



# Characteristics of clients who receive treatment for another person's alcohol or other drug use

## Introduction

A National Drug Strategy 2017–2026 priority is providing information and support resources for individuals, families, and communities in contact with people at increased risk of harm from substance use<sup>[1]</sup>. This poster highlights the characteristics of persons receiving alcohol and other drug treatment for another person's substance use.

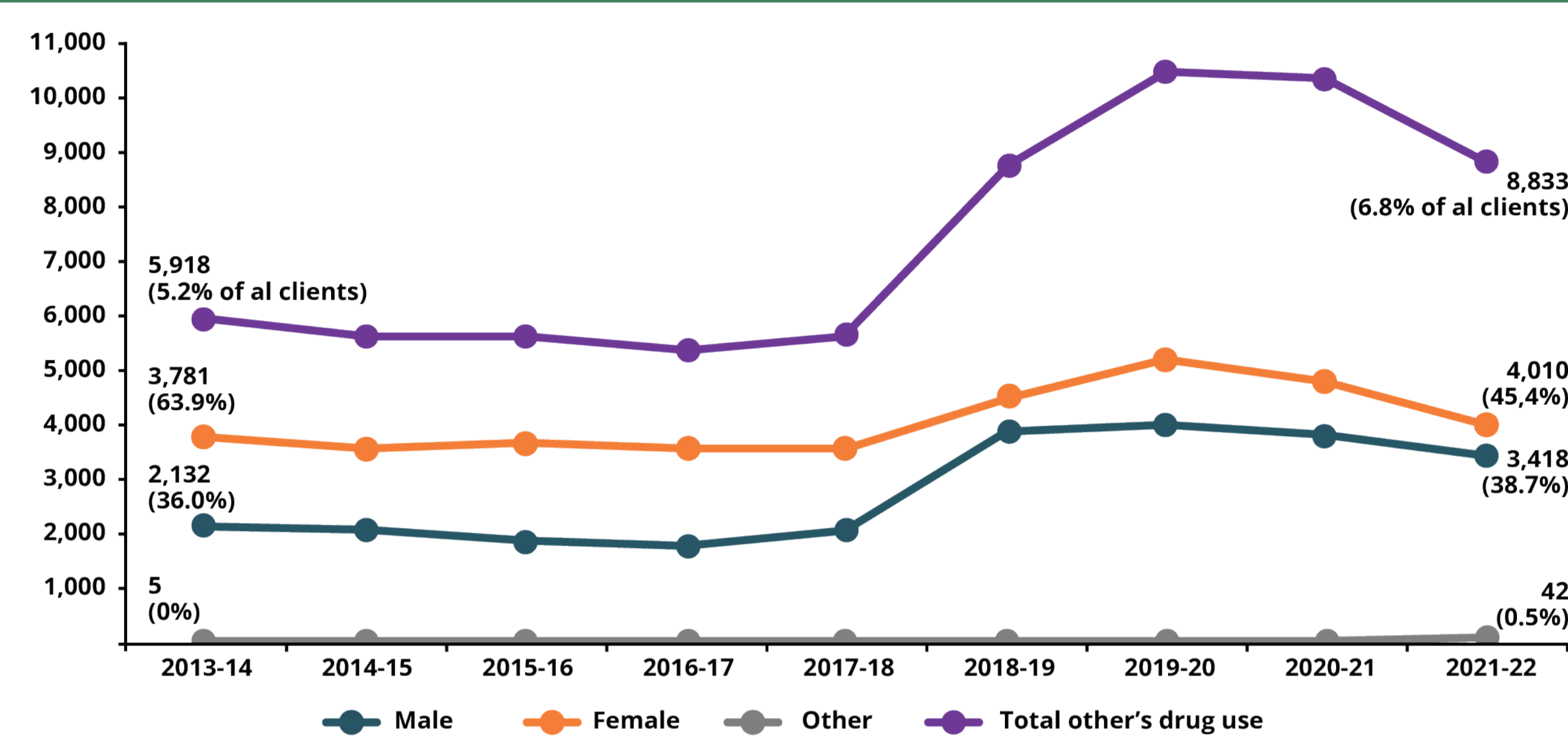
## Method

This analysis uses the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set to examine clients aged 10 and over who received treatment for another person's substance use in 2021–22, and includes demographics and main treatment type.

