

DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFICE

UTILISATION OF SERVICES, 1999-2004

In Brief

Trends 1999-2004

From 1999 to 2004 the number of episodes by drug group increased as follows:

- alcohol episodes increased by 97.2%, from 2,411 in 1999 to 4,754 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 326.4%, from 944 in 1999 to 4,025 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 98.9%, from 1,352 in 1999 to 2,689 in 2004 (with a peak of 3,156 in 2002);
- heroin episodes decreased by 23.0%, from 2,462 in 1999 to 1,896 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 66.9%, from 1,147 in 1999 to 1,914 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 27.9%, from 1,528 in 1999 to 1,954 in 2004.

2004 in Detail

In the year 2004 there was a total of 17,232 episodes at all services in WA, of which 4,006 (23.3%) involved episodes at Next Step programs, 6,385 (37.1%) involved episodes at Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and 6,841 (39.7%) involved episodes at NGOs (other than CDSTs).

A breakdown by main type of treatment provided by all services shows that 8,436 (49.0%) of all episodes involved counselling, 1,976 (11.5%) involved rehabilitation, 1,331 (7.8%) involved assessment, 1,327 (7.7%) involved detoxification, 1,086 (6.3%) involved information and education, 1,038 (6.0%) involved pharmacotherapy and 2,038 (11.8%) involved other forms of treatment.

In country Health Regions (HRs) counselling was the most frequent type of treatment, ranging from 86.7% of episodes in the Midwest and Murchison HR to 65.1% in the South West HR.

In metropolitan HRs counselling constituted from 39.1% of episodes in the North Metropolitan HR to 47.1% in the South Metropolitan HR.

The higher proportion of episodes involving rehabilitation and detoxification which made up about one fifth of episodes in metropolitan HRs reflects that these more intensive residential based services are located in the metropolitan area.

Compared to the metropolitan region, in most country HRs referrals from justice/diversion made up the highest proportion of all referrals, ranging from 21.8% of referrals in the Great Southern to 57.6% of referrals in the Midwest & Murchison HR, whereas in the metropolitan HRs self referrals made up about one in four of all referrals.

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Written by Greg Swensen (December 2005)

1. ALL SERVICES

Introduction

This publication provides an analysis at the State level of the utilisation of all services recorded by the Performance Indicator Clients and Services Online (PICASO) and the Client Management Information System (CMIS) data systems.

The unit of analysis is an episode of contact at non government organisations (NGOs), which includes Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and Next Step programs. This represents a count of activity in all services which have been funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) and does not therefore record unique individuals who have attended any of these services in a particular period. Details of definitions and methodology are contained in Appendix 2.

The data from the period 1999 to 2004 is broken down according to usual place of residence by calendar year for principal drug problem, treatment setting, age group, source of referral, gender, indigenous status and type of treatment. There is also a separate analysis of a breakdown of quarterly episodes for the four major principal drug problems - alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis and opioids.

Whilst this analysis supports inferences about trends and shifts in availability in drugs, variations may also reflect

geographical, seasonal and supply factors throughout WA.

It should also be noted that variations in the recording of information in data systems can be affected by a number of factors, such as changes in definitions, expansion of coverage through inclusion of data from additional service providers' expansion of programs and revisions of protocols. Caution should be used in interpreting trends prior to 2002 as not all NGOs participated in the PICASO system prior to this date.

Separate reports provide a breakdown by year for principal drug problem, treatment setting, age group, source of referral, gender, indigenous status and type of treatment grouped by the following Health Regions (HRs):

- South West health regions (ie South West HR, Great Southern HR and Wheatbelt HR);
- Midwest health regions (ie Midwest & Murchison HR and Goldfields & South East Coastal HR);
- North West health regions (ie Pilbara & Gascoyne HR and Kimberley HR); and
- the metropolitan health regions (ie the East Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and North Metropolitan HRs).

Agency Type

A breakdown by agency type for the year 2004 found that of the total of 17,232 episodes (Table 1-1, page 6):

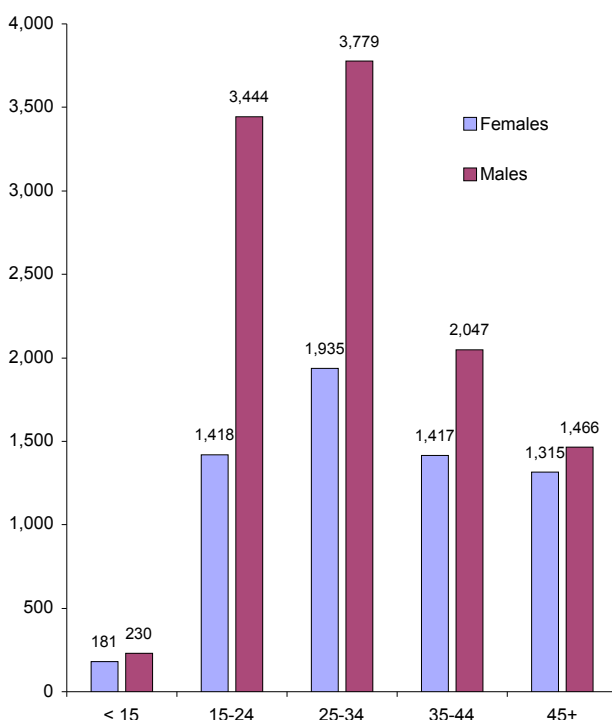
- 6,841 (39.7%) involved episodes at NGOs other than CDSTs;
- 6,385 (37.1%) involved episodes at CDSTs; and
- 4,006 (23.2%) involved episodes at Next Step.

Age Group

A breakdown by age group and sex for the year 2004 is presented in Figure 1-1. This shows that the most episodes for both males and females involved the 25 to 34 age group. It can also be seen that there nearly twice as many males as females in both the 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups, whereas by the 45 years and older age group there were similar numbers of episodes.

A breakdown by age group and sex for the year 2004 for the State's 10 HRs is contained in Table A-3 (page 27). This shows that generally there were similar age profiles in the three metropolitan HRs, with most episodes involving the 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups.

Figure 1-1
Number of episodes, all services
age group by sex, whole state 2004



1. ALL SERVICES

The breakdown for the seven country HRs for the year 2004 shows different age profiles between the regions:

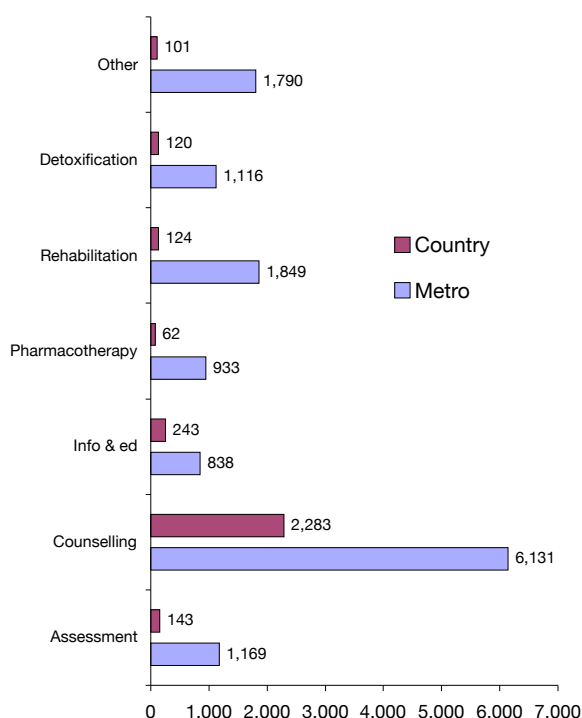
- for the 15 to 24 age group, the proportion of the total population for this age group ranged from 27.3% in the Pilbara and Gascoyne HR to 32.8% in the Goldfields and South East Coastal HR;
- for the 25 to 34 age group, the proportion of the total population for this age group ranged from 28.9% in the Wheatbelt HR to 37.5% in the Great Southern HR; and
- for the 35 to 44 age group, the proportion of the total population for this age group ranged from 18.6% in the South West HR to 31.8% in the Kimberley HR.

Main Treatment Type

The breakdown in Table A-2 (page 26) by main treatment type shows that in 2004, of the 17,232 episodes:

- 8,436 (49.0%) involved counselling;
- 1,976 (11.5%) involved rehabilitation;
- 1,331 (7.7%) involved assessment;
- 1,327 (7.7%) involved detoxification;
- 1,086 (6.3%) involved information and education;
- 1,038 (6.0%) involved pharmacotherapies; and
- 2,038 (11.8%) involved other forms of treatment.

Figure 1-2
Number of episodes, all services
treatment type, metro vs country, 2004



In country HRs counselling was the most frequent type of treatment, ranging from 86.7% of episodes in the Midwest and Murchison, 82.2% in the Goldfields and South East Coastal, 78.5% in the Pilbara and Gascoyne, 77.9% in the Kimberley, 70.2% in the Wheatbelt, 67.1% in the Great Southern and 65.1% in the South West HRs.

See Figure 1-2 for metro vs country comparison of numbers of episodes by treatment type for the year 2004.

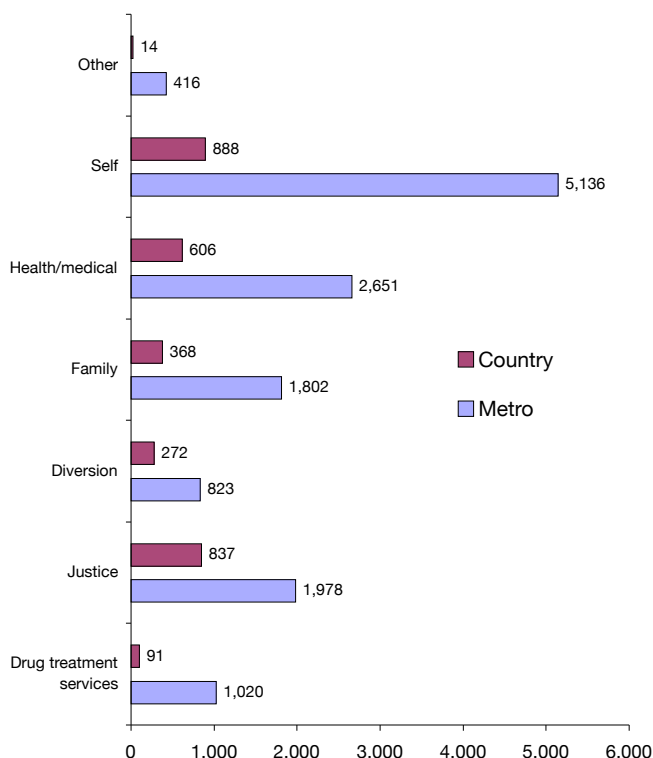
Source of Referral

The breakdown in Table A-5 (page 28) by source of referral shows that in 2004, of the 17,232 episodes:

- 6,147 (35.7%) were self referred;
- 3,336 (19.4%) were referrals from the health/medical system;
- 2,817 (16.3%) were referrals from justice;
- 2,222 (12.9%) were referrals from a family member;
- 1,126 (6.5%) were referrals from a drug treatment service;
- 1,097 (6.4%) were referrals by court or police diversion; and
- 487 (2.8%) were referrals from other sources.

There were variations between metropolitan and country

Figure 1-3
Number of episodes, all services
source of referral, metro vs country, 2004



1. ALL SERVICES

HRs in relation to the two major types of source of referral, justice/diversion and family/self.

Overall, referrals from justice/diversion made up on average one in four (27.2%) of country referrals compared to about one in six (14.3%) of metropolitan referrals.

The proportion of justice/diversion referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 15.7% of all referrals in the North Metro HR to 25.3% of referrals in the South Metro HR. In the country justice/diversion referrals ranged from 23.8% in the Great Southern to 50.4% in the Pilbara and Gascoyne HRs.

The proportion of self referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 34.7% of all referrals in the North Metropolitan HR to 38.7% of all referrals in the East Metropolitan HR, whereas in country HRs self referral ranged from 19.8% of all referrals in the Midwest and Murchison HR to 42.8% of all referrals in the Great Southern HR.

See Figure 1-3, page 3 for metropolitan vs country comparison of numbers of episodes by source of referral.

Indigenous Status

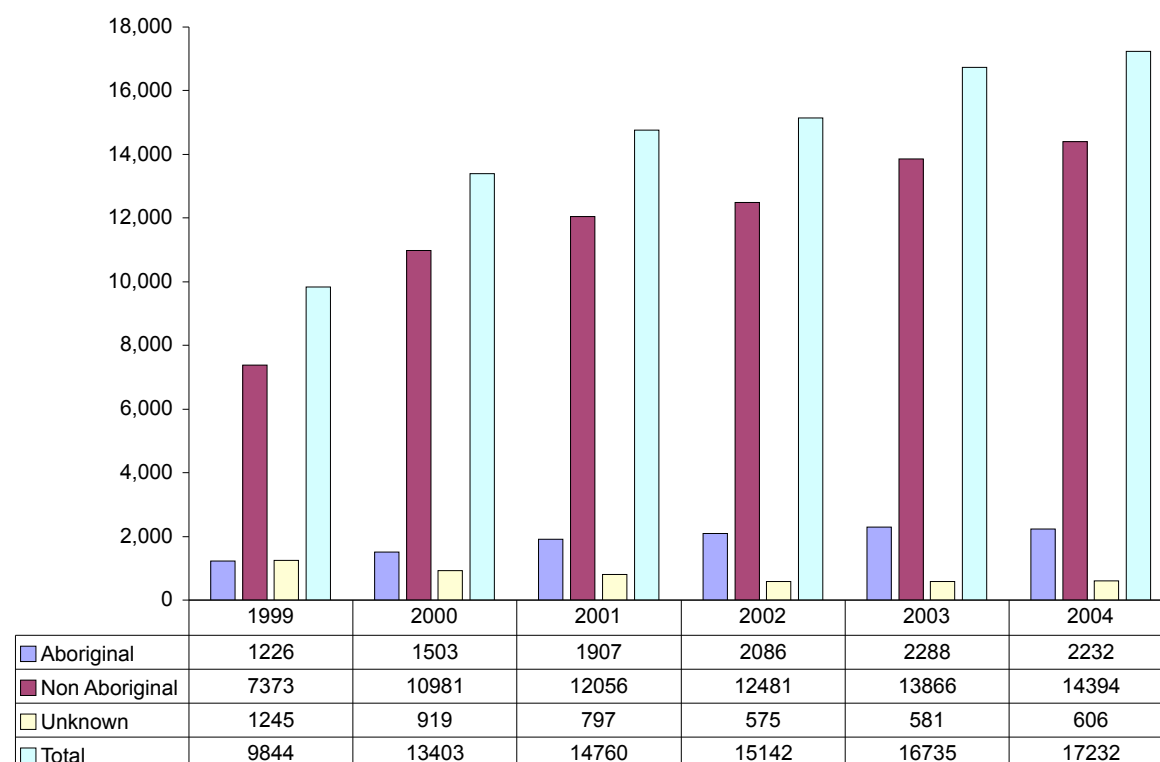
In 2004 there was a total of 17,232 episodes, of which 2,232 (13.0%) were Indigenous, 14,394 (83.5%) were non indigenous and 606 (3.5%) involved cases where indigenous status was not recorded (Table 1-2, page 7).

There were marked variations between country HRs in the proportion of episodes involving Indigenous persons in 2004, ranging from:

- 6.7% of all referrals in the South West HR;
- 15.7% of all referrals in the Great Southern HR;
- 20.1% of all referrals in the Wheatbelt HR;
- 24.5% of all referrals in the Goldfields and South East Coastal HRs;
- 46.9% of all referrals in the Midwest and Murchison HR;
- 49.0% of all referrals in the Pilbara and Gascoyne HR; and
- 62.9% of all referrals in the Kimberley HR.

In the metropolitan HRs the highest proportion of episodes involving Indigenous persons was in the South Metropolitan (12.3%) and East Metropolitan (11.4%) HRs, whereas only one in 20 (4.3%) of all episodes in the North Metropolitan HR were Indigenous persons.

Figure 1-4
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, whole State, 1999-2004



1. ALL SERVICES

Principal Drug Problem

See Table A-1 (page 25) for a detailed breakdown of trends by type of drug of annual episodes which were recorded as the principal drug problem.

An overview of the growth in episodes by the five major drug groups plus non drug episodes (which refers to admissions to programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc), is presented in Figure 1-5 and shows that:

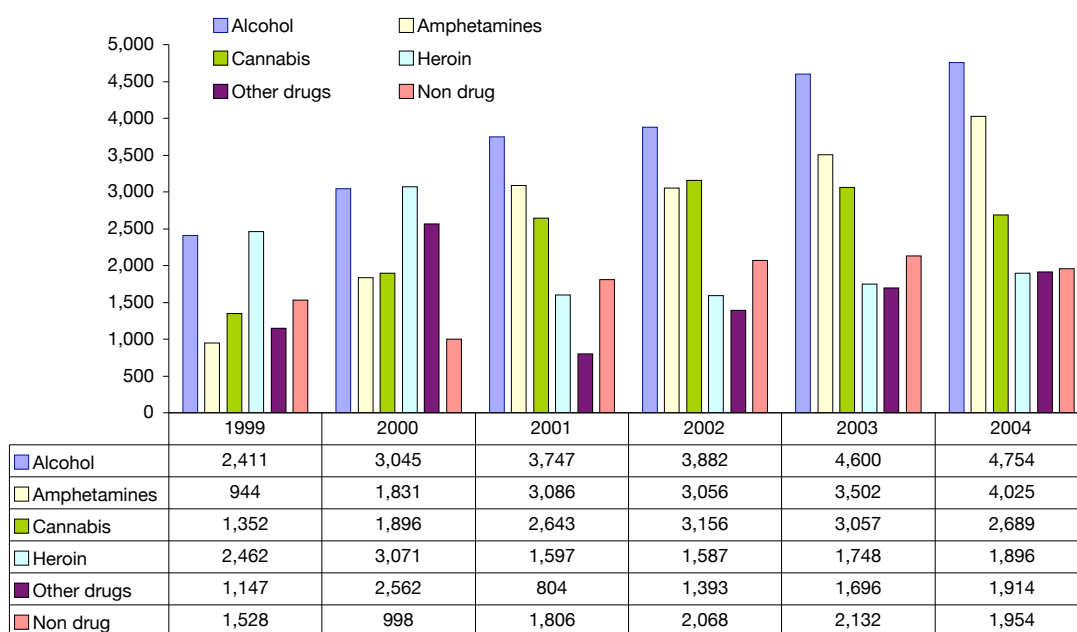
- alcohol episodes increased by 97.2%, from 2,411 in 1999 to 4,754 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 326.4%, from 944 in 1999 to 4,025 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 98.9%, from 1,352 in 1999 to 2,689 in 2004;
- heroin episodes decreased by 23.0%, from 2,462 in 1999 to 1,896 in 2004;

- other drug episodes increased by 66.9%, from 1,147 in 1999 to 1,914 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 28.1%, from 1,526 in 1999 to 1,954 in 2004.

Trends from 1999 to 2004 in annual episodes by principal drug problem expressed as the **proportion** of total annual episodes for that drug are as follows (Table A-1, page 25):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 24.5% to 27.6%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 9.6% to 23.4%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ from 13.7% to 15.6%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 25.0% to 11.0%;
- other drug episodes ↓ from 11.7% to 11.1%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 15.5% to 11.3%.

Figure 1-5
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, whole state, 1999-2004



1. ALL SERVICES

Amphetamines

The annual number of amphetamine related episodes increased from 944 in 1999 to 4,025 in 2004, an increase of 326.4%.

As a proportion of total annual episodes for all types of drug problems, amphetamine episodes increased from 9.6% in 1999 to 24.0% in 2004. See Table A-1, page 25.

