SACENDU

South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use

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RESEARCH BRIEF

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

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BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

The South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU) continued holding virtual report back meetings for Phase 51 and PowerPoint presentations were made available to all stakeholders of SACENDU. We envision a move to a hybrid approach, with both virtual and face-to-face reporting meetings in the foreseeable future.

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**, and the **SERVICE QUALITY MEASURES (SQM)** findings.

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:

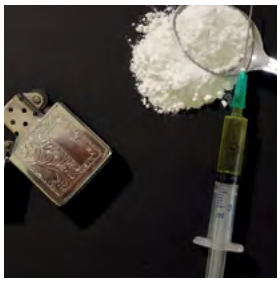
a) To identify changes in the nature and extent of AOD use and emerging problems.
b) To identify changes in overall consequences related to alcohol and other drug use.
c) To inform policy, planning and advocacy efforts at local and other levels.
d) To support networks of local role players in the substance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

Financial support for Phase 51 was provided by the Mental Health and Substance Use Directorate of the National Department of Health.

The 2nd half of 2021 (i.e., 2021b) saw an increase in the number of persons admitted for AOD treatment from **10 938** in over 85 centres/programmes in **2021a** to **15 704** across **78 treatment centres/programmes in 2021b**. During this period, treatment centres started re-opening their alcohol and other drug rehabilitation services that were largely suspended or with limited service provision during Covid-19.







The current period saw a marked increase in the number of persons seeking treatment for **Alcohol** in WC, and GT. While a 21% drop in alcohol admissions was noted for KZN, cannabis admissions increased by 10% during the same admission period. Between 12% (KZN) and 28% (EC and CR) of persons accessing AOD treatment services reported alcohol as their primary substance of use. Across regions, between 25% (EC) and 38% (CR) of persons attending specialist treatment centres had **Cannabis** as their primary substance of use. Cannabis contributed 54% of all admissions among individuals younger than 20 years nationally. **Cannabis/Mandrax (Methaqualone)** combination (also known as "white pipe") was most commonly used as a secondary substance in the WC (33% and EC (16%).

Treatment admissions for **Cocaine** have remained consistent over the past few reporting periods, at generally low levels across regions. Cocaine was often reported as a secondary substance of use. Between 5% (WC) and 26% (KZN) of persons in treatment had cocaine as a primary and secondary drug of use. Relatively few persons younger than 20 years were admitted for cocaine-related problems.

Heroin comprised 20% of admissions made across all regions for the period 2021b. A marked decrease in persons reporting heroin as a primary substance of use was noticed in the NR (from 37% to 29%) while an increase was noted for KZN (from 23% to 29%). Heroin was mostly smoked, however across sites, 50% (EC), 45% (CR), and 22% (GT) of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use reported injecting the drug. Rates for heroin as a primary and secondary substance of use ranged from 1% (EC) to 47% (NR) in 2021b. The average age range of individuals who have been admitted for heroin misuse has decreased over the last three reporting periods.

Treatment admissions for **OTC/PRE-medicines** as a primary drug of use ranged between 1% and 3%, while rates for both primary and secondary substance of use were between 1% and 7% across sites. During this reporting period n=421 (3%) persons across all sites reported the non-medical use of codeine.

Treatment admission rates for **Methamphetamine (MA aka 'TIK)** as a primary substance of use were highest in the EC (38%), WC (35%), and GT (21%). Compared to other substances, MA remained the most common primary drug reported by persons in the WC (35%). Across all regions, **Methamphetamine (MA aka 'Tik')** was reported as the second leading primary substance of use by persons younger than 20 years. The highest rates for MA as primary and secondary drug of use were reported for the EC (57%) and WC (58%). Treatment admissions for **Ecstasy** as a primary drug of use remained low (<1%). 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. Across regions, CAT was reported as a primary substance of use by 5% of individuals admitted to treatment. CAT admissions as primary and secondary substance of use were highest in the CR (16%) and GT (15%). In the EC, CAT was reported as a secondary substance of use only.

Inhalant/solvent use remained low at <1% across regions. No inhalant use was reported for the CR. 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. Indication of **Poly-substance use** (i.e., more than one substance of use indicated) remained high (53% nationally); the CR contributed the highest proportion of individuals who engaged in poly-substance use (68%).

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 25 specialist treatment centres/programmes participating in the project between July - December 2021 were MA (35%), cannabis (27%), and alcohol (20%), collectively comprising 82% of all admissions (*Table 1*). The proportion of individuals presenting with alcohol at the time of admission increased from 18% in 2021a to 20% in 2021b, admissions for cannabis use increased from 24% in 2021a to 27% in 2021b, while heroin admissions decreased from 11% in 2021a to 9% in 2021b. Rates for other substance categories remained largely the same. Overall, 2 195 persons were treated across all 25 treatment centres in the second half of 2021.

In **KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)** the main primary substance of use in this period was cannabis (33%), followed by heroin (29%), and alcohol and crack/cocaine (12% respectively). Cannabis admissions increased from 23% in the previous reporting period to 33% in the current review period (*Table 1*). Heroin admissions (which also include nyaope/whoonga) increased from 23% in 2021a to 29% in 2021b. A total of 1 146 persons were treated across the 11 treatment centres who submitted data in the second half of 2021.

In the **Eastern Cape (EC)** the main primary substances of use reported by the treatment centres between July to December 2021 were MA (38%), alcohol (28%), and cannabis (25%) (*Table 1*). An increase was seen in the proportion of admissions made for cannabis (from 22% in 2021a to 25% in 2021b) and MA misuse (36% in 2021a to 38% in 2021b). A total of n=487 persons were treated across 4 facilities, increasing from n=386 individuals requiring treatment in the previous review period (*Table 1*).

In **Gauteng (GT)**, which includes the metropolitan areas of Johannesburg and Pretoria, 9701 admissions across 26 treatment centres were recorded in the second half of 2021. Cannabis (32%) was the most common primary substance of use among persons admitted to treatment, followed by heroin and MA (21% respectively) (*Table 1*). Admissions for cannabis use increased by 5% while alcohol and MA increased by 4%. Conversely, heroin and other substance combinations decreased by 8% (*Table 1*).

In the **Northern Region (NR)**, which includes data from 8 centres (6 in Mpumalanga and 2 in Limpopo), a total of 1657 admissions were recorded for the 2021b reporting period. The main primary substance of use reported by the treatment centres was cannabis (31%), followed by heroin (29%), and alcohol (19%), together comprising almost 80% of all treatment admissions in this region (*Table 1*) The number of persons admitted for alcohol as primary substance of use increased from 14% to 19%, crack/cocaine increased from 3% to 12%, cannabis decreased from 37% to 31%, and heroin decreased from 37% to 29%. (*Table 1*).

