



Women in Queensland with Alcohol and Drug issues and/or Homelessness: Statistics and Residential Services, 3rd Edition

*'...there are currently no residential rehabilitation centres
in Queensland that cater exclusively for young women.'*

*'...there are more young women needing both residential
rehabilitation and crisis accommodation than the number of
beds currently available.'*

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this investigation was to determine whether there was a discrepancy between the magnitude of alcohol and other drug issues and homelessness among young women and the number and types of beds available for residential rehabilitation and crisis accommodation. In the sections that follow we have reported on the statistics that reveal the size of the problem and also on the currently established treatment services available to deal with the problems.

2. Alcohol and drug issues among young women in Queensland

2.1 Statistics

2.1.1 Tobacco usage

- 18.1% of women in Qld aged 16-17 are daily smokers (1)
- 16.5% of women in Qld aged 18-19 are daily smokers (1)
- 21,400 women in Qld aged 14-19 are daily smokers (1)
- 6,000 (approx) women in Australia die each year from tobacco related diseases (2)

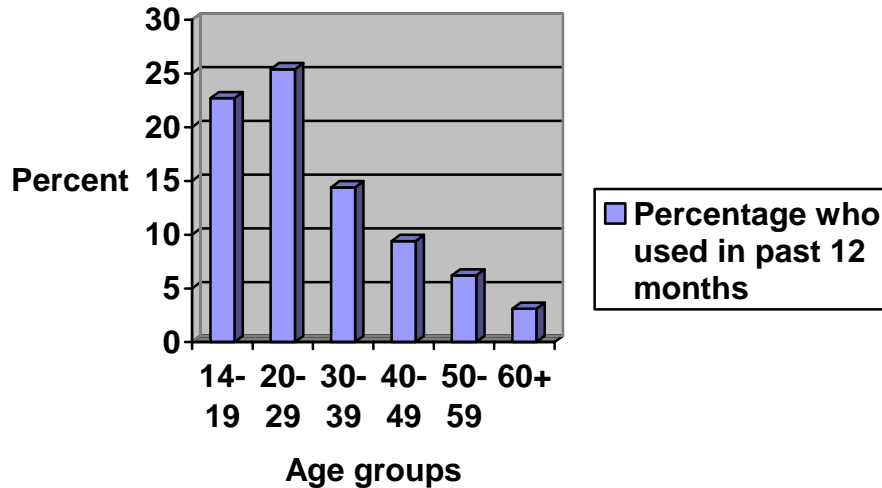
2.1.2 Alcohol usage

- 9.8% of women in Qld aged 14-19 consume alcohol at a level classified as 'risky' (1)
- 6.0% of women in Qld aged 14-19 consume alcohol at a level classified as 'high risk' (1)
- 14.4% of women in Qld aged 20-29 consume alcohol at a level classified as 'risky' (1)
- 3.5% of women in Qld aged 20-29 consume alcohol at a level classified as 'high risk' (1)
- During the 2004-05 financial year, Australians under thirty years of age engaged in 13,808 treatment episodes for alcohol use disorders (3)
- Compared to men with alcohol addictions, females with alcohol addictions:
 - have a higher death rate
 - have a higher suicide rate
 - have more alcohol-related incidents
 - suffer more severe brain damage as a result of alcohol
 - have greater circulatory deficits
 - are more likely to develop cirrhosis of the liver (4).

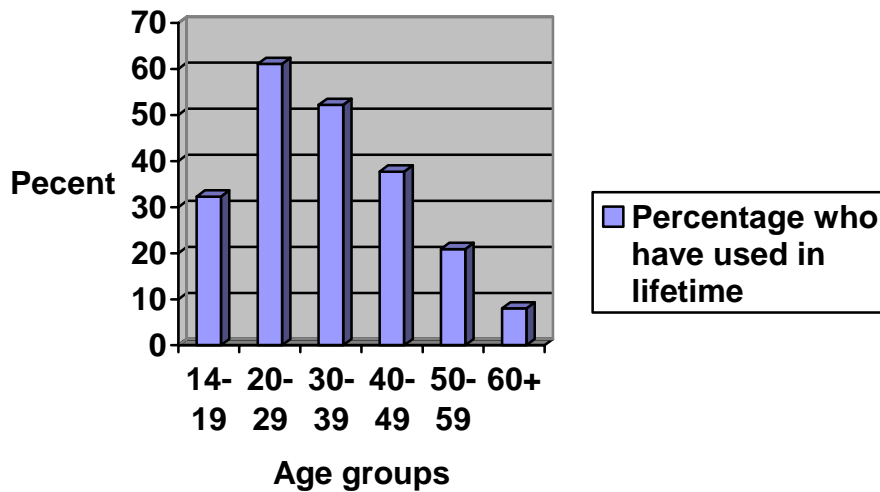
2.1.3 Illicit substance usage

- 22.7% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used an illicit substance in the past 12 months (1)
- 25.4% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used an illicit substance in the past 12 months (1)
- 32.3% of women in Qld aged 14-19 have used an illicit substance in their lifetime (1)
- 61.1% of women in Qld aged 20-29 have used an illicit substance in their lifetime (1)

