

AODstats - aodstats.org.au

Bulletin #6

What's new? Liquor Licencing data have also been updated.

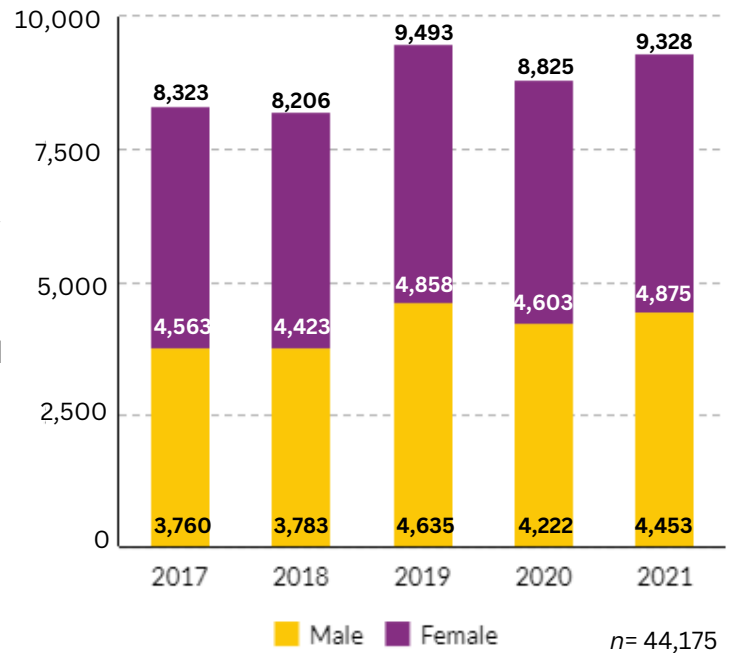
Deaths

The number of deaths involving alcohol and/or illicit drugs have increased, for both males and females, since 2017.

↑ In 2021, there were 9,328 deaths that involved, alcohol and/or illicit drugs, this was an increase of 2% from 2020 (8,825).

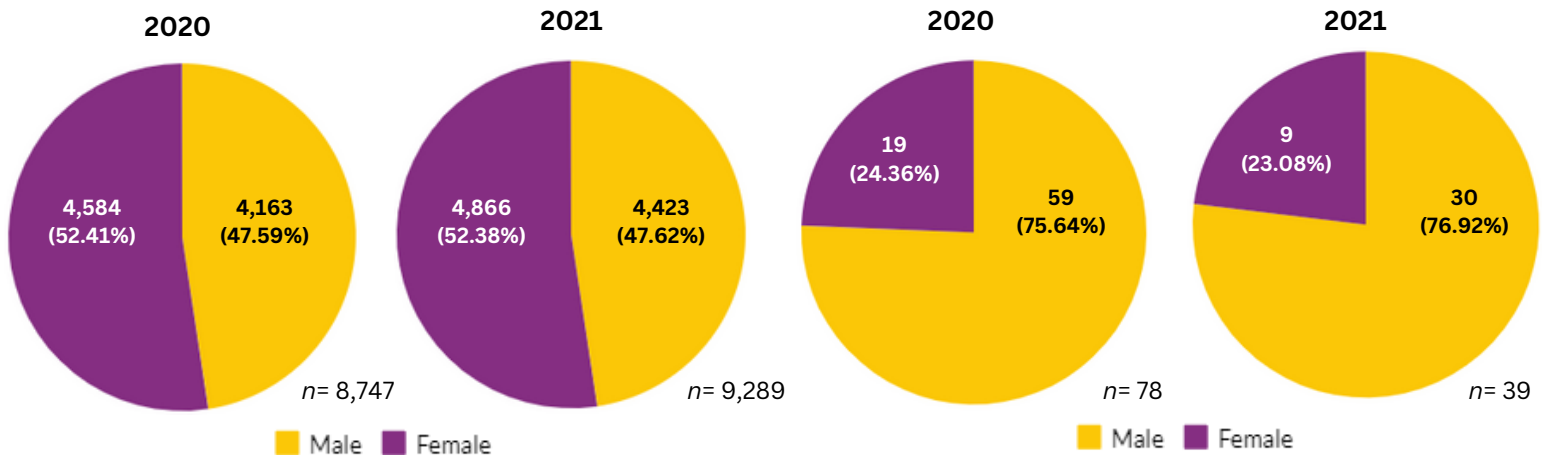
♂ ♀ In 2021, 4,453 (48%) of these deaths were male and 4,875 (52%) were female.

♂ ♀ In 2020 4,222 (48%) of these deaths were male and 4,603 (52%) were female.