In the **Central Region (CR)** (comprising the Free Sate, Northern Cape and the North West), 495 admissions were made across four (4) treatment centres for the period 2021b. Cannabis was the most common primary substance of use, accounting for 38% of all admissions. This was followed by alcohol (28%), and MA (15%). This profile changed from the previous phase when alcohol and methamphetamine were the two most common primary substances of use at the time of admission. In addition, there was also a marked depreciation in MA use from 26% in 2021a to 15% in 2021b (*Table 1*). The CR remains poorly resourced with regards to the availability of specialist treatment centres.

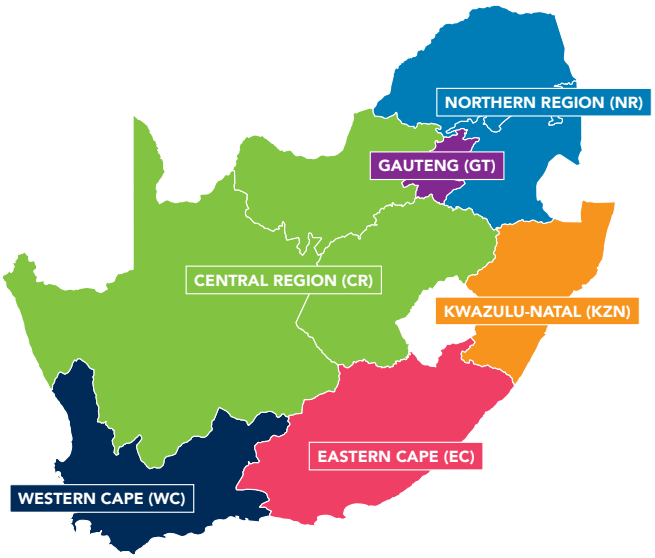


TABLE 1: PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE: BY SITE AND 6-MONTH PERIOD (%)

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	OTC/* PRE	Metham-phetamine	Other	Total (N)
WC[1]	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
	2021b	**20.0**	**26.7**	**5.6**	**2.1**	**9.1**	**0.0**	**1.4**	**34.8**	**0.2**	**2195**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	OTC/* PRE	Metham-phetamine	Other	Total (N)
KZN[2]	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
	2021b	**12.2**	**33.0**	**1.0**	**12.4**	**28.7**	**0.2**	**3.1**	**8.2**	**0.3**	**1146**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	OTC/* PRE	Metham-phetamine	Other	Total (N)
EC[3]	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
	2019b	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
	2021b	**27.7**	**24.6**	**3.7**	**3.9**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**1.0**	**38.0**	**0.0**	**487**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	OTC/* PRE	Metham-phetamine	Other	Total (N)
GT	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	20.0	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
	2021a	9.4	27.3	2.9	3.5	29.4	0.3	2.6	17.3	8.9	6226
	2021b	**13.2**	**31.8**	**2.2**	**1.3**	**21.5**	**0.1**	**0.8**	**20.9**	**1.0**	**9701**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	OTC/* PRE	Metham-phetamine	Other	Total (N)
NR[4]	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
	2021b	**19.3**	**30.8**	**0.1**	**11.7**	**28.8**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**3.9**	**0.1**	**1657**

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
	2021b	**27.9**	**37.8**	**2.8**	**4.6**	**4.4**	**0.0**	**2.4**	**15.4**	**0.8**	**495**

[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
*Over-the-counter, prescription medicine

SITE SUMMARIES: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

First time admissions: The proportion of first-time admissions to treatment centres ranged between 66% (GT) and 94% (KZN) across sites. In this period, first-time admissions made up 72% of all admissions. Nationally, heroin/opiates (48%), other combinations (42%), and MA (31%) were the substances that had the highest proportions of readmissions. Of note are the relatively high readmission rates in GT (34%), WC (24%), and NR (18%). In GT most individuals were readmitted for heroin use (60%) 35% were for MA use, and 27% for cannabis/mandrax. In the WC most persons readmitted for substance misuse were readmitted for heroin (54%), other combinations (50%), and crack/cocaine (37%). Lastly, in the NR the highest proportion of readmissions were made for crack/cocaine (26%), heroin (25%), and MA (22%).

Referrals: Across all regions, the most common source of referral to specialist treatment centres was 'self/family/friends'. The 'work/employer' was the second most common referral source in the CR (16%) and EC (9%), while 'social services/welfare' was second highest in GT (17%), WC, (16%), and NR (12%). 'Schools' (15%) was the second leading source of referral to treatment in KZN. See Table 2.

TABLE 2: REFERRAL SOURCES (JUL-DEC 2021) [COLUMN % ADD UP TO 100]

Referral Source	WC	KZN	EC	CR	GT	NR
Self/family/friends	46	64	76	59	67	66
Work/employer	10	11	9	17	3	10
Social services/welfare	16	5	4	12	17	12
Health professionals (Doctor/psychiatrist/nurse)	3	4	2	3	1	1
Hospital/clinic	5	1	2	1	1	1
Court/correctional services	1	<1	<1	2	1	1
Schools	13	15	6	7	7	7
Church/religious body	<1	<1	-	1	1	1
Other e.g. radio	4	<1	1	-	<1	<1

Gender: Across all sites between 73% (WC) and 91% (KZN and NR) of persons identified as male, however gender differences were noted for various primary substances of use (see Figure 1). In the EC, only females were admitted for misuse of inhalant use while more females (60%) compared to males (40%) were admitted for OTC/PRE-medication use. In the NR rates were evenly spread between males (50%) and females (50%) for inhalant admissions while in the CR, admissions for OTC/PRE-medication use were spread equally between males (50%) and females (50%) (Figure 1). OTC/PRE-medication admissions were also almost comparable for males (52%) and females (48%) in the WC. Compared to other regions, the WC had a greater proportion of female patients (27%) accessing treatment, a trend which has been sustained across previous reporting periods (Figure 2).

