

Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework
for Western Australia 2011-2015

Key Performance Indicators 2013/14
Measuring progress on the implementation of the Framework



Government of **Western Australia**
Drug and Alcohol Office

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> Key performance indicators

To measure progress on the implementation of the *Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework 2011-2015*, the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group (DASSOG) is responsible for reporting against key performance indicators (KPIs) on an annual basis. The following KPIs provide the latest available data on the use of illicit drugs and alcohol in Western Australia (WA); the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use including hospitalisations; and information on the disruption and reduction of the supply of illicit drugs. Information is also provided on law enforcement strategies including: drug driving and drink driving offences, and diversion programs.

Western Australians consume more alcohol on average per capita than nationally (Table 1). Alcohol consumption decreased in WA during 2008/09 to 11.69 litres, however in 2009/10 this increased to 12.37 litres.

Table 1: Estimated average per capita pure alcohol consumption (litres) in Western Australia

Year	WA*	Aust*
2005/06	11.23	9.84
2006/07	11.10	10.40
2007/08	12.72	10.56
2008/09	11.69	10.40
2009/10	12.37	10.27

Note:

- Source: Loxley W, Catalano P, Gilmore W & Chikritzhs T (2012). National alcohol sales data project: Stage 3, Final report. Perth: Drug and Alcohol Office, Western Australia National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University.
- Results from Stage 4 showing 2010/11 data were not available at the time of reporting.

Results from the 2011 Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) survey show that alcohol remains the most commonly used substance by the WA population aged 12 to 15 years (Table 2). The proportion of 12 to 15 year old WA students who drank in the last month decreased from 34.6% in 2005, to 33.4% in 2008 and 21.7% in 2011. With the exception of heroin and other opiates, a decrease can be seen for use of all other drugs.

Table 2: Percentage of the Western Australian population aged 12 to 15 years reporting use of illicit drugs and alcohol in the past month

Substance	2005	2008	2011
Alcohol	34.6	33.4	21.7
Cannabis	8.3	6.5	5.8
Inhalants	7.0	6.7	6.0
Hallucinogens	0.8	1.2	0.8
Amphetamines	2.8	2.0	1.1
Steroids	0.7	1.5	0.9
Heroin & other opiates	0.6	1.0	1.9
Cocaine	1.0	1.0	0.4
Ecstasy	1.2	1.9	0.6
Any illicit	9.3	7.3	7.0

Note:

- Information is based on the ASSAD survey that is conducted every three years.
- Reported use of all substances is for non-medical purposes (i.e. not prescribed by a doctor).

In 2011 for students aged 12 to 15 years who drank in the last week (12.2%), more than one-quarter (27.3%) drank at risk for single occasion alcohol-related harm (Table 3).

Table 3: Percentage of the Western Australian population aged 12 to 15 years reporting drinking alcohol in the last week, and drank at single occasion risk

	2005	2008	2011
Drank in the last week	22.2	20.1	12.2
Single occasion risk of harm	25.5	21.1	27.3

Note:

- Information is based on the Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) survey that is conducted every three years.

In 2010, 43.3% of the WA population aged 14 years and over reported use of alcohol on a single occasion at risk of alcohol-related harm, compared to 39.8% reported nationally (Table 4). The proportion of West Australians using cannabis, ecstasy and meth/amphetamines was also higher than nationally (13.4%, 3.7%, 3.4% compared to 10.3%, 3.0% and 2.1%, respectively).

Table 4: Percentage of the Western Australian population aged 14 years and over reporting use of illicit drugs and alcohol at harmful levels

Substance	2010	
	WA	Aust
Alcohol		
<i>prevalence</i>	83.0	80.5
<i>lifetime risk of harm[†]</i>	22.7	20.1
<i>single occasion risk of harm[~]</i>	43.3	39.8
Cannabis	13.4	10.3
Ecstasy	3.7	3.0
Meth/amphetamines	3.4	2.1
Cocaine	2.2	2.1
Hallucinogens	1.9	1.4
Inhalants	0.4	0.6
Heroin	0.3	0.2
Ketamine	0.1	0.2
GHB	0.1	0.1
Steroids	0.2	0.1
Methadone or buprenorphine	0.1	0.2
Other opiates/opioids	0.5	0.4
Any illicit (excludes pharmaceuticals)	15.4	12.0

Note:

