# MORTALITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO DRUG USE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 1981 - 1991 

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May 1993


Healh Deparment of Western Ausfralia
The WA Drug Data Collection Unit is an initiative of the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse

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## Summary

Tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol and other drugs are estimated to have caused 20,824 deaths in Western Australia in the period 1981-1991 - an average of almost 1,900 deaths per year. There were 15,026 male deaths and 5,796 female deaths attributable to the use of drugs.

Tobacco smoking alone was responsible for an estimated 15,453 deaths ( 11,731 males, 3,721 females) at an average of 1,405 deaths per year; alcohol use for 4,769 deaths ( 3,721 males and 1,841 females) at an average of 434 deaths per year; and the use of other drugs for 602 deaths ( 368 males and 234 females) at an average of 55 deaths per year).

The average annual number of deaths caused by the use of all drugs increased over the period 19811991, but, after allowance was made for differences in the age patterns of the deaths and the ageing of the population, overall death rates actually declined - by 23 per cent for males and by 8 per cent for females. For each sex the major decline occurred in the late 1980s, but whereas the rate for males was fairly steady between 1981 and 1986, the rate for females increased over that period.

The declines in the age standardised rates for deaths caused by all drugs mainly reflect the changes in rates for deaths caused by tobacco smoking, which decreased by 26 per cent for males and by 12 per cent for females. Age standardised rates for deaths caused by alcohol use decreased marginally over the period, but those for deaths caused by the use of other drugs increased (even though they were slightly lower in 1991 than in 1984-1987).

Age-specific rates for deaths caused by tobacco smoking increased with age; those for deaths caused by alcohol use were also highest among older people, but were also quite high among young adults. In contrast, rates for deaths caused by the use of other drugs were highest among young adults, then decreased with age.

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## Acknowledgments

The production of this report has involved valuable assistance by the following staff of the Health Services Statistics and Epidemiology Branch of the Health Department of Western Australia:

- Margherita Veroni for extracting mortality data from the Health Department's computer databases.
- Patrick FitzGerald for assistance in the development of the methodology for calculating age standardised death rates in Excel spreadsheets.
- Dr Neil Thomson, Manager, Population Health Surveys, who generously provided time in the preparation of the final draft of the manuscript with assistance in interpretation of the data and close attention to the structure and format of the report.


## 1 Introduction

The object of this report is to estimate the total number of deaths which occurred in Western Australia in the period 1981 to 1991 and which were attributable to the use of all types of drugs. The report contains detailed analyses of sex and age-specific mortality caused by tobacco smoking, and by the use of alcohol and other drugs. ${ }^{1}$
The results will enable planners, policy-makers and researchers to make inferences about the impact of drugs and of strategies developed in conjunction the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) these include the Drinksafe Campaign, the expansion of treatment services for illicit opiate users since 1985, the opening of sobering-up shelters in mid 1990 and random breath testing (RBT) of WA motorists. This report is the third in a series analysing the relationship between drug use and mortality ${ }^{2}$.

## Statistical methods

The numbers of deaths attributable to the use of various drugs have been estimated by the aetiologic fractions method developed by Holman, Armstrong and colleagues ${ }^{3}$. This indirect method requires the application of separate sets of probability measures of the contribution to mortality of the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Some deaths are wholly attributable to the use of drugs (an example is alcoholic liver cirrhosis), in which case the probability (or aetiologic fraction) is 1.0 . Most causes of deaths (and morbidity), however, cannot be attributed wholly to the use of drugs. For these causes of death, Holman, Armstrong and colleagues undertook a detailed analysis of the scientific literature of the health effects of the use of drugs. This analysis provided sex and age-specific estimates of the proportions of deaths from particular causes which could be attributed to the use of drugs. For example, the analysis concluded that for males of all ages 35 per cent of deaths from falls could be attributed to the use of alcohol. The application of the probability (or aetiologic fraction) of 0.35 to the number of deaths of males resulting from falls (for example, 100) estimates that a number (35) of such deaths could be attributed to the use of alcohol. Thus, for causes of death not wholly attributable to the use of a drug, the aetiologic fractions method does not identify individual deaths, but provides an estimate of the number of deaths attributable to the use of that drug.

For tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol, the aetiologic fractions for some conditions are negative (see Tables A1 to A5, pages 17 to 21 for the sets of fractions that were used to estimate the numbers of deaths attributable to tobacco smoking, alcohol use and the use of other drugs). For these conditions, tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol appear to have some protective effect. Examples of these are provided in the following notes specific to the drug groups considered.

Differences in fractions between age groups and between the two sexes are due to variations in the pooled estimates of relative risk for specific conditions that were combined with measures of prevalence of drug use in Australia in the computation of the sets of fractions.

This analysis applies the aetiologic fractions method to deaths occurring in Western Australia in the period 1981-1990. The numbers of deaths caused (or prevented) by a drug for each five-year age group for each set of conditions for males and females were calculated by multiplying the number of sex and causespecific deaths each year by the corresponding set of aetiologic fractions (positive or negative). These numbers were then summed to provide estimates of the total numbers of deaths attributable to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

In this report, 'wholly attributable deaths' are deaths from causes of death for which the aetiologic fractions for a particular drug are equal to 1.0 . 'Other deaths' are the deaths estimated for causes of death for which the aetiologic fractions are not equal to 1.0 .

[^0]
## Tobacco smoking

Apart from perinatal conditions and fire injuries it was assumed that tobacco smoking did not cause deaths in persons aged less than 15 years. In accordance with the published aetiologic fractions ${ }^{4}$ (see Tables A1 and A2, pages 17 and 18 a protective effect has been applied to the conditions of Parkinson's disease and ulcerative colitis for both males and females, and endometrial cancer and hypertension of pregnancy for females.

