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RESEARCH BRIEF

Monitoring Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Trends in South Africa (July 1996 – June 2021)

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In collaboration with:



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BACKGROUND & SUMMARY



The South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU) held virtual report back meetings for Phase 50 meetings due to COVID-19 lockdown regulations and PowerPoint presentations were made available to all stakeholders of SACENDU.

Established in 1996, SACENDU is a network of researchers, practitioners and policy makers from various sentinel areas in South Africa. Up until June 2006, these sites comprised of Cape Town, Durban, Gqeberha (formally known as Port Elizabeth), East London (EL), Gauteng Province and Mpumalanga Province (MP). As some sites were beginning to also include data from other towns/cities (e.g., Durban included data from Pietermaritzburg), it was decided to begin reporting data by province. From the second half of 2006, data were also collected from treatment centres in the Free State, Northern Cape and North West. For the purposes of this report, these three provinces have been combined into a regional group termed the “Central Region” (CR). Data were also collected from three centres in the Limpopo province, as well as seven centres from the Mpumalanga province. Since the dataset continues to be small and we are in the process of growing provincial coverage from these two provinces, it was decided to combine the data for analysis purposes and we now refer to these two provinces as the “Northern Region” (NR). Thus, this report now refers to the following six sites: Western Cape (WC), KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), Eastern Cape (EC), Gauteng (GT), the Northern Region (NR) and the Central Region (CR). The goal to include data from all nine of South Africa’s provinces in the SACENDU project has therefore been achieved, though there are still gaps in coverage at some sites. Membership to the SACENDU network is voluntary and recruitment of new centres and strengthening partnerships remains a key objective.

Since 2018, SACENDU has collected data from a range of organisations implementing community-based harm reduction services for people who use drugs (PWUD), including people who inject drugs (PWID). Services provided by these organisations and reported on in this Brief include data on HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis and TB prevention; testing and linkage to care; harm reduction behaviour change interventions; needle and syringe services; opioid substitution therapy (OST); monitoring of human rights violations and referral for other available substance use disorder treatment services. The data represented are from the following cities: Cape Town, Durban, Ekurhuleni, Ehlanzeni, Johannesburg, Sedibeng, Pietermaritzburg, Gqeberha, and Pretoria.

This report therefore comprises of data from **SPECIALIST SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT CENTRES** as well as data from **COMMUNITY-BASED HARM REDUCTION AND HEALTH SERVICES CENTRES**.

Members of SACENDU meet every six months to provide community-level public health surveillance of alcohol and other drug (AOD) use trends and associated consequences through the presentation and discussion of quantitative and qualitative research data. Through this initiative, SACENDU provides descriptive information on the nature and patterns of AOD treatment demand and harm reduction service uptake data that allows for the monitoring of emerging trends, risk factors associated with AOD use, characteristics of vulnerable populations, and consequences of AOD use in South Africa.

The SACENDU initiative has several specific objectives:

- To identify changes in the nature and extent of AOD use and emerging problems.
- To identify changes in overall consequences related to alcohol and other drug use.
- To inform policy, planning and advocacy efforts at local and other levels.
- To support networks of local role players in the substance use area.
- To stimulate research in new or under-researched areas that is likely to provide useful data to inform policy and/or planning decisions.
- To facilitate South Africa’s full participation in international fora focusing on the epidemiological surveillance of drug use.

Financial support for Phase 50 was provided by the Mental Health and Substance Use Directorate of the National Department of Health.

The 1st half of 2021 (i.e., 2021a) saw a noticeable increase in the number of persons admitted for AOD treatment from **9 394** in **2020b** to **10 938** in **2021a** across **85 treatment centres/programmes**. During this period, Covid-19 restrictions were eased and treatment centres could accommodate more patients.

The current period saw a marked increase in the number of persons seeking treatment for **Alcohol** in the WC, EC and the CR. Between 9% (GT) and 33% (KZN) of persons



accessing AOD treatment services reported alcohol as their primary substance of use. Across sites, between 34% (WC) and 52% (NR) of persons attending specialist treatment centres had **Cannabis** as their primary or secondary drug of use, compared to between 1% (NR) and 27% (WC) for the **Cannabis/Mandrax (Methaqualone)** combination (also known as 'white-pipe'). In 2021a, the proportion of treatment admissions for cannabis as a primary drug decreased in KZN and the CR while it increased slightly in the WC and NR. In all sites, cannabis was reported as the predominant primary substance of use by persons younger than 20 years. Alcohol use in KZN were common reasons for admission to treatment centres for persons younger than 20 years. In the WC, **Methamphetamine (MA aka 'Tik')** was reported as the second substance of use by persons younger than 20 years, following cannabis as a primary substance of use. Treatment admissions for **Cocaine** have shown a consistent decrease over the past few reporting periods and have generally remained low across sites. Cocaine is often reported as a secondary substance of use. Between 5% (WC) and 26% (KZN) of persons in treatment have cocaine as a primary or secondary drug of use. Relatively few persons younger than 20 years are admitted for cocaine-related problems.

When compared to the previous period, treatment admissions for **Heroin** as a primary drug of use decreased across all sites, except in the EC and KZN. A slight decrease in persons reporting heroin as a primary substance of use was noticed in the NR (from 40% to 37%). Mostly, heroin is smoked, but across sites, 10% (KZN), 6% (NR), 16% (WC) and 30% (GT) of persons who reported heroin as their primary substance of use reported injecting heroin. Compared to the previous period, the proportion of patients reporting injecting of heroin has slightly decreased in the WC (from 19% to 16%); but marginally increased in GT (from 27% to 30%), with no reported differences in other regions. Overall, between 2% (EC) and 46% (NR) of persons attending specialist treatment centres reported heroin as a primary or secondary substance of use.

Treatment admissions for **MA** as a primary substance of use was low except in the EC (36%) and the WC (35%). MA remains the most common primary drug reported by persons in the WC, however, this proportion decreased compared to the previous reporting period. Among persons under 20 years in the WC, the proportion reporting MA as a primary or secondary substance of use was 31%, remaining fairly stable. Across all sites, the highest rates for MA as primary or secondary drug of use were reported in the EC (50%) and the WC (49%) (WC). Treatment admissions for Ecstasy (<1%) as a primary or secondary drug of use and **LSD** (<1%) remained low. Patients may not be seeking treatment for Ecstasy use, which explains low admission rates although anecdotal reports suggest extensive recreational use.

Methcathinone (CAT) is an amphetamine-type stimulant and has effects similar to that of MA. CAT admissions as primary and secondary substance of use were noted in most sites, especially in the CR (13%) and GT (12%).

The sites accounting for the highest rates of poly-substance use (i.e., more than one substance of use indicated) were GT (53%) followed by WC (26%). Treatment admissions for OTC/PRE medicines as a primary and secondary drug of use were between 1% (NR) and 7% (KZN). During this reporting period, 285 (3%) persons across all sites reported the non-medical use of codeine, with most patients admitted to treatment centres residing in GT (n= 150), KZN (n = 73) and WC (n = 30).

Inhalant/solvent use remained relatively low, ranging between <1% (WC) and 2% (NR) during the current period. While reported rates were generally low, inhalant use is common among the homeless and children who live on the streets. Additional community-based or regional studies are needed to explore the extent of inhalant use for youth, barriers to accessing specialist treatment services and other services available to support and help this vulnerable population.

SECTION 1: DATA FROM SPECIALIST SUD TREATMENT CENTRES

SITE SUMMARIES – PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE BY PROVINCE

In the **Western Cape (WC)** the most common primary substances of use reported by 36 specialist treatment centres/programmes participating in the project between January – June 2021 were MA (35%), cannabis (24%), alcohol (18%), and heroin (11%), together comprising 88% of all admissions (Table 1). The proportion of persons presenting with MA as their primary substance of use decreased to 35% (40% in the previous period) and to 11% for heroin (14% in the previous reporting period). Overall, 2 433 persons were treated across all 36 treatment centres in the first half of 2021.

In **KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)** the main primary substance of use in this period was alcohol (33%) (Table 1). Heroin admissions (which also include nyaope/whoonga admissions) increased to 23% when compared to the previous period (20%). Twenty-three percent of persons reported cannabis as their primary substance, a 3% decrease from the previous reporting period. A total of 723 persons were treated across the 9 treatment centres who submitted data in the first half of 2021.

In the **Eastern Cape (EC)** the main primary substances of use reported by the treatment centres between January – June 2021 were MA (36%), alcohol (27%), cannabis (22%), dagga/mandrax (5%), collectively comprising 90% of all admissions (Table 1). There was an increase in the proportion of alcohol admissions, 21% to 26%. The proportion of persons reporting MA as their primary substance of use remained at 36% during this period. Admissions for OTC/PRE medication as a primary substance of use also remained stable at 3%. Three hundred and eighty-six persons were treated at four treatment centres that collected data in the EC province, a decrease compared to the previous period (n=448). The number of treatment facilities in the EC have decreased since 2018 which holds negative implications for persons requiring specialist care for substance-related disorders.

In **Gauteng (GT)**, which includes the metropolitan areas of Johannesburg and Pretoria, 6 226 admissions to 34 treatment centres were recorded in the first half of 2021. For 29% of persons, the most common primary substance of use was heroin. Apart from heroin (29%), the other primary substances of use were cannabis (27%), methamphetamine (17%), alcohol (9%), and CAT (8%) (Table 1). The proportion of admissions reporting heroin use decreased when compared to the 2nd half of

2020, with an increase in methamphetamine admissions. The rates for CAT as a primary drug of use was stable across the previous and current periods at 8%, while also remaining higher than in other provinces.

In the **Northern Region (NR)**, which now includes data from eight centres in Mpumalanga and three in Limpopo (SANCA Limpopo, Seshego centre and Jahara centre), the main primary substance of use reported by the treatment centres was heroin and cannabis (37% respectively), followed by alcohol (14%) and methamphetamine (6%) (collectively comprising 94% of treatment admissions (Table 1) The proportion of persons admitted for heroin as a primary substance of use decreased to 37% when compared to 40% in 2nd half of 2020.

In the **Central Region (CR)** (comprising the Free State, Northern Cape and North West), alcohol was the most common primary substance of use, accounting for 30% of all admissions. Among the 212 persons treated at four treatment centres during this period, methamphetamine was the second most common primary substance of use (26%), followed by cannabis (24%). The proportion of persons reporting CAT decreased to 2% (from 4%) when compared to the previous period and the proportion of admissions for heroin (which also include nyaope/whoonga admissions) decreased in this period. The CR remains poorly resourced with regards to the availability of specialist treatment centres.



TABLE 1: PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE: BY SITE AND SIX-MONTH PERIOD (%)

