



National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2008 Report

Highlights

The National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) collection provides national data on clients being treated with medication (pharmacotherapy) for their dependence on opioid drugs such as heroin. It also provides statistics on those prescribing the medication and where it was dispensed.

The data are based on a 'snapshot' period—usually a day—in June 2008. Snapshot data provide a glimpse of pharmacotherapy treatment activity on a specified day, but do not capture the total estimated activity for any given year. However, snapshot data are considered to be a good representation of the total client base.

This is the second bulletin featuring national data exclusively from the NOPSAD collection. The first bulletin was released in July 2007.

Contents

Highlights	1
Background	2
What is the NOPSAD collection used for?	3
Scope of the NOPSAD collection	3
About pharmacotherapies	4
Terminology	5
Administrative features in each jurisdiction	6
Clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment	7
Demographic profile of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment.....	12
Prescribers of pharmacotherapy drugs.....	16
Pharmacotherapy dosing point sites.....	19
Data custodianship.....	20
Related data collections	20
Appendix Tables	21
References	25
Acknowledgments	25

Main findings

- At 30 June 2008, there were 41,347 pharmacotherapy clients. Of those clients, around two-thirds were male.
- The number of clients in 2008 was about 2,500 more than in each of the previous three years.
- Seven in ten (70%) clients were receiving methadone and the remainder received buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone.
- The proportion of clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone increased between 2006 (5.5%) and 2008 (15.5%). This combination product is now more commonly used as a treatment for opioid dependence than buprenorphine alone.
- The number of registered prescribers increased gradually since 2006.
- More than six in ten (65%) clients received treatment from a private prescriber.
- The number of dosing point sites increased slightly since 2006.
- Most (86%) dosing point sites were located in pharmacies.

Background

In Australia, people with opioid dependence have been treated using opioid pharmacotherapy for a number of decades (methadone since 1969 and buprenorphine since the 1980s). The Australian Government funds the provision of pharmacotherapy drugs via pharmaceutical benefits arrangements, through clinics and pharmacies approved by state and territory governments. Treatment of opioid dependence is administered according to the law of the relevant state or territory, and within a framework which includes medical treatment, as well as social and psychological treatment.

In January 2007, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing released the report *National pharmacotherapy policy for people dependent on opioids* (DoHA 2007). This provides a broad policy context and a framework for state and territory policies and guidelines that are concerned with the treatment of opioid dependence using methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone.

The broad goal of treatment for opioid dependence is to reduce the health, social and economic harms to individuals and the community arising from illicit opioid use (DoHA 2007).

In 1985, methadone maintenance treatment was endorsed as Australian policy, and national information on the numbers of pharmacotherapy clients was first collated in 1986. In December 1999, the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments, through the National Health Information Management Group, endorsed the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS–NMDS). A NMDS is a nationally accepted set of data elements mandated for collection. Collection of the AODTS–NMDS commenced on 1 July 2000. However, due to particular complexities in collecting information about pharmacotherapies, agencies whose sole activity is to prescribe and/or dispense doses for opioid pharmacotherapy treatment are excluded from

the scope of the collection. Instead, data on clients receiving opioid pharmacotherapy treatment have been routinely collected by state and territory health departments and provided each year to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. In 2005, the Department of Health and Ageing commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to manage the collection, including the analysis and reporting of pharmacotherapy treatment data. A set of agreed standards for reporting were developed in consultation with states and territories, and the National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection was developed. While jurisdictions strive to report data consistent with agreed standards, the NOPSAD collection is not a national minimum data set and some discrepancies exist between the ways data are reported.

What is the NOPSAD collection used for?

The main purpose of the current NOPSAD collection is to aggregate standardised jurisdictional data on: clients accessing pharmacotherapy for the treatment of opioid dependence, information on prescribers participating in the delivery of pharmacotherapy treatment, and quantitative information about the prescribing sector.

The NOPSAD collection is one of a number of data sources that provide a picture of alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia. Data from the collection can also be considered along with information from other sources (for instance, the AODTS–NMDS and the National Drug Strategy Household Survey) to inform debate, policy decisions and planning processes that occur within the broader alcohol and other drug treatment sector. More specifically, pharmacotherapy data are used in states and territories to:

- ♦ monitor resources required for pharmacotherapy treatment, such as the number of prescribers and dosing point sites
- ♦ monitor and plan services (e.g. monitoring prescriber patterns and capping the number of clients)
- ♦ develop and refine policies relating to treatment of clients with opioid dependency
- ♦ track the number of clients moving between the public and private sectors.

Data are also used more broadly to fill gaps in national treatment services data.

Scope of the NOPSAD collection

The collection covers the provision of opioid pharmacotherapy treatment, the practitioners who prescribe treatment, the dosing sites where pharmacotherapy drugs are dispensed, and the clients receiving opioid pharmacotherapy treatment.

Methadone clinics (private or public) and approved pharmacies can dispense methadone, buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone. At commencement of the program, clients need to attend the clinic or pharmacy to take their dose under supervision (Pharmaceutical Society of Australia 2005). In certain circumstances, clients may be eligible to receive a

takeaway dose. The takeaway dose for methadone is determined by each jurisdiction in line with the National Policy on Methadone Treatment (DoHA 2003). The policy for unsupervised dosing of buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone is determined by each Australian jurisdiction. Prescribers are required to check with the relevant authority in their jurisdiction to determine if there is a preference as to which formulation of buprenorphine is used for unsupervised dosing (Lintzeris et al. 2006).

About pharmacotherapies

The following pharmacotherapies are currently recommended for the treatment of opioid dependency (DoHA 2008):

- methadone hydrochloride—Methadone Syrup[®], Biodone Forte[®]
- buprenorphine—Subutex[®]
- buprenorphine/naloxone—Suboxone[®].

Box 1: Pharmacotherapy—clinical descriptions

Methadone

Methadone is a synthetic opioid agonist¹ primarily used in maintenance therapy and it may also be used as a withdrawal agent for those dependent on opioids. It reduces the use of heroin through cross-tolerance, which results in a reduction of heroin withdrawal symptoms, less desire to use heroin, and reduced euphoric effect when heroin is used. Methadone is taken orally on a daily basis (DoHA 2007).