- State level results from the 2013 NDSHS were not available at time of producing this report.
- Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011. 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) report. Drug statistics series no. 25. Cat. no. PHE 145. Canberra: AIHW. The full report is available on the DAO website: www.dao.health.wa.gov.au
- Reported use of all substances is for non-medical purposes (i.e. not prescribed by a doctor).
- † 2009 NHMRC guidelines: harmful relates to a person's risk of experiencing an adverse health outcome. Lifetime and single occasion risk of harm is defined as the probability of the person developing that outcome in a specific time period: short (e.g. a few hours after drinking), or long (e.g. after five years or over a lifetime).
- ^ The lifetime risk of harm from drinking alcohol increases with the amount consumed. For healthy men and women, drinking no more than two standard drinks on any day reduces the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury (NHMRC guidelines, 2009).
- ~ A single occasion of drinking is a sequence of consuming drinks without the blood alcohol concentration reaching zero in between. This can be at home or at an event, but includes drinking spread across more than one context or venue. On a single occasion of drinking, the risk of alcohol-related injury increases with the amount consumed. For healthy men and women, drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that occasion (NHMRC guidelines, 2009).



From 2009/10 to 2012/13 the age-standardised rate (ASR) of alcohol-related hospitalisations in WA has increased from 6.8 per 1,000 population to 7.5 per 1,000 population in 2012/13 (Table 5).

Table 5: Number and rate of alcohol-related hospitalisations in Western Australia

Alcohol-related	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Hospitalisations	15,647	17,355	19,027	19,007
Age-Standardised Rate (ASR) (per 1,000 population)	6.8	7.4	7.8	7.5

Note:

- Source: Epidemiology Branch (2014). Quarterly number of drug and alcohol-related hospitalisations in Western Australian 2002-2013. Department of Health WA (computer file).
- At the time of preparing this report, data for 2013/14 was not available.
- Epidemiological data is true and correct at time of publication but may be subject to revision.
- Data were extracted from the Hospital Morbidity Data System. The number of hospitalisations due to alcohol consumption was estimated using the aetiologic fractions method reported by Xiao *et al* (Impact of Alcohol on the Population of Western Australia, Department of Health WA, January 2008). Hospitalisations refer to cases discharged from hospital in the given period of time. Hospitalisations are completed episodes from admission to discharge. These data do not include presentations to Accident and Emergency Departments.
- Hospital data exclude non-acute cases and unqualified newborns and contracted services.
- The ASR (Age-Standardised Rate) is derived to allow comparison between populations with different age structures. This is necessary because rates of diseases vary with age, often increasing as age increases. The age structure of each population is converted to the same 'standard' structure. The disease rates that would have occurred with that structure are calculated and compared.
- ASRs are standardised with the Australian 2001 population.

From 2009/10 to 2012/13 there has been a slight increase in the age-standardised rate (ASR) of other drug-related hospitalisations in WA from 2.4 per 1,000 population to 2.7 per 1,000 population, respectively (Table 6).

Table 6: Number and rate of other drug-related hospitalisations in Western Australia

Other drug-related	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Hospitalisations	5,400	6,184	6,472	6,840
Age-Standardised Rate (ASR) (per 1,000 population)	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7

Note:

- Source: Epidemiology Branch (2014). Quarterly number of drug and alcohol-related hospitalisations in Western Australian 2002-2013. Department of Health WA (computer file).
- At the time of preparing this report, data for 2013/14 was not available.
- Epidemiological data is true and correct at time of publication but may be subject to revision.
- Hospitalisations refer to cases discharged from hospital in the given period of time. Hospitalisations are completed episodes from admission to discharge. These data do not include presentations to Accident and Emergency Departments.
- Hospital data exclude non-acute cases and unqualified newborns and contracted services.
- The ASR (Age-Standardised Rate) is derived to allow comparison between populations with different age structures. This is necessary because rates of diseases vary with age, often increasing as age increased. The age structure of each population is converted to the same 'standard' structure. The disease rate that would have occurred with that structure in different populations are calculated and compared.
- ASRs are standardised with the Australian 2001 population.
- 'Other drugs' refers to opioids, sedatives and barbiturates, benzodiazepines, anti-depressants, psychostimulants, hallucinogens and cannabis, volatile substances, steroids, analgesics and anti-rheumatics and a variety of combined or unspecified drug.

In 2013/14 there were 12,657 incidents of illicit drug seizures in WA, an increase of 18.9% reported from 2012/13 (Table 7). Cannabis continues to remain the most common illicit drug seized (58.8%), followed by amphetamines (25.1%).

