

3 Client profile

This chapter begins by providing a brief overview of the estimated number of clients who registered for alcohol and other drug treatment services in 2001–02 (see Section 3.1). Sections 3.2–3.6 then examine the profile, pattern and characteristics of the clients utilising treatment services in 2001–02. The analysis is based on ‘closed treatment episodes’.

Box 3.1: Key definitions and counts for closed treatment episodes, 2001–02

***Closed treatment episode** refers to a period of contact, with defined dates of commencement and cessation, between a client and a treatment agency. In 2001–02 there were 120,869 closed treatment episodes.*

***Client registrations** refers to the estimated number of clients who registered or re-registered for alcohol and other drug treatment services. In 2001–02 there were an estimated 99,537 client registrations.*

Caution should be taken when comparing the client registration data in 2000–01 with those of 2001–02, as the method for calculating ‘registrations’ has changed. In the 2000–01 collection, registrations were based on all new or returning clients who registered or re-registered for treatment during the reporting period. In the 2001–02 collection, registrations were only based on the number of episodes closed within the reporting period.

***Principal drug of concern** refers to the main substance that the client states led him or her to seek treatment from the alcohol and other drug treatment agency. Within this report, only clients seeking treatment for their own substance use are included in analysis involving principal drug of concern. It is assumed that only substance users themselves can accurately report on the principal drug of concern to them. In 2001–02, 113,231 closed treatment episodes are reported for principal drug of concern.*

***Other drugs of concern** refers to any other drugs apart from principal drug of concern which the client perceives as being a health concern. Clients can nominate up to five other drugs of concern. In 2001–02, there were 161,173 other drugs of concern (excluding principal drug of concern) reported.*

***Reason for cessation** refers to the reason why a treatment episode has ceased and in this chapter is analysed with principal drug of concern. In 2001–02, records from South Australia are excluded from tables using this data item. In addition, closed treatment episode records for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others were also excluded. In 2001–02 there were 106,532 closed treatment episodes used in analysing reason for cessation.*

See Section 1.3 and Box 4.1 for other definitions.

3.1 Closed treatment episodes and client registrations

In 2001–02 there were 120,869 closed treatment episodes in alcohol and other drug services reported in the AODTS–NMDS collection. These episodes related to an estimated 99,537 client registrations. Thus, on average, each of these registrations accounted for 1.2 treatment episodes during the year.

3.2 Sex and age

Male clients in 2001–02 accounted for close to two-thirds (65% or 78,323) of all closed treatment episodes. The majority of those accessing treatment services were aged between 20 and 49 years of age (77%), with just over one-third (34%) of treatment episodes for clients aged in the 20–29 year age group. The age distribution was similar for males and females (Table 3.1).

Overall, 95% of closed episodes involving males were for those seeking treatment for their own substance use (Table 3.1). This proportion changed according to the age of the client, and was highest for those aged between 20 and 39 years (97%) and lowest for males in the 50–59 year age group (89%). While the pattern was similar for female clients, there was a lower proportion of clients seeking treatment for their own substance use (86% overall, 94% of those aged 20–29 years and 60% for those aged 50–59 years).

Two-thirds (67%) of treatment episodes involving someone else's drug use were for female clients. Age appears to be a factor in client type. A high proportion of episodes involving female clients aged 40 years or more were for the substance use of another person (21% for those aged 40–49 years, 39% for those aged 50–59 years and 32% for females aged 60 years and over) (Table 3.1). The age pattern was similar for episodes involving males; 10% involved males aged 50–59 years and 8% involved males aged 60 years or more. This pattern may reflect parents seeking treatment for their child's drug use.

Table 3.1: Closed treatment episodes by client type, sex and age group, Australia, 2001–02

Client type	Age group (years)						Total ^(a)
	10–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
Males	(per cent)						
Own drug use ^(b)	94.8	96.8	96.6	94.9	88.5	91.0	95.4
Other's drug use	3.0	1.8	2.0	4.0	10.2	8.2	3.2
<i>Total males</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total males (number)^(c)</i>	<i>10,285</i>	<i>27,644</i>	<i>20,961</i>	<i>11,881</i>	<i>4,929</i>	<i>1,778</i>	<i>78,323</i>
Females							
Own drug use ^(b)	89.1	93.5	90.7	77.8	60.0	67.5	85.9
Other's drug use	6.6	4.7	7.7	20.6	38.8	31.6	12.1
<i>Total females</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total females (number)^(c)</i>	<i>5,525</i>	<i>13,682</i>	<i>11,063</i>	<i>7,344</i>	<i>3,051</i>	<i>957</i>	<i>42,415</i>
Persons							
Own drug use ^(b)	92.8	95.7	94.6	88.3	77.6	82.7	92.0
Other's drug use	4.3	2.8	4.0	10.3	21.2	16.5	6.3
Total^{(c)(d)} (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^{(c)(d)} (number)	15,816	41,377	32,057	19,241	7,987	2,739	120,869

(a) Includes not stated for Age.

(b) Own drug use also includes clients who were seeking treatment for both their own and other's drug use (that is, 0.4% of total closed treatment episodes).

(c) Includes not stated for Client type.

(d) Includes not stated for Sex.

3.3 Indigenous status

Of the 120,869 closed treatment episodes in 2001–02, 9,615 (or 8%) involved clients identified as being from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background (Table 3.2). This is a higher proportion than the overall proportion of Indigenous people in the total Australian population (2.4%, based on the 2001 Indigenous census population at 30 June 2001) (ABS unpublished data). However, because the overall proportion of episodes where Indigenous status was 'not stated' was the same as that reported for Indigenous status, this figure should be reported with caution as it may be an under-count of the actual number of Indigenous

clients in treatment (see also Section 1.4 for information on other sources of under-counting). Episodes involving Indigenous clients were more likely than those for non-Indigenous clients to involve people aged under 20 years. However, this is due to differences in the underlying age structure between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the general population, with Indigenous people having a younger age profile than other Australians.