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| WC ¹ | 2002a | 48 | 14 | 21 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 1608 |
| | 2002b | 47 | 18 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0.8 | 1 | 1549 |
| | 2003a | 43.6 | 15.2 | 20.4 | 7.9 | 6.5 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 1724 |
| | 2003b | 39.4 | 15.4 | 23.6 | 8.4 | 7.1 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1659 |
| | 2004a | 38.3 | 12.0 | 16.9 | 9.7 | 8.8 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 10.7 | 0.1 | 2255 |
| | 2004b | 33.7 | 11.0 | 15.5 | 9.1 | 8.2 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 19.3 | 0.7 | 2308 |
| | 2005a | 34.4 | 9.7 | 9.1 | 8.3 | 10.0 | 0.4 | 1.6 | 26.1 | 0.4 | 2469 |
| | 2005b | 25.1 | 11.2 | 5.5 | 7.6 | 13.8 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 34.7 | 0.8 | 2131 |
| | 2006a | 30.2 | 7.7 | 3.3 | 6.0 | 13.5 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 37.2 | 0.7 | 2660 |
| | 2006b | 26.4 | 10.5 | 2.9 | 4.8 | 10.2 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 42.3 | 0.8 | 2798 |
| | 2007a | 29.5 | 10.4 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 10.6 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 40.7 | 0.9 | 2862 |
| | 2007b | 29.7 | 12.6 | 3.0 | 4.2 | 12.8 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 36.1 | 0.5 | 3058 |
| | 2008a | 30.0 | 11.2 | 2.5 | 5.0 | 13.2 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 35.8 | 0.0 | 2637 |
| | 2008b | 27.6 | 13.6 | 2.7 | 5.6 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 35.1 | 1.2 | 2807 |
| | 2009a | 26.8 | 13.9 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 10.9 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 40.6 | 0.0 | 3667 |
| | 2009b | 29.4 | 16.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 12.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 35.5 | 0.0 | 2642 |
| | 2010a | 29.8 | 15.6 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 33.6 | 0.0 | 3134 |
| | 2010b | 27.5 | 18.2 | 3.2 | 1.9 | 11.6 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 35.1 | 1.2 | 2933 |
| | 2011a | 27.5 | 18.3 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 13.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 35.3 | 0.8 | 2927 |
| | 2011b | 23.7 | 14.5 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 17.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 38.8 | 0.9 | 2733 |
| | 2012a | 23.6 | 20.4 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 15.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 33.7 | 0.3 | 3912 |
| | 2012b | 22.2 | 22.4 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 15.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 33.3 | 1.2 | 3178 |
| | 2013a | 20.2 | 20.5 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 16.8 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 27.8 | 8.2 | 3717 |
| | 2013b | 21.2 | 25.0 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 13.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 33.4 | 1.9 | 3478 |
| | 2014a | 19.9 | 21.7 | 4.3 | 1.2 | 18.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 32.7 | 1.1 | 3510 |
| | 2014b | 22.0 | 23.4 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 12.7 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 34.9 | 0.3 | 3444 |
| | 2015a | 21.3 | 22.1 | 4.4 | 1.3 | 14.2 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 35.4 | 0.8 | 3524 |
| | 2015b | 19.9 | 24.9 | 5.3 | 1.2 | 10.7 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 36.7 | 0.8 | 2674 |
| | 2016a | 22.0 | 28.2 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 10.8 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 31.7 | 0.6 | 2977 |
| | 2016b | 20.6 | 28.7 | 6.1 | 1.3 | 12.8 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 28.9 | 0.7 | 2808 |
| | 2017a | 26.4 | 28.7 | 5.4 | 1.2 | 10.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 26.8 | 0.7 | 2902 |
| | 2017b | 23.6 | 22.0 | 6.7 | 2.2 | 13.7 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 30.2 | 0.8 | 2541 |
| 2018a | 24.0 | 25.9 | 6.4 | 2.2 | 12.5 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 26.8 | 0.7 | 3182 | |
| 2018b | 19.8 | 30.5 | 6.4 | 2.3 | 11.4 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 27.6 | 0.3 | 2719 | |
| 2019a | 17.8 | 26.0 | 6.4 | 1.9 | 16.4 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 29.4 | 1.2 | 3013 | |
| 2019b | 19.2 | 25.4 | 6.4 | 2.7 | 14.2 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 29.9 | 1.0 | 2654 | |
| 2020a | 10.9 | 14.9 | 8.2 | 1.6 | 18.2 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 43.8 | 3.5 | 1323 | |
| 2020b | 16.8 | 16.7 | 7.2 | 3.3 | 14.1 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 40.1 | 0.6 | 1890 | |
| 2021a | | 18.2 | 23.6 | 7.5 | 2.5 | 11.3 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 34.7 | 0.3 | 2433 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| KZN ² | 2001a | 59 | 21 | 1 | 10 | <1 | 3 | 3 | 0.0 | 4 | 585 |
| | 2001b | 58 | 26 | 7 | 8 | <1 | 1 | <1 | 0.0 | <1 | 774 |
| | 2002a | 65 | 22 | 2 | 7 | <1 | 2 | 2 | 0.0 | <1 | 718 |
| | 2002b | 60 | 26 | 4 | 5 | <1 | 1 | 2 | 0.0 | <1 | 910 |
| | 2003a | 64.3 | 23.2 | 2.1 | 5.1 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 574 |
| | 2003b | 65.3 | 23.6 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 376 |
| | 2004a | 59.6 | 22.8 | 10.2 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 413 |
| | 2004b | 52.0 | 24.8 | 13.5 | 6.8 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 689 |
| | 2005a | 48.1 | 32.4 | 6.2 | 8.9 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 945 |
| | 2005b | 57.6 | 27.5 | 2.8 | 6.6 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 846 |
| | 2006a | 60.4 | 22.5 | 1.0 | 6.8 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 5.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 485 |
| | 2006b | 54.0 | 18.5 | 0.9 | 10.5 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 3.4 | 921 |
| | 2007a | 49.8 | 20.5 | 1.2 | 9.0 | 15.9 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 1232 |
| | 2007b | 38.8 | 17.4 | 0.4 | 8.6 | 31.6 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 943 |
| | 2008a | 49.5 | 19.8 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 22.6 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 1531 |
| | 2008b | 47.6 | 16.4 | 0.9 | 6.2 | 24.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 1537 |
| | 2009a | 41.1 | 20.3 | 0.5 | 6.9 | 29.5 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1575 |
| | 2009b | 46.7 | 28.4 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 17.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 1138 |
| | 2010a | 55.4 | 32.8 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 4.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1009 |
| | 2010b | 55.3 | 25.6 | 2.1 | 5.8 | 8.5 | 0.4 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 669 |
| | 2011a | 62.9 | 17.1 | 1.3 | 6.7 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 720 |
| | 2011b | 67.0 | 16.2 | 2.5 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 610 |
| | 2012a | 64.9 | 18.8 | 1.2 | 6.3 | 4.4 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 569 |
| | 2012b | 51.0 | 24.6 | 1.4 | 4.1 | 6.2 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 11.7 | 813 |
| | 2013a | 51.1 | 31.5 | 0.6 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 934 |
| | 2013b | 52.0 | 30.2 | 2.5 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 610 |
| | 2014a | 42.4 | 36.0 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 10.1 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 484 |
| | 2014b | 35.5 | 40.0 | 4.8 | 5.9 | 7.6 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 4.3 | 929 |
| | 2015a | 38.2 | 38.9 | 6.2 | 3.5 | 4.7 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 6.5 | 1122 |
| | 2015b | 37.2 | 33.8 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 9.3 | 1171 |
| 2016a | 29.4 | 39.3 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 14.6 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 6.1 | 1247 | |
| 2016b | 36.8 | 34.3 | 1.3 | 4.3 | 10.3 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 10.7 | 1177 | |
| 2017a | 33.6 | 32.1 | 3.3 | 6.2 | 9.9 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 12.4 | 1370 | |
| 2017b | 36.9 | 28.8 | 2.5 | 5.9 | 9.9 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 12.6 | 1400 | |
| 2018a | 28.9 | 28.5 | 2.6 | 6.7 | 27.7 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 20.5 | 1256 | |
| 2018b | 29.2 | 29.0 | 2.4 | 7.7 | 26.2 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 19.0 | 993 | |
| 2019a | 12.7 | 39.6 | 2.1 | 3.7 | 30.1 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 1291 | |
| 2019b | 14.4 | 34.5 | 2.2 | 5.4 | 26.5 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 9.3 | 4.4 | 980 | |
| 2020a | 14.3 | 34.9 | 2.1 | 6.0 | 25.5 | 0.5 | 3.0 | 8.5 | 5.1 | 565 | |
| 2020b | 33.8 | 26.2 | 1.7 | 13.5 | 19.6 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 726 | |
| 2021a | | 32.8 | 23.1 | 1.7 | 13.3 | 22.9 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 723 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| EC ³ | 2002a | 45.0 | 19.0 | 29.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | <1 | 431 |
| | 2002b | 55.0 | 13.0 | 25.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 369 |
| | 2003a | 46.1 | 16.4 | 29.7 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 4.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 499 |
| | 2003b | 51.4 | 11.8 | 26.1 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 5.3 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 449 |
| | 2004a | 47.5 | 14.7 | 23.8 | 5.3 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 653 |
| | 2004b | 45.5 | 12.7 | 25.4 | 8.9 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 599 |
| | 2005a | 46.8 | 12.3 | 20.3 | 11.9 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 4.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 671 |
| | 2005b | 48.8 | 12.9 | 9.4 | 14.6 | 6.6 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 693 |
| | 2006a | 40.7 | 14.4 | 7.9 | 21.4 | 8.1 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 1215 |
| | 2007a | 51.8 | 18.3 | 8.6 | 14.2 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 759 |
| | 2007b | 39.0 | 15.6 | 9.2 | 22.9 | 5.4 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 4.3 | 0.3 | 608 |
| | 2008a | 44.3 | 15.8 | 3.6 | 20.1 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 0.5 | 551 |
| | 2008b | 44.0 | 16.8 | 9.3 | 12.4 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 1.5 | 612 |
| | 2009a | 52.0 | 17.7 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 7.0 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 1206 |
| | 2009b | 49.7 | 15.9 | 5.6 | 7.4 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 9.3 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 648 |
| | 2010a | 44.1 | 19.2 | 7.8 | 6.4 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 12.3 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 877 |
| | 2010b | 44.1 | 18.0 | 5.7 | 7.1 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 9.9 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 707 |
| | 2011a | 48.5 | 15.6 | 3.6 | 5.8 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 11.3 | 12.0 | 0.0 | 723 |
| | 2011b | 40.4 | 16.1 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 11.5 | 18.4 | 1.7 | 721 |
| | 2012a | 41.6 | 15.8 | 4.4 | 5.8 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 12.1 | 18.4 | 0.5 | 793 |
| | 2012b | 37.7 | 24.4 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 15.8 | 3.5 | 316 |
| | 2013a | 36.6 | 11.9 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 18.9 | 19.4 | 0.9 | 587 |
| | 2013b | 39.5 | 12.9 | 6.6 | 4.7 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 16.5 | 16.9 | 0.6 | 527 |
| | 2014a | 32.6 | 19.9 | 3.4 | 6.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 17.5 | 17.9 | 1.1 | 613 |
| | 2014b | 35.4 | 21.6 | 7.4 | 5.3 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 11.0 | 16.3 | 1.8 | 663 |
| | 2015a | 28.7 | 27.0 | 12.1 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 0.6 | 4.1 | 15.2 | 3.0 | 363 |
| | 2015b | 24.0 | 31.2 | 10.4 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 25.3 | 1.9 | 471 |
| | 2016a | 30.1 | 22.4 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 7.2 | 22.9 | 3.4 | 638 |
| | 2016b | 38.5 | 23.8 | 8.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 | 15.5 | 3.9 | 537 |
| | 2017a | 45.2 | 17.6 | 6.8 | 5.5 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 16.2 | 1.9 | 425 |
| | 2017b | 34.0 | 23.5 | 9.7 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 3.3 | 20.0 | 3.1 | 515 |
| | 2018a | 35.0 | 20.9 | 6.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 4.6 | 24.3 | 3.1 | 517 |
| 2018b | 33.8 | 21.8 | 6.0 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 0.2 | 4.2 | 25.8 | 3.6 | 450 | |
| 2019a | 26.3 | 22.9 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 18.3 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 20.8 | 1.3 | 475 | |
| 2019b | 37.5 | 22.3 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 26.2 | 1.5 | 336 | |
| 2020a | 21.4 | 29.8 | 1.4 | 3.3 | 13.5 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 16.7 | 5.1 | 215 | |
| 2020b | 21.4 | 26.3 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 37.3 | 1.3 | 448 | |
| 2021a | 26.7 | 22.0 | 5.2 | 4.1 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 36.3 | 0.6 | 386 | |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| GT | 2001a | 54 | 21 | 6 | 7 | 6 | <1 | 4 | 0.0 | 2 | 2838 |
| | 2001b | 52 | 24 | 5 | 6 | 7 | <1 | 4 | 0.0 | 2 | 2676 |
| | 2002a | 54 | 22 | 5 | 6 | 7 | <1 | 4 | 0.0 | 2 | 2945 |
| | 2002b | 54 | 23 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0.0 | 2 | 2587 |
| | 2003a | 52.2 | 19.5 | 8.5 | 5.9 | 7.5 | 0.8 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 2617 |
| | 2003b | 49.3 | 21.3 | 10.4 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 2.4 | 2711 |
| | 2004a | 50.4 | 19.0 | 8.1 | 9.1 | 7.0 | 0.8 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 2813 |
| | 2004b | 51.0 | 18.8 | 7.7 | 9.9 | 5.8 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2654 |
| | 2005a | 46.6 | 21.6 | 7.2 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 3030 |
| | 2005b | 51.8 | 21.0 | 2.8 | 10.1 | 7.7 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 2848 |
| | 2006a | 47.5 | 20.5 | 3.0 | 11.1 | 7.8 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.3 | 3.2 | 3119 |
| | 2006b | 47.2 | 21.5 | 1.4 | 10.7 | 9.7 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 5.9 | 3295 |
| | 2007a | 45.9 | 20.8 | 1.4 | 13.0 | 10.6 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 3251 |
| | 2007b | 47.0 | 19.3 | 1.6 | 14.2 | 9.6 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 4.1 | 3053 |
| | 2008a | 47.0 | 22.4 | 1.7 | 13.3 | 8.1 | 0.2 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 2768 |
| | 2008b | 48.4 | 22.4 | 2.0 | 8.8 | 6.4 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 7.9 | 3158 |
| | 2009a | 45.0 | 28.2 | 2.2 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2822 |
| | 2009b | 47.0 | 27.5 | 1.7 | 4.9 | 11.9 | 0.2 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 2646 |
| | 2010a | 44.4 | 27.0 | 2.5 | 6.1 | 12.1 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 2684 |
| | 2010b | 41.3 | 28.4 | 1.6 | 6.3 | 12.4 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 5.7 | 2884 |
| | 2011a | 37.8 | 24.9 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 16.0 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 1.7 | 6.8 | 2972 |
| | 2011b | 35.9 | 27.6 | 1.7 | 6.2 | 12.7 | 0.6 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 10.4 | 2786 |
| | 2012a | 34.3 | 28.5 | 0.7 | 6.0 | 14.9 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 10.8 | 3198 |
| | 2012b | 27.8 | 25.9 | 0.7 | 4.3 | 9.6 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 23.5 | 3552 |
| | 2013a | 26.9 | 39.7 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 11.8 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 13.4 | 4026 |
| | 2013b | 24.6 | 36.7 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 12.9 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 16.2 | 3128 |
| | 2014a | 18.8 | 41.6 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 11.5 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 3.9 | 9.8 | 3478 |
| | 2014b | 19.9 | 35.5 | 1.6 | 4.0 | 13.5 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 3.3 | 20.7 | 3372 |
| | 2015a | 20.1 | 38.0 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 13.3 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 4.8 | 17.8 | 4285 |
| | 2015a | 20.0 | 37.7 | 2.7 | 3.8 | 12.3 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 6.1 | 3570 |
| | 2016a | 17.9 | 37.7 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 11.8 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 5.1 | 16.8 | 3989 |
| | 2016b | 21.8 | 35.7 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 13.0 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 6.3 | 17.5 | 2948 |
| 2017a | 17.3 | 45.7 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 13.1 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 12.8 | 3870 | |
| 2017b | 17.3 | 41.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 14.0 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 6.3 | 14.8 | 3414 | |
| 2018a | 15.5 | 32.5 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 30.5 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 5.9 | 18.6 | 2734 | |
| 2018b | 13.9 | 36.4 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 27.3 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 8.0 | 18.0 | 2937 | |
| 2019a | 18.1 | 32.4 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 25.9 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 8.9 | 5.9 | 3148 | |
| 2019b | 11.6 | 29.7 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 36.3 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 11.2 | 4.4 | 4226 | |
| 2020a | 11.4 | 33.7 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 32.5 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 9.9 | 7.0 | 3279 | |
| 2020b | 8.2 | 26.5 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 33.8 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 14.9 | 8.9 | 5059 | |
| 2021b | 9.4 | 27.3 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 29.4 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 17.3 | 8.9 | 6226 | |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| NR ⁴ | 2001b | 69 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0.0 | 3 | 389 |
| | 2002a | 71 | 16 | <1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0.0 | 3 | 419 |
| | 2002b | 68 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0.0 | 1 | 425 |
| | 2003a | 69.1 | 17.7 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 475 |
| | 2003b | 61.1 | 20.2 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 7.2 | 1.9 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 529 |
| | 2004a | 63.8 | 18.9 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 8.1 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 546 |
| | 2004b | 60.8 | 23.6 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 8.0 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 462 |
| | 2005a | 55.6 | 22.1 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 13.3 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 525 |
| | 2005b | 54.3 | 23.3 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 10.3 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 562 |
| | 2006a | 54.5 | 24.6 | 0.0 | 6.8 | 10.2 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 501 |
| | 2006b | 47.3 | 34.1 | 0.4 | 4.6 | 9.6 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 539 |
| | 2007a | 43.7 | 36.5 | 0.8 | 4.5 | 11.5 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 600 |
| | 2007b | 43.3 | 38.4 | 0.0 | 7.8 | 6.8 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 602 |
| | 2008a | 34.6 | 50.2 | 0.6 | 4.8 | 7.5 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 667 |
| | 2008b | 34.3 | 44.9 | 0.3 | 5.2 | 8.6 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 4.1 | 729 |
| | 2009a | 37.8 | 45.2 | 0.6 | 4.2 | 8.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 809 |
| | 2009b | 37.6 | 43.9 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 11.2 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 652 |
| | 2010a | 35.7 | 37.0 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 20.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 762 |
| | 2010b | 31.4 | 40.7 | 0.4 | 4.0 | 20.2 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 669 |
| | 2011a | 30.4 | 36.1 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 28.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 693 |
| | 2011b | 26.5 | 36.4 | 0.4 | 4.1 | 22.2 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 6.4 | 892 |
| | 2012a | 31.6 | 38.5 | 0.5 | 3.5 | 16.2 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 6.7 | 655 |
| | 2012b | 24.1 | 32.8 | 0.6 | 3.9 | 21.8 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 15.2 | 818 |
| | 2013a | 22.3 | 37.9 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 28.6 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 4.1 | 941 |
| | 2013b | 22.8 | 45.6 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 22.8 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 4.8 | 959 |
| | 2014a | 15.9 | 50.4 | 1.2 | 2.8 | 22.9 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 1004 |
| | 2014b | 18.2 | 41.7 | 0.4 | 1.8 | 26.3 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 10.4 | 1134 |
| | 2015a | 16.7 | 37.1 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 30.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 12.2 | 1076 |
| | 2015b | 16.1 | 37.1 | 4.2 | 1.8 | 28.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 10.7 | 1247 |
| | 2016a | 17.0 | 39.0 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 25.8 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 10.6 | 1026 |
| | 2016b | 18.0 | 34.1 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 36.4 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 7.3 | 929 |
| | 2017a | 14.6 | 45.5 | 0.9 | 5.3 | 28.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 4.2 | 1122 |
| 2017b | 15.7 | 41.9 | 0.3 | 3.9 | 27.3 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 8.7 | 1269 | |
| 2018a | 14.5 | 39.2 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 30.8 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 9.3 | 16.5 | 1372 | |
| 2018b | 17.3 | 38.3 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 33.7 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 2.1 | 16.2 | 1171 | |
| 2019a | 16.7 | 36.3 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 23.5 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 9.1 | 5.4 | 1025 | |
| 2019b | 15.3 | 40.2 | 0.3 | 3.3 | 32.8 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 3.7 | 1.3 | 1423 | |
| 2020a | 15.1 | 31.1 | 2.5 | 4.7 | 28.3 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 9.1 | 7.3 | 768 | |
| 2020b | 14.7 | 32.8 | 0.4 | 2.6 | 40.1 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 5.4 | 2.9 | 1024 | |
| 2021a | 13.6 | 36.8 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 37.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 5.6 | 2.5 | 958 | |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | OTC/ PRE | Metham- phetamine | Other | Total (N) |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| CR ⁵ | 2007a | 62.1 | 18.8 | 0.4 | 6.5 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 4.6 | 708 |
| | 2007b | 65.3 | 21.2 | 0.6 | 6.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 657 |
| | 2008a | 65.1 | 21.7 | 1.1 | 5.7 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 636 |
| | 2008b | 67.0 | 11.9 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 9.7 | 636 |
| | 2009a | 70.0 | 14.6 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 3.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 577 |
| | 2009b | 68.6 | 20.0 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 491 |
| | 2010a | 64.6 | 20.2 | 1.9 | 5.8 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 642 |
| | 2010b | 66.2 | 19.3 | 1.3 | 4.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 3.5 | 545 |
| | 2011a | 70.4 | 14.3 | 1.5 | 4.8 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 3.7 | 538 |
| | 2011b | 58.7 | 20.9 | 2.0 | 5.8 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 5.3 | 549 |
| | 2012a | 55.4 | 25.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 3.4 | 8.2 | 932 |
| | 2012b | 54.5 | 19.8 | 1.6 | 5.7 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 12.7 | 495 |
| | 2013a | 50.8 | 25.8 | 2.1 | 5.5 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 7.8 | 472 |
| | 2013b | 46.9 | 32.6 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 4.1 | 414 |
| | 2014a | 42.6 | 33.0 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 530 |
| | 2014b | 39.2 | 30.7 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 5.5 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 4.1 | 12.4 | 655 |
| | 2015a | 42.2 | 30.2 | 4.1 | 2.5 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 5.1 | 8.8 | 566 |
| | 2015b | 42.1 | 24.4 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 7.7 | 9.3 | 546 |
| | 2016a | 49.8 | 27.8 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 4.4 | 8.7 | 663 |
| | 2016b | 47.2 | 26.8 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 10.8 | 388 |
| | 2017a | 43.3 | 29.2 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 4.8 | 7.3 | 356 |
| | 2017b | 45.4 | 30.6 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 350 |
| | 2018a | 34.7 | 37.4 | 7.2 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 4.6 | 24.4 | 4.8 | 334 |
| | 2018b | 38.4 | 24.1 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 11.1 | 7.9 | 216 |
| | 2019a | 17.4 | 38.9 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 26.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 7.3 | 3.5 | 316 |
| | 2019b | 38.6 | 35.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 4.8 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 11.6 | 1.6 | 189 |
| 2020a | 16.8 | 31.1 | 2.9 | 5.4 | 25.7 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 8.9 | 7.8 | 167 | |
| 2020b | 24.7 | 28.7 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 12.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 15.8 | 4.9 | 247 | |
| | 2021a | 29.7 | 23.6 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 26.4 | 3.3 | 212 |