Table 7: Number of incidents and weight of illicit drug seizures by drug type

Drug type	2010/2011		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	n	grams	n	grams	n	grams	n	grams
Amphetamines	1,468	23,764.9	2,034	21,235.6	2,571	34,441.7	3,180	38,666.7
Cannabis	5,995	480,616.6	5,994	325,582.9	6,322	224,377.3	7,439	214,426.9
Cocaine	52	1,253.1	48	193.7	70	1,388.0	83	1,328.0
Hallucinogens	44	366.8	65	10,412.3	98	1,659.6	117	1056.4
Opioid	111	1,008.1	143	1,359.6	136	4,563.2	99	2,909.7
Other (identified) [^]	11	11,423.2	7	1,372.1	3	487.0	4	532.1
Other (unidentified)	638	16,309.5	867	23,083.3	1,094	23,126.5	1,229	51,748.3
Pharmaceuticals	175	470.2	210	886.6	251	3,677.9	348	1,971.6
Pre-cursor chemicals	4	49.5	7	675.4	8	2,310.5	11	407.5
Steroids	43	872.0	69	236.2	91	195.1	143	175.9

[^] *Khat*

Note:

- Source: Business Intelligence Office, WA Police, 2014.
- Incidents: Each distinct incident (as identified by being recorded on a separate Incident Report) in which one or more types of drugs were seized has been counted in this table, so that a prevalence of how often Police come into contact with these types of drugs can be known. Note that if the same type of drug is recorded multiple times on the same Incident Report, it will be counted only once, as this is a distinct count of incidents (i.e. unique incident numbers only).

In 2013/14 there were 2,152 Cannabis Intervention Requirements (CIR) issued an increase of 21.3% from 2012/13 (Table 7). Of those issued CIRs, 69.8% (n=1,503) opted to participate in a Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS).

Table 8: Number of Cannabis Intervention Requirements issued in Western Australia

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. CIRs issued [^]	na	1,263	1,774	2,152
No. CIS participants [^]	na	746	1,191	1,503
No. CINS issued	1,912	*	*	*
No. Cannabis Education Sessions participants	39	*	*	*

Note:

- Source: Business Intelligence Office, WA Police, 2014.
- Statistics are based on the date the Offender was processed by Police.
- [^] Includes juvenile data.
- * Cannabis Infringement Notices ceased to be issued from 1st August 2011, being replaced by The Cannabis Intervention Requirement scheme under the *Cannabis Law Reform Act 2011*.

In 2013/14, 377 juvenile offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use were diverted away from the criminal justice system either by police or the court system to WA Diversion Programs (Table 9). Of those diverted, 360 participated in the Young Persons Opportunity Program (YPOP), and 17 in the Young Persons Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (YSTIR). From 2012/13 to 2013/14 the number CIRs issued to juvenile offenders in 2013/14 increased by 20.7%, and the number of participants attending CIS increased by 32.5%.

Table 9: Number of juvenile offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use diverted into treatment by either police or the court system

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. juvenile offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use diverted into treatment either by police or the court system to WA Diversion Programs [^]	491	405	382	377
<i>YPOP participants</i>	480	387	373	360
<i>YSTIR participants</i>	11	18	9	17
No. CIRs issued*	n/a	203	334	403
No. CIS participants*	n/a	132	228	302
No. juvenile offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use referred into the Perth Children's Court Drug Court**	86	81	90	na

Note:

- Source: Drug and Alcohol Office, 2014.
- [^] Refers to treatment programs accessed by participants.
- *Source: Business Intelligence Office, WA Police, 2014.
- **Source: Department of the Attorney General, 2013.
- The Department of the Attorney General implemented a new case management system during the reporting period 2013/14. The Department is progressively updating its reporting capabilities in light of the new system. Data in relation to the Drug Courts is not readily available at this point in time.

From 2010/11 to 2013/14 there has been an increase in the number of adult offenders participating in the Indigenous Diversion Program (IDP) (18.3%), and the Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (STIR) (57.7%). This is in contrast to the number of adult offenders attending Pre-sentence Opportunity Program (POP) which has reduced by 41.8% over the four year period (Table 10). This reduction is most likely due to the implementation of the WA Cannabis Intervention Requirement from 1st August 2011 which would impact on the potential pool of POP participants.

