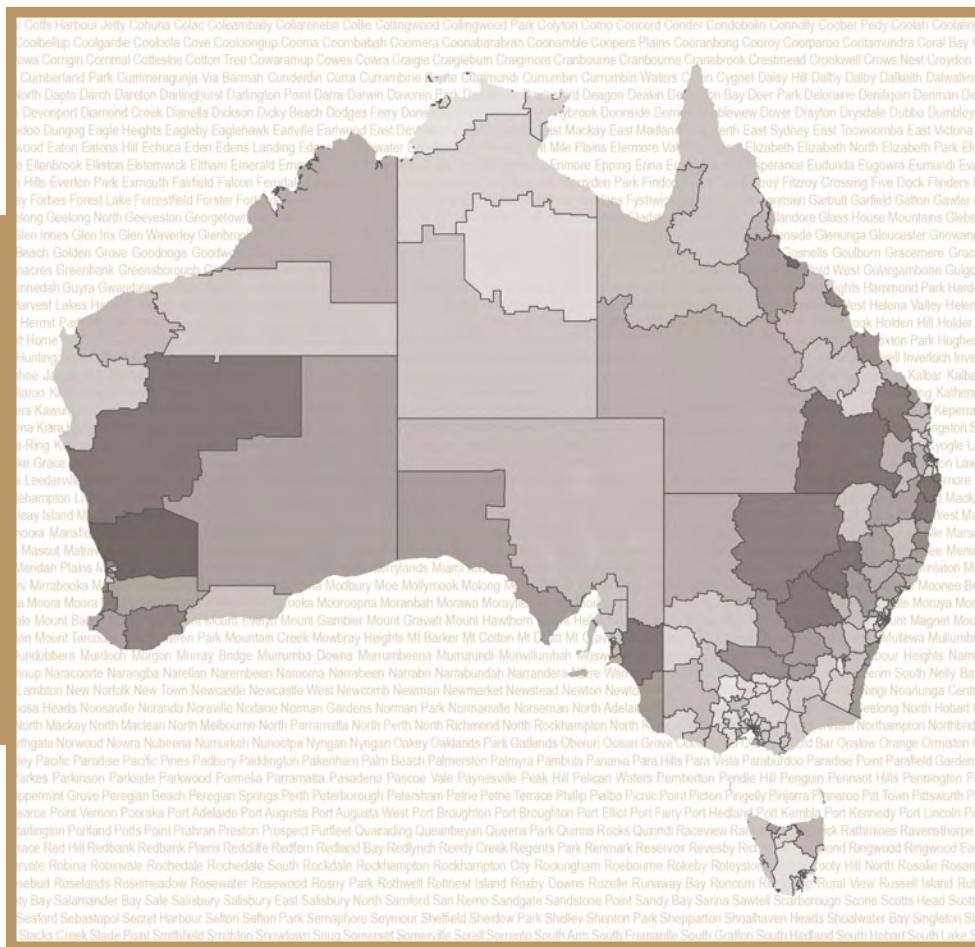


# Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection



## National Data Report 2018



UNSW  
SYDNEY



Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection

NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2018

Prepared by  
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November 2018

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for infection and immunity in society

This publication is available at: <http://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au>

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Suggested citation: Heard S, Iversen J, Kwon JA and Maher L. Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection: National Data Report 2018. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney; 2018.

The Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. The Kirby Institute is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, UNSW Sydney.

# Acknowledgements

The Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection (NSP NMDC) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. The Kirby Institute is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, UNSW Sydney.

We would like to acknowledge the many people who have assisted with the development and implementation of the NSP NMDC project.

The project received support and input from the following members of the NSP NMDC Reference Group in 2018: Ms Jenny Taleski (ACT); Ms Annabelle Stevens (NSW); Mr David Decolongon (NT); Mr Robert Kemp (QLD); Mr Stephen Lymb (SA); Ms Francine Smith (TAS); Mr Brian McDowell and Ms Terri Spall (VIC); Ms Jude Bevan (WA); Ms Melanie Walker (Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League); Mr Sione Crawford (Harm Reduction Victoria); Dr Mary Ellen Harrod (NSW Users and AIDS Association); Ms Kathryn Lim (Pharmacy Guild); Ms Moira Hewitt (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare); and Professor Alison Ritter (National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre).

We also appreciate the valuable assistance provided by Mr Benet Brogan (QLD), Ms Kendall Robertson (SA), Mr Rob Knight (VIC), Mr Samuel Gibbings (WA), NSP attendees and staff and managers at NSP services.

We are grateful to Ms Louise Geddes and Ms Rachel McCleave (The Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney) for their contributions to the report, and to Mr Greg Smith from Educational Assessment Australia, UNSW Global Pty Limited for assistance with data collection.

Ethical approval for this project was obtained from the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee-A. Formal written permission to access jurisdictional data was sought and obtained from state and territory Health Departments.

# Acronyms

<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>ACT</b>	Australian Capital Territory
<b>ANSPS</b>	Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey
<b>ASGS</b>	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
<b>ATS</b>	Amphetamine-type stimulants
<b>BBV</b>	Blood-borne viral
<b>GARPR</b>	Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting
<b>GCCSA</b>	Greater Capital City Statistical Area
<b>NSP</b>	Needle syringe program
<b>NSP NMDC</b>	Needle syringe program national minimum data collection
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory
<b>QLD</b>	Queensland
<b>OOS</b>	Occasions of service
<b>RA</b>	Remoteness area
<b>SA</b>	South Australia
<b>SA1(2,3,4)</b>	Statistical Area 1(2,3,4)
<b>SDM</b>	Syringe dispensing machine
<b>PWID</b>	People who inject drugs
<b>STI</b>	Sexually transmitted infections
<b>TAS</b>	Tasmania
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>VIC</b>	Victoria
<b>WA</b>	Western Australia

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# Summary

All Australian states and territories operate needle syringe programs (NSPs), providing a range of services to people who inject drugs (PWID). NSPs are a key component of current and previous National Strategies designed to reduce blood-borne viral (BBV) infections and their associated morbidity, mortality and personal and social impacts.

**All jurisdictions operated the full range of NSP outlet types in 2018, with a total of 3,677 NSPs in operation.**

Australia's combined network of jurisdictional NSP services comprised 101 primary, 774 secondary and 2,458 pharmacy NSPs in June 2018. These face to face services were supplemented by 344 syringe dispensing machines (SDMs). There was a steady increase in the number of primary, secondary and pharmacy NSPs over the period 2008 to 2018, while the number of SDMs tripled from 118 in 2008 to 344 in 2018.

The mix of NSP service delivery varied according to remoteness area. The majority of primary (n=68, 67%) and pharmacy (n=1,566, 64%) NSPs were located in major cities, while the majority of secondary NSPs (n=573, 74%) and SDMs (n=226, 66%) were located outside major cities in 2018.

**An estimated 710,000 occasions of service were provided at primary and secondary NSPs in 2018.**

Based on 2,643 NSP occasions of service (OOS) recorded at primary and secondary NSPs that participated in the NSP NMDC on the 2018 snapshot day and after accounting for services open in evenings and on weekends, an estimated 710,000 occasions of service were provided from public sector NSPs in 2018.

**Two in five public sector NSP OOS involved provision of a health education intervention and eight percent of OOS involved a referral within a service or to an external agency.**

Two thirds (64%) of NSP attendees at public sector NSP services on the 2018 snapshot day were aged between 30 and 49 years of age. Young people (aged less than 25 years) comprised 5% of NSP attendees, while older people (aged 50 years or above) comprised 19% of NSP attendees. Almost three in four (70%) NSP attendees were male. Excluding OOS where Indigenous status was not reported, 18% of NSP attendees identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.



**Stimulants and hallucinogens were the most commonly reported drugs injected in Australia in 2018.**

Stimulants and hallucinogens (42%) (predominantly methamphetamine) were the most commonly reported drugs injected on the snapshot day in 2018, followed by analgesics (heroin, other opioids and opioid substitution therapies, 40%) and anabolic agents and selected hormones (predominantly anabolic steroids, 8%).

Stimulants and hallucinogens were the most commonly reported drugs injected among young people (47%), while analgesics were the most commonly reported drugs injected among older people (55%).

**In 2017/18, 48.9 million needles and syringes were distributed in Australia.**

Over the past ten years, the number of needles and syringes distributed in Australia increased by 46%, with a 16% increase over the past 5 years. The number of needles and syringes distributed over the past three years was stable at between 48.9 million in 2017/18 and 49.5 million in 2015/16.

Per capita needle and syringe distribution among the population aged 15-64 years increased over the past five and ten year periods (from 2.4 syringes per annum in 2008/09, to 2.8 syringes per annum in 2013/14 and 3.0 syringes per annum in 2017/18).

In 2017/18, an estimated 633 syringes were distributed per 'regular' PWID in Australia, the equivalent of 1.7 each per day. We estimate that syringe coverage was 106% in 2017/18. However, in order to cover all injections with a sterile syringe, coverage of greater than 100% is required to allow for syringes utilised by non-regular PWID and syringes used for drawing up or failed injection attempts.

# 1. Introduction

Needle syringe programs (NSPs) have been in operation in Australia since 1986 and are a key component of current and previous National Strategies for reducing blood borne viral (BBV) infections and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)<sup>1,2</sup>. The aims of the National Strategies are to reduce the transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and STIs and to reduce the associated morbidity, mortality and personal and social impacts. Each National Strategy outlines a set of indicators for monitoring progress towards these aims, with reporting against these indicators through the National Surveillance and Monitoring Plan a key step in the implementation process<sup>3</sup>. NSPs are also a key element of the harm reduction framework outlined in the National Drug Strategy<sup>4</sup>.

NSPs provide a range of services that aim to prevent the transmission of BBVs, including the provision of sterile injecting equipment, safer sex materials, information and education on reducing harms associated with injection drug use and referral to a range of health and welfare services. Injecting equipment provided by NSPs primarily includes sterile needles and syringes and containers for the safe disposal of used injecting equipment, and may also include other injecting equipment such as alcohol swabs and ampoules of sterile water.

In 2015, the Australian Government Department of Health engaged the Kirby Institute to develop a Needle Syringe Program National Minimum Data Collection (NSP NMDC) to support the National BBV Strategies and complement the annual Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) National Data Report.

All eight Australian states and territories operate NSP services and collect a range of operational data, although there is varied levels of completeness and alignment across data elements. A consensus meeting of key stakeholders was held in Sydney in November 2015 to identify items for inclusion in the NSP NMDC and the potential for improving completeness and alignment over time.

The inaugural NSP NMDC 2016 National Data Report<sup>5</sup> included data on the agreed elements for the 2015/16 financial year and was well received. In early 2017, the NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> was developed and ratified by the project Reference Group. The purpose of the NSP NMDC Data Dictionary is to provide a framework for the reporting of NSP NMDC data elements. It is envisaged that revisions will be made to the data dictionary as required.

This third annual NSP NMDC report provides a national summary of agreed data elements in relation to i) agency-level administrative data, ii) service provision and iii) needle and syringe distribution data. This report provides a descriptive overview of NSP services in each of the jurisdictions as well as summary data for each of the three agreed data elements.

Nationally collated data also enables reporting against key indicators outlined in the National Surveillance and Monitoring Plan that accompanies Australia's National HIV and National Hepatitis C Strategies and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) framework.

The relevant indicators are stated as:

- Per capita number of needles and syringes distributed in the previous calendar year<sup>3</sup>
- Needles and syringes distributed per person injecting (GARPR 2015)<sup>7</sup>
- Needle syringe programme sites<sup>7</sup>

It is anticipated that NSP NMDC reports will also be used for service monitoring and planning which will benefit the community of people who inject drugs (PWID) and provide public health benefits to the Australian population.

## 2. NSP Services

### NSP outlet type

In Australia, NSP services are available through a range of outlet types. The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary 2017v3<sup>6</sup> provides the following definitions for NSP outlet type.

*Primary NSPs* are dedicated to the provision of services to PWID. Primary NSPs dispense a wide range of sterile injecting equipment, offer needle syringe disposal services, provide information and education on a range of issues relating to injection drug use and have the capacity to make referrals to other health and welfare services as required.

*Secondary NSPs* operate within existing health or community services with staff that are not solely dedicated to the provision of services to PWID. Secondary NSPs may provide the same range of services as primary NSPs but typically have a limited capacity to deliver specialist services other than the dispensing of sterile injecting equipment and the provision of disposal facilities, although not all secondary outlets provide disposal facilities.

*Pharmacy NSPs* are community retail pharmacies that dispense needles and syringes to PWID. This includes free dispensing as part of a subsidised scheme, as well as supply of injecting equipment on a commercial basis. Community pharmacies that

independently supply needles and syringes (where there is no association with a state/territory NSP scheme) are not included in the NSP NMDC as there is no way to determine whether syringes are provided to PWID or solely provided to people with medical conditions (for example for IVF treatment).

*Syringe dispensing machines (SDMs)* provide sterile injecting equipment via vending machines or dispensing chutes. SDMs dispense needles and syringes at no cost or for a small fee and typically operate in locations and at times when other NSP services are unavailable.

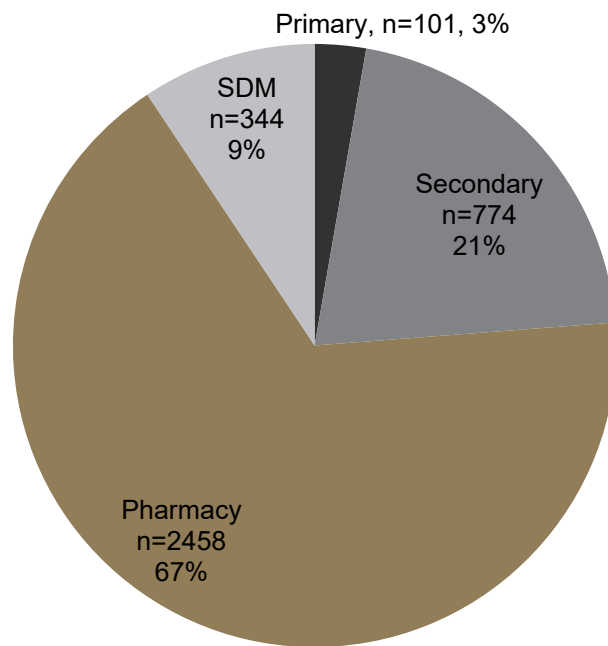
The NSP NMDC counted the number of NSPs as the total of primary + secondary + pharmacy + SDMs. If a primary or secondary NSP outlet also operated a SDM these were counted as separate NSPs for the purpose of the NSP NMDC. For example, a fixed site secondary outlet with two SDMs outside the building was counted as 1 x secondary and 2 x SDM.

In June 2018, there were 3,677 NSPs operating nationally (Figure 2.1) and all jurisdictions operated the full range of NSP outlet types. Pharmacy NSPs were the most common outlet type nationally (n=2,458, 67%) and in all jurisdictions (Figure 2.2). Of the 1,219 public sector outlets operating nationally in 2018, 774 were secondary NSPs, 344 were SDMs

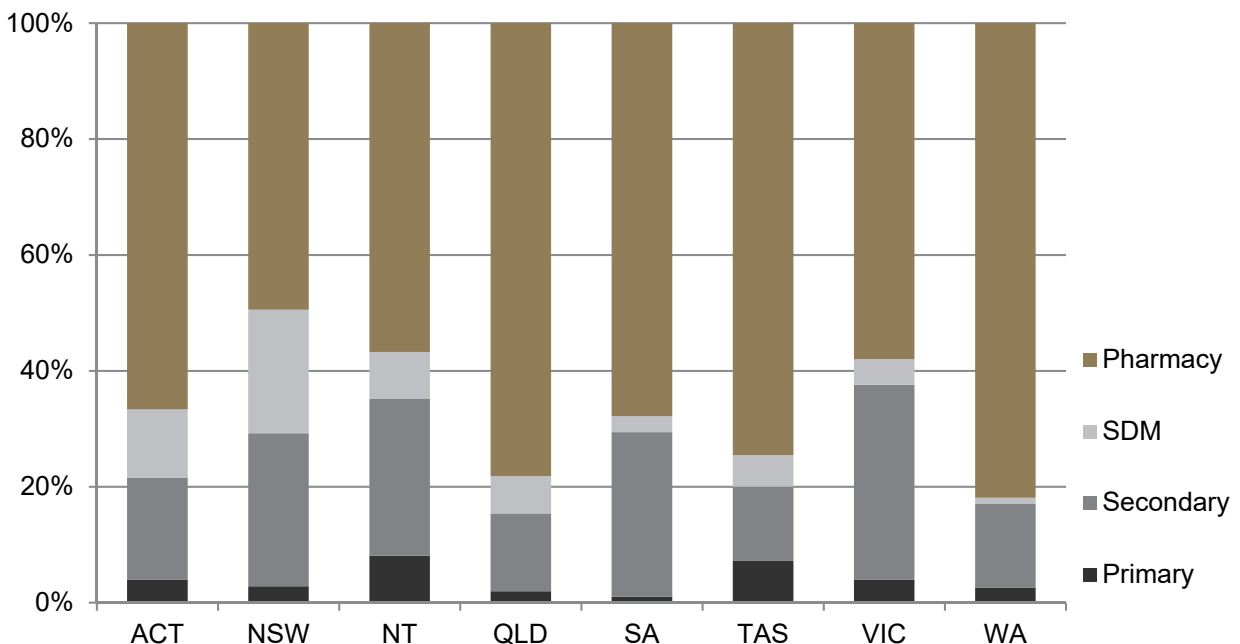
and 101 were primary NSPs. Although there were significantly fewer primary outlets compared to secondary and pharmacy outlets, the comprehensive nature of services provided by primary NSPs offers opportunities for PWID to

access health care and other services that are crucial to the prevention of blood-borne viruses and the reduction of drug-related harms to individuals and communities.

**Figure 2.1 National NSP services (%) by outlet type in 2018**



**Figure 2.2 Jurisdictional NSP services (%) by outlet type in 2018**



Primary and secondary NSPs predominantly operate as fixed site services, although 13 primary and 4 secondary NSPs operate outreach services without operating from a fixed site. A substantial proportion (n=40, 40%) of primary NSPs operate multiple modes of service delivery, including a combination of fixed site, mobile, outreach, peer distribution and/or SDM services. A total of 217 secondary outlets across Australia operate SDMs.

SDMs ensure after-hours access to sterile needles and syringes. All jurisdictions operated SDMs in 2018, with 344 SDMs in operation nationally. SDMs predominantly dispense combined 1ml needles and syringes, although a small minority of SDMs dispense larger volume syringes and detachable needles. Just over half (52%) of SDMs dispensed needles and syringes at no cost to the consumer in 2018. Among the remaining SDMs, the majority (98%) required a consumer payment of between \$2.00 and \$4.00.

There was a 28% increase in the total number of NSP outlets over the ten-year period 2008-2018 (Table 2.1). There was an increase in all outlet types between 2008 and 2018, including a 19% increase in the number of primary NSPs (from 85 to 101), a 4% increase in the number of secondary NSPs (from 745 to 774), and a 27% increase in the number of pharmacy NSPs (from 1,934 to 2,458). Notably, the number of SDMs operating in Australia tripled, from 118 in 2008 to 344 in 2018, with four jurisdictions commencing operation of SDMs over the previous ten years.

