# Trends in drug-related hospitalisations, 1999-2020

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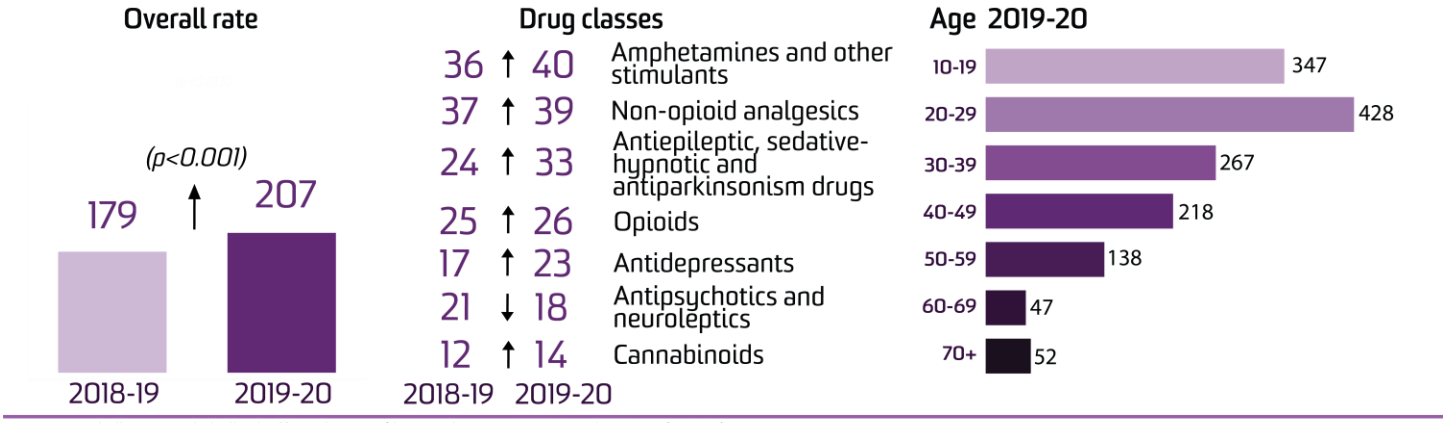
## Australian Capital Territory

Drug-related hospitalisations per 100,000 people (excluding alcohol and tobacco)




Note: Arrows indicate a statistically significant increase/decrease between 2018-19 and 2019-20 (p<0.05)

There were 892 hospitalisations with a drug-related principal diagnosis in the Australian Capital Territory in 2019-20.

This is equivalent to 207 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, which was a significant increase from 2018-19 (179 hospitalisations per 100,000 people; $p$<0.001) (Table 1) and higher than the rate in 1999-00 (125 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Figure 1).

### *Sex*

The rate of hospitalisations was higher among females than males in 2019-20 (249 versus 167 hospitalisations per 100,000 people).

### *Age*

In 2019-20, the rate of hospitalisations was highest among the 20-29 age group, followed by the 10-19 and 30-39 age groups (428, 347, and 267 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, respectively).

### *Remoteness Area of Usual Residence*

Over 99.8% of the population in the Australian Capital Territory resided in major cities and the remaining resided in inner regional areas. For this reason, data on hospitalisations by remoteness area are not presented.

### *External Cause of Drug Poisoning*

In 2019-20, 66% of drug-related hospitalisations in the Australian Capital Territory were due to drug poisoning. Furthermore, 76% of drug poisoning related hospitalisations were intentional (108 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) and 16% were unintentional (22 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Figure 2).

### *Drug Type*

In 2019-20, the rate of hospitalisations was highest where there was a principal diagnosis indicating amphetamines and other stimulants (40 hospitalisations per 100,000 people), closely followed by non-opioid analgesics (39 hospitalisations per 100,000 people) (Figure 3).

Compared to 2018-19, there was a significant decrease in the rate of antipsychotic and neuroleptic-related hospitalisations in 2019-20 ($p$<0.050) (Table 1).

In contrast, there were significant increases in the rate of hospitalisations related to amphetamines and other stimulants; non-opioid analgesics (after a big decline from an earlier peak between 2016-17 and 2018-19); antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs; opioids; antidepressants; cannabinoids; and multiple drug use ($p$<0.050) (Table 17).

