

Demographics, comorbidities and service utilization patterns for amphetamine use

2012-2018



Stimulant use, especially **amphetamine** use (which includes crystal methamphetamine), is on the rise in Alberta.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM) have partnered on this project to better understand clients who are seeking treatment for amphetamine use.



Amphetamines:

A group of stimulant drugs with psychoactive properties that act on the central nervous system

Project objectives

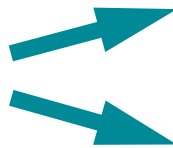
Provide a descriptive overview of demographics, comorbidities, and health service utilization of clients enrolled in AHS addiction services for amphetamine use from 2012-2018

Method

Analysis of administrative data available for clients enrolled in AHS addiction services for amphetamine use and other substance use

AHS addiction services enrollments

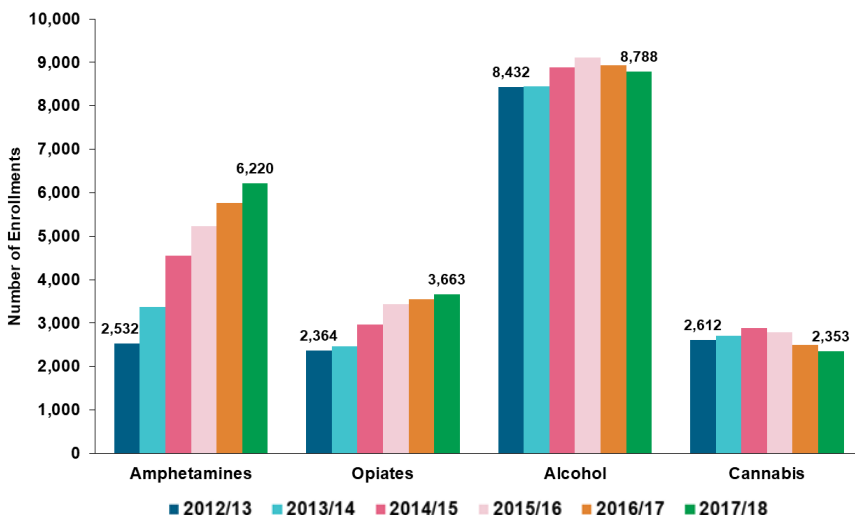
15,029 clients were enrolled in AHS addiction treatment services for amphetamine use from 2012-2018