Since the inaugural NSP NMDC report in 2016<sup>5</sup>, there was a 5% increase in the total number of NSPs operating in Australia (from 3,509 in 2016 to 3,677 in 2018). The number of pharmacy NSPs increased from 2,321 in 2016 to 2,458 in 2018 and the number of SDMs increased from 300 in 2016 to 344 in 2018. The number of primary and secondary outlets was relatively stable over the same period.

**Table 2.1 Number of NSP services nationally by type, 2008, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

	2008 <sup>8</sup>	2016	2017	2018
Primary NSP	85	102	98	101
Secondary NSP	745	786	784	774
SDM	118	300	323	344
Pharmacy	1,934	2,321	2,422	2,458
Total	2,882	3,509	3,627	3,677

## Geographic coverage

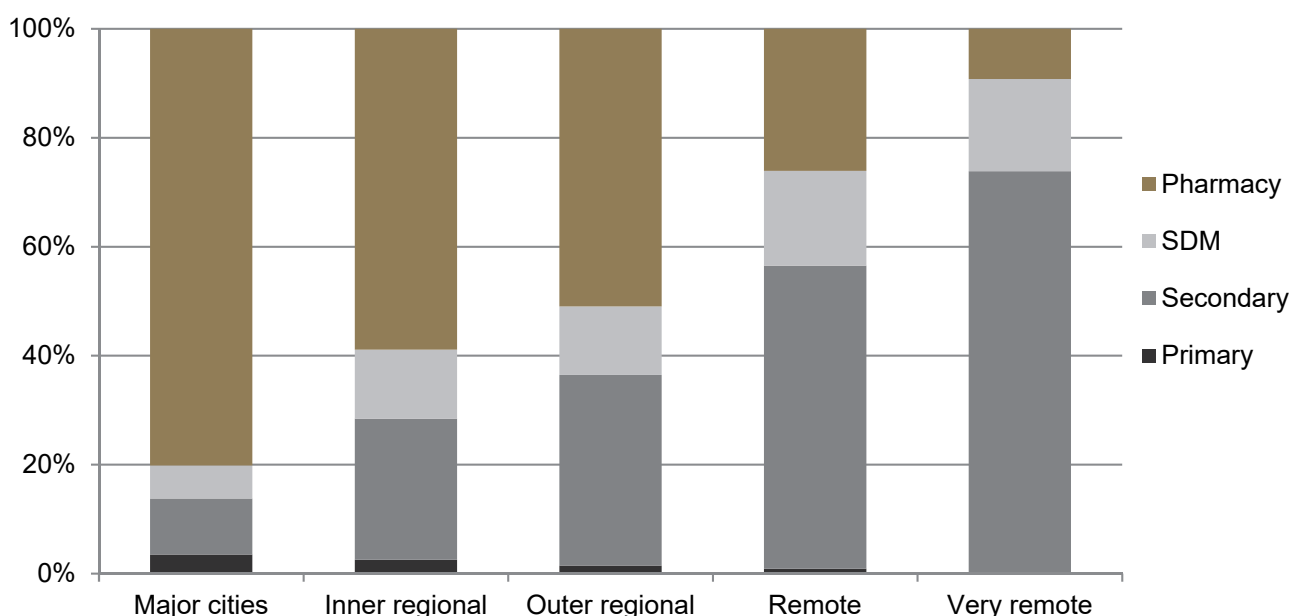
The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)<sup>9</sup> provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics by relative remoteness. The Australian Remoteness Areas (RA) categories are 0) Major Cities, 1) Inner Regional, 2) Outer Regional, 3) Remote, 4) Very Remote, 5) Migratory/Offshore/Shipping.

As shown in Figure 2.3, the mix of NSP outlet types varied according to geographic region by remoteness area. Two thirds (n=1,566, 64%) of Australia's 2,458 pharmacy NSPs were located in major cities with pharmacies comprising the majority (80%) of NSP outlets in this ASGS area. Pharmacy NSPs were also the most common NSP outlet type in inner regional (n=512, 59%) and outer regional (n=344, 51%) areas, however significantly fewer pharmacy NSPs were

located in remote (n=30, 26%) and very remote (n=6, 9%) areas of Australia. Conversely, the proportion of secondary outlets increased with remoteness area, with secondary outlets the most common NSP outlet type in remote (n=64, 56%) and very remote (n=48, 74%) areas. Similarly, the proportion of SDMs increased with remoteness area, with two thirds (n=226, 66%) of Australia's 344 SDMs located outside major cities.

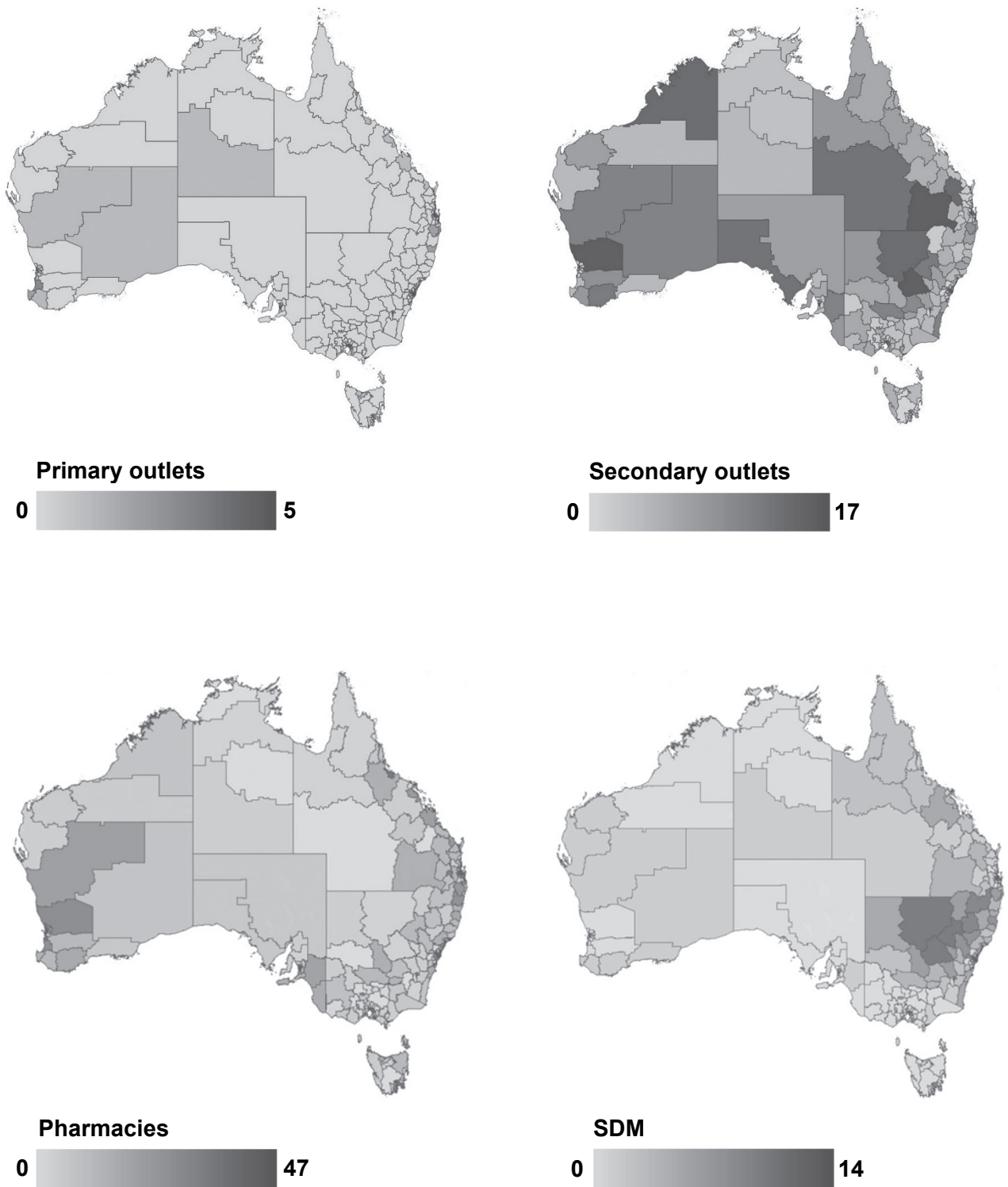
The ASGS<sup>10</sup> Statistical Area 3 (SA3) provides a regional breakdown of Australia with 336 SA3s nationally. The majority (97%) of SA3 in Australia have at least one NSP outlet. Figures 2.4 and 2.5 provide visual representations of the geographic coverage of primary, secondary, pharmacy and SDM NSP outlets by SA3 in Australia in 2018.

**Figure 2.3 National NSPs (%) by outlet type and remoteness area in 2018**



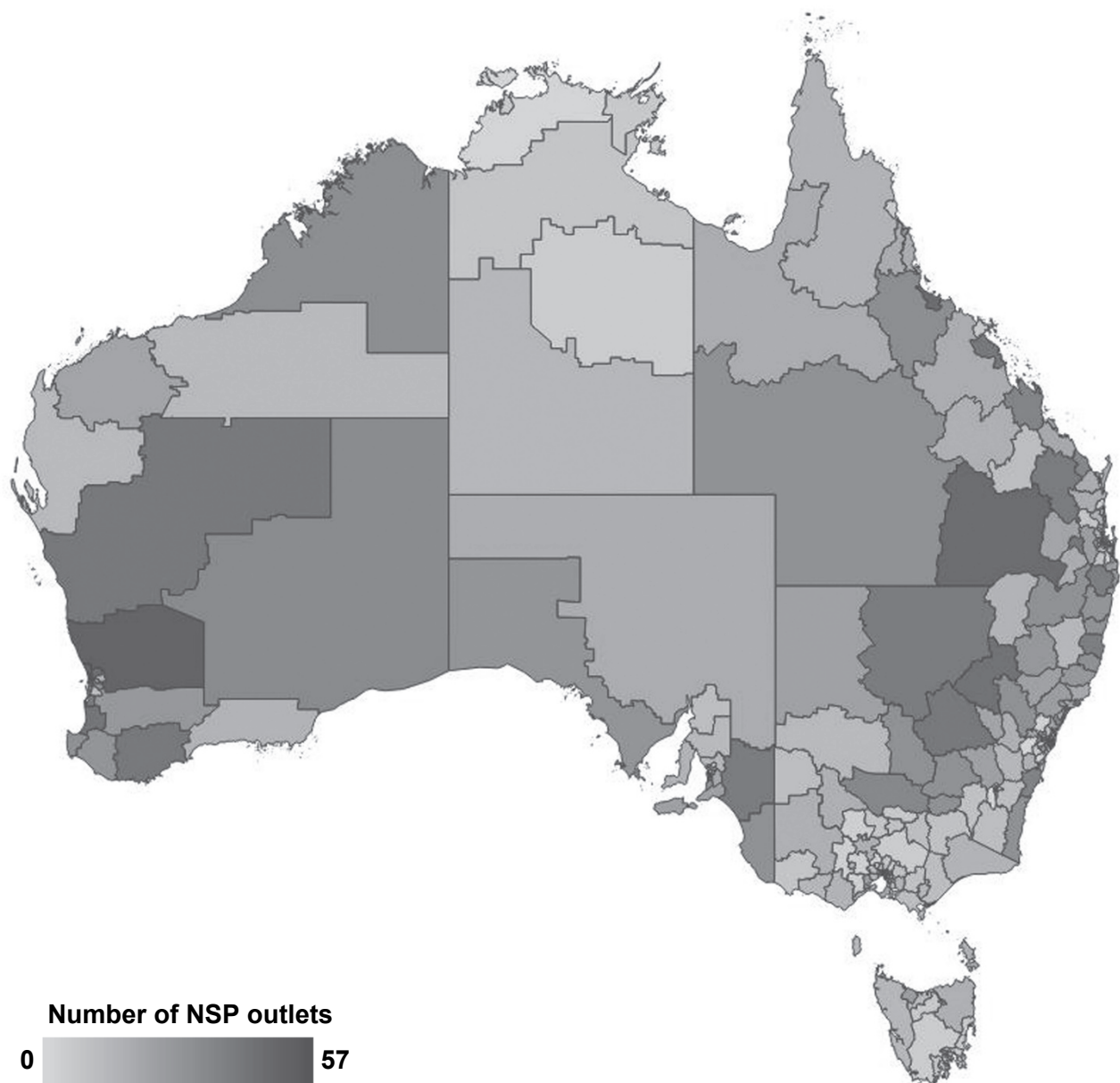


**Figure 2.4 National number of NSPs by outlet type and SA3 in 2018**





**Figure 2.5 National total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**

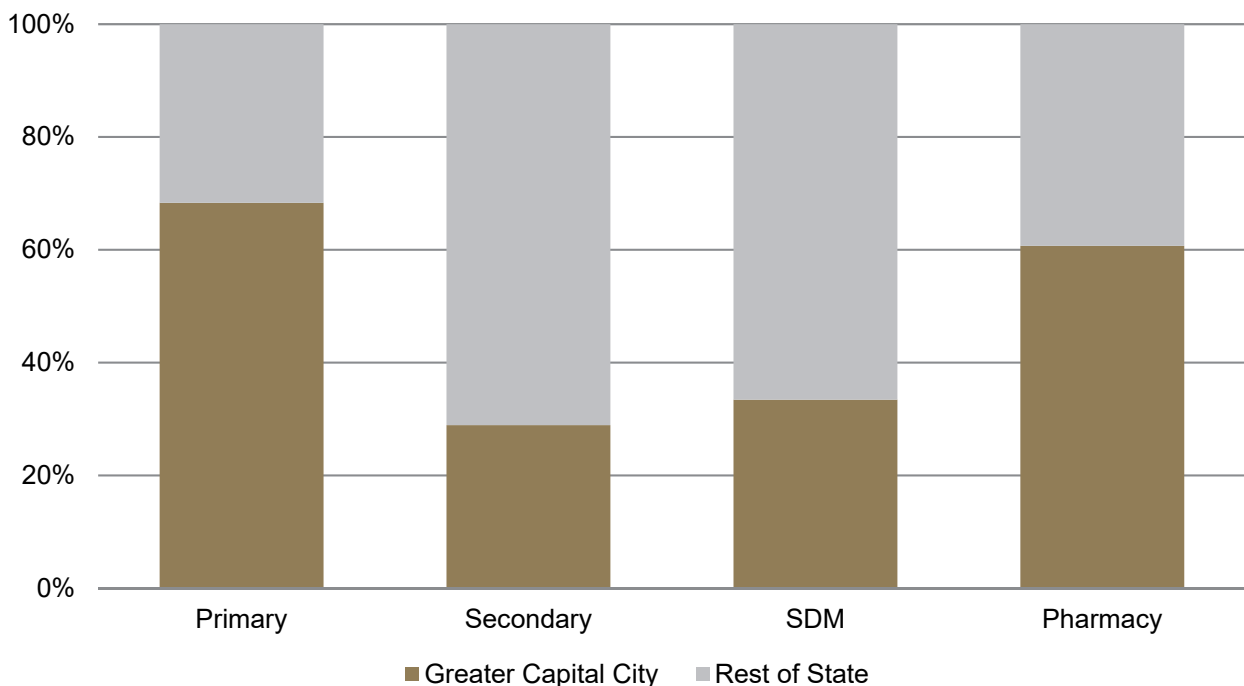


The ABS ASGS Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA)<sup>10</sup> are designed to represent a socio-economic definition of each of the eight state and territory capital cities. This means the greater capital city boundary includes people who regularly socialise, shop or work within the city, but live in the small towns and rural areas surrounding the city. It does not define the built-up edge of the city. There are 8 regions representing each of the Australian state and territory capital cities and 8 regions covering the rest of each state and territory. There is only one

GCCSA for the ACT and one for the Other Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

As occurred with remoteness areas described previously, the majority of primary (n=67, 66%) and pharmacy (n=1,450, 59%) NSP outlets are located within greater capital city boundaries, whereas the majority of secondary NSP outlets (n=593, 77%) and SDMs (n=234, 68%) are located in the rest of the state (Figure 2.6).

**Figure 2.6 National NSPs (%) by outlet type and greater capital city statistical area in 2018**



## 3. Service Provision

### NSP occasions of service

In Australia, data collected for each NSP client occasion of service (OOS) varies. Although most jurisdictions routinely collect client-level OOS data, data collection methods and definitions are not nationally aligned and data collection varies according to outlet type. For example, relatively few secondary outlets collect client-level OOS data and client-level data is not collected from SDMs or pharmacy NSPs.

Despite these limitations, the NSP NMDC consensus meeting recommended collection of client-level OOS data and agreed on four client-level OOS data elements (age, gender, Indigenous status and drug injected) and two service-level OOS data elements (health education/interventions and referrals provided) for inclusion in the NSP NMDC.

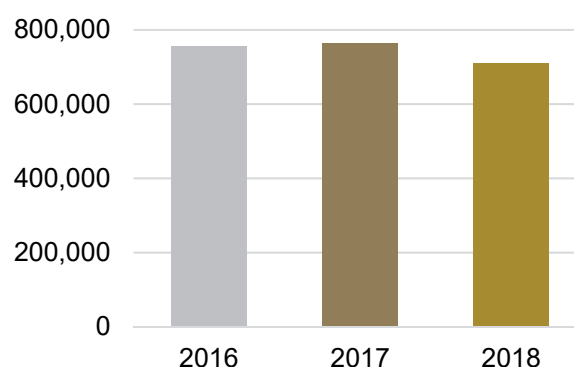
The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> defines an NSP occasion of service (OOS) as contact between NSP staff and a NSP client in order to transact sterile injecting equipment, advice or other related service from a NSP. The Data Dictionary provides a framework for reporting each of the NSP NDMC client-level and service-level OOS data elements.

Jurisdictional client-level OOS data were collected on a nominated snapshot day during the last week of February in all years. It should be noted that client-level

OOS data were not collected from every NSP outlet in some jurisdictions and that client level data were unavailable for a small number of OSS in all years 2016-2018 (range n=59-207).

Nationally, there were 2,643 OOS recorded at participating public sector NSPs in Australia on the nominated snapshot day in February 2018. After accounting for NSPs that provide services on weekends, an estimated 710,000 public sector NSP OOS were provided in 2018. The estimated number of OOS was slightly lower in 2018 than in previous years (n=755,000 in 2016 and 765,000 in 2017, Figure 3). The NSP NMDC is unable to determine if there was a commensurate increase in OOS at SDM and pharmacy NSPs, however it should be noted that the number of SDM and pharmacy NSPs increased in 2017 and 2018.

