | 79.2  | 1958           | 17.0  | 401            | 3.5   | 34     | 0.3   | 11498       |
| June        | 8879         | 78.9  | 1946           | 17.3  | 397            | 3.5   | 34     | 0.3   | 11255       |
| July        | 9127         | 78.7  | 2020           | 17.4  | 417            | 3.6   | 37     | 0.3   | 11601       |
| August      | 9146         | 78.5  | 2028           | 17.4  | 439            | 3.8   | 39     | 0.3   | 11652       |
| September   | 8914         | 78.5  | 1970           | 17.4  | 432            | 3.8   | 39     | 0.3   | 11355       |
| October     | 9065         | 78.7  | 1990           | 17.3  | 419            | 3.6   | 37     | 0.3   | 11512       |
| November    | 8935         | 78.5  | 1998           | 17.6  | 414            | 3.6   | 35     | 0.3   | 11381       |
| December    | 9351         | 78.6  | 2087           | 17.5  | 428            | 3.6   | 37     | 0.3   | 11903       |
| <b>2019</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 9111         | 78.4  | 2043           | 17.6  | 434            | 3.7   | 39     | 0.3   | 11627       |
| February    | 8913         | 78.6  | 1964           | 17.3  | 421            | 3.7   | 39     | 0.3   | 11336       |
| March       | 8710         | 78.4  | 1948           | 17.5  | 412            | 3.7   | 34     | 0.3   | 11103       |
| April       | 8812         | 78.4  | 1971           | 17.5  | 427            | 3.8   | 35     | 0.3   | 11246       |
| May         | 9196         | 78.1  | 2104           | 17.9  | 436            | 3.7   | 35     | 0.3   | 11771       |
| June        | 9132         | 78.2  | 2071           | 17.7  | 437            | 3.7   | 34     | 0.3   | 11673       |
| July        | 9266         | 78.1  | 2130           | 18.0  | 439            | 3.7   | 32     | 0.3   | 11868       |
| August      | 9163         | 78.0  | 2090           | 17.8  | 452            | 3.9   | 36     | 0.3   | 11742       |
| September   | 9262         | 78.2  | 2104           | 17.8  | 445            | 3.8   | 37     | 0.3   | 11847       |
| October     | 9317         | 78.3  | 2107           | 17.7  | 433            | 3.6   | 37     | 0.3   | 11894       |
| November    | 9373         | 78.7  | 2082           | 17.5  | 424            | 3.6   | 38     | 0.3   | 11917       |
| December    | 9740         | 78.4  | 2191           | 17.6  | 450            | 3.6   | 41     | 0.3   | 12422       |
| <b>2020</b> |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January     | 9474         | 78.0  | 2173           | 17.9  | 460            | 3.8   | 38     | 0.3   | 12145       |
| February    | 9326         | 78.0  | 2139           | 17.9  | 453            | 3.8   | 37     | 0.3   | 11954       |
| March       | 9988         | 78.8  | 2187           | 17.2  | 468            | 3.7   | 36     | 0.3   | 12679       |
| April       | 9826         | 78.9  | 2152           | 17.3  | 442            | 3.5   | 37     | 0.3   | 12457       |
| May         | 9927         | 78.3  | 2234           | 17.6  | 472            | 3.7   | 37     | 0.3   | 12671       |
| June        | 9314         | 77.4  | 2210           | 18.4  | 475            | 3.9   | 33     | 0.3   | 12032       |
| July        | 10091        | 78.2  | 2279           | 17.7  | 491            | 3.8   | 36     | 0.3   | 12896       |
| August      | 10465        | 78.5  | 2334           | 17.5  | 490            | 3.7   | 37     | 0.3   | 13326       |
| September   | 10647        | 78.8  | 2340           | 17.3  | 481            | 3.6   | 41     | 0.3   | 13509       |
| October     | 10817        | 78.6  | 2401           | 17.4  | 504            | 3.7   | 38     | 0.3   | 13759       |
| November    | 10824        | 78.6  | 2402           | 17.4  | 512            | 3.7   | 39     | 0.3   | 13777       |



| Time period     | Major Cities |       | Inner Regional |       | Outer Regional |       | Remote |       | Grand Total |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|
|                 | n            | Row % | n              | Row % | n              | Row % | n      | Row % | n           |
| <b>December</b> | 11198        | 78.7  | 2460           | 17.3  | 536            | 3.8   | 40     | 0.3   | 14233       |
| <b>2021</b>     |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January         | 10600        | 78.3  | 2376           | 17.6  | 520            | 3.8   | 39     | 0.3   | 13535       |
| February        | 10376        | 78.4  | 2330           | 17.6  | 495            | 3.7   | 36     | 0.3   | 13238       |
| March           | 10199        | 77.8  | 2373           | 18.1  | 499            | 3.8   | 36     | 0.3   | 13108       |
| April           | 10375        | 78.1  | 2381           | 17.9  | 496            | 3.7   | 38     | 0.3   | 13291       |
| May             | 10550        | 77.9  | 2442           | 18.0  | 515            | 3.8   | 40     | 0.3   | 13548       |
| June            | 10229        | 78.0  | 2363           | 18.0  | 485            | 3.7   | 36     | 0.3   | 13112       |
| July            | 10521        | 77.9  | 2463           | 18.2  | 491            | 3.6   | 36     | 0.3   | 13510       |
| August          | 10802        | 78.2  | 2487           | 18.0  | 486            | 3.5   | 33     | 0.2   | 13808       |
| September       | 10823        | 78.1  | 2505           | 18.1  | 486            | 3.5   | 35     | 0.3   | 13849       |
| October         | 10746        | 78.4  | 2454           | 17.9  | 476            | 3.5   | 34     | 0.2   | 13709       |
| November        | 10778        | 78.3  | 2472           | 18.0  | 476            | 3.5   | 32     | 0.2   | 13758       |
| December        | 11282        | 78.5  | 2567           | 17.9  | 487            | 3.4   | 32     | 0.2   | 14368       |
| <b>2022</b>     |              |       |                |       |                |       |        |       |             |
| January         | 11225        | 78.4  | 2559           | 17.9  | 500            | 3.5   | 33     | 0.2   | 14317       |
| February        | 10692        | 77.9  | 2507           | 18.3  | 493            | 3.6   | 32     | 0.2   | 13724       |
| March           | 10544        | 77.9  | 2478           | 18.3  | 472            | 3.5   | 33     | 0.2   | 13527       |
| April           | 10525        | 78.0  | 2482           | 18.4  | 465            | 3.4   | 30     | 0.2   | 13501       |
| May             | 10947        | 78.2  | 2550           | 18.2  | 464            | 3.3   | 33     | 0.2   | 13995       |
| June            | 10697        | 77.9  | 2531           | 18.4  | 474            | 3.5   | 31     | 0.2   | 13733       |
| July            | 10754        | 77.9  | 2562           | 18.6  | 461            | 3.3   | 29     | 0.2   | 13806       |
| August          | 10874        | 78.2  | 2535           | 18.2  | 474            | 3.4   | 30     | 0.2   | 13913       |
| September       | 11035        | 78.5  | 2528           | 18.0  | 466            | 3.3   | 28     | 0.2   | 14058       |
| October         | 11052        | 78.4  | 2529           | 17.9  | 479            | 3.4   | 31     | 0.2   | 14091       |
| November        | 10977        | 78.2  | 2547           | 18.2  | 477            | 3.4   | 30     | 0.2   | 14031       |
| December        | 11061        | 78.1  | 2586           | 18.2  | 489            | 3.5   | 33     | 0.2   | 14169       |

