



People experiencing homelessness

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

There is a **strong association** between **problematic alcohol or other drug use** and experiences of **homelessness**.^[1]



In 2022–23, **3 in 4** (75%) SHS clients who **reported problematic drug and/or alcohol use** were aged **under 45**.^[3]

8.6% or around **23,500** SHS clients aged 10+ reported **problematic AOD use** in 2022–23.^[3]

60% of SHS clients with **problematic AOD use** were **homeless** and **40%** were **at risk of homelessness** on first presentation to support services in 2022–23.^[3]



Most common principal drugs of concern for those who sought both Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment services in 2011–14 were:



Alcohol (40%)



Cannabis (29%)



Amphetamines (21%)^[2]

The 2023 **Illicit Drug Reporting System** report showed that for the interviewed injecting drug users, 27% reported homelessness.^[4]

Of the **23,500 (8.6%)** SHS clients with **problematic drug and/or alcohol use** in 2022–23, **79%** were **returning clients** while **21%** were **new clients**.^[3]



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References

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4. Sutherland R, Uporova J, King C, Chandrasena U, Karlsson A, Jones F, Gibbs D, Price O, Dietze P, Lenton S, Salom C, Bruno R, Wilson J, Agramunt S, Daly C, Thomas N, Radke S, Stafford L, Degenhardt L, Farrell M, & Peacock A. Australian Drug Trends 2023: Key Findings from the National Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) Interviews. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney; 2023. Accessed 25 October 2023.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).

