

Table 1. Opioid deaths for 2001–2002 compared with usage (prescription volume or DDDs)

Drug	Prescriptions	Primary cause deaths	Primary cause deaths/100,000 prescriptions (95% CI)	Total related deaths	Total related deaths/1,000,000 prescriptions (95% CI)
Dextropropoxyphene/ dextropropoxyphene-paracetamol	630,655	8	1.27 (0.55 to 2.50)	16	2.5 (1.45 to 4.12)
Morphine/heroin	555,371	30	5.40 (3.65 to 7.71)	33	5.94 (4.09 to 8.34)
Methadone	2,308,646	30	1.30 (0.87 to 1.86)	31	1.34 (0.91 to 1.91)
Drug	DDDs	Primary cause deaths	Primary cause deaths/100,000 DDDs (95% CI)	Total related deaths	Total related deaths/1,000,000 units (95% CI)
Dextropropoxyphene/ dextropropoxyphene-paracetamol	11,682,679	8	0.07 (0.03 to 0.14)	16	0.14 (0.08 to 0.22)
Morphine sulphate	3,508,069	30	0.86 (0.58 to 1.22)	33	0.94 (0.65 to 1.32)
Methadone	7,830,402	30	0.38 (0.26 to 0.55)	31	0.40 (0.27 to 0.56)

DDDs=defined daily doses; CI=confidence interval.