Table 3.2: Closed treatment episodes by age group, Indigenous status and sex, Australia, 2001–02

Age group (years)	Indigenous ^(a)		Non-Indigenous		Not stated		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons ^(b)
	(per cent)								
10–19	19.4	18.0	12.6	12.7	12.4	11.5	13.1	13.0	13.1
20–29	33.7	35.0	35.5	32.0	34.4	32.1	35.3	32.3	34.2
30–39	28.2	28.7	26.5	25.9	27.7	25.8	26.8	26.1	26.5
40–49	12.6	10.5	15.4	17.9	15.5	18.4	15.2	17.3	15.9
50–59	3.3	2.9	6.6	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.3	7.2	6.6
60+	0.6	0.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3
Not stated	2.1	4.2	0.9	1.6	1.7	2.8	1.1	1.9	1.4
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (number)	6,207	3,394	66,413	35,554	5,703	3,467	78,323	42,415	120,869

(a) A further 14 clients identified as Indigenous with Sex not stated.

(b) Includes not stated for Sex.

3.4 Principal drug of concern

The principal drug of concern refers to the main substance that the client states led him or her to seek treatment from the alcohol and other drug treatment agency. This section reports only on those 113,231 episodes where clients were seeking treatment for their own substance use. It is reasoned that only substance users themselves can accurately report on the principal drug of concern to them.

Jurisdictions

Nationally, alcohol (37%) and cannabis (21%) were the most common principal drugs of concern in treatment episodes (Table 3.3). Heroin (18%) and amphetamines (11%) were the next most commonly reported (see Appendix 5 for list of all drugs).

Alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern reported in all jurisdictions except for Queensland and the Commonwealth ('Other' category). In the Northern Territory, in fact, alcohol was nominated as the principal drug of concern in 64% of treatment episodes. In Queensland, cannabis was the only recorded principal drug of concern, because in 2001–02 data were supplied only for police diversion clients (see Section 1.4). Alcohol (14%) was the fourth most reported principal drug of concern for the Commonwealth, with amphetamines (24%) accounting for the largest proportion of treatment episodes reporting a principal drug of concern.

After alcohol, the other three commonly nominated drugs of concern nationally – cannabis, heroin and amphetamines – varied in their 'position' from state to state. Heroin was second in New South Wales and Victoria, amphetamines second in Western Australia and South Australia, and cannabis in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Overall, ecstasy (0.2%) and cocaine (0.7%) were the principal drug of concern for which the smallest proportion of clients were seeking treatment. Compared to the national proportion of clients reporting cocaine as their principal drug of concern (0.7%), New South Wales had the largest proportion of treatment episodes where clients reported cocaine (1.8%) as their principal drug of concern.

Nationally, only a small proportion of closed treatment episodes were for clients who identified nicotine as their principal drug of concern (1.4%). Importantly, this is not the total number of clients receiving treatment for nicotine use, rather, the proportion of clients who attend a government-funded alcohol and other drug treatment service and nominate nicotine as their principal drug of concern. The lower rate is not surprising as in most states and territories the majority of people with a nicotine addiction usually obtain treatment through pharmacies, general practitioners (e.g. advice and nicotine patches) or 'quit' lines. Tasmania recorded the highest proportion of episodes where nicotine was reported as the principal drug of concern (15%). Recent amendments to public health legislation, increased anti-smoking advertising and training programs for staff may have helped to increase public awareness of and responses to this issue. Next were New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and 'other' Commonwealth agencies all recording 2% of episodes for clients accessing alcohol and other drug treatment services where nicotine was reported as the principal drug of concern.

Table 3.3: Closed treatment episodes by principal drug of concern and jurisdiction, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Principal drug	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT ^(b)	NT	Other ^(c)	Australia
	(Per cent)									
Alcohol	42.7	35.3	—	33.6	41.9	38.6	41.6	64.3	13.7	37.0
Amphetamines	10.7	6.2	—	26.0	14.0	9.2	8.7	8.6	23.8	10.8
Benzodiazepines	2.7	2.9	—	1.5	1.9	1.4	2.1	1.1	2.5	2.4
Cannabis	14.3	21.9	100.0	21.8	11.6	24.8	11.3	11.0	19.9	21.0
Cocaine	1.8	0.2	—	0.1	0.4	—	0.2	—	0.6	0.7
Ecstasy	—	0.4	—	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.6	0.2
Heroin	18.7	24.5	—	8.9	10.5	1.0	8.3	2.1	17.6	17.7
Methadone	3.4	1.9	—	0.9	3.9	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.2	2.3
Nicotine	1.9	0.7	—	0.7	1.5	15.3	0.1	1.7	1.5	1.4
Other ^(d)	3.8	5.9	—	4.9	8.7	8.3	26.7	10.4	7.9	5.7
Not stated	—	—	—	1.5	5.5	1.0	—	—	9.7	0.7
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (number)	38,111	41,861	4,033	13,303	6,699	1,972	2,800	2,007	2,445	113,231

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) The majority of the 'other' category is comprised of 'other opioid analgesics'.

(c) Other NGOTGP services not currently reported through a state or territory collection.

