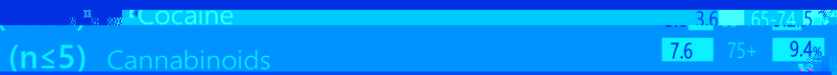




DRUG INVOLVEMENT

2021 Drug-induced



There were 128 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in [South Australia](#) in 2021, which is equivalent to 0.88% of all registered deaths in this jurisdiction.

The rate fluctuated between 2002 and 2019 without any particular trend. The highest rate was observed in 2017 reaching 8.3 deaths per 100,000 people. The preliminary age-standardised rate of drug-induced deaths in 2021 was 7.0 deaths per 100,000 people ([Figure 1](#)). This rate was not statistically different from the estimated rate in 2020 (7.0 deaths per 100,000 people), noting that estimates for 2019 to 2021 are subject to revision and may increase (Table 1).



In 2021, males accounted for 60% (77 deaths) of drug-induced deaths. The rate of drug-induced deaths was also higher among males than females (8.5 versus 5.5 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively). Analyses did not indicate a statistically significant difference between 2020 and 2021 in the estimated rates for males or females (Table 1).

In 2021, drug



The greatest proportion of drug-induced deaths in 2021 occurred among people residing in major city areas (73%, 93 deaths), but the highest rate was observed among people in inner regional areas (8.4 deaths per 100,000 people).

South Australia has shown a pattern since 2009 of consistently higher rates of drug-induced deaths in regional and remote versus major city areas. However, for the first time in 2021, the rate in regional and remote areas was higher than in major city areas (7.1 and 6.8 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively) (Table 3).



In 2021, 95% (122 deaths) of drug-induced deaths were due to [overdose](#). Unintentional drug overdose accounted for 56% (68 deaths) and intentional drug overdose for 30% (36 deaths) of these deaths in 2021. This has fluctuated over time. Comparison of estimated rates did not suggest a significant change between 2020 and 2021 (Table 4).



In 2021, the location of the incident underlying death was coded as home for the majority (71%, 91 deaths) of drug overdose deaths.

65-74	4.7 (2.2, 9)	3.6 (1.4, 7.4)	-24 (-76, 129)
75-84	5.7 (2.1, 12)	7.2 (3.1, 14)	27 (-61, 345)
85+	-	-	-

Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2020 and 2021 are preliminary and thus are subject to further revision. 95% confidence intervals for the crude rate and average percent change are shown in brackets. Please refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Presentation of results' for interpretation of average percent change. The estimates for the 0-14 years age group are not presented due to sensitivity of the data. Please also refer to our [methods](#) document on 'Data source' and 'Coding of deaths' for details on the data used.

Major Cities	7.3 (5.9, 8.9)	6.8 (5.5, 8.3)	-6.9 (-30, 24)
Regional and Remote	5.7 (3.6, 8.5)	7.1 (4.8, 10)	24 (-27, 114)

Note: Deaths where conditions related to alcohol or tobacco comprised the underlying cause of death are not captured here. Causes of death data for 2020 and 2021 are preliminary and thus are subject to further revision. 95% confidence intervals for the age-