## Key findings

### Between 2013–14 and 2021–22:

- The number of clients who received treatment for their own or another person's substance use has been increasing (from 114,500 to 131,000 clients, respectively).
- The proportion of clients who received treatment for another person's substance use increased from 5.2% (5,900) to 6.8% (8,800) of all clients.
- Clients who received treatment for another person's substance use were more commonly female (64% in 2013–14 and 45% in 2021–22).



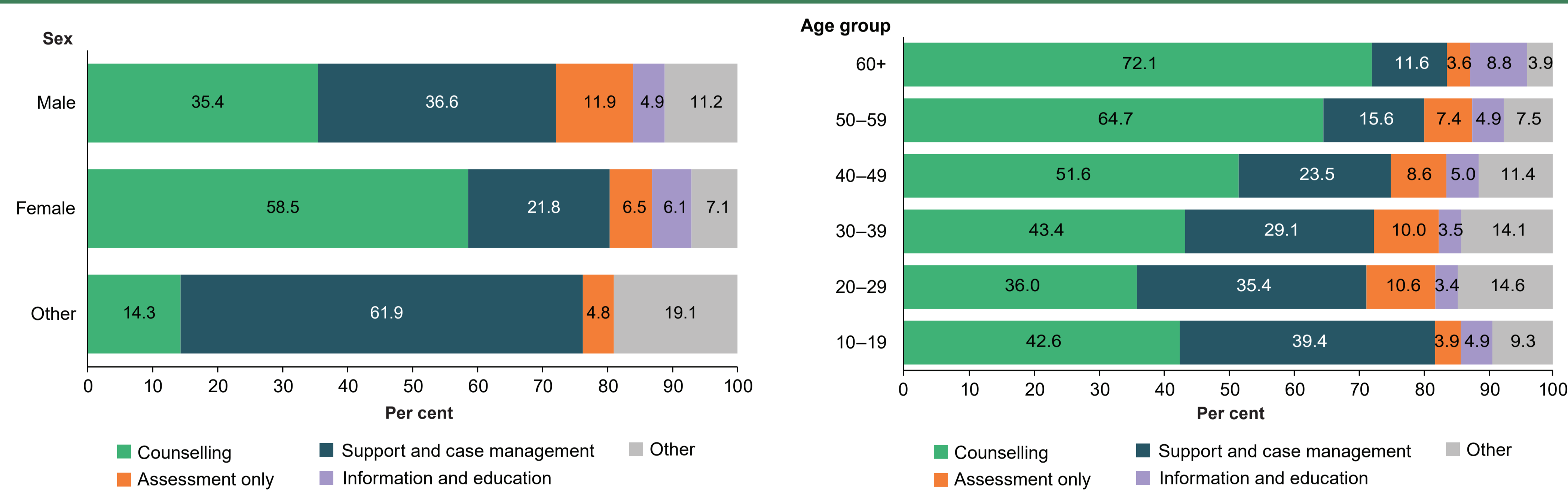
### In 2021–22:

- Over half (54% or 4,727) of clients were aged under 40.
- Female clients were more likely to receive counselling, while male clients were more likely to receive support and case management.
- Older clients (aged over 40) were more likely to receive counselling.
- Younger clients (aged 10–29) were more likely to receive support and case management.

### Around 18,500 treatment episodes were provided in 2021–22:

- Treatment referrals for self or family (2,904) and from corrections (1,289) were commonly for counselling.
- Treatment referrals from a health service was commonly for support and case management (2,436).
- Treatment provided in non-residential treatment settings (5,388) or outreach settings (464) were commonly for counselling.