The following graph shows the percentage of women in Qld in each age group who used an illicit substance in the past 12 months. This graph clearly shows that illicit substance use is much higher in the 20-29 age years group than any other age group. (1)



The following graph shows the percentage of women in Qld in each age group who used an illicit substance in their lifetime. This graph shows clearly that illicit substance use is much higher in the 20-29 year age group than any other age group. It also shows that illicit drug use among women is increasing in Qld. A person in the 20-29 year age group is three times more likely to have used an illicit drug than an adult who has lived for fifty years or more. (1)



Marijuana/cannabis

- 19.7% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used marijuana/cannabis in the past 12 months (1)
- 20.2% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used marijuana/cannabis in the past 12 months (1)

Meth/amphetamines

- 4.9% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used meth/amphetamines in the past 12 months (1)
- 8.7% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used meth/amphetamines in the past 12 months (1)

Ecstasy

- 7.2% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used ecstasy in the past 12 months (1)
- 8.1% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used ecstasy in the past 12 months (1)

Inhalants

- 1.1% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used inhalants in the past 12 months (1)
- 0.6% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used inhalants in the past 12 months (1)

Cocaine

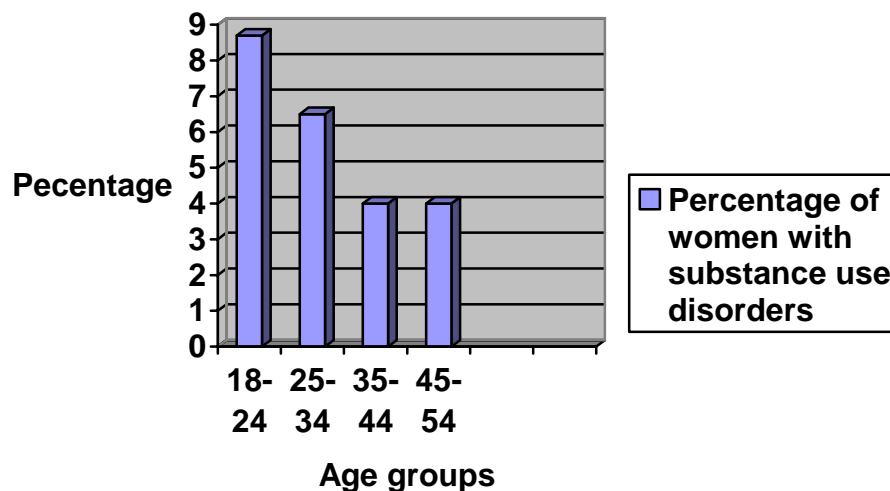
- 0.8% of women in Qld aged 14-19 used cocaine in the past 12 months (1)
- 2.1% of women in Qld aged 20-29 used cocaine in the past 12 months (1)

Note: All the figures in this section (illicit substances) are considered an under-representation due to the small sample size and the potentially high relative sampling error as well as the fact that the homeless population is not included.

2.1.4 Substance use disorders

- 4.2% of women in Qld have a substance use disorder (5)

The following graph shows the percentage of women in Qld who have a substance use disorder. As can be seen the 18 to 24 year old group has a considerably higher incidence of substance use disorders than the other groups. (5)



2.1.5 Treatment

- Approximately 80% women who seek treatment for a substance abuse disorder have a lifetime history of sexual and/or physical assault, and many display symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (6)
- 21.8% of women in Qld aged 18-34 years, with a substance use disorder, sought some form of treatment in the past 12 months (5)
- 38.7% of women in Qld aged 35-64 years, with a substance use disorder, sought some form of treatment in the past 12 months (5)
- 50.2% of women in Qld with a mental health disorder (including, but not limited to a substance use disorder) rated as a 'severe disability' did not seek any form of treatment in the past 12 months (5)

2.1.6 Maternal substance abuse

During pregnancy

- Maternal drug use (general) during pregnancy has been found to result in higher rates of:
 - first trimester spontaneous abortion
 - stillbirth
 - foetal growth retardation
 - neonatal mortality (7)

