

# Drug and alcohol treatment services in NSW 2005/06

Annual report on the NSW Minimum Data Set



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# Executive summary

The *NSW Minimum Data Set (MDS) for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services* (formerly known as the MDS for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services) was developed for the purpose of describing drug and alcohol service delivery and the characteristics of their clients. As drug and alcohol clients often receive repeat treatments, it was decided at a national level that the collection would operate on a 'closed episode' basis, rather than be based on client registrations. The collection started in July 2000 among all government, and funded non-government drug and alcohol service providers. This was a significant achievement for the NSW drug and alcohol sector.

This report refers to urban, regional and rural Area Health Services. The boundaries used for these are in line with the seventeen regional Area Health Services that existed prior to January 2005.

There are a number of limitations to this data collection. These are more fully outlined on page 4 of this report and include the following points:

- It does not contain any treatment outcome measures.
- It does not contain a unique patient identifier so determining the actual number of clients and a clear picture of the continuum of services provided to a client is not possible.
- The closed episode basis of the collection is somewhat artificial and makes it difficult to capture the continuum of care provided.
- Long term clients in treatment are not captured.

A summary of the major findings for the 2005/06 financial year is detailed below.

## Treatment agencies

- There were 294 government-funded alcohol and other drug treatment agencies providing data for the 2005/06 financial year. This included 82 (28%) non-government agencies.

- These agencies provided 43,502 'closed episodes' during 2005/06. A closed episode is defined as a period of contact between a client and treatment agency with defined dates of commencement and cessation.

## Client demographics

- The 43,502 closed episodes involved approximately 38,536 clients. Over two-thirds (67%) of all closed episodes were for male clients, most falling in the 20-39 age group. The average age of both male and female clients was 32.3 years.
- Just over 11% of closed episodes were for clients who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) origin. The average age for Aboriginal clients was 29.5 years for both male and female clients.
- Ninety-seven per cent of closed episodes were for clients who nominated English as their preferred language and 87% per cent of closed episodes involved clients who were born in Australia. One-fifth (22.6%) of closed episodes were for clients who were in full or part-time employment, while two-thirds (66.2%) received some form of temporary benefit or pension as their primary source of income. Nearly 3.4% of closed episodes were for clients who indicated they were homeless.

## Drugs of concern

- Within the *Minimum Data Set*, 41.7% of closed episodes were for alcohol, 15.6% for heroin, 20.3% for cannabis, 11.2% for amphetamines, 2.2% for benzodiazepines, 2.2% for other opiates, 1.2% for nicotine, 0.6% for cocaine and 0.3% for ecstasy.
- Three per cent of closed episodes were for clients who attended treatment for the drug use of another person; of these 74% were female.
- The average age of clients in treatment for nicotine was 40.1 years, alcohol was 38.2 years, 38.1 years for benzodiazepines, 34.3 years for cannabis. 33.5 years for heroin, 30.6 years for amphetamines and 31.6 years for cocaine.

- Overall, 50% of closed episodes involved clients who reported never having injected drugs, while 26.5% of clients reported being current injectors. 5.8% had last injected more than 3 months ago and 7.7% were reported as 'not stated'.

## Treatment programs

- There were 15,383 open episodes as at 30 June 2005 that are not included in this report. For the main service provided, 32.6% of closed episodes were for counselling, 20.4% for assessment, 14.6% for inpatient withdrawal, 8.1% for residential rehabilitation, 9.8% for support and case management, 6.2% for outpatient withdrawal and 1.7% for information and education.
- Seventy-seven per cent of closed episodes involved no other service than the main service provided. Nearly 22% of closed episodes were for clients who indicated they had received no previous drug and alcohol treatment.
- Thirty-eight per cent of closed episodes were for clients who referred themselves to treatment. Eighteen per cent of closed episodes were diverted from the police, court or criminal justice setting, 7% were referred by a general practitioner or medical officer and 10.6% were referred by a non-residential drug and alcohol treatment facility. Five per cent of closed episodes were referred into treatment by a family member or friend.
- The average age for clients by their main service provided was: 35.1 years for counselling; 36.9 for inpatient/residential withdrawal; 33.8 years for information and education; 35 years for outpatient withdrawal; 32.8 years for assessment; 31.6 years for residential rehabilitation; and 31 years for support and case management.
- For the main service provided, the median number of days for a closed episode was 56, with a median of 93 days for counselling, 52 days for residential rehabilitation and 31 days for outpatient withdrawal episodes. Note: There are no accepted standard durations for withdrawal management and ongoing management for outpatients. Most detoxification episodes should be completed in 10 days or less. The prolonged period may include ongoing counselling and relapse prevention.

## Reason for cessation

- Sixty-three per cent of treatment episodes were closed because the client completed the treatment. The completion rate for 20-29 year olds was 58.6%, 61.6% for 30-39 year olds, 66.5% for 40-49 year olds, 69.7% for 50-59 year olds and 76.7% for clients aged 60 years and older.
- Completion was 66.7% where the principal drug of concern was alcohol, 61.6% for cannabis, 58.0% for amphetamines and 53.8% for heroin.
- Completion was 2.7% where the main service provided was information and education, 16.6% for inpatient withdrawal, 31.3% for assessment, 6.2% for outpatient withdrawal, 27.1% for counselling and 3.9% for residential rehabilitation.

## Methadone and buprenorphine clients (NSW Pharmacotherapy Program data)

### Demographic information for methadone and buprenorphine treatment clients

- Clients who were exclusively receiving methadone and buprenorphine treatments are excluded from this report. Statistics are included below on these clients from the NSW Pharmaceutical Services Branch database in order to provide a complete picture of drug and alcohol treatment in New South Wales.
- There were 16,355 clients who were exclusively receiving methadone and buprenorphine treatments as at 30 June 2006. Of these, 65% were male and 11% were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- As at 30 June 2006, 2,639 (16.2%) of clients were on buprenorphine.

# Background

Collection of the *National Minimum Data Set for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Agencies* (NMDS AODTS) began in July 2000. This data collection comprises a nationally agreed set of data items collected by government-funded alcohol and other drug treatment service providers. It includes the collection of 34 client demographic, drug use and treatment data items for each client.

The collection is reported on a 'closed episode' basis that is defined as a period of contact, with a defined commencement and cessation date, between a client and a service provider. A service episode has certain key elements:

- It is delivered in one setting (eg. inpatient or outpatient)
- It consists of one main service provided (eg. counselling or rehabilitation)
- It consists of only one principal drug of concern
- It has a defined starting and ending date

Hence, a client may have more than one episode open at the same time (eg. a client may receive counselling while undergoing rehabilitation treatment) or may have more than one successive episode (eg. a client may complete a detoxification then proceed to residential rehabilitation).

The *New South Wales Minimum Data Set for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services* (NSW MDS DATS, formerly known as the MDS for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services) contains all of the NMDS AODTS data items plus a few additional items collected in NSW such as the client's source of income.

One key data item in the collection is the main service provided: This comprises:

- **Assessment:** All new or returning clients are assessed in some form to determine the most appropriate service to provide. The method of assessment will depend on the type of service offered, the client's drug use, personal history and individual needs.
- **Counselling:** There are many different types of alcohol and other drug counselling available, including individual and group counselling in both outpatient and residential settings.
- **Detoxification:** Involves the provision of health care to manage the symptoms of drug withdrawal. It is not a cure for drug dependence and needs to be followed by further treatment.
- **Rehabilitation:** Programs assist the client to develop appropriate skills and attitudes to make positive changes towards a lifestyle free of drug dependence. Rehabilitation may be provided as residential or outpatient treatment.

It is important to note that this data collection excludes clients who are:

- In maintenance pharmacotherapy treatment such as methadone or buprenorphine
- In a correctional setting
- Admitted patients in acute care and psychiatric hospitals, including inpatient consultations
- In a 'halfway house' or 'sobering up shelter'
- Involved in needle and syringe programs or related prevention/education activities
- Involved in telephone help-lines and community support lines
- Under the age of 10
- Using non funded NGO services.

Further details about the guidelines for the 2005/06 collection are contained in the *NSW Minimum Data Set for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services Data Dictionary 2006-2007*.

# Limitations

There are a number of limitations to this data collection. These are discussed in more detail below.

## **1. No treatment outcome measures**

The NSW MDS DATS was developed to monitor trends in drug and alcohol treatment within a standardised data collection. It does not contain any treatment outcome measures.

## **2. No unique patient identifier**

New South Wales currently does not have a unique patient identifier (UPI) for health system data. This will be changing in the near future as the Electronic Health Record is implemented. Until such a time as a state-wide UPI is implemented across both government and non-government organisations, it is not possible to determine the unique number of clients receiving drug and alcohol treatment. Additionally, it is not possible to obtain a picture of the continuum of care a client receives as they move from different phases of the episode (eg. from assessment to detoxification to rehabilitation).

## **3. Closed episode concept is artificial**

Within the course of treatment, clients can have multiple services provided. In order to capture this activity into consistent blocks for reporting, the NSW MDS DATS was developed with a closed episode concept. It is acknowledged that this concept is artificial and makes it difficult to capture the continuum of care provided to an individual client.

## **4. Long term clients in treatment not captured**

(See executive summary page 1).

