



Younger people

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

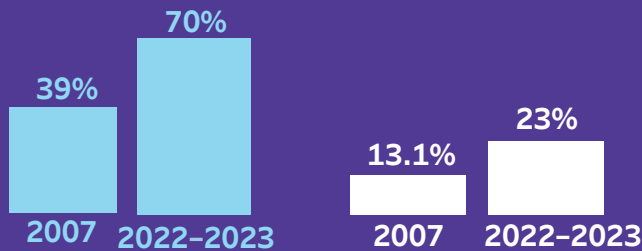
In 2018, **alcohol and illicit drug** use were the **leading causes of total burden of disease** in males aged 15–24 and the second and third leading causes (respectively) for females. [1]



Tobacco smoking and the use of **alcohol** are **declining** among young people, however the **consumption of alcohol at risky levels remained high** in 2022–2023.[2]



An increasing proportion of people aged **14–17** and **18–24** are reporting alcohol abstinence.[2]



In 2022–23, **1 in 10** clients who sought treatment for their own use of alcohol and other drugs were **aged 10–19**, and **1 in 4** were **aged 20–29**. [4]

Risky drinkers aged 14–19 in the last 12 months in 2016–17:

- **83% injured** as a result of their drinking,
- **7%** attended the emergency department for an **alcohol related injury**. [3]

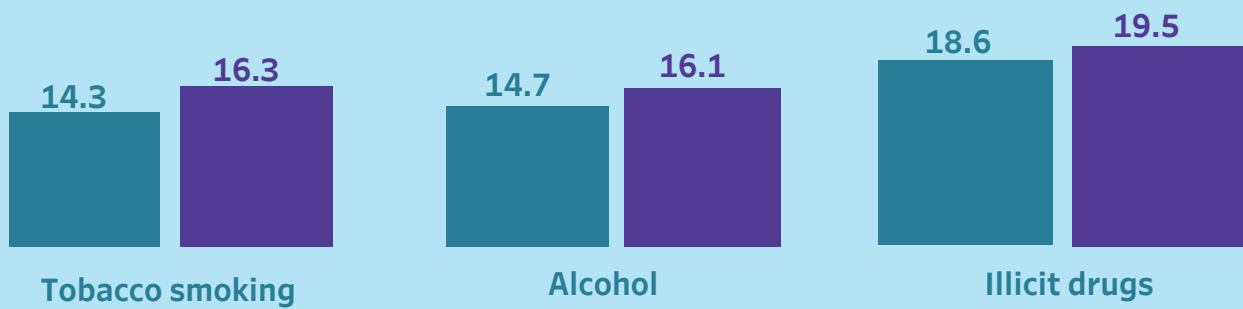




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Age of initiation of drug use among people aged 14–24 increased between **2001** and **2022–2023**.^[2]





Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



Younger people: (12–17 year olds)

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Among students aged 12–17, **cannabis** was the **most commonly used** illicit substance in 2022–2023.^[5]



13.5% of secondary school students reported they had ever **tried at least part of a cigarette** in 2022–2023, down from **17.5%** in 2017.^[6]

In 2022–2023, **44%** of secondary students aged 12–17 **drank alcohol in the past year**.^[5]



98% of people aged 14–17 had **never smoked** in 2022–2023.^[2]



2.1% of secondary school students aged 12–17 in 2022–2023 smoked cigarettes in the past week, down from 4.9% in 2017.^[6]

In 2022–2023, **50%** of current secondary school smokers sourced their last cigarette **from a friend**.^[6]



Among secondary school students aged 12–17 years, **30% had ever vaped** in 2022–2023.^[6]



In 2022–2023, **69%** of secondary school students who had **tried vaping** reported that they had **never smoked a cigarette** before their first vape.^[6]

In 2022–2023, **52%** of secondary school students aged 12–17 who had ever smoked had used **roll your own** tobacco.^[6]



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Younger people: (12–17 year olds)

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3.4% of secondary school students aged 12–17 in 2022–2023 had **smoked in the last month**, down from 7.5% in 2017.^[6]

In 2022–2023, **47%** of students who were current drinkers **obtained their last alcoholic drink from their parents**.^[5]





Younger people (18–24 year olds)

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In 2022–2023, **21%** of young adults aged 18–24 drank more than 4 standard drinks in a single day weekly (but not daily). [2]



In 2022–2023, **14.8%** of young adults aged 18–24 consumed **11 or more standard drinks** in a single day at least monthly. [2]



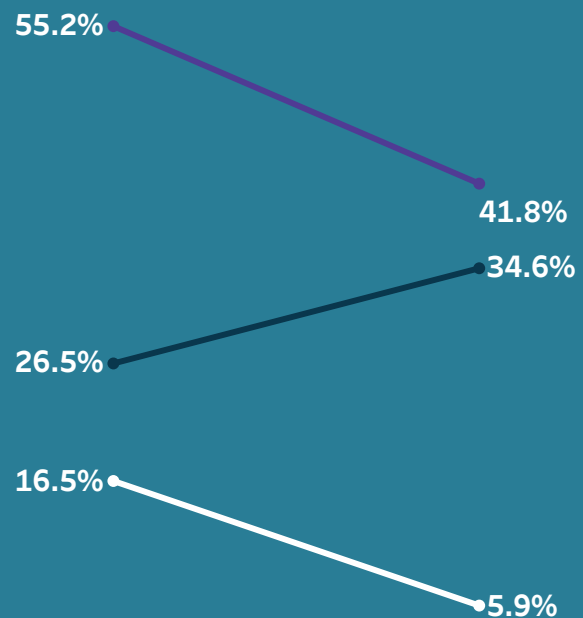
Average number of **cigarettes smoked per day** for 18–24 year olds:

11.1 in 2001,

7.0 in 2022–2023. [2]



Between 2007 and 2022–2023, **daily smoking** and **risky drinking decreased** for young adults aged 18–24, while recent use of **illicit drugs increased**. [2]



■ Daily Smoking
■ Illicit drugs
■ Risky drinking

In 2022–2023, 18–24 year olds were the **most likely age group** to have used **illicit drugs** in the last 12 months (35%). [2]

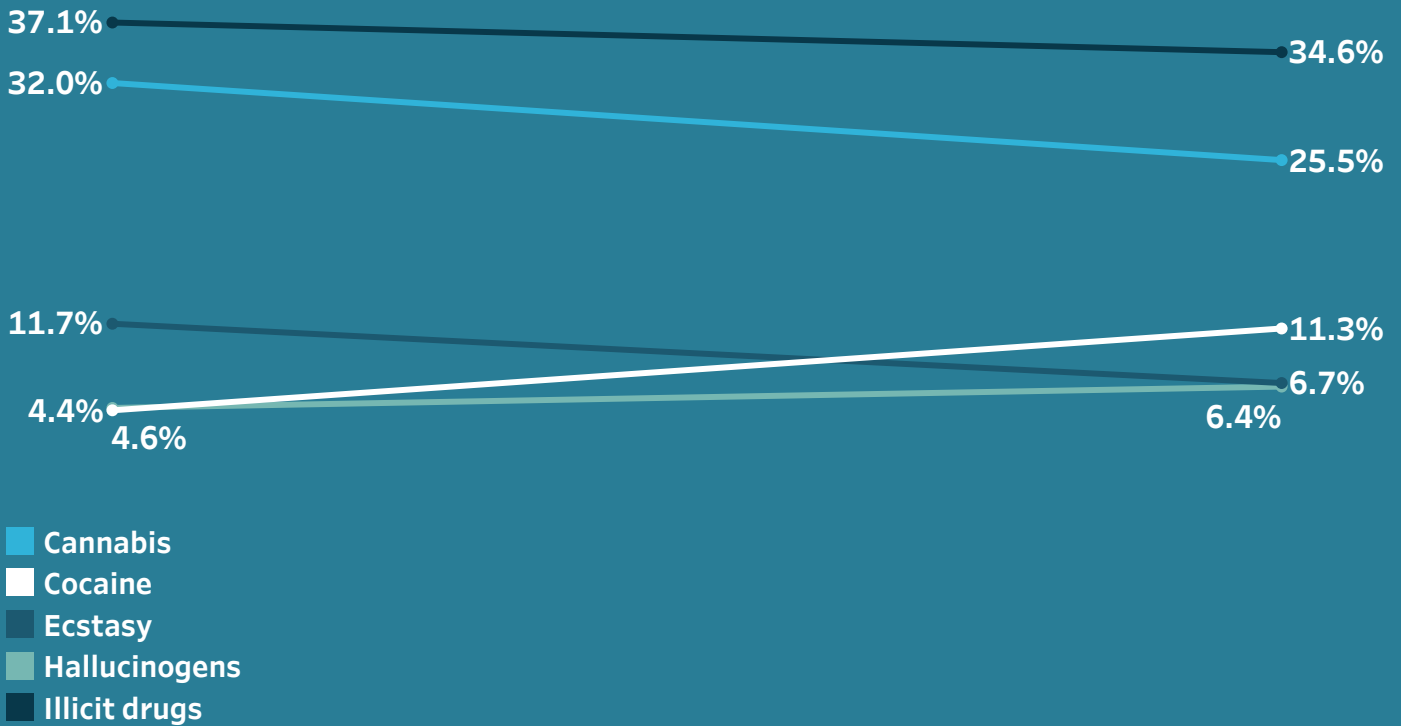




Younger people (18–24 year olds)

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18–24 year olds **drug use** in the last 12 months between 2001 and 2022–2023: [2]





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National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. New Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol were released in December 2020. Data for alcohol risk in this fact sheet are measured against the 2009 guidelines, reflecting the time period in which the data were collected.[2]

References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021) Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2018, AIHW, Australian Government. doi:10.25816/5ps1-j259
2. AIHW 2024. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022–2023, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 02 April 2024.
3. Lam T, Lenton S, Chikritzhs T, Gilmore W, Liang W, Pandzic et al. 2017. Young Australians' Alcohol Reporting System (YAARS): National Report 2016/17. National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.
4. AIHW 2023. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report 2021–22. Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 21 June 2023.
5. Scully M, Koh I, Bain E, Wakefield M & Durkin S 2023. ASSAD 2022/2023: Australian secondary school students' use of alcohol and other substances. Cancer Council Victoria. Accessed 22 February 2024.
6. Scully M, Bain E, Koh I, Wakefield M & Durkin S 2023. ASSAD 2022/2023: Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco and e-cigarettes. Cancer Council Victoria. Accessed 22 February 2024.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

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