¹ Cape Town, Atlantis, Worcester; ² Durban, South Coast, Pietermaritzburg; ³ Port Elizabeth and East London; ⁴ Mpumalanga & Limpopo; ⁵ Free State, North West, Northern Cape

SITE SUMMARIES: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

First time admissions: The proportion of first-time admissions to treatment centres ranged between 73% (WC) and 92% (NR) across sites. In this period, first-time admissions make up more than 80% of all admissions, indicating an increasing demand for services by persons who have not been in treatment before. Across all sites, heroin (31%), MA (27%), dagga (16%), alcohol (12%), and OTC/PRE (1%) were the substances that had the highest proportions of readmissions. For example, in GT 38% and 25% in WC) of re-admitted persons were treated for heroin dependence. Finally, 42% of persons in

the WC and 20% in GT were readmitted for treatment of methamphetamine dependence in the first half of 2021.

Referrals: Across most sites, the most common source of referral to specialist treatment centres was 'self/family/friends.' This was followed by 'work/employer' in CR, NR and KZN; and 'social services/welfare' across all other sites. A decrease in referrals by 'self/family/friends' in the CR was noticed during this reporting period. There was a decrease in referrals by 'schools' across all sites, possibly due to closure of schools to observe Covid-19 restrictions during this reporting period. (Table 2).

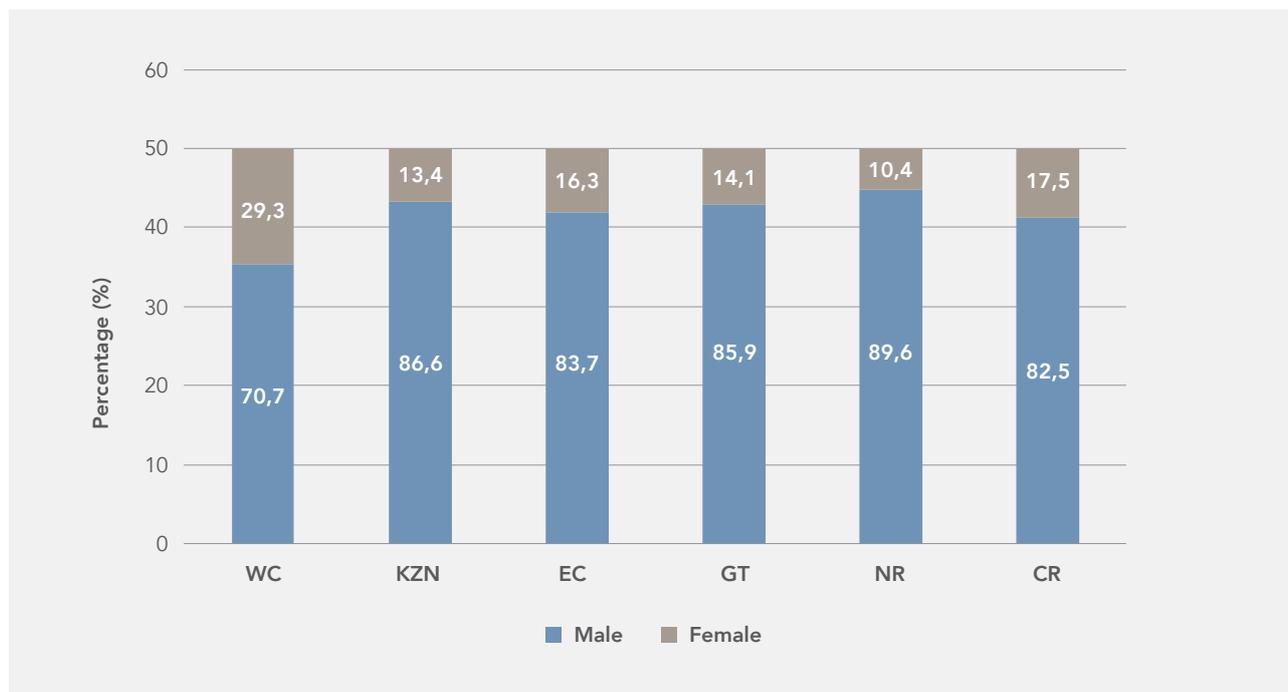
TABLE 2: REFERRAL SOURCES (JANUARY-JUNE 2021) (COLUMN % ADD UP TO 100)

| Source | WC | KZN | EC | CR | GT | NR |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Self/family/friends | 50% | 61% | 72% | 58% | 68% | 71% |
| Work/employer | 7% | 11% | 7% | 17% | 2% | 14% |
| Social services/welfare | 19% | 9% | 9% | 12% | 18% | 4% |
| Health professionals (Doctor/psychiatrist/nurse) | 4% | 6% | 6% | 9% | 2% | 1% |
| Hospital/clinic | 5% | 4% | 2% | <1% | 1% | 1% |
| Court/correctional services | 2% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| Schools | 9% | 4% | 3% | - | 6% | 7% |
| Church/religious body | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | <1% |
| Other e.g. radio | 3% | 2% | - | <1% | <1% | <1% |

Gender: Across all sites between 71% (WC) and 90% (NR) of persons identified themselves as male, however gender differences were noted for various primary substances of use (see Figure 1). This trend remained stable across all sites. Compared to other sites, the WC had a greater proportion of female patients (29%) accessing treatment, a trend which has been sustained across previous reporting

periods. This may be an indication that the gender gap in substance use and treatment is closing in this region. In addition, a relatively higher proportion of persons reporting the use of MA (37%) and alcohol (20%) were female when compared to the other substances in this region.

FIGURE 1: GENDER BY PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE (%)



Employment status and education: Between 10% (GT) and 36% (KZN) of persons were in full-time employment across sites. The proportion of persons who were pupils/learners at school ranged from 13% in KZN to 26% in the EC. Over 86% of persons across all sites have some secondary school education (Grades 8-12). The sites accounting for the highest tertiary education levels were EC (19%) and KZN (17%). The highest proportion of persons younger than 20 years were students and learners at school (62%).

Mode of use: Smoking remained the most common mode of use for substances (71%) compared to other modes of use. Rates for injection drug use remained low across sites, however, GT demonstrated the highest drug injection rates (3%) compared to the other regions. Overall, 41% of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use reported injecting as a route of administration; and a higher proportion of these persons were found in GT (9%).

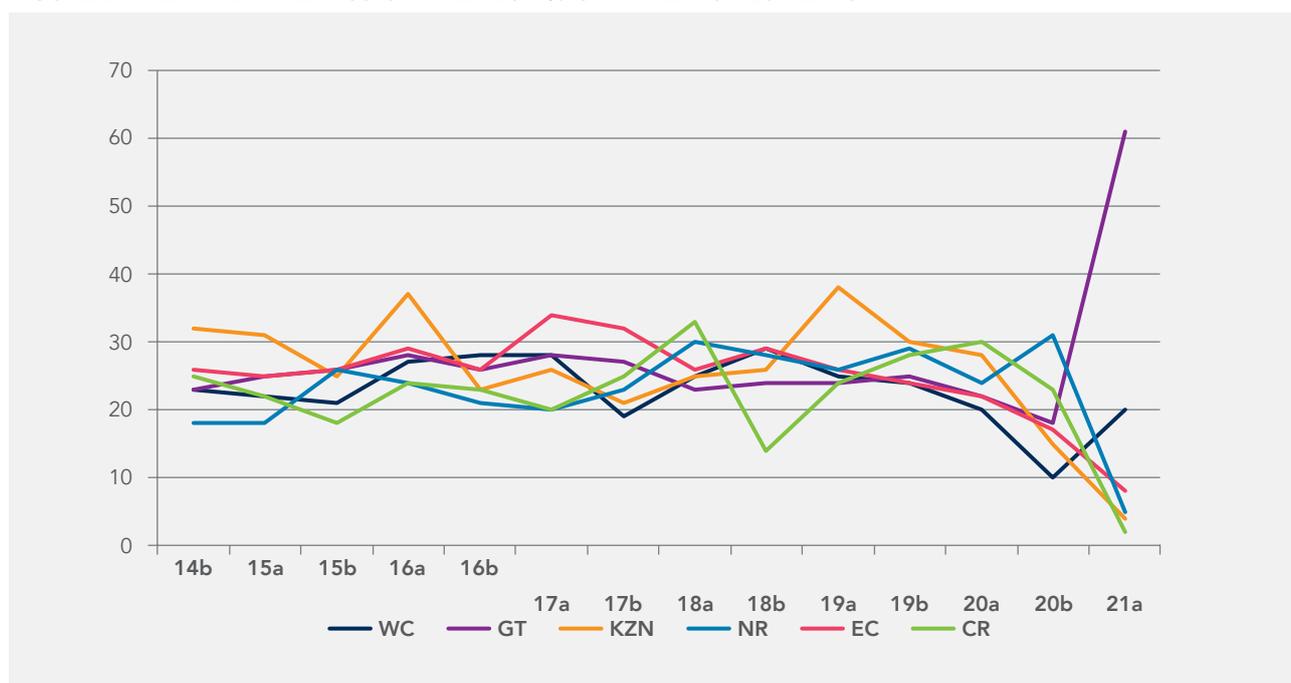
Age of persons: Across sites, the mean age of persons seen by treatment centres was between 28-32 years, which has remained stable from the previous reporting periods (Table 3). However, major age differences were noted for certain substance categories. Nationally, individuals whose primary substance of use was alcohol were among the oldest (38 years), followed by OTC/PRE (33 years), and crack/cocaine (32 years). Conversely, younger individuals reported inhalants (18 years) and cannabis (24 years) as their primary substances of use. Compared to the previous period, a substantial increase was noted for the proportion of persons younger than 20 years admitted to treatment in GT (61%). Though less marked than the increase in the GT region, admission rates for individuals <20 years were also noted for the WC (20%) (Figure 2).

TABLE 3: MEAN AGE OF PERSONS IN TREATMENT CENTRES BY SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE (JANUARY-JUNE 2021)

| Substance of use | WC | KZN | EC | CR | GT | NR | National |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alcohol | 35 | 38 | 41 | 40 | 37 | 35 | 38 |
| CAT | 28 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| Crack/Cocaine | 33 | 34 | 28 | 33 | 29 | 32 | 32 |
| Cannabis | 27 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 24 |
| Cannabis/Mandrax | 32 | 29 | 30 | 24 | 28 | 28 | 29 |
| Heroin/Opiates ¹ | 32 | 27 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 30 |
| Inhalants | 43 | .* | .* | 24 | 17 | 23 | 18 |
| Methamphetamine | 33 | 27 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 28 | 27 |
| OTC/PRE ² | 31 | 27 | 33 | 30 | 37 | 38 | 33 |
| All substances | 32 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 30 |

¹Nyaope and whoonga have been incorporated into the heroin-related admission category to improve the accuracy of heroin surveillance; ²Over-the-counter or prescription medicines
 *.Inhalants not reported for these regions

FIGURE 2: TREATMENT ADMISSION TRENDS - % OF PATIENTS <20 YEARS



Sources of payment: The 'state' was the most common source of payment in the WC (85%) and GT (63%). 'Medical aid' was the most frequently reported method of payment in the CR (38%), EC (35%), and KZN (34%), while 'family' was the most common payment source in the NR (43%) and EC (34%).