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

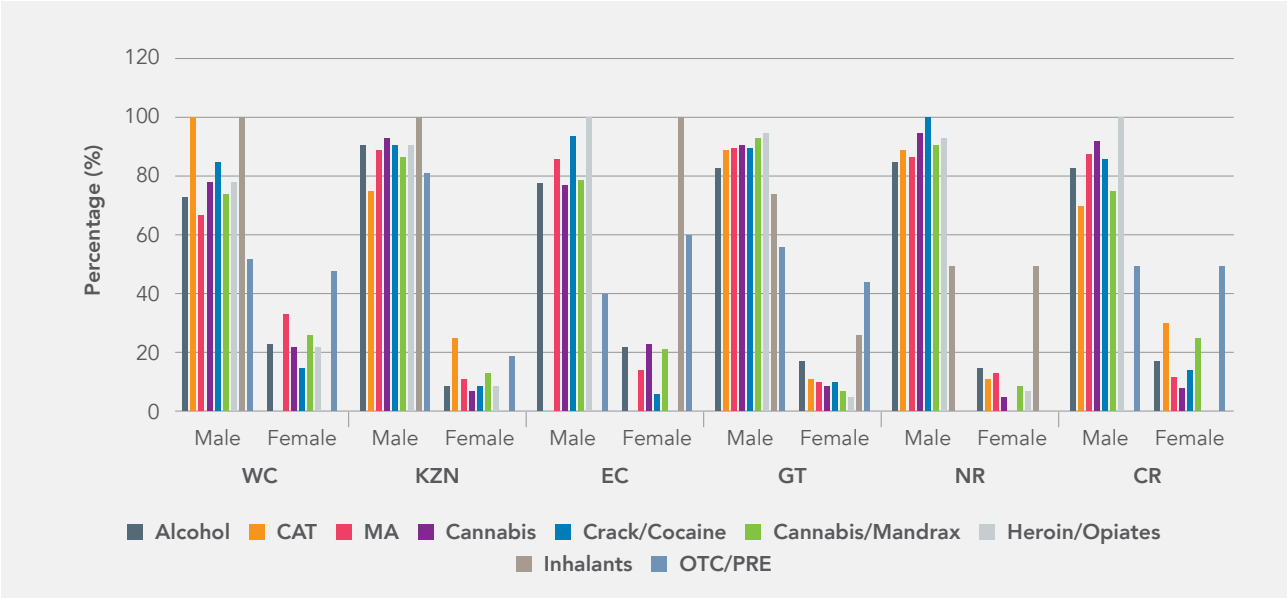
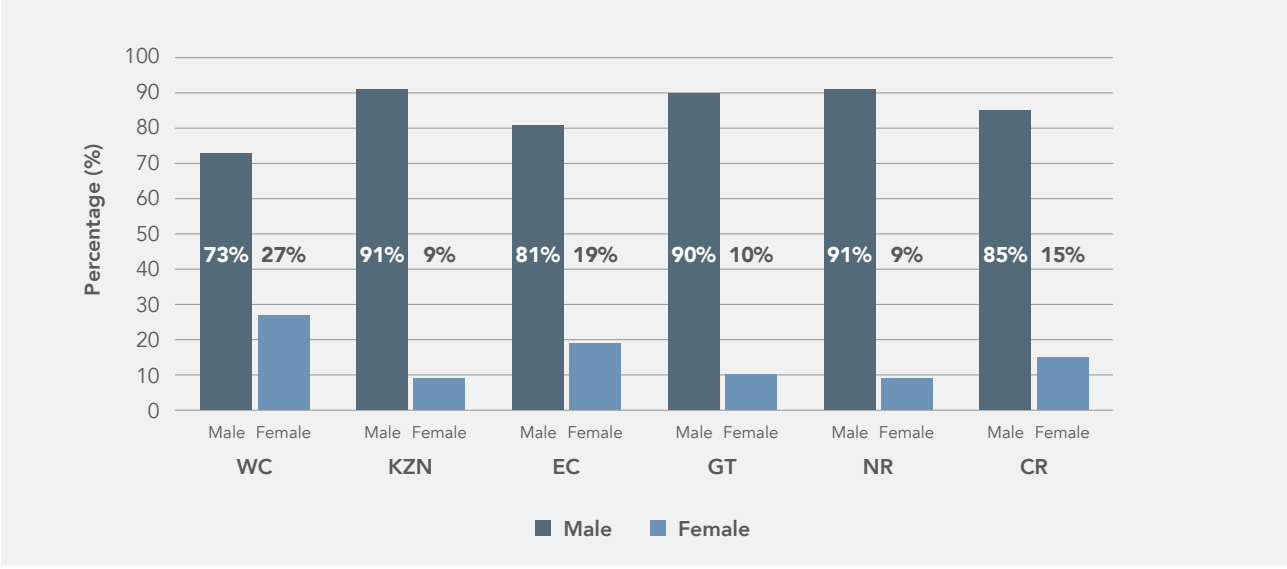


FIGURE 2: GENDER BY REGION (%)



Employment status and education: Between 12% (GT) and 34% (CR) of persons were in full-time employment across sites, remaining similar to previous years' rates. Unemployment rates ranged between 36% (EC) and 64% (GT); GT province accounted for the highest rate of individuals unemployed for more than 6 months (58%), followed by NR (54%), and KZN (47%). Scholars/learners was the second largest education level category (18% nationally), ranging from 15% (NR) to 26% (EC). Across all provinces, the majority of individuals (85%) had a secondary school (grade 8-12) education. The EC (20%) had the highest number of persons with a tertiary level education. Individuals with no schooling made up a very small proportion comprising <1% across most provinces.

Mode of use: While smoking remained the most common mode of use for all substances nationally (58%) compared to other modes of use, this mode of administration decreased notable from 71% in the previous reporting period. Rates for injection drug use remained low across sites, however, GT remained the province with the highest drug injection rate (5%) compared to the other regions, increasing by 2% from the period January to June 2021. Overall, 18% of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use reported injecting as a route of administration. In the EC, the route of heroin administration was evenly split between smoking (50%) and injecting (50%), accounting for the highest heroin injection rates compared to other regions.

Age of persons: The mean age for all substances across all provinces was 27 years (Table 3). However, age differences were noted for individual substance categories. Nationally, individuals were older when their primary substance of use was alcohol (37 years) and OTC/PRE-medication (35 years). Individuals who reported inhalants as their primary

substance of use were the youngest (average age 19 years) compared to other substance use categories. When comparing regions, individuals admitted for inhalant use in the WC were the youngest (10 years).

A total number of 4848 individuals aged <20 years were admitted to specialist treatment facilities for the current reporting period (Table 4). Since the July to December 2020 reporting period, a substantial appreciation was noted for the proportion of persons younger than 20 years admitted to treatment in GT (increasing from 61% to 72%). A 10% decrease was noted in admissions for <20 years in the WC from 20% in the previous period to 10% in the current review period (Figure 3).

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	38	35	38	37	36	34	37
CAT	42	26	-	30	26	27	27
Crack/Cocaine	34	30	34	36	30	29	30
Cannabis	20	24	19	23	22	25	22
Cannabis/Mandrax	34	29	31	29	27	19	30
Heroin/Opiates[1]	35	29	45	27	27	28	28
Inhalants	10	30	-	-	17	30	19
Methamphetamine	32	26	24	25	24	25	26
Ecstasy	33	27	-	-	32	23	30
OTC/PRE[2]	39	24	37	33	39	-	35
Other combinations	31	21	-	16	20	48	21
All substances	**31**	**28**	**28**	**29**	**26**	**28**	**27**

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

FIGURE 3: TREATMENT ADMISSION TRENDS (% OF PATIENTS <20 YEARS)

