



Prevention and Management of Drug Use in Prisons

Victorian Auditor-General's Report
Tabled 16 October 2013



The Victorian Auditor-General's Office

- **Purpose** – assurance to Parliament on the accountability and performance of the Victorian public sector.
- **Legislation** – *Audit Act 1994* defines powers and responsibilities of the Auditor-General and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
- **Mandate** – financial and performance audits of around 550 entities.

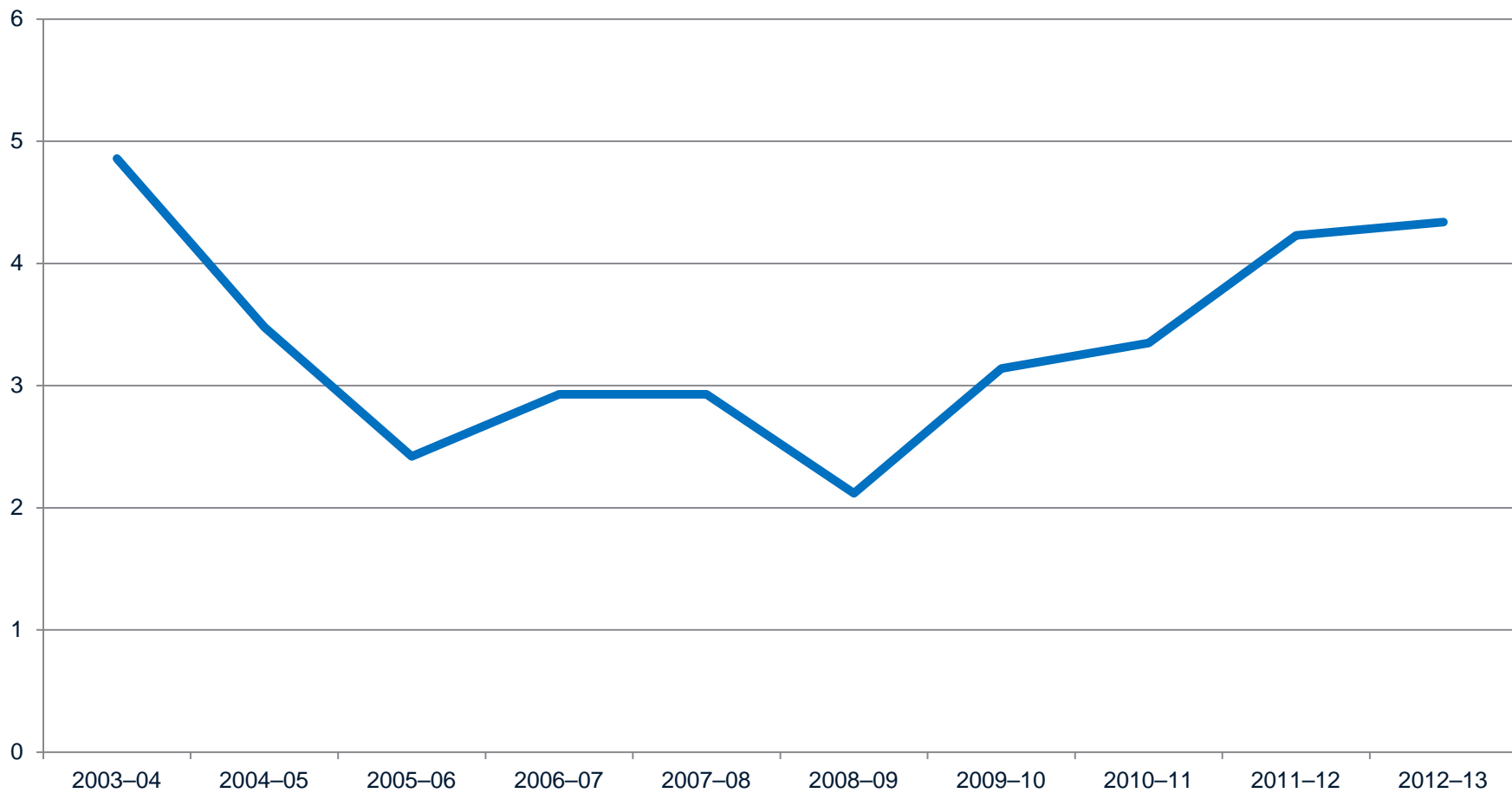
Background to the audit

- High correlation between:
 - excessive alcohol and illicit drug use
 - criminal activity and reoffending.
- Untreated or undiagnosed drug problems can lead to demand for drugs in prison.
- Drug use in prisons associated with:
 - increased violence
 - occupational health and safety risks
 - corruption.
- Prisoners have poorer physical health, with drug use being a primary contributor.