Buprenorphine

Buprenorphine is often called a partial opioid agonist with high receptor affinity². It has actions similar to the full agonist drugs but with less efficacy, so that increases in dose have progressively less effect. Two buprenorphine products are currently registered in Australia for the treatment of opioid dependence within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment: the mono product (Subutex[®]) is a sublingual³ tablet containing buprenorphine hydrochloride in 0.4, 2.0 and 8.0 mg strengths; the combination product (Suboxone[®]) is a sublingual tablet containing buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride in a ratio of 4:1. Suboxone[®] is available in two dosage strengths—2.0 mg buprenorphine and 0.5 mg naloxone, and 8.0 mg buprenorphine and 2.0 mg naloxone. The properties of buprenorphine and naloxone are such that, when taken sublingually, Suboxone[®] will act as if it was buprenorphine alone. However, if the combined preparation is injected, the naloxone will have a clinically significant effect, so that it is likely to attenuate the effects of the buprenorphine in the short-term, and is also likely to precipitate withdrawal symptoms in opioid-dependent individuals using heroin or methadone (DoHA 2007).

Naltrexone

Naltrexone is an adjunctive therapy (meaning it is used in combination with other treatment, for example, counselling) in the maintenance of formerly opioid-dependent patients who have ceased the use of opioids. It is not included in this collection due to scheduling compliance conditions (there is no legislative requirement to report prescription of the substance to government authorities).

1 Opioid agonist – a drug or medication that attaches to and activates specific receptors to stimulate drug actions or effects.

2 Receptor affinity relates to how well a drug binds to an opioid receptor.

3 Sublingual – taken under the tongue.

Methadone, buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone can be used as short-term or long-term detoxification medications or indefinitely as maintenance medications (see Box 1 for clinical descriptions). Maintenance programs allow clients to stay on these substances indefinitely, and provide clients with an alternative to using illicit drugs.

Terminology

The main counts of the NOPSAD collection in 2008 are prescribers, dosing sites and clients (see Box 2 for definitions). Full definitions may be found in the Data Items and Definitions: 2008 National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) Collection data guide (AIHW 2008).

It is important to remember that counts in the NOPSAD collection relate to a particular day. The use of a 'snapshot/specified' day permits the number of clients to be estimated at a single point in time. The 'snapshot/specified' day varies slightly between jurisdictions. Snapshot data provide a glimpse of pharmacotherapy treatment activity on a specified day but do not capture the total estimated activity throughout any given year. However, snapshot data are considered to be a good representation of the total client base.

Box 2: Key definitions for the NOPSAD collection

Prescriber refers to a registered prescriber who has undergone accreditation and/or authorisation to prescribe a pharmacotherapy drug, and who has not been recorded as ceasing this registration prior to the 'snapshot/specified' day.

More specifically, a prescriber should be included in the count if they are either:

- a registered or authorised prescriber
- active prescribers that are scripting at least one client over the reporting period (i.e. financial year).

Pharmacotherapy dosing point site refers to the dosing point site at which at least one client is provided a pharmacotherapy drug on the 'snapshot/specified' day.

Dosing point sites include:

- public clinics
- private clinics
- pharmacies
- correctional settings
- other, i.e. hospitals (inpatients or outpatients), community health centres, doctors' surgeries and 'not stated' dosing point sites.

Client refers to a person registered as receiving opioid pharmacotherapy treatment on the 'snapshot/specified' day.

- ♦ Client counts in the NOPSAD collection relate to the number of clients accessing pharmacotherapy treatment on a 'snapshot/specified' day.
- ♦ Prescriber counts relate to the number of registered prescribers who are authorised to script at least one client over the reporting period (that is, over the financial year).
- ♦ Dosing point site counts relate to the number of dosing point sites at which clients are provided pharmacotherapy drugs over the reporting period (that is, over the financial year).

Administrative features in each jurisdiction

Each state and territory uses a slightly different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing (Table 1). These are driven by jurisdictional differences such as legislation, computer systems and resources. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Table 1: Administrative features of the NOPSAD collection in each jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Methodology
New South Wales	The Pharmacotherapy Drugs of Addiction System (PHDAS) is primarily used to assist the administration of the NSW Opioid Treatment Program. Information reported into the database is used to inform the issuing of authority to doctors to prescribe as part of the NSW Opioid Treatment Program. The database also records patient admissions and exits into and out of treatment, as well as details of approved prescribers and dosing points. For these reasons, PHDAS is characterised by continual fluctuations, and data extracted at different times for the same period may not be the same. However, while delays in reporting entries into the program, exits from the program, and changes in the status of dosing points cause short-term fluctuations in the database, these fluctuations flatten out over the course of a full year. Client data are reported in New South Wales as at 30 June.
Victoria	Data are collected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a quarterly census of pharmacists, whereby pharmacists are requested to report the actual number of clients being dosed on a specified day the permit database, which records information about practitioners authorised to prescribe pharmacotherapy drugs, as well as demographic information about clients dosing for pharmacotherapy treatment. <p>These two data sources cannot be linked.</p> <p>The Victorian pharmacotherapy system is essentially entirely community-based, other than inpatients in hospitals and in prisons. Although a small number of services receive government funding they are independent bodies and services and are not managed directly by government. Client data are reported in Victoria on a specified day.</p>
Queensland	Data are collected monthly from pharmacists and entered into a central database managed by the Drugs of Dependence Unit. Data are also collected from the administrative 'Admission' and 'Discharge' forms. National and Queensland totals may vary slightly due to these data source differences. For example, a client may be counted as registered and having received a dose on a snapshot day but a dosing point cannot be assigned because the dose consumed on a snapshot day was a takeaway dose. Client data for Queensland are reported on a specified day.
Western Australia	Data are collected monthly from pharmacists and entered into a central database managed by the Pharmaceutical Services Unit. Data are also collected from the 'Application for authority', 'Authority to prescribe' and 'Termination of treatment' forms. Client data are reported in Western Australia for the entire month of June. Prior to 2005, Western Australia reported clients over a year.
South Australia	Data are collected from the forms 'Application for authority', 'Termination of treatment', 'Authority to prescribe' and 'Request for takeaway doses', which are entered into a central database system at Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA). Information from scripts are also collected electronically from pharmacists monthly and sent to DASSA. From 2007, data are collected via a quarterly census of pharmacists and reported on a specified day. Other data are drawn from the Drugs of Dependence Unit's Drugs of Misuse Surveillance System and are about those clients registered for treatment on the specified day (but who may not actually receive treatment on that day).
Tasmania	Data are collected from pharmacists participating in the Tasmanian Pharmacotherapy Program, and stored in the Drug and Alcohol Pharmacy Information System (DAPIS). This central database is managed through the Pharmaceutical Services Unit, and is a 'live' database, from which a snapshot for any day can be taken. Client data are reported in Tasmania on a specified day.
Australian Capital Territory	Client participation data are collected from the Alcohol and Drug Program databases and from prescription dosing records provided by community pharmacies. General practitioner and pharmacy participation data are collected from the Chief Health Officer's records and quarterly phone contact. Client data are reported in the Australian Capital Territory on a specified day.
Northern Territory	Prescribers complete the forms 'Authority', 'Variation' and 'Cessation', and submit them to the Department of Health and Community Services Poisons Control for entry into a central database. Pharmacies also submit copies of scripts to the same database. The Northern Territory aggregates data throughout the year. Client data are reported in the Northern Territory on a specified day.

Clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment

Numbers of clients

Nationally, an estimated 41,347 clients were receiving pharmacotherapy treatment on the 'snapshot/specified' day in June 2008 (tables 2 and 3), an increase of 2,504 since 2007. From 2004 to 2007 the figure remained relatively stable, after an increase of over 50% from 1998 (24,657 clients) to 2004 (38,741).

The largest proportion of clients was seen in New South Wales (42%), followed by Victoria (29%) and Queensland (12%) (Table 3). Western Australia and South Australia each provided services to approximately 7% of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment in 2008.

Table 2: Total number of pharmacotherapy clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment on a 'snapshot/specified' day, by state and territory, 1998–2008

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia ^(b)
1998	12,107	5,334	3,011	1,654	1,839	306	406	—	24,657
1999	12,500	6,700	3,341	2,449	1,985	370	559	2	27,906
2000	13,594	7,647	3,588	2,140	2,198	423	615	32	30,237
2001	15,069	7,743	3,745	2,307	2,522	464	641	25	32,516
2002	15,471	7,700	3,896	3,602	2,417	513	590	21	34,210
2003	16,165	8,685	4,289	4,079	2,486	498	686	98	36,986
2004	15,719	10,003	4,470	4,437	2,706	576	748	82	38,741
2005	16,469	10,753	4,440	2,883	2,857	588	764	183	38,937
2006	16,355	10,736	4,637	2,888	2,823	602	790	134	38,965
2007	16,348	11,051	4,309	2,822	2,834	600	765	114	38,843
2008	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347

(a) In Western Australia the numbers of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment are reported through the month of June 2008. The 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 figures reported for Western Australia are substantially lower than previous years, which included data for the whole year.

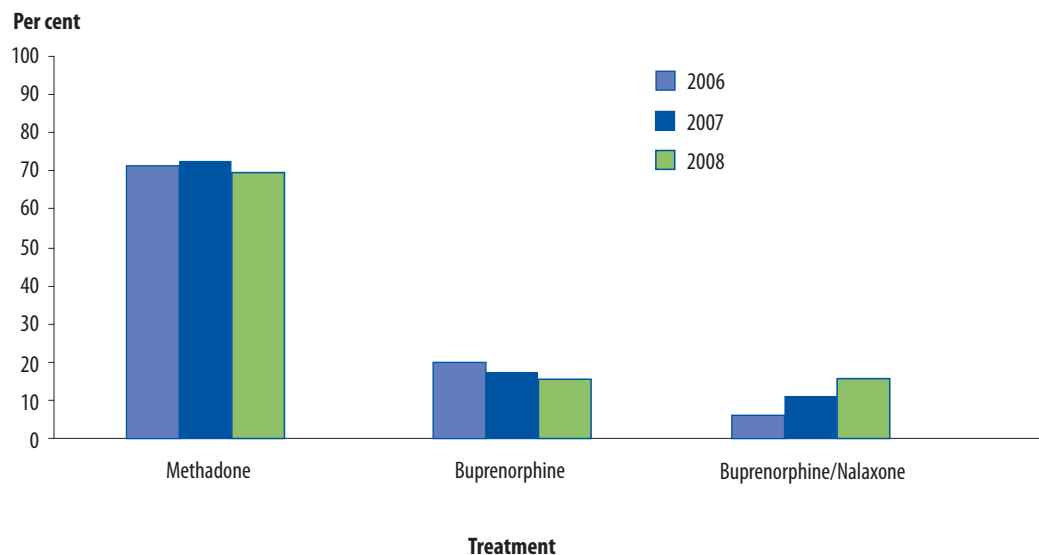
(b) In 2008, South Australia made a slight variation to its reporting practices which has resulted in a revision to the total numbers of clients for 2006 (from 2,517 to 2,823) and 2007 from (2,559 to 2,834). This revision has also resulted in a change in the total number of clients for 2006 from 38,659 to 38,965 and 2007 from 38,568 to 38,843.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Type of pharmacotherapy

On the 'snapshot/specified' day in 2008, approximately 70% of clients registered for pharmacotherapy treatment were receiving methadone and the remaining 30% received buprenorphine or the combination product buprenorphine/naloxone (Figure 1).

The proportion of clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone increased between 2006 (5.5%) and 2008 (15.5%). This combination product is now more commonly used than buprenorphine alone as a treatment for opioid dependence.



(a) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.
 (b) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.
 Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.
 Source: Table 3.

Figure 1: Total proportion of pharmacotherapy clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment on a 'snapshot/specified' day^{(a)(b)}, by type of pharmacotherapy provided, 2006–08

In New South Wales, clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone are reported under the category 'buprenorphine'. It is important to note that the number of clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone is an underestimate, since New South Wales was not able to separately identify the number of these clients. This is also the case for Queensland in 2007, and Tasmania / Australian Capital Territory in 2006. The Northern Territory reported the highest proportion of clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone compared with other drugs and other jurisdictions.

As mentioned previously, since 2006 the uptake of buprenorphine/naloxone as a pharmacotherapy treatment has been increasing. Of the jurisdictions able to identify clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone, the largest increases in proportions of clients receiving this treatment were seen in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia.

The proportions of clients prescribed methadone, buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone varied across jurisdictions (Table 3), although over 60% of clients in most jurisdictions were prescribed methadone.