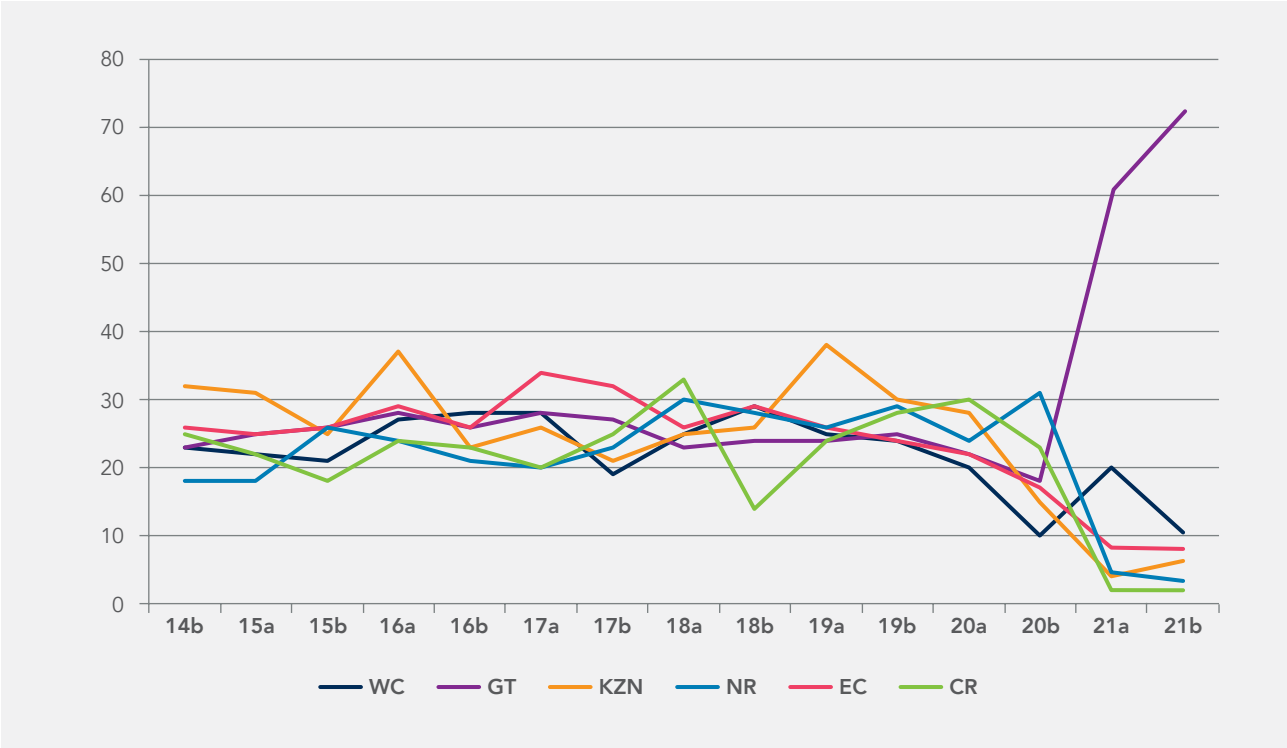
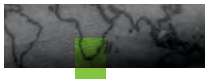


TABLE 4: PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE FOR PERSONS <20 YEARS (%): JUL-DEC 2021

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**2.8**	**84.3**	**2.1**	**0.2**	**0.6**	**-**	**8.5**	**1.1**	**470**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**1.5**	**56.9**	**1.1**	**8.4**	**14.1**	**-**	**10.7**	**6.5**	**262**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	Total (N)
EC[3]	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
	21b	**3.3**	**58.2**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**38.5**	**-**	**122**



Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**4.1**	**49.0**	**1.5**	**0.6**	**16.1**	**-**	**21.7**	**0.3**	**3491**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**11.4**	**55.6**	**0.5**	**7.6**	**17.2**	**-**	**3.8**	**-**	**367**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Cocaine/ Crack	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**4.9**	**67.5**	**1.6**	**-**	**1.6**	**-**	**19.5**	**-**	**123**

[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
[a] Over-the-counter, prescription medication not reported for previous periods

Sources of payment: Overall, the 'state' provided the most substantial source of payment for treatment services (56%). When considering source of payment by individual regions, the 'state' was also the most common funding source in the WC (85%), GT (62%), and the NR (33%), while 'family/friends' was the most common source of funding in KZN (52%) and the EC (40%). In the CR 'medical aid' accounted for the highest funding contribution (34%).

HIV testing: Between 31% (KZN) and 49% (WC) of persons reported that they had been tested for HIV in the past 12 months. Although the WC remained the province with the highest rates for HIV testing, rates decreased by 4% compared to the 2021a period. Of note is that half (50%) of the individuals admitted to treatment in the CR indicated that they had not been tested for HIV. Low testing rates remain of concern across South African, highlighting the need for interventions that encourage voluntary counselling and testing (VCT).

SUMMARIES BY SUBSTANCE OF USE

ALCOHOL

Reported rates for alcohol admissions ranged between 12% (KZN) and 28% (EC and CR respectively) (Table 1).

Alcohol admission rates remained stable for the EC (27%) and the CR (27%). A considerable decrease in alcohol admissions was reported for KZN dropping from 33% in the previous review period to 12% in the current period. Rates increased for the WC from 18% in 2021a to 20% in 2021b, and GT from 9% to 13%, while a reduction was noted for the CR from 30% to 28%. In the NR, a rise was seen for alcohol use admissions from 14% in the previous period to 19% in the present period (see Table 1).

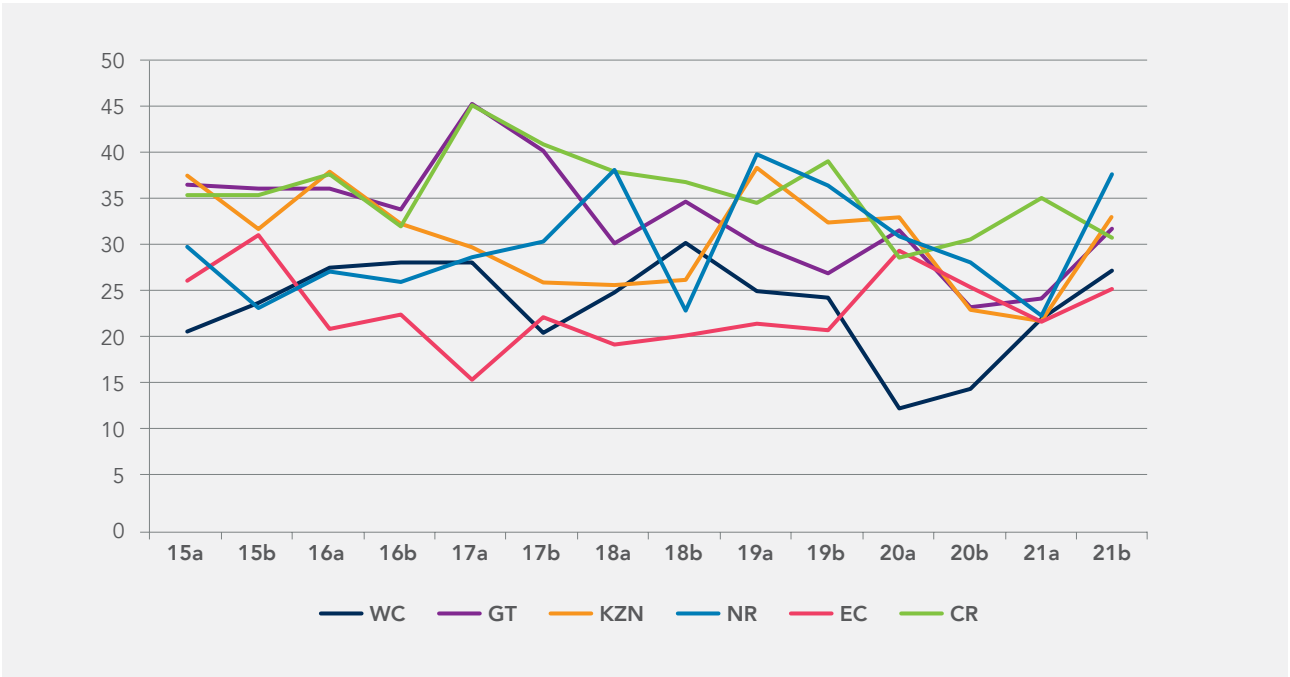
Nationally, the average age of persons admitted for alcohol misuse was 37 years with ages ranging from 34 to 38 years (Table 3). Individuals presenting to treatment centres were more likely to be male (87%) compared to females (13%). This was also true across provinces.