Alcohol

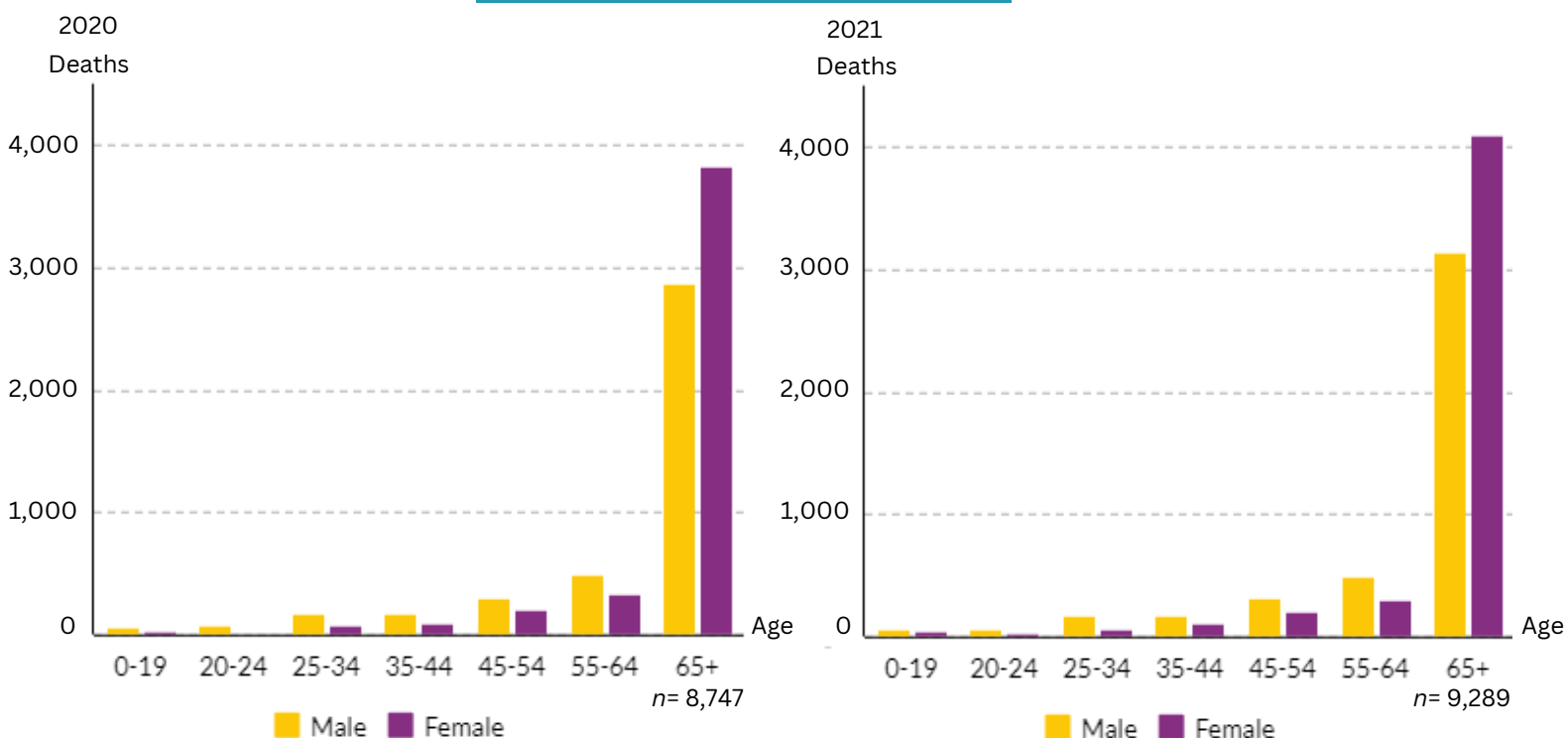
Illicit Drugs



In 2020 and 2021, deaths involving alcohol accounted for over 99% of substance related deaths. In 2021, there was a slight increase in alcohol related deaths for males (47.62% vs 47.59%) and a slight decrease for females (52.38% vs 52.41%).

In both 2020 and 2021 deaths involving illicit drugs were significantly higher among males than females, with over 75% of deaths related to males.

Alcohol-related deaths



In 2020 and 2021, deaths involving alcohol were highest among females aged 65+. In all other age groups, there were more deaths among males involving alcohol, compared with females.

Glossary

In AODstats, all numbers are based on deaths of persons who usually resided in Victoria for the year in which the death was registered.

Drug information from the COD URF is determined from the Underlying Cause of Death (UCOD) ICD10 code. The underlying cause of death is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the disease or injury that initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury. Whilst many deaths will have contributing causes or associated causes, particularly those relating to alcohol and drugs, these were not the underlying cause. Analysis of the underlying cause of death is important as it points to where interventions can be targeted.

FAQ:

Do the deaths data presented here differ from the Coroners data?

The deaths data on AODstats are obtained from the Australian Coordinating Registry cause of death unit record file. Deaths are coded from death certificates compiled by the collective jurisdictional Registries of Birth, Deaths and Marriages, and State and Chief Coroners, using ICD10 codes. Any alcohol or drug information for deaths were extracted by applying an aetiological fraction to the underlying cause of death ICD10 code.

However, this data may differ from data collected directly from coroner's systems, such as through the Coroner Prevention Unit or NCIS, as they have further documents and information relating to the death (e.g. pathology or toxicology reports) which may include drugs contributing to or involved in the death. This drug information may be included on the death certificate as a contributing cause of death, but not the underlying cause of death and therefore data presented on AODstats will most likely be an underrepresentation of alcohol or drug-related deaths.