

Dual Diagnosis



5th NSW Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol
Symposium 2008

Rationale

- Variety of personal and family dislocation
- Abuse
 - Physical, emotional, sexual
- Development of substance / mental health issues
- Comorbidity / Dual Diagnosis

Indigenous Experience

Each Community is unique

- Urban
- Rural
- Remote
- Very Remote
- Access to services
- Services provided
- Distance
- Choice or availability of substances

Definition

Dual Diagnosis

“Dual diagnosis’ or comorbidity is a generic term referring to the co-occurrence of disorders suffered by an individual. Comorbidity of mental disorders and substance use disorders is widespread, particularly among young people.”

Dual diagnosis

Key directions and priorities for service development

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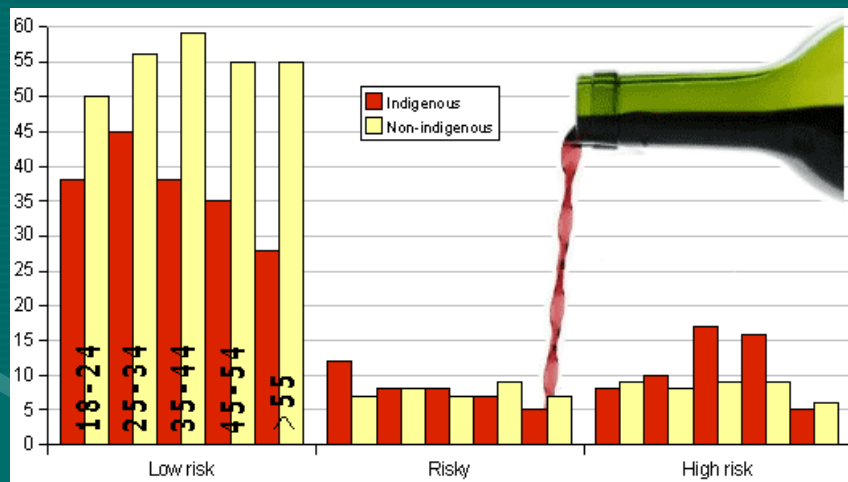
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Definition con't...

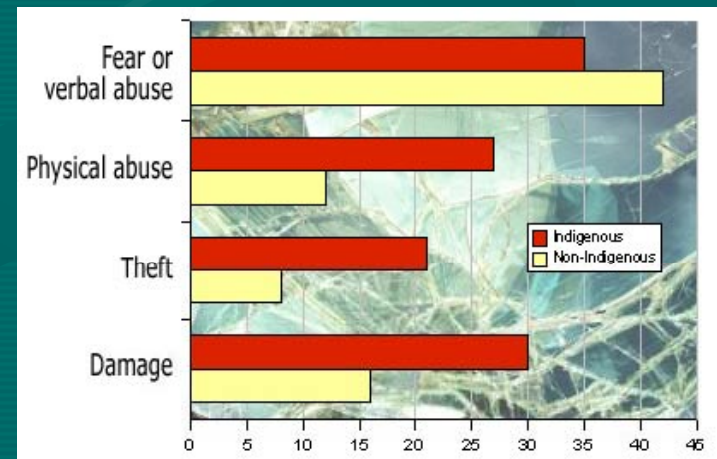
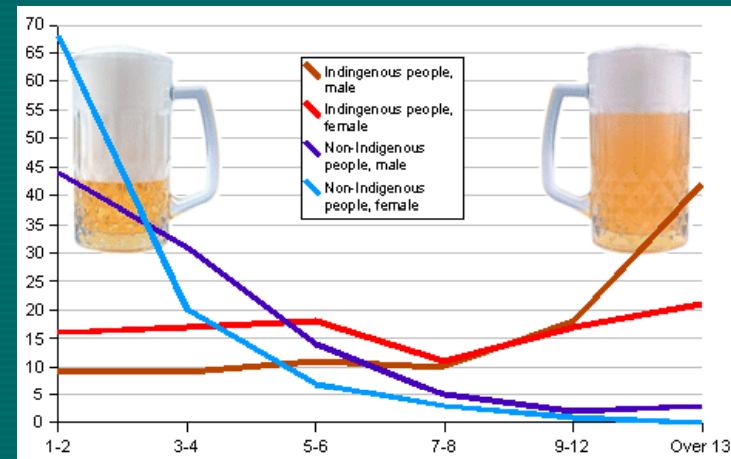
- *Individuals who are drug dependent or using drugs at a level that is harmful to the stability of their mental illness, and whose drug use precipitates relapse of the psychiatric condition, increases the risk of suicide, or complicates management and retards progress.*
- *Those clients (usually drug dependent) who present in a psychotic state subsequent on their drug use, and those clients who have a psychotic illness, are drug dependent, and present at treatment services in a psychotic state or are suicidal.*