# 1 Treatment agencies

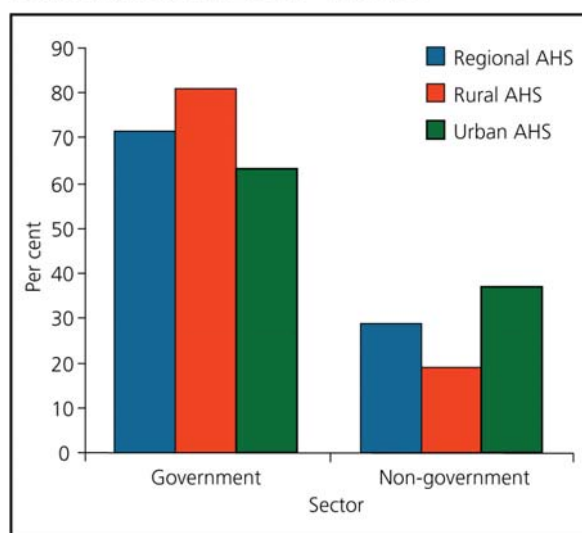
## 1.1 Establishment sector

There were 294 government-funded alcohol and other drug treatment agencies providing data for 2005/06. This included 82 (28%) non-government agencies. These agencies provided 43,502 'closed episodes' during 2005/06. A closed episode is defined as a period of contact between a client and treatment agency with a defined date of commencement and cessation.

## 1.2 Geographic location and sector

The geographic location of treatment agencies in the 2005/06 collection has been classified based on urban, regional and rural Area Health Services (AHS). In 2005/06, 72% of drug and alcohol treatment agencies were government agencies. Of the 28% non-government agencies, 37% were located in urban AHS, 29% in regional AHS and 19% in rural AHS. Note that in rural areas, a single worker is often reported as an 'agency'.

Figure 1.1 Treatment agencies by geographic location and sector, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06



(a) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. **Urban** AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. **Regional** AHS include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. **Rural** AHS include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

Table 1.1 Treatment agencies by geographic location and sector, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06

Sector	Urban AHS	Regional AHS	Rural AHS	Total
(Per cent)				
Government	63.1	71.3	81.1	72.1
Non-government	36.9	28.7	18.9	27.9
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
(Number)				
Government	53	82	77	212
Non-government	31	33	18	82
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>294</b>

a) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. **Urban** AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. **Regional** AHS include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. **Rural** AHS include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

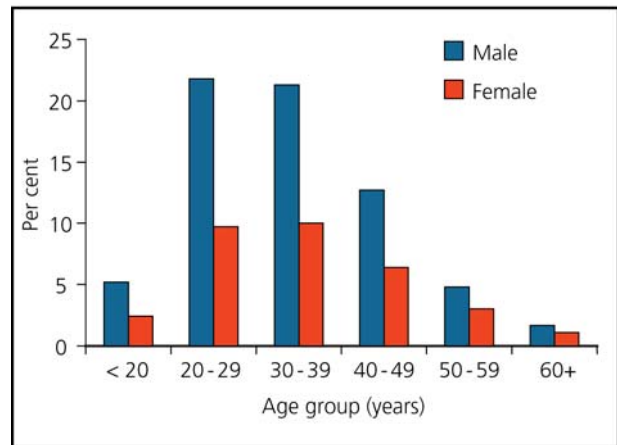
# 2 Client demographics

The 43,502 closed episodes reported in 2005/06 represented approximately 38,536 clients.

## 2.1 Sex and age

Male clients in 2005/06 accounted for over two-thirds (67%) of all closed episodes, with 63% of episodes for clients aged between 20-39 years. The average age of both male and female clients was 32.3.

**Figure 2.1 Closed episodes by sex and age group, NSW, 2005/06**



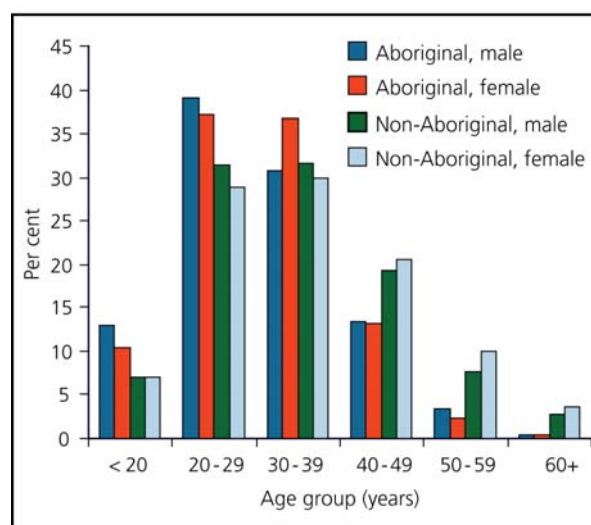
**Table 2.1: Closed episodes by sex and age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
< 20	2,247	5.2	1,053	2.4	3,300	7.6
20 - 29	9,475	21.8	4,212	9.7	13,687	31.5
30 - 39	9,282	21.3	4,341	10.0	13,623	31.3
40 - 49	5,516	12.7	2,782	6.4	8,298	19.1
50 - 59	2,088	4.8	1,295	3.0	3,383	7.8
60+	722	1.7	469	1.1	1,191	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100</b>

## 2.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

Of the 43,502 closed episodes reported in 2005/06, 4,619 (11%) involved clients who identified of being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) origin. There were approximately 4,122 Aboriginal clients. The average age for Aboriginal clients was 29.6 years, for male Aboriginal clients it was 29.4 and 29.5 years for female Aboriginal clients.

**Figure 2.2 Closed episodes by age group, Aboriginal origin and sex, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

(b) Includes N=1,751 Not stated for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin (N=1,139 males, N=609 females, N=3 not stated/unknown for sex).

**Table 2.2: Closed episodes by age group, Aboriginal origin and sex, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**

Age group	Aboriginal		Non Aboriginal		Total <sup>(a,b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
< 20	12.9	10.3	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.5	7.6
20 - 29	39.1	37.1	31.5	28.8	32.3	29.8	3.2
30 - 39	30.7	36.7	31.7	29.9	31.6	30.6	3.1
40 - 49	13.4	13.2	19.4	20.5	18.8	19.6	19.1
50 - 59	3.3	2.4	7.6	10.0	7.1	9.1	7.8
60+	0.5	0.4	2.7	3.7	2.5	3.3	2.7
<b>Total (Per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (Number)</b>	<b>2,974</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>26,356</b>	<b>12,508</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>43,482</b>

(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

(b) Includes N=1,751 Not stated for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Origin (N=1139 males, N=609 females, N=3 not stated/unknown for sex).

## 2.3 Country of birth and preferred language

Ninety-seven per cent of closed episodes were for clients who nominated English as their preferred language and 87% were for clients born in Australia, with clients from England and New Zealand as the next most common countries of birth.

**Table 2.3: Closed episodes by top ten preferred languages, NSW, 2005/06**

Country of birth	Number	Per cent	Preferred language	Number	Per cent
Australia	37,670	86.6	English	42,124	96.9
England	981	2.3	Vietnamese	128	0.3
New Zealand	784	1.8	Arabic (including Lebanese)	53	0.1
Viet Nam	247	0.6	Spanish	49	0.1
Scotland	178	0.4	Italian	30	0.1
Lebanon	144	0.3	Cantonese	22	0.1
Ireland	122	0.3	Serbian	21	0.0
United States of America	109	0.3	Macedonian	19	0.0
Fiji	99	0.2	Russian	18	0.0
Philippines	99	0.2	Albanian	17	0.0
Others	1,958	4.5	Others	247	0.6
Not stated	1,111	2.6	Not stated	774	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.4 Source of income by sex

Twenty-three per cent of closed episodes were for clients who were in full or part-time employment, and 66.2% of closed episodes were for clients who received some form of temporary benefit or pension as their primary source of income.

**Table 2.4: Closed episodes by source of income by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

Source of income	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Full-time employment	5,527	18.9	1,435	10.2	6,962	16.0
Part-time employment	1,619	5.5	1,269	9.0	2,888	6.6
Temporary benefit	13,465	45.9	4,794	33.9	18,259	42.0
Pension	6,006	20.5	4,497	31.8	10,503	24.2
Student allowance	247	0.8	213	1.5	460	1.1
Dependant on others	366	1.2	791	5.6	1,157	2.7
Retirement fund	134	0.5	103	0.7	237	0.5
No income	1,121	3.8	569	4.0	1,690	3.9
Other	334	1.1	155	1.1	489	1.1
Not stated/unknown	511	1.7	326	2.3	837	1.9
<b>Total (Number, per cent)</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

## 2.5 Usual accommodation by sex

Fifty-six per cent of closed episodes were for clients who lived in rental accommodation, 28% owned their own accommodation and 3% indicated they were homeless.