There are a number of differences between the causes of death for males and females, as five causes of death - endometrial cancer, cervical cancer, spontaneous abortion, antepartum haemorrhage and hypertension of pregnancy - were specific to females.

Only one condition (tobacco abuse) has an aetiologic fraction of 1.0.

## Alcohol use

Alcohol use is considered to provide a protective effect for both males and females aged 15 to 59 years for four conditions: ischaemic heart disease, cardiac dysrhythmias, heart failure and cholelithiasis ${ }^{5}$ (Tables A3 and A4, pages 19 and 20 The abrupt change from protective effect to no effect at age 60 years for the first three of these conditions is somewhat anomalous, but Holman, Armstrong and colleagues ${ }^{2}$ did not believe there was sufficient evidence to support a protective effect of alcohol use for ischaemic heart disease (IHD) mortality for people aged 60 or more. The estimate of the total number of deaths caused by alcohol use would be substantially changed if a protective effect of alcohol was applicable to people aged 60 years and over, as the majority of deaths ascribed to IHD occur among older people.

In response to recent debate about their methodology, including the protective effect of alcohol on IHD, Holman and Armstrong re-analysed their 1986 data. They concluded that an 'assumption that the protective effect of alcohol on ischaemic heart disease extends beyond 60 years of age results in the estimation of a net saving of 1,901 lives as opposed to the net excess of 5,360 deaths'. ${ }^{6}$

Apart from perinatal conditions and selected injuries it was assumed that alcohol did not cause mortality in persons aged less than 15 years.

A number of conditions are considered wholly attributable to alcohol use (the aetiologic fraction is 1.0)- these include alcohol poisoning, alcoholic psychosis, alcohol dependence and alcoholic cardiomyopathy (see Tables A3 and A4, pages 19 and 20).

## Other drugs

There is no scientific evidence that the use of opiates, barbiturates, tranquillisers, sedatives, antidepressants, cocaine, psychostimulants, hallucinogens, cannabis, volatile substances or other or unspecified drugs provides a protective health effect (Table A5, page 21). In this report, the term 'other drugs' is used to refer to deaths caused by the use of these drugs, rather than the term originally used 'illicit drugs ${ }^{2}$.

As well as those conditions specific to the use of other drugs (with aetiologic fractions of 1.0 ), a proportion of total cases of other conditions (such as viral hepatitis) is due to the use of other drugs.

[^1]
## 2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 2.1 Overview

There were an estimated 20,824 deaths caused by tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol and other drugs in Western Australia in 1981-1991 (Table 1) ${ }^{7}$. Of these deaths, tobacco smoking was responsible for 15,453 deaths ( 74 per cent), alcohol use for 4,769 ( 23 per cent) and the use of other drugs for 602 ( 3 per cent) (Figure 1). On average, there were an estimated 1,893 deaths caused each year by drug use - 1,405 by tobacco smoking, 434 by alcohol use and 55 by the use of other drugs.

There were 1,714 deaths ( 8 per cent) wholly attributable to the use of drugs (that is, due to conditions for which the aetiologic fraction was 1.0) - 1,134 ( 66 per cent) to the use of alcohol and 580 ( 34 per cent) to the use of other drugs. In addition to the deaths wholly attributable to the use of drugs, it is estimated that a further 19,110 deaths were caused by drugs - 15,453 ( 81 per cent) by tobacco smoking, 3,635 ( 19 per cent) by the use of alcohol and 22 ( $0.1 \%$ ) by the use of other drugs. These deaths are estimated for causes of death for which the aetiologic fractions are not equal to 1.0 .

These results illustrate clearly the paradox of drug-caused mortality: only 8 per cent of the estimated drug-caused deaths in Western Australia in 1981-1991 were unambiguously attributed to the use of drugs. More than 9 out of every 10 deaths estimated to have been caused by the use of drugs were partly hidden.

Between 1981 and 1991, the total annual number of all drug-caused deaths tended to increase (Table 1). In 1981-1985, there was an average of 1,787 deaths per year, compared with an average of 1,981 deaths per year in 1986-1991.

For all drug types, the estimated numbers of deaths were greater for males than for females (Table 2). Of the 15,453 deaths estimated to have been caused by tobacco smoking, 11,731 (76 per cent) were of males and 3,721 (24 per cent) of females. Alcohol use was estimated to have caused the deaths of 2,927 males ( 61 per cent of all deaths caused by alcohol use) and of 1,841 females ( 39 per cent). Of the 602 deaths estimated to have been caused by the use of other drugs, 368 ( 61 per cent) were of males and 234 (39 per cent) of females.

Figure 1
Proportions of estimated drug-caused deaths, by drug type Western Australia, 1981-1991


[^2]
## 2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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Figure 1
Proportions of estimated drug-caused deaths, by drug type Western Australia, 1981-1991