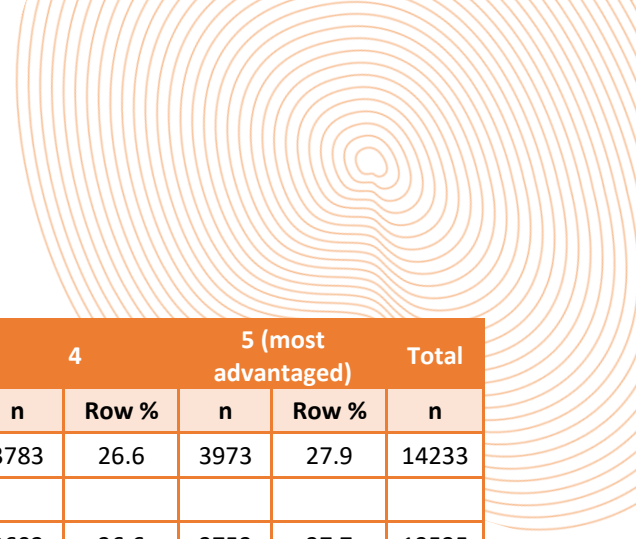
Table A4. Estimated OAT clients per month by IRSAD quintile (VIC, 2013-2022)

| Time period | 1 (most disadvantaged) |       | 2   |       | 3    |       | 4    |       | 5 (most advantaged) |       | Total<br>n |
|-------------|------------------------|-------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|------------|
|             | n                      | Row % | n   | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n                   | Row % |            |
| <b>2013</b> |                        |       |     |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |            |
| January     | 1746                   | 18.9  | 846 | 9.2   | 1536 | 16.6  | 2291 | 24.8  | 2808                | 30.4  | 9227       |
| February    | 1709                   | 19.2  | 764 | 8.6   | 1482 | 16.6  | 2188 | 24.5  | 2774                | 31.1  | 8917       |
| March       | 1738                   | 19.2  | 769 | 8.5   | 1499 | 16.6  | 2205 | 24.4  | 2818                | 31.2  | 9028       |
| April       | 1784                   | 19.6  | 749 | 8.2   | 1481 | 16.3  | 2204 | 24.3  | 2863                | 31.5  | 9080       |
| May         | 1838                   | 19.3  | 792 | 8.3   | 1555 | 16.4  | 2330 | 24.5  | 2992                | 31.5  | 9506       |
| June        | 1825                   | 19.5  | 776 | 8.3   | 1525 | 16.3  | 2309 | 24.7  | 2916                | 31.2  | 9351       |
| July        | 1858                   | 19.4  | 819 | 8.5   | 1576 | 16.4  | 2343 | 24.5  | 2986                | 31.2  | 9581       |
| August      | 1907                   | 19.6  | 834 | 8.6   | 1605 | 16.5  | 2383 | 24.5  | 3013                | 30.9  | 9743       |
| September   | 1989                   | 19.7  | 850 | 8.4   | 1677 | 16.6  | 2427 | 24.0  | 3176                | 31.4  | 10120      |
| October     | 2028                   | 19.5  | 864 | 8.3   | 1760 | 16.9  | 2539 | 24.4  | 3216                | 30.9  | 10407      |
| November    | 2043                   | 19.7  | 863 | 8.3   | 1747 | 16.8  | 2514 | 24.2  | 3215                | 31.0  | 10382      |
| December    | 2073                   | 19.1  | 914 | 8.4   | 1838 | 17.0  | 2737 | 25.2  | 3280                | 30.3  | 10842      |
| <b>2014</b> |                        |       |     |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |            |
| January     | 2030                   | 19.1  | 877 | 8.3   | 1768 | 16.7  | 2673 | 25.2  | 3272                | 30.8  | 10619      |
| February    | 1978                   | 19.0  | 871 | 8.4   | 1769 | 17.0  | 2625 | 25.2  | 3161                | 30.4  | 10405      |
| March       | 1988                   | 19.5  | 847 | 8.3   | 1713 | 16.8  | 2501 | 24.6  | 3125                | 30.7  | 10174      |
| April       | 2034                   | 19.6  | 865 | 8.3   | 1781 | 17.2  | 2568 | 24.7  | 3136                | 30.2  | 10384      |
| May         | 2118                   | 19.7  | 908 | 8.4   | 1807 | 16.8  | 2646 | 24.6  | 3273                | 30.4  | 10752      |
| June        | 2068                   | 19.4  | 908 | 8.5   | 1793 | 16.8  | 2649 | 24.8  | 3245                | 30.4  | 10664      |
| July        | 2129                   | 19.7  | 944 | 8.7   | 1802 | 16.7  | 2683 | 24.8  | 3259                | 30.1  | 10816      |
| August      | 2116                   | 19.6  | 903 | 8.4   | 1824 | 16.9  | 2697 | 25.0  | 3234                | 30.0  | 10774      |
| September   | 2145                   | 19.6  | 934 | 8.5   | 1864 | 17.1  | 2718 | 24.9  | 3269                | 29.9  | 10930      |
| October     | 2128                   | 19.3  | 939 | 8.5   | 1885 | 17.1  | 2732 | 24.8  | 3321                | 30.2  | 11005      |
| November    | 2078                   | 19.3  | 930 | 8.7   | 1820 | 16.9  | 2669 | 24.8  | 3247                | 30.2  | 10745      |
| December    | 2197                   | 19.6  | 969 | 8.6   | 1895 | 16.9  | 2787 | 24.8  | 3373                | 30.1  | 11221      |
| <b>2015</b> |                        |       |     |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |            |
| January     | 2100                   | 19.6  | 913 | 8.5   | 1829 | 17.1  | 2665 | 24.8  | 3218                | 30.0  | 10725      |
| February    | 2101                   | 19.7  | 901 | 8.5   | 1820 | 17.1  | 2639 | 24.8  | 3191                | 30.0  | 10652      |
| March       | 1993                   | 19.4  | 879 | 8.5   | 1784 | 17.3  | 2514 | 24.4  | 3113                | 30.3  | 10283      |
| April       | 2029                   | 19.5  | 882 | 8.5   | 1802 | 17.3  | 2563 | 24.6  | 3140                | 30.1  | 10417      |
| May         | 2066                   | 19.2  | 936 | 8.7   | 1880 | 17.5  | 2618 | 24.4  | 3249                | 30.2  | 10749      |
| June        | 2056                   | 19.5  | 907 | 8.6   | 1873 | 17.7  | 2589 | 24.5  | 3139                | 29.7  | 10565      |