There was a marked growth in quarterly amphetamine related episodes, from 209 in the March quarter 1999 to 883 in the September quarter 2001, declined to 653 in the December quarter 2002 and then increased to 1,175 in the September quarter 2004.

It can be seen that there has been a recent fall in episodes, with a decline of 24.7% from the September quarter 2004 (1,175) to the December quarter 2004 (885). See Figure 1-6, page 9.

Age composition

There was a change in the age composition of amphetamine related episodes, as from the March quarter 1999 to the December quarter 2001 the greatest number of episodes involved the 15 to 24 age group, whereas since the March quarter 2002 it has involved the 25 to 34 age group (Figure 1-6, page 9).

Another notable trend has been the steady increase of episodes involving the 35 to 44 age group, whereas there were relatively few episodes involving the 45 years and older age group over the five year period.

Source of referral in 2004

In 2004 there were variations between HRs in relation to the proportion of episodes for two major types of source of referral, justice/diversion and family/self. See Table 1-3, page 9.

Referrals from justice/diversion in the country ranged from 16.5% in the Great Southern HR to 45.8% in the Midwest and Murchison HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 17.5% in the North Metropolitan HR to 31.0% in the South Metropolitan HR.

Referrals from the self/family category in the country ranged from 32.8% in the Wheatbelt HR to 61.2% in the Great Southern HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area made up just under 50% of all referrals.

Referrals from the health/medical category made up about one in eight referrals in the metropolitan area, from 12.6% in the South Metropolitan HR to 16.5% in the North Metropolitan HR. In the country there were relatively few referrals from the health/medical category for most HRs, except for three HRs which made up from 16.4% of referrals in the Wheatbelt to 20.7% of referrals in the South West.

Cannabis

The annual number of cannabis related episodes increased by 133.4% from 1,352 in 1999 to 3,156 in 2002 and then declined by 14.8% to 2,689 in 2004 (Figure 1-7, page 10).

As a proportion of total annual episodes for all types of drug problems, cannabis episodes increased from 13.7% in 1999 to 20.8% in 2002 and then fell to 15.6% in 2004. See Table A-1, page 25).

There was a marked growth in quarterly cannabis related episodes from 310 in the March quarter 1999 to 840 in the June quarter 2002 and since then steadily declined to 608 in the December quarter 2004.

Age composition

Figure 1-7 (page 10) shows that much of the growth up to mid 2002 of cannabis related episodes involved the 15 to 24 age group, which increased from 180 in the March quarter 1999 to 517 in the June quarter 2002 and then declined to 356 in the December quarter 2004.

Table 1-1
Number of episodes by agency type, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
NGOs	4,659	47.3	4,943	36.9	5,511	37.3	5,931	39.2	7,138	42.7	6,841	39.7
CDSTs	3,554	36.1	4,697	35.0	6,469	43.8	6,874	45.4	6,622	39.6	6,385	37.1
Next Step	1,631	16.6	3,763	28.1	2,780	18.8	2,337	15.4	2,975	17.8	4,006	23.2
Total	9,844	100.0	13,403	100.0	14,760	100.0	15,142	100.0	16,735	100.0	17,232	100.0

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Compared to the pattern in the 15 to 24 age group, quarterly episodes involving the 25 to 34, 35 to 44 and 45 years and older age groups have remained relatively constant since mid 2002.

Source of referral in 2004

In 2004 there were variations between HRs for the two major types of source of referral, justice/diversion and family/self. See Table 1-4, page 10.

The relatively high proportion of referrals from justice/diversion is due to the impact of the cannabis cautioning mandatory education scheme (CCMES) which ceased in March 2004 and the cannabis infringement notice (CIN) scheme which commenced in late March 2004. The CCMES involved compulsory attendance at a cannabis education session (CES), whereas this was an optional method of expiation under the CIN scheme.

Referrals from justice/diversion in the country ranged from 43.3% in the Kimberley HR to 72.1% in the Midwest & Murchison HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 35.8% in the East Metropolitan HR to 55.2% in the South Metropolitan HR.

Referrals from the self/family category in the country ranged from 17.7% in the Midwest and Murchison HR to 47.1% in the Great Southern HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 28.1% in the South Metropolitan HR to 39.2% in the East Metropolitan HR.

Opioids

Overall, there was a decline in quarterly opioid related episodes from the March quarter 1999 (499 episodes) to the December quarter 2004 (417 episodes), a decrease of 16.4% (Figure 1-8, page 11). The term 'opioid' refers to both licit and illicit opioids, of which most all episodes involve heroin.

There was a marked increase in opioid related episodes from the March quarter 1999 (499 episodes) to the September quarter 2000 (940 episodes), which then declined to 271 episodes in the December quarter 2001 and have since remained relatively constant with between about 400 to 500 episodes per quarter up to the end of 2004.

As a proportion of total annual episodes for all types of drug problems, opioid episodes decreased from 26.3% in 1999 to 16.5% in 2004 (Table A-1, page 25).

Age composition

Figure 1-8 (page 11) shows that up to the September quarter 2000 the majority of opioid related episodes involved the 15 to 24 age group.

A notable trend since the marked decline in episodes since late 2000, has been the decline in episodes involving the 15 to 24 age group whereas there has been a gradual increase in the 25 to 34 age group. Since the March quarter 2002 the greatest number of quarterly episodes have involved the 25 to 34 age group.

Table 1-2
Number of episodes, all services, indigenous status, Health Regions, 2004

	Indigenous		Non indigenous		Unknown		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Metro							
East Metro	538	11.4	4,077	86.2	117	2.5	4,732
North Metro	180	4.3	3,805	90.8	207	4.9	4,192
South Metro	604	12.3	4,142	84.5	156	3.2	4,902
Country							
Goldfields & SE Coastal	80	24.5	246	75.5	-		326
Great Southern	62	15.7	328	83.0	5	1.3	395
Kimberley	202	62.9	118	36.8	1	0.3	321
Midwest & Murchison	237	46.9	266	52.7	2	0.4	505
Pilbara & Gascoyne	178	49.0	178	49.0	7	2.0	363
South West	55	6.7	754	92.3	8	1.0	817
Wheatbelt	70	20.1	275	78.8	4	1.2	349
Interstate/unknown	26	7.9	205	62.1	99	30.0	330
Total	2,232	13.0	14,394	83.5	606	3.5	17,232

1. ALL SERVICES

Compared to the pattern of growth in the 25 to 34 age group, the number of quarterly episodes involving the 45 years and older age group has remained relatively constant.

Source of referral

There were relatively few referrals from justice/diversion, with only 196 (10.3%) out of the total of 1,896 opioid related episodes.

About one in six referrals in the metropolitan area from justice/diversion, with very few referrals in most country HRs, such as the Goldfields and South East Coastal (14.3%), South West (8.8%) and Wheatbelt (7.7%) HRs, except for the Midwest and Murchison HR where 60% of referrals were from justice/diversion. See Table 1-5, page 11.

Overall 59.3% of referrals were from self/family, with about one in six of referrals in the metropolitan area from self/family, accounting for a high proportion of referrals in the Great Southern and Pilbara HRs and between just over half and nearly two thirds of referrals in the Kimberley, South West and Goldfields and South East Coastal HRs.

Alcohol

Overall, there was a steady growth in quarterly alcohol related episodes from the March quarter 1999 (664 episodes) to the December quarter 2004 (1,097 episodes), an increase of 65.2% (Figure 1-9, page 12).

As a proportion of total annual episodes for all types of drug problems, alcohol episodes increased from 24.5% in 1999 to 27.6% in 2004 (Table A-1, page 25).

Age composition

Figure 1-9 (page 12) shows that from the March quarter 1999 up to the present the growth in alcohol episodes has principally involved three age groups, the 25 to 34, 35 to 44 and 45 years and older age groups. Compared to this trend of growth of episodes involving older age groups, there has been a relatively small increase in episodes involving the 15 to 24 year age group over the six year period.

Source of referral

There were variations between HRs in relation to the two major types of source of referral, justice/diversion and family/self (Table 1-6, page 12).

Referrals from justice/diversion in the country ranged from 22.4% in the Great Southern HR to 61.1% in the Pilbara HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area ranged from 11.5% in the North Metropolitan HR to 20.6% in the South Metropolitan HR.

Referrals from the self/family category in the country ranged from 21.0% in the Midwest and Murchison HR to 56.0% in the Great Southern HR, whereas referrals in the metropolitan area made up just under 50% of all referrals.

1. ALL SERVICES

Figure 1-6
Quarterly amphetamine related treatment episodes by age group, all services, 1999-2004

Table 1-3
Annual amphetamine related treatment episodes by Health Region & source of referral, 2004

	Drug treat- ment service	Justice	Diversion	Family	Self	Health/ medical	Other	Total
Metro								
East Metro	78	254	98	131	469	199	16	1,245
North Metro	121	92	66	128	297	149	49	902
South Metro	100	316	77	146	455	160	12	1,266
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	3	25	-	16	20	7	-	71
Great Southern	5	12	2	17	35	14	-	85
Kimberley	-	4	2	4	4	3	-	17
Midwest & Murchison	2	18	4	3	17	4	-	48
Pilbara & Gascoyne	1	18	3	6	27	3	1	59
South West	10	38	44	21	64	47	3	227
Wheatbelt	7	24	-	8	12	10	-	61
Interstate/unknown	2	-	1	5	23	7	6	44
Total	329	801	297	485	1,423	603	87	4,025

1. ALL SERVICES

Figure 1-7

Quarterly cannabis related treatment episodes by age group, all services, 1999-2004

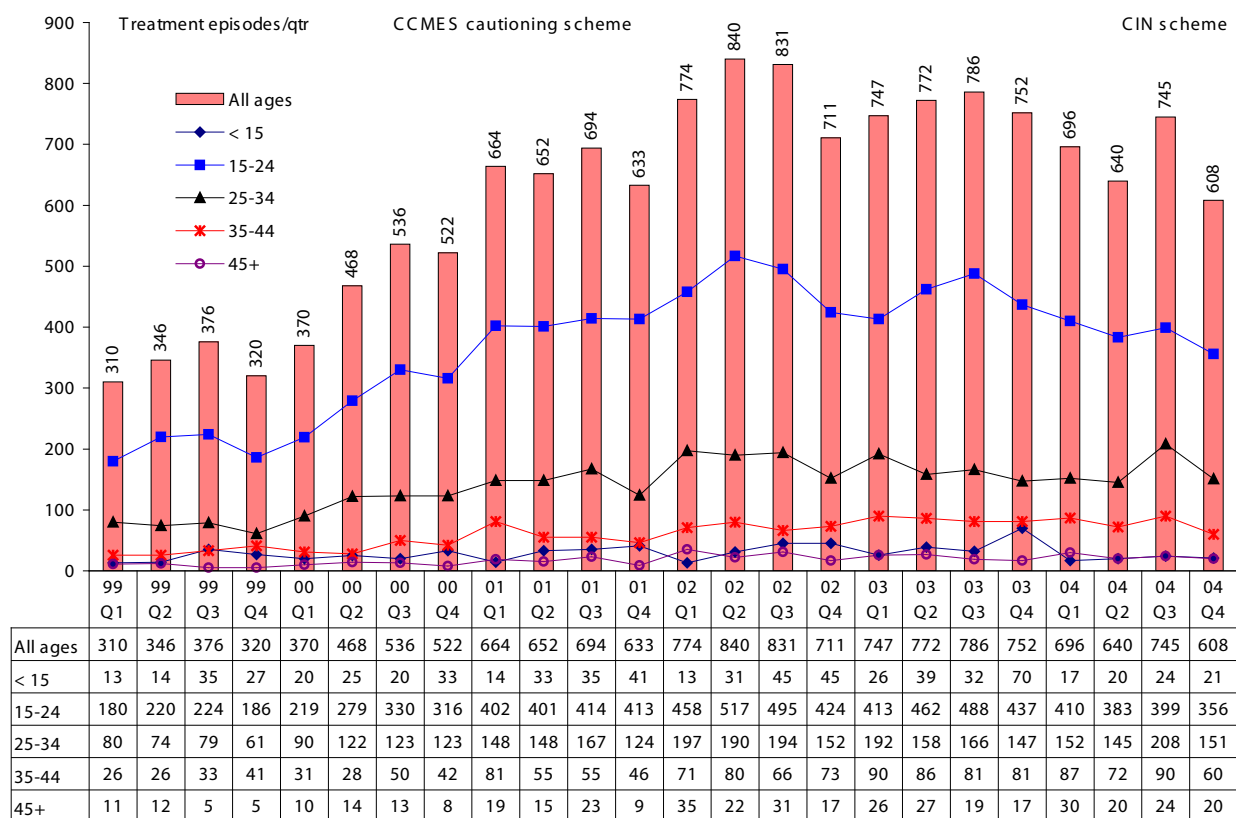


Table 1-4

Annual cannabis related treatment episodes by Health Region & source of referral, 2004

	Drug treatment service	Justice	Diversion	Family	Self	Health/medical	Other	Total
Metro								
East Metro	44	100	111	61	170	91	12	589
North Metro	49	71	200	78	128	88	15	629
South Metro	40	343	105	82	146	92	4	812
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	-	21	10	13	9	8	-	61
Great Southern	-	19	19	15	25	7	-	85
Kimberley	-	20	6	7	14	13	-	60
Midwest & Murchison	-	65	41	9	17	15	-	147
Pilbara & Gascoyne	1	23	8	7	7	6	-	52
South West	6	31	56	24	40	31	2	190
Wheatbelt	-	13	16	5	11	6	-	51
Interstate/unknown	-	-	-	-	4	5	4	13
Total	140	706	572	301	571	362	37	2,689

1. ALL SERVICES

Figure 1-8
Quarterly opioid related treatment episodes by age group, all services, 1999-2004

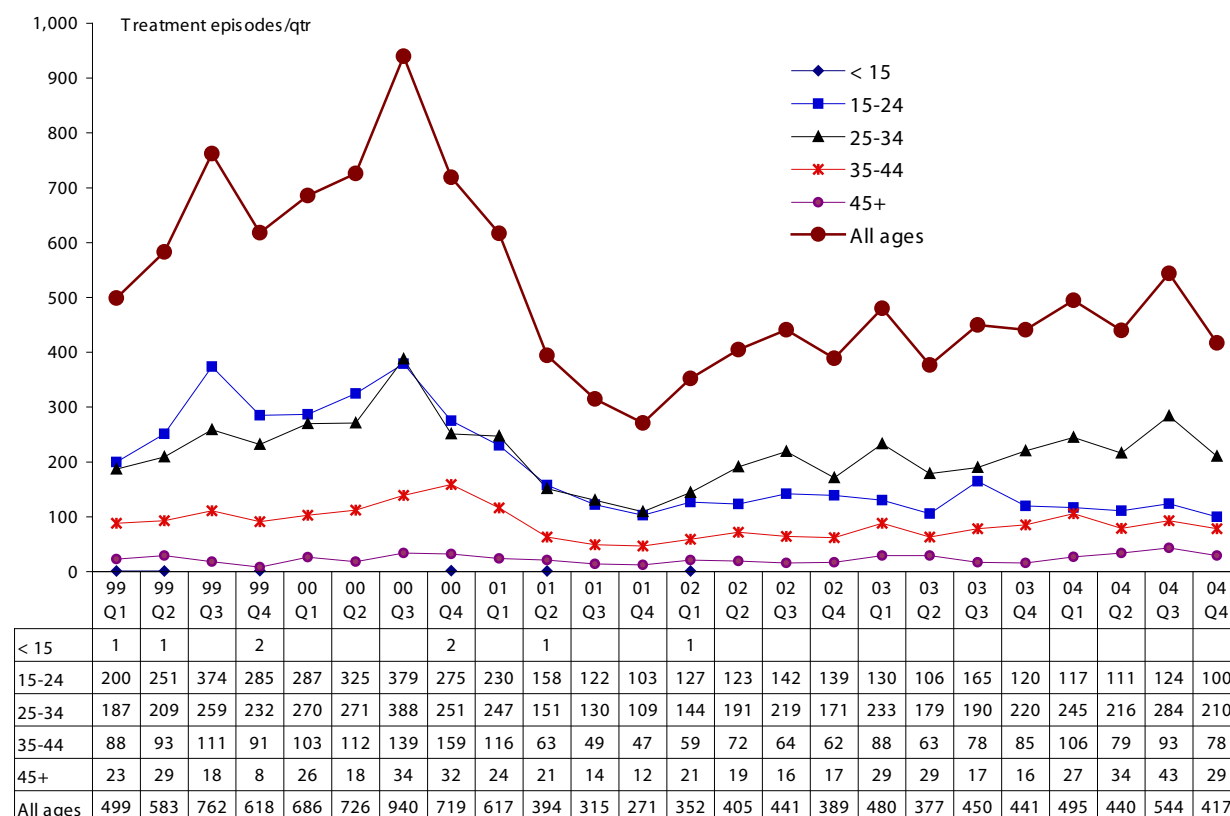


Table 1-5
Annual opioid related treatment episodes by Health Region & source of referral, 2004

	Drug treatment service	Justice	Diversion	Family	Self	Health/medical	Other	Total
Metro								
East Metro	32	82	15	50	323	132	16	650
North Metro	31	49	24	34	260	92	34	524
South Metro	16	51	18	34	261	81	19	480
Country								
Goldfields	1	2	-	3	6	2	-	14
Great Southern	-	-	-	6	9	4	-	19
Kimberley	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	9
Midwest	1	6	-	-	3	-	-	10
Pilbara	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	6
South West	-	2	1	2	18	11	-	34
Wheatbelt	13	2	-	-	5	5	1	26
Interstate/unknown	-	2	1	45	36	35	5	124
Total	94	196	59	176	930	365	76	1,896

1. ALL SERVICES

Figure 1-9
Quarterly alcohol related treatment episodes by age group, all services, 1999-2004

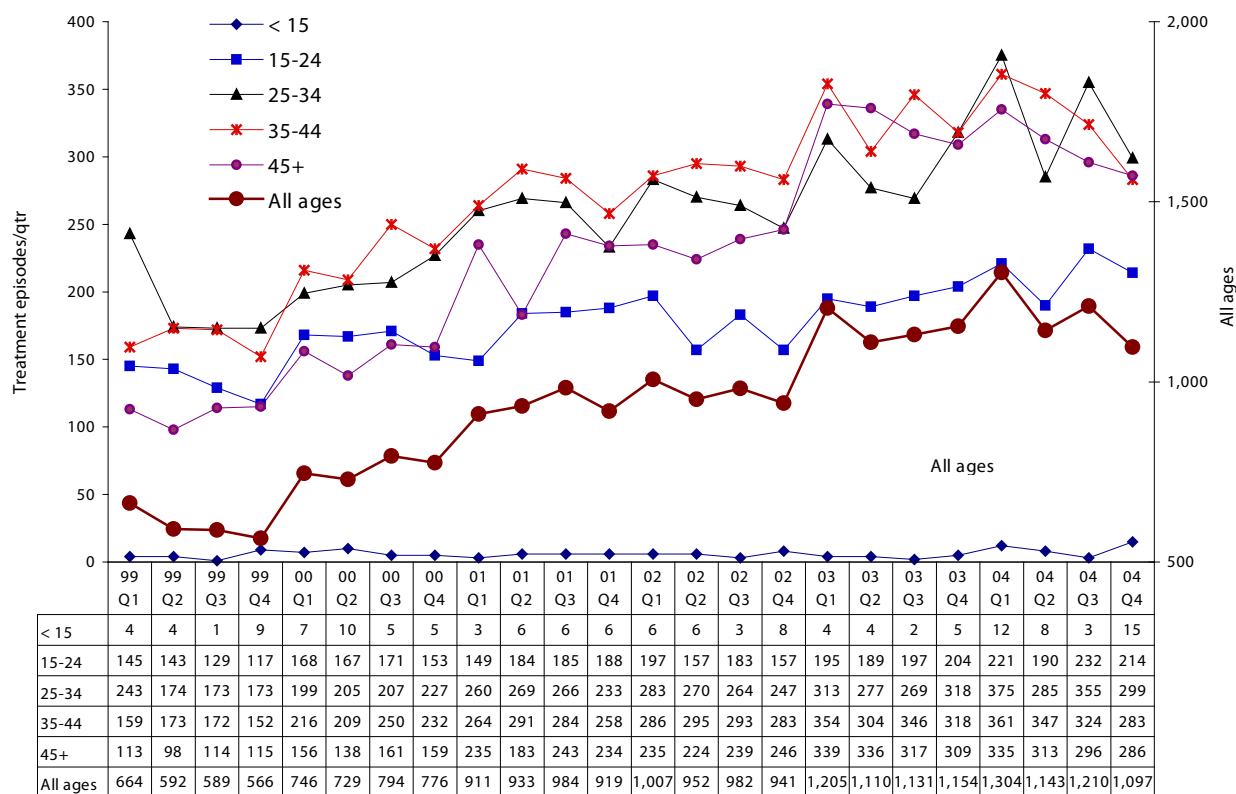


Table 1-6
Annual alcohol related treatment episodes by Health Region & source of referral, 2004

	Drug treatment service	Justice	Diversion	Family	Self	Health/medical	Other	Total
Metro								
East Metro	102	167	27	108	488	324	22	1,238
North Metro	84	89	27	122	358	287	41	1,008
South Metro	104	244	18	108	461	226	24	1,185
Country								
Goldfields	1	44	-	23	32	22	-	122
Great Southern	1	28	2	13	62	28	-	134
Kimberley	2	65	1	12	71	51	-	202
Midwest	2	118	29	4	47	43	-	243
Pilbara	1	113	14	11	39	29	1	208
South West	12	43	8	16	62	64	-	205
Wheatbelt	4	52	2	27	27	28	-	140
Interstate/unknown	9	-	-	1	32	18	9	69
Total	322	963	128	445	1,679	1,120	97	4,754

2. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Treatment Setting

Trends in the annual utilisation of metropolitan and country based treatment services for all NGOs are presented in Table 2-1. This table includes data for both Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and for all other NGOs excluding CDSTs.