HIV testing: Across sites between 53% (WC) and 43% (EC) of persons reported that they had been tested for HIV in the past 12 months. WC had the highest testing

rate though still at lower than desirable levels. Moreover, a marked reduction was seen with a 73% HIV testing rate in the previous period compared to 53% in the current period. A marginal decrease was seen for EC (45%) in the preceding period versus 43% in the present reporting period. The decrease in WC is of particular concern, and further investigation is needed. Finally, interventions encouraging voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) are imperative.

FINDINGS BY SUBSTANCE OF USE

ALCOHOL

Similar to the previous period (from 8% in GT and 34% in KZN), the rates for persons accessing AOD treatment services reporting alcohol as their primary substance of use ranged between 9% (GT) and 33% (KZN) for the current period (Table 1). A greater proportion of patients in KZN reported alcohol as their primary substance of use compared to patients from other regions (33%). The proportion of alcohol-related admissions also increased in the CR from 25% to 30%.

The mean age of persons seen at treatment centres who had alcohol as their primary substance of use ranged from 35 to 41 years across sites. This was substantially older than the mean age for other drugs (see Table 3). Patients were also more likely to be male. The proportion of persons who were female with alcohol as their primary substance of use ranged from 14% in GT to 51% in the KZN.

CANNABIS (DAGGA) AND MANDRAX

Cannabis was the most common primary substance of use among persons seen at specialist treatment facilities across regions, with GT reporting 27% (n=1698) of total admissions (Figure 3). Regionally, cannabis as a primary substance of use formed 37% (NR), 27% (GT), 24% (CR), 24% (WC), 23% (KZN), and 22% (EC) of persons admitted to specialist treatment facilities. The proportion of persons with cannabis/mandrax as their primary substance of use remained very low across all sites (Table 1). Cannabis/mandrax was still relatively common as a secondary substance of use in the WC with 20% of all persons reporting it as a secondary substance in the 1st half of 2021. Across sites, persons admitted to specialist treatment centres who reported cannabis/mandrax as their primary

substance of use tend to be older than those who had cannabis as their primary substance of use (Table 3). In this reporting period, the most common primary substance of use for persons younger than 20 years across all sites was cannabis (Table 4). The largest increase for cannabis as a primary substance of use was reported for individuals <20 years in the NR (from 24% to 64%) followed by KZN (71% to 75%). Cannabis use among persons under the age of 20 needs to be monitored over the next review periods. The NR experienced high rates of nyaope use in past review periods. Given that nyaope is cheap heroin mixed with cannabis, this trend needs to be monitored as it may account for some of these higher admission rates for cannabis.

Data from specialist treatment centres suggests that males continue to dominate treatment for cannabis in comparison to their female counterparts. For instance, only between 6% (EC) and 27% (GT) of people, whose primary substance was cannabis, were female. Across sites 15% of persons whose primary substance of use was cannabis/mandrax were female compared to 85% for males.

FIGURE 3: PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN TREATMENT WITH CANNABIS AS THEIR PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE (%)

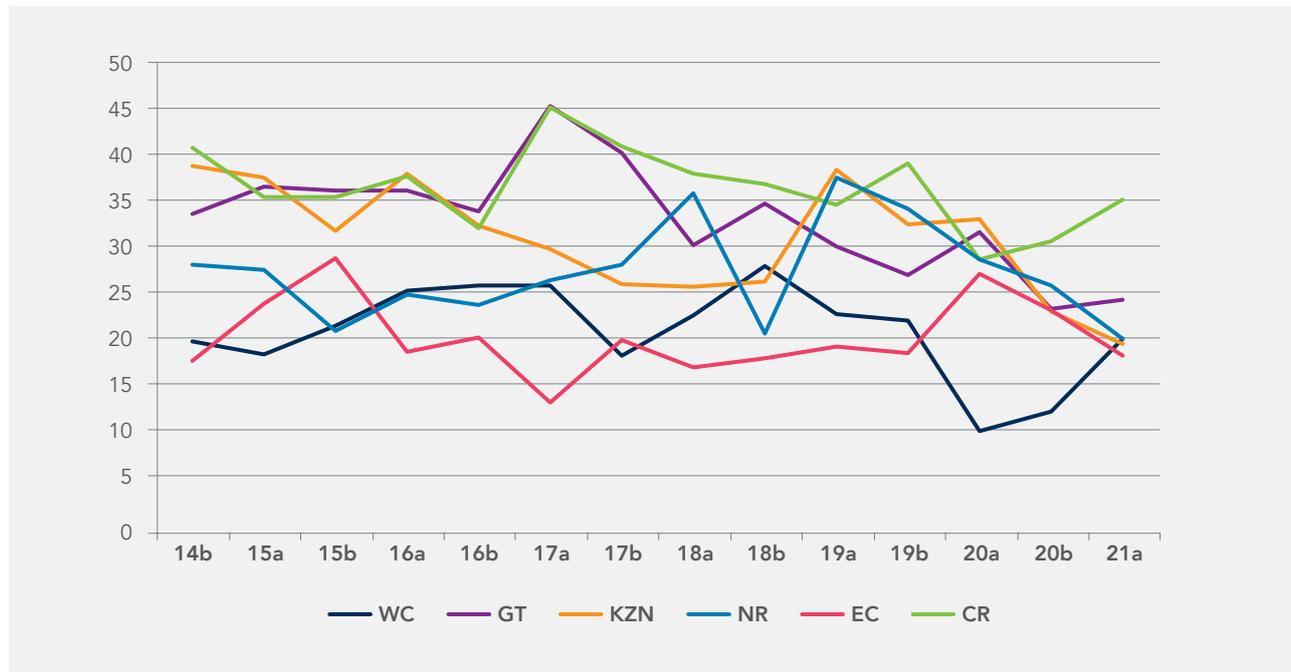


TABLE 4: PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE FOR PERSONS <20 YEARS (%): JANUARY-JUNE 2021

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|
| WC ¹ | 05a | 2.5 | 24.5 | 9.3 | 1.9 | 11.5 | 0.8 | 48.7 | - | 637 |
| | 05b | 3.1 | 22.1 | 6.7 | 1.3 | 12.9 | 0.4 | 53.0 | - | 674 |
| | 06a | 1.7 | 17.4 | 3.9 | 0.6 | 15.3 | 0.0 | 60.2 | - | 724 |
| | 06b | 2.9 | 26.0 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 58.6 | - | 761 |
| | 07a | 3.6 | 24.4 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 9.6 | 0.1 | 56.5 | - | 803 |
| | 07b | 5.0 | 35.1 | 3.7 | 0.5 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 43.2 | - | 812 |
| | 08a | 5.0 | 33.1 | 3.5 | 0.6 | 10.1 | 0.2 | 45.5 | - | 622 |
| | 08b | 3.3 | 42.8 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 7.6 | 0.0 | 39.1 | - | 657 |
| | 09a | 5.0 | 39.6 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 42.4 | - | 902 |
| | 09b | 5.9 | 45.7 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 7.5 | 0.0 | 36.1 | - | 615 |
| | 10a | 6.9 | 45.4 | 5.4 | 0.3 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 33.3 | - | 702 |
| | 10b | 14.6 | 38.2 | 4.6 | 0.5 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 33.1 | - | 610 |
| | 11a | 6.5 | 60.5 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 25.3 | - | 620 |
| | 11b | 4.9 | 58.3 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 24.5 | - | 429 |
| | 12a | 8.9 | 63.5 | 2.7 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 17.7 | - | 866 |
| | 12b | 4.0 | 70.2 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 17.6 | - | 655 |
| | 13a | 3.0 | 69.9 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 15.5 | - | 742 |
| | 13b | 6.2 | 66.7 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 17.6 | - | 888 |
| | 14a | 23.4 | 32.0 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 10.3 | 0.1 | 27.8 | - | 802 |
| | 14b | 10.5 | 46.4 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 11.9 | 0.1 | 24.4 | - | 783 |
| | 15a | 2.8 | 75.2 | 4.6 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 15.0 | - | 781 |
| 15b | 7.7 | 69.8 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 14.3 | - | 559 | |
| 16a | 11.2 | 71.2 | 2.8 | 0.4 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 11.2 | - | 809 | |
| 16b | 10.0 | 80.8 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 5.2 | - | 783 | |
| 17a | 10.6 | 79.5 | 2.4 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 4.5 | - | 803 | |
| 17b | 7.5 | 76.8 | 4.8 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 8.3 | - | 482 | |
| 18a | 13.7 | 76.5 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 6.3 | - | 810 | |
| 18b | 13.1 | 74.5 | 2.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 7.9 | - | 779 | |
| 19a | 8.9 | 75.1 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 6.5 | - | 760 | |
| 19b | 15.5 | 33.3 | 6.3 | 2.2 | 12.9 | 0.3 | 26.7 | - | 637 | |
| 20a | 9.5 | 23.2 | 7.2 | 0.4 | 18.3 | 0.0 | 39.5 | - | 263 | |
| 20b | 11.8 | 60.0 | 4.1 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 21.0 | - | 195 | |
| 21a | | 10.3 | 51.6 | 6.8 | 0.9 | 8.5 | 0.2 | 20.7 | 1.2 | 426 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| KZN ² | 04b | 25.4 | 47.9 | 20.3 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 | - | 236 |
| | 05a | 21.6 | 63.1 | 6.9 | 4.6 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | - | 306 |
| | 05b | 24.0 | 64.8 | 3.8 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.0 | - | 250 |
| | 06a | 25.0 | 67.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | - | 104 |
| | 06b | 31.0 | 41.1 | 0.8 | 3.9 | 13.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 258 |
| | 07a | 18.6 | 51.5 | 1.3 | 3.4 | 22.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | - | 291 |
| | 07b | 15.8 | 37.9 | 0.4 | 2.1 | 38.7 | 2.9 | 0.0 | - | 240 |
| | 08a | 26.8 | 42.1 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 26.8 | 0.5 | 0.0 | - | 391 |
| | 08b | 21.6 | 47.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 20.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 324 |
| | 09a | 14.8 | 48.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 33.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | - | 413 |
| | 09b | 15.3 | 63.4 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 17.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | - | 320 |
| | 10a | 23.3 | 64.5 | 3.0 | 0.3 | 7.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 330 |
| | 10b | 20.1 | 63.2 | 0.7 | 2.8 | 10.4 | 0.0 | 0.7 | - | 144 |
| | 11a | 51.1 | 31.1 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 11.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 182 |
| | 11b | 47.2 | 39.2 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 7.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 | - | 161 |
| | 12a | 69.4 | 19.1 | 0.6 | 4.5 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 157 |
| | 12b | 23.0 | 54.3 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 243 |
| | 13a | 52.8 | 30.6 | 0.6 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 320 |
| | 13b | 40.5 | 49.5 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | 210 |
| | 14a | 25.8 | 57.6 | 4.0 | 0.5 | 8.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 198 |
| | 14b | 11.9 | 74.1 | 3.4 | 2.4 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 293 |
| | 15a | 39.0 | 43.6 | 8.4 | 2.6 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | - | 344 |
| | 15b | 7.9 | 73.9 | 6.2 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 0.3 | - | 291 |
| | 16a | 9.5 | 69.5 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 11.5 | 0.6 | 0.0 | - | 462 |
| | 16b | 8.1 | 78.3 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 7.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | - | 272 |
| | 17a | 23.8 | 58.2 | 1.7 | 3.3 | 5.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 | - | 361 |
| | 17b | 17.3 | 65.0 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 5.1 | 0.7 | 0.7 | - | 294 |
| | 18a | 13.3 | 71.6 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 7.9 | 0.3 | 0.6 | - | 317 |
| | 18b | 45.6 | 33.8 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 10.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | - | 263 |
| | 19a | 13.9 | 40.3 | 1.4 | 4.3 | 30.3 | 0.0 | 2.2 | - | 491 |
| 19b | 5.8 | 50.7 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 19.7 | 0.3 | 12.2 | - | 294 | |
| 20a | 8.2 | 52.5 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 19.6 | 0.0 | 8.2 | - | 158 | |
| 20b | 31.2 | 23.9 | 0.0 | 18.4 | 22.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 109 | |
| | 21a | 7.6 | 64.1 | 0.0 | 5.4 | 11.9 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 7.6 | 92 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|
| EC³ | 04b | 10.9 | 35.7 | 43.4 | 4.7 | 0.8 | 2.3 | 0.0 | - | 129 |
| | 05a | 22.1 | 35.3 | 33.1 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | - | 136 |
| | 05b | 25.3 | 52.7 | 16.5 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 91 |
| | 06a | 23.5 | 53.0 | 10.4 | 7.8 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 0.9 | - | 115 |
| | 06b | 17.3 | 55.9 | 6.3 | 13.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.7 | - | 127 |
| | 07a | 26.3 | 54.4 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.3 | - | 160 |
| | 07b | 15.6 | 45.1 | 18.0 | 11.5 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 4.9 | - | 122 |
| | 08a | 25.9 | 55.3 | 7.1 | 4.7 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 0.0 | - | 85 |
| | 08b | 19.3 | 47.9 | 14.3 | 5.9 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 4.2 | - | 119 |
| | 09a | 11.4 | 62.2 | 15.4 | 4.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 4.3 | - | 254 |
| | 09b | 14.0 | 47.4 | 14.0 | 4.4 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 13.2 | - | 114 |
| | 10a | 6.3 | 62.0 | 14.6 | 3.8 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 8.2 | - | 158 |
| | 10b | 8.5 | 42.6 | 10.6 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 21.3 | - | 141 |
| | 11a | 10.1 | 50.5 | 7.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 26.3 | - | 99 |
| | 11b | 10.9 | 47.6 | 6.9 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 28.6 | - | 147 |
| | 12a | 9.9 | 43.8 | 7.4 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 34.0 | - | 162 |
| | 12b | 2.9 | 63.2 | 8.8 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 16.2 | - | 68 |
| | 13a | 8.9 | 34.4 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 42.2 | - | 90 |
| | 13b | 11.1 | 31.3 | 12.1 | 5.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 34.3 | - | 99 |
| | 14a | 46.2 | 31.5 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 9.8 | - | 143 |
| | 14b | 17.1 | 44.4 | 11.1 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 17.1 | - | 117 |
| | 15a | 6.1 | 72.7 | 10.6 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.1 | - | 66 |
| | 15b | 2.4 | 68.3 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 17.1 | - | 123 |
| | 16a | 1.3 | 58.2 | 5.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32.7 | - | 153 |
| | 16b | 34.5 | 38.1 | 10.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 9.7 | - | 113 |
| | 17a | 4.8 | 61.9 | 4.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 25.0 | - | 84 |
| | 17b | 22.5 | 33.3 | 13.3 | 4.2 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 20.8 | - | 120 |
| | 18a | 3.9 | 53.9 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 33.8 | - | 154 |
| | 18b | 4.0 | 52.4 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 33.9 | - | 124 |
| | 19a | 8.1 | 33.1 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 34.7 | 0.0 | 20.2 | - | 124 |
| 19b | 68.4 | 24.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 | - | 98 | |
| 20a | 12.0 | 44.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 16.0 | 14.0 | - | 50 | |
| 20b | 1.4 | 59.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 35.7 | - | 140 | |
| | 21a | 1.0 | 50.5 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 42.9 | 1.0 | 105 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|------------|--------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| GT | 04b | 7.3 | 54.7 | 19.1 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 1.2 | 0.0 | - | 590 |
| | 05a | 9.3 | 57.7 | 14.0 | 3.4 | 7.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | - | 714 |
| | 05b | 10.6 | 62.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 6.8 | 0.7 | 0.2 | - | 575 |
| | 06a | 13.3 | 57.6 | 4.6 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | - | 715 |
| | 06b | 12.1 | 62.2 | 2.3 | 3.8 | 9.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | - | 753 |
| | 07a | 11.8 | 61.0 | 3.0 | 5.5 | 10.3 | 0.4 | 0.0 | - | 670 |
| | 07b | 11.7 | 61.3 | 2.4 | 5.9 | 10.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | - | 591 |
| | 08a | 10.0 | 65.7 | 2.4 | 4.7 | 10.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | - | 531 |
| | 08b | 14.0 | 56.6 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 6.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | - | 606 |
| | 09a | 26.5 | 48.4 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 7.1 | 0.6 | 1.9 | - | 645 |
| | 09b | 14.0 | 64.3 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 10.7 | 0.2 | 0.5 | - | 599 |
| | 10a | 13.2 | 63.2 | 5.1 | 1.4 | 10.1 | 0.3 | 0.8 | - | 642 |
| | 10b | 10.0 | 61.7 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 13.8 | 0.5 | 1.0 | - | 621 |
| | 11a | 9.7 | 62.5 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 14.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 | - | 610 |
| | 11b | 8.5 | 62.3 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 11.6 | 0.2 | 0.9 | - | 576 |
| | 12a | 6.4 | 69.2 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 10.7 | 0.6 | 3.1 | - | 702 |
| | 12b | 5.1 | 54.9 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 1.3 | - | 862 |
| | 13a | 7.8 | 74.6 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 5.9 | 0.3 | 1.2 | - | 1002 |
| | 13b | 6.2 | 68.8 | 2.1 | 0.9 | 7.9 | 0.2 | 1.4 | - | 583 |
| | 14a | 4.4 | 77.0 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 4.5 | 0.1 | 2.1 | - | 910 |
| | 14b | 19.2 | 48.3 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 7.5 | 0.3 | 3.7 | - | 783 |
| | 15a | 2.9 | 74.1 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 5.9 | 0.1 | 2.6 | - | 1054 |
| | 15b | 2.2 | 75.5 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | - | 916 |
| | 16a | 2.1 | 76.9 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 4.5 | 0.1 | 2.3 | - | 1124 |
| | 16b | 6.8 | 75.9 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 3.3 | - | 767 |
| | 17a | 2.8 | 82.0 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 2.8 | - | 1090 |
| | 17b | 2.3 | 81.0 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 4.2 | - | 910 |
| | 18a | 4.1 | 72.7 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 10.9 | 0.5 | 3.2 | - | 630 |
| 18b | 7.8 | 40.2 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 24.8 | 0.1 | 11.4 | - | 719 | |
| 19a | 17.9 | 37.7 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 24.7 | 0.0 | 6.8 | - | 756 | |
| 19b | 6.2 | 45.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 52.2 | 0.1 | 13.2 | - | 993 | |
| 20a | 10.8 | 39.3 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 22.2 | 0.1 | 12.7 | - | 725 | |
| 20b | 2.4 | 62.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 7.3 | 0.1 | 15.7 | - | 894 | |
| 21a | | 3.6 | 54.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 11.1 | 0.2 | 15.5 | 0.5 | 1300 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|-----------------|--------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|
| NR ⁴ | 04b | 23.0 | 66.7 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 5.7 | 1.1 | 0.0 | - | 87 |
| | 05a | 12.0 | 58.3 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 18.5 | 1.9 | 0.0 | - | 108 |
| | 05b | 21.4 | 57.3 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 9.7 | 3.9 | 1.0 | - | 103 |
| | 06a | 26.1 | 58.7 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 8.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 92 |
| | 06b | 15.6 | 67.9 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 13.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 109 |
| | 07a | 9.6 | 69.2 | 0.7 | 2.7 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 146 |
| | 07b* | 17.3 | 72.7 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 0.9 | - | 110 |
| | 08a | 11.8 | 79.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 5.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 127 |
| | 08b | 12.0 | 64.1 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 117 |
| | 09a | 18.5 | 63.1 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 7.7 | 1.5 | 0.0 | - | 130 |
| | 09b | 18.2 | 61.8 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 12.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 110 |
| | 10a | 7.7 | 65.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 143 |
| | 10b | 14.9 | 62.0 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 13.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 121 |
| | 11a | 17.9 | 46.2 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 29.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 145 |
| | 11b | 13.5 | 47.4 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 4.5 | - | 156 |
| | 12a | 3.9 | 70.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 16.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | - | 181 |
| | 12b | 15.8 | 42.6 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 209 |
| | 13a | 20.2 | 52.0 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 12.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 277 |
| | 13b | 12.9 | 70.5 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 1.7 | - | 241 |
| | 14a | 5.7 | 78.9 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 10.8 | 0.0 | 0.4 | - | 279 |
| | 14b | 11.9 | 70.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 293 |
| | 15a | 8.4 | 72.6 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 0.4 | - | 274 |
| | 15b | 6.8 | 73.1 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 8.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | - | 324 |
| | 16a | 10.8 | 58.3 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 19.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 295 |
| | 16b | 18.0 | 66.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 10.5 | 0.0 | 0.4 | - | 239 |
| | 17a | 10.0 | 76.2 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 9.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 380 |
| | 17b | 18.0 | 44.4 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 27.8 | 0.0 | 0.2 | - | 410 |
| | 18a | 4.9 | 74.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 11.3 | 0.0 | 1.1 | - | 362 |
| | 18b | 6.5 | 72.1 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 13.3 | 0.0 | 1.2 | - | 341 |
| | 19a | 16.3 | 39.4 | 1.9 | 5.7 | 22.7 | 0.0 | 6.8 | - | 264 |
| | 19b | 14.5 | 38.7 | 0.6 | 4.4 | 32.6 | 0.0 | 4.4 | - | 344 |
| 20a | 11.8 | 43.8 | 3.6 | 5.9 | 19.5 | 0.6 | 8.9 | - | 169 | |
| 20b | 2.8 | 71.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 14.7 | 0.0 | 6.2 | - | 177 | |
| 21a | | 5.6 | 75.1 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 0.0 | 4.0 | 0.6 | 177 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Cocaine/ Crack | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE** | Total (N) |
|-----------------|--------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| CR ⁵ | 06b | 19.7 | 58.4 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 137 |
| | 07a | 14.2 | 57.4 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 2.1 | - | 141 |
| | 07b | 22.3 | 67.0 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | - | 103 |
| | 08a | 12.1 | 62.4 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | - | 165 |
| | 08b | 18.2 | 43.4 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | - | 99 |
| | 09a | 18.4 | 50.6 | 1.1 | 4.6 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | - | 87 |
| | 09b | 16.2 | 65.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 99 |
| | 10a | 12.4 | 71.9 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.8 | - | 121 |
| | 10b | 17.1 | 68.6 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 105 |
| | 11a | 30.4 | 55.7 | 3.8 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 79 |
| | 11b | 11.8 | 66.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 102 |
| | 12a | 12.1 | 60.3 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 1.2 | - | 257 |
| | 12b | 12.6 | 52.4 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | - | 103 |
| | 13a | 5.2 | 81.3 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 96 |
| | 13b | 5.7 | 78.3 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 106 |
| | 14a | 4.0 | 74.5 | 8.1 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 2.7 | - | 149 |
| | 14b | 72.7 | 11.5 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 165 |
| | 15a | 31.7 | 48.0 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 1.6 | - | 123 |
| | 15b | 7.2 | 60.8 | 10.3 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 4.1 | - | 97 |
| | 16a | 5.7 | 69.2 | 6.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.6 | - | 159 |
| | 16b | 42.0 | 30.7 | 6.8 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.7 | - | 88 |
| | 17a | 2.2 | 71.8 | 8.5 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | - | 71 |
| | 17b | 2.3 | 77.0 | 8.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.4 | - | 87 |
| | 18a | 0.9 | 77.1 | 10.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.5 | - | 109 |
| | 18b | 0.0 | 77.4 | 6.5 | 0.0 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 3.2 | - | 31 |
| | 19a | 25.9 | 45.5 | 3.9 | 1.3 | 15.6 | 0.0 | 3.9 | - | 77 |
| 19b | 1.9 | 77.4 | 7.6 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 9.4 | - | 53 | |
| 20a | 20.0 | 30.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 16.0 | 0.0 | 8.0 | - | 50 | |
| 20b | 0.0 | 66.1 | 8.9 | 0.0 | 10.7 | 0.0 | 7.1 | - | 56 | |
| 21a | | 2.2 | 58.7 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 28.3 | 0.0 | 46 |

