

Teenage use of Cannabis Concerns

Use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline.

Cate Kearney, chief executive of ADANZ who provides the Helpline, said of those people calling about problems with cannabis, by far the highest age group was young people between 12 and 18.

“On the other hand, most self-callers calling about P were over 30,” Kearney said.

Many of the young people calling were experiencing family pressure to change while they themselves viewed cannabis use as normal, she said.

“Another interesting statistic is that P is more prevalent in the North Island, while cannabis is more widely used in the South Island,” she said.

Of the 15,180 calls to the Helpline over the 12 months to the end of June, 64% related to problems with consumption of alcohol, 14% were cannabis related and 11% were about ‘P’ (of these only 4% were calls from the person experiencing the problem). These figures were similar to the year before.

Calls to the helpline come from people concerned about their own use of alcohol or other drugs (61%), with the remainder coming from “concerned others” – people close to someone whose alcohol or drug use was worrying them.

There were more self referrals last year than previously, with 39% of callers receiving some sort of intervention and 26% being referred to alcohol and other drug services or support groups.

There were also a number of regional differences in the types of drug use. For example:

- Auckland and the Waikato recorded the highest proportion of calls about P, with almost all those calls coming from a “concerned other” (72%)
- Wellington, Nelson and Canterbury had the highest proportion of calls about cannabis
- Otago, the West Coast and Southland had the highest proportion of calls about alcohol. Of these calls, a high proportion (75% on average) were from people concerned about their own use.


Kearney said the calls also reflected a comparatively low use of cocaine (just 0.5% of calls) in New Zealand, most of them coming from the Auckland area.

More women than men call the helpline (63%), with 44% of them self-identifying.

For further information, please call:

Cate Kearney, Chief Executive ADANZ. Phone (03) 963 6817 or 021 301 566

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West Coast

People living on the West Coast are more likely to have problems with alcohol than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline. Over 80% of Coasters’ calls to the Alcohol Drug Helpline were about alcohol, and 80% of those calls were from people calling about themselves.

Cate Kearney, chief executive of ADANZ who provides the nationwide Helpline, said of the 15,180 calls to the Helpline over the 12 months to the end of June, 64% related to problems with consumption of alcohol, 14% were cannabis related and 11% were about ‘P’ (of these only 4% were calls from the person experiencing the problem). These figures were similar to the year before.

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- Otago, the West Coast and Southland had the highest proportion of calls about alcohol. Of these calls, a high proportion (75% on average) were from people concerned about their own use.

“In Westland and in the rest of New Zealand, the use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs,” Kearney said.

“Of those people calling the Helpline about problems with cannabis, by far the highest age group was young people between 12 and 18. Many of the young people calling were experiencing family pressure to change while they themselves viewed cannabis use as normal,” she said.

“Another interesting statistic is that P is more prevalent in the North Island, especially among people over 30, while cannabis is more widely used in the South Island,” she said.

Kearney said the calls also reflected a comparatively low use of cocaine (just 0.5% of calls) in New Zealand, most of them coming from the Auckland area.

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Otago:

People living in Otago are more likely to have problems with alcohol than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline. Over 70% of Otago calls to the Alcohol Drug Helpline were about alcohol, and 70% of those calls were from people calling about themselves.

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- Wellington, Nelson and Canterbury had the highest proportion of calls about cannabis
- Otago, the West Coast and Southland had the highest proportion of calls about alcohol. Of these calls, a high proportion (75% on average) were from people concerned about their own use.

“In Otago and in the rest of New Zealand, the use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs,” Kearney said.

“Of those people calling the Helpline about problems with cannabis, by far the highest age group was young people between 12 and 18. Many of the young people calling were experiencing family pressure to change while they themselves viewed cannabis use as normal,” she said.

“Another interesting statistic is that P is more prevalent in the North Island, especially among people over 30, while cannabis is more widely used in the South Island,” she said.


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Southland:

People living in Southland are more likely to have problems with alcohol than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline. Over 65% of Coasters’ calls to the Alcohol Drug Helpline were about alcohol, and 75% of those calls were from people calling about themselves.

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- Wellington, Nelson and Canterbury had the highest proportion of calls about cannabis
- Otago, the West Coast and Southland had the highest proportion of calls about alcohol. Of these calls, a high proportion (75% on average) were from people concerned about their own use.

“In Southland and in the rest of New Zealand, the use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs,” Kearney said.

“Of those people calling the Helpline about problems with cannabis, by far the highest age group was young people between 12 and 18. Many of the young people calling were experiencing family pressure to change while they themselves viewed cannabis use as normal,” she said.

“Another interesting statistic is that P is more prevalent in the North Island, especially among people over 30, while cannabis is more widely used in the South Island,” she said.

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Canterbury:

People living in Canterbury are more likely to have problems with cannabis than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline.

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“In Westland and in the rest of New Zealand, the use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs,” Kearney said.

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Northland:

People living in Northland are more likely to have problems with prescription tranquillisers than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country, according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline. About a third of the calls to the helpline in Northland were over benzodiazepines (tranquillisers), with most of those calls (85%) coming from people concerned about their own use.

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Auckland/Waikato:

People living in Auckland and Hamilton are more likely to have problems with methamphetamines (P) than any other drug – far more so than the rest of the country according to statistics collected over the past year at the national Alcohol Drug Helpline. However, by far the greatest proportion of calls is still about alcohol.

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- Otago, the West Coast and Southland had the highest proportion of calls about alcohol. Of these calls, a high proportion (75% on average) were from people concerned about their own use.

“Throughout New Zealand, the use of cannabis is causing more problems with teenagers than other drugs,” Kearney said.

“Of those people calling the Helpline about problems with cannabis, by far the highest age group was young people between 12 and 18. Many of the young people calling were experiencing family pressure to change while they themselves viewed cannabis use as normal,” she said.

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