A separate breakdown of the annual utilisation of services by each CDST is presented in Table A-6 (page 29) and by NGOs excluding CDSTs in Table A-9 (page 33).

The annual utilisation of all services at *all NGOs* grew by 61.0%, from a total of 8,213 episodes in 1999 to a total of 13,226 episodes in 2004. The utilisation of all services by country based NGOs grew by 89.1%, from 1,629 episodes in 1999 to 3,080 episodes in 2004, whereas services provided by metropolitan based NGOs grew by 54.1%, from 6,584 episodes in 1999 to 10,146 episodes in 2004 (Table 2-1).

Over the six year period there was a decline in the proportion of all episodes provided by metropolitan based services which fell from 80.2% in 1999 to 76.7% in 2004 of total episodes for the whole State.

Outside the metropolitan area almost all services involved non residential programs, whereas in 2003 and 2004 about one in ten of metropolitan episodes involved attendance at residential programs (Table 2-1).

The breakdown of services provided by *CDSTs* presented in Table A-6 (page 29) shows that from 1999 to 2004 the proportion of services in the metropolitan area declined slightly, from 62.8% to 58.7% of all episodes provided by all CDSTs for the whole State.

The annual utilisation of services by all CDSTs:

- for the whole State grew by 79.7%, from a total of 3,539 episodes in 1999 to a total of 6,361 episodes in 2004;
- for country based CDSTs grew by 99.8%, from 1,316 episodes in 1999 to 2,629 episodes in 2004; and
- for metropolitan based CDSTs grew by 67.9%, from 2,223 episodes in 1999 to 3,732 episodes in 2004.

It should be noted that reliable data is not available for a number of the agencies in the earlier part of this period and therefore caution should be used in interpretation of trends in utilisation of services.

Age Group and Sex

Figure 2-1 (page 14) presents a breakdown of total episodes for the six year period by age group for all NGOs. See also Table 2-2 (page 16). In the six year period there was a total of 69,624 episodes of which:

Table 2-1
Number of episodes by treatment setting, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Metro												
Residential	489	6.0	762	7.9	662	5.5	893	7.0	2,115	15.4	1,491	11.3
Non residential	6,095	74.2	6,814	70.7	8,539	71.3	8,781	68.6	8,656	62.9	8,655	65.4
Sub total	6,584	80.2	7,576	78.6	9,201	76.8	9,674	75.5	10,771	78.3	10,146	76.7
Country												
Residential	70	0.9	79	0.8	66	0.6	104	0.8	183	1.3	188	1.4
Non residential	1,559	19.0	1,985	20.6	2,713	22.6	3,027	23.6	2,806	20.4	2,892	21.9
Sub total	1,629	19.8	2,064	21.4	2,779	23.2	3,131	24.5	2,989	21.7	3,080	23.3
State												
Residential	559	6.8	841	8.7	728	6.1	997	7.8	2,298	16.7	1,679	12.7
Non residential	7,654	93.2	8,799	91.3	11,252	93.9	11,808	92.2	11,462	83.3	11,547	87.3
Total	8,213	100.0	9,640	100.0	11,980	100.0	12,805	100.0	13,760	100.0	13,226	100.0

2. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

- 2,393 (3.4%) were for the less than 15 year age group;
- 23,661 (34.0%) were for the 15 to 24 age group;
- 20,657 (29.7%) were for the 25 to 34 age group;
- 12,294 (17.7%) were for the 35 to 44 age group; and
- 10,488 (15.5%) were for the 45 years and older age group.

In the six year period there was a total of 69,624 episodes, of which 43,470 (62.4%) involved males, 26,095 (37.5%) involved females and 59 episodes (0.1%) where sex was unknown (Table 2-5, page 16).

Figure 2-1
Proportion (%) of total episodes by age group all NGOs, 1999-2004

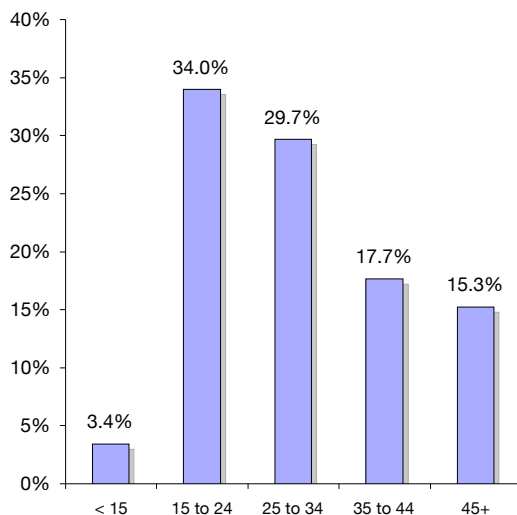
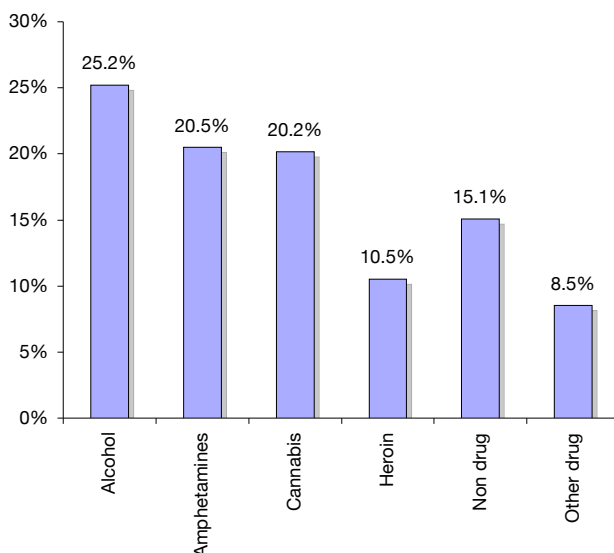


Figure 2-2
Proportion (%) of total episodes by principal drug problem, all NGOs, 1999-2004



Principal Drug Problem

In the six year period there was a total of 69,624 episodes, of which 17,559 (25.2%) involved alcohol, 14,286 (20.5%) involved amphetamines, 14,039 (20.2%) involved cannabis and 7,323 (10.5%) involved heroin. There was a total of 5,931 (15.1%) of all admissions which involved other drugs (such as benzodiazepines, cocaine, ecstasy etc) and 10,486 (15.1%) involved non drug related admissions (Table 2-7, page 17).

The frequencies for each type of principal drug problem is shown in Figure 2-2.

From 1999 to 2004 the proportion of total annual episodes by principal drug problem was as follows (Table 2-7, page 17):

- alcohol episodes increased by 74.1%, from 2,083 in 1999 to 3,626 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 271.7%, from 883 in 1999 to 3,282 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 85.9%, from 1,308 in 1999 to 2,431 in 2004;
- heroin episodes decreased by 19.8%, from 1,451 in 1999 to 1,164 in 2004; and
- other drug episodes decreased by 19.9%, from 960 in 1999 to 769 in 2004.

Non drug episodes, which refers to episodes at programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc, increased by 27.9%, from 1,528 in 1999 to 1,954 in 2004.

Source of Referral

A breakdown of annual episodes by source of referral from 1999 to 2004 is presented in Table 2-3 (page 16) and Figure 2-3 (page 15). In the six year period there was a total of 69,624 episodes of which:

- 20,429 (29.3%) were referrals by a family member;
- 17,112 (24.6%) were self referred;
- 13,755 (19.8%) were referrals from the justice system;
- 9,238 (13.3%) were referrals from the health/medical system;
- 5,009 (7.2%) were referrals by diversion (ie court or police);
- 3,499 (5.0%) were referrals from a drug treatment service; and
- 582 (0.8%) were referrals from other sources.

2. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Type of Treatment

In the six year period nearly two thirds (67.1%) of all episodes involved counselling as the main type of treatment. The next most frequent type of treatment was rehabilitation and information and education which accounted for 14.3% and 8.3% of total episodes respectively (Table 2-6, page 17; Figure 2-4).

Indigenous Status

In the six year period there was a total of 69,624 episodes, of which 10,535 (15.5%) involved indigenous persons, 55,911 (80.3%) involved non indigenous persons. There was a total of 3,178 (4.6%) episodes where indigenous status was not available (Table 2-4, page 16).

Figure 2-3
Proportion (%) of total episodes by source of referral, all NGOs, 1999-2004

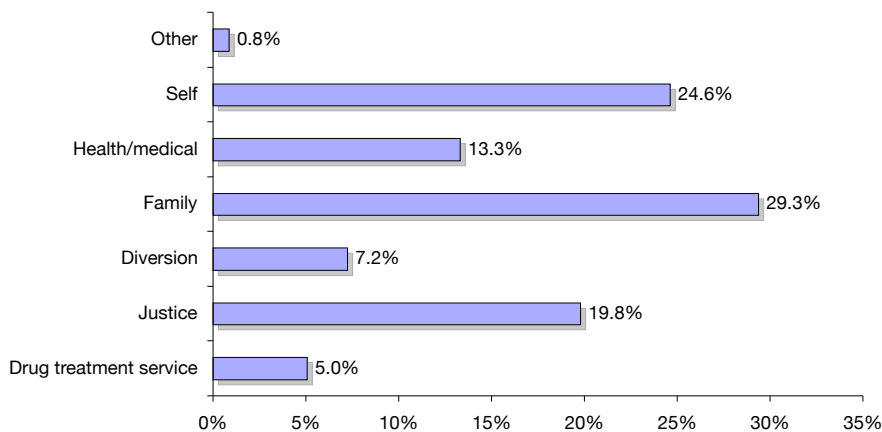
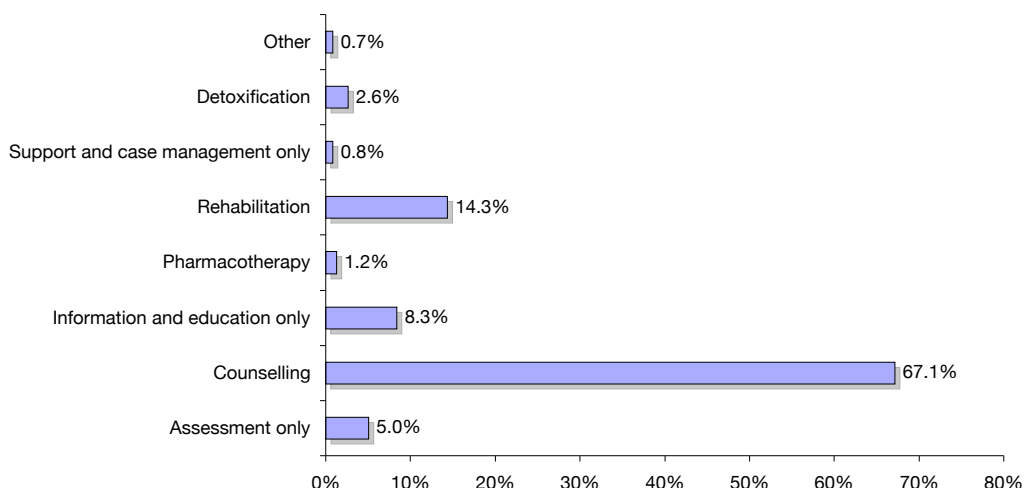


Figure 2-4
Proportion (%) of total episodes by type of treatment, all NGOs, 1999-2004



2. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Table 2-2
Number of episodes by age group, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
< 15	309	294	346	483	562	399	2,393	3.4
15-24	3,022	3,589	4,372	4,330	4,305	4,043	23,661	34.0
25-34	2,218	2,664	3,398	3,963	4,191	4,223	20,657	29.7
35-44	1,433	1,655	1,961	2,163	2,544	2,538	12,294	17.7
45+	1,231	1,438	1,903	1,866	2,158	2,023	10,619	15.3
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

Table 2-3
Number of episodes by source of referral, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Drug treatment service	66	306	642	702	885	898	3,499	5.0
Justice	1,121	1,622	2,398	2,970	2,827	2,817	13,755	19.8
Diversion	8	366	1,213	1,211	1,135	1,076	5,009	7.2
Family	6,384	4,540	2,615	2,400	2,385	2,105	20,429	29.3
Health/medical	222	996	1,960	1,960	2,088	2,012	9,238	13.3
Self	125	1,612	3,101	3,532	4,429	4,313	17,112	24.6
Other	287	198	51	30	11	5	582	0.8
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

Table 2-4
Number of episodes by indigenous status, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Indigenous	1,164	1,339	1,824	2,007	2,168	2,033	10,535	15.1
Non indigenous	6,268	7,579	9,481	10,312	11,295	10,976	55,911	80.3
Unknown	781	722	675	486	297	217	3,178	4.6
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

Table 2-5
Number of episodes by sex, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Males	4,910	5,892	7,373	8,009	8,871	8,415	43,470	62.4
Females	3,298	3,741	4,590	4,788	4,881	4,797	26,095	37.5
Unknown	5	7	17	8	8	14	59	0.1
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

2. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Table 2-6
Number of episodes by type of treatment, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Assessment only	5	8	379	923	1,132	1,046	3,493	5.0
Counselling	6,695	7,308	9,062	8,528	7,341	7,784	46,718	67.1
Information and education	83	288	860	1,723	1,769	1,086	5,809	8.3
Pharmacotherapy	3	7	14	231	308	265	828	1.2
Rehabilitation	1,304	1,877	1,498	836	2,453	1,976	9,944	14.3
Support and case management	-	2	29	98	183	238	550	0.8
Detoxification	25	10	50	378	527	791	1,781	2.6
Other	98	140	88	88	47	40	501	0.7
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

Table 2-7:
Number of episodes by principal drug problem, all NGOs, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Alcohol	2,083	2,343	2,770	3,038	3,699	3,626	17,559	25.2
Amphetamines	883	1,616	2,706	2,741	3,058	3,282	14,286	20.5
Cannabis	1,308	1,820	2,538	3,034	2,908	2,431	14,039	20.2
Heroin	1,451	1,341	1,000	1,181	1,186	1,164	7,323	10.5
Other drugs								
Benzodiazapines	64	81	104	108	154	120	631	0.9
Cocaine	19	24	16	14	20	22	115	0.2
Ecstasy (MDMA)	24	31	21	28	29	37	170	0.2
Methadone	-	13	70	47	47	58	235	0.3
Other opioids	42	70	93	159	249	228	841	1.2
Sedatives/hypnotics	1	6	9	11	8	10	45	0.1
Stimulants & hallucinogens	1	10	7	6	7	11	42	0.1
Tobacco	18	35	114	136	59	58	420	0.6
Volatile substances	116	82	104	100	80	84	566	0.8
Other drug/not stated	675	1,170	622	134	124	141	2,866	4.1
Sub total	960	1,522	1,160	743	777	769	5,931	8.5
Non drug	1,528	998	1,806	2,068	2,132	1,954	10,486	15.1
Total	8,213	9,640	11,980	12,805	13,760	13,226	69,624	100.0

3. NEXT STEP SPECIALIST DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES

Treatment Setting

Services at all Next Step programs increased by 145.6% from a total of 1,631 in 1999 to a total of 4,006 in 2004.

The breakdown of annual episodes by treatment setting presented in Table 3-1 shows that over the six year period the majority of services were provided at the three metropolitan Drug and Alcohol Centres (DACs).

In 2004 there was a total of 4,006 episodes, of which 2,141 (53.4%) was provided at the Eastern DAC, 990 (24.7%) was provided at the Northern DAC, 689 (17.2%) was provided at the Southern DAC and 186 (4.6%) was provided at the Youth Clinic in East Perth.

Age Group and Sex

Figure 3-1 presents a breakdown of total episodes for the six year period by age group. See also Table 3-2 (page 19). In the six year period there was a total of 17,492 episodes of which:

- 45 (0.3%) were for the less than 15 year age group;
- 4,087 (23.4%) were for the 15 to 24 age group;
- 6,112 (34.0%) were for the 25 to 34 age group;
- 4,331 (24.8%) were for the 35 to 44 age group; and
- 2,917 (16.7%) were for the 45 years and older age group.

In the six year period there was a total of 17,492 episodes, of which 10,809 (61.8%) involved males, 6,681 (38.2%) involved females and 2 where sex was unknown (Table 3-3, page 20).

Type of Treatment

In the six year period, of the 17,492 episodes, 5,041 (22.8%) involved pharmacotherapy, 3,932 (22.5%) involved detoxification, 2,593 (14.8%) were counselling, 2,479 (14.2%) were assessment only and 233 (1.3%) were support and case management. There was also a total of

3,214 (18.4%) of episodes which involved the category of other treatment (Table 3-4, page 20).

Source of Referral

A breakdown of annual episodes by source of referral from 1999 to 2004 is presented in Table 3-5 (page 20). In the six year period there was a total of 17,492 episodes of which:

- 6,684 (38.2%) were self referred;
- 4,166 (23.8%) were referrals from health/medical system;
- 1,603 (9.2%) were referral by a drug treatment service;
- 492 (2.8%) were referrals by a family member;
- 148 (0.8%) were referrals by diversion (ie court or police).

Figure 3-1
Proportion (%) of total episodes by age groups, Next Step, 1999-2004

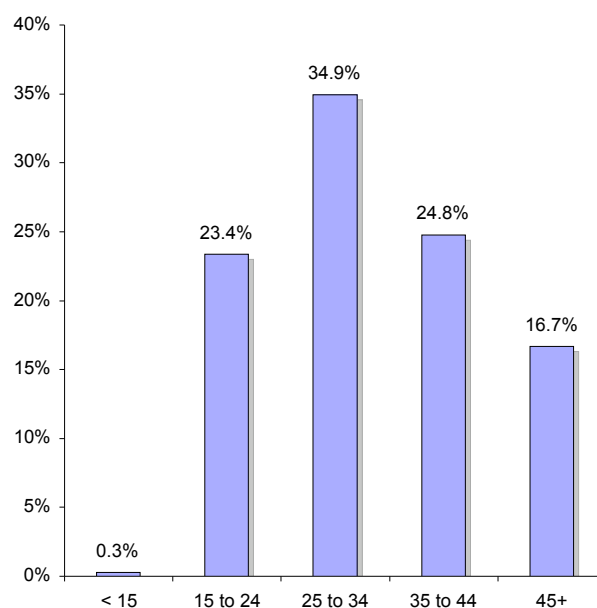


Table 3-1
Number of episodes, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Eastern DAC	1,461	89.6	3,242	86.2	2,176	78.3	1,682	72.0	1,682	56.5	2,141	53.4
Northern DAC	1	0.1	6	0.2	7	0.3	18	0.8	595	20.0	990	24.7
Southern DAC	168	10.3	383	10.2	432	15.5	446	19.1	567	19.1	689	17.2
Sub total	1,630	99.9	3,631	96.5	2,615	94.1	2,146	91.8	2,844	95.6	3,820	95.4
Youth Clinic	1	0.1	132	3.5	165	5.9	191	8.2	131	4.4	186	4.6
Total	1,631	100.0	3,763	100.0	2,780	100.0	2,337	100.0	2,975	100.0	4,006	100.0

3. NEXT STEP SPECIALIST DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES

It should also be noted that a total of 4,399 (25.1%) referrals for the category of 'other'.

Indigenous Status

In the six year period there was a total of 17,492 episodes, of which 707 (3.7%) involved indigenous persons, 15,184 (86.9%) involved non indigenous persons. There was a total of 1,654 (9.5%) episodes where indigenous status was not available (Table 3-6, page 20).

Principal Drug Problem

From 1999 to 2004 the proportion of total annual episodes by principal drug problem was as follows (Table 3-7, page 21):

- alcohol episodes increased by 243.9%, from 328 in 1999 to 1,128 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by just over eleven fold, from 61 in 1999 to 743 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 486.4%, from 44 in 1999 to 258 in 2004;
- heroin episodes decreased by 27.6%, from 1,011 in 1999 to 732 in 2004; and
- other drug episodes increased by 512.3%, from 187 in 1999 to 1,145 in 2004.

In the six year period there was a total of 17,492 episodes, in decreasing frequency of which:

- 5,038 (28.8%) involved heroin;
- 4,880 (27.9%) involved alcohol;
- 2,158 (12.3%) involved amphetamines;
- 1,565 (8.9%) involved other opioids;
- 1,045 (6.0%) involved methadone;
- 754 (4.3%) involved cannabis; and
- 485 (2.8%) involved benzodiazepines.

See Table 3-7 (page 21) for details of drugs which had few episodes.

A breakdown for the year 2004 of treatment episodes by treatment setting and principal drug problem is presented in Table 3-8 (page 21). This breakdown shows that at the four treatment settings the proportion of:

- alcohol related episodes ranged from 9.7% at the Youth Clinic to 32.2% at the Eastern DAC;
- amphetamine related episodes ranged from 13.5% at the Southern DAC to 29.6% at the Youth Clinic;
- cannabis related episodes ranged from 2.9% at the Southern DAC to 35.5% at the Youth Clinic;
- heroin related episodes ranged from 8.6% at the Youth Clinic to 20.5% at the Eastern DAC; and
- other drug related episodes ranged from 16.7% at the Youth Clinic to 39.5% at the Southern DAC.

Table 3-2
Number of episodes by age group, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
< 15	-	2	12	9	10	12	45	0.3
15-24	446	1,053	645	530	594	819	4,087	23.4
25-34	605	1,349	884	734	1,049	1,491	6,112	34.0
35-44	411	933	728	609	724	926	4,331	24.8
45+	169	426	511	455	598	758	2,917	16.7
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

3. NEXT STEP SPECIALIST DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES

Table 3-3
Number of episodes by sex, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Males	1,028	2,341	1,680	1,428	1,791	2,541	10,809	61.8
Females	601	1,422	1,100	909	1,184	1,465	6,681	38.2
Unknown	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	<0.1
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

Table 3-4
Number of episodes by type of treatment, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Assessment only	31	1,566	377	90	130	285	2,479	14.2
Counselling	27	193	597	550	574	652	2,593	14.8
Pharmacotherapy	765	1,259	815	686	743	773	5,041	22.8
Support & case management	1	6	12	5	54	155	233	1.3
Detoxification	768	708	749	624	547	536	3,932	22.5
Other	39	31	230	382	927	1,605	3,214	18.4
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

Table 3-5
Number of episodes by source of referral, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Drug treatment service	257	580	245	103	190	228	1,603	9.2
Diversion	1	63	44	3	16	21	148	0.8
Family	11	83	107	83	91	117	492	2.8
Health/medical	85	613	823	521	800	1,324	4,166	23.8
Self	154	1,303	1,076	987	1,330	1,834	6,684	38.2
Other	1,123	1,121	485	640	548	482	4,399	25.1
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

Table 3-6
Number of episodes by indigenous status, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Indigenous	62	164	83	79	120	199	707	4.0
Non indigenous	1,105	3,402	2,575	2,169	2,571	3,418	15,240	87.1
Unknown	464	197	122	89	284	389	1,545	8.8
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

3. NEXT STEP SPECIALIST DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES

Table 3-7
Number of episodes by principal drug problem, Next Step, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total	%
Alcohol	328	702	977	844	901	1,128	4,880	27.9
Amphetamines	61	215	380	315	444	743	2,158	12.3
Cannabis	44	76	105	122	149	258	754	4.3
Heroin	1,011	1,730	597	406	562	732	5,038	28.8
Other drugs								
Benzodiazepines	38	77	82	70	88	130	485	2.8
Cocaine	1	1	2	-	2	4	10	0.1
Ecstasy	3	1	3	2	5	4	18	0.1
Methadone	6	187	217	161	191	283	1,045	6.0
Other opioids	82	280	227	275	332	369	1,565	8.9
Sedatives/hypnotics	-	1	-	6	7	7	21	0.1
Stimulants & hallucinogens	-	3	2	-	40	90	135	0.8
Tobacco	-	5	2	3	-	1	11	0.1
Volatile substances	-	6	4	5	7	7	29	0.2
Other drug/not stated	57	479	182	128	247	250	1,343	7.7
Sub total	187	1,040	721	650	919	1,145	4,662	26.7
Total	1,631	3,763	2,780	2,337	2,975	4,006	17,492	100.0

Table 3-8
Number of episodes by principal drug problem, Next Step, 2004

	Eastern DAC		Northern DAC		Southern DAC		Youth Clinic		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	690	32.2	246	24.8	174	25.3	18	9.7	1,128	28.2
Amphetamines	351	16.4	244	24.6	93	13.5	55	29.6	743	18.5
Cannabis	96	4.5	76	7.7	20	2.9	66	35.5	258	6.4
Heroin	439	20.5	147	14.8	130	18.9	16	8.6	732	18.3
Other	565	26.4	277	28.0	272	39.5	31	16.7	1,145	28.6
Total	2,141	100.0	990	100.0	689	100.0	186	100.0	4,006	100.0

4. Analysis By Health District: 2001 - 2004

This section has an analysis of the utilisation of all specialist alcohol and other drug service providers based on data from 2001 to 2004.

The data is a count of episodes of treatment according to usual place of residence recorded in the PICASO and CMIS data systems disaggregated to the level of each of the State's Health Districts (HDs). This data should be interpreted with care, as it has not been shown there is a relationship between episodes of treatment for each of the major groups of drugs reported (ie alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis, heroin and other drugs) and drug prevalence and underlying drug related problems within each HD.

Attendance at service providers can be shaped by a variety of factors, such as accessibility of service and the development of programs with specific goals, such as diversion programs for offenders and cannabis education sessions. Variations in utilisation of services by region may also be affected factors such as relative availability of services, age structure, gender composition, ethnic and socio economic status.

The data presented also provides a limited measurement of the utilisation of services by those who have drug related problems, as it does not capture attendances at GPs, general hospitals nor at sobering up centres.

Summary

There was a total of 63,869 episodes in the four year period 2001 to 2004, of which 16,983 (26.6%) involved alcohol, 13,669 (21.4%) involved amphetamines, 11,545 (18.1%) involved cannabis and 6,828 (10.7%) involved heroin. There was a further 14,844 (23.2%) episodes which involved 'other drugs'. See Table A-7 (page 30).

Utilisation of services

The overall mean annual State rate of the utilisation of services was 81.8 episodes per 10,000 population over the four year period (Table A-7, page 30).

Figure 4-1 shows a spectrum of rates, with low rates occurring in HDs in farming and semi-rural areas in the southern part of the State (from 24.7 in the Southern Wheatbelt HD to 46.5 in the Wellington HD), with rates well above the State rate in the non metropolitan HDs of Kimberley (95.6), Murchison (95.8) and Geraldton (126.2) and in the metropolitan HDs of Bentley (101.7) Midlands (127.2) and Perth City (247.6).

The rate of 247.6 for the Perth City HD is probably skewed due to episodes involving the transient population residing in the inner city area.

Figure 4-1
Rate of utilisation of treatment services
by Health District, 2001 - 2004



Indigenous status

Figure 4-2 shows marked variations between HDs in the proportion of Indigenous persons who had utilised services in the four year period. See Table 4-1 (page 24).

It can be seen that less than 10% of all episodes involved Indigenous persons in six of the eight HDs in the North Metro Area Health Service (Central, Coastal, Hills, Lower, Upper and Valley HDs) and in five of the seven HDs in the South West Area Health Service (Blackwood, Busselton, Leeuwin, Leschenault and Warren) and three of the five HDs in the South Metro Area Health Service (Armadale, Peel and Rockingham-Kwinana).

This is in contrast to the South East Coastal (25.6%), Northern Goldfields (26.2%), Central Great Southern (30.2%), Midwest (32.6%), Geraldton (37.3%) and West

Pilbara (40.2%) HDs where Indigenous persons made up between one quarter and one half of all episodes.

There were four HDs in which Indigenous persons made up more than half of all episodes - the Gascoyne (57.4%), East Pilbara (61.8%), Kimberley (62.6%) and Murchison (87.3%) HDs.

Principal drug problem

There were variations between the 34 HDs in the composition of the treatment population as demonstrated by the frequency distribution of episodes in each HD when broken down by principal drug problem. See Table A-8 (page 31).

Figure 4-2
Proportion (%) of Aboriginal persons by Health District, 2001 - 2004

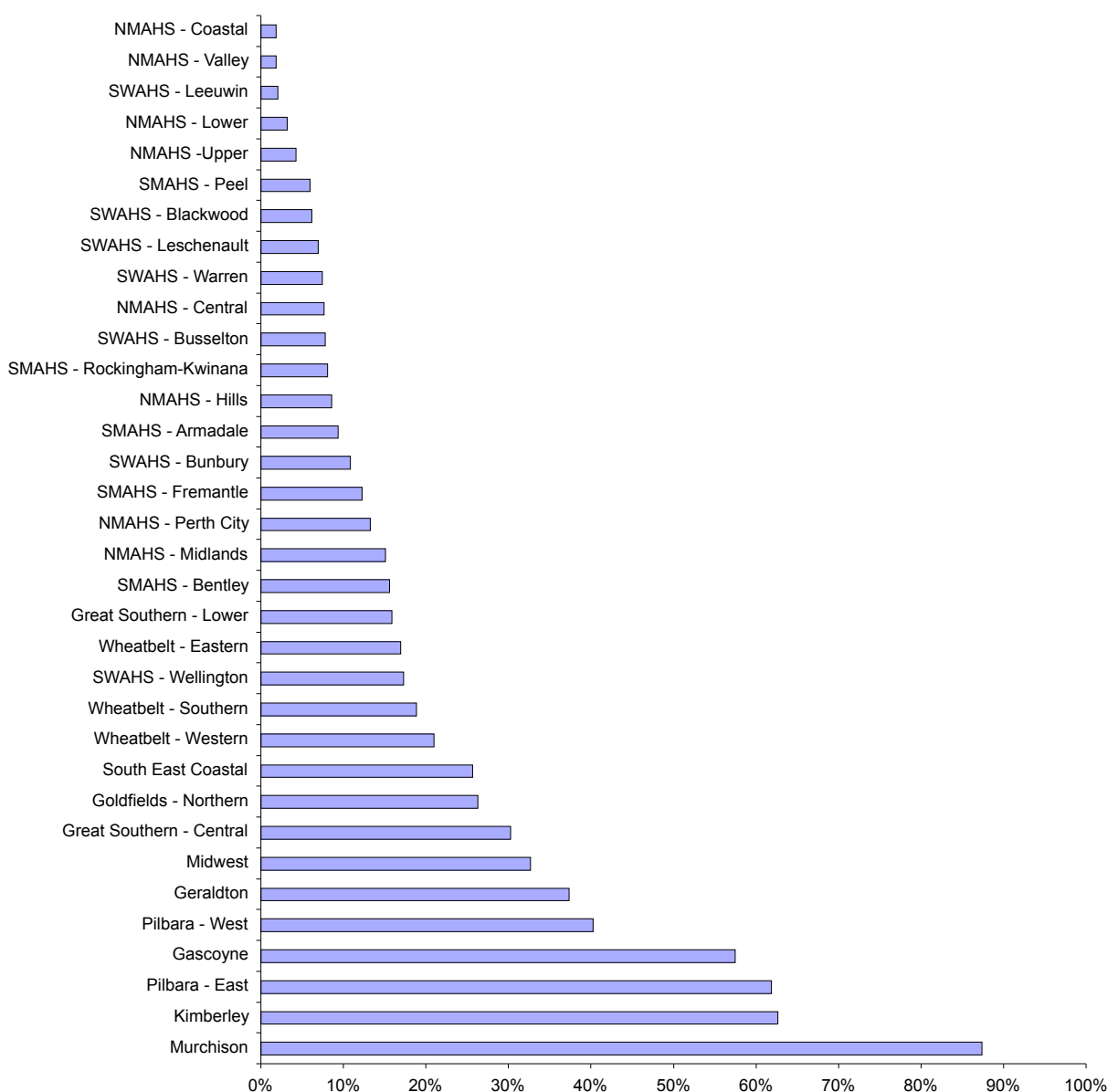


Table 4-1
Total treatment episodes by Health District &
Aboriginality 2001 - 2004

	All	Aboriginal	
		n	%
Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region			
Gascoyne	303	174	57.4
East Pilbara	639	395	61.8
West Pilbara	547	220	40.2
Midwest & Murchison Health Region			
Geraldton	1,640	611	37.3
Midwest	273	89	32.6
Murchison	158	138	87.3
Goldfields & South East Coastal Health Region			
Northern Goldfields	1,005	263	26.2
South East Coastal	379	97	25.6
Great Southern Health Region			
Central	205	62	30.2
Lower	1,171	185	15.8
Kimberley Health Region			
Kimberley	1,314	822	62.6
North Metro Area Health Service			
Central	9,517	723	7.6
Coastal	3,581	65	1.8
Hills	2,034	172	8.5
Lower	3,881	121	3.1
Midlands	2,386	357	15.0
Perth City	5,551	734	13.2
Upper	1,618	68	4.2
Valley	326	6	1.8
South Metro Area Health Service			
Armadale	3,755	348	9.3
Bentley	7,151	1,110	15.5
Fremantle	6,665	815	12.2
Peel	1,760	104	5.9
Rockingham-Kwinana	2,737	220	8.0
South West Area Health Service			
Blackwood	98	6	6.1
Bunbury	1,344	145	10.8
Busselton	468	36	7.7
Leeuwin	196	4	2.0
Leschenault	452	31	6.9
Warren	163	12	7.4
Wellington	256	44	17.2
Wheatbelt Health Region			
Eastern	242	41	16.9
Southern	197	37	18.8
Western	959	200	20.9
Interstate/unknown	898	58	6.5
State	63,869	8,513	13.3

There were eight HDs in which 40% or greater of all episodes involved alcohol as the principal drug problem - the Geraldton (39.5%), West Pilbara (41.1%), Midwest (41.8%), Leeuwin (41.8%), Gascoyne (45.2%), Murchison (51.3%), East Pilbara (53.1%) and Kimberley (54.6%) HDs.

There were six HDs out of the total of the 34 HDs in WA where one in four (25%) or greater of all episodes involved amphetamines as the principal drug problem - the Perth City (24.8%), Bunbury (26.4%), NMAHS Hills (26.7%), Peel (27.4%), Armadale (27.8%) and NMAHS Midlands (29.0%) HDs.

There were 13 HDs where one in four (25%) or greater of all episodes involved cannabis as the principal drug problem - the Warren (25.8%), Northern Goldfields (25.0%), Geraldton (25.1%), South East Coastal (26.1%), Wheatbelt Southern (26.4%), Lower Great Southern (27.4%), Murchison (30.4%), West Pilbara (28.5%), Gascoyne (30.0%), Wellington (31.6%), Midwest (31.9%), Blackwood (37.8%) and Central Great Southern (9.5%) HDs.

There were nine HDs in which one in 10 (10%) or greater of all episodes involved heroin as the principal drug problem - the Rockingham (10.6%), Fremantle (10.7%), Bentley (11.0%), NMAHS Midlands (11.2%), NMAHS Upper (11.7%), NMAHS Hills (12.1%), NMAHS Lower (12.1%), NMAHS Central (15.8%) and NMAHS Perth City (15.8%).