[^3]

| Year | Wholly attributable deaths |  |  | Other deaths |  |  | Estimated total deaths |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Tobacco | Alcohol | Other | Tobacco | Alcohol | Other | Tobacco | Alcohol | Other | All Drugs |
| 1981 | - | 79 | 34 | 1282 | 273 | 2 | 1282 | 352 | 36 | 1669 |
| 1982 | - | 94 | 37 | 1335 | 305 | 2 | 1335 | 399 | 39 | 1773 |
| 1983 | - | 83 | 48 | 1364 | 299 | 2 | 1364 | 382 | 50 | 1796 |
| 1984 | - | 103 | 63 | 1388 | 296 | 1 | 1388 | 399 | 64 | 1851 |
| 1985 | - | 112 | 62 | 1343 | 325 | 2 | 1343 | 437 | 64 | 1844 |
| 1986 | - | 112 | 64 | 1498 | 348 | 3 | 1498 | 460 | 67 | 2025 |
| 1987 | - | 101 | 63 | 1391 | 329 | 2 | 1391 | 430 | 65 | 1886 |
| 1988 | - | 116 | 49 | 1489 | 375 | 2 | 1489 | 491 | 51 | 2031 |
| 1989 | - | 128 | 49 | 1495 | 369 | 2 | 1495 | 497 | 51 | 2042 |
| 1990 | - | 106 | 56 | 1424 | 358 | 2 | 1424 | 464 | 58 | 1945 |
| 1991 | - | 100 | 55 | 1444 | 358 | 2 | 1444 | 458 | 57 | 1959 |
| 1981-1991 | - | 1134 | 580 | 15453 | 3635 | 22 | 15453 | 4769 | 602 | 20824 |

[^4]Estimated numbers of deaths attributable to drug use, by sex and type of drug, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Type of drug | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Males |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco | 1000 | 1055 | 1045 | 1076 | 1024 | 1135 | 1063 | 1113 | 1111 | 1042 | 1067 |
| Alcohol | 215 | 243 | 228 | 248 | 271 | 279 | 270 | 310 | 319 | 277 | 267 |
| Other drugs | 22 | 20 | 30 | 34 | 36 | 41 | 44 | 31 | 35 | 41 | 34 |
| All drugs | 1237 | 1318 | 1304 | 1358 | 1331 | 1455 | 1378 | 1454 | 1465 | 1360 | 1368 |
| Females |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco | 282 | 280 | 319 | 313 | 318 | 363 | 329 | 376 | 384 | 381 | 376 |
| Alcohol | 137 | 157 | 153 | 150 | 166 | 181 | 159 | 181 | 178 | 187 | 192 |
| Other drugs | 14 | 19 | 20 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 23 |
| All drugs | 433 | 456 | 492 | 493 | 512 | 570 | 509 | 577 | 577 | 586 | 591 |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

## Age standardised death rates

The estimated annual numbers of deaths tended to increase over the period 1981-1991, but, after making allowance for the age pattern of the deaths and the ageing of the population, the overall rate for drugcaused deaths declined by 19 per cent - from 113.4 deaths per 100,000 person-years in 1981 to 92.3 in 1991 (Table 3).

This decline largely reflects the marked reduction in the age standardised death rate for conditions caused by tobacco smoking. Overall, the rate declined by 23 per cent - from 87.0 deaths per 100,000 person-years in 1981 to 67.3 in 1991.

Throughout most of the period the age standardised death rate for conditions caused by alcohol use fluctuated around 25 deaths per 100,000 person-years, but declined slightly to around 22 per 100,000 in 1990-1991.

In contrast to the death rates for conditions caused by tobacco smoking and alcohol use, the age standardised death rate for conditions caused by other drugs increased overall by 20 per cent, from 2.5 deaths per 100,000 in 1981 to 3.0 in 1991. During the mid 1980s, the death rate from these conditions was somewhat higher at around 4 per 100,000 .

The age standardised death rates were generally much higher for males than for females, but there were marked differences between males and females in the changes in rates over the period 1981-1991. The age standardised death rate from conditions caused by all drugs combined declined by 23 per cent for males (from 184.3 deaths to 142.4 per 100,000 person-years) and by 8 per cent for females (from 54.2 to 49.9) (Figure 2; Table B1, page 23). For each sex the major decline occurred in the late 1980s, but whereas the rate for males was fairly steady between 1981 and 1986, the rate for females increased over that period.

As for changes in the overall rate, these declines largely reflect the changes in the age standardised death rates for conditions caused by tobacco smoking, the rate for males declining by 26 per cent (from 149.4 to 110.7) and that for females by 12 per cent (from 35.4 to 31.3) (Figure 3; Table BI, page 23). The age standardised death rates for conditions caused by alcohol use declined for each sex, but by less than for conditions caused by tobacco smoking - by 13 per cent for males (from 32.0 to 28.0) and by 3 per cent for females (from 16.8 to 16.3) (Figure 4; Table B1, page 23). In contrast to the changes in rates for conditions caused by tobacco smoking and alcohol use, age standardised death rates for conditions caused by other drugs increased over the period 1981-1991 - by 23 per cent for males (from 3.0 to 3.7) and by 21 per cent for females (from 1.9 to 2.3) (Figure 5; Table B1, page 23).

Table 3
Estimated age standardised death rates (per 100,000 person years) by type of drug, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Type of drug | Year |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco | 87.0 | 87.7 | 85.9 | 84.6 | 78.9 | 84.3 | 75.2 | 77.4 | 74.8 | 69.4 | 67.3 |
| Alcohol | 24.0 | 26.6 | 23.7 | 24.7 | 26.2 | 26.4 | 23.4 | 25.8 | 25.4 | 22.6 | 21.9 |
| Other drugs | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| All drugs | 113.4 | 117.0 | 112.9 | 113.5 | 109.1 | 114.8 | 102.6 | 106.1 | 103.0 | 95.0 | 92.3 |

Figure 2
Estimated age standardised death rates for all drugs by sex
Western Australia, 1981-1991
Rate (per 100,000)


Figure 3
Estimated age standardised death rates for tobacco smoking by sex
Western Australia, 1981-1991
Rate (per 100,000)


Figure 4
Estimated age standardised death rates for alcohol use by sex
Western Australia, 1981-1991
Rate (per 100,000 )


Figure 5
Estimated age standardised death rates for other drugs by sex
Western Australia, 1981-1991
Rate (per 100,000)


## Age pattern of deaths

Around half of all deaths caused by drug use occurred among people aged 70 years or older (Table 4), with the proportion of deaths in that age group increasing slightly over the period 1981-1991 (see also Figure 6). Relatively very few of the deaths caused by drugs occur among people less than 50 years of age.