Methadone was more likely than other drugs to be prescribed in Tasmania, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 3: Total number of pharmacotherapy clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), by type of pharmacotherapy provided and jurisdiction, 2006, 2007 and 2008

Pharmacotherapy drug type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
2008									
Number									
Methadone	13,973	7,161	2,746	1,995	1,929	480	597	49	28,930
Buprenorphine	3,195	1,209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005
Buprenorphine/naloxone ^(b)	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412
Total	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347
Per cent									
Methadone	81.4	60.6	56.1	68.6	63.2	81.6	76.0	39.2	70.0
Buprenorphine	18.6	10.2	14.1	6.2	18.5	9.2	11.3	18.4	14.5
Buprenorphine/naloxone ^(b)	—	29.2	29.9	25.2	18.3	9.2	12.7	42.4	15.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Per cent of all clients by jurisdiction</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
2007									
Per cent									
Methadone	83.2	60.0	62.1	69.3	64.2	85.3	79.3	42.1	71.7
Buprenorphine	16.8	14.0	37.9	8.7	21.7	12.2	10.8	29.8	18.0
Buprenorphine/naloxone ^(b)	—	26.0	—	21.9	14.1	2.5	9.8	28.1	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Per cent of all clients by jurisdiction</i>	<i>42.4</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
2006									
Per cent									
Methadone	83.9	59.6	61.2	64.8	62.5	86.5	75.9	53.0	71.4
Buprenorphine	16.1	26.8	38.8	18.8	30.9	13.5	24.1	30.6	23.2
Buprenorphine/naloxone ^(b)	—	13.6	—	16.4	6.6	—	—	16.4	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Per cent of all clients by jurisdiction</i>	<i>42.3</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine. In 2007, Queensland was not able to separately identify clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone. This was also true for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory in 2006.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Prescriber type

Of the 41,347 estimated clients authorised to receive pharmacotherapy treatment on the 'snapshot/specified' day in June 2008 (Table 4):

- 65% (or 26,878) received the treatment from a private prescriber
- 27% (or 11,106) received the treatment from a public prescriber
- 7% (or 2,899) received the treatment from a practitioner in a correctional facility.

Table 4: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type and prescriber type on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), 2005–2008

Prescriber type	Metadone	Buprenorphine	Buprenorphine/ naloxone	All drug types ^(b)
		2008		
		Number		
Public prescriber	7,893	1,906	1,307	11,106
Private prescriber	18,176	3,820	4,882	26,878
Public/private prescriber ^(c)	357	107	—	464
Correctional facilities	2,504	172	223	2,899
Total	28,930	6,005	6,412	41,347
		Per cent		
Public prescriber	27.3	31.7	20.4	26.9
Private prescriber	62.8	63.6	76.1	65.0
Public/private prescriber ^(c)	1.2	1.8	—	1.1
Correctional facilities	8.7	2.9	3.5	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		2007		
		Per cent		
Public prescriber	27.8	36.2	10.0	27.5
Private prescriber	61.4	59.6	86.1	63.6
Public/private prescriber ^(c)	1.3	1.2	—	1.2
Correctional facilities	9.5	3.0	3.9	7.7
Total^(d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		2006		
		Per cent		
Public prescriber	28.3	30.1	8.2	27.7
Private prescriber	61.9	65.2	91.3	64.2
Public/private prescriber ^(c)	1.4	1.0	—	1.2
Correctional facilities	8.4	3.7	0.5	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		2005		
		Per cent		
Public prescriber	23.3	20.9	n.a.	23.5
Private prescriber	68.7	75.9	n.a.	69.8
Public/private prescriber ^(c)	0.2	0.1	n.a.	0.1
Correctional facilities	7.8	3.0	n.a.	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

(c) In New South Wales, these figures relate to prescribing that cannot be segregated into public or private prescribers.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Dosing point sites

As reported earlier in this bulletin, dosing point sites were most commonly located in pharmacies (Table 5). Clients receiving buprenorphine/naloxone were more likely to be dosed at a pharmacy than clients receiving other treatment.

Table 5: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type and dosing point site on a 'snapshot/specified' day^{(a)(b)}, 2006–2008

Dosing point site	Methadone	Buprenorphine ^(c)	Buprenorphine/ naloxone	All drug types
2008				
Number				
Public clinic	3,106	893	183	4,182
Private clinic	2,421	763	10	3,194
Pharmacy	19,549	3,588	5,575	28,712
Correctional setting	2,548	176	193	2,917
Other ^{(d)(e)}	1,306	585	451	2,342
Total	28,930	6,005	6,412	41,347
Per cent				
Public clinic	10.7	14.9	2.9	10.1
Private clinic	8.4	12.7	0.2	7.7
Pharmacy	67.6	59.8	86.9	69.4
Correctional setting	8.8	2.9	3.0	7.1
Other ^{(d)(e)}	4.5	9.7	7.0	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2007				
Per cent				
Public clinic	11.9	14.2	2.2	10.8
Private clinic	8.9	9.8	0.7	8.8
Pharmacy	67.1	69.6	93.0	68.9
Correctional setting	9.3	2.7	4.1	8.9
Other ^(d)	2.8	3.7	—	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006^(f)				
Per cent				
Public clinic	12.9	12.7	1.5	12.3
Private clinic	9.3	8.5	1.8	8.7
Pharmacy	67.4	73.9	94.5	70.4
Correctional setting	8.5	3.5	2.2	7.0
Other ^(d)	1.9	1.5	—	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) Queensland excluded clients who were not physically dosed on the 'snapshot/specified' day. That is, they physically received a double or triple dose of buprenorphine prior to the 'snapshot/specified' day which would have remained in their systems to cover the 'snapshot/specified' day (valid for 2006 & 2007).

