

## AGED BASED DIFFERENCES IN PRINCIPAL DRUG OF CONCERN

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**Introduction and Aims:** Alcohol, cannabis, amphetamines, and heroin have remained the most common principal drugs of concern (PDOC) for which clients receive AOD treatment in Australia. Recent analyses also suggest that these PDOC's vary by client age group (10–19, 20–29 and 30+). This poster aims to investigate age-based differences in PDOC over 5 consecutive years.

**Design and Methods:** The AODTS NMDS collects information on treatment provided to clients by publicly funded AOD treatment services, including demographic information and PDOC leading clients to seek treatment. The analysis used client-based data from the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS NMDS) from 2013–14 to 2017–18.

**Results:** From 2013–14 to 2017–18, the proportion of treatment episodes for clients aged 10–29 has remained constant ranging from 38% to 41%. Over the same period, cannabis has been the most common PDOC for clients aged 10–29 (67% of episodes), and alcohol the most common for clients aged 30+ (77%). There has been an increase in clients aged 20–29 receiving treatment for amphetamines as their PDOC from 2013–14 (23%) to 2017–18 (32%), while there was no change in the 10–19 age group. Heroin as a PDOC remained low for clients aged 10–29 (<5%).

**Discussions and Conclusions:** Overall, results indicate that PDOC differs by age and over time with some state and territory variation. Differences in PDOC across client age groups will affect demand for specific types of AOD services in future.

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

Identifying the connection between age and PDOC may support more tailored treatment services to better suit client needs.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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