¹ Cape Town, Atlantis, Worcester; ² Durban, South Coast, Pietermaritzburg; ³ Port Elizabeth and East London; ⁴ Mpumalanga & Limpopo;

⁵ Free State, North West, Northern Cape

* Excludes data from Limpopo for 2007b

**OTC/PRE not reported for previous periods

CRACK/COCAINE

The proportion of persons at specialist treatment centres whose primary substance of use was crack/cocaine remained relatively stable across all sites (Table 1). The proportions ranged from 3% in the WC to 13% in KZN. Between 5% (WC) and 26% (KZN) of all persons admitted using crack/cocaine as a primary and secondary substance of use (Table 5).

Across all sites the mean age of persons in treatment, whose primary drug of use was crack/cocaine, ranged from 28 to 34 years (Table 3). The proportion of female persons reporting crack/cocaine as their primary substance of use

were between 2% in EC to 9% in KZN. Among adolescents KZN contributed the largest proportion of individuals who reported crack/cocaine as a primary substance of use (n=5, 5%) compared to other regions, however, a substantial decrease was seen for adolescents reporting crack/cocaine as a primary substance of use in KZN for 2021a (5%) compared to 2020b (18%). This decrease could possibly be explained by the confiscation of a major cocaine consignment valued at over R240 million from Durban harbour at the end of November 2021. Finally, between 11% (GT) and 39% (WC) of crack/cocaine users experienced prior treatment episodes.

TABLE 5: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF USE* (%): JANUARY-JUNE 2021

