

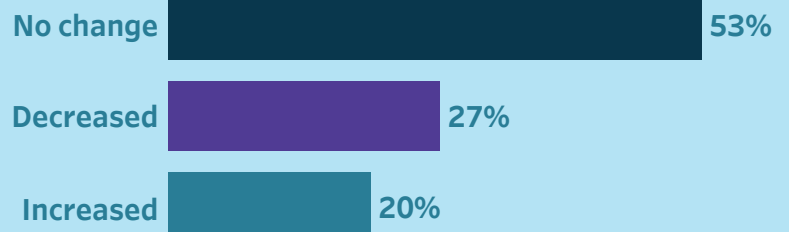


# Alcohol and other drug use during COVID-19

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Data sources on this factsheet are **not directly comparable** and care should be taken when interpreting data.

In May 2020, **20%** of ANUPoll respondents reported having **increased their alcohol consumption** since the spread of COVID-19. [1]



**1.2%** of respondents in the January 2021 ABS Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey reported **quitting or reducing smoking to manage their physical health**. [2]

In April 2022, **national wastewater** analysis indicated that **most drug markets** are **returning to pre-COVID-19 settings**. [3]

Observed changes nationally in Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services:

- **Decreases in rehabilitation** treatment episodes in **April to June 2022** due to public health restrictions reducing availability of treatment places.
- **Increases in counselling** episodes between **April and December 2020**, followed by **declines to June 2022**. [4]



Between **2019–20** and **2020–21**, national wastewater data analysis indicated estimated **methylamphetamine consumption fell by 53%**. [3]





# Alcohol and other drug use during COVID-19

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

## References

1. Biddle N, Edwards B, Gray M & Sollis K (2020). Alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 period: May 2020. ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods: Canberra. Viewed 10 June 2020.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey, January 2021, accessed 27 July 2022.
3. Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) 2022. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 17, Canberra: ACIC, accessed 7 November 2022.
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2023. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report 2021–22. Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 21 June 2023.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).