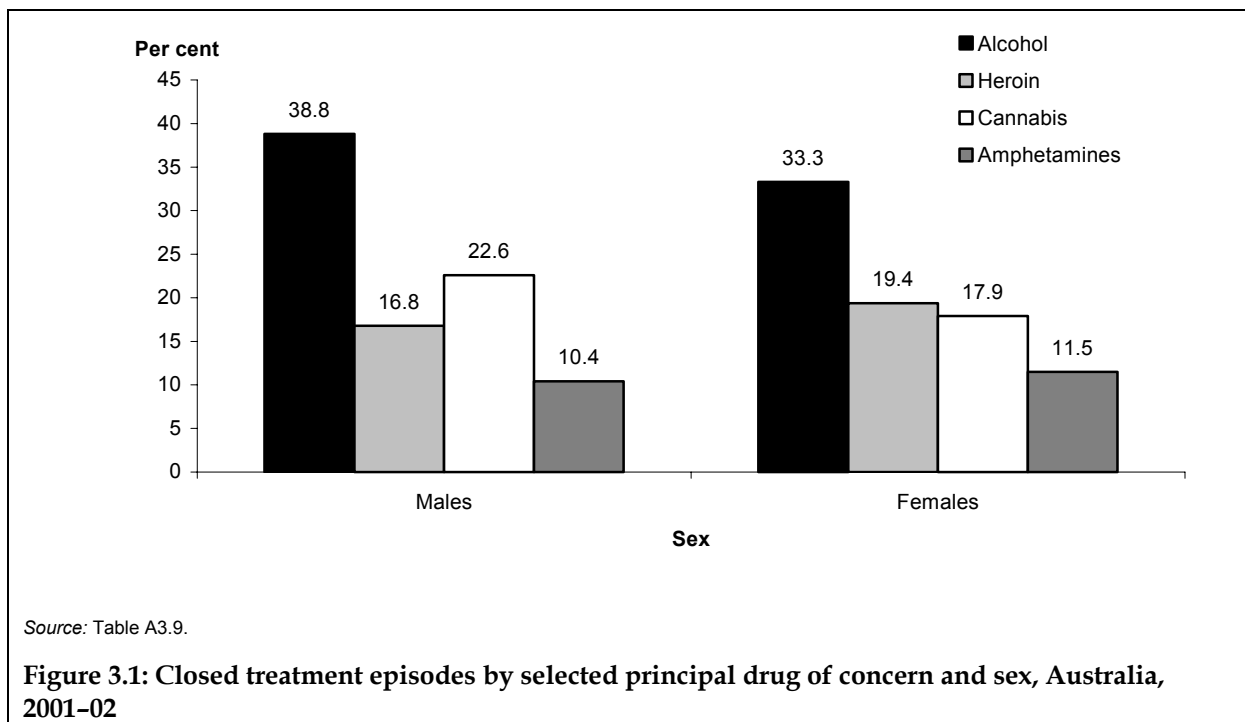
(d) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5 and Table A3.7.

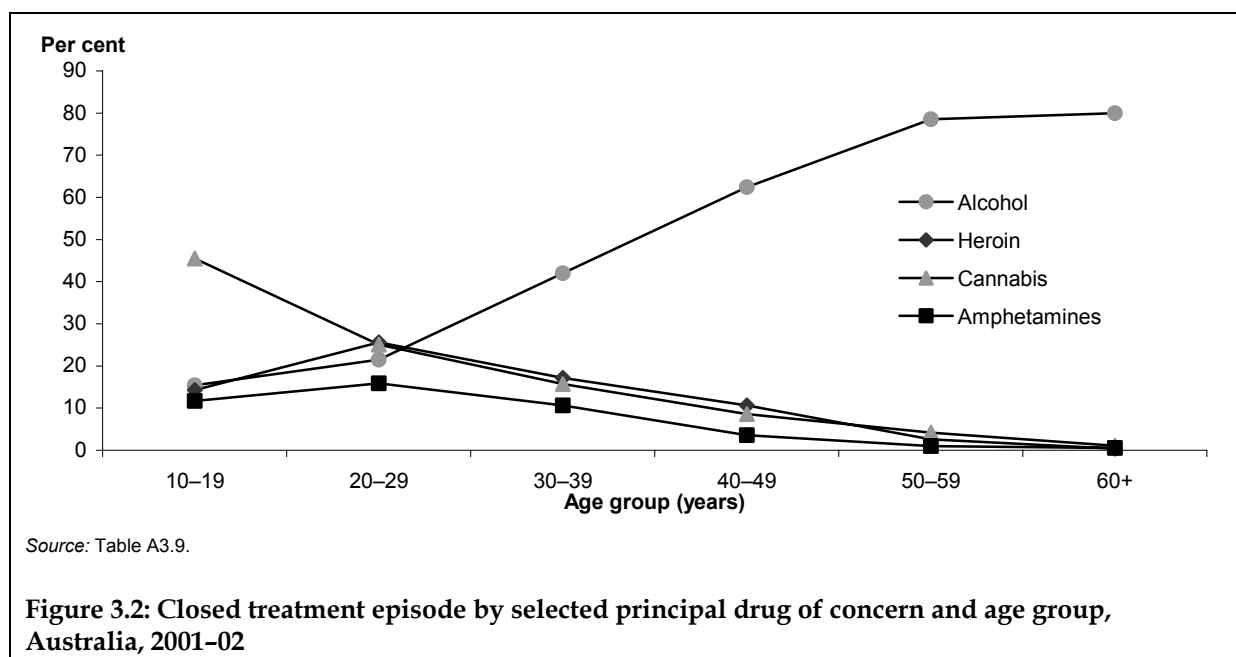
Sex, age and principal drug of concern

The principal drug of concern varied by sex and age group in 2001–02 (Figures 3.1 and 3.2). For all treatment episodes, alcohol was the drug most commonly recorded for both sexes (39% for males and 33% for females). This was followed by cannabis for males (23%) and heroin for females (19%).

Cannabis was the drug most commonly recorded for clients in the 10–19 year age group (46%). This proportion however varied with sex—51% for males in this age group and 34% for females. For clients in the 20–29 year age group heroin was the drug most commonly recorded (26%). This pattern was reflected for females in this age group (28%)—whereas males in the 20–29 year age group reported cannabis as the most common principal drug of concern (Table A3.9).

While alcohol was, nationally, the drug most likely to be named as the principal drug of concern (in 37% of closed treatment episodes), this proportion was even higher for clients aged over 30 years, and peaked for males in the 60 years and over age group (86%) and in the 50–59 year age group for females (71%).





Country of birth

The 1996 *Classification of Countries into English Proficiency Groups* (Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs 1999) places every country into one of four groups based on the relative English proficiency (EP) of recent arrivals to Australia from the 1996 census date. An 'English proficiency index' was used to rate each of the EP groups. Those countries that scored 98% or higher on this index and had an immigrant population of 10,000 or more were rated as EP 1. The remaining EP groups were determined by their EP index score as follows:

- those countries where immigrants to Australia tend to have a 'high' level of English proficiency (80-98%, or above but with an immigrant population of less than 10,000) were placed in the group EP 2;
- those countries with a 'moderate' level of English proficiency (a rating of more than 50% but less than 80%) fell into group EP 3; and
- the remaining countries (i.e. those with a rating on the EP index of less than 50%) were labelled as having a 'low' level of English proficiency and placed in EP 4 group.

See Appendix 7 for a full list of countries and their EP group.