**Figure 3.1 National OOS in 2016, 2017 and 2018**



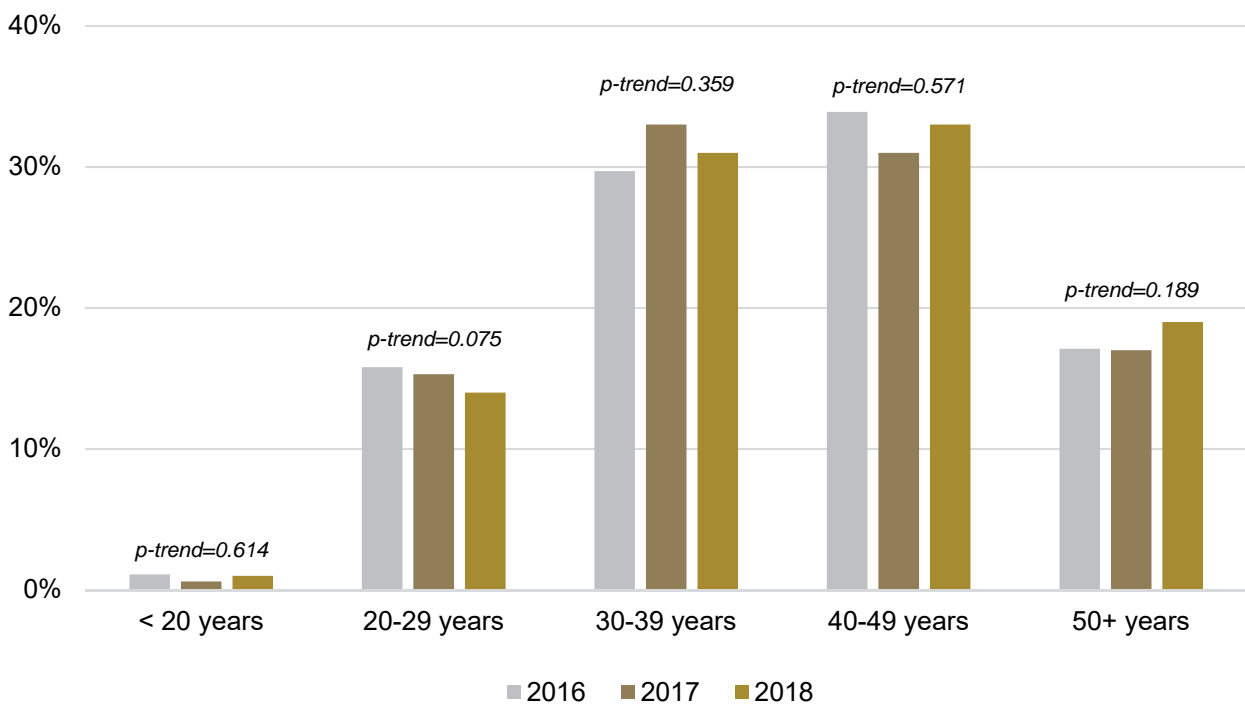
## Age

The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> defines age according to the ABS Age Standard<sup>11</sup> as AGE10P (age of the NSP client in single years). All jurisdictions collected 'age' as a data element in 2018. Most jurisdictions collected age in single years (AGE10P), however two jurisdictions collected age group and the minimum data available to report in the NSP NMDC is ten-year age groups (AGE10P). It should also be noted that there was minor misalignment with AGE10P and the age group categories collected in one jurisdiction and some adjustment of data was necessary (see Appendix A: Methodological Notes).

Two thirds (64%) of OOS at public sector NSPs on the 2018 snapshot day involved

NSP attendees aged 30-49 years (31% aged 30-39 years and 33% aged 40-49 years). Nineteen percent of OOS involved NSP attendees who were aged 50 years or older and fourteen percent involved NSP attendees aged 20-29 years, with one percent aged less than 20 years. Young people (aged less than 25 years) comprised five percent (n=141) of OOS at public sector NSPs nationally in 2018. As shown in Figure 3.2, the age breakdown of NSP attendees according to ABS AGE10P was stable over the period 2016 to 2018. However, it should be noted that the proportion of young people (aged less than 25 years) declined from 7% in 2016 to 5% in 2018 (p-trend=0.014).

**Figure 3.2 National OOS (%) by age group in 2016, 2017 and 2018**



## Gender

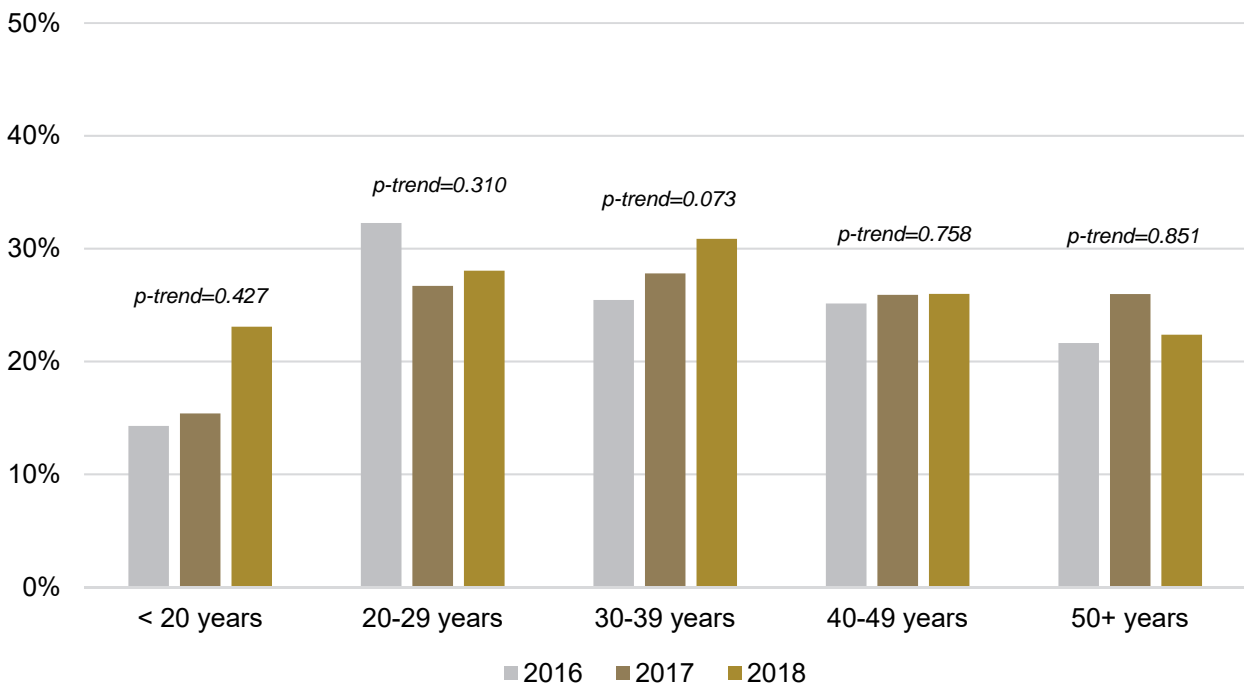
The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> defines gender as per the ABS Standard for Sex and Gender Variables<sup>12</sup> which states gender is the distinction between male, female, and genders which are a combination of male and female, or neither male nor female, as reported by the client. Although jurisdictional data collections for this element are not universally aligned (see Appendix A: Methodological Notes), the 2017 NSP NMDC reports ‘gender’ according to the ABS standard where permissible values are: 1) Male, 2) Female and 3) Other.

On the snapshot day in 2018, almost three quarters (72%) of NSP OOS

involved male NSP attendees nationally and this was consistent with data collected in 2016 (73% male) and 2017 (74% male). A minority (<0.01%) of NSP OOS involved people who identified their gender as ‘other’.

Women comprised between one fifth and one third of NSP attendees in all age groups in all years 2016 to 2018, except among NSP attendees aged <20 years, where women comprised around 15% of NSP attendees in 2016 and 2017. As shown in Figure 3.3, the proportion of women in each age group was stable over the period 2016 to 2018.

**Figure 3.3 National proportion female (%) by age group in 2016, 2017 and 2018**



## Indigenous status

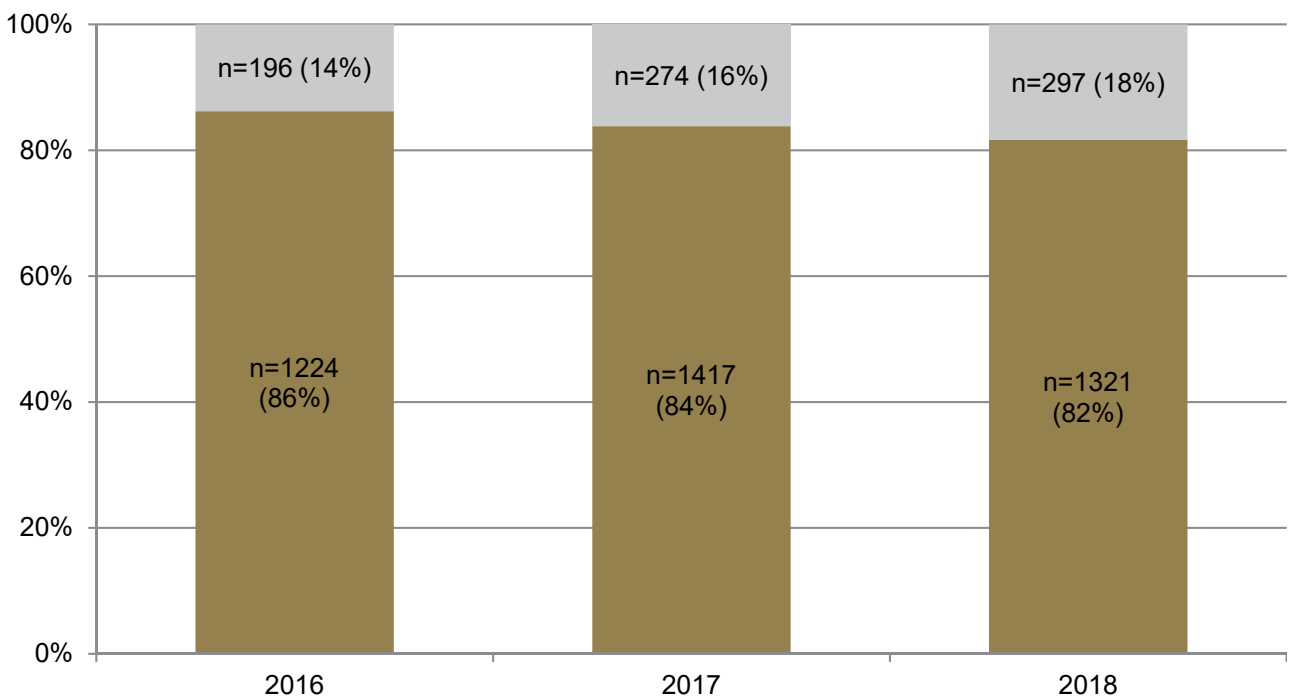
The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> uses the ABS Indigenous Status Standard<sup>13</sup>, which define Indigenous status as “Whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.”

The permissible values are: 1) Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin, 2) Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin, 3) Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, 4) Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin. Six of the eight jurisdictions currently collect client-level OOS data on Indigenous status, although data collection is not aligned to the ABS standard in one of these jurisdictions. The minimum reporting in the 2018 NSP NMDC is Indigenous status as a binary response; ‘Yes,

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin’ or ‘Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin’.

Among the six jurisdictions where client-level OOS data on Indigenous status was collected and excluding OOS where Indigenous status was not reported, 18% (n=297) of NSP OOS on the snapshot day involved NSP attendees who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Figure 3.4). It should be noted that there was a significant increase in the proportion of NSP attendees who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander over the period 2016 (14%) to 2018 (18%, p-trend=0.004).

**Figure 3.4 National OOS (%) by Indigenous status in 2016, 2017 and 2018**



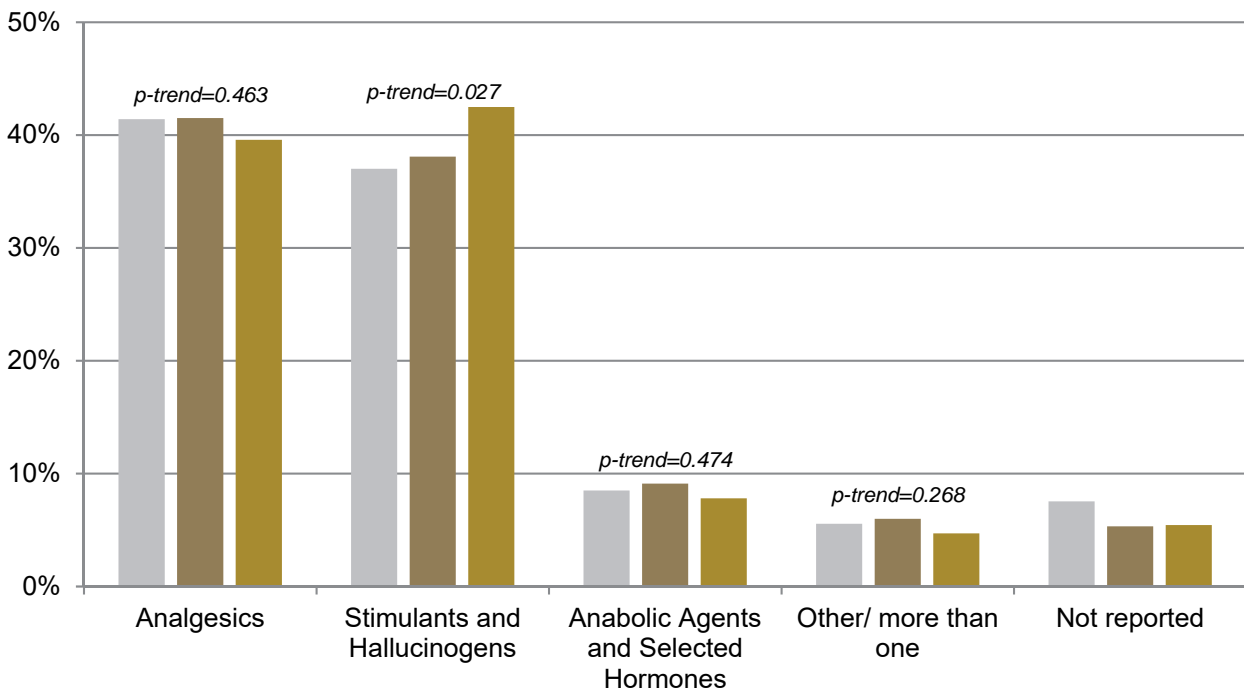
## Drugs injected

The NSP NMDC uses the ABS Drugs of Concern Classification<sup>14</sup> Broad and Base level groups to report on the drug/s injected as defined in the NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup>.

The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> defines drugs injected as the drug (or drug type), as stated by the client. Given differences in existing jurisdictional data collections, this is either the drug the client is intending to inject following the current occasion of service (3 jurisdictions) or the drug last injected by the client on the most recent occasion of injection (4 jurisdictions). One jurisdiction does not currently collect client-level OOS data on the type of substance injected.

Figure 3.5 illustrates the breakdown of drugs injected by NSP attendees on the nominated snapshot day according to ABS Drugs of Concern Broad groups in 2016, 2017 and 2018. There was a significant increase in the proportion of NSP attendees who reported Stimulants and Hallucinogens as the class of drugs injected nationally over the period 2016 to 2018 ( $p\text{-trend}=0.027$ ). Stimulants and Hallucinogens were the most commonly reported class of drugs injected for the first time in 2018 ( $n=805$ , 42%), followed by Analgesics ( $n=750$ , 40%) and Anabolic Agents and Selected Hormones ( $n=148$ , 8%). Eighty-nine OOS (5%) involved people who reported injecting more than one drug subtype.

**Figure 3.5 National OOS drug injected (%) by ABS Drugs of Concern Broad Groups in 2016, 2017 and 2018**

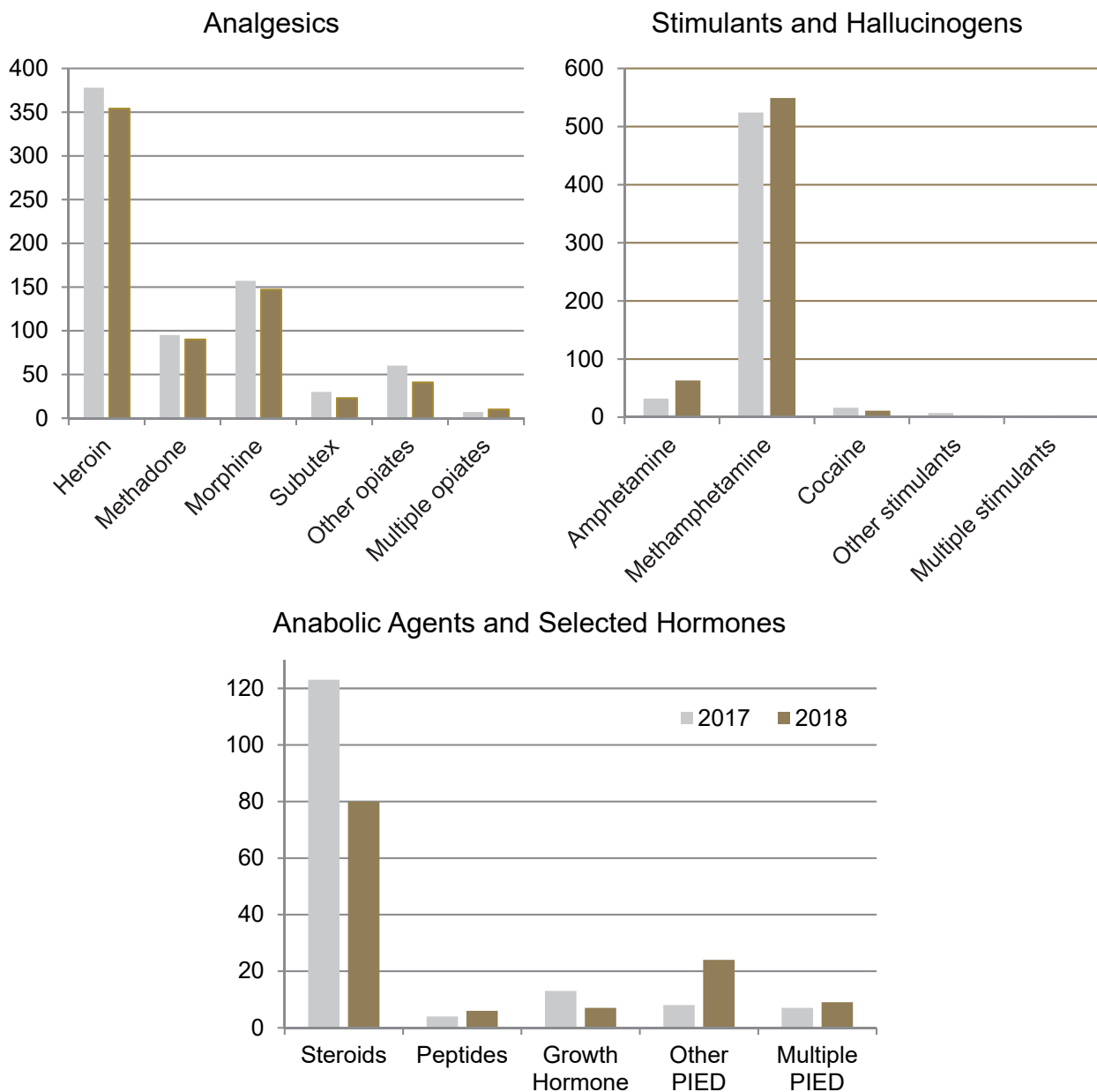


Note: One jurisdiction did not collect data on drug injected in 2016, 2017 or 2018

In the five jurisdictions where data on ABS Drugs of Concern at Base level units were available, heroin (n=354, 53%) was the most commonly reported drug injected in the 'Analgesics' category, methamphetamine (n=549, 87%) was the most commonly reported drug injected in

the 'Stimulants and Hallucinogens' category and steroids (n=80, 63%) were the most commonly reported drug injected in the 'Anabolic Agents and Selected Hormones' category (see Figure 3.6).