Figure 1. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by sex, Australian Capital Territory, 1999-00 to 2019-20.

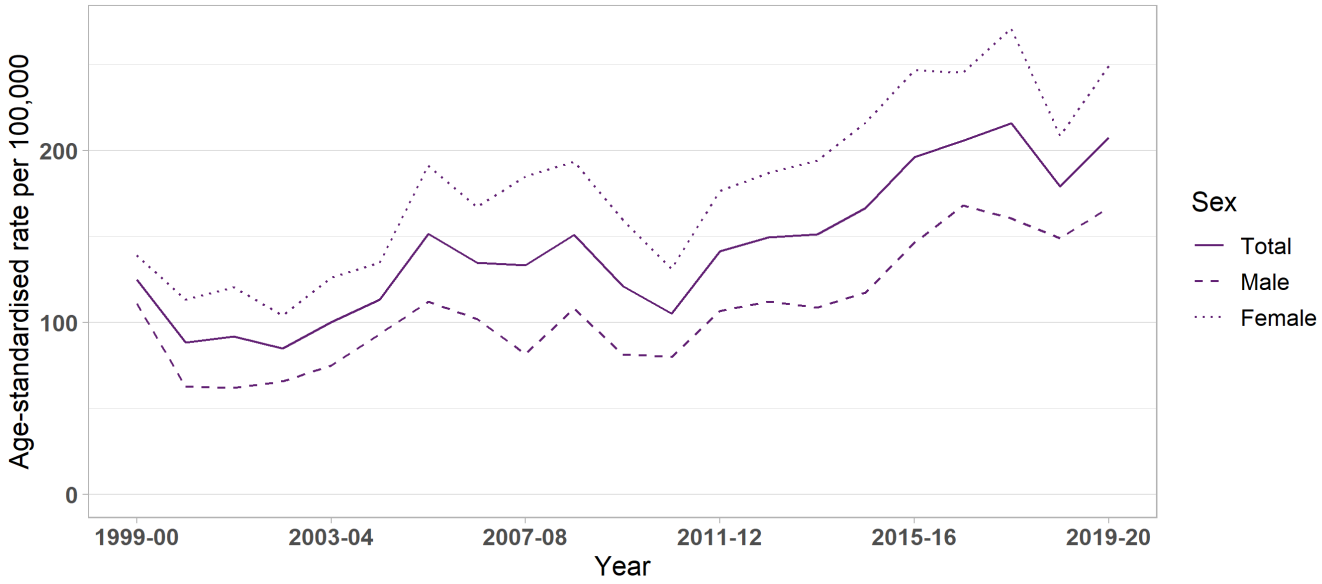
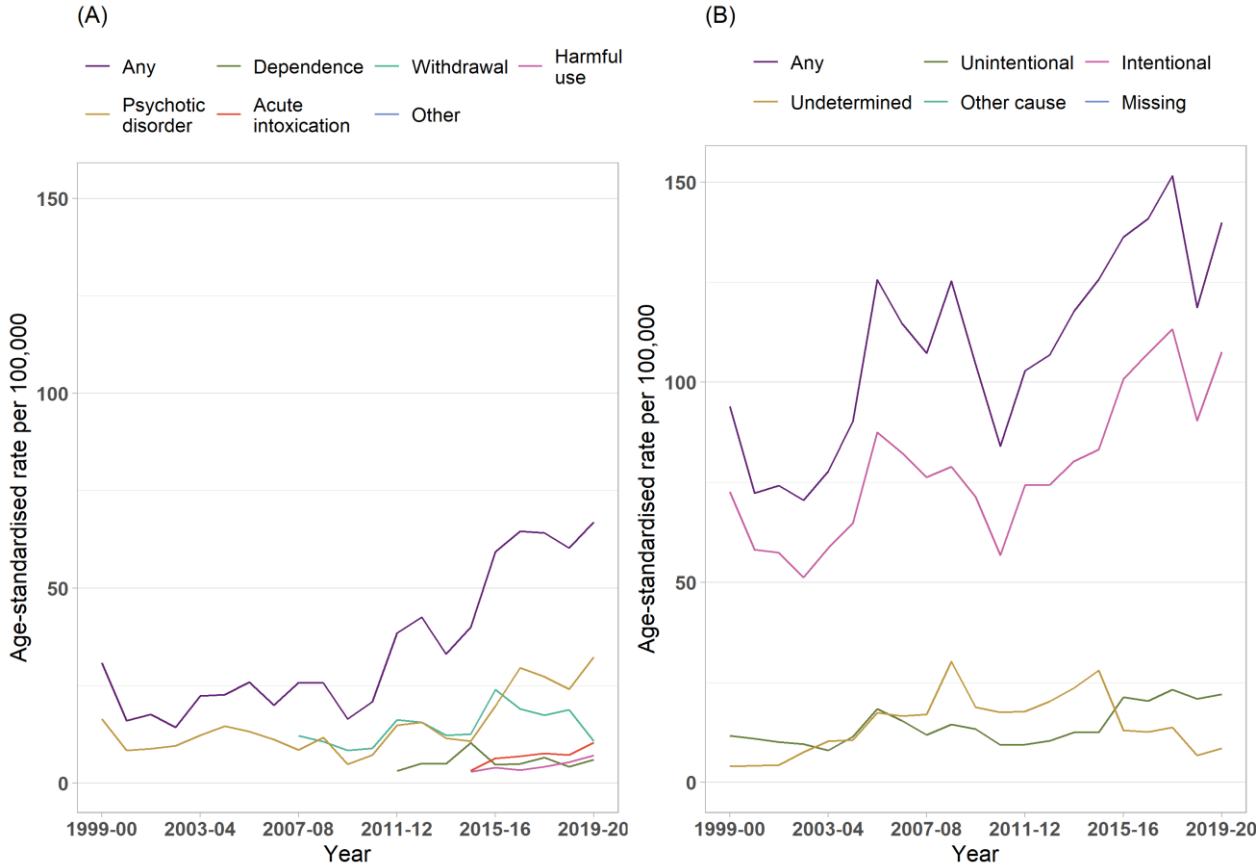