Excluding treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others, there were 97,077 treatment episodes (86%) where the client reported being born in Australia (Table 3.4). This is higher than the proportion of Australian-born people in the total Australian population (77%) (ABS 2003). Six per cent of treatment episodes involved clients who were born in countries classified as EP Group 1, that is, countries whose migrants to Australia are likely to have English as a first language. The remaining EP groups had smaller representations, with EP Groups 2 and 3 together accounting for 4% of all treatment episodes, and EP Group 1%. A further 3% of treatment episodes could not be placed into any of the EP groups because country of birth was not stated.

The distribution of the reported principal drug of concern varies somewhat with country of birth (Table 3.4). For treatment episodes where clients reported being born in Australia, 36% reported alcohol as their principal drug of concern (males 38% and females 32%). Alcohol was even more likely to be the principal drug of concern for EP Group 1 (53% of treatment episodes; 54% of those involving males and 49% for females). EP Group 4 varied from this

pattern—in 73% of treatment episodes involving people from EP Group 4 heroin was nominated as the principal drug of concern (74% for males, 71% for females).

In 21% of treatment episodes cannabis was reported as a principal drug of concern and this proportion also varied between EP groups and by sex, with generally lower rates for all EP groups compared to Australia.

Table 3.4: Closed treatment episodes by selected principal drug of concern, sex and English Proficiency Group, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Principal drug of concern	Australia	English Proficiency Group 1	English Proficiency Group 2	English Proficiency Group 3	English Proficiency Group 4	Total ^(b)
Males			(per cent)			
Alcohol	38.2	54.3	46.9	38.4	10.1	38.8
Amphetamines	11.1	8.1	5.5	5.5	2.1	10.4
Cannabis	24.0	15.5	15.9	15.1	6.3	22.6
Heroin	15.6	12.1	20.9	28.1	73.5	16.8
Other ^(c)	10.5	9.4	10.6	12.3	7.8	10.6
<i>Total^(d)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Females						
Alcohol	32.2	49.3	46.1	35.7	9.5	33.3
Amphetamines	12.0	10.6	6.5	5.0	0.8	11.5
Cannabis	18.8	12.2	10.7	11.7	5.6	17.9
Heroin	19.4	11.9	19.8	27.7	71.0	19.4
Other ^(c)	16.9	14.9	16.6	19.2	12.7	17.1
<i>Total^(d)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Persons						
Alcohol	36.2	52.6	46.7	37.9	10.0	37.0
Amphetamines	11.4	9.0	5.8	5.4	1.8	10.8
Cannabis	22.3	14.4	14.4	14.4	6.1	21.0
Heroin	16.9	12.1	20.5	28.2	73.2	17.7
Other ^(c)	12.7	11.2	12.5	13.8	8.8	12.8
Total^(e) (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^(e) (number)	97,077	6,863	2,547	2,494	1,371	113,231

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Includes not stated for Country of birth.

(c) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(d) Includes not stated for Principal drug of concern.

(e) Includes not stated for Sex.

Indigenous status and principal drug of concern

Overall, treatment episodes involving Indigenous clients were most likely to involve alcohol (46%), cannabis (22%), heroin (11%) and amphetamines (10%) – that is, the same four principal drugs of concern as the population overall, but with alcohol much more likely to be nominated and heroin less so (Table 3.5, Figure 3.3).

This pattern varies even more when the client's sex is taken into account. Fifty per cent of treatment episodes for male clients identifying as Indigenous reported alcohol as their principal drug of concern compared with 38% of male non-Indigenous clients; 39% of female Indigenous clients compared with 33% of female non-Indigenous clients reported alcohol as their principal drug of concern (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Closed treatment episodes by principal drug of concern, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Principal drug	Males		Females		Persons ^(b)		Total ^(c)
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
	(per cent)						
Alcohol	49.5	38.2	38.5	33.2	45.7	36.5	37.0
Amphetamines	9.2	10.5	11.8	11.4	10.1	10.8	10.8
Benzodiazepines	1.0	1.8	3.0	3.9	1.7	2.5	2.4
Cannabis	23.2	22.9	19.6	17.8	21.9	21.2	21.0
Cocaine	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.7
Ecstasy	0.1	0.2	—	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Heroin	9.3	17.7	14.7	20.3	11.1	18.5	17.7
Methadone	1.4	1.8	2.4	3.3	1.8	2.3	2.3
Nicotine	0.7	1.0	1.7	2.2	1.0	1.4	1.4
Other ^(d)	4.7	4.7	7.1	6.5	5.5	5.3	5.7
Total^(e) (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^(e) (number)	6,012	64,379	3,151	31,073	9,176	95,544	113,231

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

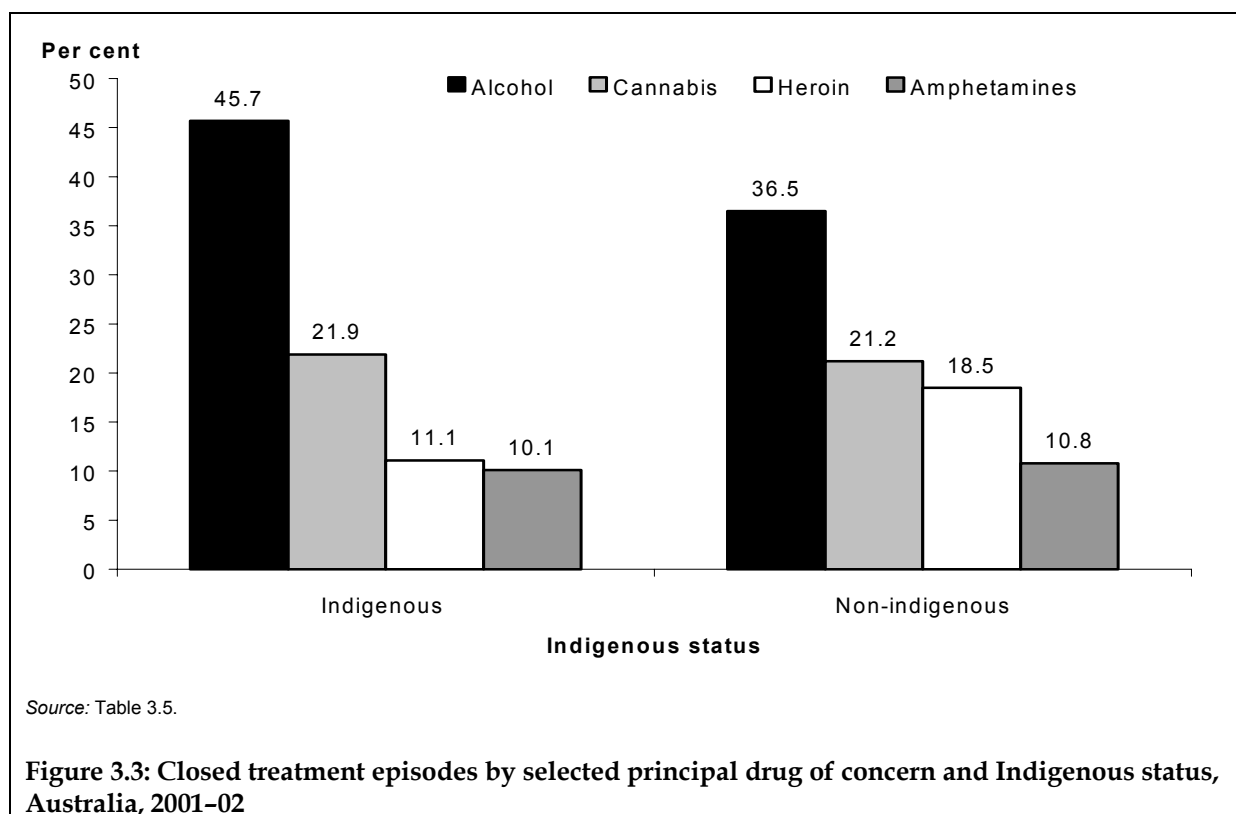
(b) Includes not stated for Sex.