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table A-1

Number of episodes, all services, principal drug problem, whole state, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	2,411	24.5	3,045	22.7	3,747	25.4	3,882	25.6	4,600	27.5	4,754	27.6
Amphetamines	944	9.6	1,831	13.7	3,086	20.9	3,056	20.2	3,502	20.9	4,025	23.4
Cannabis	1,352	13.7	1,896	14.1	2,643	17.9	3,156	20.8	3,057	18.3	2,689	15.6
Opioids												
Heroin	2,462	25.0	3,071	22.9	1,597	10.8	1,587	10.5	1,748	10.4	1,896	11.0
Methadone	6	0.1	200	1.5	287	1.9	208	1.4	238	1.4	341	2.0
Other opioids	124	1.3	350	2.6	320	2.2	434	2.9	581	3.5	597	3.5
Sub total opioids	2,592	26.3	3,621	27.0	2,204	14.9	2,229	14.7	2,567	15.3	2,834	16.5
Other drugs												
Benzodiazepines	102	1.0	158	1.2	186	1.3	178	1.2	242	1.4	250	1.5
Cocaine	20	0.2	25	0.2	18	0.1	14	0.1	22	0.1	26	0.2
Ecstasy (MDMA)	27	0.3	32	0.2	24	0.2	30	0.2	34	0.2	41	0.2
Sedatives/hypnotics	1	<0.1	7	0.1	9	0.1	17	0.1	15	0.1	17	0.1
Stimulants & hallucinogens	1	<0.1	13	0.1	9	0.1	6	<0.1	47	0.3	101	0.6
Tobacco	18	0.2	40	0.3	116	0.8	139	0.9	59	0.4	59	0.3
Volatile substances	116	1.2	88	0.7	108	0.7	105	0.7	87	0.5	91	0.5
Other drug/not stated	732	7.4	1,649	12.3	804	5.4	262	1.7	371	2.2	391	2.3
Sub total other drugs	1,017	10.3	2,012	15.0	1,274	8.6	751	5.0	877	5.2	976	5.7
Non drug	1,528	15.5	998	7.4	1,806	12.2	2,068	13.7	2,132	12.7	1,954	11.3
Total	9,844	100.0	13,403	100.0	14,760	100.0	15,142	100.0	16,735	100.0	17,232	100.0

Table A-4

Number of episodes, all services, agency type, Health Regions, 2004

	CDST		Next Step		Other NGOs		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Metro								
East Metro	1,031	16.1	1,239	30.9	2,462	36.0	4,732	27.5
North Metro	826	12.9	1,394	34.8	1,972	28.8	4,192	24.3
South Metro	1,871	29.3	1,047	26.1	1,984	29.0	4,902	28.4
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	278	4.4	9	0.2	39	0.6	326	1.9
Great Southern	364	5.7	3	0.1	28	0.4	395	2.3
Kimberley	292	4.6	10	0.2	19	0.3	321	1.9
Midwest & Murchison	457	7.2	5	0.1	43	0.6	505	2.9
Pilbara & Gascoyne	327	5.1	11	0.3	25	0.4	363	2.1
South West	662	10.4	44	1.1	111	1.6	817	4.7
Wheatbelt	275	4.3	32	0.8	42	0.6	349	2.0
Interstate/unknown	2	<0.1	212	5.3	116	1.7	330	1.9
Total	6,385	100.0	4,006	100.0	6,841	100.0	17,232	100.0

Table A-2
Number of episodes, all services, main treatment type, Health Regions, 2004

	Assess- ment	Counsel- ling	Info & edu- cation	Pharmaco- therapy	Rehabilita- tion	Detoxifica- tion	Other	Total
	(number)							
Metro								
East Metro	407	2,186	134	248	779	365	613	4,732
North Metro	306	1,638	255	296	562	409	726	4,192
South Metro	456	2,307	449	389	508	342	451	4,902
Sub total	1,169	6,131	838	933	1,849	1,116	1,790	13,826
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	19	268	16	1	10	8	4	326
Great Southern	16	265	54	3	22	18	17	395
Kimberley	14	250	23	9	6	9	10	321
Midwest & Murchison	8	438	13	2	26	7	11	505
Pilbara & Gascoyne	19	285	26	3	9	12	9	363
South West	47	532	71	37	43	51	36	817
Wheatbelt	20	245	40	7	8	15	14	349
Sub total	143	2,283	243	62	124	120	101	3,076
Interstate/unknown	19	22	5	43	3	91	147	330
Total	1,331	8,436	1,086	1,038	1,976	1,327	2,038	17,232
	(per cent column)							
Metro								
East Metro	30.6	25.9	12.3	23.9	39.4	27.5	30.1	27.5
North Metro	23.0	19.4	23.5	28.5	28.4	30.8	35.6	24.3
South Metro	34.3	27.3	41.3	37.5	25.7	25.8	22.1	28.4
Sub total	87.8	72.7	77.2	89.9	93.6	84.1	87.8	80.2
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	1.4	3.2	1.5	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	1.9
Great Southern	1.2	3.1	5.0	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.8	2.3
Kimberley	1.1	3.0	2.1	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.9
Midwest & Murchison	0.6	5.2	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	2.9
Pilbara & Gascoyne	1.4	3.4	2.4	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.4	2.1
South West	3.5	6.3	6.5	3.6	2.2	3.8	1.8	4.7
Wheatbelt	1.5	2.9	3.7	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	2.0
Sub total	10.7	27.1	22.4	6.0	6.3	9.0	5.0	17.9
Interstate/unknown	1.4	0.3	0.5	4.1	0.2	6.9	7.2	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	(per cent row)							
Metro								
East Metro	8.6	46.2	2.8	5.2	16.5	7.7	13.0	100.0
North Metro	7.3	39.1	6.1	7.1	13.4	9.8	17.3	100.0
South Metro	9.3	47.1	9.2	7.9	10.4	7.0	9.2	100.0
Sub total	8.5	44.3	6.1	6.7	13.4	8.1	12.9	100.0
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	5.8	82.2	4.9	0.3	3.1	2.5	1.2	100.0
Great Southern	4.1	67.1	13.7	0.8	5.6	4.6	4.3	100.0
Kimberley	4.4	77.9	7.2	2.8	1.9	2.8	3.1	100.0
Midwest & Murchison	1.6	86.7	2.6	0.4	5.1	1.4	2.2	100.0
Pilbara & Gascoyne HR	5.2	78.5	7.2	0.8	2.5	3.3	2.5	100.0
South West HR	5.8	65.1	8.7	4.5	5.3	6.2	4.4	100.0
Wheatbelt HR	5.7	70.2	11.5	2.0	2.3	4.3	4.0	100.0
Sub total	4.6	74.2	7.9	2.0	4.0	3.9	3.3	100.0
Interstate/unknown	5.8	6.7	1.5	13.0	0.9	27.6	44.5	100.0
Total	7.7	49.0	6.3	6.0	11.5	7.7	11.8	100.0

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table A-3

Number of episodes, all services, age group by sex, Health Regions, 2004

	< 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45+	Total
Females						
Metro area						
East Metro	51	442	560	425	293	1,771
North Metro	74	376	514	338	448	1,750
South Metro	38	366	495	414	369	1,682
Country						
Goldfields & SE Coastal	2	27	36	24	13	102
Great Southern	-	36	51	21	24	132
Kimberley	1	19	28	21	10	79
Midwest & Murchison	3	30	46	37	32	148
Pilbara & Gascoyne	4	20	30	31	13	98
South West	2	39	95	65	64	265
Wheatbelt	6	29	43	27	33	138
Interstate/unknown	-	34	37	14	16	101
Total	181	1,418	1,935	1,417	1,315	6,266
Males						
Metro area						
East Metro	46	806	1,103	588	418	2,961
North Metro	67	773	857	397	348	2,442
South Metro	78	1,125	1,013	571	433	3,220
Country						
Goldfields & SE Coastal	8	80	67	46	23	224
Great Southern	4	82	97	53	27	263
Kimberley	1	60	70	81	30	242
Midwest & Murchison	5	129	122	67	34	357
Pilbara & Gascoyne	5	79	101	61	19	265
South West	4	200	182	87	79	552
Wheatbelt	12	74	58	44	23	211
Interstate/unknown	-	36	109	52	32	229
Total	230	3,444	3,779	2,047	1,466	10,966
Persons						
Metro area						
East Metro	97	1,248	1,663	1,013	711	4,732
North Metro	141	1,149	1,371	735	796	4,192
South Metro	116	1,491	1,508	985	802	4,902
Country						
Goldfields & SE Coastal	10	107	103	70	36	326
Great Southern	4	118	148	74	51	395
Kimberley	2	79	98	102	40	321
Midwest & Murchison	8	159	168	104	66	505
Pilbara & Gascoyne	9	99	131	92	32	363
South West	6	239	277	152	143	817
Wheatbelt	18	103	101	71	56	349
Interstate/unknown	-	70	146	66	48	330
Total	411	4,862	5,714	3,464	2,781	17,232

Table A-5
Number of episodes, all services, source of referral, Health Regions, 2004

	Drug treatment service	Justice	Diversion	Family	Health/ medical	Self	Other	Total
(number)								
Metro								
East Metro	342	641	264	595	957	1,831	102	4,732
North Metro	358	328	330	599	918	1,453	206	4,192
South Metro	320	1,009	229	608	776	1,852	108	4,902
Sub total	1,020	1,978	823	1,802	2,651	5,136	416	13,826
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	6	94	10	78	51	87	-	326
Great Southern	7	62	24	75	58	169	-	395
Kimberley	3	92	9	26	80	110	1	321
Midwest & Murchison	7	214	77	22	83	100	2	505
Pilbara & Gascoyne	5	158	25	29	51	93	2	363
South West	39	124	109	86	201	251	7	817
Wheatbelt	24	93	18	52	82	78	2	349
Sub total	91	837	272	368	606	888	14	3,076
Interstate/unknown	15	2	2	52	79	123	57	330
Total	1,126	2,817	1,097	2,222	3,336	6,147	487	17,232
(per cent column)								
Metro								
East Metro	30.4	22.8	24.1	26.8	28.7	29.8	20.9	27.5
North Metro	31.8	11.6	30.1	27.0	27.5	23.6	42.3	24.3
South Metro	28.4	35.8	20.9	27.4	23.3	30.1	22.2	28.4
Sub total	90.6	70.2	75.0	81.1	79.5	83.6	85.4	80.2
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	0.5	3.3	0.9	3.5	1.5	1.4	-	1.9
Great Southern	0.6	2.2	2.2	3.4	1.7	2.7	-	2.3
Kimberley	0.3	3.3	0.8	1.2	2.4	1.8	0.2	1.9
Midwest & Murchison	0.6	7.6	7.0	1.0	2.5	1.6	0.4	2.9
Pilbara & Gascoyne	0.4	5.6	2.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.4	2.1
South West	3.5	4.4	9.9	3.9	6.0	4.1	1.4	4.7
Wheatbelt	2.1	3.3	1.6	2.3	2.5	1.3	0.4	2.0
Sub total	8.1	29.7	24.8	16.6	18.2	14.4	2.9	17.9
Interstate/unknown	1.3	0.1	0.2	2.3	2.4	2.0	11.7	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(per cent row)								
Metro								
East Metro	7.2	13.5	5.6	12.6	20.2	38.7	2.2	100.0
North Metro	8.5	7.8	7.9	14.3	21.9	34.7	4.9	100.0
South Metro	6/5	20/6	4.7	12.4	15.8	37.8	2.2	100.0
Sub total	7.4	14.3	6.0	13.0	19.2	37.1	3.0	100.0
Country								
Goldfields & SE Coastal	1.8	28.8	3.1	23.9	15.6	26.7	-	100.0
Great Southern	1.8	15.7	6.1	19.0	14.7	42.8	-	100.0
Kimberley	0.9	28.7	2.8	8.1	24.9	34.3	0.3	100.0
Midwest & Murchison	1.4	42.4	15.2	4.4	16.4	19.8	0.4	100.0
Pilbara & Gascoyne	1.4	43.5	6.9	8.0	14.0	25.6	0.6	100.0
South West	4.8	15.2	13.3	10.5	24.6	30.7	0.9	100.0
Wheatbelt	6.9	26.6	5.2	14.9	23.5	22.3	0.6	100.0
Sub total	3.0	27.2	8.8	12.0	19.7	28.9	0.5	100.0
Interstate/unknown	4.5	0.6	0.6	15.8	23.9	37.3	17.3	100.0
Total	6.5	16.3	6.4	12.9	19.4	35.7	2.8	100.0

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table A-6
Number of episodes, non residential services, Community Drug Service Teams, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Metro												
North East Metro	349	9.9	491	10.5	691	10.7	756	11.1	642	9.7	598	9.4
North Metro	707	20.0	786	16.7	922	14.3	1,055	15.5	892	13.5	746	11.7
Perth	-	-	85	1.8	204	3.2	174	2.6	163	2.5	282	4.4
South East Metro	409	11.6	543	11.6	945	14.6	898	13.2	806	12.2	581	9.1
South Metro	758	21.4	976	20.8	1,119	17.3	1,146	16.8	1,498	22.7	1,525	24.0
Sub total	2,223	62.8	2,881	61.4	3,881	60.0	4,029	59.1	4,001	60.7	3,732	58.7
Country												
Goldfields	59	1.7	157	3.3	354	5.5	275	4.0	314	4.8	278	4.4
Great Southern	189	5.3	196	4.2	271	4.2	315	4.6	354	5.4	384	6.0
Kimberly	61	1.7	167	3.6	250	3.9	392	5.8	300	4.5	287	4.5
Midwest	434	12.3	419	8.9	600	9.3	598	8.8	488	7.4	499	7.8
Pilbara	215	6.1	306	6.5	268	4.1	286	4.2	245	3.7	284	4.5
South West	282	8.0	439	9.3	621	9.6	662	9.7	622	9.4	700	11.0
Wheatbelt	76	2.1	131	2.8	222	3.4	257	3.8	271	4.1	197	3.1
Sub total	1,316	37.2	1,815	38.6	2,586	40.0	2,785	40.9	2,594	39.3	2,629	41.3
Total	3,539	100.0	4,696	100.0	6,467	100.0	6,814	100.0	6,595	100.0	6,361	100.0

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table A-7

Number of episodes by Health District & principal drug problem, 2001 - 2004

	Population	Alcohol	Amphet- amines	Cannabis	Heroin	Other	Total	Rate/10,000 (annual)
Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region								
Gascoyne	10,252	137	33	91	10	32	303	73.9
East Pilbara	18,467	339	78	145	23	54	639	86.5
West Pilbara	21,062	225	90	156	17	59	547	64.9
Midwest & Murchison Health Region								
Geraldton	32,491	648	220	412	56	304	1,640	126.2
Midwest	13,458	114	21	87	11	40	273	50.7
Murchison	4,122	81	5	48		24	158	95.8
Goldfields & South East Coastal Health Region								
Northern Goldfields	39,022	327	193	251	50	184	1,005	64.4
South East Coastal	15,928	128	49	99	17	86	379	59.5
Great Southern Health Region								
Central	10,349	57	37	81	4	26	205	49.5
Lower	43,476	354	195	321	42	259	1,171	67.3
Kimberley Health Region								
Kimberley	34,369	717	84	267	39	207	1,314	95.6
North Metro Area Health Service								
Central	261,545	2,286	2,091	1,447	1,507	2,186	9,517	91.0
Coastal	157,477	773	749	693	302	1,064	3,581	56.8
Hills	71,782	498	543	332	246	415	2,034	70.8
Lower	132,551	1,067	644	591	469	1,110	3,881	73.2
Midlands	46,889	449	692	431	267	547	2,386	127.2
Perth City	56,052	1,584	1,376	733	879	979	5,551	247.6
Upper	59,952	323	365	318	189	423	1,618	67.5
Valley	15,051	88	61	40	26	111	326	54.1
South Metro Area Health Service								
Armadale	151,866	798	1,043	674	296	944	3,755	61.8
Bentley	175,823	1,792	1,704	1,289	787	1,579	7,151	101.7
Fremantle	202,930	1,594	1,230	1,351	716	1,774	6,665	82.1
Peel	69,413	455	482	287	116	420	1,760	63.4
Rockingham-Kwinana	101,264	659	673	458	289	658	2,737	67.6
South West Area Health Service								
Blackwood	6,914	32	12	37	3	14	98	35.4
Bunbury	38,773	387	355	263	68	271	1,344	86.7
Busselton	25,027	132	101	101	32	102	468	46.7
Leeuwin	11,013	82	25	41	6	42	196	44.5
Leschenault	27,901	130	93	98	25	106	452	40.5
Warren	10,002	45	32	42	12	32	163	40.7
Wellington	13,760	93	50	81	7	25	256	46.5
Wheatbelt Health Region								
Eastern	10,875	50	19	28	4	141	242	55.6
Southern	19,938	72	27	52	7	39	197	24.7
Western	42,445	250	163	165	60	321	959	56.5
Interstate/unknown	-	217	134	35	246	266	898	
Total State	1,952,239	16,983	13,669	11,545	6,828	14,844	63,869	81.8

Note: Rate per 10,000 population based on ABS estimates of resident population.

Appendix 1: Data Tables

Table A-8
Proportion (%) of treatment episodes by Health District & principal drug problem 2001 - 2004

	All	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Cannabis	Heroin
Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region					
Gascoyne	303	45.2	10.9	30.0	3.3
East Pilbara	639	53.1	12.2	22.7	3.6
West Pilbara	547	41.1	16.5	28.5	3.1
Midwest & Murchison Health Region					
Geraldton	1,640	39.5	13.4	25.1	3.4
Midwest	273	41.8	7.7	31.9	4.0
Murchison	158	51.3	3.2	30.4	<0.1
Goldfields & South East Coastal Health Region					
Northern Goldfields	1,005	32.5	19.2	25.0	5.0
South East Coastal	379	33.8	12.9	26.1	4.5
Great Southern Health Region					
Central	205	27.8	18.0	39.5	2.0
Lower	1,171	30.2	16.7	27.4	3.6
Kimberley Health Region					
Kimberley	1,314	54.6	6.4	20.3	3.0
North Metro Area Health Service					
Central	9,517	24.0	22.0	15.2	15.8
Coastal	3,581	21.6	20.9	19.4	8.4
Hills	2,034	24.5	26.7	16.3	12.1
Lower	3,881	27.5	16.6	15.2	12.1
Midlands	2,386	18.8	29.0	18.1	11.2
Perth City	5,551	28.5	24.8	13.2	15.8
Upper	1,618	20.0	22.6	19.7	11.7
Valley	326	27.0	18.7	12.3	8.0
South Metro Area Health Service					
Armadale	3,755	21.3	27.8	17.9	7.9
Bentley	7,151	25.1	23.8	18.0	11.0
Fremantle	6,665	23.9	18.5	20.3	10.7
Peel	1,760	25.9	27.4	16.3	6.6
Rockingham-Kwinana	2,737	24.1	24.6	16.7	10.6
South West Area Health Service					
Blackwood	98	32.7	12.2	37.8	3.1
Bunbury	1,344	28.8	26.4	19.6	5.1
Busselton	468	28.2	21.6	21.6	6.8
Leeuwin	196	41.8	12.8	20.9	3.1
Leschenault	452	28.8	20.6	21.7	5.5
Warren	163	27.6	19.6	25.8	7.4
Wellington	256	36.3	19.5	31.6	2.7
Wheatbelt Health Region					
Eastern	242	20.7	7.9	11.6	1.7
Southern	197	36.5	13.7	26.4	3.6
Western	959	26.1	17.0	17.2	6.3
Interstate/unknown	898	24.2	14.9	3.9	27.4
Total State	63,869	26.6	21.4	18.1	10.7

Appendix 2: Definitions & Methodology

INTRODUCTION

The PICASO data system has been developed by the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) to record treatment episodes and contacts of individuals who participate in programs conducted by NGOs funded by DAO. The PICASO system has been operating for a number of years and contains detailed time series information about attendances, treatment episodes and outcomes at NGOs who have installed this data system.

Most of the data items in the PICASO system have been standardised in accordance with the definitions and procedures outlined in the *Guidelines for collection of the National Minimum Data Set* (NMDS) developed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The DAO operates a separate client admission treatment system, the CMIS, which records admissions to its detoxification unit and to its metropolitan based outpatient programs provided through the youth clinic and the three Drug and Alcohol Clinics (DACs).

The data in this publication commences from the year 1999 as data prior does not provide a comprehensive picture of the utilisation of services as not all organisations had participated in the PICASO system. Information for this publication consists of data from both the PICASO and CMIS databases that has been merged through a structured user interface.

The following overview of definitions used by the database describes key variables used in this publication. Additional details about specific variables can be found in *Alcohol and other drug treatment services 2002-03. Guidelines for collection of the National Minimum Data Set*. Canberra, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, August 2002. (AIHW cat. no. HSE 21).

Treatment episode

This refers to the period of time a client is engaged with a service for alcohol and other drugs, where assessment and/or treatment occurs. A client is recorded on the data system as having commenced a treatment episode if they are new to the agency or recommenced treatment after having last had contact with the agency more than three months ago.

The definition of an episode also requires that during the client's period of treatment there should not be any change in the:

- principal drug of concern;
- main type of treatment; or
- the setting for delivery of treatment.

MAIN TREATMENT TYPE

The main treatment type is defined as the principal activity, as determined at the time of assessment, for treating the client's principal drug problem. This means that one main treatment type is the principal focus of a single treatment episode and that if there is a change in the main treatment type, a new episode will be recorded.

