

FACTSHEET 3 – ILLICIT DRUG USE AND IMPACTS

Illicit use of drugs can involve use of **illegal drugs** (such as cannabis, heroin and cocaine) as well as the **misuse of pharmaceutical drugs** (such as opioid pain relief medication)ⁱ. Pharmaceutical drugs can cause significant harm when used in ways outside of their intended purpose. These harms can be equivalent to those that result from use of illegal drugs.

HOW MANY OF US ENGAGE IN ILLICIT DRUG USE?

Information on illicit drug use in Glen Eira is very limited. However, the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016 found that amongst Victorians over 14 yearsⁱⁱ:

15% had used at least one kind of drug illicitly in 2016 (17.9% amongst males, 12.1% amongst females)

People in their 20s were the most likely age group to engage in illicit drug use. However, use amongst those in their 40s has been increasing (notable particularly for cannabis use)

Amongst young people, the Glen Eira Student Resilience Survey 2017ⁱⁱⁱ of young people in years 3 to 12 found that 97% did not use illegal drugs: 98% of females did not and 97% of males did not.

WHICH DRUGS ARE WE USING?

The National Drug Household Survey 2016 found that amongst Victorians over 14 years, the most commonly used drugs (and the proportion who used them) were:

Cannabis 9.9%	Pain killers /opioids 3.4%	Cocaine 2.5%	Ecstasy 2.4%	Tranquillisers / sleeping pills (1.7%)	Methamphetamines (1.5%)
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WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES THAT CAN RESULT FROM ILLICIT DRUG USE?

Drug-related harms for individuals, family, friends, workplace and community include:

Drug affected driving and accidents on the roads	Injuries from violence (including family violence) and crime	Absenteeism, effects on workplace productivity and employment	Family and relationship impacts, including breakdown and social isolation	Cardiovascular, digestive and neuropsychiatric diseases, cancers and injuries, lower life expectancy
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HOW IS ILLICIT DRUG USE HARMING PEOPLE IN GLEN EIRA?

Ambulance call-outs – illegal drugs

Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre finds that in 2016-17, there were 151 illegal-drug related ambulance attendances in Glen Eira, **69.5% of these for males**^{iv}.

The number of ambulance attendances equates to 101.3 per 100,000 persons.

Compared to other Greater Melbourne LGAs, this rate ranks Glen Eira 26 of 31 (where 1 is highest)

The majority of illegal drug-related ambulance attendances in Glen Eira in 2016-17 (and their proportion of all illegal ambulance attendances) were:

Cannabis 25.5%	Amphetamines 19.8%	Heroin 18.2%	Crystal methamphetamine 14.6%
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Ambulance call-outs pharmaceutical drugs

Turning Points finds that in 2016-17, there were 196 pharmaceutical-drug related ambulance attendances in Glen Eira. **56.6% of these for females**^v.

The number of ambulance attendances equates to 131.5 per 100,000 persons.

Compared to other Greater Melbourne LGAs, this rate ranks Glen Eira 25 of 31 (where 1 is highest)

Hospitalisation for illegal drug use

Turning Point finds that in 2014-15 in Glen Eira there were^{vi}:



336 male and 162 female

The number of hospitalisations equates to 34.6 per 10,000 persons

Compared to other Greater Melbourne LGAs, this rate ranks Glen Eira 4 of 31 (where 1 is highest)

52% of illegal drug-related hospitalisations were for stimulants including cocaine and ecstasy

43.5% of illegal drug related hospitalisations were for cannabis

Heroin, Amphetamines and Hallucinogens each accounted for less than 2% of all illegal drug-related hospitalisations

Hospitalisation for pharmaceutical drug use

Turning Point finds that in 2014-15 in Glen Eira, there were^{vii}:



88 male and 200 female

The number of hospitalisations equates to 20 per 10,000 persons

Compared to other Greater Melbourne LGAs, this rate ranks Glen Eira 7 of 31 (where 1 is highest)

The highest number of hospitalisations for both illicit and pharmaceutical drugs was in the 40-64 age bracket - followed by 25-39 years old for illegal drugs and 15-24 year olds for pharmaceutical drugs.

Drug-related criminal incidents

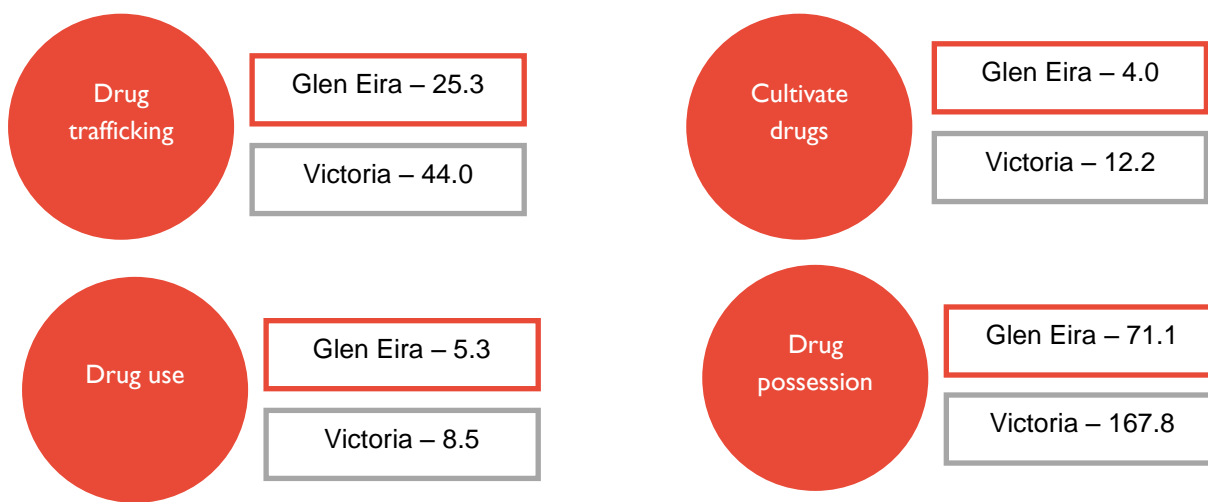
The Crime Statistics Agency finds that between January and December 2017, there were a total of **162 drug incidents recorded in Glen Eira by Victoria Police**^{viii}.

The number of drug-related incidents equates to 107.7 per 100,000 persons.

Compared to other Greater Melbourne LGAs, this rate ranks Glen Eira 25 of 31 (where 1 is highest)

Drug incidents as a proportion of all criminal incidents in Glen Eira has remained relatively stable over time. In 2017 this proportion was 3.0%

In 2017 the key drug related criminal incidents **per 100,000** persons were:



REFERENCES AND NOTES

ⁱ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017, 'National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016: detailed findings', <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/15db8c15-7062-4cde-bfa4-3c2079f30af3/21028a.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Glen Eira 2018, 'Glen Eira Student Resilience Survey 2017; Report', <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Community-services/Youth/Youth-consultation>

^{iv} Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre, 'AOD Ambo Stats Vic LGA Map', <http://amboadstats.org.au/VicLGA/>

^v Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre, 'AOD Stats Vic LGA Map', <http://aodstats.org.au/VicLGA/>

^{vii} Ibid

^{viii} Crime Statistics Agency, 'Crime by location', <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/explore-crime-by-location>