**Figure 3.6 National OOS drug injected by ABS Drugs of Concern Broad groups and Base groups in 2017 and 2018**



Note: Among the five jurisdictions that collected ABS Drugs of concern at Base level units



## Young people

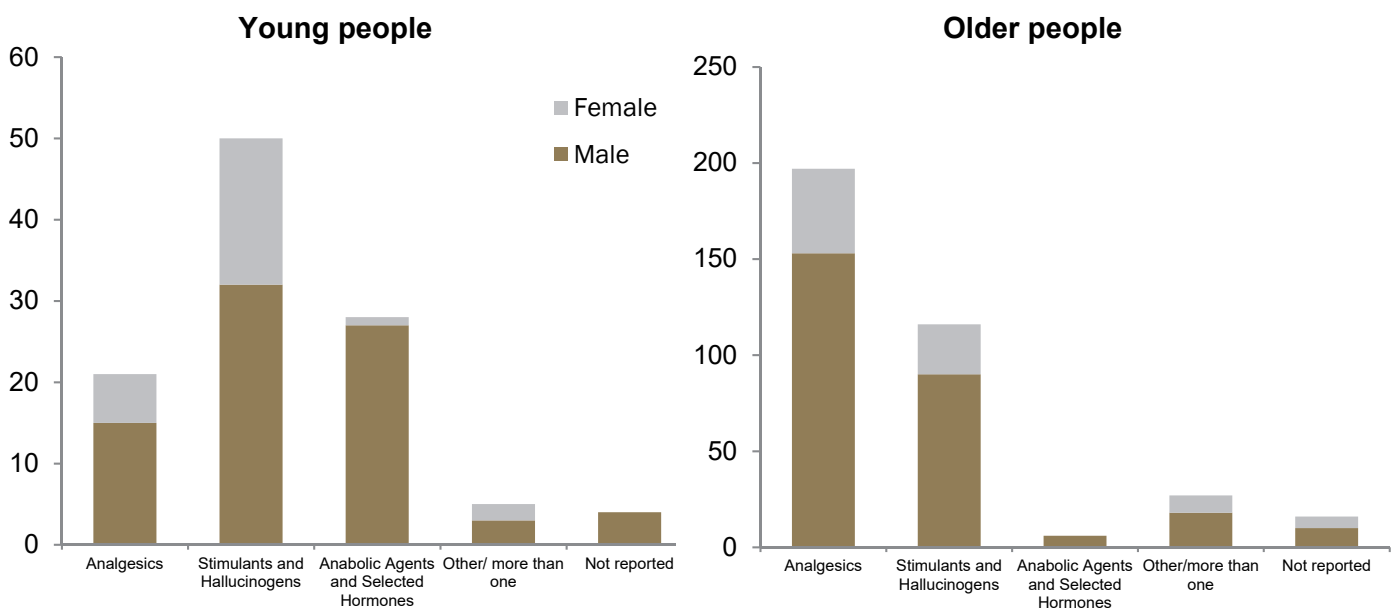
Among young people (aged less than 25 years) attending NSPs on the snapshot day in 2018 and excluding the jurisdiction that did not collect data on drugs injected, 47% of OOS involving young people reported injecting Stimulants and Hallucinogens, 26% reported injecting Anabolic Agents and Selected Hormones and 19% reported injecting Analgesics. A minority of OOS involved young people (5%) who reported injecting other drugs or more than one drug and 4% did not report drug(s) injected.

As previously stated, the majority of OOS involving young people in 2018 involved young men (74%). Men comprised 71% of young people who injected Analgesics, 63% of those who injected Stimulants and Hallucinogens and 96% of those who injected Anabolic Agents and Selected Hormones (Figure 3.7).

## Older people

NSP NMDC defines older people as those over the age of 50 years. Among OOS involving older people and excluding the jurisdiction that did not collect data on drugs injected, in 2018 the majority (55%) of older people reported injecting Analgesics, 32% reported injecting Stimulants and Hallucinogens and 2% reported injecting Anabolic Agents and Selected Hormones. Four percent of older people did not report the drug injected and 7% reported injecting more than one drug. Men comprised the majority of OOS that involved older people in all ABS Drugs of Concern Broad Groups (Figure 3.7).

**Figure 3.7 National OOS among young people (aged <25 years) and older people (aged ≥50 years) by gender and drug injected in 2018**



## Health education/interventions provided

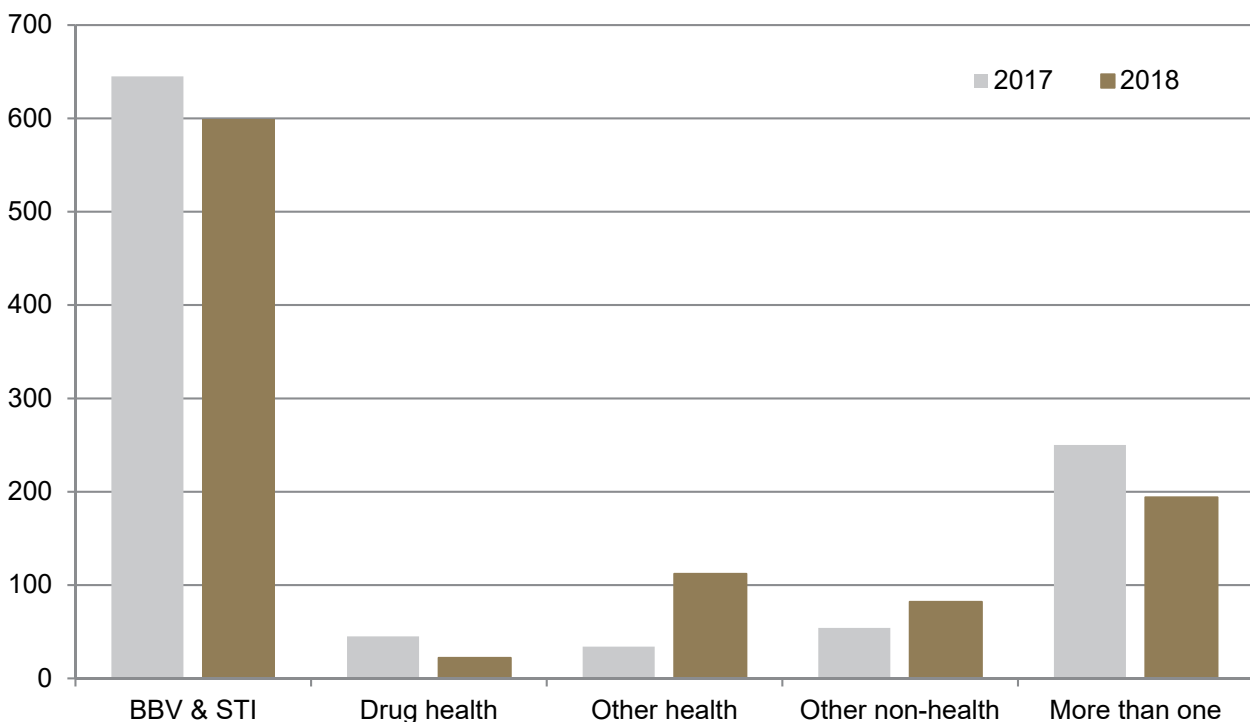
A health education/intervention is defined as the provision of information, education or brief intervention to a client by NSP staff at an occasion of service. Given some inconsistency in the way this data element is currently collected in jurisdictions, the NSP NMDC uses a two-level hierarchical structure to collate health education/ intervention(s) into broad groups. It should also be noted that not all secondary NSP services have the capacity to provide a range of health education/interventions to PWID who attend their services.

Among NSP services that collected data on provision of health education/interventions, two fifths (42%) of NSP OOS included the provision of a health education/intervention. Where NSP services collected detailed data on the

type of health education/intervention, data were recoded into the five broad groups defined in the NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup>: 1) BBV and STI, 2) Drug health, 3) Other health, 4) Other non-health and 5) Peer-based.

As shown in Figure 3.8, on the NSP NDMC snapshot day the majority of health education interventions provided at NSP services related to BBVs and STIs (including safer injection practices and vein care) in 2017 (n=645, 63%) and in 2018 (n=599, 59%). In 2018, the provision of more than one health education/ intervention was also relatively common (n=194, 19%), with fewer health education/interventions related to drug health (n=22, 2%), other health (n=112, 11%) and other non-health (n=82, 8%) matters.

**Figure 3.8 National NSP OOS health education interventions in 2017 and 2018**



## Referrals

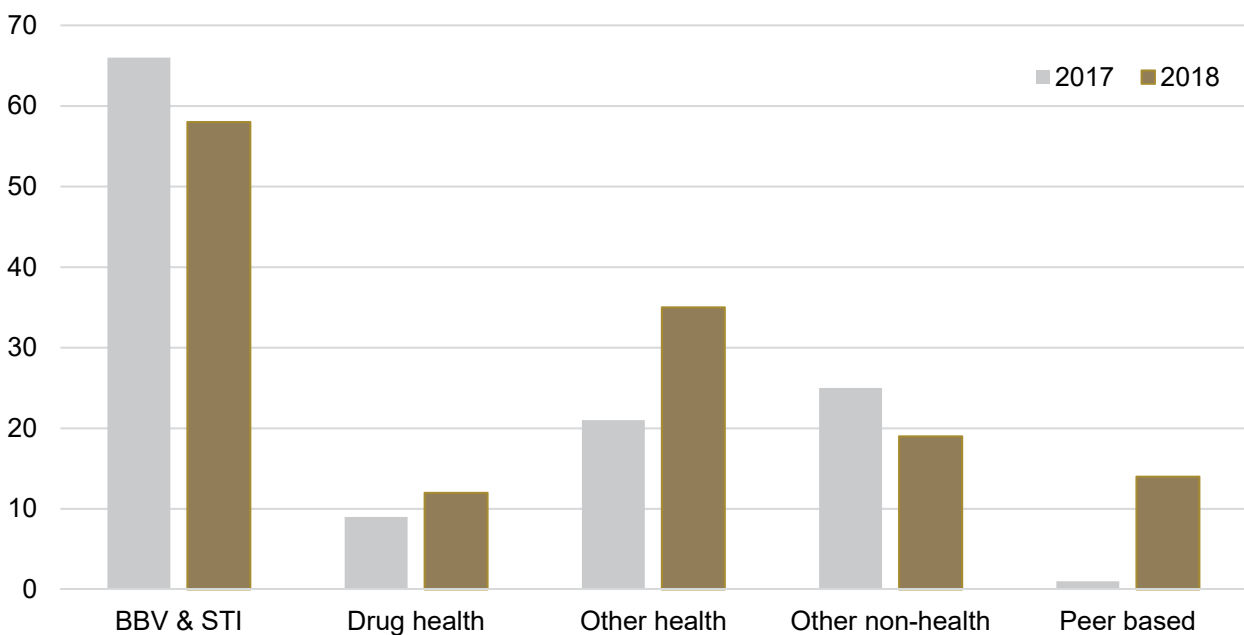
Primary and secondary NSP services also provide attendees with referrals to a range of health, welfare, legal and other agencies. The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> defines referral as “The type of service or agency to which a client is referred during a NSP service contact.”

As with health education/interventions and described previously, the NSP NMDC uses a two-level hierarchical structure to collate referrals due to some inconsistency in the way this data element is currently collected at the jurisdictional level. The hierarchical structure of this data element enables recoding of existing jurisdictional data into broad groups. Although all jurisdictions collect this data element, not all secondary NSP services have the capacity to provide or collect referral data.

The NSP NMDC project recoded referral data into the following five broad groups: 1) BBV and STI, 2) Drug health, 3) Other health, 4) Other non-health and 5) Peer based.

On the snapshot day in 2018, of the NSP services that recorded data on referrals, eight percent (n=146) of NSP OOS involved a referral. Two fifths (n=58, 40%) of referrals were made to BBV and STI services, 24% (n=35) to other health services, 13% (n=19) to other non-health services, 10% (n=14) to peer-based services and 8% (n=12) of referrals were made to drug health services. Figure 3.9 shows the national NSP OOS referral destination in 2017 and 2018.

**Figure 3.9 National NSP OOS referral destination in 2017 and 2018**

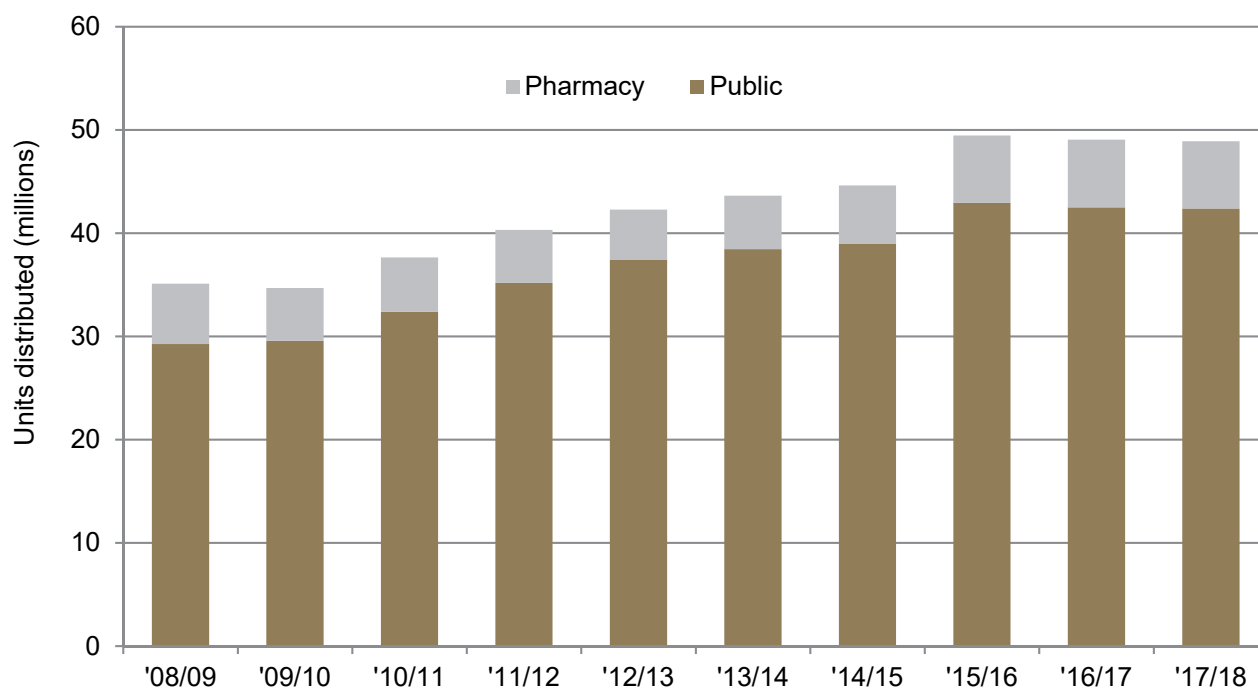


## 4. Needle and Syringe Distribution

The NSP NMDC used the NSP NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup> definition for 'Needles and syringes distributed' which includes a description of 1) combined needle and syringe, 2) syringe without needle and 3) needle without syringe. As GARPR requires a count of the total number of syringes distributed (excluding needles distributed without syringes), the Data Dictionary guide for use states "the total number of needles and syringes is obtained using the calculation: 'Combined needle and syringe' + 'syringe without needle'."

In the 2017/18 financial year, 48.9 million needles and syringes were distributed nationally in Australia (Figure 4.1). This represents a 16% increase over the five-year period 2013/14 to 2017/18 and a 46% increase over the ten-year period from 2008/09 to 2017/18. The number of needles and syringes distributed over the past three years was stable at between 48.9 million in 2017/18 and 49.5 million in 2015/16. The majority of needles and syringes were distributed through public sector NSPs in all years (range 83% to 89%). In 2017/18, 13% of needles and syringes were dispensed through the pharmacy NSP sector.

**Figure 4.1 National needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector NSP, 2008/09-2017/18**



## Per capita needle and syringe distribution

Per capita needle and syringe distribution was calculated by dividing the number of needles and syringes distributed by the Australian population aged 15-64 years. The denominator excluded children (aged less than 14 years) and older people (65 years and older) as injection drug use is less prevalent in these age groups. Calendar year ABS population data was converted to financial year by calculating

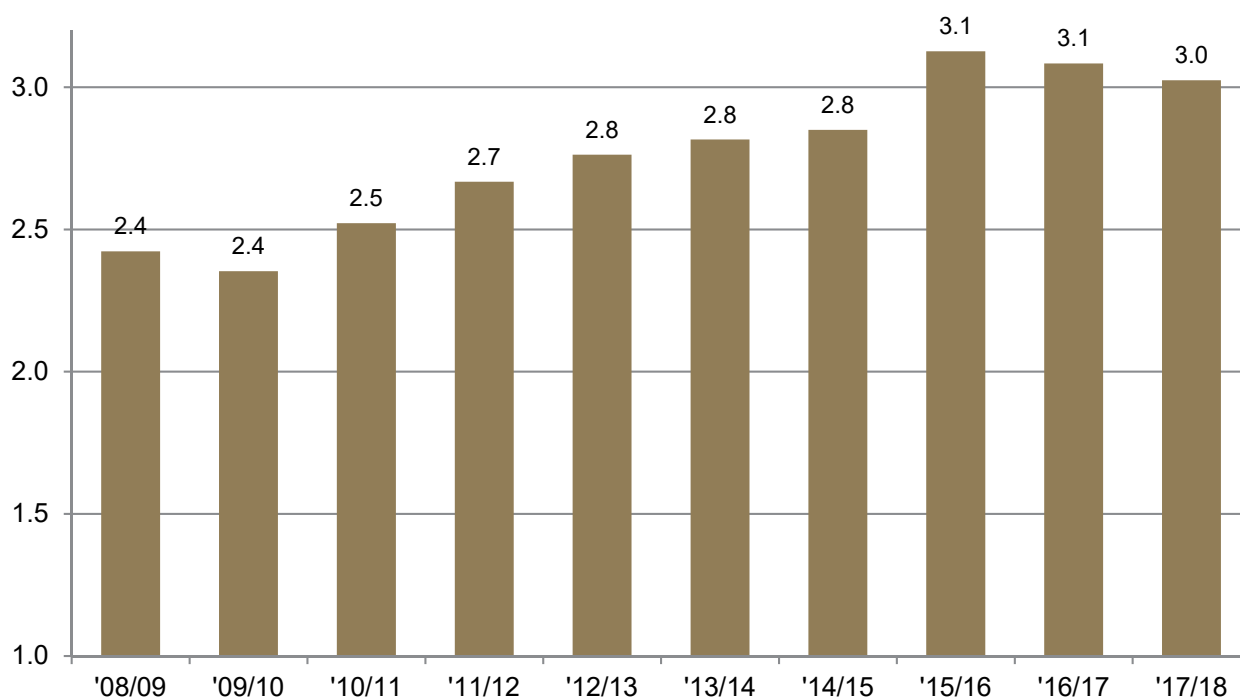
the mean of the population estimate in consecutive calendar years. The per capita rate of needles and syringes distributed nationally increased by 25% over the ten-year period from 2008/09-2017/18 and 7% over the five-year period from 2013/14 to 2017/18 (Table 4.1 and Figure 4.2). In 2018, 3.0 needles and syringes were distributed per person aged 15-64 years.