The NMDS distinguishes between the following types of treatment: detoxification, counselling, rehabilitation, pharmacotherapy, support and case management only, information and education only and assessment only.

Principal drug problem

The principal drug problem is defined as the principal drug of concern that has been identified by the client as leading him or her to seek treatment or advice from the treatment agency.

As recommended by the NMDS, the PICASO system has the following drug categories: alcohol, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, methadone, nicotine and other (a sub group of specified drugs).

Indigenous status

Indigenous status is determined according to the criteria of descent, self identification and community acceptance.

The classification of this status has a hierarchical structure consisting of two levels, indigenous and non indigenous. The former consists of Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin, Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin and both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, whereas the latter refers to being neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Island origin.

Treatment setting

This refers to the setting in which the main treatment for an alcohol or other drug problem is provided. This is broken down into four major settings:

- non residential treatment facilities (this includes hospital outpatient services and community health centres);
- residential treatment facilities which are not the client's home or usual place of residence, ie community based settings in which the client resides on either a short or long term basis;
- home (this refers to the client's own home or usual place of residence);
- outreach setting (this excludes a client's home or usual place of residence and would include mobile service providers); and
- other setting (this includes prison based programs).

Appendix 3: Data Tables - Agencies

Table A-9

Number of episodes by agency, NGOs (excluding CDSTs), 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
WA Council on Addictions							
Cyrenian House	956	956	1,116	1,060	755	763	5,606
Saranna	3	10	16	39	171	168	407
Palmerston Association (Inc)							
Palmerston	777	747	750	682	507	525	3,988
Palmerston Farm	3	3	2	3	198	329	538
Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust							
Bridge House	-	-	-	4	1,094	384	1,482
Harry Hunter Rehabilitation Centre	-	6	139	161	217	159	682
Bridge Counselling	105	175	179	139	72	105	775
Australian Institute for Alcohol & Drug Addiction Resolution (Inc)							
Holyoake	2,089	2,104	2,127	1,955	1,816	1,913	12,004
Mission Australia							
Youth Withdrawal & Respite Service	-	-	-	-	57	239	296
Yirra	259	509	382	301	252	211	1,914
Serenity Lodge (Inc)							
Serenity Lodge	-	-	162	417	494	468	1,541
Drug Arm (Inc)							
Rosella House	-	-	5	31	31	43	110
St John of God Health Care							
Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network	-	-	1	213	508	427	1,149
Australian Medical Procedures Foundation Ltd							
Naltrexone Clinic	3	8	18	458	563	632	1,682
Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services (Inc)							
Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services	390	213	276	217	166	146	1,408
Women's Health Association (Inc)							
Women in Substance Education	7	146	215	165	151	252	936
Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (WA)							
Hearth Program	67	66	123	86	86	77	505
Total	4,659	4,943	5,511	5,931	7,138	6,841	35,023

DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFICE

UTILISATION OF SERVICES, METROPOLITAN HEALTH REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides an analysis of utilisation of all services recorded by the Performance Indicator Clients and Services Online (PICASO) and the Client Management Information System (CMIS) data systems. The unit of analysis is a treatment episode at non government organisations (NGOs), which includes Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and Next Step programs.

Note: Details of definitions and methodology are contained on page 7.

Whilst this analysis supports inferences about trends and shifts in availability in drugs, variations may also reflect geographical, seasonal and supply factors throughout WA.

It should also be noted that variations in the recording of information in data systems can be affected by a number of factors, such as changes in definitions, expansion of coverage through inclusion of data from additional service providers and revisions of protocols. Caution should be used in interpreting trends prior to 2002 as not all NGOs participated in the PICASO system.

MAIN POINTS

These data are from the period 1999 to 2004 and are broken down by year for each of the three metropolitan Health Regions (HRs) by principal drug problem, agency type, type of treatment, referral type and Aboriginality.

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Principal drug problem

East Metropolitan Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 46.2% from 1999 (3,086 episodes) to 2004 (4,513 episodes). See Table 1, page 3.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 83.4%, from 661 in 1999 to 1,212 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 315%, from 293 in 1999 to 1,215 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 14.9%, from 504 in 1999 to 579 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 37.0%, from 848 in 1999 to 534 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 37.9%, from 354 in 1999 to 488 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes (which refers to admissions to programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc) increased by 13.9%, from 426 in 1999 to 485 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 21.4% to 26.9%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 9.5% to 26.9%;
- cannabis episodes ↓ from 16.3% to 12.8%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 27.5% to 11.8%;
- other drug episodes ↓ from 11.5% to 10.8%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 13.8% to 10.7%.

South Metropolitan Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 93.7% from 1999 (2,449 episodes) to 2004 (4,744 episodes). See Table 2, page 3. Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 95.9%, from 604 in 1999 to 1,183 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 336%, from 288 in 1999 to 1,256 in 2004;

This publication is available online at
<http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au>

- cannabis episodes increased by 178%, from 295 in 1999 to 820 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 40.5%, from 617 in 1999 to 367 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 132%, from 223 in 1999 to 517 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 42.4%, from 422 in 1999 to 601 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 24.7% to 24.9%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 11.8% to 26.5%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ 12.0% to 17.3%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 25.2% to 7.7%;
- other drug episodes ↑ from 9.1% to 10.9%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 17.2% to 12.7%.

North Metropolitan Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 56.2% from 1999 (2,549 episodes) to 2004 (3,981 episodes). See Table 3, page 3.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 3, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 96.0%, from 503 in 1999 to 986 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 256%, from 245 in 1999 to 872 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 131%, from 268 in 1999 to 620 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 44.6%, from 707 in 1999 to 392 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 102%, from 273 in 1999 to 550 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased slightly by 1.5%, from 553 in 1999 to 561 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2003 are as follows (Table 3, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 19.7% to 24.8%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 9.6% to 21.9%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ from 10.5% to 15.6%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 27.7% to 9.8%;
- other drug episodes ↑ from 10.7% to 13.8%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 21.7% to 14.1%.

Agency type

The breakdown in Table 4 (page 4) of utilisation of services by agency type, shows that in the East Metropolitan and North Metropolitan HRs in 2003 the majority of services were provided by NGOs excluding CDSTs, whereas in the South Metropolitan Health Region CDSTs provided the majority of services.

A special analysis of utilisation of services in the Metropolitan HR to include the sobering up centre (SUC) shows that in this HR 34.5% out of a total of 6,889 episodes involved attendances at the SUC.

Main treatment type

The breakdown of major types of treatment (excluding SUCs) for 2002 and 2003 shows that the majority of episodes involved counselling (Table 5, page 4).

In 2003, after counselling, the next most significant type of treatment was detoxification, information and education and detoxification for the East Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and North Metropolitan HRs respectively.

Treatment setting

In 2004 in the:

- East Metropolitan HR there was 3,773 (83.6%) out of a total of 4,513 episodes which were at non residential settings (Table 6, page 5);
- South Metropolitan HR there was 4,066 (85.7%) out of a total of 4,744 episodes which were at non residential settings (Table 7, page 5); and
- North Metropolitan HR there was 3,513 (88.2%) out of a total of 3,981 episodes which were at non residential settings (Table 8, page 5).

Referral type

In 2004 self referral was the most frequent source of referral, accounting for 1,712 (37.9%) of all referrals in the East Metropolitan HR, 1,301 (32.7%) of all referrals in the North Metropolitan HR and 1,750 (36.9%) of all referrals in the South Metropolitan HR (Table 9, page 5).

In 2004 the justice system was the second most frequent source of referral, accounting for 616 (13.7%) of all referrals in the East Metropolitan HR and 1,000 (21.1%) of all referrals in the South Metropolitan HR (Table 9, page 5).

Indigenous status

Figure 1 (page 7) presents a breakdown of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal episodes in the three metropolitan HRs from 1999 to 2004. (This data excludes cases where Aboriginality had not been recorded or was unknown.)

Overall, of the total of 68,635 episodes in 1999 to 2004, 6,410 (9.3%) were Aboriginal and 58,545 (85.3%) were non Aboriginal. (See Table 10, page 7.)

It can also be seen there were variations in the proportion of Aboriginal episodes with 11.7%, 10.7% and 4.8% of all episodes in the East Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and North Metropolitan HRs respectively.

PRINCIPAL DRUG PROBLEM

Table 1:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, East Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	661	21.4	844	19.9	1,078	23.5	1,059	24.3	1,407	29.0	1,212	26.9
Amphetamines	293	9.5	611	14.4	1,065	23.2	1,060	24.3	1,243	25.6	1,215	26.9
Cannabis	504	16.3	597	14.1	815	17.8	801	18.4	697	14.4	579	12.8
Heroin	848	27.5	1,132	26.6	610	13.3	524	12.0	515	10.6	534	11.8
Other drugs	354	11.5	805	18.9	478	10.4	372	8.5	422	8.7	488	10.8
Non drug	426	13.8	260	6.1	539	11.8	540	12.4	570	11.7	485	10.7
Total	3,086	100.0	4,249	100.0	4,585	100.0	4,356	100.0	4,854	100.0	4,513	100.0

Table 2:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, South Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	604	24.7	693	20.2	811	21.4	900	24.3	1,119	25.1	1,183	24.9
Amphetamines	288	11.8	520	15.2	850	22.5	832	22.4	1,010	22.7	1,256	26.5
Cannabis	295	12.0	514	15.0	665	17.6	844	22.7	923	20.7	820	17.3
Heroin	617	25.2	705	20.6	377	10.0	247	6.7	314	7.1	367	7.7
Other drugs	223	9.1	726	21.2	552	14.6	351	9.5	465	10.4	517	10.9
Non drug	422	17.2	272	7.9	526	13.9	536	14.4	619	13.9	601	12.7
Total	2,449	100.0	3,430	100.0	3,781	100.0	3,710	100.0	4,450	100.0	4,744	100.0

Table 3:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, North Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	503	19.7	636	18.7	784	23.1	802	23.7	919	24.7	986	24.8
Amphetamines	245	9.6	429	12.6	696	20.5	687	20.3	733	19.7	872	21.9
Cannabis	268	10.5	342	10.0	498	14.7	682	20.2	682	18.4	620	15.6
Heroin	707	27.7	956	28.1	461	13.6	311	9.2	395	10.6	392	9.8
Other drugs	273	10.7	679	19.9	442	13.0	332	9.8	450	12.1	550	13.8
Non drug	553	21.7	362	10.6	518	15.2	567	16.8	535	14.4	561	14.1
Total	2,549	100.0	3,404	100.0	3,399	100.0	3,381	100.0	3,714	100.0	3,981	100.0

AGENCY TYPE

Table 4:
Annual episodes, all services, agency type, metro health regions
1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
East Metro Health Region						
CDSTs	558	824	1,216	1,286	1,153	1,026
Next Step	529	1,340	912	701	857	1,231
NGOs	1,999	2,085	2,457	2,369	2,844	2,256
Sub total	3,086	4,249	4,585	4,356	4,854	4,513
Sobering up centre	2,775	2,548	2,467	3,094	3,670	2,376
Total	5,861	6,797	7,052	7,450	8,524	6,889
South Metro Health Region						
CDSTs	953	1,264	1,673	1,704	1,928	1,869
Next Step	472	975	852	772	852	1,029
NGOs	1,024	1,191	1,256	1,234	1,670	1,846
Total	2,449	3,430	3,781	3,710	4,450	4,744
North Metro Health Region						
CDSTs	686	772	988	1064	942	828
Next Step	494	1,191	809	691	1,010	1,391
NGOs	1,369	1,441	1,602	1,626	1,762	1,762
Total	2,549	3,404	3,399	3,381	3,714	3,981

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 5:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, East Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	10	592	284	322	379	445
Counselling	2,173	2,460	3,135	2,779	2,144	2,104
Information & education only	10	48	178	293	268	132
Pharmacotherapy	251	437	262	218	211	201
Rehabilitation	352	423	338	362	1,265	765
Detoxification	262	254	284	225	245	269
Other	28	35	104	157	342	597
Total	3,086	4,249	4,585	4,356	4,854	4,513

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 6:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, South Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	15	382	221	263	395	494
Counselling	1,359	1,397	2,014	2,302	2,195	2,271
Information & education only	19	82	162	382	540	444
Pharmacotherapy	216	314	249	219	316	350
Rehabilitation	600	1,043	860	196	529	505
Detoxification	215	178	176	201	240	256
Other	25	34	99	147	235	424
Total	2,449	3,430	3,781	3,710	4,450	4,744

Table 7:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, North Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	11	482	224	376	378	343
Counselling	1,743	1,834	2,100	1,828	1,589	1,564
Information & education only	41	101	288	417	359	252
Pharmacotherapy	256	450	266	209	212	251
Rehabilitation	263	301	224	147	494	556
Detoxification	215	205	212	269	285	300
Other	20	31	85	135	397	715
Total	2,549	3,404	3,399	3,381	3,714	3,981

TREATMENT SETTING

Table 8:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment setting
East Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Residential						
Female	180	212	184	232	345	197
Male	281	336	317	370	980	543
Unknown	-	2	1	-	-	-
Total	461	550	502	602	1,325	740
Non residential						
Female	941	1,360	1,522	1,350	1,383	1,487
Male	1,684	2,337	2,555	2,403	2,146	2,285
Unknown	-	2	6	1	-	1
Total	2,625	3,699	4,083	3,754	3,529	3,773
All services						
Female	1,121	1,572	1,706	1,582	1,728	1,684
Male	1,965	2,673	2,872	2,773	3,126	2,828
Unknown	-	4	7	1	-	1
Total	3,086	4,249	4,585	4,356	4,854	4,513

Table 9:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment setting
South Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Residential						
Female	129	142	117	140	200	182
Male	198	230	220	301	479	496
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total	327	372	337	441	680	678
Non residential						
Female	830	1,146	1,360	1,213	1,377	1,426
Male	1,292	1,911	2,081	2,054	2,393	2,640
Unknown	-	1	3	2	-	-
Total	2,122	3,058	3,444	3,269	3,770	4,066
All services						
Female	959	1,288	1,477	1,353	1,577	1,608
Male	1,490	2,141	2,301	2,355	2,872	3,136
Unknown	-	1	3	2	1	-
Total	2,449	3,430	3,781	3,710	4,450	4,744

TREATMENT SETTING

Table 10:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment setting
North Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Residential						
Female	150	157	119	137	166	165
Male	229	232	221	198	356	303
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	379	389	340	335	522	468
Non residential						
Female	984	1,276	1,312	1,295	1,383	1,493
Male	11,83	1,739	1,743	1,751	1,809	2,020
Unknown	3	-	4	-	-	-
Total	2,170	3,015	3,059	3,046	3,192	3,513
All services						
Female	1,134	1,433	1,431	1,432	1,549	1,658
Male	1,412	1,971	1,964	1,949	2,165	2,323
Unknown	3	-	4	-	-	-
Total	2,549	3,404	3,399	3,381	3,714	3,981

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 11:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, East Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	28	350	621	830	688	616
Diversion	2	121	409	336	325	260
Family	15	282	499	487	518	456
Self	74	967	1,331	1,260	1,895	1,712
Medical	24	219	256	154	244	462
Non residential unit	83	371	426	434	495	439
Residential unit	6	102	270	259	388	363
Other	2,854	1,837	773	596	301	205
Total	3,086	4,249	4,585	4,356	4,854	4,513

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 12:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, South Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	21	189	570	738	914	1,000
Diversion	3	149	322	295	253	227
Family	10	216	462	406	515	446
Self	69	696	947	1,062	1,445	1,750
Medical	32	233	371	254	389	385
Non residential unit	76	235	499	356	401	420
Residential unit	9	93	162	202	243	252
Other	2,229	1,619	448	397	290	264
Total	2,449	3,430	3,781	3,710	4,450	4,744

Table 13:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, North Metro Health Region, 1999-2004

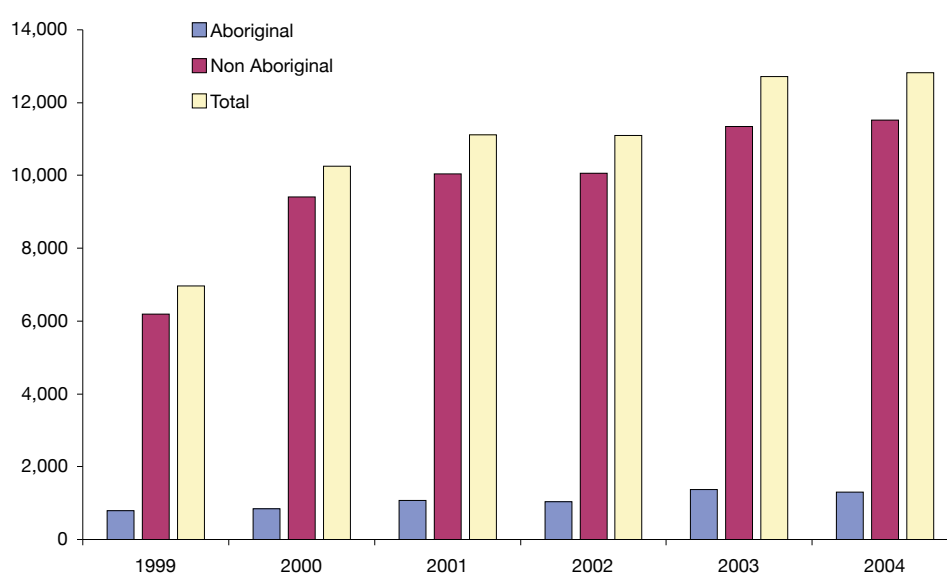
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	9	201	382	432	353	307
Diversion	2	85	332	349	327	324
Family	6	2,136	416	409	430	437
Self	70	778	1,126	998	1,232	1,301
Medical	18	209	290	222	363	517
Non residential unit	114	383	381	374	435	561
Residential unit	6	93	143	197	175	186
Other	2,324	1,439	329	400	399	348
Total	2,549	3,404	3,399	3,381	3,714	3,981

INDIGENOUS STATUS

Table 14:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, metro health regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
East Metro							
Aboriginal	425	425	584	489	587	497	3,007
Non Aboriginal	2,289	3,552	3,716	3,709	4,177	3,915	21,358
Unknown	472	272	285	158	90	101	1,278
Total	3,086	4,249	4,585	4,356	4,854	4,513	25,643
South Metro							
Aboriginal	189	280	348	397	578	630	2,422
Non Aboriginal	1,829	2,772	3,230	3,199	3,778	3,976	18,784
Unknown	431	378	203	114	94	138	1,358
Total	2,449	3,430	3,781	3,710	4,450	4,744	22,564
North Metro							
Aboriginal	171	139	137	150	209	175	981
Non Aboriginal	2,065	3,078	3,094	3,149	3,381	3,636	18,403
Unknown	313	187	168	82	124	170	1,044
Total	2,549	3,404	3,399	3,381	3,714	3,981	20,428
Total metro							
Aboriginal	785	844	1,069	1,036	1,374	1,302	6,410
Non Aboriginal	6,183	9,402	10,040	10,057	11,336	11,527	58,545
Unknown	1,116	837	656	354	308	409	3,680
Total	8,084	11,083	11,765	11,447	13,018	13,238	68,635

Figure 1:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, metro health regions, 2002-2004



DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFICE

UTILISATION OF SERVICES, SOUTH WEST HEALTH REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides an analysis of utilisation of all services recorded by the Performance Indicator Clients and Services Online (PICASO) and the Client Management Information System (CMIS) data systems. The unit of analysis is a treatment episode at non government organisations (NGOs), which includes Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and Next Step programs.

Note: Details of definitions and methodology are contained on page 7.

Whilst this analysis supports inferences about trends and shifts in availability in drugs, variations may also reflect geographical, seasonal and supply factors throughout WA.