| Time period | 1 (most disadvantaged) |       | 2    |       | 3    |       | 4    |       | 5 (most advantaged) |       | Total |
|-------------|------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
|             | n                      | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n                   | Row % |       |
| July        | 2081                   | 19.3  | 951  | 8.8   | 1890 | 17.6  | 2596 | 24.1  | 3249                | 30.2  | 10767 |
| August      | 2101                   | 19.5  | 957  | 8.9   | 1897 | 17.6  | 2598 | 24.1  | 3224                | 29.9  | 10777 |
| September   | 2092                   | 19.4  | 967  | 8.9   | 1912 | 17.7  | 2579 | 23.9  | 3259                | 30.2  | 10807 |
| October     | 2105                   | 19.6  | 960  | 8.9   | 1926 | 17.9  | 2566 | 23.8  | 3207                | 29.8  | 10764 |
| November    | 2080                   | 19.6  | 941  | 8.9   | 1908 | 18.0  | 2542 | 24.0  | 3139                | 29.6  | 10610 |
| December    | 2211                   | 20.2  | 958  | 8.8   | 1905 | 17.4  | 2647 | 24.2  | 3212                | 29.4  | 10933 |
| <b>2016</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2078                   | 19.9  | 926  | 8.9   | 1850 | 17.7  | 2522 | 24.1  | 3085                | 29.5  | 10461 |
| February    | 2083                   | 19.7  | 924  | 8.7   | 1856 | 17.6  | 2549 | 24.1  | 3155                | 29.9  | 10567 |
| March       | 2040                   | 19.7  | 921  | 8.9   | 1831 | 17.7  | 2453 | 23.8  | 3083                | 29.9  | 10328 |
| April       | 2057                   | 19.6  | 914  | 8.7   | 1833 | 17.4  | 2552 | 24.3  | 3159                | 30.0  | 10514 |
| May         | 2070                   | 19.6  | 921  | 8.7   | 1839 | 17.4  | 2571 | 24.3  | 3165                | 30.0  | 10567 |
| June        | 1981                   | 19.0  | 904  | 8.7   | 1832 | 17.6  | 2579 | 24.7  | 3137                | 30.1  | 10434 |
| July        | 2067                   | 19.5  | 941  | 8.9   | 1865 | 17.6  | 2572 | 24.3  | 3132                | 29.6  | 10577 |
| August      | 2080                   | 19.4  | 950  | 8.9   | 1913 | 17.9  | 2568 | 24.0  | 3199                | 29.9  | 10709 |
| September   | 2089                   | 19.6  | 946  | 8.9   | 1902 | 17.8  | 2550 | 23.9  | 3172                | 29.8  | 10660 |
| October     | 2052                   | 19.2  | 943  | 8.8   | 1901 | 17.8  | 2559 | 24.0  | 3210                | 30.1  | 10665 |
| November    | 2029                   | 19.4  | 948  | 9.1   | 1850 | 17.7  | 2522 | 24.1  | 3109                | 29.7  | 10457 |
| December    | 2111                   | 19.4  | 971  | 8.9   | 1913 | 17.5  | 2622 | 24.0  | 3287                | 30.1  | 10904 |
| <b>2017</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2093                   | 19.5  | 961  | 8.9   | 1882 | 17.5  | 2593 | 24.1  | 3217                | 29.9  | 10746 |
| February    | 2010                   | 19.1  | 940  | 8.9   | 1850 | 17.5  | 2567 | 24.3  | 3175                | 30.1  | 10541 |
| March       | 1947                   | 18.8  | 924  | 8.9   | 1814 | 17.5  | 2529 | 24.5  | 3128                | 30.2  | 10342 |
| April       | 1964                   | 18.9  | 934  | 9.0   | 1815 | 17.5  | 2511 | 24.2  | 3151                | 30.4  | 10376 |
| May         | 2066                   | 19.1  | 976  | 9.0   | 1900 | 17.6  | 2604 | 24.1  | 3272                | 30.2  | 10817 |
| June        | 2064                   | 19.1  | 983  | 9.1   | 1931 | 17.8  | 2606 | 24.1  | 3250                | 30.0  | 10833 |
| July        | 2111                   | 19.0  | 979  | 8.8   | 1996 | 18.0  | 2674 | 24.1  | 3330                | 30.0  | 11089 |
| August      | 2147                   | 19.3  | 977  | 8.8   | 2000 | 17.9  | 2700 | 24.2  | 3328                | 29.8  | 11152 |
| September   | 2120                   | 19.2  | 976  | 8.8   | 1980 | 17.9  | 2689 | 24.3  | 3300                | 29.8  | 11065 |
| October     | 2169                   | 19.4  | 997  | 8.9   | 2025 | 18.1  | 2713 | 24.3  | 3285                | 29.4  | 11189 |
| November    | 2149                   | 19.1  | 1003 | 8.9   | 2040 | 18.1  | 2753 | 24.5  | 3309                | 29.4  | 11254 |
| December    | 2189                   | 19.1  | 1031 | 9.0   | 2104 | 18.4  | 2798 | 24.4  | 3325                | 29.0  | 11447 |
| <b>2018</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2128                   | 18.7  | 1037 | 9.1   | 2104 | 18.5  | 2791 | 24.5  | 3329                | 29.2  | 11390 |
| February    | 2056                   | 18.7  | 995  | 9.1   | 2043 | 18.6  | 2680 | 24.4  | 3214                | 29.2  | 10988 |

| Time period | 1 (most disadvantaged) |       | 2    |       | 3    |       | 4    |       | 5 (most advantaged) |       | Total |
|-------------|------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
|             | n                      | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n                   | Row % |       |
| March       | 2098                   | 18.8  | 1007 | 9.0   | 2093 | 18.7  | 2713 | 24.3  | 3269                | 29.2  | 11180 |
| April       | 2065                   | 18.8  | 995  | 9.1   | 2028 | 18.4  | 2708 | 24.6  | 3198                | 29.1  | 10995 |
| May         | 2134                   | 18.6  | 1050 | 9.1   | 2137 | 18.6  | 2843 | 24.7  | 3333                | 29.0  | 11498 |
| June        | 2076                   | 18.4  | 1035 | 9.2   | 2063 | 18.3  | 2827 | 25.1  | 3254                | 28.9  | 11255 |
| July        | 2145                   | 18.5  | 1074 | 9.3   | 2152 | 18.6  | 2872 | 24.8  | 3357                | 28.9  | 11601 |
| August      | 2169                   | 18.6  | 1084 | 9.3   | 2170 | 18.6  | 2874 | 24.7  | 3354                | 28.8  | 11652 |
| September   | 2103                   | 18.5  | 1079 | 9.5   | 2081 | 18.3  | 2789 | 24.6  | 3303                | 29.1  | 11355 |
| October     | 2132                   | 18.5  | 1080 | 9.4   | 2114 | 18.4  | 2838 | 24.7  | 3347                | 29.1  | 11512 |
| November    | 2117                   | 18.6  | 1091 | 9.6   | 2058 | 18.1  | 2782 | 24.4  | 3333                | 29.3  | 11381 |
| December    | 2223                   | 18.7  | 1119 | 9.4   | 2202 | 18.5  | 2886 | 24.2  | 3473                | 29.2  | 11903 |
| <b>2019</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2187                   | 18.8  | 1116 | 9.6   | 2146 | 18.5  | 2798 | 24.1  | 3380                | 29.1  | 11627 |
| February    | 2114                   | 18.7  | 1073 | 9.5   | 2103 | 18.6  | 2736 | 24.1  | 3310                | 29.2  | 11336 |
| March       | 2067                   | 18.6  | 1076 | 9.7   | 2064 | 18.6  | 2659 | 23.9  | 3236                | 29.1  | 11103 |
| April       | 2067                   | 18.4  | 1091 | 9.7   | 2066 | 18.4  | 2719 | 24.2  | 3304                | 29.4  | 11246 |
| May         | 2175                   | 18.5  | 1138 | 9.7   | 2221 | 18.9  | 2824 | 24.0  | 3413                | 29.0  | 11771 |
| June        | 2172                   | 18.6  | 1105 | 9.5   | 2203 | 18.9  | 2837 | 24.3  | 3356                | 28.7  | 11673 |
| July        | 2158                   | 18.2  | 1135 | 9.6   | 2269 | 19.1  | 2914 | 24.6  | 3392                | 28.6  | 11868 |
| August      | 2119                   | 18.0  | 1127 | 9.6   | 2238 | 19.1  | 2898 | 24.7  | 3361                | 28.6  | 11742 |
| September   | 2119                   | 17.9  | 1139 | 9.6   | 2247 | 19.0  | 2931 | 24.7  | 3411                | 28.8  | 11847 |
| October     | 2122                   | 17.8  | 1125 | 9.5   | 2296 | 19.3  | 2910 | 24.5  | 3441                | 28.9  | 11894 |
| November    | 2159                   | 18.1  | 1112 | 9.3   | 2256 | 18.9  | 2960 | 24.8  | 3429                | 28.8  | 11917 |
| December    | 2186                   | 17.6  | 1171 | 9.4   | 2401 | 19.3  | 3087 | 24.8  | 3578                | 28.8  | 12422 |
| <b>2020</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2134                   | 17.6  | 1165 | 9.6   | 2312 | 19.0  | 3042 | 25.1  | 3492                | 28.8  | 12145 |
| February    | 2037                   | 17.0  | 1167 | 9.8   | 2288 | 19.1  | 2986 | 25.0  | 3475                | 29.1  | 11954 |
| March       | 2150                   | 17.0  | 1203 | 9.5   | 2445 | 19.3  | 3158 | 24.9  | 3724                | 29.4  | 12679 |
| April       | 2139                   | 17.2  | 1195 | 9.6   | 2396 | 19.2  | 3123 | 25.1  | 3604                | 28.9  | 12457 |
| May         | 2171                   | 17.1  | 1235 | 9.7   | 2449 | 19.3  | 3159 | 24.9  | 3657                | 28.9  | 12671 |
| June        | 2113                   | 17.6  | 1225 | 10.2  | 2289 | 19.0  | 3022 | 25.1  | 3383                | 28.1  | 12032 |
| July        | 2220                   | 17.2  | 1272 | 9.9   | 2467 | 19.1  | 3254 | 25.2  | 3684                | 28.6  | 12896 |
| August      | 2290                   | 17.2  | 1306 | 9.8   | 2539 | 19.1  | 3385 | 25.4  | 3806                | 28.6  | 13326 |
| September   | 2277                   | 16.9  | 1310 | 9.7   | 2604 | 19.3  | 3448 | 25.5  | 3871                | 28.7  | 13509 |
| October     | 2328                   | 16.9  | 1327 | 9.6   | 2658 | 19.3  | 3538 | 25.7  | 3909                | 28.4  | 13759 |
| November    | 2311                   | 16.8  | 1335 | 9.7   | 2652 | 19.3  | 3642 | 26.4  | 3836                | 27.8  | 13777 |



