



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



# 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**.<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2021–22, **5.3%** of SHS clients sought assistance for **problematic drug or substance use**, and **2.6%** sought assistance for **problematic alcohol use**.<sup>[3]</sup>

**8.6%** or around **23,400** SHS clients aged 10+ reported **problematic AOD use** in 2021–22.<sup>[3]</sup>

**60%** of SHS clients with **problematic AOD use** were **homeless** and **40%** were **at risk of homelessness** on first presentation to support services in 2021–22.<sup>[3]</sup>



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



**Alcohol (40%)**



**Cannabis (29%)**



**Amphetamines (21%)**<sup>[2]</sup>

The 2022 **Illicit Drug Reporting System** report showed that for the interviewed injecting drug users, 26% reported homelessness.<sup>[4]</sup>

Of the **23,400 (8.6%)** clients with **problematic drug and/or alcohol use** in 2021–22, **80%** were **returning clients** while **20%** were **new clients**.<sup>[3]</sup>



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## References

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4. Sutherland R, Uporova J, Chandrasena U, Price O, Karlsson A, Gibbs D, Swanton R, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Salom C, Daly C, Thomas N, Juckel J, Agramunt S, Wilson Y, Woods E, Moon C, Degenhardt L, Farrell M and Peacock A. 2022. Australian Drug Trends 2022: Key Findings from the National Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) Interviews. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney. Viewed 13 October 2022.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

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