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| WC ¹ | 04b | 47.9 | 25.0 | 29.0 | 20.0 | 10.3 | 6.3 | 28.9 | 7.4 | 2308 |
| | 05a | 47.0 | 28.9 | 22.8 | 19.2 | 13.2 | 8.3 | 35.8 | 5.0 | 2469 |
| | 05b | 39.0 | 32.9 | 16.0 | 18.2 | 16.3 | 7.0 | 44.7 | 3.8 | 2131 |
| | 06a | 41.2 | 28.3 | 14.0 | 15.6 | 16.2 | 5.5 | 46.3 | 3.8 | 2660 |
| | 06b | 41.5 | 33.0 | 13.4 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 3.7 | 51.9 | 4.9 | 2798 |
| | 07a | 43.6 | 31.7 | 12.6 | 10.4 | 12.0 | 2.8 | 49.3 | 3.2 | 2864 |
| | 07b | 41.2 | 33.0 | 14.7 | 10.0 | 14.6 | 2.3 | 44.3 | 3.6 | 3058 |
| | 08a | 42.1 | 30.6 | 15.3 | 12.2 | 15.2 | 2.8 | 45.8 | 4.5 | 2637 |
| | 08b | 38.6 | 32.5 | 15.2 | 11.4 | 14.9 | 1.9 | 44.2 | 3.5 | 2807 |
| | 09a | 36.5 | 32.5 | 15.2 | 6.6 | 12.2 | 1.6 | 50.1 | 2.3 | 3667 |
| | 09b | 40.1 | 32.2 | 18.4 | 5.4 | 13.4 | 1.1 | 46.6 | 2.2 | 2642 |
| | 10a | 40.7 | 33.9 | 17.9 | 5.2 | 14.1 | 0.9 | 45.6 | 2.3 | 3134 |
| | 10b | 40.4 | 36.7 | 18.5 | 4.8 | 12.8 | 0.9 | 46.9 | 2.2 | 2933 |
| | 11a | 36.6 | 35.3 | 15.2 | 4.6 | 14.7 | 1.1 | 46.6 | 1.2 | 2927 |
| | 11b | 36.4 | 37.0 | 19.6 | 5.9 | 19.1 | 1.6 | 52.1 | 1.6 | 2733 |
| | 12a | 34.3 | 39.7 | 16.1 | 4.5 | 18.4 | 1.3 | 48.4 | 1.6 | 3912 |
| | 12b | 34.5 | 43.5 | 20.4 | 3.8 | 17.9 | 1.2 | 49.7 | 1.1 | 3178 |
| | 13a | 36.6 | 44.7 | 22.5 | 4.0 | 18.6 | 1.2 | 39.9 | 2.3 | 3717 |
| | 13b | 34.1 | 45.6 | 20.6 | 3.8 | 14.3 | 0.9 | 46.6 | 2.0 | 3478 |
| | 14a | 26.5 | 32.8 | 17.4 | 2.4 | 19.3 | 0.3 | 47.2 | 1.4 | 3510 |
| | 14b | 29.9 | 33.7 | 16.6 | 2.6 | 13.4 | 0.0 | 45.5 | 1.1 | 3444 |
| 15a | 28.4 | 33.4 | 18.9 | 2.6 | 14.8 | 0.0 | 49.1 | 2.2 | 3524 | |
| 15b | 30.3 | 34.4 | 21.1 | 2.2 | 11.2 | 0.0 | 47.9 | 1.9 | 2674 | |
| 16a | 31.6 | 37.1 | 20.1 | 3.1 | 11.3 | 0.0 | 42.3 | 1.4 | 2977 | |
| 16b | 29.5 | 37.4 | 19.7 | 3.0 | 13.4 | 0.0 | 41.8 | 1.6 | 2808 | |
| 17a | 37.3 | 37.8 | 19.1 | 3.1 | 10.8 | 0.0 | 36.2 | 1.6 | 2902 | |
| 17b | 35.9 | 29.9 | 23.7 | 3.7 | 14.4 | 0.4 | 43.5 | 2.7 | 2541 | |
| 18a | 33.8 | 33.9 | 20.8 | 3.6 | 12.8 | 0.5 | 38.8 | 1.9 | 3182 | |
| 18b | 33.1 | 39.0 | 20.7 | 4.4 | 11.8 | 0.1 | 38.7 | 2.4 | 2719 | |
| 19a | 28.8 | 36.9 | 23.3 | 3.5 | 17.3 | 0.1 | 43.2 | 2.9 | 3013 | |
| 19b | 30.9 | 35.5 | 23.0 | 5.0 | 14.9 | 0.3 | 43.1 | 3.3 | 2654 | |
| 20a | 19.2 | 25.4 | 29.3 | 3.2 | 18.9 | 0.2 | 58.9 | 3.3 | 1323 | |
| 20b | 26.5 | 41.5 | 27.1 | 5.9 | 14.7 | 0.0 | 55.3 | 3.3 | 1890 | |
| 21a | 27.7 | 33.9 | 27.1 | 4.6 | 11.8 | 0.3 | 49.4 | 2.8 | 2433 | |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| KZN ² | 04b | 74.5 | 46.7 | 32.5 | 19.4 | 1.2 | 11.2 | 0.0 | 3.2 | 689 |
| | 05a | 74.0 | 52.9 | 17.6 | 17.1 | 2.5 | 6.2 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 945 |
| | 05b | 82.2 | 45.0 | 11.8 | 14.2 | 2.2 | 6.9 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 846 |
| | 06a | 71.1 | 33.8 | 3.7 | 13.2 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 11.8 | 485 |
| | 06b | 71.8 | 37.6 | 8.1 | 21.2 | 11.1 | 4.2 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 921 |
| | 07a | 65.0 | 34.1 | 5.4 | 20.0 | 18.2 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 4.3 | 1232 |
| | 07b | 53.2 | 34.6 | 4.3 | 20.4 | 34.7 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 943 |
| | 08a | 61 | 37 | 5 | 14 | 24 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1531 |
| | 08b | 60.0 | 31.8 | 4.6 | 14.6 | 25.5 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 1537 |
| | 09a | 54.5 | 31.2 | 4.3 | 15.4 | 30.7 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 1575 |
| | 09b | 64.4 | 38.9 | 4.7 | 14.9 | 19.3 | 3.3 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 1138 |
| | 10a | 76.2 | 43.9 | 5.4 | 11.2 | 21.8 | 3.8 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1009 |
| | 10b | 75.2 | 47.8 | 9.6 | 14.9 | 10.6 | 3.7 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 669 |
| | 11a | 81.3 | 46.1 | 6.9 | 17.4 | 14.7 | 3.3 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 720 |
| | 11b | 82.9 | 42.9 | 7.7 | 16.1 | 8.0 | 3.4 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 610 |
| | 12a | 78.4 | 44.6 | 7.4 | 15.5 | 8.1 | 4.9 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 569 |
| | 12b | 70.6 | 55.1 | 8.1 | 12.4 | 9.2 | 4.2 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 813 |
| | 13a | 70.9 | 54.8 | 5.6 | 13.1 | 8.9 | 4.7 | 0.9 | 2.2 | 934 |
| | 13b | 69.0 | 54.1 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 13.8 | 7.2 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 610 |
| | 14a | 57.6 | 48.3 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 11.2 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 484 |
| | 14b | 46.5 | 51.3 | 7.9 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 929 |
| 15a | 53.5 | 50.2 | 9.5 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1122 | |
| 15b | 49.1 | 42.8 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 7.7 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 1171 | |
| 16a | 44.8 | 51.8 | 6.8 | 8.3 | 15.9 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 3.1 | 1247 | |
| 16b | 52.5 | 45.4 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 12.1 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 2.7 | 1177 | |
| 17a | 49.3 | 50.9 | 6.7 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1370 | |
| 17b | 49.4 | 43.9 | 6.0 | 12.1 | 11.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 1400 | |
| 18a | 41.4 | 48.2 | 5.6 | 15.7 | 30.3 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 4.5 | 1256 | |
| 18b | 49.2 | 47.2 | 5.8 | 15.2 | 28.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 6.3 | 993 | |
| 19a | 21.1 | 49.7 | 5.4 | 10.0 | 33.9 | 0.7 | 6.0 | 4.4 | 1291 | |
| 19b | 21.7 | 45.8 | 5.1 | 12.5 | 29.8 | 0.5 | 12.1 | 5.9 | 980 | |
| 20a | 20.7 | 48.1 | 5.3 | 13.5 | 27.3 | 1.1 | 12.0 | 5.5 | 565 | |
| 20b | 46.7 | 41.5 | 4.2 | 26.9 | 22.3 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 8.7 | 726 | |
| | 21a | 42.5 | 39.8 | 5.4 | 26.3 | 19.9 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 7.3 | 723 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| EC ³ | 04b | 62.9 | 18.5 | 31.7 | 13.5 | 3.6 | 7.0 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 599 |
| | 05a | 61.8 | 20.7 | 28.3 | 18.8 | 2.1 | 5.7 | 0.7 | 6.1 | 671 |
| | 05b | 74.2 | 20.7 | 11.5 | 15.0 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 6.2 | 585 |
| | 06a | 57.3 | 23.2 | 13.9 | 27.0 | 9.3 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 2.4 | 786 |
| | 06b | 58.3 | 32.4 | 17.2 | 29.0 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 5.0 | 645 |
| | 07a | 62.7 | 26.6 | 12.6 | 22.7 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 5.4 | 759 |
| | 07b | 48.7 | 26.8 | 16.6 | 33.6 | 7.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 608 |
| | 08a | 57.9 | 26.8 | 9.6 | 29.3 | 8.2 | 2.9 | 4.2 | 9.2 | 551 |
| | 08b | 58.7 | 29.6 | 17.8 | 24.5 | 6.7 | 3.9 | 8.9 | 9.5 | 612 |
| | 09a | 63.8 | 25.9 | 13.8 | 15.8 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 5.5 | 11.9 | 1206 |
| | 09b | 61.3 | 26.5 | 10.8 | 14.8 | 6.5 | 2.6 | 9.6 | 22.1 | 648 |
| | 10a | 54.0 | 28.2 | 14.6 | 11.9 | 3.9 | 1.0 | 9.5 | 15.2 | 877 |
| | 10b | 54.2 | 28.7 | 13.0 | 14.7 | 6.1 | 1.1 | 14.1 | 12.0 | 707 |
| | 11a | 56.8 | 25.6 | 10.8 | 10.9 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 16.3 | 13.6 | 723 |
| | 11b | 46.5 | 24.8 | 12.3 | 8.6 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 22.7 | 13.5 | 721 |
| | 12a | 49.8 | 26.9 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 23.3 | 14.4 | 793 |
| | 12b | 56.3 | 41.1 | 19.3 | 29.4 | 6.1 | 1.2 | 22.8 | 5.7 | 316 |
| | 13a | 43.3 | 22.7 | 12.1 | 11.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 23.3 | 21.6 | 587 |
| | 13b | 46.3 | 23.5 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 20.9 | 19.4 | 527 |
| | 14a | 36.5 | 26.1 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 21.0 | 20.6 | 613 |
| | 14a | 41.9 | 27.1 | 12.2 | 7.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 21.9 | 15.4 | 663 |
| | 15a | 42.7 | 34.9 | 18.5 | 9.9 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 25.9 | 5.5 | 363 |
| | 15b | 32.5 | 43.1 | 18.3 | 5.5 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 34.4 | 1.7 | 471 |
| | 16a | 42.5 | 36.1 | 14.4 | 7.6 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 29.5 | 9.6 | 638 |
| | 16b | 46.6 | 35.4 | 16.9 | 4.7 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 22.3 | 8.6 | 537 |
| | 17a | 56.7 | 28.5 | 14.4 | 9.6 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 24.5 | 4.0 | 425 |
| | 17b | 45.0 | 33.4 | 16.7 | 6.6 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 33.6 | 5.2 | 515 |
| | 18a | 45.8 | 32.7 | 13.9 | 5.4 | 2.3 | 0.3 | 35.2 | 6.8 | 517 |
| 18b | 48.7 | 32.7 | 13.1 | 5.1 | 2.9 | 0.4 | 35.3 | 5.3 | 450 | |
| 19a | 30.5 | 45.5 | 9.7 | 4.6 | 20.0 | 0.0 | 23.4 | 7.2 | 475 | |
| 19b | 47.6 | 40.8 | 11.0 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 32.7 | 6.3 | 336 | |
| 20a | 25.6 | 47.4 | 5.6 | 10.2 | 19.1 | 0.0 | 24.7 | 6.0 | 215 | |
| 20b | 32.8 | 45.1 | 21.1 | 9.4 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 48.2 | 2.9 | 448 | |
| | 21a | 63.5 | 40.4 | 17.4 | 8.8 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 49.7 | 2.1 | 386 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| GT | 04b | 60.2 | 30.6 | 15.5 | 19.2 | 8.3 | 5.2 | 0.3 | 7.2 | 2654 |
| | 05a | 57.9 | 34.6 | 13.2 | 19.0 | 10.5 | 4.6 | 0.5 | 6.7 | 3030 |
| | 05b | 62.1 | 34.7 | 8.9 | 20.2 | 11.3 | 3.9 | 0.6 | 7.7 | 2848 |
| | 06a | 56.9 | 33.5 | 6.8 | 21.4 | 10.6 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 11.2 | 3119 |
| | 06b | 58.1 | 32.7 | 4.3 | 23.6 | 13.2 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 6.0 | 3295 |
| | 07a | 55.3 | 33.2 | 3.6 | 25.4 | 14.3 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 7.7 | 3251 |
| | 07b | 54.7 | 30.9 | 3.7 | 26.4 | 13.8 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 6.6 | 3053 |
| | 08a | 60.8 | 34.4 | 4.5 | 24.8 | 15.4 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 2.9 | 2768 |
| | 08b | 64.8 | 35.0 | 4.2 | 19.4 | 12.2 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 7.9 | 3158 |
| | 09a | 57.5 | 40.1 | 4.7 | 16.1 | 13.7 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 7.7 | 2822 |
| | 09b | 58.0 | 38.4 | 3.6 | 12.3 | 21.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 5.4 | 2646 |
| | 10a | 54.7 | 41.5 | 4.9 | 14.9 | 21.2 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 7.1 | 2684 |
| | 10b | 53.6 | 43.2 | 3.9 | 17.6 | 23.9 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 5.5 | 2884 |
| | 11a | 48.0 | 44.7 | 3.9 | 18.5 | 25.0 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 7.4 | 2972 |
| | 11b | 47.7 | 44.4 | 3.8 | 15.9 | 21.4 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 8.5 | 2786 |
| | 12a | 44.9 | 44.3 | 2.6 | 15.9 | 22.2 | 2.3 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 3198 |
| | 12b | 41.7 | 49.9 | 4.6 | 12.6 | 19.7 | 1.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 3552 |
| | 13a | 38.5 | 57.1 | 3.8 | 10.9 | 20.9 | 1.2 | 8.0 | 2.7 | 4026 |
| | 13b | 34.8 | 56.9 | 4.6 | 13.5 | 18.6 | 1.5 | 6.6 | 3.1 | 3128 |
| | 14a | 25.8 | 53.8 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 13.9 | 0.6 | 6.1 | 1.5 | 3479 |
| | 14b | 28.1 | 47.2 | 2.5 | 7.8 | 15.6 | 0.6 | 5.9 | 1.8 | 3372 |
| 15a | 27.3 | 51.4 | 2.6 | 6.5 | 18.6 | 0.5 | 7.7 | 2.5 | 4285 | |
| 15b | 26.1 | 48.9 | 3.6 | 6.6 | 17.6 | 0.7 | 6.3 | 2.1 | 3570 | |
| 16a | 22.5 | 49.9 | 5.3 | 6.5 | 13.7 | 0.4 | 7.9 | 3.6 | 3989 | |
| 16b | 27.6 | 51.3 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 15.8 | 0.3 | 9.1 | 2.2 | 2948 | |
| 17a | 21.4 | 56.6 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 19.9 | 0.4 | 8.1 | 2.6 | 3870 | |
| 17b | 22.1 | 54.5 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 18.1 | 0.3 | 9.5 | 3.0 | 3414 | |
| 18a | 19.9 | 45.1 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 36.9 | 0.3 | 8.9 | 3.6 | 2734 | |
| 18b | 18.9 | 50.0 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 30.3 | 0.2 | 12.2 | 1.7 | 2937 | |
| 19a | 24.4 | 45.3 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 28.8 | 0.2 | 13.3 | 4.8 | 3148 | |
| 19b | 17.6 | 46.9 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 39.9 | 0.4 | 15.6 | 2.1 | 4226 | |
| 20a | 17.1 | 49.8 | 6.2 | 7.5 | 38.2 | 0.1 | 15.9 | 2.8 | 3279 | |
| 20b | 11.9 | 43.5 | 9.5 | 7.3 | 40.1 | 0.4 | 22.7 | 2.5 | 5059 | |
| | 21a | 12.9 | 43.2 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 34.3 | 0.4 | 25.3 | 2.0 | 6226 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| NR ⁴ | 04b | 69.9 | 39.2 | 3.9 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 4.3 | 0.4 | 4.8 | 462 |
| | 05a | 62.9 | 34.1 | 1.1 | 12.6 | 18.5 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 5.1 | 525 |
| | 05b | 65.7 | 41.5 | 2.1 | 13.9 | 15.1 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 4.1 | 562 |
| | 06a | 66.7 | 40.3 | 2.4 | 16.2 | 21.0 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 4.8 | 501 |
| | 06b | 61.0 | 44.7 | 1.7 | 13.9 | 22.6 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 4.5 | 539 |
| | 07a | 53.3 | 48.3 | 2.5 | 14.3 | 31.7 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 2.2 | 600 |
| | 07b | 52.7 | 48.6 | 0.5 | 15.4 | 22.8 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 605 |
| | 08a | 45.1 | 61.9 | 1.7 | 12.1 | 21.9 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 667 |
| | 08b | 41.2 | 61.2 | 1.0 | 11.5 | 19.2 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 729 |
| | 09a | 45.7 | 57.9 | 0.9 | 10.5 | 17.5 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 809 |
| | 09b | 47.7 | 56.4 | 0.6 | 10.4 | 25.6 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 2.3 | 652 |
| | 10a | 43.9 | 57.7 | 1.0 | 10.8 | 28.1 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 762 |
| | 10b | 41.7 | 61.9 | 0.7 | 11.9 | 24.9 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 2.4 | 669 |
| | 11a | 40.1 | 66.9 | 0.4 | 8.4 | 34.3 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 693 |
| | 11b | 35.1 | 64.7 | 1.5 | 13.6 | 29.9 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 892 |
| | 12a | 44.1 | 59.8 | 2.6 | 13.6 | 25.0 | 2.1 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 655 |
| | 12b | 35.9 | 59.2 | 1.5 | 9.8 | 25.8 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 818 |
| | 13a | 31.2 | 68.5 | 1.8 | 6.5 | 29.5 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.9 | 941 |
| | 13b | 31.2 | 71.9 | 0.6 | 8.9 | 35.5 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 959 |
| | 14a | 22.4 | 56.6 | 1.2 | 5.2 | 24.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1004 |
| | 14b | 22.7 | 45.9 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 27.4 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1134 |
| 15a | 21.6 | 42.8 | 1.6 | 5.8 | 31.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 1076 | |
| 15b | 20.0 | 40.2 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 28.7 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1247 | |
| 16a | 23.4 | 46.2 | 4.8 | 6.1 | 26.5 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1026 | |
| 16b | 23.5 | 39.1 | 1.4 | 4.3 | 36.9 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 929 | |
| 17a | 33.4 | 51.2 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 31.2 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1122 | |
| 17b | 44.7 | 48.1 | 0.8 | 6.4 | 29.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 1269 | |
| 18a | 39.3 | 49.9 | 3.1 | 6.1 | 25.1 | 0.1 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 1372 | |
| 18b | 36.9 | 47.1 | 0.8 | 6.8 | 38.2 | 0.4 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 1171 | |
| 19a | 23.5 | 48.1 | 6.2 | 8.2 | 24.9 | 0.5 | 13.8 | 2.9 | 1025 | |
| 19b | 29.2 | 48.9 | 0.8 | 7.4 | 35.8 | 0.2 | 6.3 | 1.8 | 1423 | |
| 20a | 23.9 | 44.5 | 5.7 | 10.8 | 32.3 | 0.2 | 13.9 | 4.2 | 768 | |
| 20b | 30.5 | 51.1 | 1.1 | 6.5 | 45.1 | 0.0 | 8.4 | 1.8 | 1024 | |
| | 21a | 29.3 | 52.0 | 1.0 | 6.7 | 45.6 | 0.5 | 8.9 | 1.1 | 958 |