CANNABIS (DAGGA) AND MANDRAX

Cannabis remained the most common primary substance of use among persons seen at specialist treatment facilities across regions (31%). Regionally, admissions for cannabis use ranged from 25% (EC) to 38% (CR) (Figure 4).

Admissions for cannabis/mandrax misuse remained low, with rates between <1% (NR) and 6% (WC) (Table 1). As a secondary substance of use, cannabis/mandrax was more common in the WC (33%) followed by the EC (16%). Across sites, persons admitted to specialist treatment centres who reported cannabis/mandrax as their secondary substance of use tend to be older (mean age: 29 years) than those who had cannabis as their primary substance of use (mean age: 22 years) (Table 3). Across all regions, cannabis contributed over half (54%) of all admissions among individuals younger than 20 years.

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



Data from specialist treatment centres demonstrates that males continue to dominate treatment demand for cannabis and cannabis/mandrax use in comparison to their female counterparts. For instance, only 10% of persons whose primary substance of use was cannabis, and 11% whose substance was cannabis/mandrax were female. When comparisons were made across regions, rates for females who used cannabis were between 5% (NR) and 22% (EC) while rates for cannabis/mandrax ranged between 6% (EC) and 15% (WC). In the NR only males were admitted for cannabis/mandrax use.

CRACK/COCAINE

The proportion of persons reporting crack/cocaine as their primary substance of use remained relatively stable across all regions except the NR where the rate increased from 3% in 2021a to 12% in 2021b (Table 1). Rates ranged from 2% in the WC to 12% in KZN and the NR. Between 5% (WC) and 26% (KZN) of all persons admitted using crack/cocaine as a primary and secondary substance of use (Table 5).

The national mean age of persons in treatment whose primary drug of use was crack/cocaine was 30 years with ages ranging from 29 to 36 years across regions (Table 3). The proportion of males reporting crack/cocaine as their primary substance of use were between 74% (GT) and 93% (GT) while rates for females ranged from 7% (GT) and 25% (WC). Among adolescents, KZN contributed the largest proportion of individuals who reported crack/cocaine as a primary substance of use (8%). Finally, between 11% (CR) and 37% (WC) of crack/cocaine users had experienced prior treatment episodes.

TABLE 5: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF USE* (%): JUL-DEC 2021

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**33.9**	**47.7**	**38.8**	**5.4**	**10.9**	**0.3**	**57.0**	**4.2**	**2195**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**33.9**	**63.6**	**3.9**	**26.3**	**39.1**	**0.7**	**20.9**	**7.2**	**1146**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**47.3**	**60.9**	**19.7**	**8.5**	**0.8**	**0.7**	**56.6**	**3.0**	**487**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**22.6**	**62.9**	**12.5**	**9.0**	**29.0**	**0.6**	**39.9**	**3.0**	**9701**

Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	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
	21b	**39.0**	**56.9**	**3.7**	**22.8**	**46.8**	**2.0**	**14.6**	**0.9**	**1675**

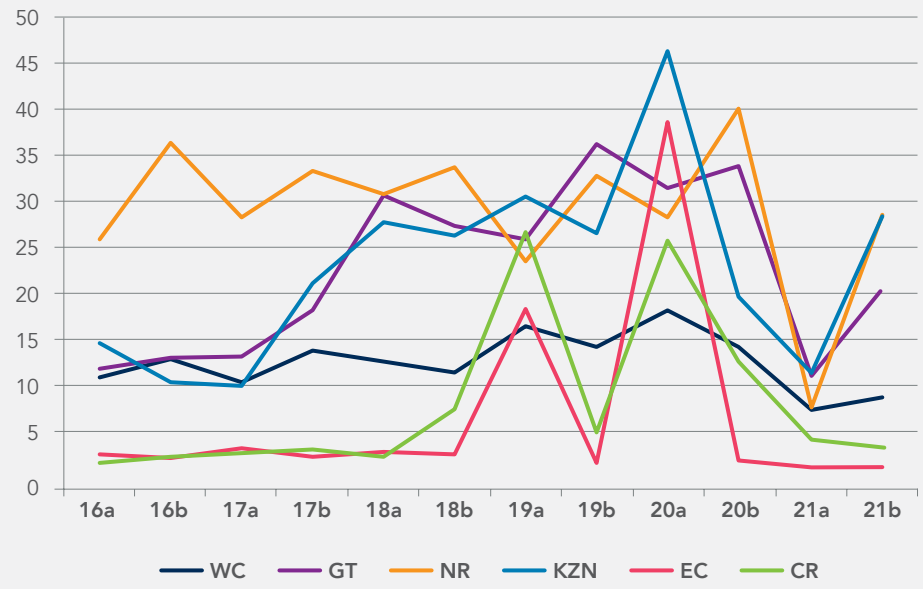
Site	Period	Alcohol	Cannabis	Cannabis/ Mandrax	Crack/ Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Metham-phetamine	OTC/ PRE[a]	Total (N)
CR[5]	07a	69.5	27.1	2.0	11.0	2.8	2.5	0.8	7.6	708
	07b	75.8	29.1	4.3	11.4	2.1	2.9	0.8	5.6	657
	08a	70.4	29	3.0	8.2	1.7	0.0	1.4	5.7	637
	08b	77.8	23.0	3.8	10.8	1.7	1.7	0.0	9.3	636
	09a	77.8	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
	21b	**40.8**	**63.8**	**11.2**	**10.6**	**7.7**	**0.6**	**31.9**	**6.3**	**495**

* 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
[a] Over-the-counter, prescription medicine

HEROIN/OPIATES

Nyaope and whoonga[1] have been incorporated into the heroin-related admission category to improve the accuracy of heroin surveillance. Overall, heroin comprised 20% of all treatment admissions for this period. Between 1% (EC) and 29% (KZN and NR) of persons in specialist treatment centres reported heroin as their primary drug of use (Figure 5). Nationally, the mean age of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use was 28 years, with mean ages ranging from 27 to 45 years (Table 3). An increase in the average age range of persons who use heroin has been noted for the past three (3) reporting periods. Between 1% (EC) and 47% (NR) of persons attending specialist treatment centres reported heroin as a primary and secondary substance of use. Although heroin was mostly smoked, across sites 50% (EC), 45% (CR), and 22% (GT) of persons who had heroin as their primary substance of use injected the drug.

