



# The implications of alcohol and drug related burns in a tertiary burns centre.

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## Background

- In Australia alcohol accounts for 3.3% of total disease burden, costing 15.3 billion dollars per year
- Illicit drug use adds a further 1.8 billion dollars.
- 17.4% of Australians consume more than recommended safe daily levels of alcohol
- It is estimated that 2.9 million Australians aged 14+ have tried illicit drugs in the last 12 months

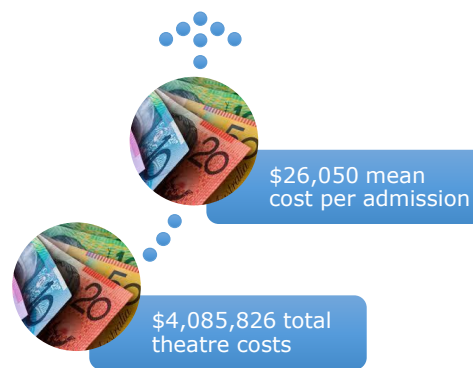
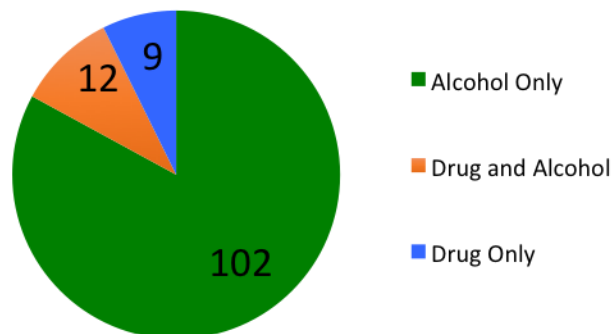
## Methodology

- Data from the WA burns service electronic case note databases was retrospectively collected from 2015-2017
- Data was analysed for clinical data, coding and cost information

## Results

- 123 patients reported consuming alcohol & or drugs prior to sustaining their burn injury
- Mean TBSA of these injuries was 5.2% and mean length of stay (LOS) was 5.8 days – this was higher than the average LOS for this TBSA in our unit
- The average cost per admission was \$26,050
- Theatre costs for these cases totaled \$4,085, 826

Figure 1. Breakdown of alcohol & drug related admissions



## Conclusion

- Alcohol and drug related burns constitute significant morbidity to the patient and substantial financial burden to the public health system
- Alcohol remains the most frequently abused substance precipitating burn injury
- Each admission represents an opportunity to engage with the patient and offer drug and alcohol counselling