**Table 2.5: Closed episodes by usual accommodation by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

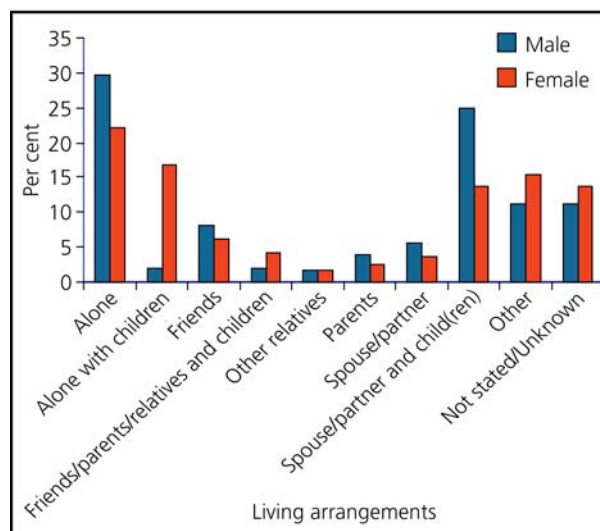
Usual accommodation	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Rented house or flat	15,692	53.5	8,485	59.9	24,177	55.6
Privately owned house or flat	8,330	28.4	3,946	27.9	12,276	28.2
Boarding house	594	2.0	137	1.0	731	1.7
Hostel/supported accommodation	496	1.7	160	1.1	656	1.5
Psychiatric hospital	41	0.1	37	0.3	78	0.2
Alcohol/other drug treatment residence	307	1.0	120	0.9	427	1.0
Shelter/refuge	517	1.8	200	1.4	717	1.6
Prison/detention centre	671	2.3	120	0.9	791	1.8
Caravan or serviced site	311	1.1	89	0.6	400	0.6
No usual residence/homeless	1170	4.0	320	2.3	1,490	3.4
Other	286	1.0	109	0.8	395	0.9
Not known	915	3.1	429	3.1	1,344	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

## 2.6 Living arrangement by sex

Clients had a variety of living arrangements, including 27% of close episode who lived alone, 21% who lived with their parents and 13% who lived with their spouse or partner.

**Figure 2.6 Closed episodes by living arrangement by sex, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Included N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

**Table 2.6: Closed episodes by living arrangement by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

Living arrangement	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Alone	8,732	29.8	3,120	22	11,852	27.3
Alone with children	550	1.9	2,380	16.8	2,930	6.7
Friends	2,338	8	884	6.2	3,222	7.4
Friends/parents/relatives and child(ren)	583	2	611	4.3	1,194	2.7
Other relatives	1,652	5.6	523	3.7	2,175	5
Parents	7,298	24.9	1,933	13.7	9,231	21.2
Spouse/partner	3,297	11.2	2,160	15.3	5,457	12.6
Spouse/partner and child(ren)	3,275	11.2	1,942	13.7	5,217	12
Other	1,106	3.8	353	2.5	1,459	3.4
Not stated/Unknown	499	1.7	246	1.7	745	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Included N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

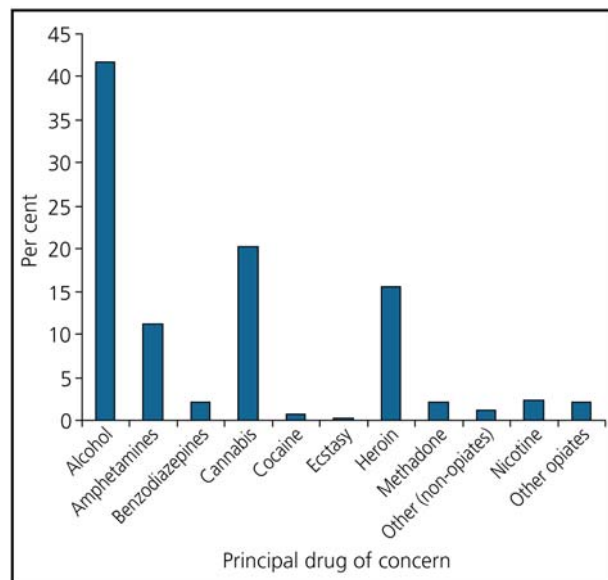
# 3 Drugs of concern

The principal drug of concern refers to the main substance that the client states led him or her to seek treatment from the alcohol and other drug treatment agency. Note that the client may also be using other drugs. For example, a client may be using heroin, amphetamines and alcohol but only be concerned with (and seeking treatment for) their amphetamine use. Note that nicotine has been included as a principal drug of concern but this is a significant undercount of actual nicotine treatment provided in NSW as many nicotine treatment agencies are not in scope for this data collection. Three per cent of closed episodes were for clients who attended treatment for the drug use of another person. Of these 74% were female. This section reports only on those 42,276 closed episodes where clients were seeking treatment for their own drug use. Since the 16,355 clients who are exclusively receiving methadone and buprenorphine treatment as at 30 June 2006 are excluded from the Minimum Data Set, the statistics below for heroin and other opiates is a significant underestimate.

## 3.1 Principal drug of concern

Within the Minimum Data Set (note: this excludes clients who exclusively receive methadone or buprenorphine treatment), 41.7% of closed episodes were for alcohol, 15.6% for heroin, 20.3% for cannabis, 11.2% for amphetamines, 2.2% for other opiates, 2.2% for benzodiazepines, 1.2% for nicotine, 0.7% for cocaine and 0.3% for ecstasy.

**Figure 3.1 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Table 3.1 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**

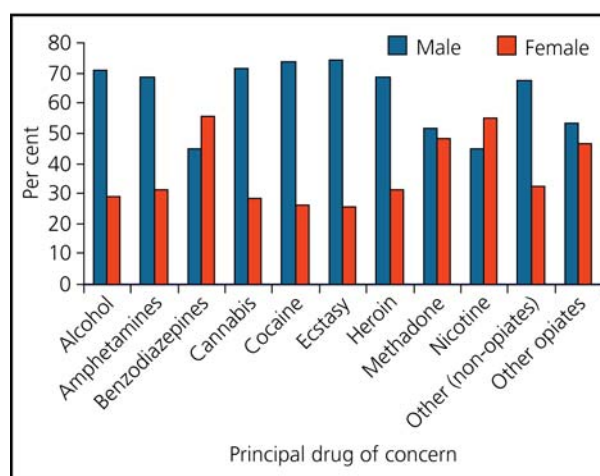
Principal drug of concern	Number	Per cent
Alcohol	17,635	41.7
Amphetamines	4,742	11.2
Benzodiazepines	942	2.2
Cannabis	8,561	20.3
Cocaine	261	0.7
Ecstasy	138	0.3
Heroin	6,591	15.6
Methadone	938	2.2
Nicotine	508	1.2
Other (non-opiates)	1,025	2.4
Other opiates	935	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,276</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes N=1,226 Treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

### 3.2 Principal drug of concern by sex

Male clients accounted for 69% of all closed episodes. Within a particular drug of concern, male clients accounted for 70.8% of closed episodes for alcohol, 72% for cannabis, 74.0% for cocaine, and 74.6% for ecstasy. Female clients accounted for 55.3% of closed episodes for benzodiazepines, 55.1% for nicotine and 47% for other opiates.

**Figure 3.2: Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by sex, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

**Table 3.2 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by sex, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**

Principal drug of concern	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Alcohol	12,479	70.8	5,144	29.2	17,623	100
Amphetamines	3,263	68.8	1,477	31.2	4,740	100
Benzodiazepines	419	44.6	521	55.4	940	100
Cannabis	6,124	71.6	2,435	28.4	8,559	100
Cocaine	193	74.0	68	26.0	261	100
Ecstasy	103	74.6	35	25.4	138	100
Heroin	4,526	68.7	2,064	31.3	6,590	100
Methadone	485	51.7	453	48.3	938	100
Nicotine	228	44.9	280	55.1	508	100
Other (non-opiates)	692	67.5	333	32.5	1,025	100
Other opiates	497	53.2	438	46.8	935	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,009</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>13,248</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>42,257</b>	<b>100</b>

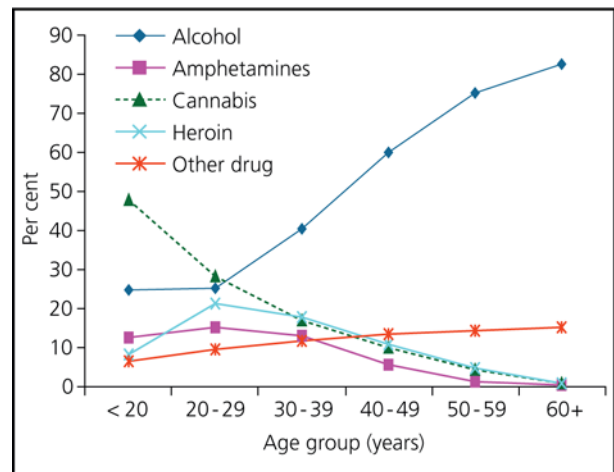
(a) Excludes N=1,226 Treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

### 3.3 Principal drug of concern and age

The average age of clients in treatment for nicotine was 40.1 years, 38.2 years for alcohol, 38.1 years for benzodiazepines, 38.1 for other opiates, 34.3 years for cannabis, 33.5 for heroin, 30.6 for amphetamines and 31.6 for cocaine.

**Figure 3.3 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by age group, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Table 3.3a Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Age group	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Cannabis	Heroin	Other drug	Total <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Per cent</b>						
< 20	24.9	12.5	47.7	8.4	6.4	<b>100</b>
20 - 29	25.4	15.4	28.3	21.2	9.7	<b>100</b>
30 - 39	40.4	13.1	16.9	17.9	11.7	<b>100</b>
40 - 49	60.2	5.6	9.8	11.0	13.4	<b>100</b>
50 - 59	75.3	1.4	4.2	4.9	14.2	<b>100</b>
60+	82.7	0.3	1.0	1.0	15.1	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>17,635</b>	<b>4,742</b>	<b>8,561</b>	<b>6,591</b>	<b>4,747</b>	<b>42,276</b>

(a) Excludes N=1,226 Treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Table 3.3b: Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by sex and age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Principal drug of concern/sex	Age group (years)						Total <sup>(a,b)</sup>
	<20	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60+	
<b>Females</b>	<b>Per cent</b>						
Alcohol	23.1	18.9	38	59.9	73	73.3	<b>38.8</b>
Amphetamines	14.3	17.1	12.5	3.8	0.7	0.6	<b>11.1</b>
Cannabis	40.9	25.3	16.7	9.5	3.6	0.9	<b>18.4</b>
Heroin	12.8	24	15.9	9.1	3.9	1.7	<b>15.6</b>
Other drug	9	14.7	16.9	17.6	18.8	23.5	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>13,248</b>
<b>Males</b>							
Alcohol	25.8	28.2	41.4	60.4	76.3	87.4	<b>43.0</b>
Amphetamines	11.6	14.7	13.4	6.4	1.7	0.1	<b>11.2</b>
Cannabis	50.9	29.6	17	9.9	4.6	1	<b>21.1</b>
Heroin	6.3	20	18.8	11.9	5.4	0.6	<b>15.6</b>
Other drug	5.3	7.5	9.3	11.4	11.9	10.8	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>9,442</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>5,447</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>29,009</b>
<b>Persons</b>							
Alcohol	24.9	25.4	40.4	60.3	75.2	82.7	<b>41.7</b>
Amphetamines	12.5	15.4	13.1	5.6	1.4	0.3	<b>11.2</b>
Cannabis	47.7	28.3	16.9	9.8	4.3	1	<b>20.3</b>
Heroin	8.3	21.2	17.9	11	4.9	1	<b>15.6</b>
Other drug	6.4	9.7	11.7	13.4	14.2	15.1	<b>11.2</b>
<b>Total episodes (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total episodes (number)</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>13,565</b>	<b>13,445</b>	<b>7,996</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>42,257</b>

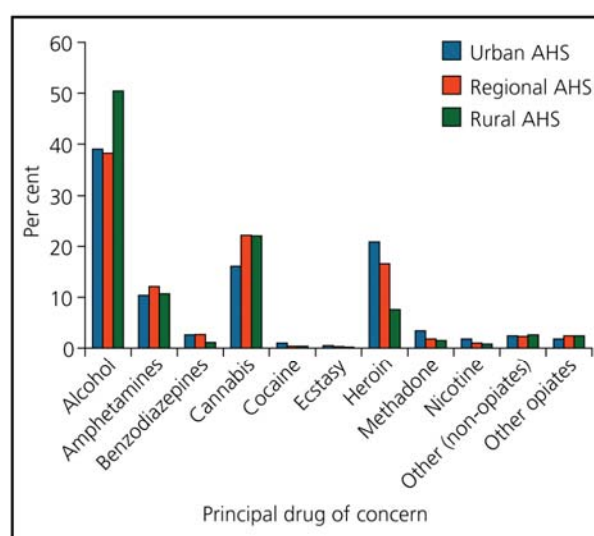
(a) Excludes N=1,226 Treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Excluded N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

### 3.4 Principal drug of concern and geographic location

In 2005/06, 41.7% of closed episodes were for alcohol, with 39.0% of urban AHS, 38.2% of regional AHS and 50.4% of rural AHS. 15.6% of closed episodes were for heroin. With 20.9% of urban AHS, 16.6% of regional AHS and 7.6% of rural AHS. 20.3% of closed episodes were for cannabis, on comparison 16.0% of urban AHS, 22.2% of regional AHS & 22.1% of rural AHS.

**Figure 3.4 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by geographic location, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes 1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. **Urban** AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. **Regional** AHS include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. **Rural** AHS include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

**Table 3.4: Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by geographical location, NSW, 2005/06**

Principal drug of concern	Urban AHS		Regional AHS		Rural AHS		Total <sup>(a,b)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Alcohol	5,235	39	6,722	38.2	5,678	50.4	<b>17,635</b>	<b>41.7</b>
Amphetamines	1400	10.4	2,135	12.1	1207	10.7	<b>4,742</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Benzodiazepines	349	2.6	467	2.7	126	1.1	<b>942</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Cannabis	2,153	16	3,914	22.2	2,494	22.1	<b>8,561</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Cocaine	145	1	72	0.4	44	0.4	<b>261</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Ecstasy	68	0.5	46	0.3	24	0.2	<b>138</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Heroin	2,806	20.9	2,925	16.6	860	7.6	<b>6,591</b>	<b>15.6</b>
Methadone	452	3.4	318	1.8	168	1.5	<b>938</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Nicotine	241	1.8	172	1.0	95	0.8	<b>508</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Other (non-opiates)	326	2.4	403	2.3	296	2.6	<b>1,025</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Other opiates	242	1.8	424	2.4	269	2.4	<b>935</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,417</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,598</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11,261</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42,276</b>	<b>100</b>

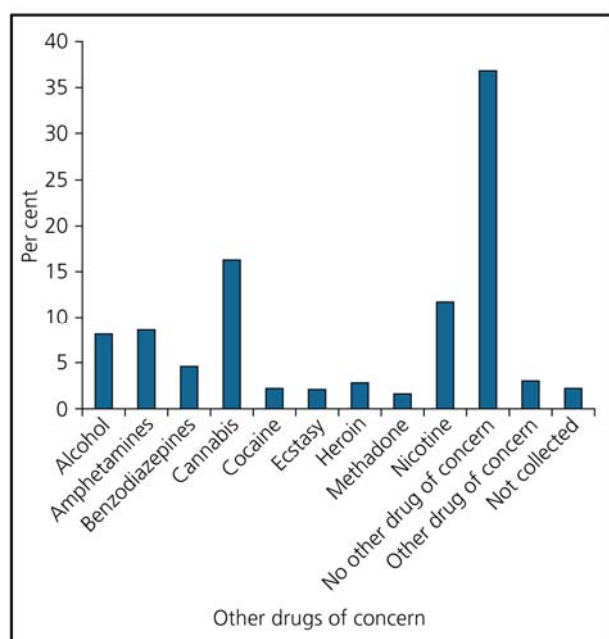
(a) Excludes 1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. **Urban** AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. **Regional** AHS: include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. **Rural** AHS: include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

### 3.5 Other drugs of concern

When asked about the principal drug that was of concern to the client, they were also clients asked if there were any additional drugs they were concerned with. This question is different to asking about any other drugs that the client may have been using, which are not reported on this data collection. Approximately 37% of closed episodes were for clients who reported no other drugs of concern while 16.3% indicated they were also concerned about their cannabis use, 11.7% about their nicotine use, 8.1% about their alcohol use and 8.6% about their amphetamine use.

**Figure 3.5 Closed episodes by other drugs of concern, NSW,(a) 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

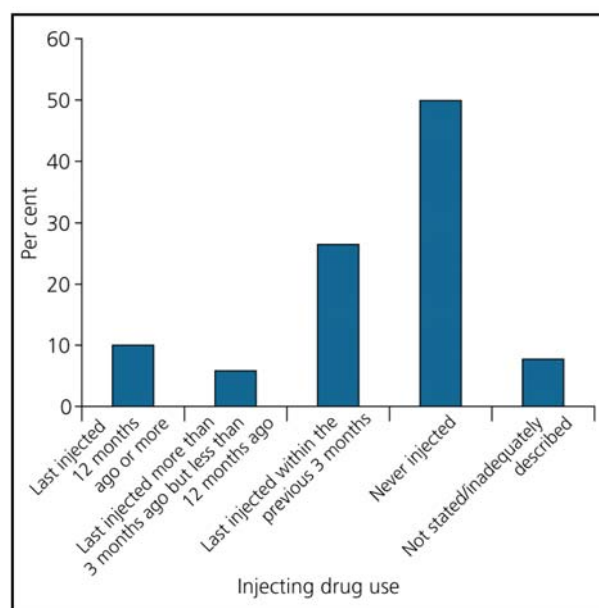
### 3.6 Method of use for principal drug of concern

The breakdown of method of use for the principal drug of concern for closed episodes was ingesting (50%), injecting (24%) or smoking (24%). The method of use for the principal drug of concern was 91% injection for heroin, 74% injection for amphetamines, 95% ingestion for benzodiazepines and 46% Injection for cocaine.

### 3.7 Injecting drug use

For the purpose of the collection injecting drug use includes drug administration methods such as intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous form of injection. Fifty per cent of closed episodes involved clients who reported never having injected drugs, while 27% of all closed episodes reported being current injectors. These figures should be interpreted with caution as just over 8% of closed episodes reported 'not stated' for this data item.

**Figure 3.7a Closed episodes by injecting drug use, NSW,(a) 2005/06**



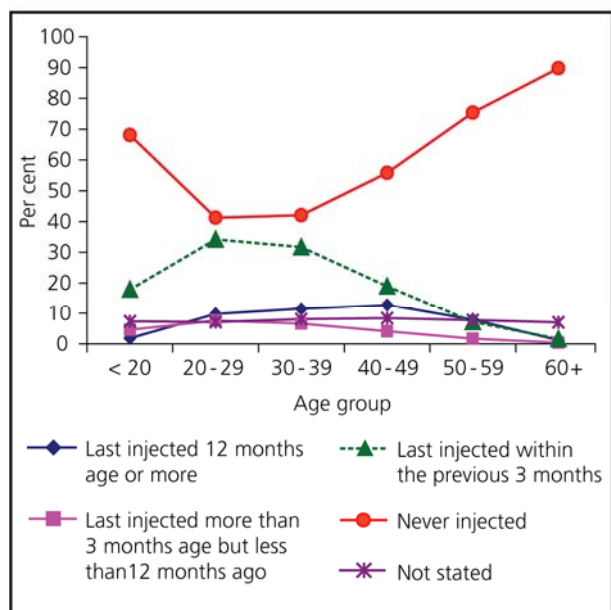
(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Table 3.7a: Closed episodes by injecting drug use, NSW,(a) 2005/06**

Injecting drug use	Number	Per cent
Last injected 12-months ago or more	4,208	10
Last injected more than 3 months ago but less than 12 months ago	2,459	5.8
Last injected within the previous 3 months	11,224	26.5
Never injected	21,115	49.9
Not stated/inadequately described	3,270	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,276</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Figure 3.7b Closed episodes by injecting drug use by age group, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

**Table 3.7b: Closed episodes by injecting drug use by age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Age group	Last injected 12 + months ago		Last injected >3 months ago but <12-months ago		Last injected within the previous 3 months		Never injected		Not stated/ inadequately described		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
< 20	60	1.9	147	4.6	571	17.9	2,169	68.1	236	7.4	<b>3,183</b>	<b>7.3</b>
20 - 29	1,325	9.8	1,033	7.6	4,639	34.2	5,609	41.3	966	7.1	<b>13,572</b>	<b>31.2</b>
30 - 39	1,543	11.5	894	6.6	4,267	31.7	5,656	42.1	1,088	8.1	<b>13,448</b>	<b>30.9</b>
40 - 49	1,026	12.8	329	4.1	1,511	18.9	4,463	55.8	670	8.4	<b>7,999</b>	<b>18.4</b>
50 - 59	242	7.9	52	1.7	220	7.2	2,299	75.4	238	7.8	<b>3,051</b>	<b>7.0</b>
60+	12	1.2	4	0.4	16	1.6	919	89.8	72	7	<b>1,023</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>11,224</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>21,115</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>42,276</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes N=1,226 treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

# 4 Treatment programs

While the concept of an episode of care is intuitively sound, it is not easy to define clear boundaries for episodes, nor to unambiguously partition concurrent treatments. Furthermore, episode cessation is not always clear-cut. For these reasons, the data for main service provided and other treatments is not entirely consistent across agencies.

Opioid treatment episodes are excluded.

Note: There were 15,383 open episodes. These have not been included in this report as the clients were still in a treatment program and the report counts closed episodes only.

## 4.1 Main service provided and other services provided.

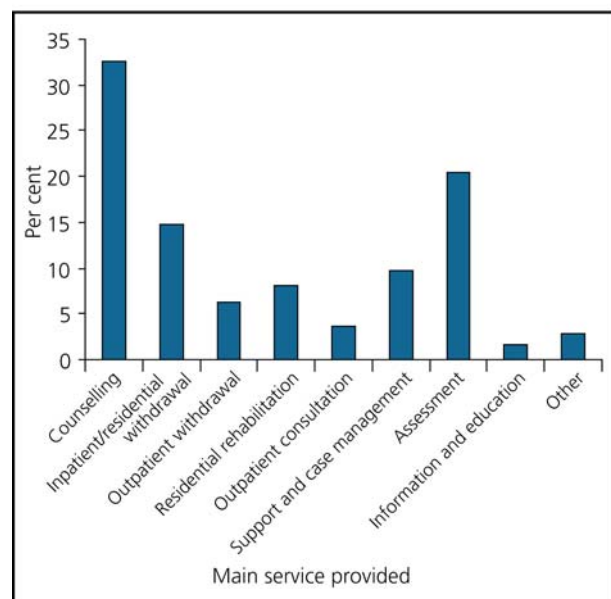
For the main service provided covered by the Minimum Data Set, 33% of closed episodes were for counselling, 20% for assessment, 15% for inpatient withdrawal, 8% for residential rehabilitation, 6% for outpatient withdrawal, 10% for support and case management and 2% for information and education.

In addition to the main service provided, any other services provided to the client for their nominated principal drug of concern were identified. As clients can have concurrent main service episodes open at the same time and services available vary widely among agencies, this data item is difficult to interpret reliably. With these caveats in mind, for 77% of closed episodes, no other services were provided to the client, while for 33% of episodes, the client also received counselling.

**Table 4.1 Closed episodes by main service provided, NSW, 2005/2006**

Main service provided	Number	Per cent
Counselling	14,198	32.6
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	6,382	14.7
Outpatient withdrawal	2,707	6.2
Residential rehabilitation	3,535	8.1
Outpatient consultation	1,571	3.6
Support and case management	4,256	9.8
Assessment	8864	20.4
Information and education	738	1.7
Other	1,251	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100</b>

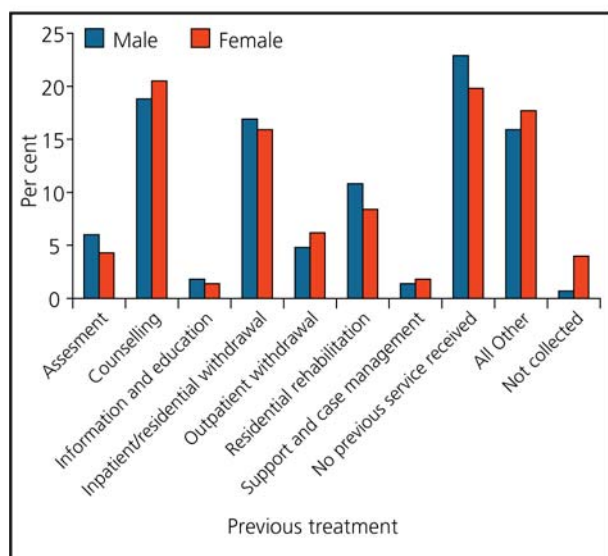
**Figure 4.1 Closed episodes by main service provided, NSW, 2005/06**



## 4.2 Previous treatment by sex

Agencies also recorded any previous drug and alcohol treatments reported by the client. For nearly 22% of closed episodes, clients indicated that they had received no previous drug and alcohol treatment.

**Figure 4.2 Closed episodes by previous treatment by sex, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated.

**Table 4.2: Closed episodes by previous treatment by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

Previous treatment	Per cent		
	Males	Females	Total <sup>(a)</sup>
Assessment	6.0	4.3	5.5
Counselling	18.8	20.5	19.4
Information and education	1.8	1.4	1.7
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	16.9	15.9	16.6
Outpatient withdrawal	4.8	6.2	5.3
Residential rehabilitation	10.8	8.4	10
Support and case management	1.4	1.8	1.6
No previous service received	22.9	19.8	21.9
All other	15.9	17.7	18.2
Not collected	0.7	4.0	1.8
<b>Total (closed episodes)</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>43,482</b>

(a) Includes N=20 where sex is not stated.

## 4.3 Source of referral by sex

Thirty-eight per cent of closed episodes were for clients who referred themselves to treatment. 18% of closed episodes were for clients diverted from the police, court or criminal justice setting, 7% were referred by a general practitioner or medical officer and 10.6% were referred by a non-residential drug and alcohol treatment facility.

**Table 4.3: Closed episodes by source of referral by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

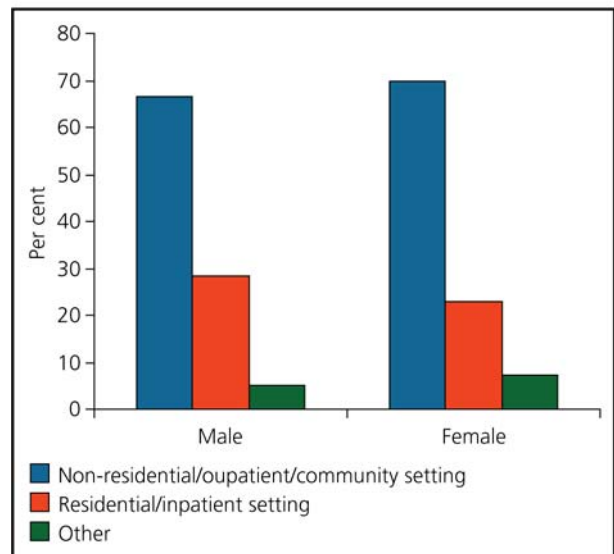
Source of referral	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Self	10,972	37.4	5,697	40.3	16,669	38.3
Family member/friend	1,622	5.5	736	5.2	2,358	5.4
General practitioner	1,039	3.5	649	4.6	1,688	3.9
Medical officer/specialist	733	2.5	532	3.8	1,265	2.9
Other hospital	1,040	3.5	674	4.8	1,714	3.9
Psychiatric hospital	245	0.8	137	1.0	382	0.9
Residential alcohol and other drug treatment agency	1,303	4.5	636	4.5	1,939	4.5
Other residential community care unit	216	0.7	125	0.9	341	0.8
Residential community mental health care unit	130	0.4	77	0.5	207	0.5
Non-residential alcohol and other drug treatment facility	2,977	10.2	1,639	11.6	4,616	10.6
Non-residential community health care	354	1.2	284	2.0	638	1.5
Non-residential community mental health centre	488	1.7	291	2.1	779	1.8
Police diversion	141	0.5	37	0.3	178	0.4
Court diversion	3,284	11.2	757	5.3	4,041	9.3
Other criminal justice setting	3,109	10.6	712	5.0	3,821	8.8
Education institution	88	0.3	78	0.6	166	0.4
Family and child protection service	59	0.2	218	1.5	277	0.6
Medically supervised injecting centre	10	0.0	2	0.0	12	0.0
Other non-health service agency	505	1.7	308	2.2	813	1.9
Needle and syringe program	13	0.0	9	0.1	22	0.1
Workplace (EAP)	66	0.2	10	0.1	76	0.2
Other	852	2.9	509	3.6	1,361	3.1
Not stated	84	0.3	35	0.2	119	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes N=20 where sex is not stated.

## 4.4 Treatment delivery setting by sex

Sixty-seven per cent of closed episodes were for clients who were treated in a non-residential treatment delivery setting, while 27% were treated in a residential setting.

**Figure 4.4 Closed episodes by treatment delivery setting by sex, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated.

**Table 4.4: Closed episodes and treated delivery setting by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

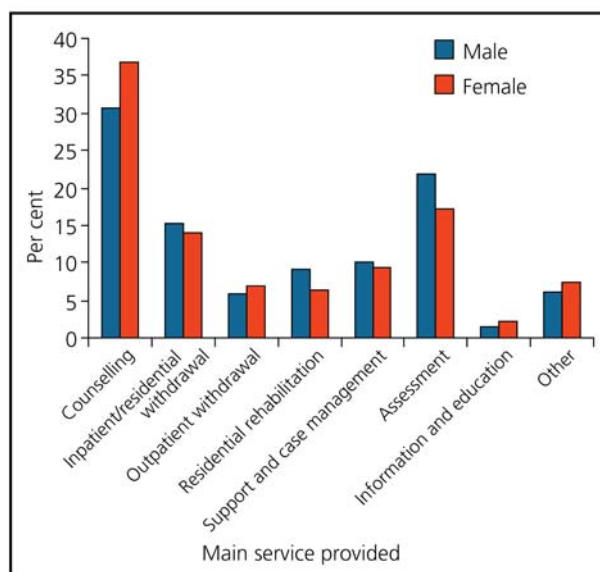
Treatment delivery setting	Males		Females		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Non-residential/outpatient/community setting	19,468	66.4	9,883	69.9	29,351	67.5
Residential/inpatient setting	8,339	28.4	3,262	23.0	11,601	26.7
Other	1,523	5.2	1,007	7.1	2,530	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated.

## 4.5 Main service provided by sex

Among closed episodes for female clients, 36.8% received counselling, 17.2% received an assessment, 13.9% received an inpatient withdrawal and 6.9% received an outpatient withdrawal and 6.3% received residential rehabilitation. Among closed episodes for male clients, 30.6% received counselling, 21.9% received assessment and 15.1% received inpatient withdrawal and 9.0% received residential rehabilitation.

**Figure 4.5 Closed episodes by main service provided by sex, NSW, (a) 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated.

**Table 4.5: Closed episodes by main service provided by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

Main service provided	Male		Female		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Counselling	8,986	30.6	5,210	36.8	14,196	32.6
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	4,415	15.1	1,963	13.9	6,378	14.7
Outpatient withdrawal	1,731	5.9	976	6.9	2,707	6.2
Residential rehabilitation	2,634	9.0	898	6.3	3,532	8.1
Support and case management	2,919	10.0	1,335	9.4	4,254	9.8
Assessment	6,425	21.9	2,432	17.2	8,857	20.4
Information and education	439	1.5	298	2.1	737	1.7
Other	1,781	6.1	1,040	7.3	2,821	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,482</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes N=20 where sex is not stated.

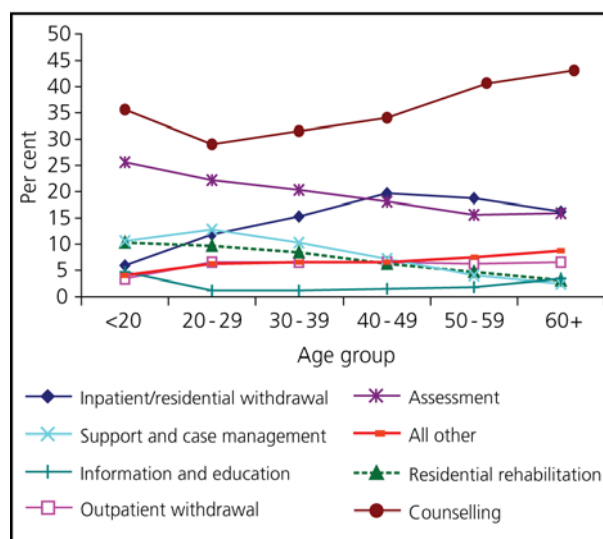
## 4.6 Main service provided by age

The average age for clients whose main service provided was information and education was 33.8 years, 36.9 for inpatient withdrawal, 35.1 years for counselling, 35.0 years for outpatient withdrawal, 32.8 years for assessment, 31.0 years for support and case management and 31.6 years for residential Rehabilitation.

**Table 4.6a Average age by main service provided by age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Main service provided	Average age
Counselling	35.1
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	36.9
Outpatient withdrawal	35.0
Residential rehabilitation	31.6
Support and case management	31.0
Assessment	32.8
Information and education	33.8
Other	34.6

**Figure 4.6a Average age by main service provided by age group, NSW, 2005/06**



**Table 4.6b Closed episodes by main service provided by age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Main service provided	Age group (years)						Total	Per cent
	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+		
	Per cent						Number	Per cent
Counselling	35.5	29.2	31.6	34.1	40.6	43.2	14,198	32.6
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	5.8	12.0	15.3	19.6	18.9	16.4	6,382	14.7
Outpatient withdrawal	3.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.5	2,707	6.2
Residential rehabilitation	10.3	9.8	8.3	6.3	4.8	3.2	3,535	8.1
Support and case management	10.7	12.7	10.2	7.3	4.1	2.6	4,256	9.8
Assessment	25.5	22.2	20.2	18.0	15.7	15.9	8,864	20.4
Information and education	4.8	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.0	3.3	738	1.7
All other	4.1	6.4	6.7	6.5	7.6	8.9	2,822	6.5
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>13,694</b>	<b>13,627</b>	<b>8,301</b>	<b>3,388</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>43,502</b>	

**Table 4.6c Closed episodes by main service provided by sex and age group, NSW, 2005/06**

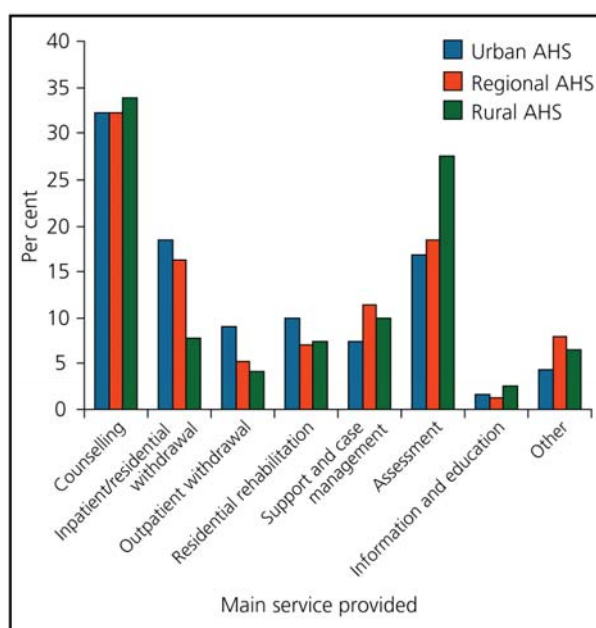
Main service provided	Age group (years)						Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	< 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Number	Per cent
<b>Males</b>	<b>Per cent</b>						<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Counselling	33.6	28.6	30.2	31.2	35.4	35.0	8,986	30.6
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	5.4	11.4	15.6	21.0	21.8	19.8	4,415	15.1
Outpatient withdrawal	3.0	6.4	6.1	6.1	5.4	6.5	1,731	5.9
Residential rehabilitation	11.5	10.2	9.2	7.3	5.9	4.2	2,634	9.0
Support and case management	11.0	12.6	10.1	7.5	4.7	3.5	2,919	10.0
Assessment	28.0	23.6	21.3	19.4	17.9	18.7	6,425	21.9
Information and education	4.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	3.3	439	1.5
All other	3.3	6.0	6.2	6.1	7.8	9.0	1,781	6.1
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>9,475</b>	<b>9,282</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>2,088</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>29,330</b>	
<b>Females</b>	<b>Per cent</b>						<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Counselling	39.7	30.4	34.6	39.9	49.1	55.9	5,210	36.8
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	6.6	13.1	14.7	16.7	14.3	11.1	1,963	13.9
Outpatient withdrawal	3.9	6.7	7.2	7.3	7.9	6.6	976	6.9
Residential rehabilitation	7.7	8.8	6.5	4.4	2.9	1.7	898	6.3
Support and case management	10.1	13.0	10.3	6.8	3.1	1.1	1,335	9.4
Assessment	20.2	19.0	17.9	15.3	12.3	11.5	2,432	17.2
Information and education	6.3	1.4	1.2	2.4	3.2	3.2	298	2.1
All other	5.5	7.5	7.7	7.0	7.3	9.0	1,040	7.3
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>14,152</b>	
<b>Persons</b>	<b>Per cent</b>						<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Counselling	35.5	29.2	31.6	34.1	40.6	43.2	14,198	32.6
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	5.8	12.0	15.3	19.6	18.9	16.4	6,382	14.7
Outpatient withdrawal	3.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.5	2,707	6.2
Residential rehabilitation	10.3	9.8	8.3	6.3	4.8	3.2	3,535	8.1
Support and case management	10.7	12.7	10.2	7.3	4.1	2.6	4,256	9.8
Assessment	25.5	22.2	20.2	18.0	15.7	15.9	8,864	20.4
Information and education	4.8	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.0	3.3	738	1.7
All other	4.0	6.5	6.7	6.4	7.6	9.0	2,822	6.5
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>13,694</b>	<b>13,627</b>	<b>8,301</b>	<b>3,388</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>43,502</b>	

(a) Included N=20 sex is not stated/unknown.

