



Exploring drug treatment and homelessness in Australia

Key Findings

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About AIHW

- **Statutory Authority**
 - Established 1987 under *AIHW Act*
 - Strong privacy/confidentiality provisions for data
- **Develop, collect, compile data**
 - Health
 - Community Services
 - Housing
- **Numerous, diverse stakeholders**



Drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness

- **People experiencing both issues face:**
 - Persistent and challenging circumstances
 - Longer periods of homelessness
 - Service integration challenges
- **Strong Policy drivers to improve outcomes:**
 - National Partnership on Homelessness—No ‘exits’ into homelessness
 - National Drug Strategy—association between homelessness/drug use



2014–15 data

	Episodes/ support periods	Clients
AODTS	170,000	115,000
SHSC	437,000	256,000



39,529

Clients who received both services from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014

21% of
AODTS
clients

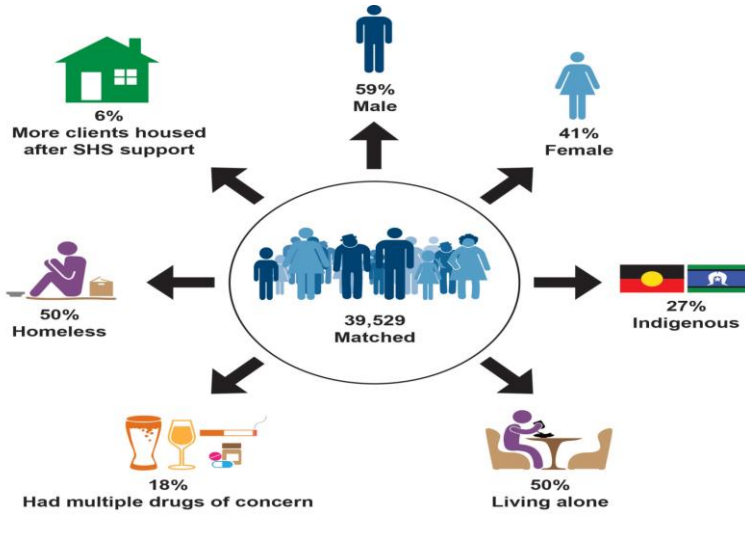


8% of
SHSC
clients



	Matched clients	AODT-only clients	SHS-only clients
Male	59%	71%	40%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	27%	22%	13%





Matched clients—AOD experiences

	Matched clients	AODT-only clients
Average number of treatment episodes	2.2	1.5
Average duration of treatment	146 days	103 days
Multiple drugs of concern	18%	7%



Matched clients—Housing experiences

	Matched clients	SHS-only clients
Average number of support periods	3.8	2.1
Average length of support	132 days	98 days
Homeless (beginning/end of support)	51%/45%	42%/35%
Living alone	50%	28%



Client Cohorts

39,529



Matched clients

Clients with a current mental health issue

Clients experiencing domestic and family violence

Young clients aged 15–24

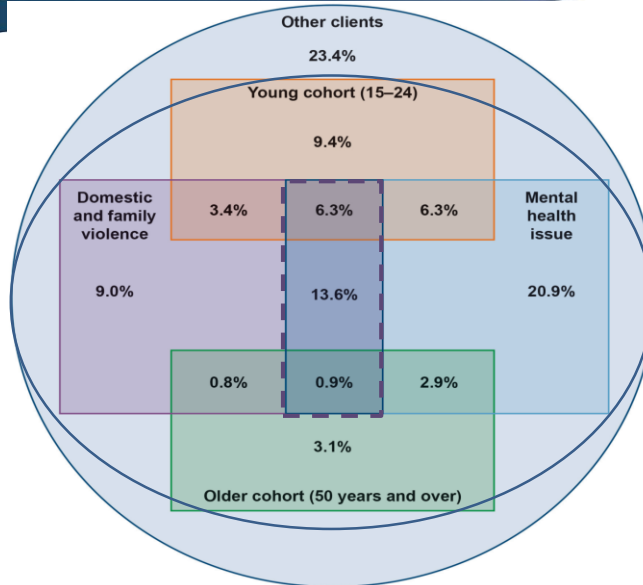
Older clients aged 50 and over

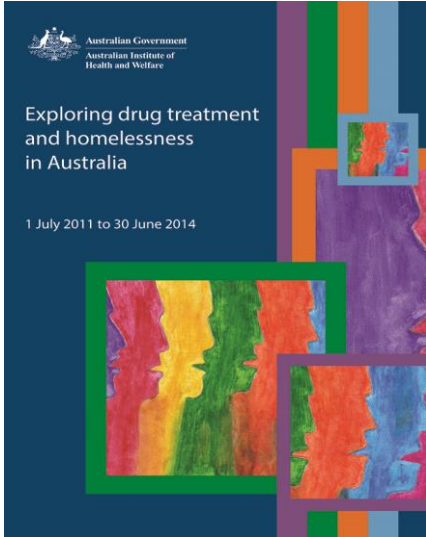


Client Cohorts

Clients with a current mental health issue	51%
Clients experiencing domestic and family violence	34% (73% Female clients)
Young clients aged 15–24	25%
Older clients aged 50 and over	8%

Note: Cohorts are not mutually exclusive.





www.aihw.gov.au

www.aihw.gov.au/homelessness

www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs

