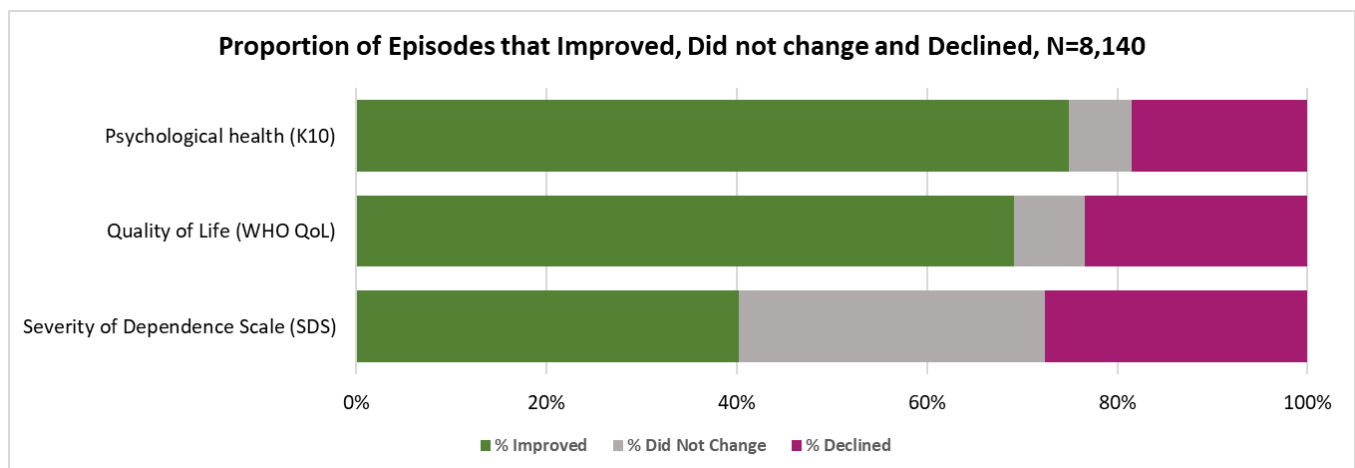


Outcomes achieved by the NSW non-government alcohol and other drugs sector

November 2024

The NSW non-government sector is leading on outcome measurement in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) field ensuring that services support positive outcomes for people who access treatment and are delivering value for money through public funds.

The data provided below shows that the NGO sector demonstrates significant outcomes across a range of outcome domains. In the 2023/24 financial year, over 8,000 who attended NGO treatment services had a 75% improvement in psychological health outcomes, 69% reported an improvement in their quality of life, and 40% of people decreased their severity of dependence – a measure of a person’s thoughts and feelings about their relationship to a substance. Considering the complexity and diversity of people who present to NGO services, these data highlight the significant outcomes of the investment of public funds.



	Improved	Did not change	Declined
Psychological health (K10)	75%	7%	19%
Quality of Life (WHO QoL)	69%	7%	23%
Severity of Dependence Scale (SDS)	40%	32%	28%

*Improved is denoted by one point difference, obtained from the first outcome assessment to the most recent assessment
Source: NADAbase Outcomes Dashboard. Data is closed episodes for all NSW NGOs that submit outcome data into NADAbase for 2023-24.

Through a collaboration with one of our university partners, the University of Wollongong, the NGO sector has also published data in peer-reviewed publications on the outcomes achieved, demonstrating the quality of services and the contribution to the academic literature. ^{1 2 3}

About NADAbase: [NADAbase](#) is an online, real-time database that collects information on each episode of care when a client engages with an AOD service provider.

¹ Kelly, P. J., Robinson, L. D., Baker, A. L., Deane, F. P., Osborne, B., Hudson, S., & Hides, L. (2018). Quality of life of individuals seeking treatment at specialist non-government alcohol and other drug treatment services: A latent class analysis. *J Subst Abuse Treat*, 94, 47-54. doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2018.08.007

² Wells M, Kelly PJ, Mullaney L, Lee ML, Stirling R, Etter S, Laranca B. (2024) Predictors of alcohol and other drug treatment completion among young people accessing residential and community-based treatment: A retrospective analysis of routinely collected service data. *Addiction*. 119(10): 1813-1825. doi.org/10.1111/add.16602

³ Rodriguez, A. S., Robinson, L. D., Kelly, P. J., & Hudson, S. (2021) Polysubstance use classes and health outcomes among women attending specialist substance use treatment services. *Drug Alcohol Rev.*, 41: 488-500. doi.org/10.1111/dar.13375