| Time period | 1 (most disadvantaged) |       | 2    |       | 3    |       | 4    |       | 5 (most advantaged) |       | Total |
|-------------|------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
|             | n                      | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n    | Row % | n                   | Row % |       |
| December    | 2377                   | 16.7  | 1372 | 9.6   | 2727 | 19.2  | 3783 | 26.6  | 3973                | 27.9  | 14233 |
| <b>2021</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2267                   | 16.8  | 1331 | 9.8   | 2582 | 19.1  | 3602 | 26.6  | 3753                | 27.7  | 13535 |
| February    | 2243                   | 16.9  | 1277 | 9.6   | 2552 | 19.3  | 3459 | 26.1  | 3707                | 28.0  | 13238 |
| March       | 2244                   | 17.1  | 1287 | 9.8   | 2536 | 19.3  | 3440 | 26.2  | 3600                | 27.5  | 13108 |
| April       | 2230                   | 16.8  | 1294 | 9.7   | 2569 | 19.3  | 3535 | 26.6  | 3663                | 27.6  | 13291 |
| May         | 2254                   | 16.6  | 1329 | 9.8   | 2619 | 19.3  | 3608 | 26.6  | 3738                | 27.6  | 13548 |
| June        | 2176                   | 16.6  | 1272 | 9.7   | 2514 | 19.2  | 3527 | 26.9  | 3622                | 27.6  | 13112 |
| July        | 2278                   | 16.9  | 1314 | 9.7   | 2611 | 19.3  | 3589 | 26.6  | 3718                | 27.5  | 13510 |
| August      | 2283                   | 16.5  | 1336 | 9.7   | 2650 | 19.2  | 3781 | 27.4  | 3758                | 27.2  | 13808 |
| September   | 2265                   | 16.4  | 1343 | 9.7   | 2657 | 19.2  | 3766 | 27.2  | 3819                | 27.6  | 13849 |
| October     | 2259                   | 16.5  | 1323 | 9.7   | 2589 | 18.9  | 3739 | 27.3  | 3798                | 27.7  | 13709 |
| November    | 2273                   | 16.5  | 1331 | 9.7   | 2612 | 19.0  | 3773 | 27.4  | 3770                | 27.4  | 13758 |
| December    | 2305                   | 16.0  | 1388 | 9.7   | 2774 | 19.3  | 3983 | 27.7  | 3917                | 27.3  | 14368 |
| <b>2022</b> |                        |       |      |       |      |       |      |       |                     |       |       |
| January     | 2241                   | 15.7  | 1392 | 9.7   | 2822 | 19.7  | 3990 | 27.9  | 3871                | 27.0  | 14317 |
| February    | 2174                   | 15.8  | 1368 | 10.0  | 2704 | 19.7  | 3780 | 27.5  | 3698                | 26.9  | 13724 |
| March       | 2153                   | 15.9  | 1341 | 9.9   | 2627 | 19.4  | 3767 | 27.9  | 3639                | 26.9  | 13527 |
| April       | 2156                   | 16.0  | 1338 | 9.9   | 2586 | 19.2  | 3782 | 28.0  | 3639                | 27.0  | 13501 |
| May         | 2187                   | 15.6  | 1370 | 9.8   | 2718 | 19.4  | 3974 | 28.4  | 3745                | 26.8  | 13995 |
| June        | 2156                   | 15.7  | 1347 | 9.8   | 2685 | 19.6  | 3873 | 28.2  | 3671                | 26.7  | 13733 |
| July        | 2136                   | 15.5  | 1348 | 9.8   | 2701 | 19.6  | 3957 | 28.7  | 3663                | 26.5  | 13806 |
| August      | 2143                   | 15.4  | 1350 | 9.7   | 2723 | 19.6  | 3939 | 28.3  | 3758                | 27.0  | 13913 |
| September   | 2170                   | 15.4  | 1369 | 9.7   | 2704 | 19.2  | 4008 | 28.5  | 3807                | 27.1  | 14058 |
| October     | 2199                   | 15.6  | 1389 | 9.9   | 2731 | 19.4  | 3951 | 28.0  | 3821                | 27.1  | 14091 |
| November    | 2167                   | 15.4  | 1396 | 10.0  | 2685 | 19.1  | 3962 | 28.2  | 3821                | 27.2  | 14031 |
| December    | 2208                   | 15.6  | 1421 | 10.0  | 2697 | 19.0  | 4018 | 28.4  | 3826                | 27.0  | 14169 |

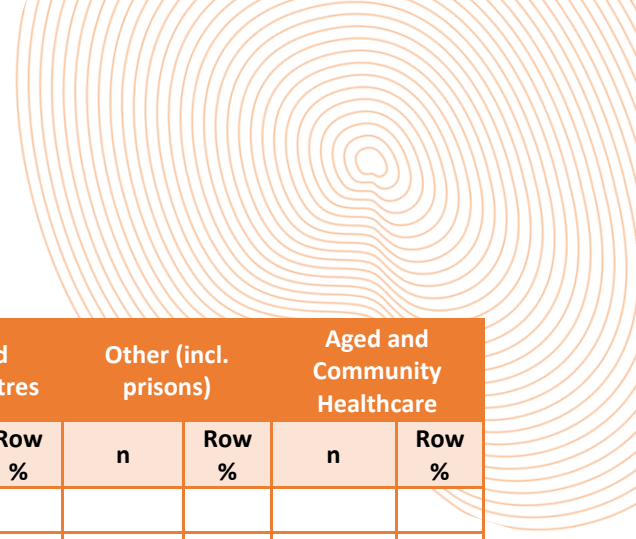
IRSAD: Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage

\*Australia Bureau of Statistics. Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2016. ABS: Canberra; 2018.

Table A5. Estimated OAT clients per month by setting (VIC, 2013-2022)

| Time period | Community Pharmacy |       | Hospital |       | Clinics and Medical Centres |       | Other (incl. prisons) |       | Aged and Community Healthcare |       |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
|             | n                  | Row % | n        | Row % | n                           | Row % | n                     | Row % | n                             | Row % |
| <b>2013</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 8700               | 94.3  | 380      | 4.1   | <5                          |       | 144                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| February    | 8388               | 94.1  | 395      | 4.4   | <5                          |       | 131                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| March       | 8524               | 94.4  | 374      | 4.1   |                             |       | 128                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| April       | 8539               | 94.0  | 401      | 4.4   | <5                          |       | 138                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| May         | 8968               | 94.3  | 391      | 4.1   | <5                          |       | 145                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| June        | 8785               | 94.0  | 408      | 4.4   | <5                          |       | 154                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| July        | 9054               | 94.5  | 371      | 3.9   | <5                          |       | 154                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| August      | 9174               | 94.2  | 408      | 4.2   | <5                          |       | 157                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| September   | 9573               | 94.6  | 386      | 3.8   | 5                           | 0.1   | 156                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| October     | 9808               | 94.2  | 442      | 4.2   | 5                           | 0.1   | 152                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| November    | 9831               | 94.7  | 391      | 3.8   | <5                          |       | 157                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| December    | 10193              | 94.0  | 488      | 4.5   | <5                          |       | 160                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| <b>2014</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 9973               | 93.9  | 481      | 4.5   | <5                          |       | 163                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| February    | 9769               | 93.9  | 476      | 4.6   | <5                          |       | 156                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| March       | 9581               | 94.2  | 422      | 4.1   | 5                           | 0.0   | 166                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| April       | 9788               | 94.3  | 430      | 4.1   |                             |       | 162                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| May         | 10099              | 93.9  | 477      | 4.4   | 6                           | 0.1   | 172                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| June        | 10026              | 94.0  | 474      | 4.4   | 6                           | 0.1   | 160                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| July        | 10154              | 93.9  | 479      | 4.4   | 6                           | 0.1   | 176                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| August      | 10130              | 94.0  | 459      | 4.3   | 6                           | 0.1   | 180                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| September   | 10265              | 93.9  | 470      | 4.3   | 6                           | 0.1   | 190                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| October     | 10374              | 94.3  | 444      | 4.0   | 5                           | 0.0   | 182                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| November    | 10108              | 94.1  | 450      | 4.2   | 5                           | 0.0   | 182                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| December    | 10558              | 94.1  | 472      | 4.2   | 6                           | 0.1   | 185                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| <b>2015</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 10098              | 94.2  | 440      | 4.1   | 6                           | 0.1   | 182                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| February    | 10057              | 94.4  | 407      | 3.8   | 6                           | 0.1   | 182                   | 1.7   |                               |       |
| March       | 9726               | 94.6  | 361      | 3.5   | 4                           | 0.0   | 192                   | 1.9   |                               |       |
| April       | 9852               | 94.6  | 377      | 3.6   | 5                           | 0.0   | 184                   | 1.8   |                               |       |
| May         | 10155              | 94.5  | 400      | 3.7   | 6                           | 0.1   | 188                   | 1.7   |                               |       |