The age pattern of drug-caused deaths differs markedly between tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol and other drugs (Table 5 and Table 6 for details of estimated deaths for drug type by age group). Death rates from tobacco smoking increase steadily with age, and those from alcohol use reach a minor peak for the 20 to 24 year age group then are fairly steady until age group 60 to 64 years from which they increase rapidly with age. The pattern for other drugs is quite different - death rates are highest for age groups between 20 and 34 years, then are fairly steady before decreasing among the oldest age groups.

These differences reflect the preponderance of deaths from chronic conditions (for example, cancers) that are related to long-term tobacco smoking or alcohol use (or long latent periods in the development of these conditions), and the consequences of short-term abuse of drugs by young adults (manifested in deaths due to causes such as drug dependence, injuries and suicide).

Figure 6
Estimated numbers of deaths caused by all drugs, by age group Western Australia, 1981-1991


Refer to table 4
Estimated number of deaths caused by all Trugs by 4

| Age group | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0-9 | 19 | 19 | 16 | 24 | 17 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 20 |
| 10-19 | 22 | 26 | 19 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 31 | 25 | 20 |
| 20-29 | 54 | 57 | 68 | 73 | 81 | 66 | 58 | 68 | 65 | 62 | 72 |
| 30-39 | 49 | 66 | 59 | 56 | 63 | 62 | 62 | 65 | 62 | 75 | 61 |
| 40-49 | 96 | 89 | 92 | 99 | 94 | 102 | 110 | 105 | 99 | 102 | 105 |
| 50-59 | 214 | 242 | 217 | 220 | 206 | 222 | 197 | 190 | 210 | 177 | 203 |
| 60-69 | 423 | 446 | 443 | 441 | 440 | 520 | 463 | 520 | 521 | 518 | 468 |
| $70+$ | 790 | 826 | 879 | 914 | 919 | 1003 | 945 | 1028 | 1034 | 958 | 1011 |
| All ages | 1668 | 1773 | 1793 | 1850 | 1843 | 2020 | 1884 | 2030 | 2041 | 1939 | 1959 |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

Table 5
Estimated age-specific death rates (per 100,000 person-years) by type of drug, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Age group | Tobacco | Alcohol | Other drugs | All drugs |
| :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{0 - 4}$ |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{5 - 9}$ | 13.0 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 15.6 |
| $\mathbf{1 0 - 1 4}$ | 0.0 | 1.6 | - | 1.7 |
| $\mathbf{1 5 - 1 9}$ | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.2 | 2.1 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 - 2 4}$ | 0.4 | 14.9 | 2.6 | 17.8 |
| $\mathbf{2 5 - 2 9}$ | 0.9 | 20.6 | 6.0 | 27.5 |
| $\mathbf{3 0 - 3 4}$ | 2.6 | 14.8 | 7.2 | 24.4 |
| $\mathbf{3 5 - 3 9}$ | 3.7 | 13.2 | 6.1 | 23.0 |
| $\mathbf{4 0 - 4 4}$ | 10.2 | 12.9 | 5.4 | 28.4 |
| $\mathbf{4 5 - 4 9}$ | 22.6 | 16.9 | 4.3 | 43.7 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 - 5 4}$ | 50.4 | 18.0 | 3.8 | 72.0 |
| $\mathbf{5 5 - 5 9}$ | 118.0 | 19.3 | 4.0 | 141.1 |
| $\mathbf{6 0 - 6 4}$ | 167.1 | 13.2 | 3.9 | 183.9 |
| $\mathbf{6 5 - 6 9}$ | 306.1 | 83.3 | 4.9 | 393.9 |
| $\mathbf{7 0 - 7 4}$ | 450.8 | 97.9 | 4.2 | 552.4 |
| $\mathbf{7 5 - 7 9}$ | 681.5 | 133.1 | 185.8 | 4.2 |
| $\mathbf{8 0 - 8 4}$ | 991.2 | 273.8 | 4.5 | 818.3 |
| $\mathbf{8 5 +}$ | 1411.1 | 472.9 | 3.0 | $\mathbf{1 2 6 7 . 4}$ |



### 2.2 Deaths caused by tobacco smoking

The number of deaths estimated to have been caused by tobacco smoking increased with age, with the male:female ratio of deaths being around 3:1 for each age group (Table 7). The mortality impact of tobacco smoking among older people is substantial - almost four-fifths of deaths caused by tobacco smoking ( 12,361 deaths out of a total of 15,453 deaths) occurred among people aged 60 years and over, and more than a half of the deaths ( 8,208 deaths) among those aged 70 years and over.

As noted above, the age standardised death rate for each sex decreased over the period 1981-1991: the rate for males decreased by 26 per cent and that for females by 12 per cent (Figure 3 ). Reflecting these decreases, the male:female standardised death rate ratio decreased from 4.3:1 in 1981 to 3.6:1 in 1991.

