

## **Characteristics of alcohol and other drug-related ambulance attendances in Australia, 2021**

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### **Introduction and aims:**

Consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs at harmful levels and non-medical use of pharmaceutical medications are major health issues, associated with increased risk of chronic disease, injury, and premature death. The National Ambulance Surveillance System for Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse and Overdose (NASS-AOD) provides timely data on acute AOD-related harms. This analysis explores key findings for ambulance attendances involving alcohol and selected other drugs.

### **Method/Approach:**

Ambulance attendances for the most commonly identified drugs in attendance data for available states will be analysed using 2021 monthly data from the NASS-AOD. The rates of ambulance attendances will be examined based on the drug type involved (including alcohol, cannabis, and benzodiazepines) and further analysed by demographic characteristics (sex and age group).

### **Key findings:**

Results are expected to identify demographic groups with high rates of ambulance attendances and ascertain patterns of drug types.

### **Discussion and conclusions:**

These results will support the monitoring of acute AOD harms in Australia and assist in identifying opportunities for the development and evaluation of improved policy, potential points of intervention, service planning and program delivery.

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