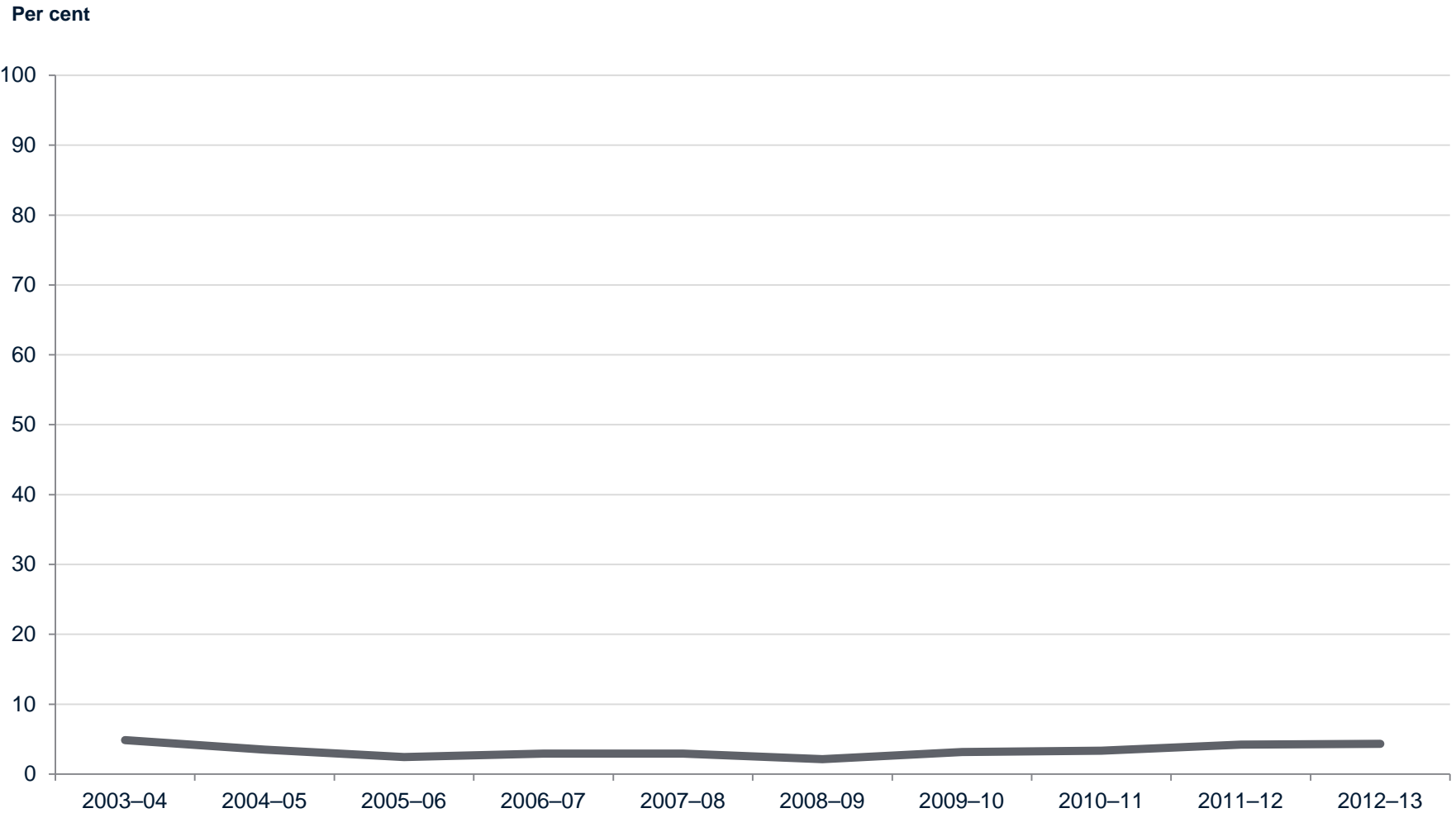
Amount of drug use in prisons

Per cent



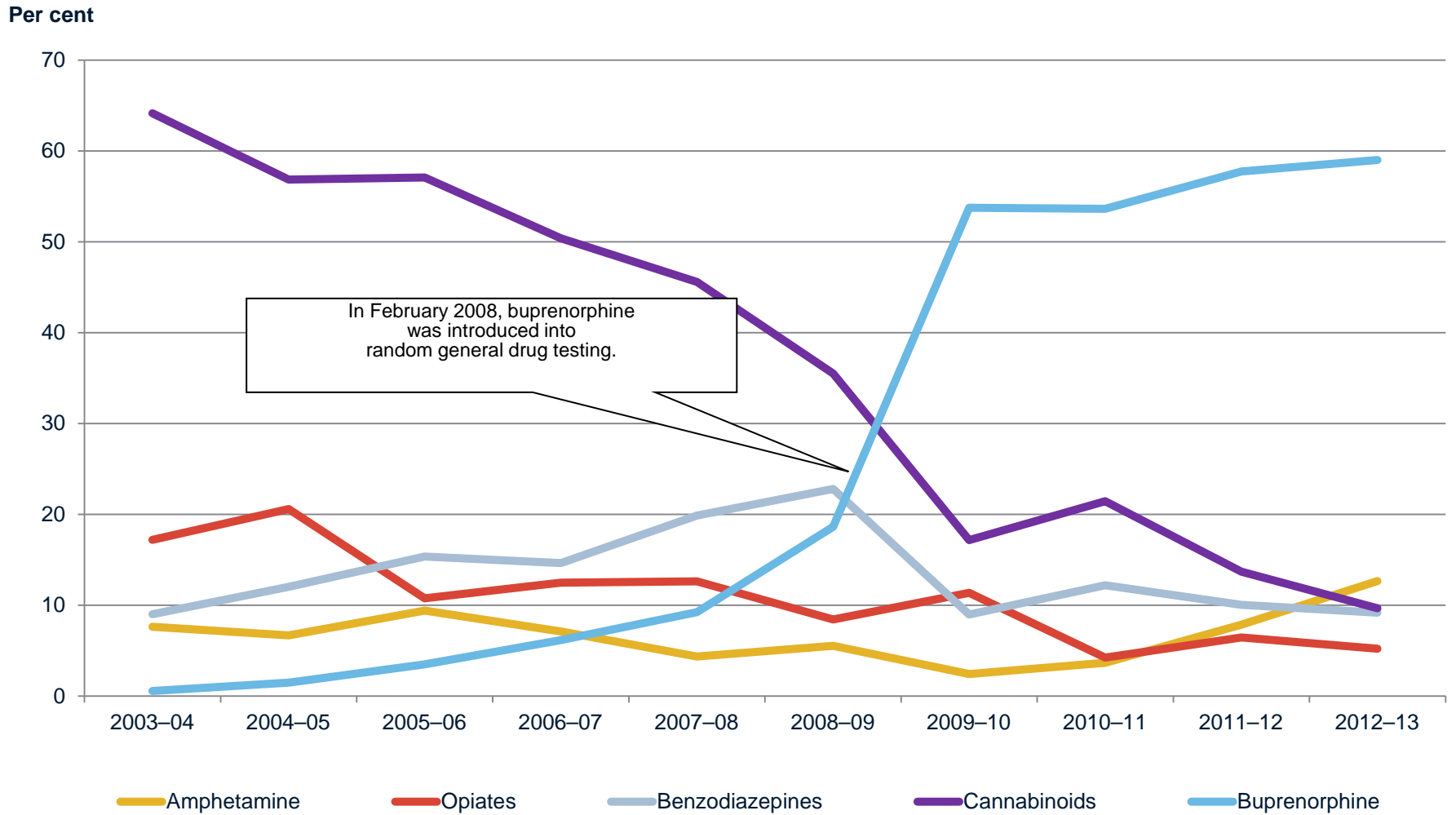


Amount of drug use in prisons





Type of drug use in prisons





Audit objective and scope

Audit objective:

To assess how effectively and efficiently the Department of Justice (DOJ) has prevented the supply of, demand for and harm caused by drugs in prisons.

Audit scope:

- Corrections Victoria and Justice Health
- Statewide data for all prisons

Audit objective and scope – *continued*

Three prisons examined in detail:

- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (women's maximum security)



- Dhurringile Prison (men's low security)



- Marngoneet Correctional Centre (men's medium security)



Conclusions

- Less than 5% testing positive to drug use over 10 years
- High number of prisoners with drug problems
- Indicative of effective drug controls
- Prisoners with ongoing drug problems are managed to address drug-using behaviours.
- Weaknesses in performance reporting and evaluation means DOJ cannot determine whether:
 - drug management initiatives are effective or efficient
 - prevention and detection controls are as effective and efficient as they could be.



Findings – Effectiveness of drug controls

10

pages
10–13

- No assessment of performance against drug supply, control, detection and deterrence objectives.
- Inadequate processes to identify prison-specific drug-related risks.
- Inability to demonstrate whether prison system is balanced between prisoner welfare and drug controls.
- Random general urinalysis acts as a proxy performance measure.

Findings – Drug prevention and detection controls

- Comprehensive procedures guide prison staff on drug prevention and detection.
- Controls are used to prevent drugs entering prisons:
 - prison visitor procedures
 - detection equipment
 - searches.
- Controls are used to detect drugs in prisons:
 - searches and inspections
 - urinalysis
 - drug diversion prevention.

Findings – Identifying and treating drug users

- Prisoners receive health assessments to identify drug use problems.
- Drug treatment programs are available to address drug use and related health issues:
 - Identified Drug User and Drug Free Incentive Program
 - Alcohol and Other Drug treatment programs
 - Opioid Substitution Therapy Program
 - Hepatitis C treatment.
- Effectiveness of the these programs is uncertain.



Recommendations

	Accept
That the Department of Justice:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">establish robust performance reporting frameworks to assess the effectiveness of its barrier control and drug detection initiatives	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">develop and document risk management practices across all its public prisons to identify and manage prison-specific strategic risks	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">develop and document a framework to guide it in determining the balance between drug prevention and detection controls, and prisoner management needs	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">review and update the random general urinalysis benchmarks in light of prison-specific risks and 'balancing' framework	✓

Recommendations – *continued*

	Accept
That the Department of Justice:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">establish robust performance reporting frameworks to assess the effectiveness of its drug treatment and management programs	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">evaluate the effectiveness of all alcohol and other drug programs including the Identified Drug User program, Drug Free Incentive Program, the Opioid Substitution Therapy Program and alcohol and other drug treatment programs.	✓



Contact details

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