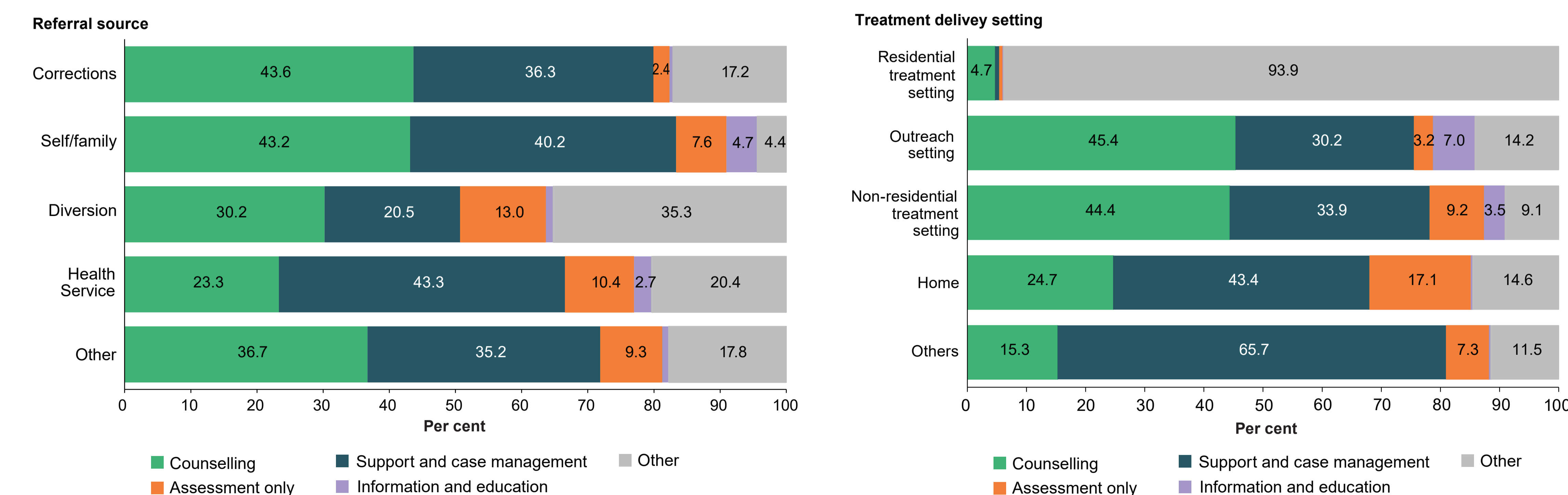
## Clients by sex, age group & main treatment type, 2021–22



## Conclusion

Supporting community engagement in identifying and responding to substance issues can assist with reducing stigma and promote help seeking behaviours<sup>[1]</sup>. Since 2013–14, there has been an increase in clients seeking treatment for another person's substance use. Clients are more likely to be female, under 40 years of age, and the treatment received varied based on client demographics.

## Treatment episodes by referral source, treatment delivery setting & main treatment type, 2021–22



### Notes

1. Clients who seek treatment for another person's substance use cannot receive withdrawal management, rehabilitation or pharmacotherapy as a treatment type.
2. Client data based on client records with a valid and distinct statistical linkage key-581 (SLK).
3. Not stated for client sex and age group has been excluded.
4. Other sex includes persons who reported their sex as another term.
5. Other treatment delivery setting includes correctional settings.
6. Other referral source includes persons referred under a legislative acts (such as mental health acts) or via community services.

Source: Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services, National Minimum Data Set.

### References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report. Canberra (AU): AIHW; 2022. Report No.: Cat. no. HSE 250.
2. Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. National Drug Strategy 2017–2026. Canberra (AU): DOH; 2017. 53 p.

### Disclosure of Interest Statement

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### Find out more

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/alcohol-other-drug-treatment-services/overview>