(c) Includes not stated for Indigenous status.

(d) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(e) Includes not stated for Principal drug of concern.

Heroin was reported as the principal drug of concern for 11% of closed treatment episodes where the clients were identified as Indigenous; this compares with 19% of non-Indigenous clients reporting heroin. Interestingly, there is a higher proportion of treatment episodes where female Indigenous clients reported heroin as their principal drug of concern (15%) compared with male Indigenous clients (9%). A similar proportion of treatment episodes where cannabis was the principal drug of concern recorded Indigenous (22%) and non-Indigenous (21%) clients (Table 3.5 and Figure 3.3).



Geographic location and principal drug of concern

The geographic location of treatment agencies in the 2001-02 AODTS-NMDS has been analysed using the new Remoteness Areas of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Standard Geographical Classification (see Appendix 4 for information on how these new categories are derived). In 2001-02, across all areas, except for very remote areas, alcohol was reported as the most prominent drug of concern (41% inner regional, 38% outer regional and 62% remote areas) followed by cannabis (27% inner regional, 35% outer regional and 21% remote – Table 3.6). In very remote areas, cannabis accounts for the highest proportion of treatment episodes (51%), then alcohol (46%). In major cities alcohol, while still the most common principal drug of concern, was nominated in 36% of treatment episodes, heroin in 22%, cannabis 18% and amphetamines 12% – a much more even spread than in other regions.

Caution should be taken when interpreting geographical data – especially for remote and very remote areas – due to the small population size of some areas. Geographical location may also have an effect on the type of treatment services available, especially in more remote areas with the focus of the services available possibly targeted to a particular substance.

Table 3.6: Closed treatment episodes by principal drug of concern and geographic location, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Principal drug of concern	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Total
			(per cent)			
Alcohol	35.5	41.0	37.4	61.7	46.2	37.0
Amphetamines	11.5	9.4	7.8	8.8	0.4	10.8
Benzodiazepines	2.6	2.2	1.9	0.8	—	2.4
Cannabis	18.0	27.1	35.0	21.0	50.6	21.0
Cocaine	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	0.7
Ecstasy	0.3	0.1	0.2	—	—	0.2
Heroin	21.7	8.8	3.8	2.5	—	17.7
Methadone	2.3	2.5	1.9	0.6	—	2.3
Nicotine	1.0	2.7	2.4	2.1	—	1.4
Other ^(b)	5.4	5.8	8.9	2.5	2.8	5.7
Total^(c) (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^(c) (number)	82,454	19,938	9,043	1,545	251	113,231

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

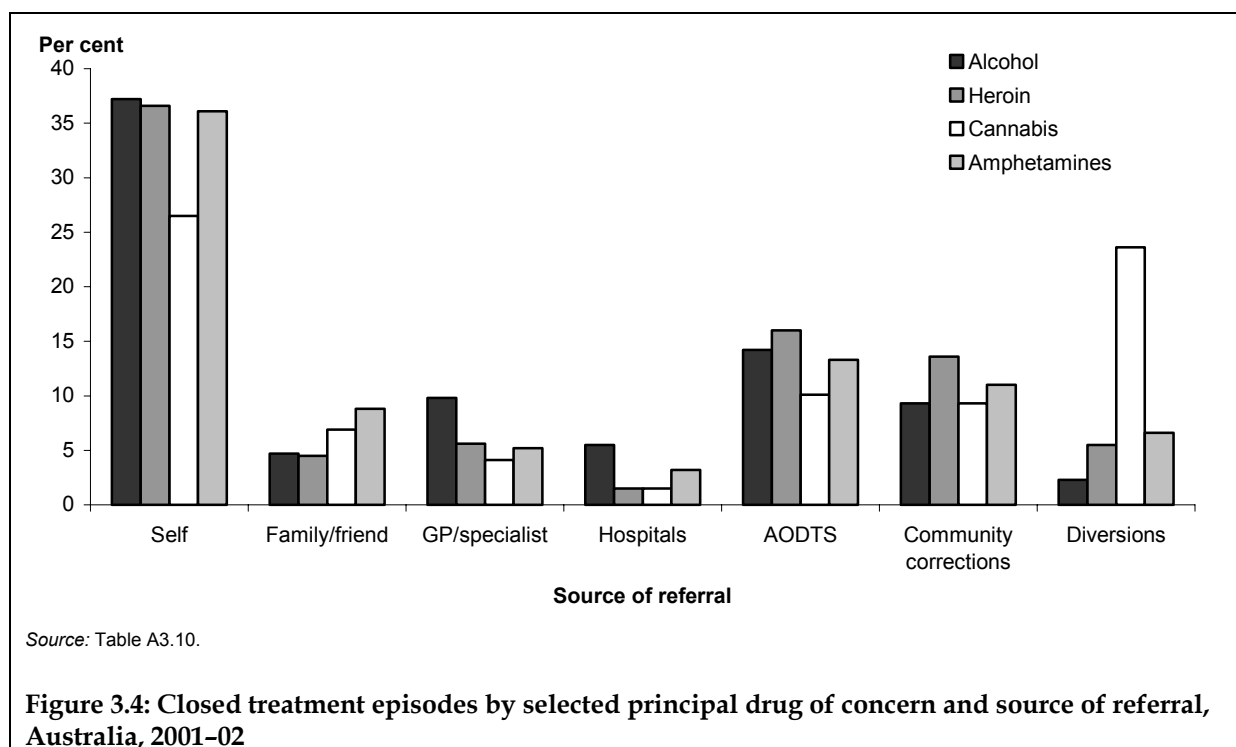
(b) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(c) Includes not stated for Principal drug of concern.