| Time period | Community Pharmacy |       | Hospital |       | Clinics and Medical Centres |       | Other (incl. prisons) |       | Aged and Community Healthcare |       |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
|             | n                  | Row % | n        | Row % | n                           | Row % | n                     | Row % | n                             | Row % |
| June        | 10007              | 94.7  | 385      | 3.6   | 6                           | 0.1   | 167                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| July        | 10206              | 94.8  | 383      | 3.6   | 7                           | 0.1   | 172                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| August      | 10249              | 95.1  | 360      | 3.3   | 6                           | 0.1   | 162                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| September   | 10278              | 95.1  | 353      | 3.3   | 7                           | 0.1   | 170                   | 1.6   |                               |       |
| October     | 10264              | 95.4  | 339      | 3.2   | 7                           | 0.1   | 154                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| November    | 10113              | 95.3  | 339      | 3.2   | 8                           | 0.1   | 151                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| December    | 10388              | 95.0  | 381      | 3.5   | 6                           | 0.1   | 158                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| <b>2016</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 9944               | 95.0  | 354      | 3.4   | 9                           | 0.1   | 155                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| February    | 10051              | 95.1  | 355      | 3.4   | 9                           | 0.1   | 153                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| March       | 9869               | 95.6  | 310      | 3.0   | 10                          | 0.1   | 140                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| April       | 10045              | 95.5  | 319      | 3.0   | 9                           | 0.1   | 142                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| May         | 10099              | 95.6  | 311      | 2.9   | 9                           | 0.1   | 148                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| June        | 9955               | 95.4  | 336      | 3.2   | 10                          | 0.1   | 133                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| July        | 10086              | 95.4  | 335      | 3.2   | 11                          | 0.1   | 145                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| August      | 10220              | 95.4  | 337      | 3.2   | 13                          | 0.1   | 140                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| September   | 10186              | 95.6  | 315      | 3.0   | 13                          | 0.1   | 145                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| October     | 10188              | 95.5  | 319      | 3.0   | 9                           | 0.1   | 149                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| November    | 10009              | 95.7  | 292      | 2.8   | 7                           | 0.1   | 150                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| December    | 10451              | 95.8  | 288      | 2.6   | 6                           | 0.1   | 158                   | 1.5   |                               |       |
| <b>2017</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 10314              | 96.0  | 283      | 2.6   | 6                           | 0.1   | 143                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| February    | 10067              | 95.5  | 322      | 3.1   | 8                           | 0.1   | 144                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| March       | 9880               | 95.5  | 330      | 3.2   | 8                           | 0.1   | 124                   | 1.2   |                               |       |
| April       | 9926               | 95.7  | 307      | 3.0   | 8                           | 0.1   | 136                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| May         | 10366              | 95.8  | 299      | 2.8   | 9                           | 0.1   | 143                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| June        | 10372              | 95.7  | 304      | 2.8   | 9                           | 0.1   | 149                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| July        | 10609              | 95.7  | 316      | 2.9   | 12                          | 0.1   | 152                   | 1.4   |                               |       |
| August      | 10658              | 95.6  | 343      | 3.1   | 11                          | 0.1   | 139                   | 1.2   |                               |       |
| September   | 10589              | 95.7  | 322      | 2.9   | 10                          | 0.1   | 144                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| October     | 10707              | 95.7  | 338      | 3.0   | 9                           | 0.1   | 135                   | 1.2   |                               |       |
| November    | 10750              | 95.5  | 347      | 3.1   | 7                           | 0.1   | 149                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| December    | 10924              | 95.4  | 366      | 3.2   | 9                           | 0.1   | 147                   | 1.3   |                               |       |



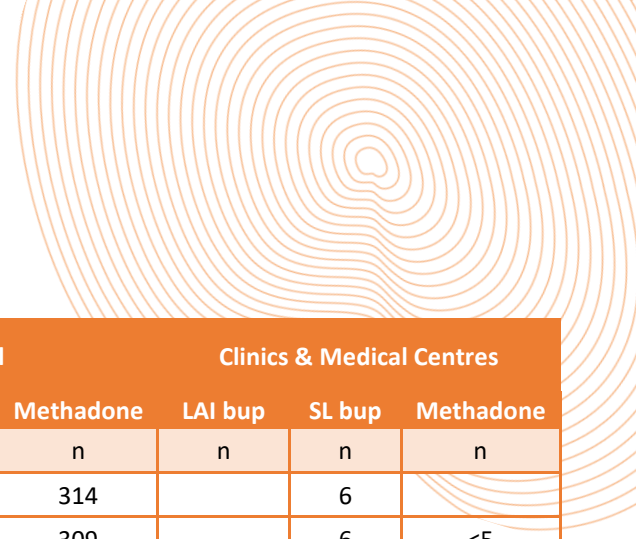
| Time period | Community Pharmacy |       | Hospital |       | Clinics and Medical Centres |       | Other (incl. prisons) |       | Aged and Community Healthcare |       |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
|             | n                  | Row % | n        | Row % | n                           | Row % | n                     | Row % | n                             | Row % |
| <b>2018</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 10856              | 95.3  | 371      | 3.3   | 12                          | 0.1   | 151                   | 1.3   |                               |       |
| February    | 10533              | 95.9  | 319      | 2.9   | 13                          | 0.1   | 123                   | 1.1   |                               |       |
| March       | 10724              | 95.9  | 325      | 2.9   | 14                          | 0.1   | 118                   | 1.1   |                               |       |
| April       | 10542              | 95.9  | 331      | 3.0   | 11                          | 0.1   | 111                   | 1.0   |                               |       |
| May         | 10993              | 95.6  | 376      | 3.3   | 10                          | 0.1   | 118                   | 1.0   |                               |       |
| June        | 10756              | 95.6  | 370      | 3.3   | 10                          | 0.1   | 119                   | 1.1   |                               |       |
| July        | 11090              | 95.6  | 373      | 3.2   | 10                          | 0.1   | 128                   | 1.1   |                               |       |
| August      | 11155              | 95.7  | 360      | 3.1   | 13                          | 0.1   | 124                   | 1.1   |                               |       |
| September   | 10890              | 95.9  | 338      | 3.0   | 12                          | 0.1   | 116                   | 1.0   |                               |       |
| October     | 11078              | 96.2  | 325      | 2.8   | 12                          | 0.1   | 97                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| November    | 10945              | 96.2  | 341      | 3.0   | 14                          | 0.1   | 82                    | 0.7   |                               |       |
| December    | 11432              | 96.0  | 375      | 3.1   | 11                          | 0.1   | 85                    | 0.7   |                               |       |
| <b>2019</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 11166              | 96.0  | 364      | 3.1   | 14                          | 0.1   | 84                    | 0.7   |                               |       |
| February    | 10887              | 96.0  | 346      | 3.1   | 8                           | 0.1   | 95                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| March       | 10673              | 96.1  | 337      | 3.0   | 7                           | 0.1   | 85                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| April       | 10777              | 95.8  | 378      | 3.4   |                             |       | 88                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| May         | 11296              | 96.0  | 375      | 3.2   |                             |       | 98                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| June        | 11194              | 95.9  | 386      | 3.3   | <5                          |       | 94                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| July        | 11385              | 95.9  | 374      | 3.2   |                             |       | 109                   | 0.9   |                               |       |
| August      | 11278              | 96.1  | 365      | 3.1   |                             |       | 98                    | 0.8   |                               |       |
| September   | 11369              | 96.0  | 365      | 3.1   | <5                          |       | 108                   | 0.9   | 11                            | 0.1   |
| October     | 11402              | 95.9  | 373      | 3.1   |                             |       | 99                    | 0.8   | 27                            | 0.2   |
| November    | 11345              | 95.2  | 428      | 3.6   | <5                          |       | 103                   | 0.9   | 38                            | 0.3   |
| December    | 11776              | 94.8  | 447      | 3.6   | 5                           | 0.0   | 118                   | 0.9   | 77                            | 0.6   |
| <b>2020</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 11456              | 94.3  | 476      | 3.9   | 11                          | 0.1   | 122                   | 1.0   | 80                            | 0.7   |
| February    | 11245              | 94.1  | 477      | 4.0   | 25                          | 0.2   | 117                   | 1.0   | 89                            | 0.7   |
| March       | 11876              | 93.7  | 528      | 4.2   | 55                          | 0.4   | 136                   | 1.1   | 85                            | 0.7   |
| April       | 11582              | 93.0  | 563      | 4.5   | 94                          | 0.8   | 115                   | 0.9   | 103                           | 0.8   |
| May         | 11771              | 92.9  | 531      | 4.2   | 138                         | 1.1   | 120                   | 0.9   | 111                           | 0.9   |
| June        | 11089              | 92.2  | 522      | 4.3   | 190                         | 1.6   | 111                   | 0.9   | 120                           | 1.0   |