Table 10: Number of adult offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use diverted into treatment either by police or the court system

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. adult offenders with identified alcohol and other drug use diverted into treatment either by police or the court system to WA Diversion Programs	1,555	1,218	1,119	1,052
<i>POP participants[^]</i>	1,362	985	847	793
<i>IDP participants[^]</i>	115	127	143	136
<i>STIR participants[^]</i>	78	106	129	123
No. adults referred to a Drug Court Program*	254	403	420	na
No. adults referred to a Drug Court Program who participated in a Drug Court Program*	72	97	67	na

Note:

- Source: Drug and Alcohol Office, 2014.
- [^] Refers to treatment programs accessed by participants.
- * Source: Department of the Attorney General, 2014.
- The Department of the Attorney General implemented a new case management system during the reporting period of 2013/14. The Department is progressively updating its reporting capabilities in light of the new system. Data in relation to the Drug Courts is not readily available at this point in time.

In 2013/14 there was a high demand for the alcohol and other drug programs, resulting in more frequent delivering of the programs. As a result there was a 203% increase in attendance compared to the previous year.

Table 11: Number of adult offenders with alcohol and other drug issues attending programs in prison

	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Male	562	(89.1%)	628	(93.6%)	583	(91.0%)	1,726	(88.9%)
Females	69	(10.9%)	43	(6.4%)	58	(9.0%)	216	(11.1%)
Persons	631	(100%)	671	(100%)	641	(100%)	1,942	(100%)
Indigenous	231	(36.6%)	212	(31.6%)	189	(29.5%)	729	(37.5%)

Note:

- Source: Department of Corrective Services, 2014.

Liquor Control Act Infringement Notices issued in WA stayed relatively stable in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13 (Table 12).

Table 12: Number of Liquor Control Act Infringement Notices issued in Western Australia by the WA Police and DRGL Inspectors

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. infringements	10,247	9,443	5,213	5,313

Note:

- Source: Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, WA Police, 2014.
- Statistics are provisional and subject to revision.

In 2013/14, the number of preliminary breath tests carried out in WA was 1,439,738 (Table 13). Of those tested, 15,271 exceeded 0.05%, presenting 1.1% of the total number of preliminary breath tests.

Table 13: Number of drink driving offences

	2010/11	2011/12*	2012/13*	2013/14*
No. preliminary breath tests	767,186	1,292,652	1,539,428	1,439,738
No. drivers exceeded 0.05	20,145	18,864	20,761	15,271
% drivers who exceeded 0.05	2.6%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%

Note:

- Source: Business Intelligence Office, WA Police, 2014.
- * Figures reported in 2010/11 provided number of preliminary breath tests conducted by 'general operations'. From 2011/12 figures provided include 'general operations' plus 'external funded operations' (i.e. STEP funding and Operation Perception funding) resulting in an increase in numbers.
- Statistics are provisional and subject to revision.
- BAC refers to BAC limit for each licence class (i.e. 0.02 for Probationary drivers).

In 2013/14, there were 651 drug driving offences, a decrease of 2.4% from figures reported previously in 2012/13 (Table 14).

Table 14: Number of drug driving offences

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. of drug driving charges	506	560	667	651
No. of preliminary drug tests	8,438	9,120	9,080	7,997
No. of confirmed positive tests from preliminary tests	390	526	570	551
% of positive tests from preliminary tests	4.6%	5.7%	6.3%	6.9%

Note:

- Source: Business Intelligence Office, WA Police, 2014.
- Statistics are provisional and subject to revision.

In 2013/14 there were 24,094 open and opened treatment episodes, an increase of 6.3% from 2012/13 (Table 15). The percentage of clients completing their treatment as planned has ranged from 77% to 80% over the four year period.

Table 15: Number of open and opened treatment episodes* (including inpatient and outpatient in government and non-government agencies funded by DAO), percentage of treatment episodes completed as planned, and clients still in treatment

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Open and opened episodes	20,802	21,190	22,660	24,094
Still engaged in treatment	6,359	5,622	5,255	5,801
Completed as planned	79%	77%	78%	80%

* excludes Sobering Up Centres

Note:

- Source: Drug and Alcohol Office, Annual Reports which are available on the DAO website: www.dao.health.wa.gov.au
- Open and opened refers to all treatment episodes that were open already at the beginning of the period and all episodes opened during that period. Due to the requirements of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services - National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS) for a 3 month period before closures of episodes where the client has exited without notice, the reporting period for this indicator is 1 April – 31 March.
- Sobering Up Centre data is not used for this indicator. Due to the nature of the Sobering Up Centre service means that the episode is open and closed within 24 hours and that the completion rate is 100%.