**Table 4.1 National syringe distribution and per capita syringes distributed, 2008/09-2017/18**

Year	Needle and syringe distribution (millions)			Per capita needles/syringes
	Public	Pharmacy	Total*	
2008/09	29.3	5.8	35.1	2.4
2009/10	29.6	5.1	34.7	2.4
2010/11	32.4	5.3	37.6	2.5
2011/12	35.2	5.1	40.3	2.7
2012/13	37.4	4.8	42.3	2.8
2013/14	38.5	5.2	43.6	2.8
2014/15	39.0	5.6	44.6	2.8
2015/16	42.9	6.5	49.5	3.1
2016/17	42.4	6.6	49.0	3.1
2017/18	42.3	6.6	48.9	3.0

Notes: Denominator for per capita needles and syringes is the population aged 15-64 years.

\* Total may not add up due to rounding

**Figure 4.2 Per capita needle and syringe distribution, 2008/09-2017/18**

Note: Denominator for per capita needles and syringes is the population aged 15-64 years.

## Syringe distribution per PWID

The UNAIDS GARPR framework<sup>7</sup> includes 'Needles and syringes distributed per person injecting' as one of the key indicators for reporting on the Global AIDS Response. UNAIDS defines 'low' syringe coverage as <100 syringes per PWID per annum, 'medium' coverage as 100-200 syringes per PWID per annum and 'high' coverage as >200 syringes per PWID per annum<sup>15</sup>. In addition, the World Health Organization Global Health sector strategy on viral hepatitis, 2016–2021<sup>16</sup> has set a target of 300 syringes per PWID by 2030.

Annual estimates of the Australian PWID population size over the period 1970 to 2005 were published in 2007<sup>17</sup>. PWID were defined as people who had injected in the previous 12 months and included

'regular' PWID (defined as people who had injected for at least 12 months, an average of 10 times per month, with injecting in most months) and 'occasional' PWID (defined as people who injected at least once in the last 12 months, but not frequently enough to be considered a regular PWID).

As in 2016<sup>5</sup> and 2017<sup>18</sup>, the NSP NMDC used a range of updated data sources to estimate trends in the size of the 'regular' PWID population in Australian from 2006 to 2017 using the methodology developed by Razali et al<sup>17</sup> (see Methodological Notes, Appendix A). Calendar year PWID population estimates were converted to financial year estimates by calculating the mean of the estimate in consecutive calendar years.

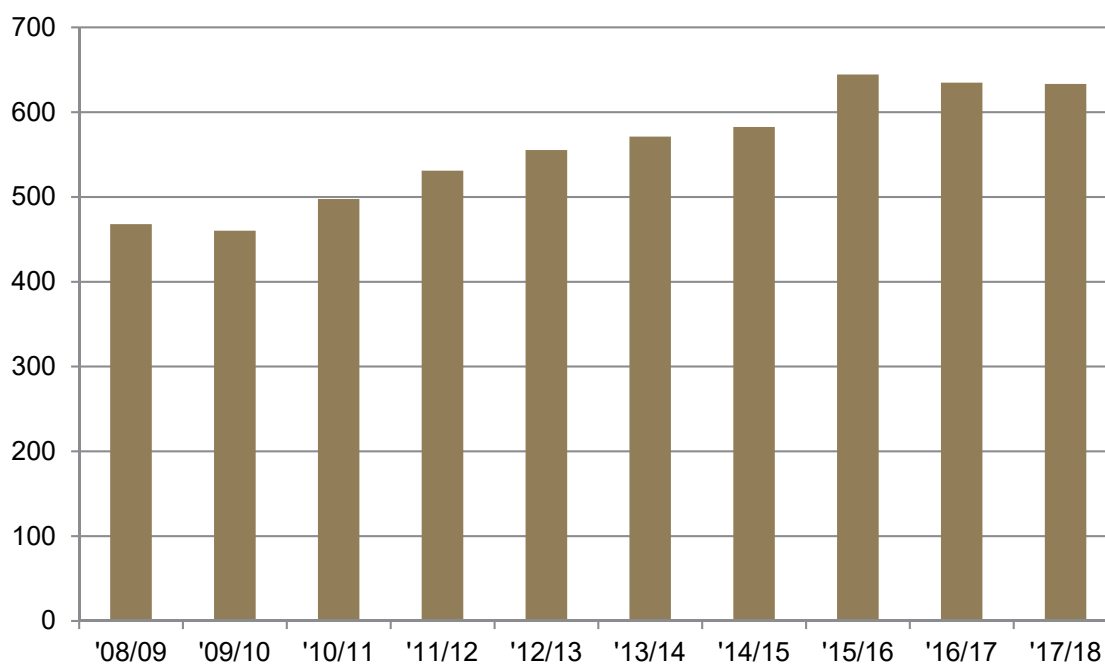
There were an estimated 77,225 'regular' PWID in Australia in 2017/18, with the population relatively stable over the past decade (range 75,041 in 2008/09 to 77,225 in 2017/18, Table 4.2). The mean number of syringes per 'regular' PWID was calculated by dividing the number of syringes distributed by the estimated

'regular' PWID population in each financial year. As shown in Figure 4.3, syringe coverage increased by 35% between 2008/09 and 2017/18. In 2017/18 an estimated 633 syringes were distributed per 'regular' PWID, the equivalent on 1.7 syringes per day.

**Table 4.2 National syringe distribution per 'regular' PWID, 2008/09-2017/18**

Year	Number of 'regular' PWID	Syringes distributed (millions)	Syringes per 'regular' PWID
2008/09	75,041	35.1	468
2009/10	75,383	34.7	460
2010/11	75,673	37.6	498
2011/12	75,924	40.3	531
2012/13	76,145	42.3	555
2013/14	76,343	43.6	571
2014/15	76,522	44.6	582
2015/16	76,685	49.5	644
2016/17	76,835	49.0	635
2017/18	77,225	48.9	633

**Figure 4.3 National syringe coverage per 'regular' PWID, 2008/09-2017/18**



Note: Syringes per 'regular' PWID does not account for syringes distributed to people who inject occasionally

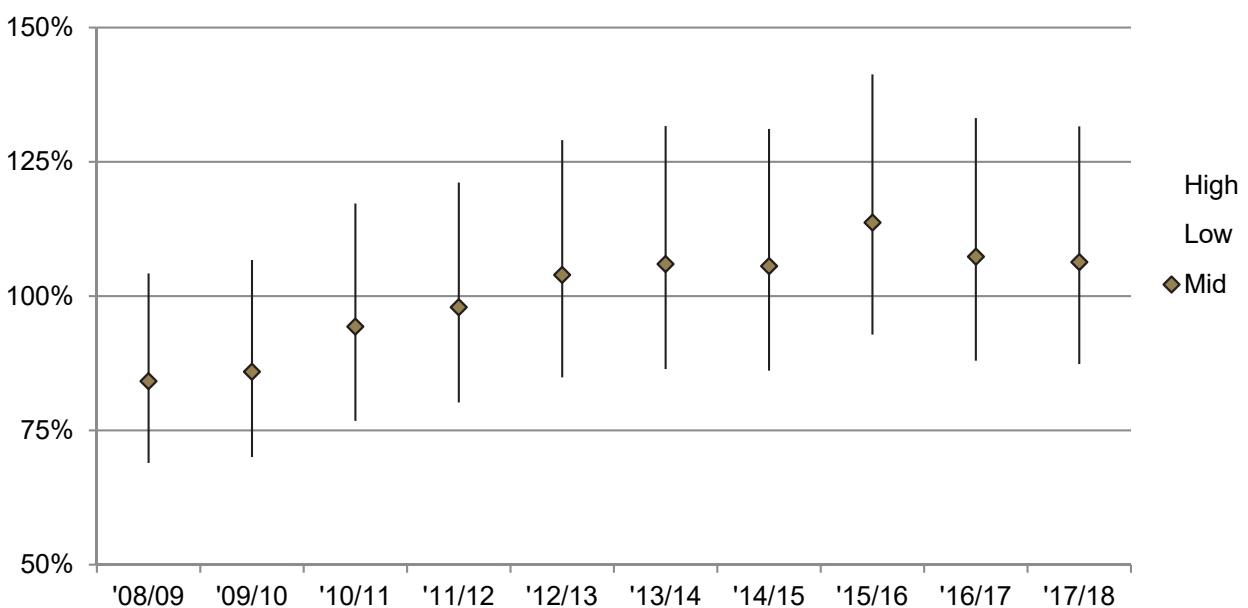
While calculating the mean number of syringes per PWID is a useful tool to monitor trends over time, it does not take frequency of injection at the individual level into account. Additional analyses were conducted to assess the extent to which demand for sterile syringes was met. Data on frequency of injection was obtained from the Australian NSP Survey<sup>19</sup> and the methodology from the *Return on Investment 2: Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Australia report*<sup>8</sup> estimated the number of sterile syringes required to cover all injections among 'regular' PWID where one sterile syringe was used per injection.

The following assumptions were used: injection >3 times per day required a mean of 5 syringes per day (range 4-6 syringes), injection 2-3 times per day required a mean of 2.5 syringes per day

(range 2-3 syringes), injection once per day required one syringe per day, injection more than weekly but not daily required a mean of 3.5 syringes per week (range 2-6 syringes per week) and injection monthly but not weekly required a mean of 0.5 syringes per week (range 0.3-0.9 syringes per week).

Figure 4.4 shows the mid-point and lower/upper syringe coverage estimates over the period 2008/09 to 2017/18. Syringe coverage increased over time, with the mid-point estimate reaching 100% for the first time in 2012/13. It should be noted that syringe coverage of greater than 100% is required to allow for syringes utilised by non-regular PWID and syringes that are not used for an injection (for example drawing up needles/syringes or failed injection attempts). Among 'regular' PWID, syringe coverage was 106% in 2017/18.

**Figure 4.4 Mid-point, upper and lower estimates of the proportion of injections covered by a sterile syringe among 'regular' PWID, 2008/09-2017/18**





## 5. Future Directions

This is the third annual National Data Report for the NSP NMDC project. Following on from the 2016 and 2017 reports, this report investigated temporal trends over 10 years in the number and type of NSP services (Section 2) and needle and syringe distribution (Section 4). For the first time, this project presents service provision data over a three-year period (Section 3). Where NSP NMDC data are required to report on National Surveillance and Monitoring Plan and GARPR indicators, data may need to be converted from financial to calendar year.

As discussed in Appendix A (Methodological Notes) and throughout this report, data collected in jurisdictions are not aligned or complete for all data elements, most notably in relation to client-level OOS data elements (Section 3, Service provision). The NSP NMDC project and key stakeholders were aware of this situation when NSP NMDC data

elements were agreed in 2015, with a view to investigating opportunities to improve alignment and completion over time. The NSP NMDC Data Dictionary developed in early 2017 will continue to provide a framework for future improvements in national alignment of NSP NMDC data elements.

The NSP NMDC will also consider obtaining more detailed agency-level administrative data, for example the extent to which ancillary injecting equipment is provided through NSP services. The NSP NMDC also has the capacity to conduct additional analyses to assess the validity of client-level OOS data (demographic characteristics and drug use) collected on the snapshot day by comparing these results to the Australian NSP Survey and annual data collections in jurisdictions where data are electronically available.

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# Appendix A: Methodological Notes

## Data collection

The following data were provided by each state and territory Health Department:

- 1) Agency-level administrative data, including outlet type and location of all NSPs operating at 30 June 2018.
- 2) Demographic and drug use data for NSP attendees at public sector (primary and secondary) NSPs on a snapshot day in the last week of February in 2018.
- 3) Quarterly needle and syringe distribution data by public and pharmacy sector.

Ethical approval for the NSP NMDC was obtained from the UNSW Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee-A. Formal written permission to access jurisdictional data was sought and obtained from state and territory Health Departments.

## Data analysis

Data coding, cleaning and analysis was conducted using Microsoft Excel, version 1810 (Build 11001.20074, Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond WA) and Stata/IC version 14.2 (StataCorp LP, College Station TX).

In 2018, geocoding of NSP outlet locations was conducted using data for street address, suburb, postcode and state to obtain latitude, longitude and SA1. Concordance tables from the ABS

and Australian Government Department of Health were used to determine RA, GCCSA, SA2, SA3, SA4 and Primary Health Network based on the SA1 values.

## Notes and limitations

The data presented in the third annual NSP NMDC are subject to limitations. Not all jurisdictions collected all data elements and not all data elements were nationally aligned in 2018.

Some jurisdictions use additional categories to describe the type of NSP service (for example 'Enhanced Primary' and 'Enhanced Secondary'). In consultation with the relevant jurisdictions and in line with recommendations from the NSP NDMC Reference Group, these NSPs were recoded to the most appropriate 'primary' or 'secondary' definition.

The count of NSPs comprised the total of primary + secondary + pharmacy + SDMs. If a primary or secondary NSP outlet also had SDM(s) these were counted as separate NSPs for the purpose of the NSP NMDC. Historical data on the number of NSPs was obtained from NSP Return on Investment 2 report<sup>8</sup>.

Age group categories were not aligned with ABS AGE10P or young people (aged <25 years) in one jurisdiction in 2018 and two jurisdictions in 2016 and 2017. Data was adjusted, on a proportional basis

using age distributions from remaining jurisdictions. These adjustments may have resulted in a slight over-estimate of the proportion of young people in all years, 2016 to 2018.

Two jurisdictions did not collect data on the Indigenous status of NSP attendees and these jurisdictions were excluded from analysis for this data element. Five jurisdictions collected data as per the ABS definition, while one jurisdiction collected Indigenous status as a binary yes/no. One jurisdiction did not collect data on drugs injected and this jurisdiction was excluded from analysis for this data element.

It should also be noted that the capacity for secondary NSP outlets to provide health education interventions and referrals may be limited and secondary outlets do not generally collect this information. Two jurisdictions provided collated quarterly data for health education interventions and referrals and an estimate of the mean number of daily health education interventions and referrals was generated.

Primary NSP services provide a range of health education interventions to a wide range of external agencies and to the general community (for example information sessions on sharps disposal). These interventions were not included as agreed minimum data elements by the project Reference Group and are beyond the scope of this report.

One jurisdiction provided data on the number of combined needles and

syringes plus needles distributed without syringes. This inconsistency would have minimal impact on the total number of needles and syringes distributed in 2018 or analyses of temporal trends in syringe distribution or syringe coverage.

## PWID estimates

PWID population size estimates to 2005 were calculated by Razali et al (2007)<sup>17</sup>. The NSP NMDC project used the following data sources to estimate relative changes in the Australian population of 'regular' PWID between 2004/05 and 2016/17:

- 1) Lifetime and recent (last 12 months) injection of illicit drugs (Table A.1)
- 2) Illicit drug arrests for amphetamine-type stimulants, heroin/other opioids, cocaine and steroids (Table A.2)
- 3) ATS, heroin and steroid seizures (Table A.3)
- 4) Accidental deaths due to opioids (Table A.4)
- 5) Opioid-related hospital admissions/separations per million persons aged 15-54 years (Table A.5).
- 6) HCV notifications among 15-24 years old (Table A.6)

Given each of these five indicators is an incomplete measure of probable trends in injection drug use, a best estimate was generated using a combined mean of all indicators. This was used to calculate the relative change in injection drug use since 2005 and to estimate the Australian population of 'regular' PWID over the period 2006 to 2016. Log function was used to obtain a smooth fit of the data (Figure A.1).

**Table A.1 National lifetime and recent (past 12 months) injection of illicit drugs (%) among people aged 14 years or older, 2001-2016**

	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016
Lifetime inject	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.76	1.5	1.6
Recent inject	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.43	0.3	0.3

Source: National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016.

**Table A.2 National number of illicit drug arrests, 2005/06-2016/17**

	'05/06	'06/07	'07/08	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'15/16	'16/17
ATS	11,848	15,216	16,047	16,452	13,982	12,897	16,828	22,189	26,269	35,468	47,625	47,531
Heroin/ opioids	2,249	2,164	2,279	2,693	2,767	2,551	2,714	2,463	2,771	3,227	2,975	2,970
Cocaine	396	699	669	848	1,244	839	995	1,282	1,466	2,092	2,592	3,366
Steroids	67	142	163	214	314	365	511	661	936	1,210	1,297	1,244

Source: Illicit Drug Data Report, Australian Crime Commission (2005/06-2016/17)

**Table A.3 National number of illicit drug seizures, 2005/06-2016/17**

	'05/06	'06/07	'07/08	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'15/16	'16/17
ATS	9,987	13,243	13,097	13,300	10,543	11,212	15,191	21,056	26,805	32,768	39,014	37,351
Heroin	1,298	1,476	1,411	1,691	1,582	1,700	1,758	1,584	1,598	1,914	2,081	1,951
Steroid	58	91	104	113	134	205	208	331	357	529	509	474

Sources: Illicit Drug Data Report, Australian Crime Commission (2005/06-2016/17). Note: Includes only those seizures for which a drug weight was recorded.