| Time period | Community Pharmacy |       | Hospital |       | Clinics and Medical Centres |       | Other (incl. prisons) |       | Aged and Community Healthcare |       |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
|             | n                  | Row % | n        | Row % | n                           | Row % | n                     | Row % | n                             | Row % |
| July        | 11886              | 92.2  | 518      | 4.0   | 229                         | 1.8   | 116                   | 0.9   | 147                           | 1.1   |
| August      | 12198              | 91.5  | 565      | 4.2   | 280                         | 2.1   | 130                   | 1.0   | 153                           | 1.1   |
| September   | 12354              | 91.5  | 562      | 4.2   | 315                         | 2.3   | 111                   | 0.8   | 167                           | 1.2   |
| October     | 12518              | 91.0  | 598      | 4.3   | 370                         | 2.7   | 120                   | 0.9   | 153                           | 1.1   |
| November    | 12488              | 90.6  | 634      | 4.6   | 345                         | 2.5   | 117                   | 0.8   | 193                           | 1.4   |
| December    | 12886              | 90.5  | 679      | 4.8   | 333                         | 2.3   | 122                   | 0.9   | 213                           | 1.5   |
| <b>2021</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 12265              | 90.6  | 629      | 4.6   | 303                         | 2.2   | 127                   | 0.9   | 212                           | 1.6   |
| February    | 11963              | 90.4  | 619      | 4.7   | 361                         | 2.7   | 117                   | 0.9   | 178                           | 1.3   |
| March       | 11805              | 90.1  | 620      | 4.7   | 378                         | 2.9   | 126                   | 1.0   | 177                           | 1.4   |
| April       | 11996              | 90.3  | 639      | 4.8   | 367                         | 2.8   | 117                   | 0.9   | 172                           | 1.3   |
| May         | 12168              | 89.8  | 648      | 4.8   | 389                         | 2.9   | 126                   | 0.9   | 216                           | 1.6   |
| June        | 11732              | 89.5  | 649      | 4.9   | 421                         | 3.2   | 107                   | 0.8   | 203                           | 1.5   |
| July        | 12017              | 88.9  | 660      | 4.9   | 487                         | 3.6   | 103                   | 0.8   | 243                           | 1.8   |
| August      | 12245              | 88.7  | 740      | 5.4   | 498                         | 3.6   | 78                    | 0.6   | 247                           | 1.8   |
| September   | 12299              | 88.8  | 700      | 5.1   | 525                         | 3.8   | 73                    | 0.5   | 252                           | 1.8   |
| October     | 12133              | 88.5  | 728      | 5.3   | 529                         | 3.9   | 68                    | 0.5   | 251                           | 1.8   |
| November    | 12172              | 88.5  | 699      | 5.1   | 576                         | 4.2   | 72                    | 0.5   | 239                           | 1.7   |
| December    | 12673              | 88.2  | 741      | 5.2   | 630                         | 4.4   | 73                    | 0.5   | 252                           | 1.8   |
| <b>2022</b> |                    |       |          |       |                             |       |                       |       |                               |       |
| January     | 12519              | 87.4  | 712      | 5.0   | 754                         | 5.3   | 73                    | 0.5   | 259                           | 1.8   |
| February    | 11920              | 86.9  | 684      | 5.0   | 797                         | 5.8   | 73                    | 0.5   | 250                           | 1.8   |
| March       | 11608              | 85.8  | 697      | 5.2   | 902                         | 6.7   | 63                    | 0.5   | 257                           | 1.9   |
| April       | 11674              | 86.5  | 727      | 5.4   | 796                         | 5.9   | 58                    | 0.4   | 246                           | 1.8   |
| May         | 12015              | 85.9  | 767      | 5.5   | 868                         | 6.2   | 55                    | 0.4   | 291                           | 2.1   |
| June        | 11799              | 85.9  | 771      | 5.6   | 808                         | 5.9   | 60                    | 0.4   | 295                           | 2.1   |
| July        | 11778              | 85.3  | 785      | 5.7   | 874                         | 6.3   | 61                    | 0.4   | 307                           | 2.2   |
| August      | 11926              | 85.7  | 797      | 5.7   | 836                         | 6.0   | 56                    | 0.4   | 299                           | 2.1   |
| September   | 12017              | 85.5  | 835      | 5.9   | 841                         | 6.0   | 53                    | 0.4   | 312                           | 2.2   |
| October     | 11987              | 85.1  | 855      | 6.1   | 884                         | 6.3   | 52                    | 0.4   | 313                           | 2.2   |
| November    | 11840              | 84.4  | 901      | 6.4   | 925                         | 6.6   | 56                    | 0.4   | 309                           | 2.2   |
| December    | 12033              | 84.9  | 914      | 6.4   | 860                         | 6.1   | 62                    | 0.4   | 300                           | 2.1   |