(c) In New South Wales clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

- (d) In New South Wales the category 'other' includes clients dosed at hospitals, as hospital inpatients or hospital outpatients, as well as a small number of clients dosed in general practices. 'Other' also includes persons for whom the dosing point site was not stated. In Queensland the category 'other' was calculated by including the number for all clients who had prescriptions filled at the dosing point site and assuming that all other clients had received takeaway, double-doses etc. (not collected from dosing point site).
- (e) In 2008, 'Other' includes 639 clients in Queensland and 279 clients in South Australia who had received a takeaway dose prior to the 'snapshot/specified' day. For additional information please see Appendix A2.
- (f) The total estimated number of clients reported in Table 5 in 2006 excludes pharmacotherapy clients in the Northern Territory as data relating to dosing point sites and clients was not available.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Demographic profile of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment

Sex

Of the 41,347 estimated clients authorised to receive pharmacotherapy treatment on the 'snapshot/specified' day in June 2008—26,641 (or 64%) were male (Table 6). This proportion was similar for clients receiving methadone (63% of clients), and slightly higher for clients receiving buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone (67%).

The proportions of male and female clients have remained stable since 2006.

Appendix Table A3 provides further breakdown of pharmacotherapy drug type by sex and jurisdiction.

Table 6: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type and sex of the client on a 'snapshot/specified' day, 2006–2008

Sex	Methadone	Buprenorphine ^(a)	Buprenorphine/ naloxone	All drug types
2008				
Number				
Male	18,345	4,022	4,274	26,641
Female	10,440	1,967	2,090	14,497
Not stated	145	16	48	209
Total	28,930	6,005	6,412	41,347
Per cent				
Male	63.4	67.0	66.7	64.4
Female	36.1	32.8	32.6	35.1
Not stated	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2007				
Per cent				
Male	63.1	66.5	66.6	64.1
Female	36.4	33.1	32.6	35.4
Not stated	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006				
Per cent				
Male	62.8	67.9	65.5	64.2
Female	36.8	31.6	33.3	35.4
Not stated	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Age Group

For the 2008 collection, all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory were able to provide information on the age group of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment.

The largest proportion of clients (38%) was aged 30–39 years, about a quarter were aged 20–29 years and another quarter were aged 40–49 years, about one in ten were aged 50–59 years, and fewer than 1% of clients were aged either 10–19 years or 60 years and over (Table 7).

Table 7: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type and age group of the client on a 'snapshot/specified' day, 2006–2008

Age group	Methadone	Buprenorphine ^(a)	Buprenorphine/ naloxone	All drug types
2008				
Number				
10–19 years	113	42	49	204
20–29 years	6,020	1,616	1,775	9,411
30–39 years	10,657	2,401	2,705	15,763
40–49 years	8,465	1,407	1,394	11,266
50–59 years	3,464	484	405	4,354
60 years and over	162	32	30	223
<i>Sub total^(b)</i>	<i>28,881</i>	<i>5,982</i>	<i>6,358</i>	<i>41,221</i>
Not reported	49	23	54	126
Total	28,930	6,005	6,412	41,347
Per cent				
10–19 years	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5
20–29 years	20.8	27.0	27.9	22.8
30–39 years	36.9	40.1	42.5	38.2
40–49 years	29.3	23.5	21.9	27.3
50–59 years	12.0	8.1	6.4	10.6
60 years and over	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2007				
Per cent				
10–19 years	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
20–29 years	20.5	27.0	25.0	22.2
30–39 years	37.4	40.4	44.3	38.6
40–49 years	30.1	24.0	22.6	28.3
50–59 years	11.2	7.6	7.2	10.1
60 years and over	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006				
Per cent				
10–19 years	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.7
20–29 years	24.9	34.1	35.6	27.7
30–39 years	36.2	38.4	40.3	36.9
40–49 years	29.3	21.1	18.8	26.9
50–59 years	8.7	5.1	4.2	7.6
60 years and over	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

(b) The subtotal number of clients reported excludes pharmacotherapy clients in the Northern Territory where data relating to the age group of clients is not reported. In previous years, data from the Northern Territory were not included in these analyses.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Indigenous status

In 2008, four jurisdictions were able to provide information about the Indigenous status of clients receiving pharmacotherapy treatment: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

The 'not reported' category in Table 8 includes pharmacotherapy clients in Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory where data relating to the Indigenous status of clients was not reported.

Of the 25,905 clients whose Indigenous status could be identified on the 'snapshot/specified' day, 8% of clients (or 2,086) identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 8), with 78% of clients (or 20,273) identified as being of non-Indigenous origin. This means that for 14% (or 15,442) of clients in four jurisdictions, the Indigenous status is not reported.

For the jurisdictions that are able to collect Indigenous status of clients, there has been a decrease in the proportion of clients where Indigenous status was 'not stated'; from 22% (or 5,285) of clients in 2007 to 12% (or 2,994) of clients in 2008 (AIHW 2007).

As with the analysis relating to Indigenous status generally, caution should be taken when interpreting the differences in Indigenous status across drug types due to the proportion (17%) of 'not stated' responses for clients receiving methadone treatment.

Table 8: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type, Indigenous status of the client on a 'snapshot/specified' day, by jurisdiction, 2008

Indigenous status	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	Total (%)
Methadone										
Indigenous	1,356	—	85	—	140	—	41	—	1,622	8.4
Non-Indigenous	10,253	—	2,020	—	1,575	—	556	—	14,404	74.8
Not stated	2,364	—	641	—	214	—	—	—	3,219	16.7
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>13,973</i>	—	<i>2,746</i>	—	<i>1,929</i>	—	<i>597</i>	—	<i>19,245</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Not reported ^(b)	—	7,161	—	1,995	—	480	—	49	9,685	n.a.
Total	13,973	7,161	2,746	1,995	1,929	480	597	49	28,930	..
Buprenorphine										
Indigenous	297	—	29	—	29	—	2	—	357	7.9
Non-Indigenous	2,796	—	620	—	468	—	87	—	3,971	87.5
Not stated	102	—	40	—	68	—	—	—	210	4.6
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>3,195</i>	—	<i>689</i>	—	<i>565</i>	—	<i>89</i>	—	<i>4,538</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Not reported ^(b)	—	1,209	—	181	—	54	—	23	1,467	n.a.
Total	3,195	1,209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005	..
Buprenorphine/naloxone										
Indigenous	—	—	38	—	65	—	4	—	107	5.0
Non-Indigenous	—	—	1,344	—	458	—	96	—	1,898	89.4
Not stated	—	—	82	—	35	—	—	—	117	5.5
<i>Sub total</i>	—	—	<i>1,464</i>	—	<i>558</i>	—	<i>100</i>	—	<i>2,122</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Not reported ^(b)	—	3,451	—	732	—	54	—	53	4,290	n.a.
Total	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412	..
Total										
Indigenous	1,653	—	152	—	234	—	47	—	2,086	8.1
Non-Indigenous	13,049	—	3,984	—	2,501	—	739	—	20,273	78.3
Not stated	2,466	—	763	—	317	—	—	—	3,546	13.7
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>17,168</i>	—	<i>4,899</i>	—	<i>3,052</i>	—	<i>786</i>	—	<i>25,905</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Not reported ^(b)	—	11,821	—	2,908	—	588	—	125	15,442	n.a.
Total	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347	..