Source of referral

Overall more than one-third of all closed treatment episodes (35%) involved clients who were self-referred (Table A3.10). Referrals from alcohol and other drug treatment services (13%) and community-based corrections (10%) were also common.

This pattern was mirrored for closed treatment episodes where alcohol was reported as the principal drug of concern: self-referred (37%), alcohol and other drug treatment services (14%) and community-based corrections (9%); and where heroin was the principal drug of concern (37%, 16% and 14% respectively) (Figure 3.4). This pattern varied where cannabis was reported as the principal drug of concern – referrals were more likely to be from self-referrals (27%), police or court diversions (24%) and alcohol and other drug treatment services (10%). Referrals from general practitioners accounted for 8% of all referrals, however, when methadone was reported as the principal drug of concern 18% of referrals were from general practitioners (Table A3.10). Likewise, referrals from family members and/or friends accounted for 6% of referrals nationally, yet referrals from this source accounted for 13% of referrals where ecstasy was reported as the principal drug of concern.



Other drug of concern

Of the 113,231 closed treatment episodes in 2001-02 where clients were seeking treatment for their own drug use, 56,327 episodes (50%) reported at least one other drug of concern – that is, a principal drug of concern and at least one other drug of concern (Table 3.7). This proportion varied with the principal drug of concern. For example, in the closed treatment episodes where amphetamines were reported as the principal drug of concern, 68% of clients reported at least one other drug of concern. Where ecstasy was reported as the principal drug, 63% of clients reported at least one other drug of concern, and for both cocaine and benzodiazepines, 60% of clients reported at least one other drug of concern. Treatment episodes where alcohol and nicotine were reported as the principal drug were less likely to report additional drugs of concern (42% and 22% respectively).

These data indicate the drugs of concern to clients and should not be used as a proxy for poly-drug use.

Table 3.7: Number of closed treatment episodes, principal drug of concern, with or without an other drug of concern, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Principal drug of concern	Closed treatment episodes with other drugs	Closed treatment episodes with no other drugs	Total closed treatment episodes	Proportion of closed treatment episodes with 'other drugs' of concern (%)
Alcohol	17,727	24,159	41,886	42.3
Amphetamines	8,334	3,877	12,211	68.2
Benzodiazepines	1,637	1,108	2,745	59.6
Cannabis	12,089	11,737	23,826	50.7
Cocaine	484	320	804	60.2
Ecstasy	160	93	253	63.2
Heroin	10,970	9,057	20,027	54.8
Methadone	1,346	1,224	2,570	52.4
Nicotine	344	1,258	1,602	21.5
Other drugs ^(b)	2,757	3,725	7,307	49.0
Total^(c)	56,327	56,904	113,231	49.7

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(c) Includes not stated for Principal drug of concern.

From the 56,327 closed treatment episodes that did report at least one other drug of concern 161,173 other drugs of concern were reported (clients are able to nominate up to five other drugs of concern) (Table 3.7). This equates to 2.9 other drugs of concern for clients of these treatment episodes.

Of these 161,173 other drugs, the drug that was most commonly nominated as an other drug of concern was cannabis (15%), followed by nicotine (11%) and alcohol (9%). Table 3.8 shows the combination of principal drug of concern with other drugs of concern:

- where alcohol is the principal drug of concern – 16% of all other drugs of concern were cannabis and 14% nicotine;
- where cannabis is the principal drug of concern – 20% of all other drugs of concern were alcohol and 13% nicotine;
- where amphetamines are the principal drug of concern – 25% of all other drugs of concern were cannabis;
- where heroin is the principal drug of concern – 21% of all other drugs of concern were cannabis;
- where ecstasy is the principal drug of concern – 21% of all other drugs of concern were amphetamines and a further 21% were cannabis;
- where methadone is the principal drug of concern – 17% of all other drugs of concern were cannabis and 11% heroin.

Table 3.8: Proportion of other drugs of concern by principal drug of concern, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Other drug of concern	Principal drug of concern										Total all other drugs of concern ^(c)
	Alcohol	Ampheta- mines	Benzodia- zepines	Cannabis	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Nicotine	Other drugs ^(b)	
	(per cent)										
Alcohol	—	14.8	13.4	20.1	9.0	12.3	8.4	5.1	11.7	8.2	8.9
Amphetamines	5.4	—	8.6	11.2	10.0	21.4	11.2	7.0	1.8	6.5	7.1
Benzodiazepines	5.5	7.1	—	3.4	5.2	1.2	10.0	11.4	1.5	9.1	6.3
Cannabis	16.4	25.3	15.2	—	12.7	21.0	20.8	17.0	8.4	14.7	14.8
Cocaine	1.3	4.4	1.7	1.4	—	5.3	3.7	1.5	0.4	1.1	2.2
Ecstasy	1.2	5.2	0.8	2.9	2.8	—	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.2	2.1
Heroin	2.9	7.9	7.7	3.7	14.2	2.9	—	9.8	1.6	4.1	3.6
Methadone	0.5	0.7	4.5	0.5	3.9	0.7	2.3	—	0.6	1.1	1.0
Nicotine	14.2	9.1	7.6	13.3	3.8	5.3	6.7	6.4	—	7.7	10.9
Other drugs ^(d)	8.9	8.6	12.3	7.3	6.0	7.5	4.1	4.9	5.5	5.9	7.5
Total^(e) (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^(e) (number)	55,238	23,026	3,937	32,902	992	415	29,050	3,352	1,850	9,215	161,173

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Includes balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(c) The total number of 'other drugs' (161,173) exceeds the number of closed treatment episodes (113,231) where clients are seeking treatment for their own drug use, as clients may nominate up to five drugs of concern.

