

## Frequency and associations of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use consults in general practice registrar training

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**Introduction:** Alcohol, tobacco and other substance use was responsible for 15% of the burden of disease in Australia in 2018. Primary care screening and brief interventions are of demonstrated benefit in this space. However, previous research suggests substance use presentations were managed less commonly by GPs than would be suggested by community prevalence, especially for substances other than alcohol and tobacco. GP registrars may have even less exposure to and confidence with substance use presentations, but literature in this area is scarce. We aim to estimate the frequency with which GP registrars are consulting patients with alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use, and explore factors associated with these consultations.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional analyses used data from the Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT) study, an ongoing multisite inception cohort study of GP registrars. We included all participants from 2016-2024 who provided consent for their data to be used for research purposes, providing a generalisable sample of Australian GP registrars. We estimated prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use problems in registrar practice, with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Multivariable binomial logistic regression will model patient, registrar, consultation, clinic, and educational associations with seeing these problems.

**Results:** Preliminary findings indicate 8833 (0.89% [95%CI:0.87-0.91]) consultations by GP registrars involved substance use with 50.5% [95%CI:49.4-51.5] of these involving tobacco, 26.3% [95%CI: 23.4-27.2] involving alcohol, and 23.3% [95%CI: 22.4-24.2] other/unspecified substances. Analyses of associations with these consultations will be presented.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** Frequency of alcohol, tobacco and substance use consults were lower than expected based on community prevalence and burden of disease data.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** This study defines the current landscape for Australian GP registrars in alcohol and other substance use consultations. This highlights areas where further education is required, and has implications for GP registrar training in substance use.

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