(a) In New South Wales clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

(b) The 'Not reported' row in this table includes pharmacotherapy clients in Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory where data relating to Indigenous status of clients was not reported. Please note the subtotal number of clients in this table does not include these jurisdictions; they are, however, counted in the total number.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Prescribers of pharmacotherapy drugs

Every jurisdiction has a registration process through which a general practitioner becomes authorised to prescribe a pharmacotherapy drug. This registration process usually involves attending a training course on prescribing pharmacotherapies and/or passing an exam.

As methadone was the first drug used for opioid pharmacotherapy treatment in Australia, jurisdictions first authorised their practitioners to prescribe only this drug. With the introduction of buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone as opioid pharmacotherapy drugs, the registration process in most jurisdictions changed to allow practitioners to prescribe all three drug types. Some prescribers, for various reasons, are authorised to prescribe buprenorphine only, or buprenorphine/naloxone only.

The data presented in Table 9 relate to all 'registered prescribers', except for prescribers in New South Wales and South Australia where they report on 'active prescribers' only.

Nationally in 2008, 1,393 practitioners were authorised to prescribe pharmacotherapy drugs during the financial year. Of these:

- ♦ 69% (958) were registered to prescribe more than one drug type
- ♦ 27% (371) were registered to prescribe methadone only
- ♦ 4% (60) were registered for buprenorphine only
- ♦ less than 1% (6) were registered for buprenorphine/naloxone only.

Prescribers in South Australia and the Northern Territory follow a single accreditation process which allows them to prescribe all pharmacotherapy drugs.

There have been minor variations in the number of prescriber registrations in each jurisdiction since 2005 (Table 9). In 2008, Victoria continued to account for the largest proportion of prescribers (38%), followed by New South Wales (36%) and Queensland (8%).

Table 9: Estimated number of prescribers registered to prescribe pharmacotherapy drugs by drug type and jurisdiction, 2005–2008

Pharmacotherapy drug type	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA ^(c)	SA	Tas ^(d)	ACT	NT	Total	Total %
2008										
Methadone only	199	122	2	14	—	24	10	—	371	26.6
Buprenorphine only ^(e)	39	—	1	—	—	18	—	—	58	4.2
Buprenorphine/naloxone only	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	6	0.4
Authorised to prescribe more than one drug type	257	407	107	69	74	5	26	13	958	68.8
Total (no.)	495	529	111	83	74	52	36	13	1,393	100.0
Total (per cent)	35.5	38.0	8.0	6.0	5.3	3.7	2.6	0.9	100.0	..
2007										
Methadone only	176	122	2	15	—	29	11	—	355	27.4
Buprenorphine only ^(e)	30	—	5	1	—	18	—	—	54	4.2
Buprenorphine/naloxone only	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	0.4
Authorised to prescribe more than one drug type	246	371	92	70	74	—	14	14	881	68.0
Total (no.)	452	493	99	86	74	52	25	14	1,295	100.0
Total (per cent)	34.9	38.1	7.6	6.6	5.7	4.0	1.9	1.1	100.0	..
2006										
Methadone only	123	122	9	15	—	—	13	—	282	23.1
Buprenorphine only ^(e)	287	—	5	1	—	—	12	—	305	25.0
Buprenorphine/naloxone only	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Authorised to prescribe more than one drug type	—	341	120	52	65	48	—	7	633	51.9
Total (no.)	410	463	134	68	65	48	25	7	1,220	100.0
Total (per cent)	33.6	38.0	11.0	5.6	5.3	3.9	2.0	0.6	100.0	..
2005										
Methadone only	123	112	10	15	—	42	13	—	315	25.5
Buprenorphine only ^(e)	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	0.2
Methadone and buprenorphine	293	316	114	56	73	39	15	11	917	74.3
Total (no.)	416	428	125	72	73	81	28	11	1,234	100.0
Total (per cent)	33.7	34.7	10.1	5.8	5.9	6.6	2.3	0.9	100.0	..

- (a) In New South Wales, practitioners authorised to prescribe methadone can additionally be approved to prescribe buprenorphine, but not vice versa. Medical practitioners who manage up to five clients do not require an approval to prescribe drugs of addiction under Section 28A of the 1966 Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act and are not required to complete pharmacotherapy training. The figures provided for New South Wales represent the type of drugs prescribed by active prescribers on 30 June rather than the number of prescribers approved to prescribe each drug type.
- (b) The total for Queensland includes those prescribers from private practice, public clinics, correctional centres and government medical offices.
- (c) In Western Australia, prescriber training is provided for all pharmacotherapies currently available. The total number of prescribers includes those treating at least one client as at 30 June 2008 in private practice, public clinics and correctional centres.
- (d) In Tasmania, training is provided separately for each pharmacotherapy drug.
- (e) New South Wales data collection does not differentiate between prescribers who are authorised to prescribe buprenorphine and those authorised to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone.

Notes

- Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.
- 'Authorised to prescribe more than one drug type' was not a valid response code in 2005.
- The data presented in this table relate to all 'registered prescribers', except for prescribers in New South Wales and South Australia where they report on 'active prescribers' only.
- Data on 'buprenorphine/naloxone only' prescribers were not reported in 2005 and 2006. However in 2006, buprenorphine/naloxone was available for prescription but no instances of 'buprenorphine/naloxone only' prescribers were reported.

Pharmacotherapy dosing point sites

A pharmacotherapy dosing point site relates to the physical setting in which a pharmacotherapy drug is provided to a client, regardless of whether the drug intake is supervised or the dose taken away.

During the reporting period—01 July 2007 to 30 June 2008—there were 2,208 pharmacotherapy dosing sites (Table 10). Of these, the majority (86%) were located in pharmacies. The remainder were located in public clinics, correctional facilities, private clinics and other locations.