FIGURE 5: 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, ranging between 78% in the WC and 100% in the CR and EC. In GT 59% and WC 54% of individuals who use heroin reported that they had received prior treatment. In the EC, there were no prior admissions for individuals who use heroin.

[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

Rates for individuals seen at specialist treatment centres with OTC/PRE medicines reported as their primary substance of use remained unchanged from the previous period, ranging from 1% to 3% across all sites (Table 1). The highest rates for OTC/PRE-medication use were for KZN (3%), followed by CR (2%); rates for the WC and GT were at 1% while the NR had no reported OTC/PRE-medication admissions. Nationally, mostly males (60%) had OTC/PRE-medicines as their primary substance of use compared to females. However, when admission rates were compared across regions, more females (60%) than males (40%) presented with OTC/PRE-medication use in the EC while admissions for OTC/PRE-medication were evenly distributed between males (50%) and females (50%) in the CR.

The national average age of OTC/PRE-medicine users was 35 years, ranging from 25 years (KZN) to 39 years (GT and WC) (Table 3). The CR, EC, and NR did not report OTC-PRE-medicine use for individuals younger than 20 years. OTC/PRE-medication rates among <20 year olds were highest in the KZN region (6%), though this rate decreased slightly by 2% from the last period.

OTC/PRE medicines as primary and secondary substances of use ranged between 1% (NR) and 7% (KZN) (Table 5). Medicines used included benzodiazepines, analgesics, codeine products and sleeping pills. A very small percentage (<1%) also reported using 'Lean' (also known as 'Purple Drank', Sizzurp, or 'Dirty Sprite' which is a soda drink mixed with prescription-strength codeine-containing medication like cough syrup or pain medication).[2] Nationally, a total of 162 (1%) of individuals were admitted for OTC/PRE-medication misuse for the 2021b reporting period, decreasing by 2% from 2021a.

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 sites (<1%). The CR and ER did not report any ecstasy admissions for this period. Rates for ecstasy as primary and secondary substance of use were also very low across sites ranging from <1% (WC) to 2% (NR) (Table 5).

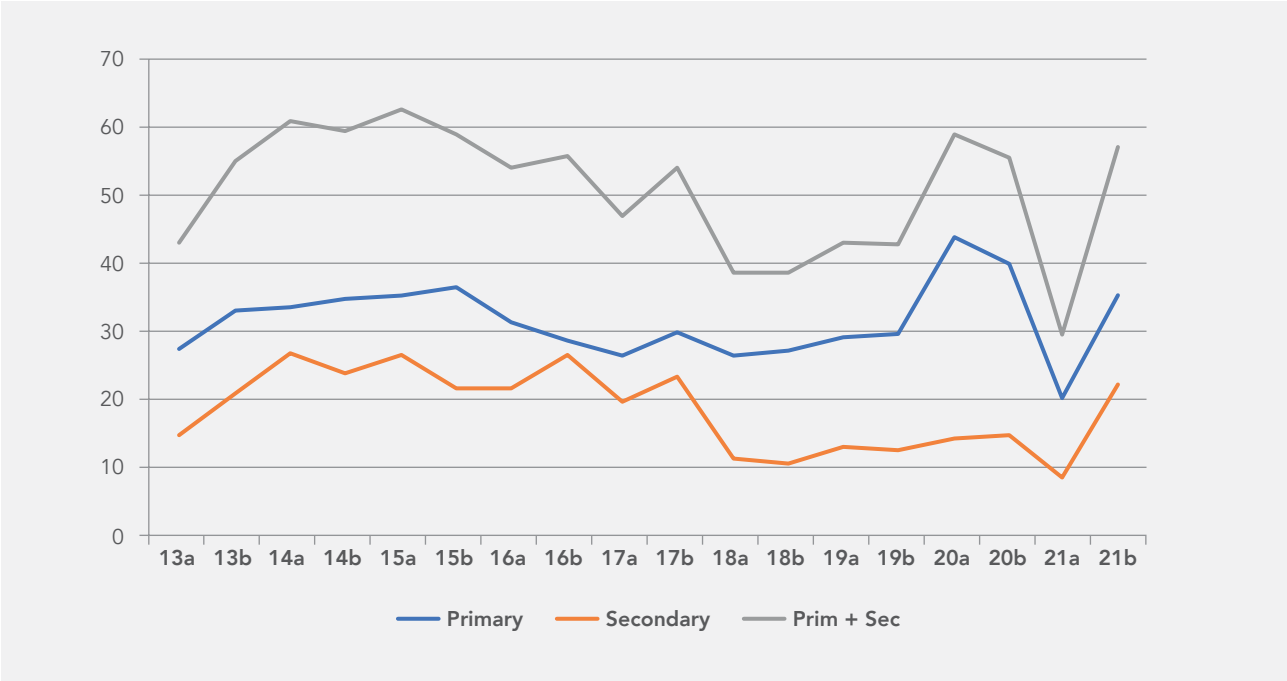
The proportion of people reporting MA ('Tik') as their primary substance of use was the highest in the EC (38%), followed by WC (35%), and GT (21%). Increases were seen for GT (17% to 21%) and KZN (2% to 8%). The CR saw a substantial decrease (15%) in MA admissions (Table 1).

The national average age of individuals reporting MA as their primary drug of use was 26 years, ranging from 24 to 32 years (Table 3). Once again, older users were mainly represented in the WC (mean age: 32 years). The GT and EC regions accounted for the youngest individuals who were admitted for MA use (mean age: 24 years). Nationally, males (84%) represented the group with the highest rates for MA admissions compared to females (16%); this has been consistent across previous periods. Only females reported inhalants as their primary drug of use in the EC while only males reported inhalant use in KZN and WC; no inhalant use was reported for the CR. In the NR, males (50%) and females (50%) were admitted at equal rates for inhalant misuse.

Across all regions, the majority of individuals reported smoking MA (75%), 16% swallowed, and 8% snorted the drug. Only 1% reported that they injected MA. Of the individuals who used MA, 63% reported daily use (increasing from 54% in the previous period), and 26% 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 and WC (57% respectively), GT (40%), and CR (32%) in this reporting period. A sharp increase in MA use as primary, secondary, and both primary and secondary substance were noted in the WC from 2021a to 2021b (Figure 6).