Though not studied in this report, it is very likely that the decrease in mortality is closely related to the decline in both smoking prevalence and reduced tar levels in cigarettes smoked by Australian adults. ${ }^{8}$

Table 7
Estimated number of deaths caused by tobacco smoking, by sex and age group, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Age group | Males |  | Females |  | Persons |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | No. | Per cent | No. | Per cent | No. | Per cent |
| $\mathbf{0 . 9}$ | 96 | 0.8 | 70 | 1.9 | 167 | 1.1 |
| $\mathbf{1 0 - 1 9}$ | 4 | - | 1 | - | 5 | - |
| $\mathbf{2 0 - 2 9}$ | 34 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.4 | 49 | 0.3 |
| $\mathbf{3 0 - 3 9}$ | 132 | 1.1 | 48 | 1.3 | 180 | 1.1 |
| $\mathbf{4 0 - 4 9}$ | 533 | 4.5 | 146 | 3.9 | 679 | 4.4 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 - 5 9}$ | 1,623 | 13.8 | 388 | 10.4 | 2,011 | 13.0 |
| $\mathbf{6 0 - 6 9}$ | 3,248 | 27.7 | 906 | 24.3 | 4,153 | 26.9 |
| $\mathbf{7 0 +}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 0 6 1}$ | $\mathbf{5 1 . 7}$ | 2,146 | 57.7 | 8,208 | 53.1 |
| All ages | $\mathbf{1 1 , 7 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 7 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 , 4 5 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation..

[^5]
### 2.3 Deaths caused by alcohol use

More than two-fifths of the deaths estimated to have been caused by alcohol use occurred among people aged 70 years and over. The proportion of the female deaths that occurred in that age group ( 54 per cent) was higher than that of male deaths ( 37 per cent) (Table 8 ). The numbers of female deaths increased fairly steadily with age but the age distribution of male deaths was bi-modal with 14 per cent of all male deaths occurring in the 20-29 year age group. Almost three-tenths of the male deaths estimated to have been caused by alcohol use occurred in the 10 to 39 year age group. In contrast, less than 14 per cent of female deaths occurred in that age group. The proportion of the male deaths in this age group attributable to deaths classified in the ICD group External causes of injury and poisoning. (which includes motor vehicle road accidents, suicide, etc.) was higher than that of the female deaths.

Table 8
Estimated numbers of deaths caused by alcohol use, by sex and age group, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Age group | Males |  | Females |  | Persons |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | No. | Per cent | No. | Per cent | No. | Per cent |
| $\mathbf{0 - 9}$ | 33 | 1.1 | 20 | 1.1 | 53 | 1.1 |
| $\mathbf{1 0 - 1 9}$ | 175 | 6.0 | 56 | 3.0 | 231 | 4.8 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 - 2 9}$ | 401 | 13.7 | 93 | 5.0 | 494 | 10.4 |
| $\mathbf{3 0 - 3 9}$ | 247 | 8.4 | 99 | 5.4 | 346 | 7.2 |
| $\mathbf{4 0 - 4 9}$ | 198 | 6.8 | 138 | 7.5 | 336 | 7.1 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 - 5 9}$ | 79 | 2.7 | 162 | 8.8 | 241 | 5.0 |
| $\mathbf{6 0 - 6 9}$ | 716 | 24.4 | 287 | 15.6 | 1,002 | 21.0 |
| $\mathbf{7 0 +}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0 7 9}$ | 36.8 | 987 | 53.6 | 2,066 | 43.3 |
| All ages | $\mathbf{2 , 9 2 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 8 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 7 6 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

### 2.4 Deaths caused by the use of other drugs

In contrast to deaths caused by tobacco smoking and alcohol use, deaths resulting from the use of other drugs largely involved people in their 20 s and 30 s . Of the 602 deaths caused by the use of other drugs, 337 ( 56 per cent) were of people in the 20-39 age group (Table 9). Only 87 deaths ( 14 per cent) were of people aged 60 years or older.

The changes in male and female age standardised death rates differed over the period 1981-1991 The rate for males increased sharply from 3.0 deaths per 100,000 person-years in 1981 to 5.4 in 1987 ( 82 per cent), then declined to a level around 4 - still about a third higher than the 1981 level (Figure 5; Table B1, page 23). The rate for females more than doubled between 1981 and 1984 (from 1.9 to 4.1), then declined to a rate similar to that for the beginning of the period.

Almost two-thirds of the male deaths caused by the use of other drugs involved men aged 20-39 years ( 234 deaths), whereas only 103 ( 44 per cent) of the female deaths involved women in that age group. The differences between the age patterns of male and female mortality from the use of other drugs is largely attributable to the differences in age of death for the various drugs. The use of opiates (particularly heroin) was responsible for the high number of male deaths in the 20-39 years age group. Deaths from the use of tranquillisers, sedatives and anti-depressants tended to be more common among older women.

Table 9
Estimated numbers of deaths caused by the use of other drugs, by sex and age group, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| Age group | Males |  | Females |  | Persons |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { cent } \end{aligned}$ | No. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \end{gathered}$ | No. | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { cent } \end{gathered}$ |
| 0-9 | 2 | 0.6 | 1 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.5 |
| 10-19 | 31 | 8.4 | 6 | 2.6 | 37 | 6.2 |
| 20-29 | 129 | 35.1 | 55 | 23.8 | 184 | 30.8 |
| 30-39 | 105 | 28.7 | 48 | 20.6 | 153 | 25.6 |
| 40-49 | 35 | 9.6 | 44 | 18.8 | 79 | 13.2 |
| 50-59 | 25 | 6.9 | 31 | 13.1 | 56 | 9.3 |
| 60-69 | 23 | 6.3 | 28 | 12.1 | 51 | 8.6 |
| $70+$ | 16 | 4.4 | 20 | 8.5 | 36 | 6.0 |
| All ages | 369 | 100.0 | 233 | 100.0 | 602 | 100.0 |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

Appendix A
Tables of aetiologic fractions

TABLE A2：ESTIMATED AGE－SPECIFIC AETIOLOGIC FRACTIONS OF CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIAN FEMALES CAUSED OR PREVENTED BY TOBACCO

$$
\begin{gathered}
5-49 \\
0.22 \\
0.21
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
49 \quad 50-54 \quad 55
$$