New South Wales had the highest number of dosing point sites (698), followed by Victoria (496) and Queensland (470).

Table 10: Number of pharmacotherapy dosing point sites by jurisdiction, 2005–06 to 2007–08

Dosing point sites	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia	Total %
2007–08										
Public clinic	37	—	10	1	2	1	1	3	55	2.5
Private clinic	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	0.7
Pharmacy	558	483	353	233	189	48	26	10	1,900	86.1
Correctional setting	2	10	16	2	10	1	2	2	45	2.0
Other	89	—	91	11	2	—	—	—	193	8.7
Total (no.)	698	496	470	247	203	50	29	15	2,208	100.0
Total (per cent)	31.6	22.5	21.3	11.2	9.2	2.3	1.3	0.7	100.0	..
2006–07										
Public clinic	37	—	12	1	2	1	1	2	56	2.6
Private clinic	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	0.7
Pharmacy	547	452	366	239	202	47	25	8	1,886	86.8
Correctional setting	2	9	16	2	8	1	2	2	41	1.9
Other	82	—	90	—	3	—	—	—	175	8.1
Total (no.)	680	464	484	242	215	49	28	12	2,173	100.0
Total (per cent)	31.3	21.4	22.3	11.1	9.9	2.3	1.3	0.6	100.0	..
2005–06										
Public clinic	36	—	14	1	2	1	1	1	56	2.6
Private clinic	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	0.7
Pharmacy	533	459	378	241	164	46	25	7	1,853	86.6
Correctional setting	1	9	20	2	6	1	2	2	43	2.0
Other	78	—	91	—	3	—	—	—	172	8.0
Total (no.)	660	471	503	244	175	48	28	10	2,139	100.0
Total (per cent)	30.9	22.0	23.5	11.4	8.2	2.2	1.3	0.5	100.0	..

(a) In New South Wales, figures relate to dosing point sites that were dosing at least one client as at 30 June 2008. The category 'other' includes hospitals as well as a small number of general practices. 'Other' also includes when the dosing point site was not stated. One juvenile justice centre dispensed pharmacotherapies. Individual adult correctional facilities cannot be distinguished.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Data custodianship

Jurisdictions are the custodians of information collected through the NOPSAD collection within their state or territory. The AIHW is the custodian of collated national information obtained from each jurisdiction. For the AIHW custodianship means responsibility for protection, storage, analysis and dissemination of the data in accord with the purpose for which the data were collected, the AIHW Act (1987) and other relevant privacy principles.

Data requests can only be for summarised aggregate tables, as unit record file data do not exist for this collection. This collection is not a national minimum data set.

Additional information about the collection can be found in the Data Items and Definition: 2008 National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) Collection Data Guide which is available on the AIHW website: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10697>>.

Related data collections

As in previous years, a subset of the data presented in this report will be included in the forthcoming 2007–08 Annual Report for the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS–NMDS), due for release in July 2009.

If the data you require are not available from the NOPSAD collection, they may be available from the following sources:

- ♦ Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set
Amber Summerill phone (02) 6244 1000
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/drugs/treatment/index.cfm>>
- ♦ Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set data cubes
<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/drugs/datacubes/index.cfm>>
- ♦ National Drug Strategy Household Survey
Mark Cooper-Stanbury phone (02) 6244 1000
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/drugs/ndshs07.cfm>>.

Appendix Tables

Table A1: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type, prescriber type and jurisdiction, on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), 2008

Prescriber type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Methadone									
Public prescriber	3,762	—	2,044	717	742	193	395	40	7,893
Private prescriber	8,315	6,646	686	1,054	999	287	181	8	18,176
Public/private prescriber ^(b)	357	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	357
Correctional facility	1,539	515	16	224	188	—	21	1	2,504
Total	13,973	7,161	2,746	1,995	1,929	480	597	49	28,930
Buprenorphine^(c)									
Public prescriber	1,102	—	415	67	204	24	72	22	1,906
Private prescriber	1,842	1,199	265	113	355	30	15	1	3,820
Public/private prescriber ^(b)	107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107
Correctional facility	144	10	9	1	6	—	2	—	172
Total	3,195	1,209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005
Buprenorphine/naloxone									
Public prescriber	—	—	788	208	154	42	76	39	1,307
Private prescriber	—	3,352	665	504	315	10	23	13	4,882
Public/private prescriber ^(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Correctional facility	—	99	11	20	89	2	1	1	223
Total	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs)									
Public prescriber	4,864	—	3,247	992	1,100	259	543	101	11,106
Private prescriber	10,157	11,197	1,616	1,671	1,669	327	219	22	26,878
Public/private prescriber ^(b)	464	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	464
Correctional facility	1,683	624	36	245	283	2	24	2	2,899
Total	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs) (per cent)									
Public prescriber	28.3	—	66.3	34.1	36.0	44.0	69.1	80.8	26.9
Private prescriber	59.2	94.7	33.0	57.5	54.7	55.6	27.9	17.6	65.0
Public/private prescriber ^(b)	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.1
Correctional facility	9.8	5.3	0.7	8.4	9.3	0.3	3.1	1.6	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) In New South Wales, these figures relate to prescribing that cannot be segregated into public or private prescribers.

(c) In New South Wales clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Table A2: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type, dosing point site and jurisdiction, on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), 2008

