

Question on Notice

No. 1183

Asked on 12 October 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the state's mental health data for the period October 2020 to current—

Will the Minister provide all validated data, particularly but not limited to the number of (a) suicides in Queensland, (b) attempted suicides or acts of self-harm, (c) drug overdoses resulting in hospitalisation or death, (d) people (including adults, young adults and children) presenting at hospital with mental health issues, (e) single car accidents resulting in death or serious injury, (f) people presenting at hospital with eating disorders and (g) people involuntarily committed to a mental health facility?

ANSWER

With respect to the Member's questions, I have been advised as follows:

Questions	Response	Sources and Caveats
(a) suicides in Queensland	The Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP) at Griffith University hosts the suicide surveillance system on behalf of the Queensland Government. AISRAP releases annual Suicide in Queensland reports – the most recent of which is for the period to June 2020. AISRAP is currently finalising the Suicide in Queensland Report 2021. AISRAP also provides data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) suicide and self-harm monitoring system regarding deaths that are suspected and confirmed by the coroner to be suicide. In 2020, there were 711 suspected suicides in Queensland compared to 757 in 2019.	Source: AIHW Suicide and self-harm monitoring
(b) attempted suicides or acts of self-harm	In 2020, there were approximately 3,700 ambulance attendances for suicide attempts. In the period July 2019 to June 2020, there were 8,636 hospitalisations for intentional self-harm – it is not known what proportion of these incidents of intentional self-harm were suicide attempts.	Source: AIHW Suicide and self-harm monitoring
(c) drug overdoses resulting in hospitalisation or death	In the period 1 October 2020 to 31 July 2021, for public hospitals, approximately 10,688 episodes of admitted patient care were for overdose. Of those, 2,417 episodes of admitted patient care were for illicit drug overdose. Death data is not available.	Source: Queensland Health Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC). Data is preliminary and

		subject to change.
(d) people (including adults, young adults, and children) presenting at hospital with mental health issues	<p>In the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, there were more than 115,000 emergency presentations for mental health related issues by approximately 73,046 people.</p> <p>A single person may present more than once for a mental health issue within the reference period. Therefore, the number of presentations is greater than the number of individual persons.</p>	<p><i>Source:</i> Emergency Department Collection. Data is preliminary and subject to change. Mental health related presentations are identified through specific diagnoses recorded for the presentation.</p>
(e) single car accidents resulting in death or serious injury	<p>Identification of single car accidents as a cause for death or serious injury is not readily available in Queensland Health data sets.</p> <p>Crash data from Queensland roads is available from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.</p>	
(f) people presenting at hospital with eating disorders	<p>In the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, there were more than 2,000 emergency presentations for eating disorder related issues by approximately 1,250 people.</p> <p>A single person may present more than once for an eating disorder issue within the reference period. Therefore, the number of presentations is greater than the number of individual persons.</p>	<p><i>Source:</i> Emergency Department Collection. Data is preliminary and subject to change. Eating disorder related presentations are identified through specific diagnoses recorded for the presentation.</p>
(g) people involuntarily committed to a mental health facility	<p>In the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, there were more than 14,000 mental health admitted episodes of care for 8,861 people admitted under the <i>Mental Health Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>A single person may be admitted under the Mental Health Act 2016 more than once within the reference period. Therefore, the number of admitted episodes of care is greater than the number of individual persons.</p>	<p><i>Source:</i> Consumer Integrated Mental Health and Addiction Application and Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection. A mental health admitted episode of care is identified where the admission is to a mental health unit in a public hospital. Admissions under the <i>Mental Health Act</i> may be for involuntary assessment or treatment including for example under a Treatment Authority, Forensic Order or Treatment Support Order.</p>