57% of clients enrolled were men

The average age of clients enrolled was **30 years**

Unique client enrollments by substance use in Alberta

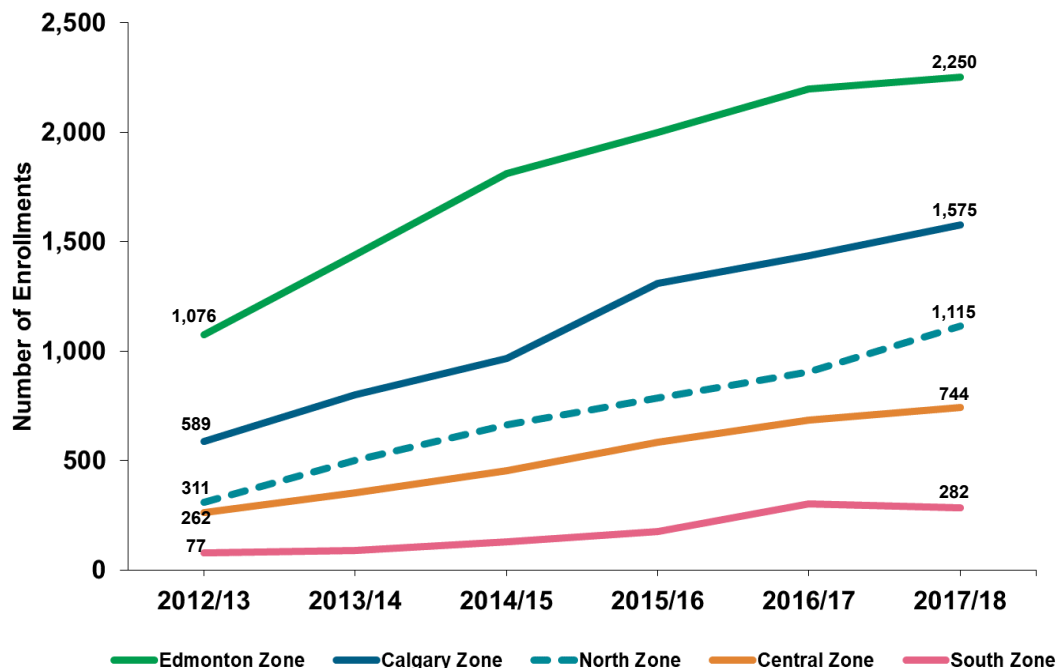


The number of clients enrolled for amphetamine use has **more than doubled** from 2012-2018.

Alcohol and cannabis enrollments were stable from 2012-2018.

Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive: a client could be included in multiple categories.

Amphetamine enrollments by AHS service zone

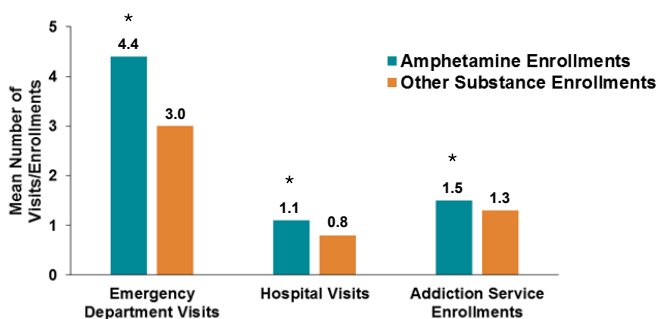


The number of clients enrolled for amphetamine use has **increased across all zones** from 2012-2018.

Edmonton and Calgary zones accounted for the majority of amphetamine enrollments.

Healthcare service utilization and comorbidities

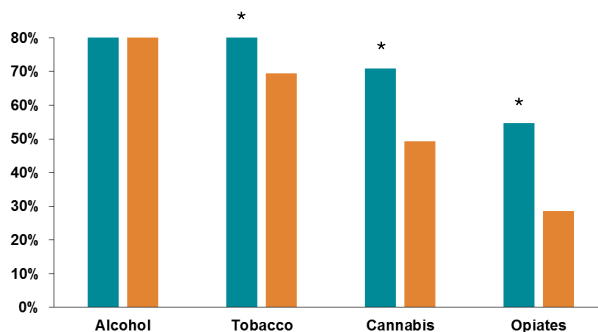
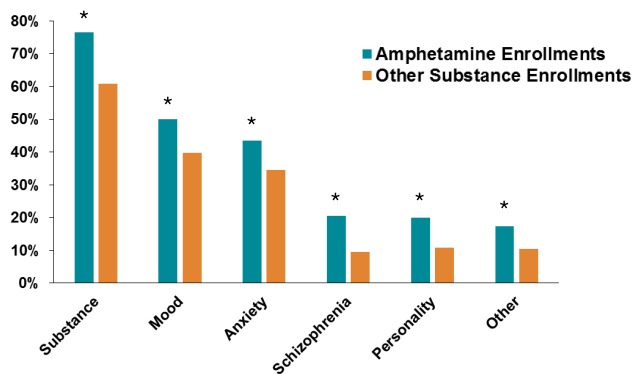
Healthcare service utilization of enrolled clients in Alberta, 2012-2018



Clients enrolled for amphetamine use had **more visits** to the emergency department and hospital, and **more multiple enrollments** to addiction treatment services than clients enrolled for other substance use.

Note: This is the average number of times a client visited an emergency department or hospital for any reason, and the number of addiction treatment enrollments that occurred within the same fiscal year as their first (index) enrollment to a specialty addiction treatment service.

Prevalence of co-occurring diagnosed mental health conditions and substance use in enrolled clients in Alberta, 2012-2018



* denotes significance at $p < 0.0001$

Clients enrolled for amphetamine use had **higher lifetime rates** of mood, anxiety, and personality disorders, as well as schizophrenia and other mental health conditions, and **greater co-occurring** tobacco, cannabis, and opiate use than clients enrolled for other substance use.