Figure 2. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by principal diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorder due to substance use (A) and external cause of poisoning (B), Australian Capital Territory, 1999-00 to 2019-20.




Note: Age-standardised rates were not calculated if the number of hospitalisations was less than or equal to 10 (please refer to our methods document for details). Suppressed data are visible as gaps in the data series.



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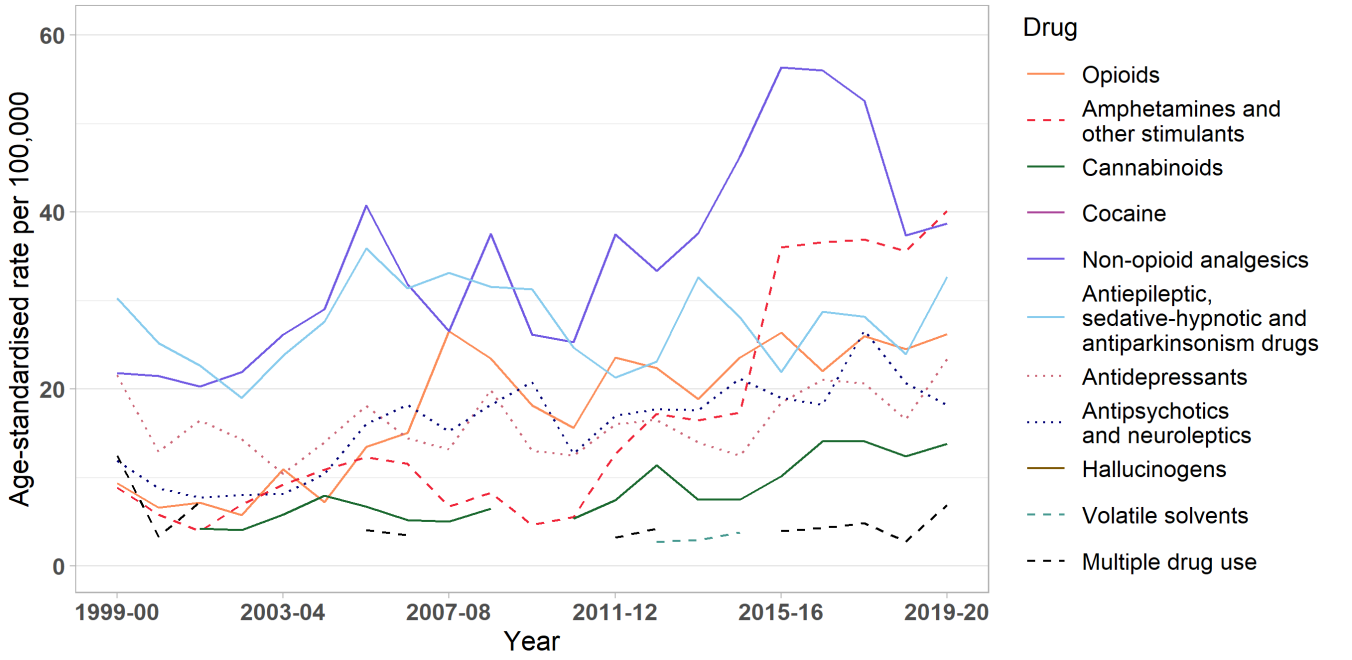
Figure 3. Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people of drug-related hospitalisations, by drug identified in the principal diagnosis, Australian Capital Territory, 1999-00 to 2019-20.




