

Treatment characteristics of intensive alcohol and other drug treatment service use

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Introduction and Aims: Alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services aim to support people to reduce harmful AOD use. Clients accessing these services often receive multiple episodes of treatment over one or more years to achieve their goals. The aim of this paper is to highlight a subset of clients who engage with AOD treatment services more frequently than others, focusing on the treatment characteristics of clients who received intensive treatment.

Method / Approach: This analysis uses the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS NMDS) to examine closed treatment episodes of clients who received treatment from publicly funded specialist AOD services from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2020 (5 collection periods). It will focus on the treatment characteristics of clients who received intensive treatment (7 or more completed treatment episodes across at least 3 collection periods).

Key Findings: Previous AIHW [1] analysis found the vast majority (94%) of clients receiving intensive treatment received more than 1 of 4 main treatment types (counselling, withdrawal management, rehabilitation and other). This analysis will investigate the treatment characteristics of these clients.

Discussion and Conclusions: Previous AIHW [1] analysis showed clients who received intensive treatment received a number of main treatment types and various combinations of main treatment types. New analysis of the data aims to further investigate treatment characteristics and reveal any dominant patterns for clients who received intensive treatment.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The collection, collation and reporting of data for the AODTS NMDS is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Australian state and territory governments.

References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Patterns of intensive alcohol and other drug treatment service use in Australia: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019. Canberra (AU): AIHW; 2021. 42 p. Report No.: Cat. no. HSE 251.