- Maternal tobacco usage during pregnancy has been found to result in higher rates of:
 - ectopic pregnancies
 - spontaneous abortion
 - infant low birth weight
 - long-term effects of growth and behavioral development
 - certain birth defects, including cardiovascular problems, urogenital problems, microcephalus, neural tube defect, lip and palate cleft and club foot
 - SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)
 - childhood cancer
 - non-Hodgkin lymphoma
 - acute lymphoblastic leukemia
 - Wilm's tumour (8)

Research has shown that the extent of the above outcomes is directly proportional to the amount of cigarettes smoked. Interestingly exposure to tobacco in-vitro can affect the fertility of female children. (8)

Research has shown that the children of women who smoked 10 or more cigarettes during pregnancy, when tested at ages of 7 and 11, were:

- 3 months delayed in their general development
 - 4 months delayed in their reading performance
 - 5 months delayed in their mathematical skills (8)
-
- Maternal alcohol use during pregnancy has been found to result in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The symptoms of which include:
 - deficits in attention, memory and judgment
 - poor impulse control
 - hyperactivity
 - language problems (understanding and speaking)
 - poor problem solving and mathematical skills
 - deficits in abstract thinking
 - deficits in perception and motor development
 - in adolescence – antisocial behaviour and mental health disorders (9)

 - Maternal narcotic use during pregnancy has been found to result in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). The symptoms of which include:
 - tremors
 - irritability
 - sleep-problems
 - seizures, yawning
 - vomiting

- diarrhea
- dehydration
- sweating
- fever (7).

After pregnancy

- Research has shown that parental substance abuse is considered to:
 - restrict the provision of adequate physical care
 - inhibit normal socio-emotional and cognitive development
 - increase the likelihood of these children adopting drug-use habits themselves (10)
- Maternal tobacco usage after pregnancy (i.e. passive smoking) has been found to result in higher rates of upper and lower respiratory tract infections. (8)
- United States figures
 - At least 50% of all parents of children known to the 'welfare system' in the United States have substance abuse problems (11)
 - 25% of children are living in a household with at least one alcoholic adult (11)
 - 66% of children raised by an alcoholic parent/s had been physically abused or witnessed family violence (11)
 - 26% of children raised by an alcohol parent/s had been sexually abused (11)
 - Substance abuse was identified in:
 - 61% of cases classified as emotional abuse
 - 58% of cases classified as physical abuse
 - 53% of cases classified as emotional abuse
 - 50% of cases classified as sexual abuse (11)
- Canadian figures
 - In 38% of substantiated cases of child abuse alcohol abuse was identified as occurring (11)
 - In 31% of substantiated cases of child abuse drug abuse was identified as occurring. (11)
- Australian figures
 - In 22% of substantiated cases of child abuse in New South Wales substance abuse was identified as occurring (11)
 - In 25.8% of suspected cases of child maltreatment in Victoria, the worker had identified at least one caregiver in the family as having an alcohol problem. The caregiver alcohol problem was of concern in:
 - 16.9% of sexual abuse cases
 - 40.0% of physical abuse cases
 - 31.3% of emotional abuse cases
 - 28.0% of neglect cases (11)
 - In 15.6% of suspected cases of child maltreatment in Victoria, the worker had identified at least one caregiver as having a drug problem. The caregiver drug problem was of concern in:
 - 41.3% of neglect cases
 - 16.7% of physical abuse cases
 - 6.5% of sexual abuse cases. (11)

2.1.7 Crime and substance use

Drug use among female police detainees in Brisbane in 2005

- 68% tested positive for an illicit substance
 - 15% reported that they were looking for drugs at the time of the arrest
 - 63% reported that they used drugs prior to their arrest
 - 43% reported that they had sold drugs in their lifetime
 - 55% reported that they had used Cannabis in the 30 days prior to arrest
- The following table shows self-reported use of illicit substances in the 30 days prior to arrest:

Age groups

Substance	18 to 20 year olds	21 to 25 year olds	26 to 30 year olds
Cannabis	62%	73%	43%
Methylamphetamine	25%	77%	52%
Heroin	46%	36%	29%
Benzodiazepines	23%	23%	24%

- The following table shows self-reported age of first use and of regular use, by substance:

Substance	Mean age, first use	Mean age, regular use
Cannabis	14	17
Methylamphetamine	19	21
Heroin	18	18
Benzodiazepines	16	19

- The following table shows self-reported treatment received:

	Percentage
Never received treatment	46% (n=35)
Ever been in treatment	37% (n=28)
Currently in treatment	17% (n=13)

(12)

- A drug offence was the most serious offence recorded for 10.3% of persons in Australian prisons on 30th June 2000 (13)