| Site | Period | Alcohol | Cannabis | Cannabis/ Mandrax | Crack/ Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy | Metham- phetamine | OTC/ PRE | Total (N) |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| CR ⁵ | 07a | 69.5 | 27.1 | 2.0 | 11.0 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 7.6 | 708 |
| | 07b | 75.8 | 29.1 | 4.3 | 11.4 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 0.8 | 5.6 | 657 |
| | 08a | 70.4 | 29 | 3.0 | 8.2 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 5.7 | 637 |
| | 08b | 77.8 | 23.0 | 3.8 | 10.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 9.3 | 636 |
| | 09a | 77.8 | 25.5 | 4.2 | 11.9 | 3.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 8.1 | 577 |
| | 09b | 77.4 | 31.4 | 7.3 | 8.4 | 5.9 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 8.4 | 491 |
| | 10a | 73.1 | 29.9 | 4.2 | 10.4 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 6.2 | 642 |
| | 10b | 75.6 | 33.4 | 5.5 | 11.9 | 4.2 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 6.8 | 545 |
| | 11a | 82.2 | 24.9 | 3.9 | 10.9 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 8.2 | 538 |
| | 11b | 72.9 | 33.9 | 5.1 | 12.8 | 3.6 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 7.7 | 549 |
| | 12a | 67.1 | 34.9 | 9.1 | 6.2 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 932 |
| | 12b | 67.9 | 34.9 | 6.5 | 12.1 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 495 |
| | 13a | 63.3 | 40.7 | 5.7 | 11.7 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 472 |
| | 13b | 59.7 | 46.4 | 6.3 | 8.5 | 5.3 | 0.7 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 414 |
| | 14a | 56.0 | 44.5 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 7.2 | 1.5 | 530 |
| | 14b | 52.1 | 40.9 | 7.8 | 4.4 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 7.6 | 1.7 | 655 |
| | 15a | 53.4 | 40.6 | 8.5 | 4.9 | 6.5 | 0.0 | 9.0 | 2.1 | 566 |
| | 15b | 52.9 | 38.5 | 10.1 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 4.6 | 546 |
| | 16a | 61.7 | 36.0 | 6.5 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 663 |
| | 16b | 58.5 | 36.6 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 1.8 | 388 |
| 17a | 52.5 | 37.9 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 8.4 | 2.2 | 356 | |
| 17b | 56.6 | 38.9 | 10.6 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 9.7 | 2.3 | 350 | |
| 18a | 44.3 | 45.8 | 17.1 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 14.9 | 2.1 | 334 | |
| 18b | 49.1 | 36.6 | 15.3 | 7.4 | 9.3 | 0.0 | 18.9 | 2.8 | 216 | |
| 19a | 25.0 | 51.6 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 33.9 | 0.0 | 7.3 | 0.9 | 316 | |
| 19b | 44.4 | 43.9 | 11.6 | 4.2 | 12.2 | 0.0 | 19.0 | 5.3 | 189 | |
| 20a | 26.9 | 47.0 | 5.9 | 9.6 | 28.7 | 0.0 | 14.4 | 4.2 | 167 | |
| 20b | 31.6 | 41.3 | 16.2 | 11.3 | 14.6 | 0.0 | 29.9 | 2.8 | 247 | |
| | 21a | 41.5 | 39.6 | 13.2 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 0.0 | 37.7 | 4.3 | 212 |

* Proportion of persons who reported these substances as primary and secondary substances of use

¹ Cape Town, Atlantis, Worcester; ² Durban, South Coast, Pietermaritzburg; ³ Port Elizabeth and East London; ⁴ Mpumalanga & Limpopo;

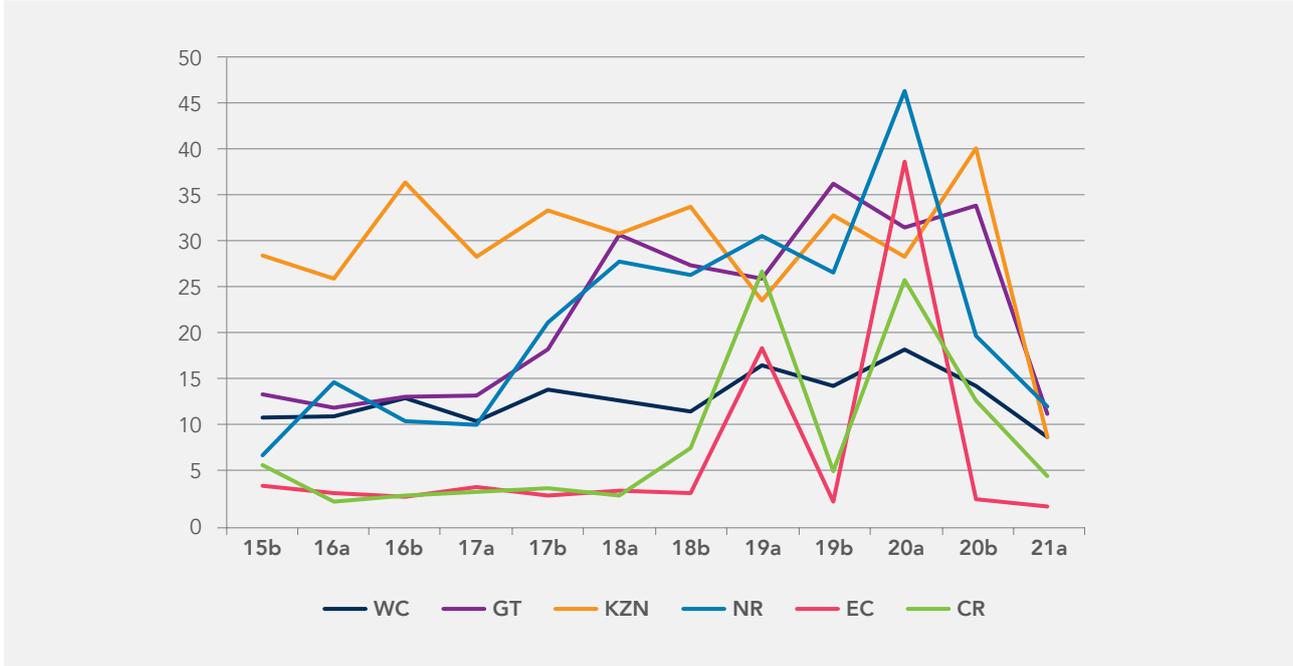
⁵ Free State, North West, Northern Cape

HEROIN/OPIATES

Nyaope and whoonga¹ have been incorporated into the heroin-related admission category to improve the accuracy of heroin surveillance. Between 2% (EC) and 37% (NR) of persons in specialist treatment centres reported heroin as their primary drug of use (Figure 4). Heroin admissions remained stable in the EC at 2% for the previous and current reporting periods. In the CR, a decrease was seen in the proportion of patients seeking treatment for heroin, from 13% to 7%. In the NR, a slight

decrease from 40% in the previous period to 37% in the current period was observed for persons reporting heroin as a primary substance of use, though rates were largely comparable (Table 5). The mean age of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use ranged from 27 to 32 years across all sites, indicating an increase in the age at which heroin use is initiated when compared to the previous period (mean age 20 to 31 years) (Table 3).

FIGURE 4: PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN TREATMENT WITH HEROIN AS THEIR PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE (%)



When comparing genders, more males reported heroin as a primary substance of use than females, between 6% (NR) and 26% (WC) of users with heroin as the primary substance of use were female. In WC 59%, KZN 24%, and GT 18% of heroin users reported that they had received treatment before.

Injection use by persons who reported heroin as their primary substance of use was highest in the CR and EC (33% respectively). In GT 23%, WC 17%, KZN 7%, and the NR 6% of individuals reported injecting heroin. In the NR 46%, GT 34%, KZN 20%, WC 12%, and CR 9% of all users reported heroin, as a primary and secondary drug of use (Table 5). While rates remained fairly stable, increases were observed for GT and CR with a 6% increase for each

region. This is an indication that users who report heroin as a secondary substance might soon experience it as their primary drug problem.

For persons younger than 20 years, the proportion reporting heroin as their primary drug of use ranged from 1% (EC) to 12% (KZN) (Table 4). Based on data collected over several reporting periods and with the addition of data collected from community harm reduction services (also reported on in this brief), PWID are underrepresented in the specialist treatment demand data and it is likely that they seek treatment from other services or avenues that are potentially more geographically and economically accessible to them.

¹ Nyaope and whoonga are street names for heroin, often mixed with other regulated and unregulated substances. In South Africa, it is usually sprinkled on cannabis and/or tobacco and the mixture is rolled into a cigarette or 'joint' and smoked.

OVER-THE-COUNTER AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

The proportion of persons seen at specialist treatment centres who had OTC/PRE medicines listed as their primary substance of use ranged from 1% to 3% across all sites (Table 1). Both EC and KZN reported rates of 3% for OTC/PRE as the primary substance of use, indicating a 1% decrease for KZN and a 1% increase for EC from the preceding period. Across all sites, a larger proportion of individuals who had OTC/PRE medicines as their primary substance of use were male. The average age of OTC/PRE users ranged from 27 to 38 years while the mean age for KZN decreased from 33 years (2020b) to 27 years (2021a) (Table 3). The rate reported for OTC/PRE medication as primary drug of use among individuals aged <20 years was highest in the KZN region (8%) compared to other regions that reported rates of 1% or less. OTC/PRE

medication emerging as a potential problem area among younger individuals in the KZN region points to the need for surveillance and further investigation into the reasons why this age cohort is increasingly engaging in the use of OTC/PRE medicines.

OTC/PRE medicines as primary and secondary substances of use ranged from 1% to 7% (Table 5), however, these substances were more common as secondary drugs of use (1% to 7%) as opposed to primary drugs of use (1% to 5%). Medicines used included benzodiazepines, analgesics, codeine products and sleeping pills. During this reporting period, 285 (3%) people across all sites reported the non-medical use of codeine, with the majority coming from GT (n=150, 53%), followed by KZN (n=73, 26%).

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ECSTASY, METHAMPHETAMINE (TIK), METHCATHINONE (CAT)) AND LSD

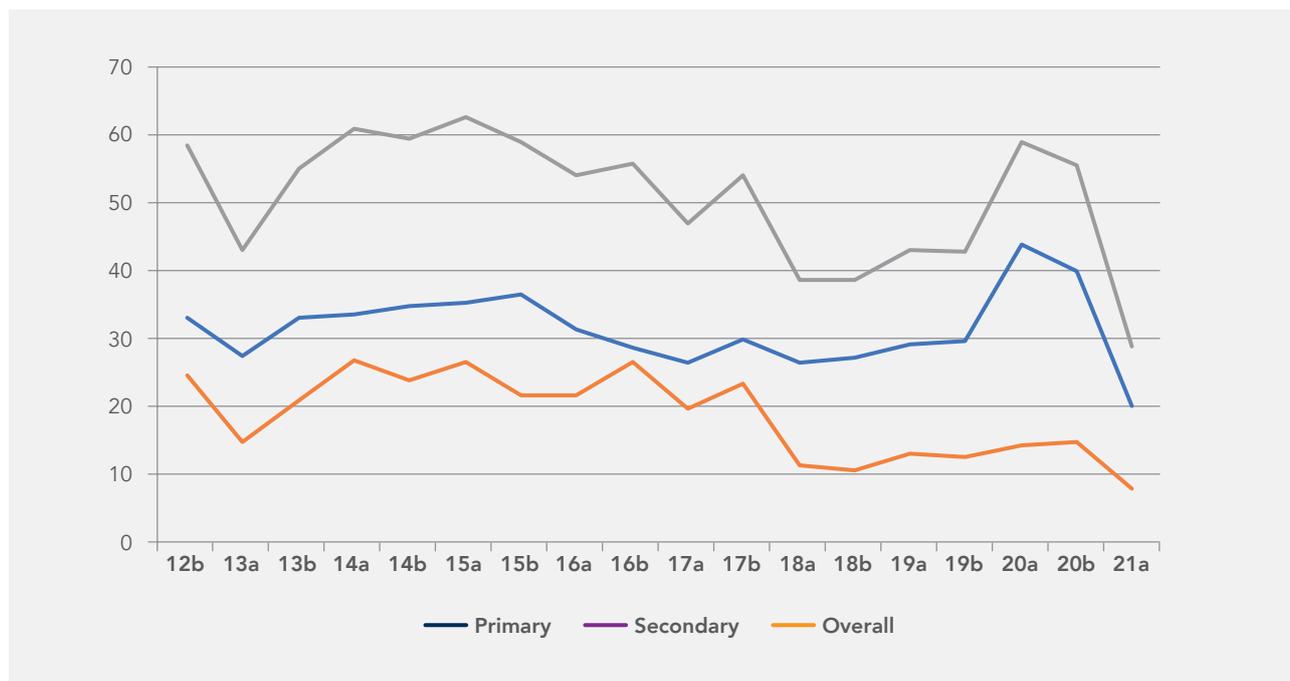
The proportion of persons using specialist treatment services, whose primary drug of use was ecstasy, remained very low across all sites. Less than 1% of persons reported ecstasy as either their primary or secondary substance of use across all sites. Rates reported for ecstasy as primary and secondary substance of use ranged from 0% to 1% across all sites (Table 5).

The proportion of people reporting MA ('Tik') as their primary substance of use was the highest in the EC (36%) while rates decreased in the WC from 40% (2021a) to 35% (2020b). The average age of individuals reporting MA as their primary drug of use was 27 years across all sites, with older users mainly presented in the WC (mean age: 33 years). In contrast, the EC (mean age: 24 years) and CR (mean age: 24 years) presented with the youngest average

age for users of MA as primary substance. Previous gender patterns were sustained with males accounting for the highest numbers of MA primary substance users for all sites. However, in the WC and NR the gender disparity in MA use rates was not as great as in other sites, with females accounting for 31% of users in the WC and 30% of users in the NR.

The majority of individuals reported smoking the drug (90%) while 33 (1.5%) MA users reported injecting the drug. Of the MA users, 54% reported daily use of the drug and a further 32% reported using MA 2-6 days per week. Overall, the highest rates for MA use as a primary and secondary substance were found for the EC (50%) and the WC (49%) in this reporting period (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: TREATMENT DEMAND TRENDS: WC METHAMPHETAMINE AS SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF USE, WC (%)



For persons younger than 20 years, 25% reported MA as a primary and secondary substance of use, showing a decrease when compared to the previous period (29%). The EC accounted for the highest number of persons younger than 20 years (61%) reporting MA as a primary and secondary drug of use, increasing noticeably from 51% in the previous period. Proportions of MA as primary and secondary drug of use ranged from 4% (KZN) to 50% (WC and EC) across all age groups.