Substance Misuse

Alcohol



<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/health/aboriginal-alcohol-consumption.html>



Substance Misuse

Illicit Drugs

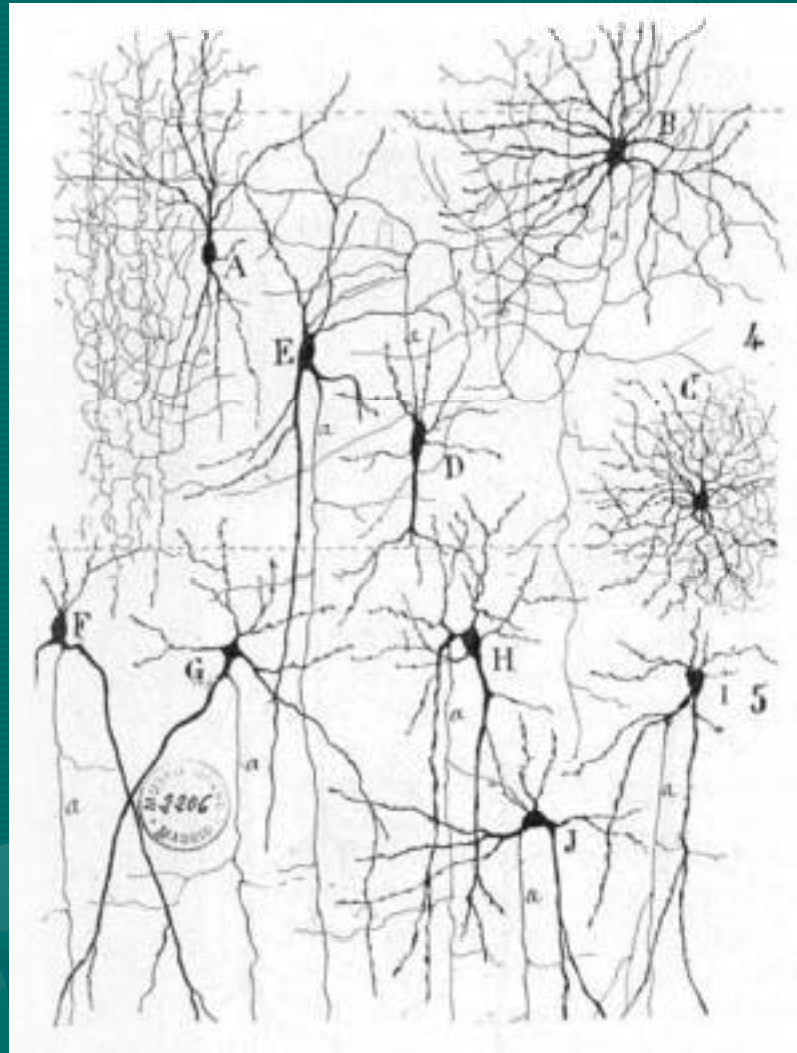
- Substances
 - Cannabis
 - Amphetamines
- Prescription Medications
- Nicotine

Mental Health

- Psychosis
 - Schizophrenia
 - Bi Polar
 - Depression
 - Substance induced psychotic disorder
 - Cannabis use

Criteria for Psychosis

- Confused Thinking
- Hallucinations
- Delusions
 - Paranoid delusions
 - Grandiose delusions
 - Depressive delusions
- Low Motivation
- Changed Emotions



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NEUROTRANSMITTERS

- <http://www.bishopstopford.com/faculties/science/arthur/synapse.swf>
- http://thebrain.mcgill.ca/flash/i/i_03/i_03_m/i_03_m_par/i_03_m_par_cafeine.html#drogues
- <http://www.drkoop.com/animation/93/49.html>

Issues

- Prevalence of dual diagnosis
- Diagnostic difficulties
 - Diagnostic tools?
- Treatment practices
- Current shape of the Substance Misuse and Mental Health workforce



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Prevalence of dual diagnosis

...dual diagnosis is the ‘expectation not the exception’...”

