AODstats - aodstats.org.au
Bulletin #10

Key Messages

1. The way deaths data are presented on AODstats has changed and you will now see 'induced' and 'related' categories presented for drugs on the site. More information on the calculation and definition of these terms is available on page 2 of this bulletin and within our methods document.
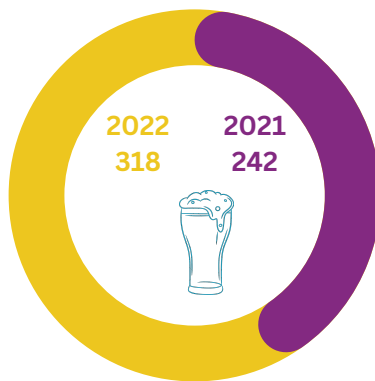
2. Alcohol induced and alcohol related deaths were more than double among males compared with females in both 2021 and 2022.
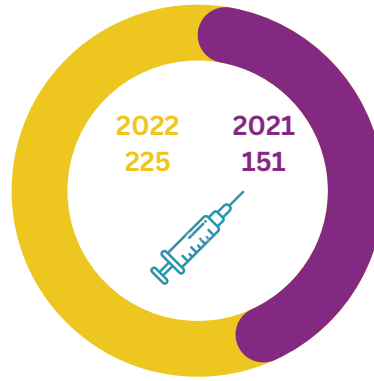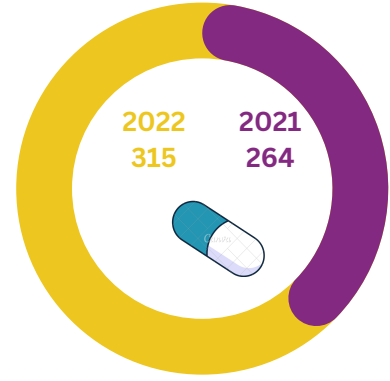
Deaths

Alcohol Induced

2022
428

2021
402

Alcohol Related

2022
318

2021
242

Heroin Induced

2022
225

2021
151

Benzodiazepine Induced

2022
315

2021
264
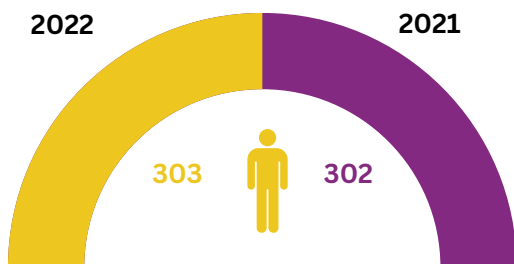
For alcohol induced*, alcohol related*, heroin induced* and benzodiazepine induced* deaths there were increases in **2022** compared with **2021** as displayed in the graphs above.
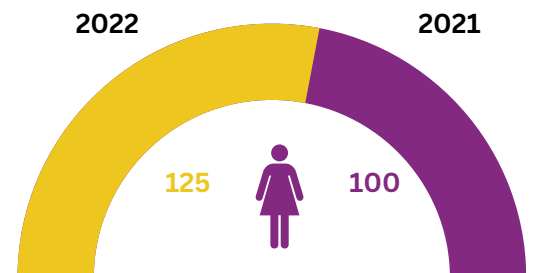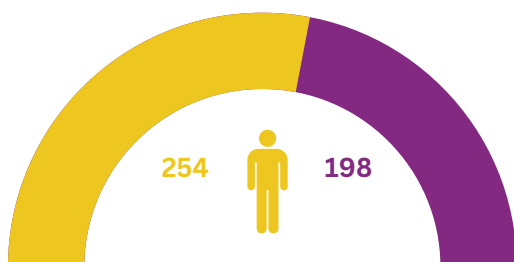
*See definition

Alcohol Induced

2022

2021

303

302

In **2022** there was an **increase** in the number of male and female alcohol induced deaths (303 vs 302 and 125 vs 100).