2.1.8 Substance use, morbidity and mortality

- Hospital episodes and deaths attributable to drug use, by drug, for women in Australia aged 15-34 years, in 1998

Substance involved	Hospitalisations	Deaths
Alcohol		
Alcohol total	21,951	732
Tobacco		
Cancer	0	0
Ischaemic heart disease	398	34
Environmental tobacco smoke	2	0
Other	6,787	46
Tobacco total	7,187	80*
Illicit drugs		
Drug dependence/abuse	4,879	389
Poisoning	1,815	140
Suicide	-	103
Other	4,182	18
Illicit total	10,876	650
Total all substances		
All substances total	40,014	1,462

(14) *Note: most people who die from tobacco related affects die at an older age.

2.2 Established residential treatment services

Currently in Queensland there are 172 beds for women to engage in residential rehabilitation (See Appendix A for further details about specific services). Of these beds:

- 91.2% (n=157) of beds are open for women over 18 years of age only
- 2.9% (n=5) of beds are open to women under 18 years of age, these women must have dependent children
- 5.8% (n=10) of beds are open for women under 18 years of age without children
- 4.6% (n=8) of beds are open to women with children
- 92.4% (n=159) of beds are in centres that also take men
- 7.6% (n=13) of beds are in centres exclusively for women
- 34.8% (n=60) of beds are in centres whose focus is on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clientele
- 0.0% (n=0) of beds have a maximum age
- 100% (n=172) of beds allow cigarette smoking.

3. Homelessness among young women in Queensland

3.1 Statistics

In 2001 in Queensland, there were 24,569 homeless persons, of these 6,381 were persons aged between 12 and 18 years (15)

In 2001 in Australia, there were:

- 4,871 females aged under 12 years who were homeless
- 13,811 females aged 12 to 18 years who were homeless
- 4,651 females aged 19 to 24 years who were homeless
- 4,742 females aged 25 to 34 years who were homeless (15)

In 2004/05:

- 27.5% of Qld homeless people were female (16)
- 15.9% of Qld homeless people were females with children (16)
- There were 9,450 Qld SAAP* female clients, of these:
 - 3700 were aged 0-24 years
 - 4550 were aged 25-44 years
 - 450 were aged 0-24 years and also had a substance use disorder
 - 550 were aged 25-44 years and also had a substance use disorder
 - The mean age of Qld SAAP female clients was 30.3 years (17)
- The accommodation need of 80 adults was unmet per day on average (18)
- The accommodation need of 71 'accompanying' children was unmet per day on average (note 'children' is defined as a person under 18 years) (18)
- 55% of females in Australia who sought SAAP services were aged 20-44 years (18)
- 30% of females in Australia who sought SAAP services were aged under 20 years (18)

*SAAP (Supported Accommodation Assistance Program)

- 14% of females in Qld who sought SAAP services requiring accommodation within 24 hours were aged 18-19 years (18)
- The following table shows the potential female clients in Qld whose request for a SAAP service went unmet per day (on average) broken down by age and the immediacy of the need:

Age group	Within 24 hours	After 24 hours
18-19 years	5	9
20-24 years	19	20
25-44 years	44	47

(18)

- 6.8% (n=1,187) of all SAAP clients in Qld were females aged 15-17 years (19)
- 4.2% (n=733) of all SAAP clients in Qld were females aged 18-19 years (19)
- 8.5% (n=1,483) of all SAAP clients in Qld were females aged 20-24 years (19)
- 7.1% (n=1,239) of all SAAP clients in Qld were females aged 25-29 years (19)
- The total number of female SAAP clients in Qld was 9,500 (19)
- The total number of SAAP clients in Qld was 17,450. (19)

3.2 Established accommodation services

Currently in Queensland there are 114 crisis accommodation beds available to women (See Appendix B for further details about specific services). Of these beds:

- 64% (n=73) of beds are open for women over 18 years of age only
- 15% (n=17) of beds are open to women with children
- 25% (n=29) of beds are in centres that also take men
- 75% (n=85) of beds are in centres exclusively for women
- 11% (n=12) of beds are in centres exclusively for women that have a maximum age
- 54% (n=62) of beds are in Brisbane
- 0% (n=0) of beds are for women under 18 years of age with children
- 0% (n=0) of beds where the minimum age is 18 years have a maximum age.

4. Conclusion

Despite the fact that we have established that the use of alcohol and drugs is a more significant problem for young women than for older women, there are currently no residential rehabilitation centres in Queensland that cater exclusively for young women.

Furthermore there are more young women needing both residential rehabilitation and crisis accommodation than the number of beds currently available. Teen Challenge Queensland would like to do something to rectify this situation and see young women free.