It should also be noted that variations in the recording of information in data systems can be affected by a number of factors, such as changes in definitions, expansion of coverage through inclusion of data from additional service providers and revisions of protocols. Caution should be used in interpreting trends prior to 2002 as not all NGOs participated in the PICASO system.

MAIN POINTS

These data are from the period 1999 to 2004 and are broken down by year for the South West, Great Southern and Wheatbelt Health Regions (HRs) by principal drug problem, agency type, type of treatment, referral type and Aboriginality.

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Principal drug problem

South West Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 131% from 1999 (325 episodes) to 2004 (752 episodes). See Table 1, page 4.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 1, page 4):

- alcohol episodes increased by 49.2%, from 124 in 1999 to 185 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 434%, from 41 in 1999 to 219 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 144%, from 71 in 1999 to 173 in 2004;
- heroin episodes decreased by 41.3%, from 46 in 1999 to 27 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 88.6%, from 35 in 1999 to 66 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes (which refers to admissions to programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc) increased by 925%, from 8 in 1999 to 82 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 1, page 4):

- alcohol episodes ↓ from 38.2% to 24.6%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 12.6% to 29.1%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ from 21.8% to 23.0%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 14.2% to 3.6%;
- other drugs episodes ↓ from 10.8% to 8.8%; and
- non drug episodes ↑ from 2.5% to 10.9%;

Great Southern Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 68.7% from 1999 (217 episodes) to 2004 (366 episodes). See Table 2, page 4.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 2, page 4):

- alcohol episodes increased by 31.5%, from 92 in 1999 to 121 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 700%, from 10 in

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1999 to 80 in 2004;

- cannabis episodes increased by 85.7%, from 42 in 1999 to 78 in 2004;
- heroin episodes decreased by 39.3%, from 28 in 1999 to 17 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 13.0%, from 23 episodes in 1999 to 26 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 100%, from 22 in 1999 to 44 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 2, page 4):

- alcohol episodes ↓ from 42.4% to 33.1%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 4.6% to 21.9%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ 19.4% to 21.3%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 12.9% to 4.6%;
- other drugs episodes ↓ from 10.6% to 7.1%; and
- non drug episodes ↑ 10.1% to 12.0%.

Wheatbelt Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 192% from 1999 (135 episodes) to 2004 (337 episodes). See Table 3, page 4.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 3, page 4):

- alcohol episodes increased by 303%, from 34 in 1999 to 137 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased 1,375%, from 4 in 1999 to 59 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 108%, from 24 in 1999 to 50 in 2004;

- heroin episodes decreased by 8.0%, from 25 in 1999 to 23 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 169%, from 13 in 1999 to 35 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes decreased by 5.7%, from 35 in 1999 to 33 in 2004.

Trends in the utilisation of services by each drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 3, page 4):

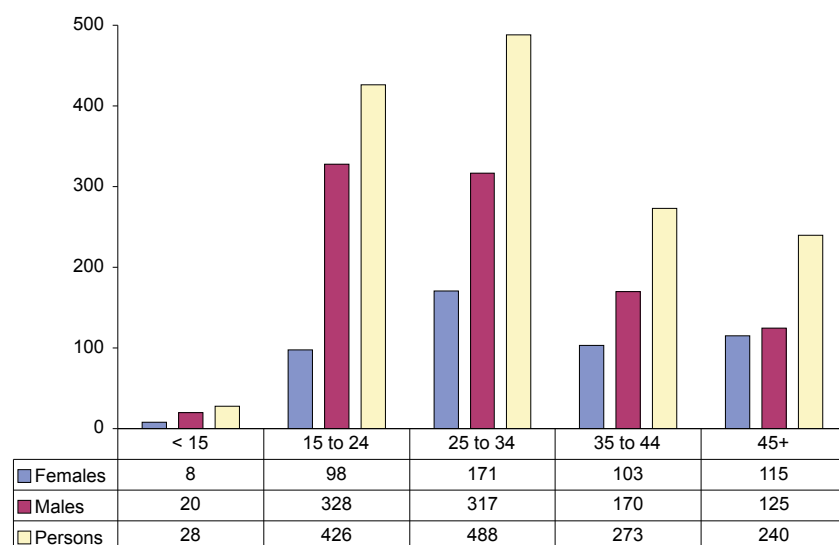
- alcohol episodes ↑ from 25.2% to 40.7%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 3.0% to 17.5%;
- cannabis episodes ↓ from 17.8% to 14.8%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 18.5% to 6.8%;
- other drugs episodes ↑ from 9.6% to 10.4%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 25.9% to 9.8%.

Age group

The breakdown of age distribution by sex for the year 2004 indicates males were younger than females and more likely to be clustered in the 15 to 34 age range, whereas females were distributed more evenly across the 15 to 24, 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 age groups (Figure 1).

Overall, of the 1,455 episodes in 2004, 28 (1.9%) involved the <15 age group, 426 (31.2%) involved the 15 to 24 age group, 488 (26.5%) involved the 25 to 34 age group, 273 (17.9%) involved the 35 to 44 age group and 240 (13.9%) involved the 45 years and older age group.

Figure 1:
Number of episodes, all services, age group by sex
South West Health Regions, 2004



Agency type

The breakdown of utilisation of services by agency type shows that in the Great Southern, South West and Wheatbelt HRs in 2004 the majority of services were provided by CDSTs (Table 4, page 5) .

There are no sobering up centres (SUCs) operating in any of these HRs.

Main treatment type

Table 5 (page 5) presents a breakdown of major types of treatment provided by all services in the years 2002 and 2003.

This shows that in 2003 the majority of episodes involved counselling in the Great Southern (62.8%) and South West HRs (53.2%), whereas the majority of episodes involved information and education in the Wheatbelt HR (42.4%).

As expected, due to the limited availability of residential facilities, there were few episodes involving detoxification or rehabilitation at services in any of these HRs. In the South West HR there were a small number of episodes for the pharmacotherapy category.

Referral type

In 2004 in the Great Southern HR there was a total of 366 referrals, of which 156 (42.6%) were self referred, 51 (13.9%) were from the justice system and 42 (11.5%) were referred by a family member (Table 6, page 6).

In 2004 in the South West HR there was a total of 752 referrals, of which 225 (29.9%) were self referred, 109 (14.5%) were from the justice system and 107 (14.2%) were through diversion (Table 6, page 6).

In 2004 in the Wheatbelt HR there was a total of 337 referrals, of which 88 (26.1%) were from the justice system, 72 (21.4%) were self referred and 40 (11.9%) were from a non residential unit (Table 6, page 6).

Indigenous status

Figure 2 (page 7) presents a breakdown of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal episodes in the three HRs from 1999 to 2004. (This data excludes cases where Aboriginality had not been recorded or was unknown.)

Overall, of the total of 7,222 episodes in 1999 to 2004, 968 (13.4%) were Aboriginal and 6,002 (83.1%) were non Aboriginal. (See Table 7, page 7.)

It can also be seen there were variations in the proportion of Aboriginal episodes, with 18.3%, 8.7% and 18.5% of all episodes in the Great Southern, South West and Wheatbelt HRs respectively.

PRINCIPAL DRUG PROBLEM

Table 1:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, South West Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	124	38.2	155	31.5	248	35.7	224	30.3	222	31.1	185	24.6
Amphetamines	41	12.6	83	16.9	149	21.5	140	18.9	152	21.3	219	29.1
Cannabis	71	21.8	97	19.7	118	17.0	174	23.5	181	25.4	173	23.0
Heroin	46	14.2	57	11.6	41	5.9	39	5.3	29	4.1	27	3.6
Other drugs	35	10.8	77	15.7	99	14.3	77	10.4	67	9.4	66	8.8
Non drug	8	2.5	23	4.7	39	5.6	85	11.5	63	8.8	82	10.9
Total	325	100.0	492	100.0	694	100.0	739	100.0	714	100.0	752	100.0

Table 2:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Great Southern Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	92	42.4	88	41.3	83	28.7	91	28.8	103	27.5	121	33.1
Amphetamines	10	4.6	30	14.1	43	14.9	50	15.8	54	14.4	80	21.9
Cannabis	42	19.4	51	23.9	93	32.2	89	28.2	135	36.1	78	21.3
Heroin	28	12.9	12	5.6	5	1.7	11	3.5	9	2.4	17	4.6
Other drugs	23	10.6	18	8.5	26	9.0	28	8.9	25	6.7	26	7.1
Non drug	22	10.1	14	6.6	39	13.5	47	14.9	48	12.8	44	12.0
Total	217	100.0	213	100.0	289	100.0	316	100.0	374	100.0	366	100.0

Table 3:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Wheatbelt Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	34	25.2	67	30.6	68	23.8	83	22.6	82	21.2	137	40.7
Amphetamines	4	3.0	28	12.8	48	16.8	48	13.1	49	12.7	59	17.5
Cannabis	24	17.8	41	18.7	68	23.8	62	16.9	65	16.8	50	14.8
Heroin	25	18.5	20	9.1	9	3.1	13	3.5	13	3.4	23	6.8
Other drugs	13	9.6	32	14.6	236	9.1	12	3.3	22	5.7	35	10.4
Non drug	35	25.9	31	14.2	67	23.4	149	40.6	156	40.3	33	9.8
Total	135	100.0	219	100.0	286	100.0	367	100.0	387	100.0	337	100.0

AGENCY TYPE

Table 4:
Annual episodes, all services, agency type, South West health regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Great Southern Health Region						
CDSTs	190	193	268	298	350	342
Next Step	10	8	9	7	4	3
NGOs	17	12	12	11	20	21
Total	217	213	289	316	374	366
South West Health Region						
CDSTs	262	409	610	653	590	612
Next Step	28	43	38	25	22	43
NGOs	35	40	46	61	102	97
Total	325	492	694	739	714	752
Wheatbelt Health Region						
CDSTs	85	156	241	305	321	271
Next Step	14	27	15	13	14	31
NGOs	36	36	30	49	52	35
Total	135	219	286	367	387	337

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 5:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Great Southern Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	5	6	5	17	16
Counselling	191	191	239	220	238	243
Information & education only	4	4	24	51	94	53
Pharmacotherapy	3	1	3	5	3	1
Rehabilitation	11	6	8	6	7	21
Detoxification	7	3	4	15	13	17
Other	1	3	5	14	2	15
Total	217	213	289	316	374	366

Table 6:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, South West Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	19	16	34	51	47
Counselling	273	411	559	444	397	487
Information & education only	-	4	30	107	100	68
Pharmacotherapy	7	13	15	59	39	36
Rehabilitation	25	28	20	34	52	42
Detoxification	20	16	43	36	41	39
Other	-	1	11	25	34	33
Total	325	492	694	739	714	752

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 7:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Wheatbelt Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	11	3	13	21	21
Counselling	118	181	215	194	159	240
Information & education only	-	2	40	141	163	40
Pharmacotherapy	10	11	5	3	13	7
Rehabilitation	3	10	11	7	20	8
Detoxification	2	3	8	7	5	7
Other	2	1	4	2	6	14
Total	135	219	286	367	387	337

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 8:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, Great Southern Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	3	6	41	80	91	51
Diversion	-	4	27	22	19	26
Family	-	5	25	32	38	42
Self	1	52	109	111	128	156
Medical	1	9	19	18	17	23
Non residential unit	-	5	15	31	35	27
Residential unit	-	4	12	14	7	14
Other	212	128	41	8	39	27
Total	217	213	289	316	374	366

Table 9:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, South West Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	-	55	155	158	187	109
Diversion	-	12	35	73	78	107
Family	-	28	65	69	45	69
Self	2	51	142	202	175	225
Medical	1	25	105	74	73	89
Non residential unit	1	58	90	83	89	88
Residential unit	-	22	49	37	44	42
Other	321	241	53	43	23	23
Total	325	492	694	739	714	752

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 10:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, Wheatbelt Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	-	15	47	68	49	88
Diversion	2	9	31	16	24	20
Family	-	18	31	23	24	25
Self	4	64	97	80	73	72
Medical	-	9	18	17	21	26
Non residential unit	3	14	19	18	29	40
Residential unit	1	9	10	8	19	33
Other	125	81	33	137	148	33
Total	135	219	286	367	387	337

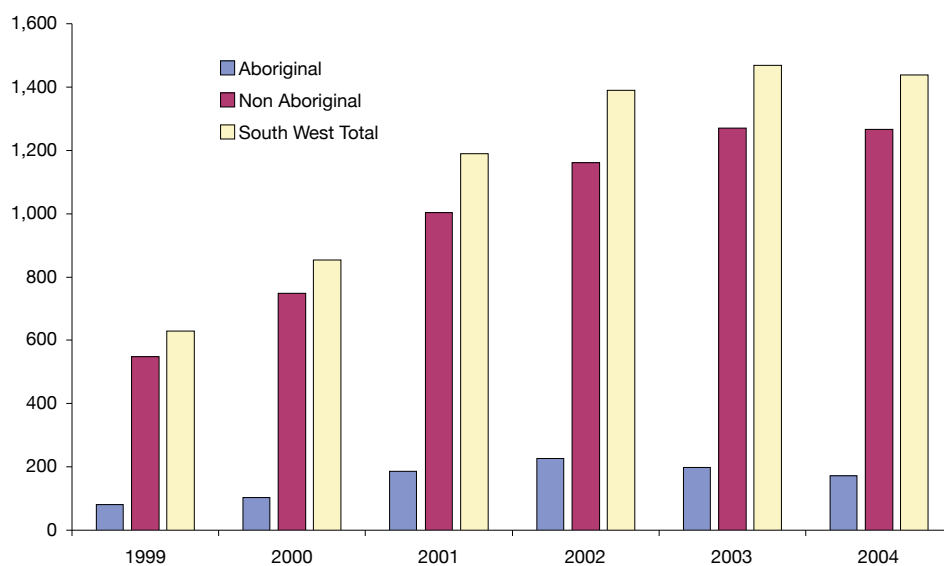
INDIGENOUS STATUS

Table 11:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, South West health regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Great Southern HR							
Aboriginal	43	41	56	63	65	56	324
Non Aboriginal	170	157	189	239	307	305	1,367
Unknown	4	15	44	14	2	5	84
Total	217	213	289	316	374	366	1,775
South West HR							
Aboriginal	15	41	72	80	67	48	323
Non Aboriginal	279	437	601	651	645	697	3,310
Unknown	31	14	21	8	2	7	83
Total	325	492	694	739	714	752	3,716
Wheatbelt HR							
Aboriginal	23	22	58	84	66	68	321
Non Aboriginal	100	155	214	272	319	265	1,325
Unknown	12	42	14	11	2	4	85
Total	135	219	286	367	387	337	1,731
Total							
Aboriginal	81	104	186	227	198	172	968
Non Aboriginal	549	749	1,004	1,162	1,271	1,267	6,002
Unknown	47	71	79	33	6	16	252
Total	677	924	1,269	1,422	1,475	1,455	7,222

INDIGENOUS STATUS

Figure 2:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, South West health regions, 1999-2004



DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFICE

UTILISATION OF SERVICES, MIDWEST HEALTH REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides an analysis of utilisation of all services recorded by the Performance Indicator Clients and Services Online (PICASO) and the Client Management Information System (CMIS) data systems. The unit of analysis is a treatment episode at non government organisations (NGOs), which includes Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and Next Step programs.

Note: Details of definitions and methodology are contained on page 6.

Whilst this analysis supports inferences about trends and shifts in availability in drugs, variations may also reflect geographical, seasonal and supply factors throughout WA.

It should also be noted that variations in the recording of information in data systems can be affected by a number of factors, such as changes in definitions, expansion of coverage through inclusion of data from additional service providers and revisions of protocols. Caution should be used in interpreting trends prior to 2002 as not all NGOs participated in the PICASO system.

MAIN POINTS

These data are from the period 1999 to 2004 and are broken down by year for the Midwest & Murchison and Goldfields & South East Coastal Health Regions (HRs) by principal drug problem, agency type, type of treatment, referral type and Aboriginality.

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Principal drug problem

Midwest & Murchison Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 33.5% from 1999 (358 episodes) to 2004 (478 episodes). See Table 1, page 3.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 114%, from 108 in 1999 to 231 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 275%, from 12 in 1999 to 45 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 131%, from 61 in 1999 to 141 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 78.1%, from 32 in 1999 to 7 in 2004;
- other drug episodes declined by 80.4%, from 138 in 1999 to 27 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes (which refers to admissions to programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc) increased by 286%, from 7 in 1999 to 27 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 30.2% to 48.3%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 3.4% to 9.4%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ from 17.0% to 29.5%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 8.9% to 1.5%;
- other drugs episodes ↓ from 38.5% to 5.6%; and
- non drug episodes ↑ from 2.0% to 5.6%;

Goldfields & South East Coastal Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 260% from 1999 (89 episodes) to 2004 (320 episodes). See Table 2, page 3.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 336%, from 28 in 1999 to 122 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 3,400%, from 2 in 1999 to 70 in 2004;

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- cannabis episodes increased by 392%, from 12 in 1999 to 59 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 56.0%, from 25 in 1999 to 11 in 2004;
- other drug episodes increased by 120%, from 5 in 1999 to 11 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 176%, from 17 in 1999 to 47 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 31.5% to 38.1%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 2.2% to 21.9%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ 13.5% to 18.4%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 28.1% to 3.4%;
- other drug episodes ↓ from 5.6% to 3.4%; and
- non drug episodes ↓ from 19.1% to 14.7%;

Age group

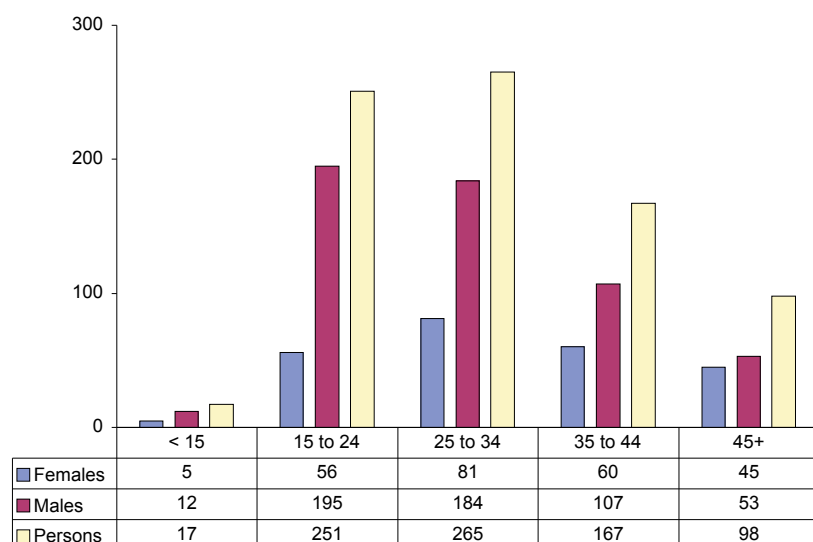
The breakdown by 5 year age group and sex for the year 2004 indicates males were younger than females and were mostly clustered in the 15 to 24 age range, whereas females were distributed more evenly across all age groups except the <15 age group (Figure 1).

Overall, of the 798 episodes in 2004, 17 (2.1%) involved the <15 age group, 251 (31.5%) involved the 15 to 24 age group, 265 (33.2%) involved the 25 to 34 age group, 167 (20.9%) involved the 35 to 44 age group and 98 (12.3%) involved the 45 years and older age group.

Agency type

The breakdown of utilisation of services by agency type shows that in the Goldfields & South East Coastal and Midwest & Murchison HRs in 2004 the majority of services were provided by CDSTs (Table 3, page 3).

Figure 1:
Number of episodes, all services, age group by sex, Midwest & Goldfields Health Regions, 2004



In 2004 there was one SUC in the Goldfields & South East Coastal HR which provided 1,019 (####%) episodes out of a total of 1,339 episodes of attendances at all agencies.