CaUSE OF DEATH
RESPIRATORY TB LIP CANCER PRAL CANCER OESOPHAGEAL CANCER GASTRIC CANCER PANCREATIC CANCER LUNG CANCER ENDOMETRIAL CANCER CERVICAL CANCER
BLADDER CANCER RENAL PARENCHYMAL CANCER
RENAL PELVIC CANCER RENAL RELORY CARCINOMA－IN－SITU PARACCO ABUSE ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE PULMONARY CIRCULATORY DISEASE
CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS
HEART FAILURE
ATHEROSCLEROSIS PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE PNEUMONIA CHRONIC BRONCHITIS
PEPTIC ULCER
ULCERATIVE COLITIS
NOILCOBV SOOANVLNOAS
ANTEPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE
HYPERTENSION OF PREGNANCY
aWOYGNXS HLVEG LNVINI NGGONS
LHDIGMHLYIG MOT

CAUSE OF DEATH
RESPIRATORY TB
LIP CANCER
ORAL CANCER
PHARYNGEAL CANCER
OESOPHAGEAL CANCER
GASTRIC CANCER
PANCREATIC CANCER
LARYNGEAL CANCER
LUNG CANCER
ENDOMETRIAL CANCER
CERVICAL CANCER
BLADDER CANCER
RENAL PARENCHYMAL CANCER
RENAL PELVIC CANCER
RESPIRATORY CARCINOMA－IN－SITU
TOBACCO ABUSE
PARKINSONS DISEASE
ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE
PULMONARY CIRCULATORY DISEASE
CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS
HEART FAILURE
STROKE
ATHEROSCLEROSIS
PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE
PNEUMONIA
CHRONIC BRONCHITIS
PEPTIC ULCER
ULCERATIVE COLTTIS
SPONTANEOUS ABORTION
ANTEPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE
HYPERTENSION OF PREGNANCY
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME
FIRE INJURIES
0.21
0.56
0.68
씅 응

겅 $\stackrel{\infty}{\circ}$ Nㅡㅇ | N |
| :---: | 등ㅆㅇ웅荅答－





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| ICD9 CODES | 0-4 | 5.9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70.74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85+ | CAUSE OF DEATH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| E810-E819 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | ROAD INJURIES |
| E860.0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1 | 1. | 1. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1 | ALCOHOL POISONING |
| E860.1,E860.2 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ETHANOL POISONING |
| E880-E888 |  |  |  | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | FALL INJURIES |
| E890-E899 |  |  |  | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | FIRE INJURIES |
| E910 |  |  |  | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.256 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | DROWNING |
| E911 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ASPIRATION |
| E919-E920 |  |  |  | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | MACHINE INJURIES |
| E950-E959 |  |  |  | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | SUICIDE |
| E960,E965,E966,E968,E969 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | ASSAULT |
| E967 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | CHILD ABUSE |
| 140 |  |  |  | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | LIP CANCER |
| 141,143-145 |  |  |  | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | ORAL CANCER |
| 146-149 |  |  |  | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.64 | PHARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 150 |  |  |  | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.5 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | OESOPHAGEAL CANCER |
| 153 |  |  |  | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | COLON CANCER |
| 154 |  |  |  | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | RECTAL CANCER |
| 155 |  |  |  | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | HEPATIC CANCER |
| 157 |  |  |  | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | PANCREATIC CANCER |
| 161 |  |  |  | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.56 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | LARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 174-175 |  |  |  | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | BREAST CANCER |
| 265.2 |  |  |  | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.83 | PELLAGRA |
| 291 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOLIC PSYCHOSIS |
| 303 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE |
| 305 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOL ABUSE |
| 401-405 |  |  |  | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | HYPERTENSION |
| 410-414 |  |  |  | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.27 | -0.27 | -0.26 | -0.27 |  |  |  |  |  |  | ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE |
| 425.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOLIC CARDIOMYOPATHY |
| 426-427 |  |  |  | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.27 | -0.27 | -0.26 | -0.27 |  |  |  |  |  |  | CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS |
| 428-429 |  |  |  | -0.03 | -0.11 | 0.02 | -0.16 | -0.24 | -0.22 | -0.23 | -0.21 | -0.23 |  |  |  |  |  |  | HEART FAILURE |
| 430-438 |  |  |  | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | STROKE |
| 456.0-456.2 |  |  |  | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | OESOPHAGEAL VARICES |
| 530.7 |  |  |  | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | GASTRO - OESOPHAGEAL HAEMORRHAGE |
| 535.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOLIC GASTRITIS |
| 571.0-571.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ALCOHOLIC LIVER CIRRHOSIS |
| 571.5-571.9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | UNSPECIFIED LIVER CIRRHOSIS |
| 574 |  |  |  | -0.34 | -0.34 | -0.34 | -0.35 | -0.35 | -0.32 | -0.32 | -0.31 | -0.32 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | CHOLELITHIASIS |
| 577 |  |  |  | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | ACUTE PANCREATITIS |
| 577.1 |  |  |  | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.68 | 0.69 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | CHRONIC PANCREATITIS |
| 764-765 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | LOW BIRTHWEIGHT |