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Appendix A: Queensland Residential Rehabilitation Centres that have beds for women

Service name / location	Clientele type	Female beds	Contact details
Rehabilitation – Females only – ‘Youth’ – Total beds = 5			
Fresh Hope Crows Nest	Females any age, must have children	5	Phone: 4638 9558
Rehabilitation – Females only – ‘Older’ – Total beds = 8			
Lucinda House Taringa	Females 18 plus, no children	5	Phone: 3371 1409
The Addiction Help Agency Cairns	Females 18 plus, may have children	3	Phone: 4051 6262
Rehabilitation – Males and Females – ‘Youth’ – Total beds = 10			
Aboriginal & Islander Alcohol Service New Farm	Male and female 15 plus (focus is ATSI clients), no children	10	Phone: 3358 5111
Rehabilitation – Males and Females – ‘Older’ – General clientele – Total beds = 94			
Fairhaven Gold Coast	Male and female 18 plus, no children	18	Phone: 5594 7288
Goldbridge Gold Coast	Male and female 18 plus, no children	15	Phone: 5591 6871
Logan House Chambers Flats	Male and female 18 plus, no children	12	Phone: 5546 3900
Mirikai Gold Coast	Male and female 18 plus, no children	15	Phone: 5535 4302
Ozcare Cairns	Male and female 18 plus, no children	8	Phone: 4789 3833
Ozcare Mackay	Male and female 18 plus, no children	5	Phone: 4967 1330
Ozcare Townsville	Male and female 18 plus, no children	6	Phone: 4048 8055
WHOs Nambour	Male and female 18 plus, no children	15	Phone: 5441 7882
Rehabilitation – Males and Females – ‘Older’ – Focus is ATSI clientele – Total beds = 60			
Douglas House Cairns	Male and female 18 plus, no children	7	Phone: 4044 6900
Ferdies Haven Palm Island	Male and female 18 plus, no children	10	Phone: 4770 1152
Kalkadoon Aboriginal Sobriety House (KASH) Mount Isa	Male and female 18 plus, no children	14	Phone: 4743 2370
Stagpole Street Hostel Townsville	Male and female 18 plus, no children	10	Phone: 4771 5655
Rose Colless Haven Mareeba	Male and female 18 plus, no children	4	Phone: 4093 3190
Wunjuada Drug and Alcohol Rehab Centre Cherbourg	Male and female 18 plus, no children	9	Phone: 4168 1225
Yarrabah Substance Abuse Service Cairns	Male and female 18 plus, no children	6	Phone: 4056 9156

Appendix B: Queensland Crisis Accommodation Services that have beds for women

Service name / location	Clientele type	Female beds	Contact details
Crisis Accommodation – ‘Youth’ – Females only – Total beds = 12			
Bahloo Woolloongabba	Females 13 to 18 years	7	Phone: 3391 2815
Hannah’s House Ipswich	Females 13 to 17 years	5	Phone: 3812 1395
Crisis Accommodation – ‘Older’ – Females only – Total beds = 73			
Opal House Eight Mile Plains	Females 18 plus (with or without children)	16	Phone: 3841 0718
Still waters Southport	Females 18 plus (with or without children)	20 for singles 7 for families	Phone: 5591 1776
Pindari Inner City, Brisbane	Females 18 plus (without children)	20	Phone: 3832 6073
Glenhaven Aspley	Females 18 plus (with children)	10 families	Phone: 3350 3455
Crisis Accommodation – ‘Youth’ – Males and Females – Total beds = 29			
Bannister House Gold Coast	Males and females 16 to 17 years	2	Phone: 5591 3492
Chameleon Kippa-Ring	Males and females 16 to 17 years	3	Phone: 3284 4805
Lawson House Gold Coast	Males and females 12 to 17 years	4	Phone: 5564 8360
Integrated Family & Youth Services Mooloolaba	Males and females 14 to 21 years	3	Phone: 5479 2499
Ipswich Independent Youth Service Ipswich	Males and females 16 to 21 years	3	Phone: 3812 1199
Nathaniel House Mt Gravatt	Males and females 15 to 17 years	3	Phone: 3849 4038
Orana Youth Shelter Bald Hills	Males and females 14 to 17 years	3	Phone: 3261 3969
Salvation Army Youth Service Bundaberg	Males and females 16 to 21	3	Phone: 4151 3400
Toowoomba District Youth Service Toowoomba	Males and females up to 17 years	2	Phone: 4639 1333
Windsor House Windsor	Males and females 13 to 18 years	3	Phone: 3357 7655