Alcohol Induced

2022

2021
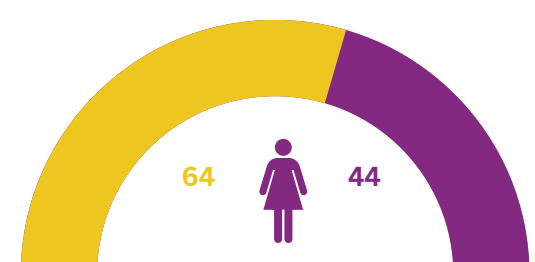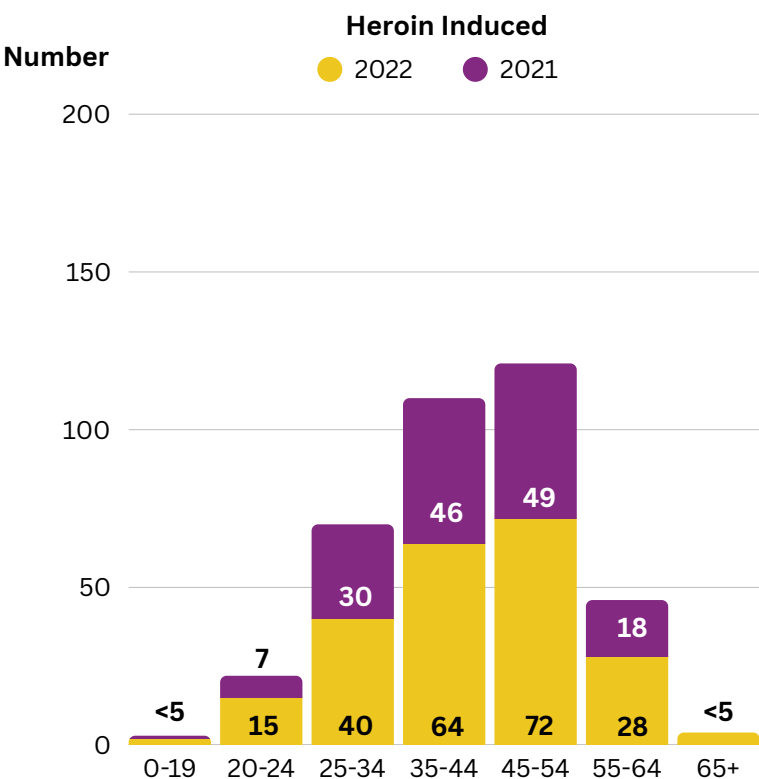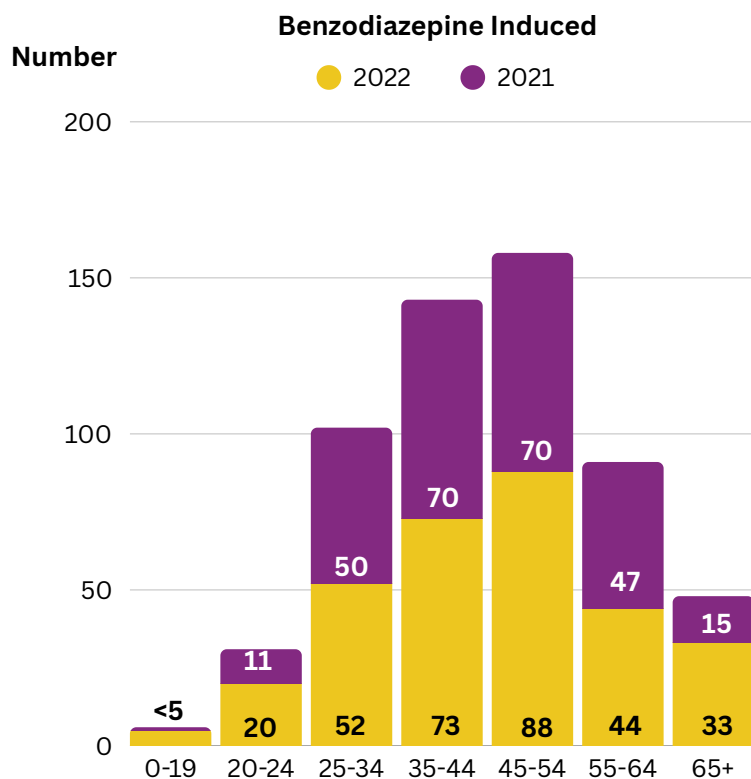
125

100

Alcohol Related

254

198

In **2022** there was an **increase** in the number of alcohol related deaths (254 vs 64 and 198 vs 44).

Alcohol Related

64

44

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Heroin Induced

Number

● 2022 ● 2021

In **2022** there was an **increase** in the number of heroin induced deaths across every age group.

Benzodiazepine Induced

Number

● 2022 ● 2021

In **2022** there was an **increase** in the number of benzodiazepine induced deaths across every age group, except for those aged 55-64 years.

Definitions

Deaths reported on AODstats are presented by the reference year (calendar year). Further details on the reference year can be found in the underlined methods document. Data may not match that published elsewhere by registration/death year. Causes of death data for more recent years (2020 onwards) are preliminary and subject to a revision process. Alcohol/Drug-induced deaths will differ with future revisions.

Data Analysis

Fatalities involving alcohol or drugs were identified from the Cause of Death (COD) Unit Record File (URF). ICD-10 codes are assigned to all conditions listed on a death certificate, and rules are applied to determine the underlying cause of death. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the underlying cause of death is the disease or injury that initiated the chain of events leading directly to death. Multiple causes of death include all conditions recorded on the death certificate, including both underlying and associated causes. For AODstats, ICD-10 codes were used at both the underlying (UCOD) and multiple cause of death (MCOD) levels to classify drug-related fatalities. Further details on the ICD-10 codes used can be found in the methods document.

Drug Categories

Alcohol Induced – causes of death attributable to alcohol induced mortality. Alcohol induced causes exclude accidents, homicides and other causes indirectly related to alcohol use. Also excluded are newborn deaths associated with maternal alcohol use.

Alcohol Related – Alcohol related to causes that contributed to death and may or may not have been related to the underlying cause (e.g. a person with alcohol dependence syndrome (F10.2, alcohol code) who died after sustaining a head injury (S06, injury code) from falling down the stairs (W10, external cause code)

Heroin Induced – cause of death attributable to heroin.

Benzodiazepine Induced – cause of death attributable to benzodiazepines.

For more information about Deaths or any of the other 10 datasets on AODStats please visit us here.

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