



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

In 2019–20, **6% of SHS clients sought assistance for problematic drug or substance use**, and **3% sought assistance for problematic alcohol use**.<sup>[3]</sup>



1 in 10 SHS clients aged 10+ reported **problematic AOD use** in 2019–20.<sup>[3]</sup>



**58%** of SHS clients with **problematic AOD use** were **homeless on first presentation** to support services in 2019–20.<sup>[3]</sup>

The 2016 Illicit Drug Reporting System report showed that for the interviewed **injecting drug users**:

**80%** had a history of homelessness

**25%** were currently homeless

**25%** total duration of their lifetime homelessness was 3–5 years.<sup>[4]</sup>

Of the 28,500 (10%) clients with problematic drug and/or alcohol use in 2019–20, 75% were returning clients while 25% were new clients.<sup>[3]</sup>

1. Bevitt A, Chigavazira A, Herault N, Johnson G, Moschion J, Scutella R et al. 2015. *Journeys Home Research Report No. 6*. Melbourne: University of Melbourne.

2. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2016. *Exploring drug treatment and homelessness in Australia: 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014*. Cat. no. CSI 23. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 10 January 2018.

3. AIHW 2019. *Specialist Homelessness Services annual report 2019–20*. Cat. No. HOU 322. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 11 December 2020.

4. Stafford J & Breen C, 2017. *Australian Drug Trends 2016. Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)*. Australian Drug Trend series no. 163. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Australia.