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Report on the national minimum data set

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AODTS	Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services
AODTS-NMDS	Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set
ASCDC	Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
DASR	Drug and Alcohol Service Report
DoHA	(Australian Government) Department of Health and Ageing
IDDI	Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
IGCD	Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NGOTGP	Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NOPSAD	National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data
OATSIH	Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
SAR	Service Activity Reporting

Symbols

–	nil or rounded to zero
<0.1	non-zero estimate less than 0.1%
..	not applicable

Summary

This report presents the findings of the 2007–08 Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS–NMDS). It is the eighth in a series of annual publications focusing on clients of government-funded alcohol and other drug treatment services. In particular, it highlights the drug use clients are concerned about and the types of treatment they receive. This report also presents contextual information about drug use, drug-related deaths and hospital stays and other treatment provided for alcohol and other drug issues across Australia.

Clients

Around 154,000 treatment episodes were provided during 2007–08, an increase of about 7,000 episodes compared to 2006–07. The vast majority of treatment episodes (96%) were for people seeking treatment for their own drug use. The largest group of clients was males aged 20–29 years. This finding has been remarkably consistent over time. Younger clients were more likely to receive treatment for cannabis use and older clients for alcohol use.

Drugs

Alcohol remains the most common principal drug of concern increasing to 44% of all treatment episodes in 2007–08 compared with 38% in 2002–03. Treatment for heroin use has been declining over time to 11% in 2007–08 compared with 18% in 2002–03; also the actual number of episodes has declined. Treatment for cannabis and amphetamines has remained stable, at about 22% and 11% respectively.

Treatment

Counselling remained the most common treatment provided at about 2 in 5 episodes. The proportion of clients in withdrawal management (detox) has declined since 2002–03, even though the number of detox episodes has increased.

Agencies

In 2007–08, more treatment episodes were provided in more treatment agencies compared with previous years. Integration and collocation of government and non-government services may have an increasing impact on the profile of alcohol and other drug treatment agencies in future years.