**Table A.4 National number of accidental deaths due to opioids among those aged 15-54 years, 2005-2013**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Accidental deaths due to opioids	374	381	360	500	563	613	617	564	597

Source: Roxburgh, A. and Burns, L. (2017). *Accidental drug-induced deaths due to opioids in Australia, 2013*. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

**Table A.5 Number of principal opioid-related hospital admissions/separations per million persons aged 15-54 years, 2005/06-2014/15**

	'05/06	'06/07	'07/08	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15
Admissions	444	437	441	463	413	416	416	433	459	475
Separations	390	445	450	446	473	460	438	439	466	475

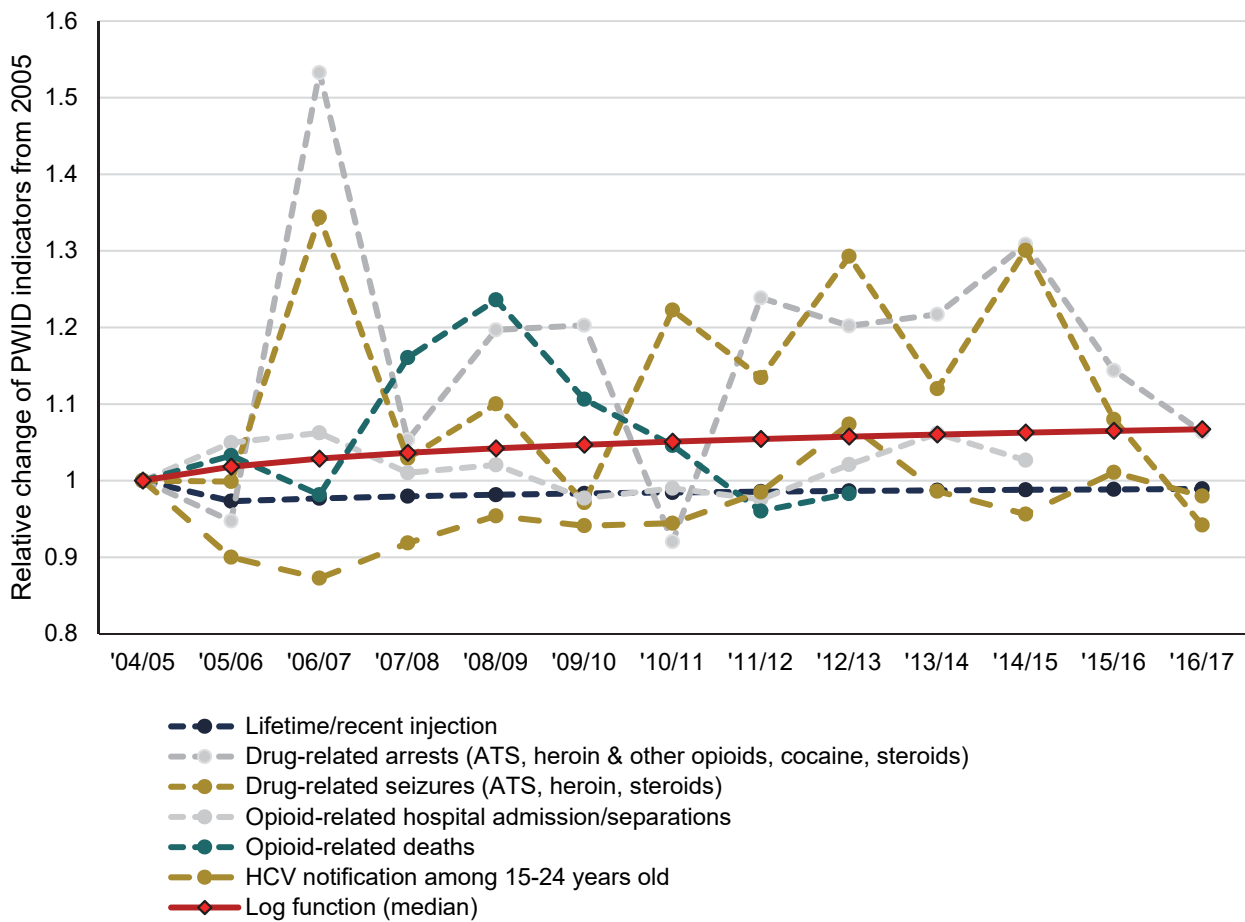
Sources: Australian Drug Trends 2015. *Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)*; Roxburgh, A. and Burns, L. (2017). *Drug-related hospital stays in Australia, 1993-2015*. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

**Table A.6 Number of new diagnoses of hepatitis C virus infection among people aged 15-24 years, 2005/06-2016/17**

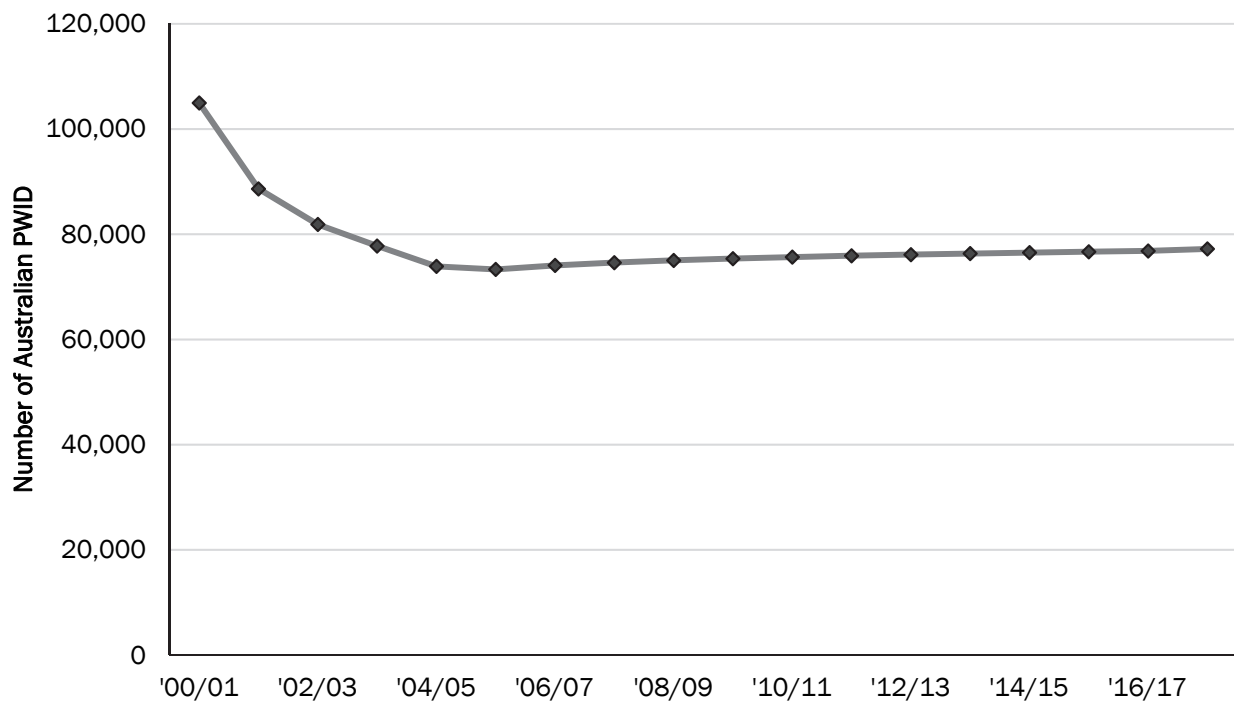
	'05/06	'06/07	'07/08	'08/09	'09/10	'10/11	'11/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'16/17
NNDSS	1,711	1,493	1,372	1,309	1,232	1,163	1,146	1,230	1,213	1,160	1,173

Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System 2005-2017, Australian Government Department of Health.

**Figure A.1: Relative changes in PWID indicators 2004/05-2016/17**



**Figure A.2: Trends in the estimated number of 'regular' PWID in Australia 2000/01-2017/18**





## Appendix B:

# National and Jurisdictional Tables

## B.1 National

**Table B.1.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

National	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	29,260,715	83%	5,845,429	17%	35,106,144
2009/10	29,572,199	85%	5,114,160	15%	34,686,359
2010/11	32,373,749	86%	5,275,136	14%	37,648,885
2011/12	35,179,620	87%	5,131,160	13%	40,310,780
2012/13	37,446,914	89%	4,837,457	11%	42,284,371
2013/14	38,457,733	88%	5,168,366	12%	43,626,099
2014/15	38,995,375	87%	5,627,125	13%	44,622,500
2015/16	42,925,047	87%	6,533,048	13%	49,458,095
2016/17	42,493,174	87%	6,558,299	13%	49,051,473
2017/18	42,387,670	87%	6,507,533	13%	48,895,203

**Table B.1.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

National	2016	2017	2018	National	2016	2017	2018
<b>NSP outlet type (%)</b>	n=3,509	n=3,627	n=3,677	<b>NSP outlet method (%)</b>			
Primary	102 (3)	98 (3)	101 (3)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=1,188	n=1,205	n=1,219
Secondary	786 (22)	784 (22)	774 (21)	Fixed	867 (73)	862 (72)	858 (70)
SDM	300 (9)	323 (9)	344 (9)	Outreach/mobile	52 (5)	47 (4)	56 (5)
Pharmacy	2,321 (66)	2,422 (67)	2,458 (67)	SDM free	93 (8)	98 (8)	107 (9)
				SDM chute	74 (6)	74 (6)	72 (6)
				SDM cost	134 (11)	151 (13)	165 (14)
				Peer distribution	-- --	23 (2)	23 (2)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	2,321 (100)	2,422 (100)	2,458 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Table B.1.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>National Client-level</b>	<b>2016</b> n=2625	<b>2017</b> n=2797	<b>2018</b> n=2573	<b>National Service-level</b>	<b>2016</b> n=2625	<b>2017</b> n=2797	<b>2018</b> n=2573
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)^</b>			
<20 years	30 (1)	18 (1)	26 (1)	Yes	1188 (45)	1077 (43)	1029 (42)
20-29 years	414 (16)	429 (15)	353 (14)	No	1403 (53)	1436 (57)	1422 (58)
30-39 years	779 (30)	936 (33)	805 (31)	Not reported	34 (1)	1 (<1)	0 (0)
40-49 years	890 (34)	880 (31)	846 (33)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)^</b>			
50+ years	448 (17)	475 (17)	481 (19)	BBV & STI	-- --	645 (63)	599 (59)
Not reported	64 (2)	59 (2)	62 (2)	Drug health	-- --	45 (4)	22 (2)
<b>Aged &lt;25 (%)</b>	190 (7)	174 (6)	141 (5)	Other health	-- --	34 (3)	112 (11)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	-- --	54 (5)	82 (8)
Male	1925 (73)	2081 (74)	1856 (72)	More than one	-- --	250 (24)	194 (19)
Female	665 (25)	699 (25)	690 (27)	Not reported	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	7 (<1)	2 (<1)	3 (<1)	<b>Referral (%)^</b>			
Not reported	28 (1)	15 (<1)	24 (<1)	Yes	142 (9)	122 (7)	146 (8)
<b>Indigenous status (%)^</b>				No	1483 (89)	1611 (87)	1643 (91)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	196 (12)	274 (15)	297 (17)	Not reported	34 (2)	128 (7)	17 (1)
No	1224 (76)	1417 (79)	1321 (75)	<b>Referral type (%)^</b>			
Not reported	184 (11)	113 (6)	138 (8)	BBV & STI	43 (30)	66 (54)	58 (40)
<b>Drug injected (%)^</b>				Drug health	9 (6)	9 (7)	12 (8)
Analgesics	687 (41)	821 (41)	750 (40)	Other health	30 (21)	21 (17)	35 (24)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	614 (37)	770 (36)	805 (42)	Other non-health	60 (42)	25 (20)	19 (13)
Anabolic agents	141 (9)	178 (9)	148 (8)	Peer based	0 (0)	1 (1)	14 (10)
Other	90 (6)	117 (6)	89 (5)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (3)
Not reported	125 (8)	110 (6)	103 (5)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (3)

^ Not collected in all jurisdictions. Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016

## B.2 Australian Capital Territory

### Description of NSP services in Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has the smallest land area of the eight states and territories and has the second smallest population (~420,000 residents in 2018). Two primary NSPs operate in the ACT, operated by Directions Health Services and providing an extended range of injecting equipment and other support services to people who inject drugs. Services include information and education on issues relating to safe injecting practices and health, and referrals to a range of health and social services, including drug treatment services. A more limited range of injecting equipment is available through 9 secondary NSPs and 34 pharmacy NSP outlets. There are 6 SDMs in the ACT, located outside health centres. These machines contain '4 packs' (including 4 x sterile 1ml combined needle and syringe, swabs, water, spoons and cotton wool within a safe disposal container), available for \$2 per pack and enabling 24-hour access to sterile injecting equipment. Client-level OOS data are collected at both primary NSPs and some secondary NSPs. Collated monthly data are provided to ACT Health on a 6-monthly basis.

**Table B.2.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/08–2017/18**

ACT	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	482,746	82%	102,600	18%	585,346
2009/10	546,866	87%	81,800	13%	628,666
2010/11	540,051	87%	77,400	13%	617,451
2011/12	529,326	87%	81,200	13%	610,526
2012/13	547,748	87%	80,400	13%	628,148
2013/14	529,244	87%	76,800	13%	606,044
2014/15	536,412	89%	63,120	11%	599,532
2015/16	542,772	88%	71,520	12%	614,292
2016/17	756,034 <sup>^</sup>	91%	73,440	9%	829,474
2017/18	836,031 <sup>^</sup>	92%	71,520	8%	907,551

<sup>^</sup> 2016/17 and 2017/18 public sector data includes combined 1ml + syringes as per NSPS NMDC Data Dictionary<sup>6</sup>, previous years were combined 1ml only

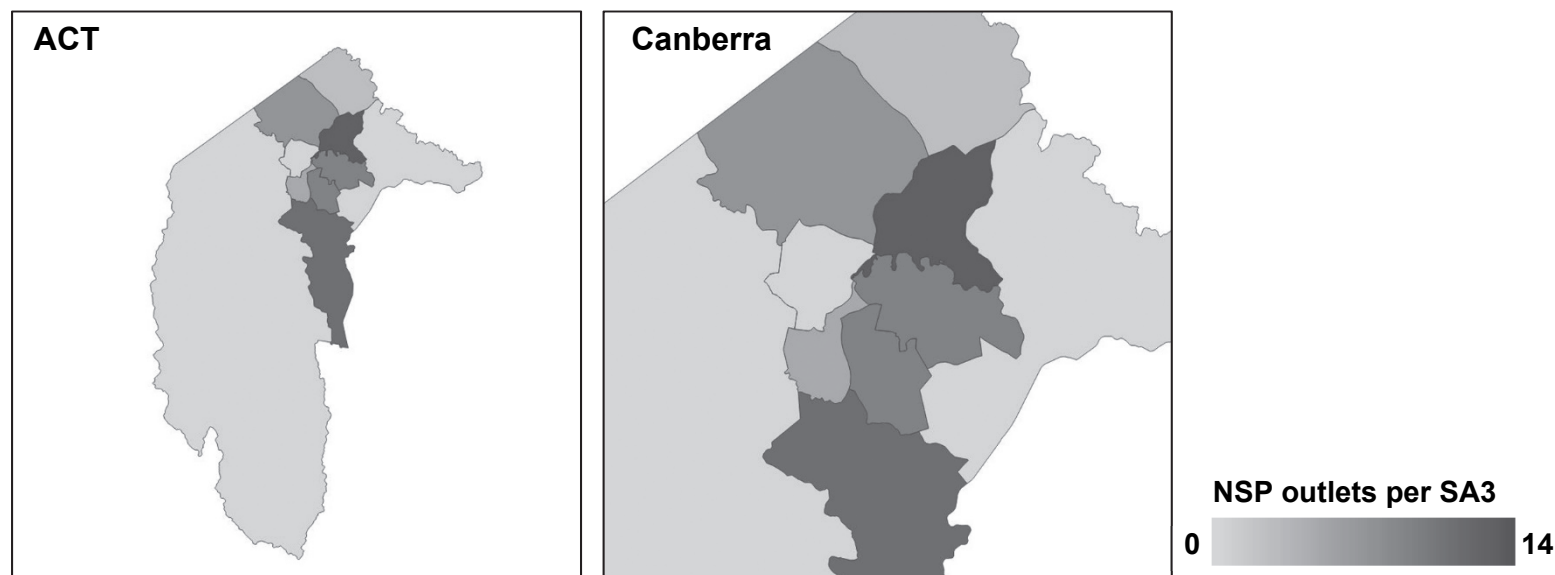
**Table B.2.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>NSP outlet type (%)</b>	n=46	n=48	n=51	<b>NSP outlet method (%)</b>			
Primary	2 (4)	2 (4)	2 (4)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=16	n=16	n=17
Secondary	8 (17)	8 (17)	9 (18)	Fixed	10 (63)	10 (63)	11 (65)
SDM	6 (13)	6 (13)	6 (12)	Outreach/mobile	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pharmacy	30 (65)	32 (67)	34 (67)	SDM free	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	6 (38)	6 (38)	6 (35)
				Peer distribution	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	30 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Figure B.2.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.2.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>ACT</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=67	n=106	n=109	<b>Service-level</b>	n=67	n=106	n=109
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)^</b>			
<20 years	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	Yes	18 (27)	14 (26)	54 (83)
20-29 years	6 (9)	17 (16)	10 (9)	No	49 (73)	40 (74)	11 (17)
30-39 years	19 (28)	30 (28)	31 (28)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49 years	26 (39)	39 (37)	33 (30)				
50+ years	15 (22)	19 (18)	34 (31)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)^</b>			
Not reported	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	BBV & STI	---	---	0 (0)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	2 (3)	8 (8)	5 (5)	Drug health	---	---	0 (0)
				Other health	---	---	9 (17)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	---	---	44 (81)
Male	54 (81)	73 (69)	81 (74)	More than one	---	---	1 (2)
Female	13 (19)	33 (31)	28 (26)	Not reported	---	---	0 (0)
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)				
Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>Referral (%)^</b>			
				Yes	1 (1)	11 (20)	0 (0)
<b>Indigenous status (%)^</b>				No	66 (99)	43 (80)	54 (100)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	5 (7)	6 (11)	4 (6)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No	49 (73)	33 (61)	58 (89)				
Not reported	13 (19)	15 (28)	3 (5)	<b>Referral type (%)^</b>			
				BBV & STI	0 (0)	9 (82)	0 (0)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>				Drug health	0 (0)	1 (9)	0 (0)
Analgesics	28 (42)	21 (39)	29 (45)	Other health	1 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	14 (21)	9 (17)	24 (37)	Other non-health	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Anabolic agents	6 (9)	2 (4)	2 (3)	Peer based	0 (0)	1 (9)	0 (0)
Other	1 (3)	1 (2)	2 (3)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Not reported	16 (24)	21 (39)	8 (12)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Note: ^Not collected at all sites. Health education/intervention type not collected in the ACT in 2016 & 2017

## B.3 New South Wales

### Description of NSP services in New South Wales

New South Wales (NSW) is the most populous of Australia's eight states and territories, with ~7.9 million people residing in NSW in 2018. The NSW Ministry of Health is responsible for the operation of the NSP via Local Health Districts and non-government organisations. There are 31 primary outlets, 288 secondary outlets, 540 pharmacy NSPs and 233 SDMs in NSW. The extensive network of SDMs (including internal dispensing chutes) are predominantly located in or near community health centres and hospital emergency departments. Cost of injecting equipment at SDMs is typically free or provided at a cost of up to \$4.00. Client-level OOS data are collected through the Ministry of Health BRISE funded NSW NSP Enhanced Data Collection (NNEDC) project. The NNEDC collects data from ~50 NSPs, including all primary NSPs and some secondary NSPs over a two-week period in late February/early March. NSP NMDC data elements included in the NNEDC are: age, gender, Indigenous status and drug injected. NSW Ministry of Health provides collated quarterly data on needle and syringe distribution and health education/interventions and referrals.

