

# EXPLORING CHARACTERISTICS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) TREATMENT CLIENTS EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

L MCFARLANE<sup>1</sup>, K DA SILVA<sup>1</sup>, M HEWITT<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, ACT*

## **Introduction / Issues:**

AOD clients accessing services for both domestic and family violence, experience more complex issues and required a greater volume of services. We explore the profiles (demographic, service use and service outcome) of people who received both publicly-funded AOD treatment services and specialist housing services (SHS), who were experiencing family or domestic violence.

## **Design and Methods:**

Using the statistical linkage key (SLK) 581 identifier, clients who received AOD treatment from 2012–13 to 2013–14 and SHS from 2011–12 to 2013–14 were identified and their records linked.

## **Key Findings:**

Almost 40,000 people received both AOD treatment and SHS in the period from July 2011 to June 2014— nearly ten percent of clients receiving SHS and 20 percent of clients receiving AOD treatment.

Domestic and family violence was an issue for about a third of these clients, with women and Indigenous clients over-represented at 73% and 33% respectively. These clients were more likely to have multiple drugs of concern (20% of males and 17% of females compared with 7% and 6% for AODTS clients only), and higher rates of treatment for amphetamines at 21%. Counselling was the most common treatment for this cohort (58%) and on average these clients received 180.7 days of support from SHS over the 3-year study.

## **Discussions and Conclusions:**

These results highlight the significant overlap between these two issues, but also the significant barriers towards overcoming them when they are experienced together.

## **Implications for Practice or Policy:**

The complexity of the issues identified have implications for service responses and program initiatives for those experiencing domestic violence.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement**

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