



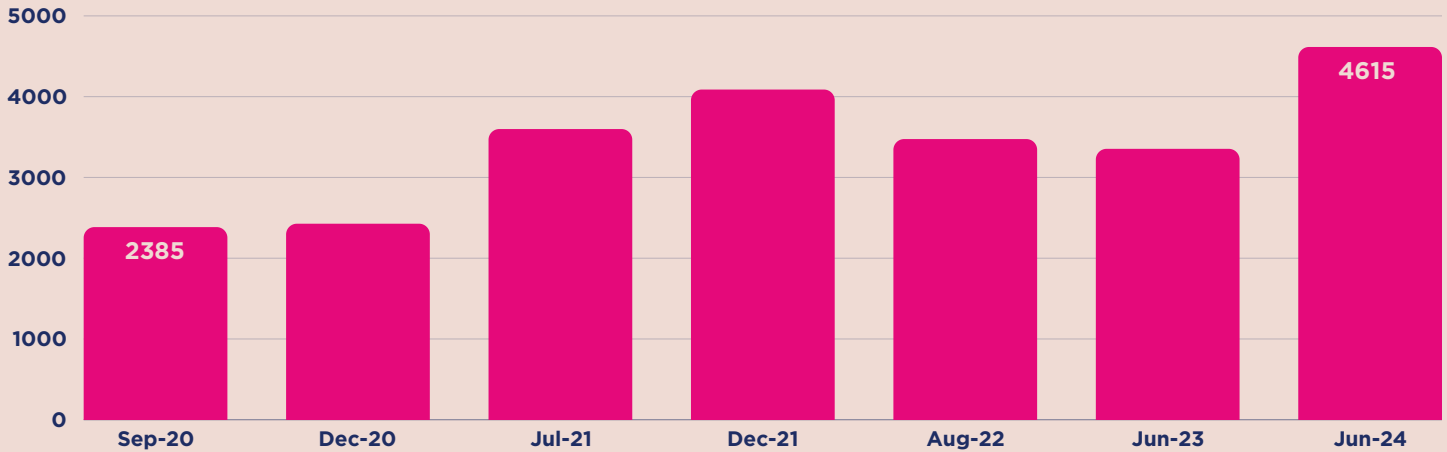
TREATMENT DELAYED IS TREATMENT DENIED

DEMAND FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) TREATMENT HAS REACHED UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS

VAADA's 7th sector demand survey revealed¹ that on any given day, between 14 June and 15 July 2024, 4,615 people were waiting for AOD treatment in Victoria.

Between 2020 and 2024, the number of people on the treatment waitlist increased by 93%

Number of people waiting for treatment in Victoria



Key drivers of surging treatment demand

1

An increase in harmful substance use developed during the pandemic.

2

Limited AOD treatment capacity, with access varying significantly based on geographic location.

3

Persistent sector challenges, such as the instability of the opioid pharmacotherapy system, difficulties in accessing court-ordered treatment and stigma preventing people from seeking help early.

Delays can contribute to an increase in the harms from substance use, including overdose. 2022 represented the highest number of fatal overdoses on record for Victoria.

6.7% of the disease burden in Australia is attributable to alcohol and other drugs (not including tobacco)²

AOD treatment provides a robust \$7 return on investment for each \$1 spent.³

In 2022/23, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed that Victoria experienced the highest treatment demand on record, with 92,888 treatment episodes completed, an increase of 56% from 2013/14.⁴

[1] VAADA has administered 7 surveys since 2020 to Victorian alcohol and other drug treatment agencies to ascertain the number of people waiting for treatment on any given day within a reporting period.

[2] AIHW 2018. Impact of alcohol and illicit drug use on the burden of disease and injury in Australia: Australian Burden of Disease Study 2011.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/burden-of-disease/impact-alcohol-illicit-drug-use-on-burden-disease/summary>

[3] <https://www.turningpoint.org.au/about-us/news/cost-addiction-australia-highlights-urgent-need-investment-drug-reform>

[4] Turning Point 2022. Cost of addiction in Australia highlights urgent need for investment in drug reform.

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