(d) Includes balance of Other drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.

(e) Includes not stated for Other drug of concern.

3.5 Injecting drug use

For the purposes of the AODTS-NMDS collection 'injecting drug use' includes drug administration methods such as intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous forms of injection.

Overall 40% (45,424) of closed treatment episodes involved clients who reported never having injected drugs (Table 3.9). This compares with 27% (30,224) of clients who identified themselves as current injectors (i.e. injected within the previous 3 months).

Caution should be taken, however, when interpreting data for 'injecting drug use' due to the high 'not stated' response for this item (15% or 16,972).

A high proportion of closed treatment episodes for male 'current injectors' involved those in the 20–29 and 30–39 year age groups (49% or 9,603 and 30% or 5,815 respectively), with males aged 50 years and over accounting for only 1% (275) of 'current injector' episodes. A similar pattern can be found in females, where episodes for those in the 20–29 and 30–39 year age groups represented the highest proportions of 'current injectors' (50% or 5,301 and 25% or 2,670 respectively). As with the males, only a small proportion of females over 50 years identified themselves as 'current injectors' (1% or 103).

Approximately 19% of closed treatment episodes involved clients who reported that they had injected drugs in the past (10% or 10,814 more than 3 months ago but less than 12 months ago and 9% or 9,797 12 or more months ago). The age pattern for those injecting drugs in the past was similar to current injectors for both males and females

The proportion of treatment episodes involving clients reporting that they had never injected peaked for male clients in the 20–29 year age group (25% or 7,899) and in the 30–39 year age group for females (27% or 3,884).

Table 3.9: Closed treatment episodes by injecting drug use, sex and age group, Australia, 2001–02^(a)

Injecting drug use	Age group (years)						Total ^(b)
	10–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
Males							
Current injector	1,970	9,603	5,815	1,840	244	31	19,623
Injected 3–12 months ago	857	3,542	1,922	614	54	6	7,068
Injected 12+ months ago	278	2,589	2,507	1,287	178	7	6,886
Never injected	5,301	7,899	7,255	5,758	3,259	1,371	31,114
Not stated	1,571	3,521	3,037	1,909	689	217	11,146
<i>Total males</i>	<i>9,977</i>	<i>27,154</i>	<i>20,536</i>	<i>11,408</i>	<i>4,424</i>	<i>1,632</i>	<i>75,837</i>
Females							
Current injector	1,603	5,301	2,670	779	82	21	10,573
Injected 3–12 months ago	555	1,831	964	296	22	3	3,729
Injected 12+ months ago	182	1,010	1,049	568	54	8	2,901
Never injected	1,929	3,118	3,884	3,219	1,425	511	14,278
Not stated	890	1,774	1,645	967	284	112	5,797
<i>Total females</i>	<i>5,159</i>	<i>13,034</i>	<i>10,212</i>	<i>5,829</i>	<i>1,867</i>	<i>655</i>	<i>37,278</i>
Persons							
Current injector	3,574	14,917	8,495	2,620	326	52	30,224
Injected 3–12 months ago	1,413	5,388	2,887	910	76	9	10,814
Injected 12+ months ago	460	3,603	3,562	1,855	232	15	9,797
Never injected	7,233	11,025	11,149	8,985	4,686	1,883	45,424
Not stated	2,462	5,304	4,687	2,880	974	329	16,972
Total persons^(c)	15,142	40,237	30,780	17,250	6,294	2,288	113,231

(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Includes not stated for Age.

(c) Includes not stated for Sex.

3.6 Reason for cessation of treatment episode

There are a number of reasons why a treatment episode, as defined, can cease. Such reasons include: a change in main treatment type for the client; a change in delivery setting; the client ceasing to participate without notice, or by mutual agreement with the service provider; or the client being imprisoned or dying.

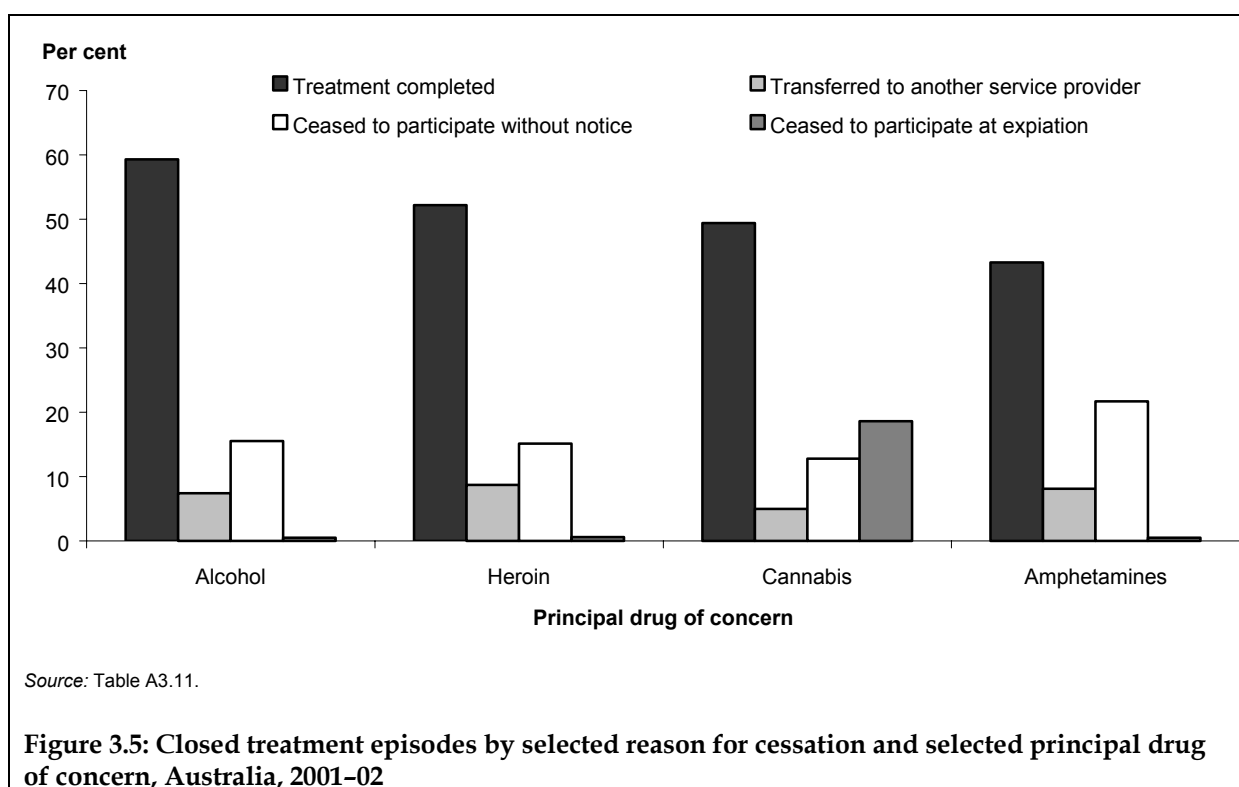
Treatment episodes most commonly ceased (53%) because the treatment was completed (Tables 3.10, A3.11 and Figure 3.5). This proportion was higher where the principal drug of concern was recorded as ecstasy (65%), alcohol (59%) and nicotine (57%). The next most common reason for treatment episodes to end was that the client ceased to participate without notice (16%). This proportion varied from 22% for amphetamines to 13% for cannabis.