[2] Addiction Center, What is a Lean addiction? n.d. Retrieved Sep 29, 2022, from: https://www.addictioncenter.com/opiates/codeine/lean-addiction-abuse/

FIGURE 6: TREATMENT DEMAND TRENDS: METHAMPHETAMINE AS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF USE, WC (%)



For persons younger than 20 years, 19% reported MA as their primary substance of use while 39% reported it as their primary and secondary substance of use. The EC region accounted for the highest number of persons younger than 20 years (55%) reporting MA as a primary and secondary drug of use, followed by the CR (48%), and GT (44%). Proportions of MA as primary and secondary drug of use ranged from 15% (NR) to 57% (EC and WC) across all age groups.

Nationally, 5% of individuals reported CAT as their primary substance of use at the time of admission. Relative to other regions, GT reported the highest rates for CAT as a primary substance of use (7%), followed by the NR (5%), and the CR (4%). Rates for CAT as primary and secondary drug of use ranged from less than 1% in the WC to 16% in the CR. In the EC, CAT (1%) was reported as a secondary drug of use only. CAT use remained low across all sites.

OTHER SUBSTANCES/POLY-SUBSTANCE USE

Other substance combinations included inhalants. Less than 1% of individuals reported inhalants as their primary substance of use across all regions. 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 remained high with a national rate of 53%. By region, rates ranged between 47% (WC) and 68% (CR).

MENTAL HEALTH AND OTHER PHYSICAL COMORBIDITIES

Nationally, 15% (n=1561) of individuals admitted to treatment presented with a dual diagnosis. Across regions, the largest proportion of persons in treatment presented with mental health problems (9%).

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. Interventions aimed at preventing and managing overdose are very limited, and community based naloxone distribution is not currently provided.

During the reporting period, TB HIV Care operated in the Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay District), Gauteng (Tshwane), KwaZulu-Natal (eThekwini and uMgungundlovu Districts), Mpumalanga (Ehlanzeni district) and the Western Cape (Cape Metro). Advance Access and Delivery and the Urban Futures Centre at the Durban University of Technology ran the Bellhaven harm reduction centre in eThekwini District. The Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria's Community Orientated Substance Use Programme (COSUP) operated in the City of Tshwane (Gauteng Province). Sediba Hope provided harm reduction services at two centres in Tshwane District. The HARMless Project, implemented by the Foundation for Professional Development, transitioned to TB HIV Care at the end of September 2021. Anova Health Institute's Jab Smart Project operated in Gauteng (sub-districts B - G of the City of Johannesburg and in Sedibeng). Tintswalo Home Based Care also operated in Gauteng (East, South and North sub-districts of the City of Ekurhuleni).

The data below reflects service delivery data for reporting period July - December 2022.

EASTERN CAPE

In *Nelson Mandela Bay* 467 unique PWID accessed services, with 107 610 needles and syringes distributed and 99% returned. 114 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 3 tested positive and 3 started antiretroviral therapy (ART). 2 PWID confirmed to be virally suppressed. 206 people were screened for tuberculosis (TB), with 1 being symptomatic, 0 diagnosed and none starting on TB treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. Opioid substitution therapy (OST) was not available. 65 human rights violations were reported, mostly due to confiscation and destruction of injecting equipment and assault (86%).

GAUTENG

In *Ekurhuleni* 380 unique PWID accessed the services, with 186 300 needles and syringes distributed and 66% returned. 126 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 16 tested positive and 15 started ART. A total of 5 people were confirmed virally suppressed. 179 PWID were screened for TB, with 1 being symptomatic, no TB was confirmed and no one was started on treatment. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. OST was not available. 27 human rights violations were reported, mostly related to PWID having their injecting equipment confiscated and destroyed (52%).

In *Johannesburg* 7 293 unique PWID accessed the services, with 594 570 needles and syringes distributed and 20% returned. 1 661 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 337 tested positive and 200 started ART. 3 PWID were confirmed to be HIV virally suppressed. 2 137 were screened for TB, with 10 being symptomatic, 1 diagnosed, 1 starting on TB treatment and 1 person reporting cure. 157 people were screened for HCV antibodies with 145 being reactive. Resource limitations informed the number of confirmatory tests that could be done, with 18 people with confirmed infection, among whom 13 people started HCV treatment. Of the 157 tested for HBV surface antigen (HBsAg), 6 were reactive. 147 PWID were on OST at the beginning of the period and 230 were on OST at the end of the period. 164 human rights violations were reported, the majority (24%) due to having injecting equipment confiscated and being assaulted.

In *Sedibeng* 1 526 unique PWID accessed the service with 62 055 needles and syringes distributed and 7% returned. 212 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 135 tested positive and 57 were linked to care. Data on HIV viral suppression was unavailable. 291 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis, with 0 being symptomatic, 0 infections confirmed and 0 received treatment. 3 PWID were screened for HCV, among whom all had HCV antibodies and none had reactive HBsAg tests. No HCV infections were confirmed. 9 PWID were on OST at the end of the period. 127 human rights violations were reported, most (41%) linked to confiscation of injecting equipment.

In *Tshwane* 10 086 unique PWID accessed the services, with 574 630 needles and syringes distributed; and 109%[3] returned. 519 tested for HIV among whom 202 tested positive and 244 people were confirmed to be on ART. HIV viral suppression was confirmed among 71 clients on ART. 9 229 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis with 20 being symptomatic, and the number

[3] Programmes collect and destroy needles obtained from other sources.

of people diagnosed and treatment unknown due to referrals to other facilities for testing. No viral hepatitis testing was done during this period. A total of 789 people were on OST at the beginning of the period and 750 were on OST at the end of the period. Data on human rights violations was not collected.

KWAZULU-NATAL

In *eThekwini* 1 519 unique PWID accessed services, with 221 580 needles and syringes distributed and 83% returned. 205 tested for HIV, among whom 25 tested positive and 9 started ART. HIV viral load suppression was confirmed in 6 PWID. 375 people who use drugs were screened for tuberculosis, 53 were symptomatic, 4 diagnosed, 3 started treatment. No data was available on people with confirmed TB cure. 67 people were screened for HCV antibodies with 46 being reactive. Resource limitations informed the number of confirmatory tests that could be done, with 12 people with confirmed infection, among whom 6 started HCV treatment. Of the 68 PWID tested for HBV surface antigen (HBsAg), 0 were reactive. 72 PWID were on OST maintenance therapy at the beginning of the period and 145 at the end of the period. Data on the number of people on low-dose methadone was not available for this period. 132 human rights violations were reported, the majority (48%) due to confiscation/ destruction of needles.

In *uMgungundlovu*, 462 unique PWID accessed the services, with 77 070 needles and syringes distributed and 79% returned. 99 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 12 tested positive and 9 started on ART. 2 PWID were confirmed to be virally suppressed. 174 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. 24 human rights violations were reported, the majority (46%) due to confiscation of injecting equipment.