Dosing point site	NSW ^{(b)(c)}	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Methadone									
Public clinic	2,789	—	40	28	53	14	174	8	3,106
Private clinic	2,340	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,421
Pharmacy	6,461	6,565	2,315	1,739	1,561	466	402	40	19,549
Correctional setting	1,589	515	11	224	187	—	21	1	2,548
Other	794	—	179	4	8	—	—	—	985
Not reported ^(d)	—	—	201	—	120	—	—	—	321
Total	13,973	7,161	2,746	1,995	1,929	480	597	49	28,930
Buprenorphine									
Public clinic	825	—	5	12	3	7	39	2	893
Private clinic	763	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	763
Pharmacy	1,074	1199	544	165	490	47	48	21	3,588
Correctional setting	157	10	6	1	—	—	2	—	176
Other	376	—	20	3	3	—	—	—	402
Not reported ^(d)	—	—	114	—	69	—	—	—	183
Total	3,195	1,209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005
Buprenorphine/naloxone									
Public clinic	—	—	82	4	20	21	40	16	183
Private clinic	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Pharmacy	—	3,342	1,014	704	389	31	59	36	5,575
Correctional setting	—	99	11	20	59	2	1	1	193
Other	—	—	33	4	—	—	—	—	37
Not reported ^(d)	—	—	324	—	90	—	—	—	414
Total	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs)									
Public clinic	3,614	—	127	44	76	42	253	26	4,182
Private clinic	3,103	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,194
Pharmacy	7,535	11,106	3,873	2,608	2,440	544	509	97	28,712
Correctional setting	1,746	624	28	245	246	2	24	2	2,917
Other	1,170	—	232	11	11	—	—	—	1,424
Not reported ^(d)	—	—	639	—	279	—	—	—	918
Total (no.)	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs) (per cent)									
Public clinic	21.1	—	2.6	1.5	2.5	7.1	32.2	20.8	10.1
Private clinic	18.1	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.7
Pharmacy	43.9	94.0	79.1	89.7	79.9	92.5	64.8	77.6	69.4
Correctional setting	10.2	5.3	0.6	8.4	8.1	0.3	3.1	1.6	7.1
Other	6.8	—	4.7	0.4	0.4	—	—	—	3.4
Not reported ^(d)	—	—	13.0	—	9.1	—	—	—	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

- (b) In New South Wales the category 'other' includes sites such as hospitals as well as a small number of general practices. 'Other' also includes where the dosing point was not stated. In Queensland the category 'other' was calculated by including the number for all clients who had prescriptions filled at the dosing points and assuming that all other clients had received takeaway, double-doses etc. (not collected from dosing point).
- (c) In New South Wales clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.
- (d) The 'Not reported' row in this table includes pharmacotherapy clients in Queensland and South Australia who had received a takeaway dose prior to the 'snapshot/specified' day.

Table A3: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type, sex of the client and jurisdiction, on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), 2008

Sex	NSW ^(b)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	Total (%)
Methadone										
Male	8,968	4,733	1,501	1,268	1,212	292	343	28	18,345	63.4
Female	5,005	2,355	1,185	727	714	187	246	21	10,440	36.1
Not stated	—	73	60	—	3	1	8	—	145	0.5
Total	13,973	7161	2746	1995	1929	480	597	49	28,930	100.0
Buprenorphine										
Male	2,235	799	425	88	367	28	66	14	4,022	67.0
Female	960	398	260	93	198	26	23	9	1,967	32.8
Not stated	—	12	4	—	—	—	—	—	16	0.3
Total	3,195	1209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005	100.0
Buprenorphine/naloxone										
Male	—	2,281	998	479	385	35	61	35	4,274	66.7
Female	—	1,135	459	253	170	19	36	18	2,090	32.6
Not stated	—	35	7	—	3	—	3	—	48	0.7
Total	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412	100.0
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs)										
Male	11,203	7,813	2,924	1,835	1,964	355	470	77	26,641	64.4
Female	5,965	3,888	1,904	1,073	1,082	232	305	48	14,497	35.1
Not stated	—	120	71	—	6	1	11	—	209	0.5
Total	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) In New South Wales clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

Table A4: Estimated number of pharmacotherapy clients by pharmacotherapy drug type, age group of the client and jurisdiction, on a 'snapshot/specified' day^(a), 2008

Age group	NSW ^(b)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(c)	Total	Total (%)
Methadone										
10–19 years	34	65	8	1	—	—	5	—	113	0.4
20–29 years	2,455	2,162	441	433	285	107	137	—	6,020	20.8
30–39 years	4,819	2,990	1,013	741	678	213	203	—	10,657	36.8
40–49 years	4,584	1,459	876	555	687	118	186	—	8,465	29.3
50–59 years	2,000	440	393	260	270	38	63	—	3,464	12.0
60 years and over	81	45	15	5	9	4	3	—	162	0.6
Not reported	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	49	0.2
Total	13,973	7,161	2,746	1,995	1,929	480	597	49	28,930	100.0
Buprenorphine										
10–19 years	24	11	3	—	3	—	1	—	42	0.7
20–29 years	880	365	166	49	116	17	23	—	1,616	26.9
30–39 years	1,229	505	328	87	195	19	38	—	2,401	40.0
40–49 years	771	246	142	30	177	15	26	—	1,407	23.4
50–59 years	273	74	49	14	71	3	1	—	485	8.1
60 years and over	18	8	1	1	3	—	—	—	31	0.5
Not reported	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	23	0.4
Total	3,195	1,209	689	181	565	54	89	23	6,005	100.0
Buprenorphine/naloxone										
10–19 years	—	31	12	1	4	1	—	—	49	0.8
20–29 years	—	1,042	378	173	134	18	30	—	1,775	27.7
30–39 years	—	1,441	619	317	268	24	36	—	2,705	42.2
40–49 years	—	703	346	186	120	11	28	—	1,394	21.7
50–59 years	—	212	105	54	29	—	5	—	405	6.3
60 years and over	—	22	4	1	2	—	1	—	30	0.5
Not reported	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	53	54	0.8
Total	—	3,451	1,464	732	558	54	100	53	6,412	100.0
Total (all pharmacotherapy drugs)										
10–19 years	58	108	23	2	7	1	6	—	205	0.5
20–29 years	3,335	3,569	985	655	535	142	190	—	9,411	22.8
30–39 years	6,048	4,936	1,960	1,145	1,141	256	277	—	15,763	38.1
40–49 years	5,355	2,408	1,364	771	984	144	240	—	11,266	27.2
50–59 years	2,273	726	547	328	370	41	69	—	4,354	10.5
60 years and over	99	75	20	7	14	4	4	—	223	0.5
Not reported	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	125	126	0.3
Total	17,168	11,821	4,899	2,908	3,052	588	786	125	41,347	100.0

(a) The number of clients on the program on a 'snapshot/specified' day in June, except for Western Australia, where the number of clients treated through the month of June is reported.

(b) In New South Wales, clients prescribed buprenorphine/naloxone are counted under buprenorphine.

(c) The total estimated number of clients reported excludes pharmacotherapy clients in the Northern Territory where data relating to the age group of clients is not reported.

Note: Each state and territory uses a different method to collect data on pharmacotherapy prescription and dosing. These differences may result in minor discrepancies if directly comparing one jurisdiction with another jurisdiction.

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bulletin 72

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