

There were 258 registered overdose and other drug-induced deaths (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in [Western Australia](#) in 2021, which is equivalent to 1.6% of all registered deaths in this jurisdiction.

The rate of drug-induced deaths increased from 3.9 in 2002 to the all-time highest rate of 11 deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. The preliminary age-standardised rate of drug-induced deaths in 2021 was 9.1 deaths per 100,000 people ([Figure 33](#)). This rate was not statistically different to the estimated rate in 2020 (9.9 deaths per 100,000 people), noting that estimates for 2020 and 2021 are subject to revision and may increase (Table 1).

In 2021, males accounted for 60% (156 deaths) of drug-induced deaths. The rate of drug-induced deaths was also higher among males than females (11 versus 6.8 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-induced deaths were most common among the 45-54 age group (25%, 64 deaths).

The rate in 2021 was however highest in the 85 and over age group (20 deaths per 100,000 people), followed by the 45-54 age group (18 deaths per 100,000 people).

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Chrzanowska A, Man N, Akhurst J, Sutherland R, Degenhardt L, Peacock A. Trends in overdose and other drug-induced deaths in Australia, 2002-2021. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney; 2023. Available from: <http://doi.org/10.26190/m2gs-z325>

Please note that as with all statistical reports, there is the potential for minor revisions to data in this report. Please refer to the online version at [Drug Trends](#).

Please contact the Drug Trends team with any queries regarding this publication: drugtrends@unsw.edu.au.

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For more information on the Remoteness Areas Structure within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), go to: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.005>

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