Seven per cent of all treatment episodes ceased because the clients transferred to another service provider. This was higher where methadone (13%) and cocaine (11%) were the principal drug of concern.

Five per cent of episodes ended because the client ceased to participate against advice – higher for cocaine (9%) and heroin (8%). Only 3% of all treatment episodes ceased due to involuntary non-compliance, but this was a good deal higher for those who recorded nicotine as their principal drug of concern (12%).

The highest proportion of episodes ending due to expiation – that is, where the client had expiated their offence by completing a recognised education or information program – was for treatment episodes where cannabis was reported as the principal drug of concern (19%) (Figure 3.5).

Nationally, a very small proportion of treatment episodes ceased because the client had died (0.2%).



When all principal drugs are considered, treatment episodes where clients were aged over 40 years were more likely to cease because the treatment was completed (59% over 40 years, 52% under 40 years). This pattern can be seen for all the four main principal drugs of concern (Table 3.10).

Treatment episodes where the clients were aged under 40 years were more likely to cease without notice to the treatment agency than those involving older clients (16% under 40 years, 13% over 40 years) (Table 3.10). Again, this pattern can be seen for all principal drugs of concern but is most evident where alcohol was the principal drug (18% under 40 years, 13% over 40 years).

For all drugs, a low proportion of treatment episodes ended at expiation – that is, the client had fulfilled their obligation to satisfy expiation requirements as part of a police or court diversion scheme and chose not to continue with the treatment program – 5% under 40 years and 2% over 40 years. This proportion increases markedly for treatment episodes where

cannabis is recorded as the principal drug of concern (18% under 40 years, 26% over 40 years) – probably related to the referral patterns noted in Table A3.10.

Table 3.10: Closed treatment episodes by selected principal drug of concern, selected reason for cessation and age group, Australia, 2001–02^{(a)(b)}

	10–39 years	40 years and over	Total ^(c)
	(per cent)		
Alcohol			
Treatment completed	57.1	62.4	59.3
Transferred to another service provider	6.8	8.2	7.4
Ceased to participate without notice	17.6	12.6	15.5
Ceased to participate at expiation	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other ^(d)	15.5	14.3	15.0
Not stated	2.4	2.0	2.2
<i>Total (per cent)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number)</i>	<i>22,359</i>	<i>16,261</i>	<i>39,077</i>
Heroin			
Treatment completed	52.2	53.2	52.2
Transferred to another service provider	8.8	8.4	8.7
Ceased to participate without notice	15.2	13.8	15.1
Ceased to participate at expiation	0.5	1.1	0.6
Other ^(d)	21.4	21.4	21.4
Not stated	1.9	2.2	2.0
<i>Total (per cent)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number)</i>	<i>17,201</i>	<i>1,879</i>	<i>19,324</i>
Cannabis			
Treatment completed	49.5	46.0	49.4
Transferred to another service provider	5.0	5.3	5.0
Ceased to participate without notice	12.9	11.0	12.8
Ceased to participate at expiation	18.2	26.1	18.6
Other ^(d)	12.7	9.5	12.4
Not stated	1.7	2.1	1.7
<i>Total (per cent)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number)</i>	<i>21,142</i>	<i>1,705</i>	<i>23,047</i>
Amphetamines			
Treatment completed	42.8	49.8	43.3
Transferred to another service provider	8.3	6.3	8.1
Ceased to participate without notice	21.7	20.7	21.7
Ceased to participate at expiation	0.4	1.1	0.5
Other ^(d)	23.6	17.2	23.1
Not stated	3.1	5.1	3.2
<i>Total (per cent)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number)</i>	<i>10,539</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>11,276</i>

(continued)

Table 3.10 (continued): Closed treatment episodes by selected principal drug of concern, selected reason for cessation and age group, Australia, 2001–02^{(a)(b)}

	10–39 years	40 years and over	Total ^(c)
	(per cent)		
All drugs^(e)			
Treatment completed	51.7	58.7	53.2
Transferred to another service provider	7.0	8.0	7.2
Ceased to participate without notice	16.4	13.3	15.7
Ceased to participate at expiation	5.1	2.3	4.4
Other ^(d)	17.6	15.4	17.1
Not stated	2.3	2.3	2.3
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (number)	81,442	23,865	106,532

(a) Excludes South Australia.

(b) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(c) Includes not stated for Age.

(d) Includes Change in main treatment type; Change in delivery setting; Change in the principal drug of concern; all other Ceased to participate categories; Drug court and/ or sanctioned by court diversion service; Imprisoned other than drug court sanctioned; and Died.

(e) Includes not stated for Principal drug of concern and balance of Principal drugs of concern coded according to Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern. See Appendix 5.