**Table B.3.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

<b>NSW</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Pharmacy</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>
2008/09	7,233,830	80%	1,764,267	20%	8,998,097
2009/10	7,514,508	84%	1,454,312	16%	8,968,820
2010/11	8,400,515	84%	1,574,684	16%	9,975,199
2011/12	9,444,001	85%	1,607,376	15%	11,051,377
2012/13	10,230,040	87%	1,572,380	13%	11,802,420
2013/14	10,743,583	87%	1,554,514	13%	12,298,097
2014/15	11,324,378	89%	1,419,126	11%	12,743,504
2015/16	12,114,913	88%	1,705,015	12%	13,819,928
2016/17	12,189,626	87%	1,744,002	13%	13,933,628
2017/18	12,288,628	87%	1,842,141	13%	14,130,769

**Table B.3.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

NSW	2016	2017	2018	NSW	2016	2017	2018
<b>NSP outlet type (%)</b>	n=1,073	n=1,128*	n=1,092	<b>NSP outlet method (%)</b>			
Primary	30 (3)	30 (3)	31 (3)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=555	n=557	n=552
Secondary	286 (27)	287 (25)	288 (26)	Fixed	314 (61)	314 (61)	317 (57)
SDM	239 (22)	240 (21)	233 (21)	Outreach/mobile	6 (2)	6 (2)	10 (2)
Pharmacy	518 (48)	571 (51)	540 (49)	SDM free	87 (16)	87 (16)	85 (15)
				SDM chute	74 (12)	74 (12)	72 (13)
				SDM cost	79 (19)	79 (19)	76 (14)
				Peer distribution	-- --	-- --	-- --
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	518 (100)	571 (100)	540 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

\* Estimate based on 2015/16 data

**Figure B.3.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**





**Table B.3.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>NSW</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=394	n=599	n=495	<b>Service-level</b>	n=394	n=599	n=495
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<20 years	3 (1)	2 (<1)	2 (<1)	Yes	276 (70)	327 (55)	240 (48)
20-29 years	63 (16)	83 (14)	66 (13)	No	118 (30)	272 (45)	255 (52)
30-39 years	130 (33)	180 (30)	132 (27)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49 years	120 (30)	176 (29)	149 (30)				
50+ years	58 (15)	135 (23)	116 (23)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
Not reported	20 (5)	23 (4)	30 (6)	BBV & STI	-- --	282 (86)	224 (93)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	28 (7)	32 (5)	25 (5)	Drug health	-- --	20 (6)	1 (<1)
				Other health	-- --	3 (1)	0 (0)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	-- --	22 (7)	15 (6)
Male	274 (70)	424 (71)	364 (74)	More than one	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
Female	104 (26)	168 (28)	123 (25)	Not reported	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	7 (2)	2 (<1)	2 (<1)				
Not reported	9 (2)	5 (<1)	6 (1)	<b>Referral (%)</b>			
				Yes	55 (14)	66 (11)	76 (15)
<b>Indigenous status (%)</b>				No	339 (86)	533 (89)	419 (85)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	75 (19)	121 (20)	106 (21)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No	315 (80)	454 (76)	357 (72)				
Not reported	4 (1)	24 (4)	32 (6)	<b>Referral type (%)</b>			
				BBV & STI	23 (42)	34 (52)	36 (47)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>				Drug health	8 (15)	5 (8)	8 (11)
Analgesics	177 (45)	309 (52)	237 (48)	Other health	12 (22)	11 (17)	15 (20)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	119 (30)	176 (29)	145 (29)	Other non-health	12 (22)	16 (24)	17 (22)
Anabolic agents	55 (14)	55 (9)	54 (11)	Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	29 (7)	34 (6)	20 (4)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Not reported	14 (4)	25 (4)	39 (8)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Note: Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016

## B.4 Northern Territory

### Description of NSP services in Northern Territory

The Northern Territory has the third largest land area of Australia's eight states and territories but has the smallest population at ~247,000 residents in 2018. There are 3 primary outlets, 10 secondary outlets, 21 pharmacy NSPs and 3 SDMs. All of the primary NSP outlets are operated by the Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) and provide a broad range of injecting equipment alongside information, support and referral services for PWID and facilities for the safe disposal of used injecting equipment. Secondary and pharmacy-based outlets typically provide a limited range of sterile injecting equipment and disposal facilities. SDMs were introduced in late 2016 and injecting equipment is accessed through tokens which are obtained free of charge from NSP services in the NT or from packs previously obtained from a SDM. Non-identifiable client-level and service-level OOS data are collected at all primary and most secondary NSP services in the NT and line item data are provided to NT Government Department of Health on a monthly basis.

**Table B.4.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

NT	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	398,967	96%	14,815	4%	413,782
2009/10	395,406	95%	19,350	5%	414,756
2010/11	362,633	90%	40,442	10%	403,075
2011/12	388,587	92%	35,163	8%	423,750
2012/13	454,481	93%	32,285	7%	486,766
2013/14	523,915	95%	30,340	5%	554,255
2014/15	533,278	96%	22,560	4%	555,838
2015/16	542,584	95%	27,165	5%	569,749
2016/17	526,591	97%	17,270	3%	543,861
2017/18	458,193	97%	14,619	3%	472,812

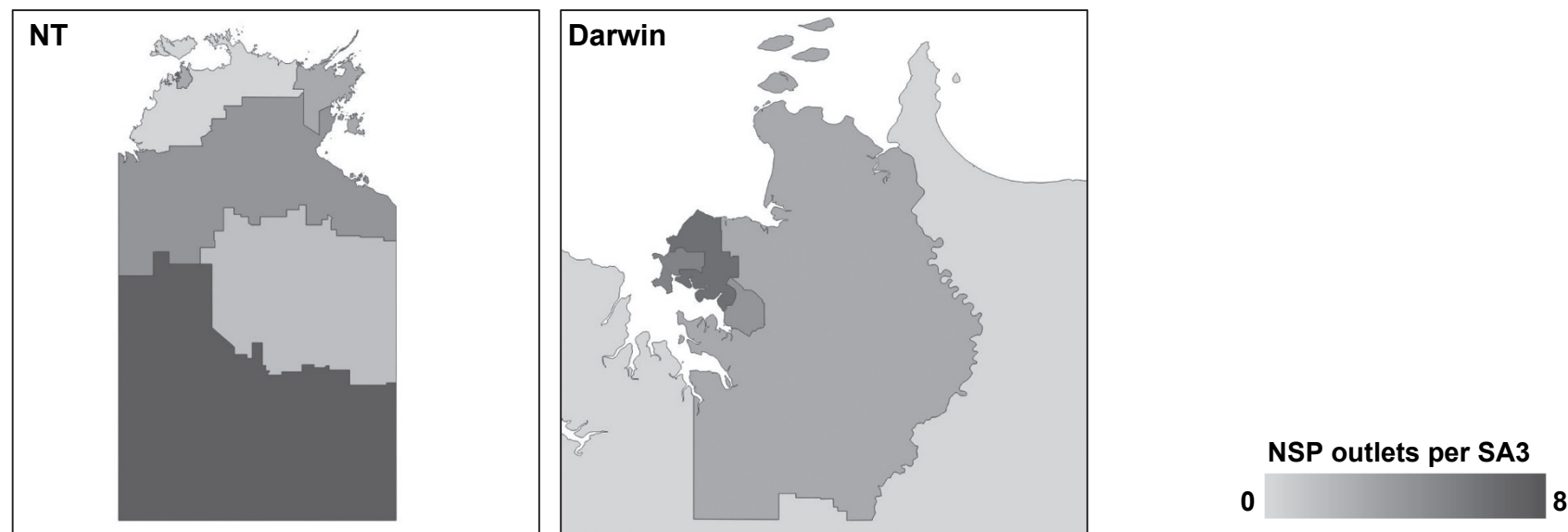
**Table B.4.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

NT NSP outlet type (%)	2016 n=28	2017 n=35	2018 n=37	NT NSP outlet method (%)	2016 n=13	2017 n=16	2018 n=16
Primary	3 (11)	3 (9)	3 (8)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>			
Secondary	10 (36)	10 (29)	10 (27)	Fixed	13 (100)	13 (81)	13 (81)
SDM	0 (0)	3 (9)	3 (8)	Outreach/mobile	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pharmacy	15 (54)	19 (54)	21 (57)	SDM free	0 (0)	3 (19)	3 (19)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				Peer distribution	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	15 (100)	19 (100)	21 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Figure B.4.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.4.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

NT	2016	2017	2018	NT	2016	2017	2018
Client-level	n=62	n=39	n=47	Service-level	n=62	n=39	n=47
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<20 years	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Yes	6 (10)	4 (10)	12 (26)
20-29 years	16 (26)	6 (15)	8 (17)	No	56 (90)	35 (90)	35 (74)
30-39 years	21 (34)	17 (44)	12 (26)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49 years	16 (26)	8 (21)	15 (32)				
50+ years	8 (13)	8 (21)	12 (26)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
Not reported	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	BBV & STI	---	4 (100)	10 (83)
<b>Aged &lt;30</b>	16 (26)	6 (15)	8 (17)	Drug health	---	0 (0)	0 (0)
				Other health	---	0 (0)	2 (17)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	---	0 (0)	0 (0)
Male	48 (77)	35 (90)	34 (72)	More than one	---	0 (0)	0 (0)
Female	13 (21)	4 (10)	13 (28)	Not reported	---	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)				
Not reported	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>Referral (%)</b>			
				Yes	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)
<b>Indigenous status (%)</b>				No	62 (100)	39 (100)	46 (98)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	18 (29)	6 (15)	8 (17)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No	42 (68)	33 (85)	39 (83)				
Not reported	2 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>Referral type (%)</b>			
				BBV & STI	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>				Drug health	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Analgesics	16 (26)	14 (36)	20 (43)	Other health	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (100)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	24 (39)	14 (36)	19 (40)	Other non-health	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Anabolic agents	3 (5)	7 (18)	6 (13)	Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Not reported	18 (29)	4 (10)	1 (2)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Note: Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016

## B.5 Queensland

### Description of NSP services in Queensland

Queensland has the second largest land area of Australia's eight states and territories and has the third largest population, with ~5.0 million residents in 2018. Queensland NSP (QNSP) supports a network of 19 primary NSPs, 129 secondary NSPs, 752 pharmacy NSPs and 62 SDMs. QNSP provides sterile injecting equipment, facilitates the safe disposal of used injecting equipment and improves access and referral to drug treatment programs, health care and other health services. SDMs provide sterile injecting equipment at a fixed cost of \$2 per pack. The Queensland NSP Minimum Data Set (QMDS) is a state-wide standardised data collection system that provides core data about program activities. QMDS requires the collection of non-identifiable client-level and service-level OOS data at all primary and most secondary NSPs throughout Queensland. Line item OOS data are provided to Queensland Health on a monthly basis and QMDS includes all NSP NMDC data elements.

**Table B.5.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

QLD	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	5,938,485	81%	1,383,328	19%	7,321,813
2009/10	6,165,260	84%	1,135,286	16%	7,300,546
2010/11	7,384,060	89%	943,434	11%	8,327,494
2011/12	7,923,815	92%	718,365	8%	8,642,180
2012/13	8,221,400	94%	546,121	6%	8,767,521
2013/14	8,662,985	90%	1,000,650	10%	9,663,635
2014/15	8,213,475	84%	1,545,610	16%	9,759,085
2015/16	8,781,445	81%	2,077,635	19%	10,859,080
2016/17	8,088,324	80%	2,030,975	20%	10,119,299
2017/18	8,454,980	80%	2,145,925	20%	10,600,905

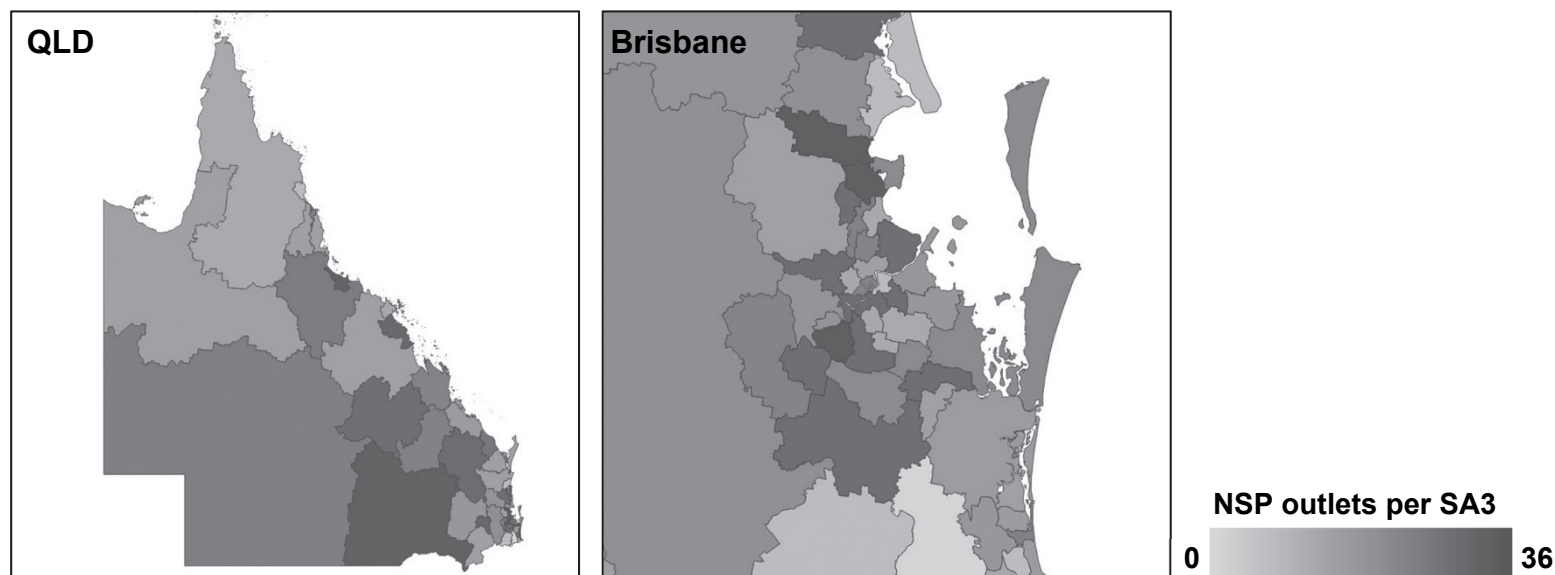
**Table B.5.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

QLD	2016	2017	2018	QLD	2016	2017	2018
<b>NSP outlet type (%)</b>	n=880	n=933	n=962	<b>NSP outlet method (%)</b>			
Primary	19 (2)	18 (2)	19 (2)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=183	n=199	n=210
Secondary	133 (15)	133 (14)	129 (13)	Fixed	152 (83)	151 (76)	148 (70)
SDM	31 (4)	48 (5)	62 (6)	Outreach/mobile	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pharmacy	697 (79)	734 (79)	752 (78)	SDM free	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	31 (17)	48 (24)	62 (30)
				Peer distribution	-- --	6 (3)	6 (3)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	697 (100)	734 (100)	752 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Figure B.5.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.5.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>QLD</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=689	n=800	n=681	<b>Service-level</b>	n=689	n=800	n=681
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<20 years	7 (1)	7 (1)	11 (2)	Yes	267 (39)	304 (43)	223 (33)
20-29 years	116 (17)	140 (18)	119 (17)	No	422 (61)	402 (57)	458 (67)
30-39 years	249 (36)	278 (35)	233 (34)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49 years	204 (30)	240 (30)	228 (33)				
50+ years	106 (15)	131 (16)	87 (13)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
Not reported	7 (1)	4 (1)	3 (>1)	BBV & STI	--	213 (70)	163 (73)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	52 (8)	66 (8)	40 (6)	Drug health	--	10 (3)	3 (1)
				Other health	--	13 (4)	10 (4)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	--	28 (9)	18 (8)
Male	514 (75)	596 (75)	500 (73)	More than one	--	40 (13)	29 (13)
Female	175 (25)	204 (25)	181 (27)	Not reported	--	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)				
Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)		<b>Referral (%)</b>			
				Yes	21 (3)	18 (2)	21 (3)
<b>Indigenous status (%)</b>				No	668 (97)	658 (82)	660 (97)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	65 (9)	88 (11)	91 (13)	Not reported	0 (0)	124 (16)	0 (0)
No	584 (85)	654 (82)	530 (78)				
Not reported	40 (6)	58 (7)	60 (9)	<b>Referral type (%)</b>			
				BBV & STI	15 (71)	5 (28)	8 (38)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>				Drug health	0 (0)	3 (17)	1 (5)
Analgesics	325 (47)	328 (41)	285 (42)	Other health	5 (24)	8 (44)	7 (33)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	244 (35)	311 (39)	282 (41)	Other non-health	1 (5)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Anabolic agents	55 (8)	91 (11)	57 (8)	Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5)
Other	34 (5)	49 (6)	37 (5)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Not reported	31 (5)	21 (3)	20 (3)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (19)

## B.6 South Australia

### Description of NSP services in South Australia

South Australia (SA) has the fourth largest land area of Australia's eight states and territories and is the fifth most populous, with ~1.7 million residents in 2018. The 'Clean Needle Program' provides a range of services to people who inject drugs including the distribution of sterile needles and syringes and disposal equipment, the provision of information and education about safer injecting practices and safe disposal practices, and referral to a variety of services such as drug treatment, health, legal, and social services. Services are provided at a range of sites in metropolitan and regional South Australia with 3 primary outlets, 82 secondary outlets, 196 pharmacy NSPs and 8 SDMs. SDMs dispense packs at a cost of \$2 per pack and provide 24 hr access to sterile injecting equipment. Non-identifiable client-level and service-level OOS data are collected at all primary and most secondary NSPs throughout South Australia. Line item OOS data are provided to SA Health on a monthly basis. OOS data collection in SA includes all NSP NMDC data elements; with Health education/ interventions recorded as a binary (yes/no) response.

**Table B.6.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

SA	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	2,900,390	92%	240,000	8%	3,140,390
2009/10	2,461,263	92%	220,000	8%	2,681,263
2010/11	2,779,168	93%	200,000	7%	2,979,168
2011/12	3,152,280	94%	211,752	6%	3,364,032
2012/13	3,303,580	95%	181,500	5%	3,485,080
2013/14	2,987,753	96%	140,700	4%	3,128,453
2014/15	2,948,020	95%	140,400	5%	3,088,420
2015/16	3,598,090	96%	161,800	4%	3,759,890
2016/17	3,765,034	96%	139,900	4%	3,904,934
2017/18	3,634,366	96%	164,500	4%	3,798,866



**Table B.6.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

SA	2016	2017	2018	SA	2016	2017	2018
<b>NSP outlet type (%)</b>	n=313	n=289	n=289	<b>NSP outlet method (%)</b>			
Primary	4 (1)	4 (1)	3 (1)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=93	n=93	n=93
Secondary	81 (26)	81 (28)	82 (28)	Fixed	85 (91)	85 (91)	84 (91)
SDM	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	Outreach/mobile	3 (3)	3 (3)	4 (4)
Pharmacy	220 (70)	196 (68)	196* (68)	SDM free	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	8 (9)	8 (9)	8 (9)
				Peer distribution	-- --	10 (11)	10 (11)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	220 (100)	196 (100)	196 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

\* Estimate based on 2017 data

**Figure B.6.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.6.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>SA</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=213	n=279	n=279	<b>Service-level</b>	n=213	n=279	n=279
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)^</b>			
<20 years	2 (1)	1 (<1)	1 (0)	Yes	29 (14)	34 (20)	20 (10)
20-29 years	34 (16)	42 (15)	22 (8)	No	150 (70)	140 (80)	181 (90)
30-39 years	62 (29)	81 (29)	87 (31)	Not reported	34 (16)	0 (0)	0 (0)
40-49 years	77 (36)	108 (39)	104 (37)				
50+ years	33 (15)	44 (16)	60 (22)	<b>Referral (%)^</b>			
Not reported	5 (2)	3 (1)	5 (2)	Yes	14 (7)	26 (15)	8 (4)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	21 (10)	18 (6)	8 (3)	No	165 (77)	147 (85)	193 (96)
				Not reported	34 (16)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				<b>Referral type (%)^</b>			
Male	155 (73)	211 (76)	192 (69)	BBV & STI	5 (36)	17 (65)	4 (50)
Female	57 (27)	67 (24)	86 (31)	Drug health	1 (7)	0 (0)	1 (13)
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Other health	5 (36)	2 (8)	2 (25)
Not reported	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	Other non-health	3 (21)	7 (27)	1 (13)
<b>Indigenous status (%)^</b>				Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	17 (8)	31 (17)	52 (20)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No	75 (35)	141 (76)	181 (68)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Not reported	121 (57)	14 (8)	33 (12)				
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>							
Analgesics	56 (26)	70 (25)	65 (23)				
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	98 (46)	148 (53)	157 (56)				
Anabolic agents	11 (5)	16 (6)	16 (6)				
Other	15 (7)	17 (6)	17 (6)				
Not reported	33 (15)	28 (10)	24 (9)				

Note: ^Not collected at all sites. Health education/intervention in South Australia collected as Yes/No

## B.7 Tasmania

### Description of NSP services in Tasmania

Tasmania has the second smallest land area of Australia's eight states and territories, with a resident population of ~525,000 in 2018. NSP services are delivered through a combination of primary, secondary, pharmacy and SDMs. The NSP operates through a wide range of service providers, including community health services, community service organisations, neighbourhood/community houses, Aboriginal health services, regional hospitals, councils, youth organisations and pharmacies. There are 8 primary outlets, 14 secondary outlets, 83 pharmacy NSPs and 6 SDMs in Tasmania. Non-identifiable client and service-level OOS data are collected at all primary NSPs and some secondary NSPs in Tasmania. Line item OOS data are provided to the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services on a monthly basis. Tasmania does not collect data on the Indigenous status of NSP attendees.