MPUMALANGA

In *Ehlanzeni* 555 unique PWID accessed the services, with 10 869 needles and syringes distributed and 72% returned. 117 tested for HIV, among whom 19 tested positive and 14 started on ART. 43 clients were reported to be virally suppressed. 70 people were screened for tuberculosis, with none being symptomatic. No routine viral hepatitis testing was done. 30 people were on OST at the beginning of the reporting period and 40 people at the end.

WESTERN CAPE

In the *Cape Metro* 1 575 unique PWID accessed services, with 790 200 needles and syringes distributed and 84% returned. 405 PWID tested for HIV, among whom 17 tested positive and 14 started ART. 1 PWID was confirmed to be HIV viral suppressed. 528 PWID were screened for TB, with 27 being symptomatic, 0 diagnosed and none starting treatment. 75 people were screened for HCV antibodies with 58 being reactive. Resource limitations informed the number of confirmatory tests that could be done, with 15 people with confirmed infection, among whom 11 people started HCV treatment. 118 people were on OST at the beginning of the period and 145 at the end. 75 human rights violations were reported, the majority (41%) due to confiscated/ destroyed needles and syringes.

TABLE 6: PWID ACCESSING NEEDLE AND SYRINGE SERVICE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (JUL – DEC 2022)

Province	Health district	Male	Female	Trans	Median age (yrs)*
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay (n=467)	74	26	-	-
Gauteng	City of Ekurhuleni (n=380)	91	9	-	-
	City of Johannesburg (n= 7 293)	96	4	-	-
	Sedibeng (n=1 526)	98	2	-	-
	City of Tshwane (n=10 086)	96	4	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	eThekwini (n=1 519)	89	11	-	-
	uMgungundlovu (n=462)	90	10	-	-
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni (n=555)	92	8	-	-
Western Cape	Cape Metro (n= 1 575)	82	18	-	-

* Data on specific age not captured

TABLE 7: COMPARISON OF PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS ACCESSING NEEDLE AND SYRINGE SERVICES (JULY – DECEMBER 2022) WITH CENSUS DATA - BY DISTRICT[1]

Province	District		Black African	Indian	Coloured	White
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay	Population [1]	61	1	24	14
		Accessed service	23	2	24	51
Gauteng	City of Ekurhuleni	Population [1]	79	3	2	16
		Accessed service	83	1	8	8
	City of Johannesburg	Population [1]	76	5	6	12
		Accessed service	97	0	1	2
	Sedibeng	Population [1]	74	1	1	24
		Accessed service	99	0	0	1
	City of Tshwane[2]	Population [1]	75	2	2	21
		Accessed service	90	0	5	5
KwaZulu-Natal	eThekwini	Population [1]	73	17	3	7
		Accessed service	87	4	4	5
	uMgungundlovu	Population [1]	90	3	1	6
		Accessed service	98	0	1	1
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	Population [1]	92	1	<1	6
		Accessed service	89	0	2	9
Western Cape	Cape Metro	Population [1]	37	2	42	18
		Accessed service	3	0	87	10

[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 (JULY – DECEMBER 2022) - 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	147	116	2	23	12	0	230
	Total	**147**	**116**	**2**	**23**	**12**	**0**	**230**
Sedibeng	Non-injecting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PWID	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
	Total	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
City of Tshwane	Non-injecting	356	9	4	6	27	1	335
	PWID	433	23	4	8	32	5	415
	Total	**789**	**32**	**8**	**14**	**59**	**6**	**750**
eThekwini*	Non-injecting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PWID	72	57	9	26	1	1	110
	Total	**72**	**57**	**9**	**26**	**1**	**1**	**110**
uMgungundlovu	Non-injecting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PWID	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Ehlanzeni	Non-injecting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PWID	30	10	0	0	0	0	40
	Total	**30**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**40**
Cape Metro	Non-injecting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PWID	118	87	21	45	34	2	145
	Total	**118**	**87**	**21**	**45**	**34**	**2**	**145**

* No data on clients on low dose methadone in eThekwini available

SECTION 3: FINDINGS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICE QUALITY MEASURES (SQM) INITIATIVE IN THE WESTERN CAPE (1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022)

The findings reported reflect the data collected for the SQM Initiative for the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 period. Data was collected across 29 treatment sites in the Western Cape for 2152 adult patients (18-71 years). Of these patients, 10% were enrolled at inpatient facilities and 90% at outpatient or community-based organisations. Despite the decrease in the number of treatment centres that participated in this period, a marked increase in the number of patients accessing care (number of SACENDU forms completed) for this period can be seen in contrast to the previous reporting period. Of this population, 71% were males and 29% were females.

Treatment centres performance on patient reported outcomes remained stable and overall performance on the South African addiction treatment services assessment (SAATSA) scales was relatively high.

No major demographic differences were observed across scales for this reporting period. Despite women performing as well as men on the SAATSA outcome scales, women still only comprise a small portion of people accessing services. An increase can be seen on patients' perceptions of the treatment programme helping them to reduce substance use and HIV risk. Patients who received HIV information and education during treatment were more likely to report reductions in HIV risk than patients who did not receive these services. High levels of drop out and early drop out of treatment remains a problem. In order to promote longer stays in treatment and prevent early drop out, facilities should strive to reduce barriers to retention in services and seek to provide care that patients find acceptable and satisfactory.

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

SELECTED IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY/PRACTICE[4]

During the Phase 51, 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, Sedibeng, and Tshwane.
- High yield of TB with increased use of digital chest x-ray, and sputums with GeneXpert.
- Address the considerable increase in cannabis use in South Africa, and particularly in KZN.
- 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 in future epidemics.
- Overdose training provided to harm reduction beneficiaries in eThekwini was well received.

SELECTED ISSUES TO MONITOR

Phase 51 of the SACENDU Project highlighted several conditions/factors that need to be carefully monitored over time:

- Increase in cannabis admission rates, particularly in KZN.
- Increase in MA use in EC, NC, and GT.
- High national readmission rates for heroin.
- Increase in individuals <20 years admitted to treatment in GT.
- Young age (10 years) for admission for inhalant misuse in the WC.
- Low number of females accessing treatment services from SQM data.
- High levels of drop-out/early drop-out rates based on SQM data.

SELECTED TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH/INVESTIGATION

Phase 51 of the SACENDU Project highlighted several topics for further research/investigation:

- Have alcohol restrictions resulted in the transition to cannabis use in KZN?
- What are the reasons behind the high rates of young individuals (20 years and younger) being admitted to treatment in GT province?
- What strategies can be used to facilitate access to treatment among females?
- We need to address the barriers/drivers of client retention in treatment services and find ways of promoting care that is acceptable and satisfactory to clients.
- What is driving the increased use of cannabis among young people?

[4] 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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