

# **2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey**

**Detailed findings**

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# **2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey**

**Detailed findings**

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# Preface

This report contains information from the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. It supplements data published earlier this year in the report entitled *2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results*. The purpose of this report is to extend that analysis with detailed prevalence of drug use, drug-related behaviours and incidents, and support for drug-related policy and legislation. The report expands the analysis of the 2001 report, in particular by analysis of the data for 12- and 13-year-olds arising from their inclusion in the 2004 survey for the first time. New mental and physical health analysis is also reported. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) undertook the survey on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Custody of the survey data set rests with the AIHW and is protected by the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*. Access to a public-use data set is available through the Australian Social Science Data Archive at the Australian National University, with access to the complete data set possible following consideration of research proposals by the AIHW Ethics Committee.

# Acknowledgments

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Additional funds were provided by the Queensland Health Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Service Unit to increase the sample of young people in Queensland.

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# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CATI	Computer-assisted telephone interview
CURF	Confidentialised unit record file
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
NCADA	National Campaign Against Drug Abuse
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Survey
RSE	Relative standard error
SE	Standard error

# Symbols

–	Zero or rounded to zero
..	Not applicable – no valid entry
[NS]	Difference between results not statistically significant
*	Relative standard error greater than 50%



# Summary

This report of the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, *Detailed Findings*, describes the use of licit and illicit drugs and the perceptions and attitudes associated with them.

Throughout this report the focus and results reported are – as they were for earlier surveys – on Australians aged 14 years and older. The main exception to this is the chapter on youth, which gives additional details for 12–13-year-olds, who were first included in the survey in 2004. In this Summary the results given are for Australians aged 14 years and older, unless indicated otherwise.

## Drug use opinions

- Two in five Australians considered heroin to be the drug most associated with ‘a drug problem’ (males: 39.7%, females: 39.1%).
- Three in ten of Australians (males: 28.0%, females: 33.8%) thought excessive alcohol drinking was the most serious problem for the general community.
- Marijuana/cannabis had the highest personal approval of all illicit drugs (males: 27.4%, females: 19.0%), followed by pharmaceuticals (pain killers/analgesics, tranquillisers, steroids and barbiturates) for non-medical purposes (males: 11.6%, females: 8.3%).

## Availability

- The drugs most available to Australians were alcohol (nine in ten, 90.3%) and tobacco (one in two, 52.8%).
- The illicit drugs most available to Australians were pharmaceuticals (used for non-medical purposes) (two in five, 42.8%) and marijuana/cannabis (one in five, 20.6%).

## Tobacco

- Of the 3.4 million smokers, 84% smoked daily, averaging 14 cigarettes (or equivalent tobacco) per day.
- Of females aged 14–19 years, one in eight (11.9%) smoked daily; one in eleven (9.5%) males aged 14–19 years smoked daily.
- The QUIT line was a factor which motivated change to smoking behaviour for only one person in thirty (3.0%). The greatest motivation was smoking’s effect on health and fitness, nominated by one in two (51.1%) smokers.

## Alcohol

- One in eleven (8.9%) Australians drank daily, a further five in eleven (41.2%) drank weekly and two in eleven (16.4%) did not drink at the time of the survey.

- One in five (20.7%) Australians drank, once or more a month, at levels that put them at high risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term.
- One in ten (9.9%) drank at levels that put them at high risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term. One in twelve (8.3%) drank at levels that put them at high risk of both short- and long-term harm
- One in four (22.7%) Indigenous people drank at levels that put them at high risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term; two in five (38.7%) drank at levels that put them at high risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term

## **Illicit (use of) drugs**

- One in seven (15.3%) Australians aged 14 years and older had used an illicit drug in the last 12 months. One in nine (11.3%) had used marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months.
- