

# Substance use, mental health, and healthcare costs after release from Australian prisons

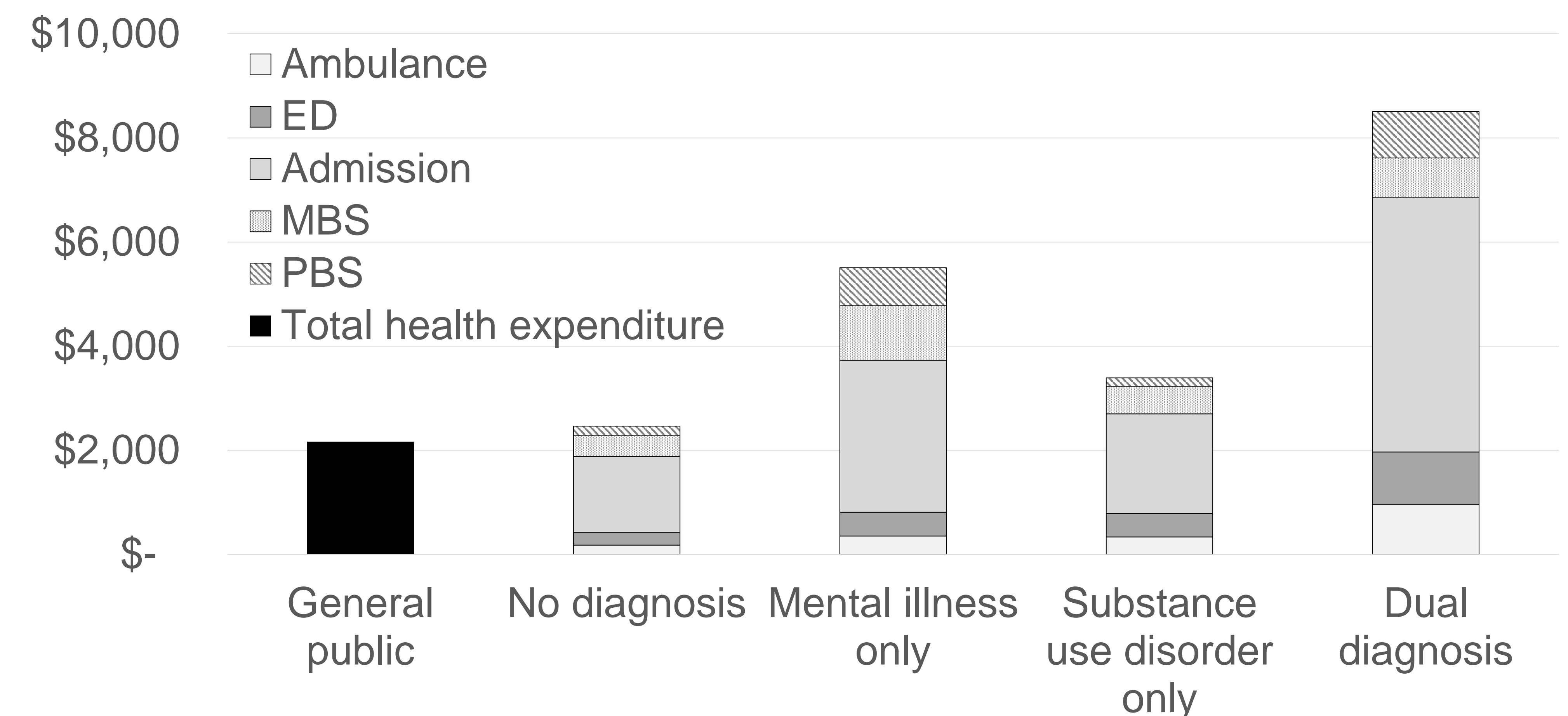
**Study Design:** Prospective cohort study

**Participants:** 1,303 men and women released from prisons in Queensland, Australia

**Data Sources:** Primary care (MBS), pharmacies (PBS), ambulance services, emergency departments and in-patient hospital admissions

**Follow-up:** 12 months post release

**Analysis:** Negative binomial regression for total healthcare costs; logistic regression for return to custody



**People with co-morbid mental illness and substance use disorder incur 3.5-fold higher healthcare costs after release from prison.**

**People released from prison have complex health needs and incur high healthcare costs**

**There is a compelling case for greater investment in health services for people leaving prison, particularly mental health and AOD services.**