

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that multiple medicines were found in over half (59%) of unintentional medicine overdoses and poisoning

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

“There were 10,620 hospital admissions resulting from poisoning by pharmaceuticals in Australia.”



2018-19, 11% of medicine-related hospitalisations. 2019 study revealed that paracetamol-related hospital admissions in Australia increased by 3.8% per year.

There is increasing complexity with paracetamol included with other analgesics – ibuprofen, caffeine, codeine – and in cold and flu preparations, which could lead to inadvertent consumption above recommended dosing.

The proportion of exposures in adults over 74 years of age attributable to medication error (64%) was more than twice that for younger adults (25%)



2-3 KEY USERS:

Ben is a 70-year-old man.

Mary is a mother and has three babies.

Luke is a patient who suffers from 4 different diseases and is often sick.



2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Ben needs to test the drug concentration as he took a lot of the medication so many times a day.

May needs to know how many doses her child can take because she doesn't know if the medicine has been metabolised.

Luck needs to know whether the drug will interact because he takes chronic disease drugs and cold medicine.

KEY IMAGES: (2-3 key images with annotation)



GPs are reporting a rise in teenagers recreationally using a codeine-containing cough syrup – mixing it with lemonade to produce a high.

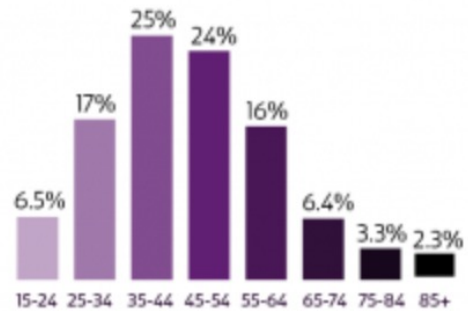


In 2020, benzodiazepines and antidepressants remained the most common drug types involved in opioid-induced deaths.

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

Medicine selling:
Convenience stores,
Market
Pharmacy

Government
Hospital
Clinic
Prescription counter
Police
School



Overdose and other drug-induced deaths were most common among 35-44 and 45-54 year olds.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- <https://reurl.cc/OX5z9A>
- <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsq/clinical/australia-s-overdose-crisis-is-getting-worse>
- https://img.etimg.com/thumb/msid-89328633,width-1200,height-900,imgsize-225616,resizemode-8,quality-100/20220204_dolo_lead_01.jpg
- <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsq/clinical/should-paracetamol-be-up-scheduled>
- <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2018/209/2/patterns-poisoning-exposure-different-ages-2015-annual-report-australian-poisons#tbox4>

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