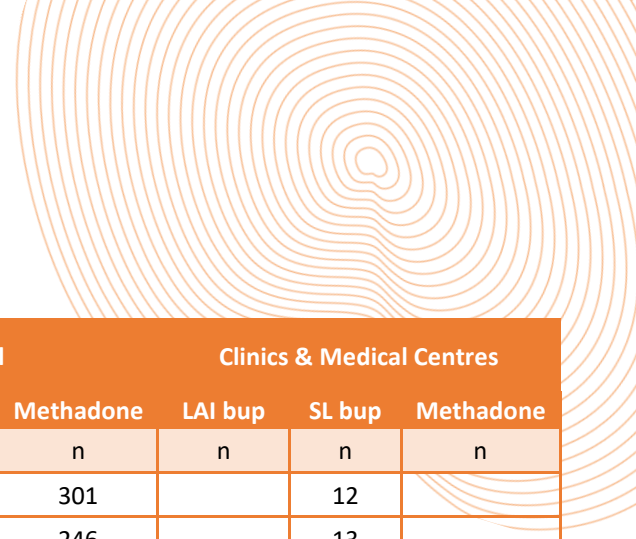
Table A6. Estimated OAT clients per month by medicine and setting (VIC, 2013-2022)

| Time period | Community Pharmacy |        |           | Hospital |        |           | Clinics & Medical Centres |        |           |
|-------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|             | LAI bup            | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup  | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup                   | SL bup | Methadone |
|             | n                  | n      | n         | n        | n      | n         | n                         | n      | n         |
| <b>2013</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 1797   | 6904      |          | 17     | 363       |                           | <5     |           |
| February    |                    | 1749   | 6639      |          | 20     | 375       |                           | <5     |           |
| March       |                    | 1787   | 6738      |          | 21     | 353       |                           |        |           |
| April       |                    | 1862   | 6677      |          | 23     | 378       |                           | <5     |           |
| May         |                    | 1991   | 6977      |          | 21     | 369       |                           | <5     |           |
| June        |                    | 2023   | 6762      |          | 23     | 385       |                           | <5     |           |
| July        |                    | 2126   | 6927      |          | 23     | 348       |                           | <5     |           |
| August      |                    | 2274   | 6900      |          | 26     | 382       |                           | <5     |           |
| September   |                    | 2538   | 7035      |          | 27     | 359       |                           | 5      |           |
| October     |                    | 2785   | 7023      |          | 31     | 411       |                           | 5      |           |
| November    |                    | 2922   | 6908      |          | 34     | 357       |                           | <5     |           |
| December    |                    | 3110   | 7083      |          | 46     | 441       |                           | <5     |           |
| <b>2014</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 3051   | 6921      |          | 57     | 424       |                           | <5     |           |
| February    |                    | 3006   | 6763      |          | 63     | 413       |                           | <5     |           |
| March       |                    | 2920   | 6661      |          | 59     | 363       |                           | 5      |           |
| April       |                    | 3049   | 6739      |          | 56     | 374       |                           |        |           |
| May         |                    | 3158   | 6941      |          | 58     | 419       |                           | 6      |           |
| June        |                    | 3161   | 6864      |          | 65     | 409       |                           | 6      |           |
| July        |                    | 3156   | 6998      |          | 70     | 409       |                           | 6      |           |
| August      |                    | 3163   | 6967      |          | 65     | 394       |                           | 6      |           |
| September   |                    | 3178   | 7086      |          | 67     | 403       |                           | 6      |           |
| October     |                    | 3241   | 7134      |          | 70     | 375       |                           | 5      |           |
| November    |                    | 3156   | 6952      |          | 78     | 373       |                           | 5      |           |
| December    |                    | 3363   | 7195      |          | 77     | 395       |                           | 6      |           |
| <b>2015</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 3223   | 6875      |          | 73     | 367       |                           | 6      |           |
| February    |                    | 3233   | 6824      |          | 66     | 341       |                           | 6      |           |
| March       |                    | 3102   | 6624      |          | 70     | 291       |                           | <5     |           |
| April       |                    | 3163   | 6689      |          | 70     | 307       |                           | 5      |           |
| May         |                    | 3261   | 6894      |          | 79     | 322       |                           | 6      |           |

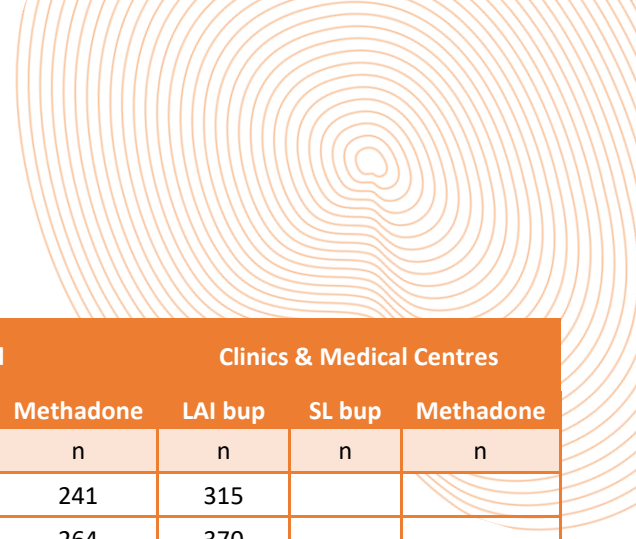




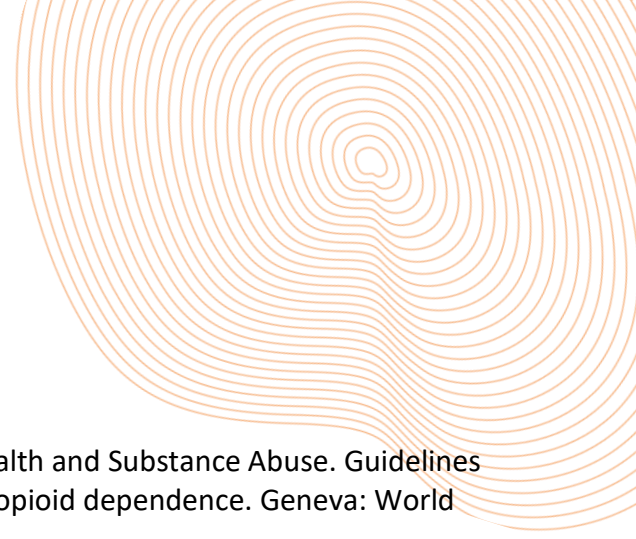
| Time period | Community Pharmacy |        |           | Hospital |        |           | Clinics & Medical Centres |        |           |
|-------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|             | LAI bup            | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup  | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup                   | SL bup | Methadone |
|             | n                  | n      | n         | n        | n      | n         | n                         | n      | n         |
| June        |                    | 3214   | 6793      |          | 71     | 314       |                           | 6      |           |
| July        |                    | 3287   | 6919      |          | 74     | 309       |                           | 6      | <5        |
| August      |                    | 3323   | 6926      |          | 68     | 292       |                           | 5      |           |
| September   |                    | 3372   | 6905      |          | 69     | 284       |                           | 6      |           |
| October     |                    | 3351   | 6913      |          | 66     | 274       |                           | 7      |           |
| November    |                    | 3298   | 6814      |          | 67     | 272       |                           | 8      |           |
| December    |                    | 3412   | 6976      |          | 74     | 307       |                           | 6      |           |
| <b>2016</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 3265   | 6679      |          | 71     | 282       |                           | 9      |           |
| February    |                    | 3279   | 6772      |          | 76     | 278       |                           | 9      |           |
| March       |                    | 3253   | 6616      |          | 69     | 241       |                           | 10     |           |
| April       |                    | 3296   | 6749      |          | 70     | 249       |                           | 9      |           |
| May         |                    | 3360   | 6739      |          | 60     | 251       |                           | 9      |           |
| June        |                    | 3271   | 6684      |          | 69     | 268       |                           | 9      | <5        |
| July        |                    | 3359   | 6727      |          | 67     | 268       |                           | 11     |           |
| August      |                    | 3381   | 6838      |          | 74     | 263       |                           | 12     |           |
| September   |                    | 3337   | 6850      |          | 68     | 247       |                           | 13     |           |
| October     |                    | 3373   | 6815      |          | 67     | 253       |                           | 9      |           |
| November    |                    | 3332   | 6676      |          | 64     | 227       |                           | 7      |           |
| December    |                    | 3590   | 6861      |          | 56     | 232       |                           | 6      |           |
| <b>2017</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 3517   | 6797      |          | 57     | 226       |                           | 6      |           |
| February    |                    | 3439   | 6629      |          | 59     | 263       |                           | 8      |           |
| March       |                    | 3314   | 6566      |          | 71     | 259       |                           | 8      |           |
| April       |                    | 3387   | 6539      |          | 70     | 237       |                           | 8      |           |
| May         |                    | 3544   | 6823      |          | 79     | 220       |                           | 9      |           |
| June        |                    | 3597   | 6775      |          | 77     | 227       |                           | 9      |           |
| July        |                    | 3656   | 6953      |          | 83     | 233       |                           | 12     |           |
| August      |                    | 3685   | 6973      |          | 70     | 272       |                           | 11     |           |
| September   |                    | 3628   | 6961      |          | 64     | 258       |                           | 10     |           |
| October     |                    | 3690   | 7017      |          | 64     | 274       |                           | 9      |           |
| November    |                    | 3722   | 7028      |          | 66     | 281       |                           | 7      |           |
| December    |                    | 3828   | 7096      |          | 73     | 294       |                           | 9      |           |
| <b>2018</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |



| Time period | Community Pharmacy |        |           | Hospital |        |           | Clinics & Medical Centres |        |           |
|-------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|             | LAI bup            | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup  | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup                   | SL bup | Methadone |
|             | n                  | n      | n         | n        | n      | n         | n                         | n      | n         |
| January     |                    | 3818   | 7037      |          | 70     | 301       |                           | 12     |           |
| February    |                    | 3720   | 6813      |          | 74     | 246       |                           | 13     |           |
| March       |                    | 3783   | 6940      |          | 78     | 246       |                           | 14     |           |
| April       |                    | 3751   | 6790      |          | 81     | 250       |                           | 11     |           |
| May         |                    | 3924   | 7070      |          | 87     | 289       |                           | 10     |           |
| June        |                    | 3858   | 6898      |          | 78     | 292       |                           | 10     |           |
| July        |                    | 3967   | 7123      |          | 79     | 294       |                           | 10     |           |
| August      |                    | 4013   | 7142      |          | 71     | 289       |                           | 13     |           |
| September   |                    | 3951   | 6939      |          | 70     | 267       |                           | 12     |           |
| October     |                    | 4057   | 7021      |          | 75     | 250       |                           | 12     |           |
| November    |                    | 4031   | 6914      |          | 79     | 262       |                           | 14     |           |
| December    |                    | 4219   | 7213      |          | 81     | 294       |                           | 11     |           |
| <b>2019</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     |                    | 4108   | 7058      |          | 74     | 290       |                           | 14     |           |
| February    |                    | 4016   | 6871      |          | 69     | 277       |                           | 8      |           |
| March       |                    | 3928   | 6746      |          | 67     | 270       |                           | 7      |           |
| April       |                    | 3965   | 6812      |          | 65     | 313       |                           |        |           |
| May         |                    | 4266   | 7030      |          | 71     | 304       |                           |        |           |
| June        |                    | 4225   | 6969      |          | 71     | 314       |                           | <5     |           |
| July        |                    | 4317   | 7068      |          | 75     | 299       |                           |        |           |
| August      |                    | 4187   | 7091      |          | 66     | 300       |                           |        |           |
| September   | 7                  | 4253   | 7114      | 18       | 62     | 298       |                           | <5     |           |
| October     | 11                 | 4270   | 7125      | 39       | 65     | 282       |                           |        |           |
| November    | 17                 | 4264   | 7065      | 67       | 69     | 292       | <5                        |        |           |
| December    | 22                 | 4393   | 7362      | 88       | 71     | 288       | 6                         |        |           |
| <b>2020</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     | 29                 | 4245   | 7182      | 107      | 64     | 305       | 11                        |        |           |
| February    | 32                 | 4192   | 7021      | 115      | 63     | 299       | 25                        |        |           |
| March       | 80                 | 4319   | 7477      | 172      | 72     | 284       | 55                        |        |           |
| April       | 104                | 4244   | 7233      | 200      | 76     | 287       | 94                        |        |           |
| May         | 158                | 4233   | 7380      | 190      | 74     | 267       | 138                       |        |           |
| June        | 217                | 3983   | 6889      | 207      | 63     | 253       | 190                       |        | <5        |
| July        | 316                | 4155   | 7415      | 228      | 64     | 226       | 229                       |        | <5        |
| August      | 425                | 4156   | 7617      | 262      | 61     | 243       | 280                       |        |           |

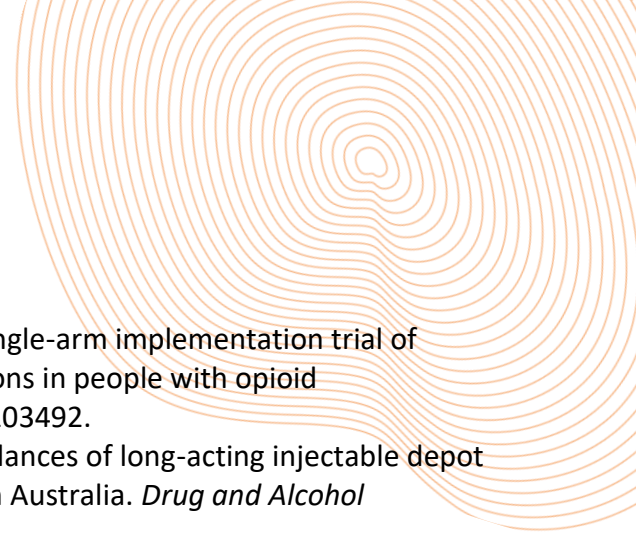


| Time period | Community Pharmacy |        |           | Hospital |        |           | Clinics & Medical Centres |        |           |
|-------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|-----------|
|             | LAI bup            | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup  | SL bup | Methadone | LAI bup                   | SL bup | Methadone |
|             | n                  | n      | n         | n        | n      | n         | n                         | n      | n         |
| September   | 499                | 4152   | 7704      | 260      | 61     | 241       | 315                       |        |           |
| October     | 590                | 4113   | 7815      | 280      | 55     | 264       | 370                       |        |           |
| November    | 672                | 4025   | 7792      | 310      | 62     | 263       | 345                       |        |           |
| December    | 771                | 4130   | 7985      | 336      | 72     | 270       | 333                       |        |           |
| <b>2021</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     | 755                | 3948   | 7562      | 328      | 72     | 228       | 303                       |        |           |
| February    | 736                | 3831   | 7396      | 331      | 65     | 222       | 361                       |        |           |
| March       | 804                | 3727   | 7274      | 328      | 50     | 242       | 378                       |        |           |
| April       | 853                | 3752   | 7392      | 336      | 48     | 255       | 367                       |        |           |
| May         | 905                | 3812   | 7451      | 335      | 53     | 260       | 389                       |        |           |
| June        | 874                | 3689   | 7169      | 357      | 52     | 239       | 421                       |        |           |
| July        | 950                | 3803   | 7264      | 382      | 57     | 221       | 487                       |        |           |
| August      | 1068               | 3841   | 7336      | 437      | 61     | 242       | 498                       |        |           |
| September   | 1107               | 3850   | 7343      | 418      | 66     | 215       | 525                       |        |           |
| October     | 1129               | 3751   | 7253      | 428      | 63     | 237       | 529                       |        |           |
| November    | 1144               | 3691   | 7337      | 440      | 54     | 206       | 576                       |        |           |
| December    | 1321               | 3816   | 7536      | 451      | 55     | 234       | 629                       | <5     |           |
| <b>2022</b> |                    |        |           |          |        |           |                           |        |           |
| January     | 1427               | 3687   | 7404      | 463      | 50     | 200       | 754                       |        |           |
| February    | 1439               | 3555   | 6926      | 449      | 48     | 187       | 796                       |        |           |
| March       | 1504               | 3400   | 6704      | 482      | 42     | 173       | 902                       |        |           |
| April       | 1465               | 3475   | 6734      | 482      | 46     | 199       | 795                       | <5     |           |
| May         | 1576               | 3556   | 6883      | 521      | 48     | 198       | 867                       |        |           |
| June        | 1463               | 3515   | 6821      | 523      | 48     | 200       | 808                       |        |           |
| July        | 1545               | 3493   | 6740      | 534      | 51     | 201       | 874                       |        |           |
| August      | 1541               | 3534   | 6850      | 567      | 51     | 178       | 835                       |        | <5        |
| September   | 1602               | 3516   | 6899      | 604      | 55     | 176       | 840                       |        |           |
| October     | 1615               | 3450   | 6923      | 644      | 59     | 152       | 883                       | <5     |           |
| November    | 1667               | 3402   | 6772      | 668      | 59     | 174       | 925                       | <5     |           |
| December    | 1753               | 3458   | 6822      | 689      | 58     | 166       | 860                       | <5     |           |



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