## 4.7 Main service provided and geographic location

Counselling represented 33% of closed episodes, comprising 34% of rural AHS episodes, 32% regional AHS episodes and 32% of urban AHS episodes. Other main services provided included assessment (20%), inpatient and education (2%) and residential rehabilitation (8%). 18% of regional AHS closed episodes were for assessment, while assessment represented 17% of urban AHS and 28% of rural AHS closed episodes. Residential rehabilitation represented 10% of urban AHS closed episodes, 7% of closed episodes for regional AHS and 8% of closed episodes for rural AHS.

**Figure 4.7 Closed episodes by main service provided by geographic location, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. **Urban** AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. **Regional** AHS include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. **Rural** AHS include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

**Table 4.7 Closed episodes by main service provided by geographic location, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**

Main service provided	Urban AHS		Regional AHS		Rural AHS		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Counselling	4,509	32.2	5,822	32.3	3,867	33.8	<b>14,198</b>	<b>32.6</b>
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	2,578	18.4	2916	16.2	888	7.8	<b>6,382</b>	<b>14.7</b>
Outpatient withdrawal	1,270	9.1	952	5.3	485	4.2	<b>2,707</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Residential rehabilitation	1,393	9.9	1281	7.1	861	7.5	<b>3,535</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Support and case management	1,053	7.5	2055	11.4	1148	10.0	<b>4,256</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Assessment	2,368	16.9	3,335	18.5	3,161	27.6	<b>8,864</b>	<b>20.4</b>
Information and education	221	1.6	235	1.3	282	2.5	<b>738</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Other	614	4.4	1,448	8.0	760	6.6	<b>2,822</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,006</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,044</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11,452</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Geographic location is derived based on agency Area Health Service. Urban AHS include Central Sydney, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney. Regional AHS include Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, South Western Sydney and Wentworth. Rural AHS include Far West, Greater Murray, Macquarie, Mid North Coast, Mid Western, New England, Northern Rivers and Southern.

## 4.8 Main service provided and principal drug of concern

Figure 4.8a illustrates closed episodes by main service provided within each principal drug of concern category. For example, 37% of closed episodes for clients presenting for treatment for alcohol received counselling.

**Figure 4.8a Closed episodes by main service provided by principal drug of concern, NSW, 2005/06**

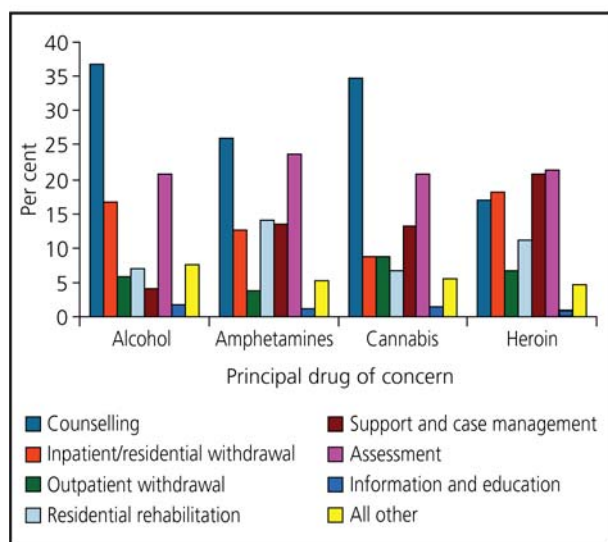
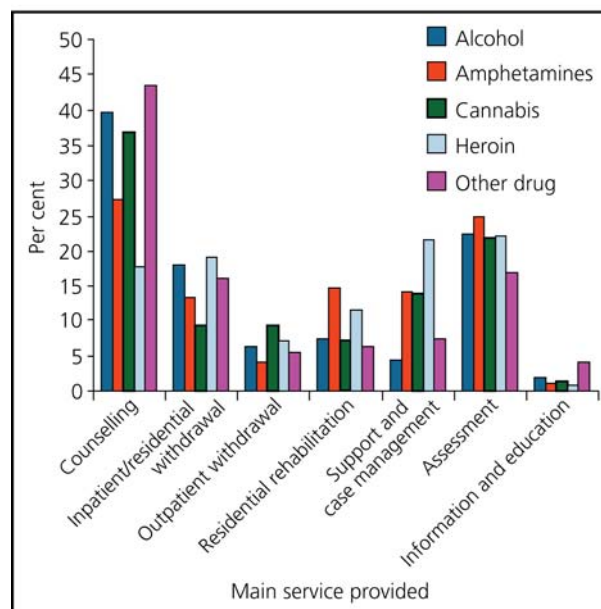


Figure 4.8b shows closed episodes by principal drug of concern within each main service provided category. For example, among closed episodes for a client where the main service provided was inpatient/residential withdrawal, 18% was for alcohol and 19% was for heroin.

**Figure 4.8b: Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by main service provided, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes N=2,822 treatment episodes for client seeking other treatment.

**Table 4.8 Closed episodes by principal drug of concern by main service provided, NSW, 2005/06**

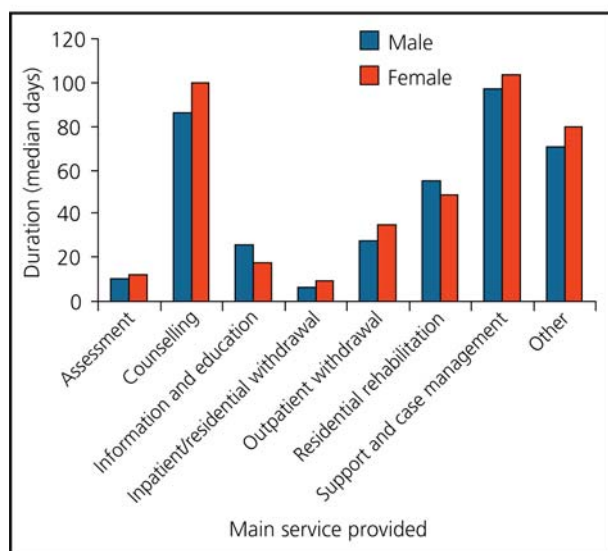
Main service provided	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Cannabis	Heroin	Other drug	Total <sup>(a)</sup>
Per cent						
Counselling	39.7	27.4	36.8	17.8	43.5	34.9
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	18	13.4	9.3	19.1	16	15.7
Outpatient withdrawal	6.2	4.1	9.4	7	5.6	6.7
Residential rehabilitation	7.5	14.7	7.2	11.5	6.4	8.7
Support and case management	4.4	14.2	14	21.6	7.5	10.5
Assessment	22.4	25	21.8	22.2	17	21.8
Information and education	1.8	1.2	1.4	0.9	4	1.8
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (numbers)</b>	<b>16,296</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>40,680</b>

(a) Excludes N=2,822 treatment episodes for client seeking other treatment.

## 4.9 Duration of main service provided, sex and age

Regardless of main service provided, the median number of days for a closed episode is 56 days. For males the median number of days for counselling was 86 days, 100 days for female; 27 days for male outpatient withdrawal episodes and 35 days for female.

**Figure 4.9a Duration (median days) of closed episodes by sex, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Note that service contacts are not collected for episodes in a residential setting.

**Table 4.9a Duration (median days) of closed episodes by sex, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**

Main service provided	Males	Females	Total Average
Assessment	10	12	11
Counselling	86	100	93
Information and education	25	17	21
Inpatient/residential	7	10	8
Outpatient withdrawal	27	35	31
Residential rehabilitation	55	48	52
Support and case	97	103	100
Other	70	80	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	

(a) Note that service contacts are not collected for episodes in a residential setting.

**Table 4.9b Duration (median days) of closed episodes by age group, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**

Main service provided	Age group (years)						Total
	< 20	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60+	
	<b>Median days</b>						
Assessment	8	12	10	10	10	5	10
Counselling	73	87	93	97	98	99	95
Information and education	14	23	21	26	19	49	22
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	8	8	7	7	7	16	8
Outpatient withdrawal	22	27	27	32	45	45	30
Residential rehabilitation	36	53	54	65	57	39	53
Support and case management	108	89	100	112	127	102	105
Other	53	71	76	71	69	127	71
<b>Total (days)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	

(a) Note that services contacts are not collected for episodes in a residential setting.

## 4.10 Duration of main service provided and principal drug of concern

Among the main service provided covered in the Minimum Data Set, the median days of alcohol counselling episodes was 87 days. The median duration of alcohol outpatient withdrawal episodes was 28 days and the median days of residential rehabilitation was 52 days.

**Table 4.10 Duration (median days) of closed episodes by main service provided and principal drug of concern, NSW,<sup>(a)</sup> 2005/06**

Main service provided	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Cannabis	Heroin	Total
Median days					
Assessment	10	10	8	12	10
Counselling	87	97	81	125	92
Information and education	23	29	17	28	26
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	8	7	7	8	8
Outpatient withdrawal	28	28	32	29	29
Residential rehabilitation	52	48	49	61	50
Support and case management	76	74	87	120	82
Other	69	51	57	113	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	

(a) Note that service contacts are not collected for episodes in a residential setting.

## 4.11 Referral to another service by sex

The data item referral to another service was developed to capture the continuum of care provided to clients. However, its use has been inconsistent among service providers so caution must be applied to interpreting the table below.

Over 56% of closed episodes involved clients who received a formal written referral to another agency upon ceasing their service episode.

**Table 4.11 Closed episodes by referral to another service by sex, NSW, 2005/06**

Referral to another service	Male		Female		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
General practitioner	742	2.5	525	3.7	1,267	2.9
Medical officer/specialist	291	1.0	178	1.3	469	1.1
Other hospital	203	0.7	126	0.9	329	0.8
Residential drug and alcohol	5,088	17.3	2,175	15.4	7,263	16.7
Other residential community care(including mental health)	342	1.2	115	0.8	457	1.0
Non-residential community care (including mental health)	4,782	16.3	2,807	19.8	7,589	17.5
Psychiatric hospital	69	0.2	34	0.2	103	0.2
No referral	15,251	52.0	6,956	49.2	22,207	51.1
Other	2,302	7.8	1,113	7.9	3,415	7.9
Not Stated/inadequately described	260	0.9	123	0.9	383	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,502</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes N=20 where sex is not stated/unknown.

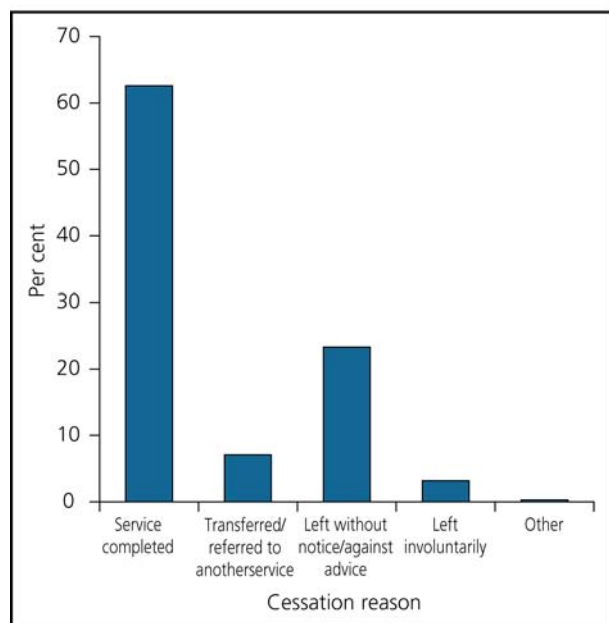
# 5 Reason for cessation

Note: The *NSW Minimum Data Set (MDS) for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services* does not contain information about treatment outcomes. The data item reason for cessation of service episode indicates the reason a client ceased a particular episode, which may be a phase of treatment within a continuum of care. Indicating that a client 'completed treatment' must therefore be interpreted with caution.

## 5.1 Reason for cessation

The reason 63% of closed episodes were ceased was because the client had completed treatment. It should be noted that completion includes termination due to mutual agreement.

**Figure 5.1 Closed episodes by reason for cessation, NSW, 2005/06**



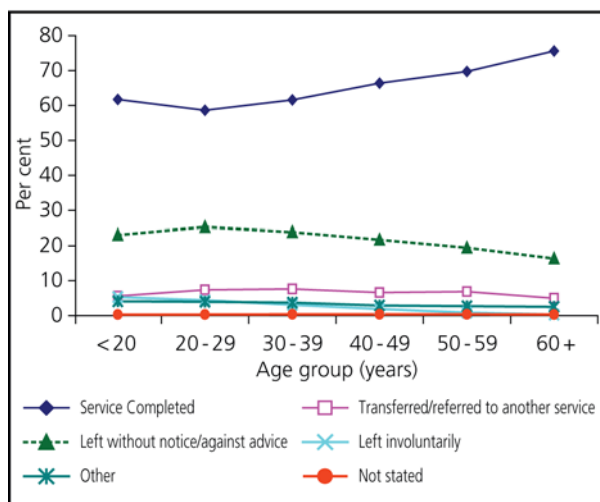
**Table 5.1 Closed episodes by reason for cessation, NSW, 2005/06**

Cessation reason	Per cent
Service completed	62.6
Transferred/referred to another service	7.1
Left without notice/against advice	23.3
Left involuntarily	3.2
Other	3.5
Not stated	0.3
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5.2 Reason for cessation and age

The completion rate for closed episodes for 20-29 year olds was 59%, 62% for 30-39 year olds, 66% for 40-49 year olds, 70% for 50-59 year olds and 76% for clients aged 60 years and older.

**Figure 5.2 Closed episodes by reason for cessation by age group, NSW, 2005/06**



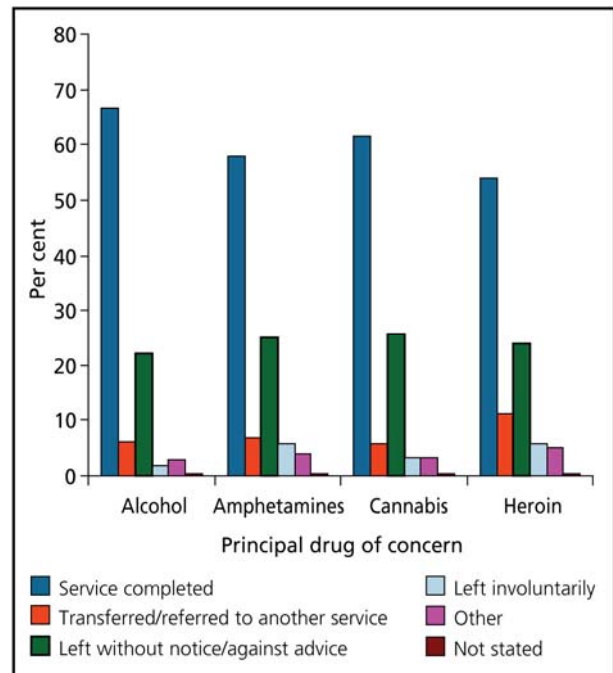
**Table 5.2 Closed episodes by reason for cessation by age group, NSW, 2005/06**

Age group	Service completed	Transferred/ referred to another service	Left without notice/ against advice	Left involuntarily	Other	Not stated	Total
	Per cent						
<20	61.7	5.6	23.0	5.3	4.1	0.3	100
20 - 29	58.6	7.4	25.3	4.4	4	0.3	100
30 - 39	61.6	7.6	23.8	3.1	3.7	0.4	100
40 - 49	66.5	6.6	21.7	1.9	2.9	0.4	100
50 - 59	69.7	6.9	19.4	0.9	2.7	0.4	100
60+	75.6	5	16.3	0.3	2.5	0.3	100
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>27,224</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>10,121</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>43,502</b>

## 5.3 Reason for cessation by principal drug of concern

Completion was 67% among closed episodes where the principal drug of concern was alcohol, 62% for cannabis, 54% for heroin 58% for amphetamines.

**Figure 5.3 Closed episodes by reason for cessation by principal drug of concern, NSW,<sup>(a,b)</sup> 2005/06**



(a) Excludes treatment episodes for clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others.

(b) Excluded N=5,973 treatment episodes for client seeking other treatments.

**Table 5.3 Closed episodes by reason for cessation by principal drug of concern, NSW, 2005/06**

Reason for cessation	Alcohol		Amphetamines		Cannabis		Heroin		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Service completed	11,770	66.7	2,750	58.0	5,271	61.6	3,544	53.8	23,335	100
Transferred/referred to another service	1,104	6.3	325	6.9	490	5.7	743	11.1	2,662	100
Left without notice/against advice	3,885	22.0	1,189	25.1	2,210	25.8	1,566	23.8	8,850	100
Left involuntarily	306	1.7	275	5.8	266	3.1	389	5.9	1,236	100
Other	515	2.9	194	4.1	289	3.4	331	5.0	1,329	100
Not stated	55	0.3	9	0.2	35	0.4	18	0.3	117	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,635</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>4,742</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>8,561</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>6,591</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>37,529</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excluded N=5,973 treatment episodes for client seeking other treatments.

## 5.4 Reason for cessation by main service provided

Completion was 3% among closed episodes where the main service provided was information and education, 17% for inpatient withdrawal, 31% for assessment, 27% counselling and 4% for residential rehabilitation.

**Table 5.4 Closed episodes by main service provided, NSW, 2005/06**

Main service provided	Service completed	Transferred/ referred to another service	Left without notice/ against advice	Left involuntarily	Other	Not stated	Total
Assessment	31.3	0.0	2.6	0.0	4.6	0.0	8,864
Counselling	27.1	34.9	47.6	10.8	45.9	60.3	14,198
Information and education	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	738
Inpatient/residential withdrawal	16.6	9.0	12.7	13.9	5.7	2.6	6,382
Outpatient withdrawal	6.2	7.7	6.5	1.9	5.6	9.3	2,707
Residential rehabilitation	3.9	13.1	12.7	50.2	5.3	6.0	3,535
Support and case management	7.0	25.6	9.2	18.8	22.4	4.0	4,256
All other	5.1	9.7	8.6	4.7	10.4	17.9	2,822
<b>Total (per cent)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>27,224</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>10,121</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>43,502</b>