**Table B.7.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

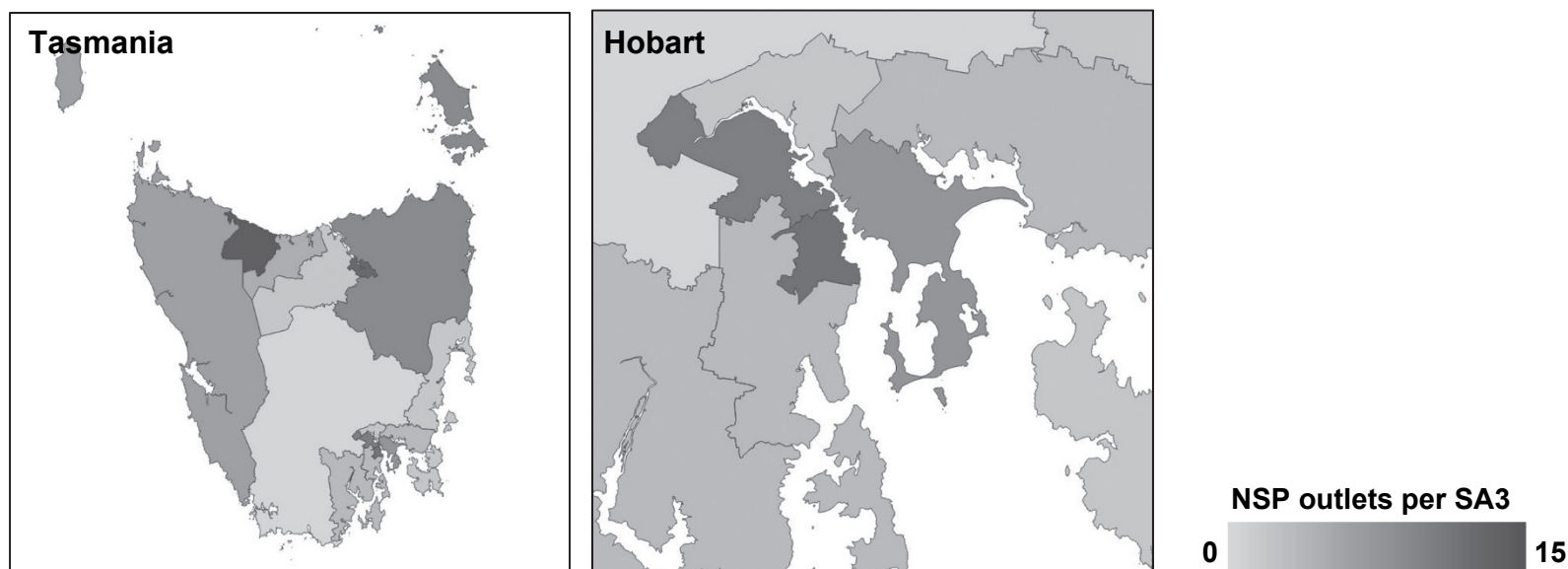
TAS	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	655,277	100%	-	0%	655,277
2009/10	613,280	100%	-	0%	613,280
2010/11	644,620	100%	-	0%	644,620
2011/12	875,950	100%	-	0%	875,950
2012/13	943,280	100%	-	0%	943,280
2013/14	933,160	100%	-	0%	933,160
2014/15	976,980	100%	-	0%	976,980
2015/16	907,670	100%	-	0%	907,670
2016/17	784,230	90%	91,552	10%	875,782
2017/18	743,612	90%	86,280	10%	829,892

- data not available

**Table B.7.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

TAS NSP outlet type (%)	2016 n=118	2017 n=123	2018 n=110	TAS NSP outlet method (%)	2016	2017	2018
Primary	7 (6)	6 (5)	8 (7)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>	n=28	n=28	n=28
Secondary	18 (15)	19 (15)	14 (13)	Fixed	25 (73)	25 (90)	22 (79)
SDM	3 (3)	3 (2)	6 (5)	Outreach/mobile	0 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pharmacy	90 (76)	95 (77)	82 (75)	SDM free	0 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM chute	0 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	3 (11)	3 (10)	6 (21)
				Peer distribution	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	90 (100)	95 (100)	82 (100)

**Figure B.7.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.7.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>TAS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>TAS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=55	n=99	n=126	<b>Service-level</b>	n=55	n=99	n=126
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<18 years	2 (4)	3 (3)		Yes	14 (25)	5 (7)	70 (56)
18-24 years	1 (2)	1 (1)		No	41 (75)	65 (93)	56 (44)
25-29 years / *<20	5 (9)	12 (12)	2 (2)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
30-34 years / *20-29	10 (18)	16 (16)	21 (17)				
35-39 years / *30-39	16 (29)	22 (22)	39 (31)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
40-44 years / *40-49	11 (20)	16 (16)	37 (29)	BBV & STI	-- --	2 (40)	41 (59)
45+ years / *50+	10 (18)	25 (25)	24 (19)	Drug health	-- --	2 (40)	7 (10)
Not reported	0 (0)	4 (4)	3 (2)	Other health	-- --	1 (20)	10 (14)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	3 (5)	4 (4)	9 (7)	Other non-health	-- --	0 (0)	3 (4)
				More than one	-- --	0 (0)	9 (13)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Not reported	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
Male	39 (71)	78 (79)	83 (66)				
Female	16 (29)	21 (21)	41 (33)	<b>Referral (%)</b>			
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Yes	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)
Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)	No	55 (100)	70 (100)	123 (98)
				Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>							
Analgesics	27 (49)	42 (42)	56 (44)	<b>Referral type (%)</b>			
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	23 (42)	47 (47)	51 (40)	BBV & STI	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Anabolic agents	1 (2)	0 (0)	3 (2)	Drug health	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	3 (5)	3 (3)	7 (6)	Other health	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (33)
Not reported	1 (2)	7 (7)	9 (7)	Other non-health	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (33)
				Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (33)
				Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Note: Age groups collected in Tasmania are not aligned to AGE10P in 2016 and 2017. \*Age groups aligned to AGE10Pin 2018. Indigenous status not collected in Tasmania. Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016.

## B.8 Victoria

### Description of NSP services in Victoria

Victoria is the second most populous state or territory in Australia, with ~6.4 million residents in 2018. NSP services operate through a wide range of service providers, including funded primary NSPs, community health services, hospital accident and emergency units, municipal councils, drug treatment agencies, youth organisations and participating pharmacies. There are 16 primary outlets, 137 secondary outlets, 236 pharmacies and 18 SDMs in Victoria. Services are provided through fixed site, mobile services, outreach and foot patrol, and SDMs supply injecting equipment at no cost to the consumer. Non-identifiable client-level and service-level OOS data are collected at all primary and secondary NSP services in Victoria. Line item client OOS data are sent to Victorian Department of Health and Human Services on a monthly basis. Health education/interventions and referrals are collected as a combined data item and Victoria does not currently collect data on drug injected or the Indigenous status of NSP attendees.

**Table B.8.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

VIC	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	8,799,500	90%	981,155	10%	9,780,655
2009/10	8,977,950	89%	1,166,345	11%	10,144,295
2010/11	9,255,350	88%	1,267,212	12%	10,522,562
2011/12	9,683,500	89%	1,206,475	11%	10,889,975
2012/13	10,244,250	90%	1,131,895	10%	11,376,145
2013/14	10,258,550	90%	1,078,602	10%	11,337,152
2014/15	10,413,900	91%	1,044,812	9%	11,458,712
2015/16	11,808,350	91%	1,103,818	9%	12,912,168
2016/17	11,799,550	91%	1,228,677	9%	13,028,227
2017/18	11,100,050	90%	1,284,560	10%	12,384,610

**Table B.8.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

VIC NSP outlet type (%)	2016 n=393	2017 n=400	2018 n=407	VIC NSP outlet method (%)	2016 n=170	2017 n=167	2018 n=171
Primary	17 (4)	16 (4)	16 (4)	<i>Public sector NSP<sup>^</sup></i>			
Secondary	148 (38)	144 (36)	137 (34)	Fixed	159 (94)	156 (93)	151 (88)
SDM	5 (1)	7 (2)	18 (4)	Outreach/mobile	30 (18)	25 (15)	24 (14)
Pharmacy	223 (57)	233 (58)	236 (58)	SDM free	5 (3)	7 (4)	18 (11)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				Peer distribution	-- --	-- --	-- --
				<i>Pharmacy sector (fixed)</i>	223 (100)	233 (100)	236 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Figure B.8.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.8.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>VIC</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Client-level</b>	n=966	n=749	n=634	<b>Service-level</b>	n=966	n=749	n=634
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<18 years	5 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)	Yes	517 (54)	344 (46)	245 (39)
18-20 years	10 (1)	5 (1)	3 (0)	No	449 (46)	402 (54)	389 (61)
21-25 years	47 (5)	28 (4)	27 (4)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
26-30 years	104 (11)	78 (10)	51 (8)				
31-35 years	229 (24)	156 (21)	145 (23)				
36-45 years	362 (37)	334 (45)	225 (35)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
46+ years	178 (18)	124 (17)	162 (26)	BBV & STI	-- --	125 (36)	58 (24)
Not reported	31 (3)	24 (3)	20 (3)	Drug health	-- --	8 (2)	4 (2)
<b>Aged &lt;26</b>	62 (6)	33 (4)	31 (5)	Other health	-- --	15 (4)	75 (31)
				Other non-health	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				More than one	-- --	196 (57)	108 (44)
Male	715 (74)	580 (77)	463 (73)	Not reported	-- --	0 (0)	0 (0)
Female	234 (24)	160 (21)	157 (25)				
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)				
Not reported	17 (2)	9 (1)	14 (2)				

Note: Indigenous status and drug(s) injected are not collected in Victoria. Age groups collected in Victoria are not aligned to AGE10P. Referrals and health education/interventions are combined and reported as health education/interventions in the NSP NMDC. Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016.



## B.9 Western Australia

### Description of NSP services in Western Australia

Western Australia (WA) has the largest land area of Australia's eight states and territories and is the fourth most populous jurisdiction, with ~2.6 million residents in 2018. NSPs are operated by both government and non-government agencies and include needle syringe exchange programs which supply free sterile needles and syringes upon the return of used items. NSPs are operated through a combination of fixed-sites, outreach and mobile services. Health service-based NSPs provide sterile injecting equipment at no cost through regional hospitals, public health units, community health centres, community drug services and other health services. Pharmacy based NSPs are operated on a commercial basis, while most SDMs operate on a cost-recovery basis with packs available for \$3 (1 SDM has no cost). In Western Australia there are 19 primary outlets, 105 secondary outlets, 597 pharmacies and 8 SDMs. Non-identifiable client-level and service-level OOS data are collected by selected primary and secondary NSPs on a designated snapshot day on an annual basis in Western Australia. All NSP NMDC client-level and service-level data elements are collected.

**Table B.9.1 Needle and syringe distribution by public and pharmacy sector, 2008/09–2017/18**

WA	Public	%	Pharmacy	%	Total
2008/09	2,851,520	68%	1,359,264	32%	4,210,784
2009/10	2,897,666	74%	1,037,067	26%	3,934,733
2010/11	3,007,352	72%	1,171,964	28%	4,179,316
2011/12	3,182,161	71%	1,270,829	29%	4,452,990
2012/13	3,502,135	73%	1,292,876	27%	4,795,011
2013/14	3,818,543	75%	1,286,760	25%	5,105,303
2014/15	4,048,932	74%	1,391,497	26%	5,440,429
2015/16	4,629,223	77%	1,386,095	23%	6,015,318
2016/17	4,583,785	79%	1,232,483	21%	5,816,268
2017/18	4,871,810	84%	897,988	16%	5,769,798

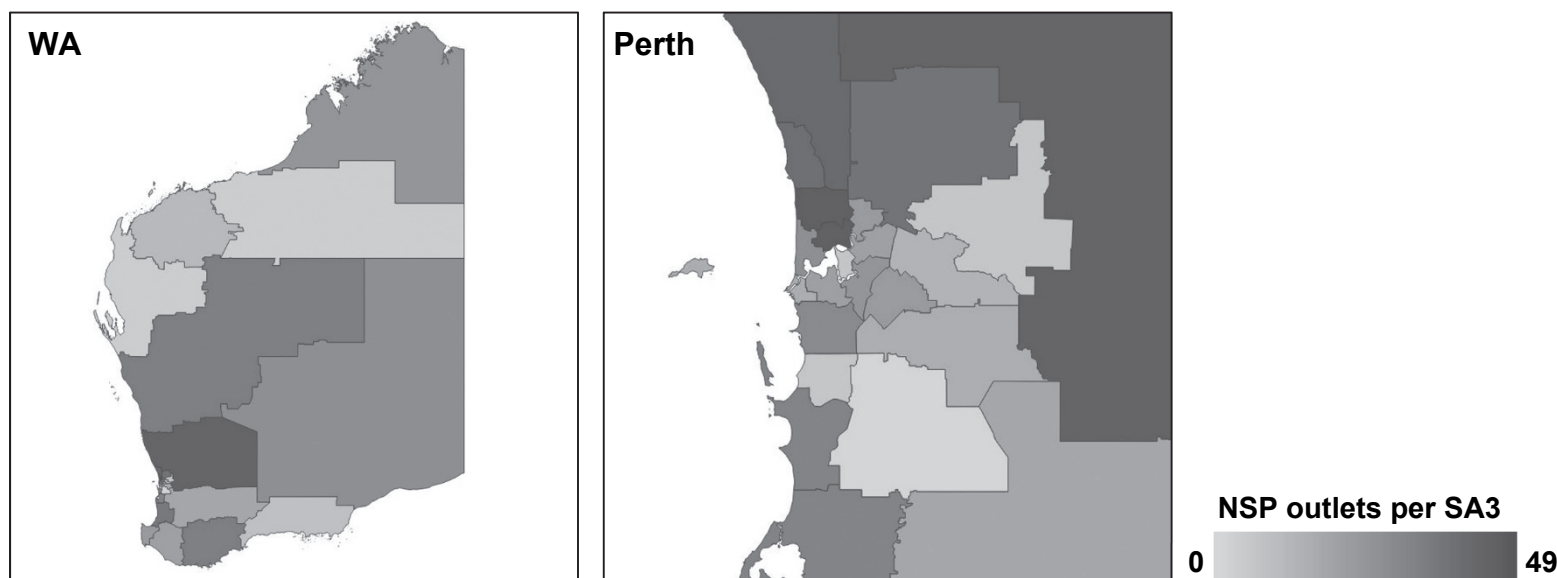
**Table B.9.2 NSP outlet type and method by public and pharmacy sector, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

WA NSP outlet type (%)	2016 n=658	2017 n=671	2018 n=729	WA NSP outlet method (%)	2016	2017	2018
Primary	20 (3)	19 (3)	19 (3)	Public sector NSP <sup>^</sup>	n=130	n=129	n=132
Secondary	102 (6)	102 (15)	105 (14)	Fixed	109 (84)	108 (84)	112 (85)
SDM	8 (1)	8 (1)	8 (1)	Outreach/mobile	13 (10)	13 (10)	18 (14)
Pharmacy	528 (80)	542 (81)	597 (82)	SDM free	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
				SDM chute	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
				SDM cost	7 (5)	7 (5)	7 (5)
				Peer distribution	-- --	7 (5)	7 (5)
				Pharmacy sector (fixed)	528 (100)	542 (100)	597 (100)

<sup>^</sup> Public sector NSPs may have more than one NSP outlet method

-- Not collected

**Figure B.9.1 Total number of NSP outlets by SA3 in 2018**



**Table B.9.3 Occasion of service-level data, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

<b>WA Client-level</b>	<b>2016</b> n=179	<b>2017</b> n=126	<b>2018</b> n=202	<b>WA Service-level</b>	<b>2016</b> n=179	<b>2017</b> n=126	<b>2018</b> n=202
<b>Age (%)</b>				<b>Health education/intervention (%)</b>			
<20 years	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (2)	Yes	61 (34)	45 (36)	165 (82)
20-29 years	22 (12)	22 (17)	29 (14)	No	118 (66)	80 (63)	37 (18)
30-39 years	43 (24)	32 (25)	44 (22)	Not reported	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
40-49 years	74 (41)	46 (37)	79 (39)				
50+ years	40 (22)	26 (21)	44 (22)	<b>Health education/intervention type (%)</b>			
Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	BBV & STI	--	19 (43)	103 (62)
<b>Aged &lt;25</b>	6 (3)	7 (6)	15 (7)	Drug health	--	5 (11)	7 (4)
				Other health	--	2 (5)	6 (4)
<b>Gender (%)</b>				Other non-health	--	4 (9)	2 (1)
Male	126 (70)	84 (67)	139 (69)	More than one	--	14 (32)	47 (28)
Female	53 (30)	42 (33)	61 (30)	Not reported	--	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)				
Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	<b>Referral (%)</b>			
				Yes	51 (28)	1 (1)	37 (18)
<b>Indigenous status (%)</b>				No	128 (72)	121 (96)	148 (73)
Yes (Aboriginal or TSI or both)	16 (9)	22 (17)	36 (18)	Not reported	0 (0)	4 (3)	17 (8)
No	159 (89)	102 (81)	156 (77)				
Not reported	4 (2)	2 (2)	10 (5)	<b>Referral type (%)</b>			
				BBV & STI	0 (0)	1 (100)	10 (27)
<b>Drug injected (%)</b>				Drug health	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5)
Analgesics	58 (32)	37 (29)	58 (29)	Other health	7 (14)	0 (0)	9 (24)
Stimulants and Hallucinogens	92 (51)	65 (52)	127 (63)	Other non-health	44 (86)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Anabolic agents	10 (6)	7 (6)	10 (5)	Peer based	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (35)
Other	7 (4)	13 (10)	5 (2)	More than one	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8)
Not reported	12 (7)	4 (3)	2 (1)	Not reported	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Note: Health education/intervention type not collated in 2016