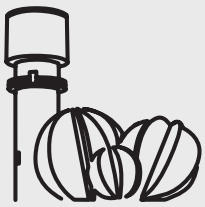


Alcohol and other Drugs

Alcohol contributes to the local economy and social amenity and is a cultural way of life for many Australians. About 80 per cent of us drink at least occasionally and generally at low risk levels. However, the misuse of alcohol and other drugs is also the leading cause of illness, injury and death in Australia. It increases the risk of accidents, fuels violence and impacts on people's sense of safety. Every year in Australia, there are more than 4000 alcohol-related deaths and almost 21,000 tobacco-caused deaths. Five Australians on average die every day as a result of drug use.

Wodonga



29 per cent of residents are at risk of alcohol harm every month, higher than the average Australian of 25 per cent



18 per cent smoke daily[1]



There are **93** liquor licensed hotels, clubs and bottle shops



30 per cent of adults believe that getting drunk every now and then is okay[2]

Australia



40 per cent of people drink alcohol weekly[3]



10 per cent of people smoke daily[4]



7.5 per cent have used an illicit drug in the past year and cannabis is the most commonly used[5]



Alcohol consumption and harm

8 per cent of Wodonga residents drink at very high risk levels.[2] Alcohol-related harm consists of physical, mental, social and economic harms that can be experienced by one's own drinking or that of someone else. Alcohol-related harms cost the Australian economy **$66.8 billion** every year.[6]

For more information please contact the Population Health and Community Wellbeing team

(02) 6022 9338

wodonga.vic.gov.au

Compared to Victoria (per capita)

Alcohol-fuelled family violence is higher in Wodonga at **25.7 per 10,000** people compared with 16.5 per 10,000

Wodonga had **23 physical assaults per 10,000** people each year in, compared with 20 per 10,000 in Victoria.

Wodonga had 311 alcohol and drug-related ambulance attendances attendances in 2021 at a rate of **72 per 10,000** people (66 per 10,000 in Victoria), an increase of 16 per cent since 2017.

There were 105 drug-related offences in 2016. Wodonga had **27 offences per 10,000** people, compared to 33 in Victoria.

Attitudes towards alcohol



A study of Australian attitudes towards alcohol revealed that 77 per cent of the population believe more needs to be done to reduce alcohol harm. The top four concerns of Australians are as follows.[7]

- Road accidents
- Family violence
- Physical and sexual assault
- Child abuse and neglect

55 per cent of people experiencing an alcohol or other drug use disorder have a mental health condition. [8]



Substance use and mental health

- People can experience co-occurring substance use and mental health problems and may present to support services and health professionals with one, or both.
- Groups that are at most risk of experiencing co-occurring mental health and AOD use disorders include: young people, LGBTIQ+, and First Nations people.
- People with dual diagnosis of mental health and AOD issues are often impacted by stigma which can stop people from seeking help.

Where to get help and further information

- For more facts about alcohol and other drugs, visit adf.org.au or contact DrugLine at druginfo@adf.org.au or 1300 858 584
- National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline: 1800 250 015
- DirectLine: directline.org.au
- Counselling Online: counsellingonline.org.au
- LifeLine: lifeline.org.au/ or 131114
- Alcoholics Anonymous: aa.org.au/ or 1300 222 222
- Quitline: quit.org.au or 13-QUIT (13 78 48)

References

1 VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015
2 Ibid
3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021
4 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022, National Health Survey (2021)
5 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020
6 Alcohol and Drug Foundation, 2023
7 Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education, 2020
8 Alcohol and Drug Foundation, 2023