Note: Age-standardised rates were not calculated if the number of hospitalisations was less than or equal to 10 (please refer to our methods document for details). Suppressed data are visible as gaps in the data series.

Table 1. Age-standardised rate (per 100,000 people) of drug-related hospitalisations in 2019-20 and rate ratio and p-value for difference compared to 2018-19, in the Australian Capital Territory by drug type identified in the principal diagnosis

| Drug | Rate in 2019-20 (95% CI) | Rate in 2018-19 (95% CI) | Rate ratio | P-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All drugs** | 207 (193.9,221.6) | 179 (166,192) | 1.16 (1.14,1.18) | <0.001 |
| **Amphetamines and other stimulants** | 40 ( 34.4, 46.6) | 36 (30,42) | 1.13 (1.09,1.17) | <0.001 |
| **Non-opioid analgesics** | 39 ( 32.9, 45.3) | 37 (32,44) | 1.04 (1.00,1.07) | 0.027 |
| **Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs** | 33 ( 27.6, 38.5) | 24 (20,29) | 1.37 (1.32,1.42) | <0.001 |
| **Opioids** | 26 ( 21.6, 31.5) | 25 (20,30) | 1.07 (1.03,1.11) | <0.001 |
| **Antidepressants** | 23 ( 19.0, 28.6) | 17 (13,21) | 1.41 (1.35,1.48) | <0.001 |
| **Antipsychotics and neuroleptics** | 18 ( 14.4, 22.7) | 21 (17,25) | 0.88 (0.84,0.92) | <0.001 |
| **Cannabinoids** | 14 ( 10.5, 17.7) | 12 (9,16) | 1.11 (1.05,1.18) | <0.001 |
| **Multiple drug use** | 6.9 ( 4.65, 9.88) | 2.8 ( 1.4, 4.9) | 2.47 (2.24,2.73) | <0.001 |

Note: 95% confidence intervals for the age-standardised rate and rate ratio are shown in brackets. Please refer to our methods document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of rate ratios. Please also refer to our methods document on 'Scope of the data' and 'Coding of hospitalisations' for specifications of data selected and all exclusions.



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Please note that as with all statistical reports there is the potential for minor revisions to data in this report over its life. Please refer to the online version at Drug Trends.



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## Related Links

- Hospitalisations data visualisations: https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/hospital_separations
- Hospitalisations methods document: https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/resource-analytics/trends-drug-related-hospitalisations-australia-1999-2020
- For other Drug Trends publications on drug-related hospitalisations and drug-induced deaths in Australia, go to: https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/project/national-illicit-drug-indicators-project-nidip
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