In 2004 there was one SUC in the Midwest & Murchison HR which provided 1,065 (####%) episodes out of a total of 1,543 episodes of attendances at all agencies.

Main treatment type

Table 4 (page 4) presents a breakdown of major types of treatment provided by all services in the years 2002 and 2003. This shows that in 2003 the majority of episodes involved counselling in both the Goldfields & South East Coastal (81.3%) and the Midwest & Murchison (61.0%) HRs.

Referral type

In 2004 in the Goldfields & South East Coastal HR there was a total of 320 referrals, of which 91 (28.4%) were from the justice system, 85 (26.6%) were self referred and 46 (14.4%) were referred by a family member (Table 5, page 4).

In 2004 in the Midwest & Murchison HR there was a total of 478 referrals, of which 196 (41.0%) were from the justice system, 95 (19.9%) were self referred and 77 (16.1%) were through diversion.

Indigenous status

Figure 2 (page 5) presents a breakdown of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal episodes in the two HRs from 1999 to 2004. (This data excludes cases where Aboriginality had not been recorded or was unknown.)

Overall, of the total of 4,425 episodes in 1999 to 2004, 1,479 (33.4%) were Aboriginal and 2,832 (64.0%) were non Aboriginal. (See Table 6, page 5.)

It can also be seen there were variations in the proportion of Aboriginal episodes with 24.9% and 38.5% of all episodes in the Goldfields & South East Coastal and Midwest & Murchison HRs respectively.

PRINCIPAL DRUG PROBLEM

Table 1:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Midwest & Murchison Health Region
1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	108	30.2	118	30.3	166	31.9	233	40.2	197	43.9	231	48.3
Amphetamines	12	3.4	27	6.9	69	13.3	70	12.1	55	12.2	45	9.4
Cannabis	61	17.0	89	22.9	114	21.9	170	29.4	115	25.6	141	29.5
Heroin	32	8.9	40	10.3	15	2.9	16	2.8	18	4.0	7	1.5
Other drugs	138	38.5	112	28.8	133	25.6	41	7.1	30	6.7	27	5.6
Non drug	7	2.0	3	0.8	23	4.4	49	8.5	34	7.6	27	5.6
Total	358	100.0	389	100.0	520	100.0	579	100.0	449	100.0	478	100.0

Table 2:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Goldfields & South East Coastal Health
Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	28	31.5	73	38.4	132	34.4	98	30.5	103	29.6	122	38.1
Amphetamines	2	2.2	30	15.8	60	15.6	55	17.1	57	16.4	70	21.9
Cannabis	12	13.5	32	16.8	99	25.8	84	26.2	105	30.2	59	18.4
Heroin	25	28.1	21	11.1	19	4.9	14	4.4	15	4.3	11	3.4
Other drugs	5	5.6	29	15.3	48	12.5	29	9.0	16	4.6	11	3.4
Non drug	17	19.1	5	2.6	26	6.8	41	12.8	52	14.9	47	14.7
Total	89	100.0	190	100.0	384	100.0	321	100.0	348	100.0	320	100.0

AGENCY TYPE

Table 3:
Annual episodes, all services, agency type, Midwest Health Regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Goldfields Health Region						
CDSTs	57	160	354	291	321	277
Next Step	17	13	8	7	4	9
NGOs	15	17	22	23	23	34
Sub total	89	190	384	321	348	320
Sobering up centres	1,567	1,409	1,960	1,183	1,127	1,019
Total	1,656	1,599	2,344	1,504	1,475	1,339
Midwest & Murchison Health Region						
CDSTs	343	358	509	529	389	436
Next Step	8	13	3	5	1	5
NGOs	7	18	8	45	59	37
Sub total	358	389	520	579	449	478
Sobering up centres	692	904	1,072	1,400	951	1,065
Total	1,050	1,293	1,592	1,979	1,400	1,543

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 4:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Goldfields Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	5	5	5	6	20
Counselling	14	95	317	253	295	265
Information & education only	-	1	20	32	27	16
Pharmacotherapy	8	3	2	1	1	-
Rehabilitation	4	15	13	10	14	10
Detoxification	9	5	3	7	4	5
Other	-	-	4	13	1	4
Total	89	190	384	321	348	320

Table 5:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Midwest Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	5	1	21	17	10
Counselling	344	361	490	349	279	298
Information & education only	-	2	19	159	93	102
Pharmacotherapy	2	6	3	1	4	9
Rehabilitation	5	13	7	27	34	35
Detoxification	7	2	-	14	16	14
Other	-	-	-	8	6	10
Total	358	389	520	579	449	478

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 6:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, Goldfields Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	12	47	151	94	126	91
Diversion	-	-	21	23	17	10
Family	3	14	30	29	50	46
Self	2	21	55	72	71	85
Medical	8	17	28	20	24	19
Non residential unit	5	23	51	43	23	34
Residential unit	4	8	14	6	15	4
Other	55	60	34	34	22	31
Total	89	190	384	321	348	320

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 7:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, Midwest & Murchison Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	-	53	163	245	159	196
Diversion	-	21	32	39	42	77
Family	-	26	36	26	36	16
Self	-	60	118	125	78	95
Medical	-	21	105	63	74	41
Non residential unit	-	32	33	37	42	32
Residential unit	-	10	14	35	9	14
Other	358	166	19	9	9	7
Total	358	389	520	579	449	478

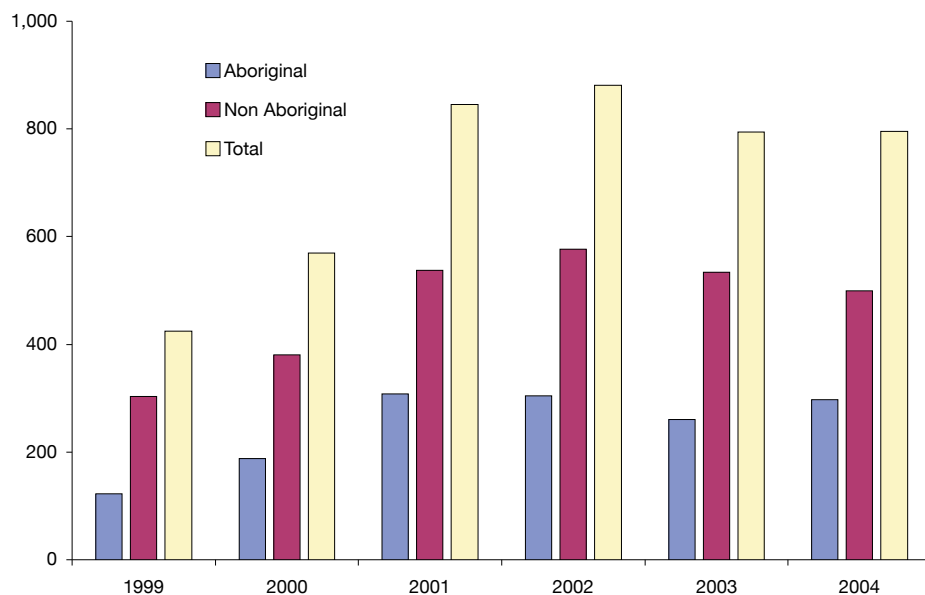
INDIGENOUS STATUS

Table 8:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, Midwest health regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Goldfields & SE Coastal HR							
Aboriginal	13	40	112	84	85	77	411
Non Aboriginal	63	144	216	220	262	243	1,148
Unknown	13	6	56	17	1	-	93
Total	89	190	384	321	348	320	1,652
Midwest & Murchison HR							
Aboriginal	109	148	196	220	175	220	1,068
Non Aboriginal	240	237	322	357	272	256	1,684
Unknown	9	4	2	2	2	2	21
Total	358	389	520	579	449	478	2,773
Total							
Aboriginal	122	188	308	304	260	297	1,479
Non Aboriginal	303	381	538	577	534	499	2,832
Unknown	22	10	58	19	3	2	114
Total	447	579	904	900	797	798	4,425

INDIGENOUS STATUS

Figure 2:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status
Midwest health regions, 1999-2004



DRUG & ALCOHOL OFFICE

UTILISATION OF SERVICES, NORTH WEST HEALTH REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides an analysis of utilisation of all services recorded by the Performance Indicator Clients and Services Online (PICASO) and the Client Management Information System (CMIS) data systems. The unit of analysis is a treatment episode at non government organisations (NGOs), which includes Community Drug Service Teams (CDSTs) and Next Step programs.

Note: Details of definitions and methodology are contained on page 6.

Whilst this analysis supports inferences about trends and shifts in availability in drugs, variations may also reflect geographical, seasonal and supply factors throughout WA.

It should also be noted that variations in the recording of information in data systems can be affected by a number of factors, such as changes in definitions, expansion of coverage through inclusion of data from additional service providers and revisions of protocols. Caution should be used in interpreting trends prior to 2002 as not all NGOs participated in the PICASO system.

MAIN POINTS

These data are from the period 1999 to 2004 and are broken down by year for the Pilbara & Gascoyne and Kimberley Health Regions (HRs) by principal drug problem, agency type, type of treatment, referral type and Aboriginality.

Principal drug problem

Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 8.6% from 1999 (326 episodes) to 2004 (354 episodes). See Table 1, page 3.

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Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 18.1%, from 171 in 1999 to 202 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 280%, from 15 in 1999 to 57 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 6.1%, from 49 in 1999 to 52 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 86.8%, from 38 in 1999 to 5 in 2004;
- other drug episodes declined by 48.9%, from 45 in 1999 to 23 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes (which refers to admissions to programs involving matters such as concern about a family member, gambling, a child of a parent with a drug problem etc) increased by 87.5%, from 8 in 1999 to 15 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 1, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 52.5% to 57.1%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 4.6% to 16.1%;
- cannabis episodes ↓ from 15.0% to 14.7%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 11.7% to 1.4%;
- other drug episodes ↓ from 13.8% to 6.5%; and
- non drug episodes ↑ from 2.5% to 4.2%.

Kimberley Health Region

The utilisation of all services grew by 335% from 1999 (71 episodes) to 2004 (309 episodes). See Table 2, page 3.

Trends in the utilisation of services by annual **number** of episodes are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes increased by 348%, from 44 in 1999 to 197 in 2004;
- amphetamine episodes increased by 467%, from 3 in 1999 to 17 in 2004;
- cannabis episodes increased by 556%, from 9 in 1999 to 59 in 2004;
- heroin episodes declined by 28.6%, from 7 in 1999 to 5 in 2004;

This publication is available online at
<http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au>

- other drug episodes increased by 138%, from 8 in 1999 to 19 in 2004; and
- non drug episodes increased by 1,100% from 1 in 2000 to 12 in 2004.

Trends in utilisation of services by drug expressed as the annual **proportion** for that drug of all treatment episodes from 1999 to 2004 are as follows (Table 2, page 3):

- alcohol episodes ↑ from 62.0% to 63.8%;
- amphetamines episodes ↑ from 4.2% to 5.5%;
- cannabis episodes ↑ 12.7% to 19.1%;
- heroin episodes ↓ from 9.9% to 1.6%;
- other drug episodes ↓ from 11.3% to 6.1%; and
- non drug episodes ↑ 0.6% (year 2000) to 3.9%;

Age group

The breakdown of age distribution by sex for the year 2004 indicates that for both males and females the most frequent age group was 25 to 34 years (Figure 1).

Overall, of the 903 episodes in 2004, 11 (1.2%) involved the <15 age group, 171 (18.9%) involved the 15 to 24 age group, 223 (24.7%) involved the 25 to 34 age group, 428 (47.4%) involved the 35 to 44 age group and 70 (7.8%) involved the 45 years and older age group.

Agency type

The breakdown of utilisation of services by agency type, shows that in the Pilbara & Gascoyne and Kimberley HRs in 2004 the majority of services were provided by CDSTs (Table 3, page 3).

In 2004 there were six SUCs in the Kimberley HR which provided 11,387 (97.4%) episodes out of a total of 11,696 episodes of attendances at all agencies.

In 2004 there were two SUCs in the Pilbara & Gascoyne HR which provided 2,429 (87.3%) episodes out of a total of 2,783 episodes of attendances at all agencies.

Main treatment type

Table 4 (page 4) presents a breakdown of major types of treatment provided in the years 2002 and 2003. This shows that in 2003 the majority of episodes involved counselling in both the Kimberley (71.0%) and the Pilbara & Gascoyne (62.7%) HRs.

Referral type

In 2004 in the Kimberley HR there were a total of 309 referrals, of which 104 (33.7%) were self referred, 87 (28.2%) were from the justice system and 60 (19.4%) were from a non residential unit (Table 5, page 4).

In 2004 in the Pilbara & Gascoyne HR there were a total of 354 referrals, of which 154 (43.5%) were from the justice system, 90 (25.4%) were self referred and 36 (10.2%) were from a non residential unit.

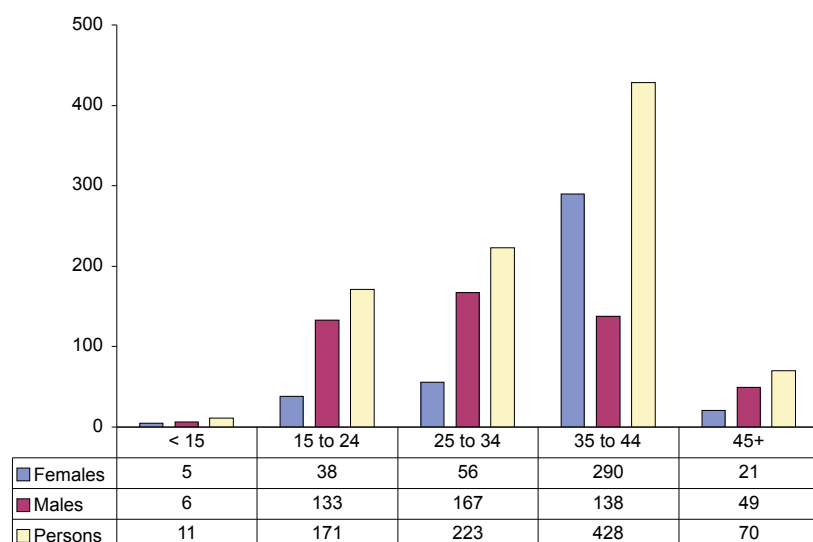
Indigenous status

Figure 2 (page 5) presents a breakdown of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal episodes in the two HRs from 1999 to 2004. (This data excludes cases where Aboriginality had not been recorded or was unknown.)

Overall, of the total of 3,729 episodes in 1999 to 2004, 2,106 (56.5%) were Aboriginal and 1,555 (41.7%) were non Aboriginal. (See Table 6, page 5.)

It can also be seen there were variations in the proportion of Aboriginal episodes, with 62.0% and 52.6% of all episodes in the Kimberley and Pilbara & Gascoyne HRs respectively.

Figure 1:
Number of episodes, all services, age group by sex
North West Health Regions, 2004



PRINCIPAL DRUG PROBLEM

Table 1:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region
1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	171	52.5	187	48.8	180	46.2	147	37.6	169	48.4	202	57.1
Amphetamines	15	4.6	31	8.1	51	13.1	42	10.7	49	14.0	57	16.1
Cannabis	49	15.0	95	24.8	103	26.4	158	40.4	79	22.6	52	14.7
Heroin	38	11.7	25	6.5	18	4.6	15	3.8	10	2.9	5	1.4
Other drugs	45	13.8	39	10.2	31	7.9	21	5.4	12	3.4	23	6.5
Non drug	8	2.5	6	1.6	7	1.8	8	2.0	30	8.6	15	4.2
Total	326	100.0	383	100.0	390	100.0	391	100.0	349	100.0	354	100.0

Table 2:
Annual episodes, all services, principal drug problem, Kimberley Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Alcohol	44	62.0	112	64.7	130	51.0	191	47.0	195	60.6	197	63.8
Amphetamines	3	4.2	10	5.8	19	7.5	24	5.9	24	7.5	17	5.5
Cannabis	9	12.7	23	13.3	58	22.7	84	20.7	64	19.9	59	19.1
Heroin	7	9.9	16	9.2	9	3.5	10	2.5	5	1.6	5	1.6
Other drugs	8	11.3	11	6.4	26	10.2	58	14.3	21	6.5	19	6.1
Non drug	-	-	1	0.6	13	5.1	39	9.6	13	4.0	12	3.9
Total	71	100.0	173	100.0	255	100.0	406	100.0	322	100.0	309	100.0

AGENCY TYPE

Table 3:
Annual episodes, all services, agency type, North West Health Regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Kimberley Health Region						
CDSTs	64	166	247	388	305	291
Next Step	-	4	4	2	3	9
NGOs	7	3	4	16	14	9
Sub total	71	173	255	406	322	309
Sobering up centres	8,769	8,721	8,686	10,513	13,467	11,387
Total	8,840	8,894	8,941	10,919	13,789	11,696
Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region						
CDSTs	309	363	361	356	321	320
Next Step	7	9	8	9	4	11
NGOs	10	11	21	26	24	23
Sub total	326	383	390	391	349	354
Sobering up centres	3,181	3,947	3,102	2,808	2,104	2,429
Total	3,507	4,330	3,492	3,199	2,453	2,783

TREATMENT TYPE

Table 4:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Kimberley Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	2	11	18	15	18
Counselling	63	150	205	314	230	240
Information & education only	4	15	24	48	49	24
Pharmacotherapy	-	2	3	2	4	7
Rehabilitation	1	1	3	5	5	6
Detoxification	3	1	4	1	14	7
Other	-	2	5	18	5	7
Total	71	173	255	406	322	309

Table 5:
Annual episodes, all services, treatment type, Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Assessment only	-	8	8	18	27	24
Counselling	301	347	331	249	223	271
Information & education only	1	10	29	94	71	28
Pharmacotherapy	3	1	3	3	4	3
Rehabilitation	8	10	12	4	12	9
Detoxification	10	6	6	15	8	11
Other	3	1	1	8	4	8
Total	326	383	390	391	349	354

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 6:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type, Kimberley Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	-	5	33	63	62	87
Diversion	-	5	8	9	13	10
Family	4	9	13	38	22	20
Self	9	97	100	152	105	104
Medical	7	21	30	32	25	18
Non residential unit	2	15	55	94	77	60
Residential unit	3	8	7	14	13	4
Other	46	13	9	4	5	6
Total	71	173	255	406	322	309

REFERRAL TYPE

Table 7:
Annual episodes, all services, referral type
Pilbara & Gascoyne Health Region, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Justice	29	133	114	176	133	154
Diversion	-	27	41	41	33	24
Family	1	21	22	17	25	13
Self	11	30	76	59	68	90
Medical	1	20	31	22	30	6
Non residential unit	5	20	32	27	30	36
Residential unit	3	12	50	26	15	12
Other	276	120	24	23	15	19
Total	326	383	390	391	349	354

INDIGENOUS STATUS

Table 8:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status, North West health regions, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Kimberley HR							
Aboriginal	38	101	144	261	215	194	953
Non Aboriginal	28	67	108	134	106	113	556
Unknown	5	5	3	11	1	2	27
Total	71	173	255	406	322	309	1,536
Pilbara & Gascoyne HR							
Aboriginal	160	205	187	223	203	175	1,153
Non Aboriginal	152	172	195	164	143	173	999
Unknown	14	6	8	4	3	6	41
Total	326	383	390	391	349	354	2,193
Total							
Aboriginal	198	306	331	484	418	369	2,106
Non Aboriginal	180	239	303	298	249	286	1,555
Unknown	19	11	11	15	4	8	68
Total	397	556	645	797	671	663	3,729

INDIGENOUS STATUS

Figure 2:
Annual episodes, all services, indigenous status
North West health regions, 1999-2004

