



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

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%.^[2]

In 2018–19, **6% of SHS clients sought assistance for problematic drug or substance use**, and **3% sought assistance for problematic alcohol use**.^[3]



1 in 10 SHS clients aged 10+ reported **problematic AOD use** in 2018–19.^[3]



55% of SHS clients with **problematic AOD use** were **homeless on first presentation** to support services in 2018–19.^[3]

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.^[4]

Of the 28,000 (10%) clients with problematic drug and/or alcohol use in 2018–19, 74% were returning clients while 26% were new clients.^[3]

1. Scutella R, Chigavazra A, Killackey E, Herault N, Johnson G, Moschion J et al. 2014. Journeys home research report no. 4. 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 2018–19.

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.