Senate Committee Report, Mental Health, March 2006

**7.11 HOSPITALISATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS FOR MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS^(a), by principal diagnosis
- 2005-06**

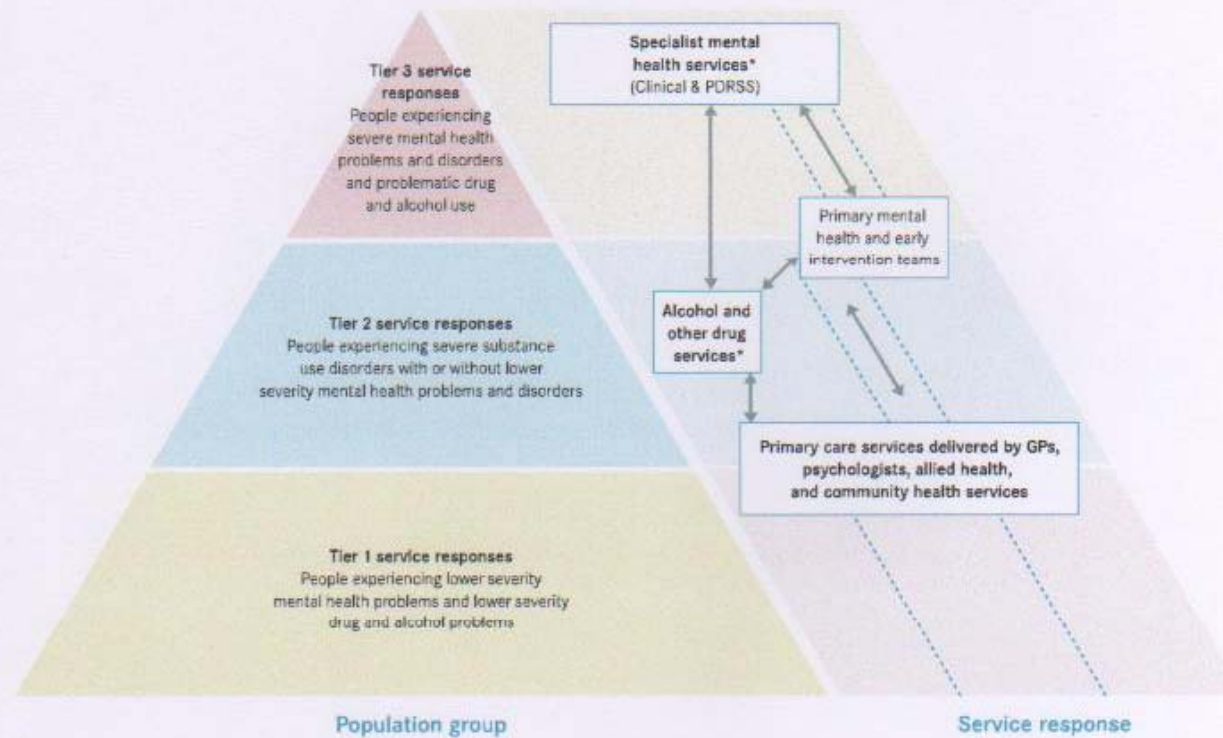
	Males			Females		
	Observed	Expected	Ratio	Observed	Expected	Ratio
MENTAL DISORDERS DUE TO PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE (F10-F19)	2 436	538	4.5	1 331	400	3.3
SCHIZOPHRENIA, SCHIZOTYPAL AND DELUSIONAL DISORDERS (F20-F29)	1 517	558	2.7	1 035	412	2.5
MOOD AND NEUROTIC DISORDERS (F30-F48)	1 111	906	1.2	1 816	1 790	1.0
DISORDERS OF ADULT PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOUR (F60-F69)	93	51	1.8	143	168	0.8
ORGANIC MENTAL DISORDERS (F00-F09)	81	34	2.4	71	30	2.3
OTHER MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS (F50-F59, F70-F99)	266	186	1.4	183	264	0.7
TOTAL (Australian Bureau of Statistics)	5 504	2 273	2.4	4 579	3 064	1.5

Diagnostic Pathways



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Figure 1: A systematic response to dual diagnosis



**The Dual Diagnosis Initiatives support specialist mental health services and alcohol and other drug services across the state.*

Dual diagnosis
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The Current System

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health

Issues

- Current shape of the Indigenous Substance Misuse and Mental Health workforce