This report looks at the trends in alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm, alcohol beverage of choice, and under-age drinking. The report is based on the three most recent National Drug Strategy Household Surveys; namely 2001, 2004 and 2007.

Alcohol consumption

- The trends in recent alcohol consumption have remained fairly similar over the years: around 83% of all Australians aged 14 years or over were recent alcohol drinkers.
- Proportionately more drinkers were found among the employed, people from socioeconomically advantaged areas, and people from Remote and Very remote areas.

Youth alcohol consumption (aged 14–17 years)

- Alcohol consumption by young people has slightly declined from 66% in 2001 to 62% in 2007.
- More than seven in ten young people sourced their alcohol from friends or parents, and nine in ten young drinkers report that it is very easy or fairly easy to obtain alcohol.

Type of alcohol consumed

- The most preferred alcoholic beverage among male drinkers was regular-strength beer, and among females it was bottled wine.
- In 2007, on a typical day, Australians aged 14 years or over consumed 28 million standard drinks. The two beverages consumed most in terms of standard drinks were bottled wine (29%) and regular-strength beer (28%).

Figure 5.1: Recent drinkers and never drinkers, population aged 14–17 years, by sex, 2001, 2004 and 2007