In GT, the number of people reporting CAT as their primary substance of use remained high (n=472, 8%) relative to other sites. Rates for CAT as primary and secondary drug of use ranged from less than 1% in the WC to 18% in the CR. Low proportions were reported for CAT users in the other sites.

OTHER SUBSTANCES/POLY-SUBSTANCE USE

Other substances used by persons receiving substance use treatment included inhalants. Approximately 1% of persons across sites reported inhalants as their primary substance of use. This is likely to be an underestimate given that inhalant misuse is common among those who find themselves destitute and therefore may not have easy access to care.

Poly-substance use also remained high, with the highest rates reported for GT (52%) followed by WC (26%) of users in specialist treatment centres reporting more than one substance of use.

MENTAL HEALTH AND OTHER PHYSICAL COMORBIDITIES

Overall, and across all regions, 14% of users (n = 1481) presented with a dual diagnosis at treatment admission. The majority of these persons reported current hypertension (50%) at the time of admission, followed by liver disease (16%), and mental health problems (15%). GIT disease was the smallest category (n=45, 3%) of individuals

presenting with a dual diagnosis at admission. Nationally, hypertension contributed the highest proportion of persons reporting a dual diagnosis, with the WC (14%) accounting for the highest hypertension rates, followed by the CR (11%).

SECTION 2: DATA FROM COMMUNITY-BASED HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

A range of organisations are implementing community based harm reduction services for people who use drugs (PWUD), including people who inject drugs (PWID). Services include: HIV, STI, viral hepatitis and TB prevention, testing and linkage to care; harm reduction behaviour change interventions; needle and syringe services; opioid substitution therapy (OST); monitoring of human rights violations and referral for other available substance use disorder treatment services. Routine hepatitis C (HCV) diagnostic and treatment services are limited due to resource constraints. Interventions aimed at preventing and managing overdose are very limited, and community based naloxone distribution is not currently provided.

TB HIV Care's Step Up Project operates in the Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay District), KwaZulu-Natal (eThekweni and uMgungundlovu Districts) and the Western Cape (Cape Metro). Advance Access and Delivery and the Urban Futures Centre at the Durban University of Technology run the Bellhaven harm reduction centre in eThekweni District. The Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria's Community Orientated Substance Use Programme (COSUP) operates across several regions of the City of Tshwane (Gauteng Province). Sediba Hope provides harm reduction services at two centres in Tshwane District. The HARMless Project, implemented during this reporting period by the Foundation for Professional Development, operates in Gauteng (City of Tshwane) and in Mpumalanga (Ehlanzeni district). Anova Health Institute's Jab Smart Project operates in Gauteng (sub-districts B - G of the City of Johannesburg and in Sedibeng). Tintswalo Home Based Care also operates in Gauteng (East, South and North sub-districts of the City of Ekurhuleni).

The data below reflects service delivery data for reporting period January to June 2021. Data included in the Phase 50 Update report reflected data presented at the SACENDU symposium held in October 2021. Subsequent to that additional data reviews were done at various sites and some duplications and omissions were identified. Therefore, there are some differences in the data included in this report.

EASTERN CAPE

In *Nelson Mandela Bay* 345 unique PWID accessed services, with 72 810 needles and syringes distributed and 99% returned. 121 PWID tested for HIV, 10 of whom tested positive and 9 started antiretroviral therapy (ART). Data on HIV viral suppression was unavailable.

142 people were screened for tuberculosis (TB), with 3 being symptomatic, 0 diagnosed and none starting on TB treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. Opioid substitution therapy (OST) was not available. 15 human rights violations were reported, mostly due to confiscation and destruction of injecting equipment and assault (47% each).

GAUTENG

In *Ekurhuleni* 338 unique PWID accessed the services, with 154 740 needles and syringes distributed and 71% returned. 127 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 13 tested positive and 11 started ART. A total of 12 people were confirmed virally suppressed during this reporting period. 127 PWID were screened for TB 4 were symptomatic, no TB was confirmed and no one was started on treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. OST was not available. 18 human rights violations were reported, mostly related to PWID having their injecting equipment confiscated and destroyed (44%).

In *Johannesburg* 7 113 unique PWID accessed the services, with 545 715 needles and syringes distributed and 20% returned. 1 673 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 337 tested positive and 164 started ART. Two PWID were confirmed to be HIV virally suppressed. 1 746 were screened for TB, with 21 being symptomatic, none diagnosed and none starting on TB treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. 159 PWID were on OST at the beginning of the period. During the period 100 new people were initiated for the first time, 0 people were re-initiated, 40 people were lost to follow-up, 72 people exited and 147 were on OST at the end of the period. Eighty-three human rights violations were reported, the majority (58%) due to being assaulted.

In *Sedibeng* 609 unique PWID accessed the service with 23 445 needles and syringes distributed and 16% returned. 123 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 37 tested positive and 31 were linked to care. Data on HIV viral suppression was unavailable. 146 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis, with 2 being symptomatic, 0 infections confirmed and 0 received treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. OST was not available. 13 human rights violations were reported, most (84%) due to being falsely arrested.

In *Tshwane* 7 790 unique PWID accessed the services, with 671 866 needles and syringes distributed; and 92%

² An error was detected in the data included in the Phase 50 Update report, which excluded the people who were lost to follow-up and exited the OST programme, which is now reflected here.

returned. 1 080 tested for HIV among whom 453 tested positive and 370 started ART. HIV viral suppression was confirmed among 68 clients on ART. 640 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis with 22 being symptomatic, 0 diagnosed and referred for treatment. During the period 1 HCV PCR was conducted and infection confirmed, and a total of 3 people started direct acting antiviral therapy. At total of 27 people were confirmed to have sustained virological response. A total of 887 people was on OST at the beginning of the period. During the period 122 people were initiated for the first time, 12 people were re-initiated, 38 people were lost to follow-up, 143 people existed, 7 people died and 833 were on OST at the end of the period. Data on human rights violations is not currently being collected.

KWAZULU-NATAL

In *eThekweni* 1 662 unique PWID accessed services, with 199 215 needles and syringes distributed and 84% returned. 253 tested for HIV, among whom 52 tested positive and 11 started ART. HIV viral load suppression was confirmed in 2 PWID. 444 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis, 18 diagnosed, and 17 started on TB treatment and 5 confirmed cure. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. 60 PWID were started on OST maintenance therapy, 3 were reinitiated, 12 lost to follow-up, 3 exited, 1 died and 47 were on OST at the end of the period². 210 clients were on low-dose methadone at Bellhaven during the period. 116 human rights violations were reported, majority (66%) due to confiscation/ destruction of needles.

In *uMgungundlovu*, 454 unique PWID accessed the services, with 53 970 needles and syringes distributed and 82% returned. 141 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 31 tested positive and 13 started on ART. Data on HIV viral suppression was unavailable. 126 people who use

drugs were screened for TB, with 0 being symptomatic, 0 diagnosed and 0 starting treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. OST was not available. 13 human rights violations were reported, majority (69%) due to confiscation of injecting equipment.

MPUMALANGA

In *Ehlanzeni* 459 unique PWID accessed the services, with 19 864 needles and syringes distributed and 80% returned. 226 tested for HIV, 49 of whom tested positive and 49 started on ART. 10 clients were reported to be virally suppressed by the end of the reporting period. 18 people were screened for tuberculosis. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. Thirty (30) people were started on OST during the reporting period.

WESTERN CAPE

In the *Cape Metro* 1 344 unique PWID accessed services, with 658 470 needles and syringes distributed and 83% returned. 301 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 14 tested positive and 7 started ART. 4 people were confirmed to be HIV viral suppressed. 370 PWID were screened for TB, with 33 being symptomatic, 2 diagnosed and none starting treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. 81 people were on OST at the beginning of the period. During the period 54 people were initiated for the first time, 2 people were re-initiated, 21 people were lost to follow-up, 1 person exited, 1 person died and 114 were on OST at the end of the period. 43 human rights violations were reported, the majority (72%) due to confiscated/ destroyed needles and syringes.

TABLE 6: PWID ACCESSING NEEDLE AND SYRINGE SERVICE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (JANUARY TO JUNE 2021)

| Province | Health district | Male | Female | Trans | Median age (yrs)* |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| Eastern Cape | Nelson Mandela Bay (n=345) | 94% | 6% | 0% | - |
| Gauteng | City of Ekurhuleni (n=338) | 90% | 10% | 0% | - |
| | City of Johannesburg (n= 7 113) | 95% | 5% | 0% | - |
| | Sedibeng (n=609) | 98% | 2% | 0% | - |
| | City of Tshwane (n=7 790) | 95% | 5% | 0% | - |
| KwaZulu-Natal | eThekweni (n=1 662) | 86% | 14% | 0% | - |
| | uMgungundlovu (n=454) | 86% | 14% | 0% | - |
| Mpumalanga | Ehlanzeni (n=459) | 94% | 6% | 0% | - |
| Western Cape | Cape Metro (n= 1 344) | 82% | 18% | 0% | - |

TABLE 7: COMPARISON OF PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS ACCESSING NEEDLE AND SYRINGE SERVICES (JANUARY TO JUNE 2021) WITH CENSUS DATA - BY DISTRICT¹

| Province | District | | Black African | Indian | Coloured | White |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Eastern Cape | Nelson Mandela Bay | Population ¹ | 61% | 1% | 24% | 14% |
| | | Accessed service | 25% | 1% | 18% | 56% |
| Gauteng | City of Ekurhuleni | Population ¹ | 79% | 3% | 2% | 16% |
| | | Accessed service | 81% | 1% | 8% | 10% |
| | City of Johannesburg | Population ¹ | 76% | 5% | 6% | 12% |
| | | Accessed service | 99% | 0% | 1% | 0% |
| | Sedibeng | Population ¹ | 74% | 1% | 1% | 24% |
| | | Accessed service | 99% | 0% | 1% | 0% |
| | City of Tshwane ² | Population ¹ | 75% | 2% | 2% | 21% |
| | | Accessed service | 90% | 4% | 4% | 6% |
| KwaZulu-Natal | eThekweni | Population ¹ | 73% | 17% | 3% | 7% |
| | | Accessed service | 88% | 4% | 4% | 4% |
| | uMgungundlovu | Population ¹ | 90% | 3% | 1% | 6% |
| | | Accessed service | 95% | 0% | 2% | 3% |
| Mpumalanga | Ehlanzeni | Population ¹ | 92% | 1% | <1% | 6% |
| | | Accessed service | 91% | 0% | 2% | 7% |
| Western Cape | Cape Metro | Population ¹ | 37% | 2% | 42% | 18% |
| | | Accessed service | 3% | 0% | 87% | 11% |

¹ Statistics South Africa, 2011 Census. Where proportions do not add to 100% it is due to rounding, or participants selecting "Other" demographic group.

TABLE 8: PEOPLE WITH OPIOID DEPENDENCE ON OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY, LOST TO FOLLOW-UP AND EXITED (JANUARY TO JUNE 2021) - BY DISTRICT

| District | Non-injecting/ PWID | Number on OST at start of period | Number initiated on OST for first time | Number restarted | Number LTFU during period | Number exited during period | Number died during period | Number on OST at end of period |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Nelson Mandela Bay | Non-injecting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | PWID | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| City of Ekurhuleni | Non-injecting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | PWID | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| City of Johannesburg | Non-injecting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PWID | 159 | 100 | 0 | 40 | 72 | 0 | 147 |
| | Total | 159 | 100 | 0 | 40 | 72 | 0 | 147 |
| Sedibeng | Non-injecting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | PWID | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| City of Tshwane | Non-injecting | 388 | 26 | 4 | 11 | 50 | 2 | 355 |
| | PWID | 499 | 96 | 8 | 27 | 93 | 5 | 478 |
| | Total | 887 | 122 | 12 | 38 | 143 | 7 | 833 |
| eThekweni* | Non-injecting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PWID | 0 | 60 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 47 |
| | Total | 0 | 60 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 47 |
| uMgungundlovu | Non-injecting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | PWID | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ehlanzeni | Non-injecting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PWID | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| | Total | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Cape Metro | Non-injecting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PWID | 81 | 54 | 2 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 114 |
| | Total | 81 | 54 | 2 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 114 |

* No demographic data on clients on low dose methadone available

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

SELECTED IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY/PRACTICE³

During Phase 50 regional report back meetings of SACENDU, a number of recommendations were made with regard to specific interventions needed to address substance use and substance use policy in general:

- High HIV yield among PWID accessing HIV testing services in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal
- High yield of TB with increased use of digital chest x-ray, and sputums with GeneXpert.
- Strengthen efforts to address injecting of heroin in CR and EC.
- Intensify efforts to address methamphetamine use in the EC.
- Continue to motivate for HIV testing among young people receiving substance use treatment.
- Important to ensure drug treatment and harm reduction services are considered essential services and continue future epidemics.
- Overdose training provided to harm reduction beneficiaries in eThekweni was well received.

SELECTED ISSUES TO MONITOR

Phase 50 of the SACENDU Project highlighted several conditions/factors that need to be carefully monitored over time:

- Increase in crack/cocaine (both as primary and secondary substance of use) in KZN.
- Decrease in young people accessing treatment services in the EC, NR, CR, and KZN.
- Decrease in HIV testing rates in WC.
- Decrease in the mean age of patients reporting OTC/PRE in KZN
- Increase in methamphetamine as a primary drug of use in the EC.
- Increase in mandrax as a secondary drug of use in the EC.
- Increase in OTC/PRE medicines as primary drug of use among individuals <20 years in KZN.
- Increase in proportion of people injecting methamphetamine in the NR and heroin in the CR and EC.
- Increase in alcohol and cannabis use in the WC
- Increase in cannabis as primary drug of use by young people in the NR, and KZN.
- Decrease in treatment admissions by females in the EC and NR.
- Ongoing reports of confiscation of injecting equipment across districts where harm reduction services are provided.
- Enhanced measurement and reporting of viral suppression data among people who use drugs on ART.

SELECTED TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH/INVESTIGATION

Phase 50 of the SACENDU Project highlighted several topics for further research/investigation:

- How has legislative changes affected treatment demand for cannabis use?
- How best to address barriers to treatment for young people in KZN, NR, CR and EC?
- What are the effects of drop-in treatment demand by young people in these provinces in the first half of 2021?
- Have alcohol restrictions resulted in the transition to crack/cocaine use in KZN.
- What are the reasons for the decrease in the mean age of OTC/PRE medications?
- What are possible reasons for the increase in OTC/PRE medication as primary drug of use among individuals <20 year old in KZN?
- What are the barriers for students not accessing substance use treatment? Where do they seek help for AOD problems?
- How can human rights violations affecting people who use drugs, including confiscation of equipment, be reduced?

³ Outcomes emanating from regional meetings held in GP, KZN, PE and CT

SACENDU

South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use

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