TABLE A4：ESTIMATED AGE－SPECIFIC AETIOLOGICAL FRACTIONS OF CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIAN FEMALES CAUSED OR PREVENTED BY ALCOHOL
CAUSE OF DEATH $85+$
0.16 1 ALCOHOL POISONING 1 ALCOHOL POISONING 0．16 FALL INJURIES
0．4 FIRE INJURIES 0.04 DROWNING 0．13 MACHINE INJURIES 0.23 SUICIDE 0.15 CHILD ABUSE 0.17 LIP CANCER 0.15 ORAL CANCER 0．58 PHARYNGEAL CANCER 0．42 OESOPHAGEAL CANCE
0.11 COLON CANCER 0.04 RECTAL CANCER 0.28 HEPATIC CANCER 0．13 PANCREATIC CANCER 0.16 BREAST CANCER
 XHLVdOXWOIG甘甘D JITOHOOTV I
GSVESIG L\＆YBH כWHEHOSI
（I）
 CARDIAC DYSRHY
HEART FAILURE HEART FAILURE
0.47 OESOPHAGEAL VARICES ALCOHOLIC GASTRITIS ALCOHOLIC LIVER CIRRHOSIS －0．22 CHOLELITHIASIS
0.36 ACUTE PANCREATITIS

0．03 LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

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Mortality attributable to drug use，Western Australia，1981－1991 Page： 20

## Appendix B

## Figure tables



Western Australia, 1981-1991
Table B1
by sex by type of drug,
(Rate per 100,000 person years)
Age standardised death rates
by sex by type of drug, Western Australia, 1981-1991
(Rate per 100,000 person years)










Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

## Appendix C

## Tables of cause specific mortality by sex and drug group



Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.
Estimated number of male deaths caused by tobacco, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| ICD CODES | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | CAUSES OF DEATH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 010-012 | 1 |  | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | , | 1 | 2 | 2 | RESPIRATORY TB |
| 140 | . | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | LIP CANCER |
| 141,143-145 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 8 | ORAL CANCER |
| 146-149 | 6 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 7 | PHARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 150 | 1.5 | 17 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 30 | 21 | 27 | 26 | 23 | 32 | OESOPHAGEAL CANCER |
| 151 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 10 | GASTRIC CANCER |
| 157 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 15 | PANCREATIC CANCER |
| 161 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 11 | 15 | LARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 162 | 278 | 284 | 306 | 303 | 281 | 321 | 293 | 308 | 312 | 296 | 325 | LUNG CANCER |
| 179,182 | - | . | . | - | - | - | - | - | . | - | - | ENDOMETRIAL CANCER |
| 180 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | CERVICAL CANCER |
| 188 | 17 | 11 | 16 | 14 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 20 | 16 | 19 | BLADDER CANCER |
| 189 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | RENAL PARENCHYMAL CANCER |
| 189.1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | RENAL PELVIC CANCER |
| 231 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | RESPIRATORY CARCINOMA-IN-SITU |
| 305.1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | TOBACCO AbUSE |
| 332 | -9 | -7 | -7 | -11 | -9 | -9 | -9 | -7 | -7 | -8 | -10 | PARKINSON'S DISEASE |
| 410-414 | 317 | 302 | 304 | 300 | 300 | 319 | 304 | 301 | 299 | 287 | 277 | ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE |
| 415-417 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | 4 | 1 | PULMONARY CIRCULATORY DISEASE |
| 426-427 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS |
| 428-429 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 11 | HEART FALLURE |
| 430-438 | 45 | 47 | 45 | 40 | 41 | 44 | 49 | 42 | 46 | 40 | 37 | STROKE |
| 440 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | ATHEROSCLEROSIS |
| 441-444 | 45 | 47 | 54 | 58 | 53 | 76 | 66 | 62 | 63 | 57 | 61 | PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE |
| 480-487 | 19 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 18 | PNEUMONIA |
| 490-492,496 | 174 | 210 | 184 | 218 | 191 | 200 | 196 | 216 | 216 | 198 | 201 | CHRONIC BRONCHITIS |
| 531-534 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 13 | PEPTIC ULCER |
| 556 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | . | - | -1 | - | ULCERATIVE COLITIS |
| 634 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | SPONTANEOUS ABORTION |
| 640-641 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | ANTEPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE |
| 642 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | HYPERTENSION OF PREGNANCY |
| 764,765 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | LOW BIRTHWEIGHT |
| 798 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME |
| E890-E899 | - | 2 | 3 | 3. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | FIRE INJURIES |
| TOTAL | 1000 | 1055 | 1045 | 1076 | 1024 | 1135 | 1063 | 1113 | 1111 | 1042 | 1067 |  |

[^6]| ICD CODES | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | CAUSES OF DEATH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 010-012 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | RESPIRATORY TB |
| 140 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | LIP CANCER |
| 141,143-145 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | ORAL CANCER |
| 146-149 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | PHARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 150 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 8 | OESOPHAGEAL CANCER |
| 151 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | GASTRIC CANCER |
| 157 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 10 | PANCREATIC CANCER |
| 161 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 4 | LARYNGEAL CANCER |
| 162 | 50 | 55 | 80 | 67 | 63 | 88 | 79 | 100 | 103 | 98 | 102 | LUNG CANCER |
| 179,182 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | ENDOMETRIAL CANCER |
| 180 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 | CERVICAL CANCER |
| 188 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | BLADDER CANCER |
| 189 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | RENAL PARENCHYMAL CANCER |
| 189.1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | RENAL PELVIC CANCER |
| 231 | - | - | - | - | . | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | RESPIRATORY CARCINOMA-IN-SITU |
| 305.1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | TOBACCO ABUSE |
| 332 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -3 | - | -3 | PARKINSONS DISEASE |
| 410-414 | 82 | 82 | 88 | 86 | 81 | 94 | 86 | 87 | 85 | 80 | 83 | ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE |
| 415-417 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | PULMONARY CIRCULATORY DISEASE |
| 426-427 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS |
| 428-429 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | HEART FALlURE |
| 430-438 | 24 | 27 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 24 | STROKE |
| 440 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | ATHEROSCLEROSIS |
| 441-444 | 15 | 19 | 25 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 25 | 35 | 28 | PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE |
| 480-487 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 7 | PNEUMONIA |
| 490-492,496 | 53 | 34 | 40 | 45 | 45 | 55 | 40 | 66 | 69 | 62 | 57 | CHRONIC BRONCHITIS |
| 531-534 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7. | PEPTIC ULCER |
| 556 |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | ULCERATIVE COLITIS |
| 634 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | SPONTANEOUS ABORTION |
| 640-641 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | ANTEPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE |
| 642 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | HYPERTENSION OF PREGNANCY |
| 764,765 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | LOW BIRTHWEIGHT |
| 798 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME |
| E890-E899 | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | , | FIRE INJURIES |
| total | 282 | 280 | 319 | 313 | 318 | 363 | 329 | 376 | 384 | 381 | 376 |  |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.
Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

| 8 <br> $\stackrel{8}{2}$ <br> 8 <br> 8 |  |  |
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Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.
Estimated number of deaths caused by other

| TYPE OF DRUG | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Opiates | 3 | 12 | 12 | 20 | 27 | 20 | 16 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 16 |
| Barbiturates | 15 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 5 | - | 3 | - | 1 |
| Tranquillisers/Sedatives/Anti- <br> Depressants | 10 | 11 | 14 | 24 | 14 | 15 | 28 | 17 | 14 | 22 | 25 |
| Cocaine | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Psychostimulants | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Volatile Substances | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Other \& Unspecified Drugs | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Other Causes | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 39 | 50 | 64 | 64 | 67 | 65 | 51 | 51 | 58 | 57 |

[^7] No deaths related to hallucinogens or cannabis (excluded).
Estimated number of male deaths caused by other drugs, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| TYPE OF DRUG | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Opiates | 3 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 13 |
| Barbiturates | 10 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Tranquillisers/SedativesAntiDepressants | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 8 |
| Cocaine | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Psychostimulants | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Volatile Substances | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Other \& Unspecified Drugs | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Other Causes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 22 | 20 | 30 | 34 | 36 | 41 | 44 | 31 | 35 | 41 | 34 |

[^8]Table C9
Estimated number of female deaths caused by other drugs, Western Australia, 1981-1991

| TYPE OF DRUG | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Opiates | - | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Barbiturates | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Tranquillisers/SedativesAntiDepressants | 7 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| Cocaine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | - |
| Psychostimulants | - | $\cdots$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Volatile Substances | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other \& Unspecified Drugs | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other Causes | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1. | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 14 | 19 | 20 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 23 |

Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.
No deaths related to hallucinogens or cannabis (excluded).


[^0]:    1 Note: Although this report is not a study of cause-specific mortality, as the total number of deaths for each of the three drug groups is an aggregate of the number of deaths attributable to each cause, the cause-specific data has been included with this report in Appendix C , to assist other rescarchers.
    2 Swensen G (1992) Deaths from tobacco smoking in Department of WA, WA Drug Data Collection Unit
    Swensen G (1992) Deaths caused by alcohol use in Western Australia: 1981-1990. Occasional Paper/50. Perth: Health Department of WA, WA Drug Data Collection Unit
    3 Holman CDJ, Armstrong BK, Arias LN, Martin CA, Hatton WM, Hayward LD, Salmon MA, Shean RE, Waddell VP (1990) The quantification of drug caused morbidity and mortality in Australia 1988. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service

[^1]:    4 Holman CDI, Armstrong BK, Arias LN, Martin CA, Hatton WM, Hayward LD, Salmon MA, Shean RE, Waddell VP (1990) The quantification of drug caused morbidity and mortality in Australia 1988, Part 2. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service: 346-347
    5 Holman CDJ, Armstrong BK, Arias LN, Martin CA, Hatton WM, Hayward LD, Salmon MA, Shean RE, Waddell VP (1990) The quantification of drug caused morbidity and mortality in Australia 1988, Part 1. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service: 188-189
    6 Holman CDJ, Armstrong BK (1993). The quantification of alcohol-caused morbidity and mortality in Australia: the authors respond. Medical Journal of Australia (accepted for publication).

[^2]:    7 The methodology used in this study provides an accurate estimate of the mortality separately attributable to tobacco smoking, alcohol and other drugs. As there is an interactive effect between alcohol use and tobacco smoking for cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus, a correction may be necessary when separate totals are combined. It has recently been estimated that this interaction effect may result in an overestimation of the combined number of deaths, of $3 \%$ or less. (Cf Holman CDJ \& Armstrong BK (1992). Lack of positive bias of the confounding effect of risk factors estimated by marginal aetiological fractions. International Journal of Epidemiology; 21: 820-823.)

[^3]:    7 The methodology used in this study provides an accurate estimate of the mortality separately attributable to tobacco smoking, alcohol and other drugs. As there is an interactive effect between alcohol use and tobacco smoking for cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx and oesophagus, a correction may be necessary when separate totals are combined. It has recently been estimated that this interaction effect may result in an overestimation of the combined number of deaths, of $3 \%$ or less. (Cf Holman CDJ \& Armstrong BK (1992). Lack of positive bias of the confounding effect of risk factors estimated by marginal aetiological fractions. International Journal of Epidemiology; 21: 820-823.)

[^4]:    Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.
    'Wholly attributable deaths' are deaths from causes of death for which the aetiologic fractions for a particular drug are equal to 1.0 .
    'Other deaths' are the deaths estimated for causes of death for which the aetiologic fractions are not equal to 1.0.

[^5]:    8 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (1992) Australia's health 1992: the third biennial report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service

[^6]:    Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

[^7]:    Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation.

[^8]:    Note: Column totals may vary because of rounding for presentation. No deaths related to hallucinogens or cannabis (excluded).

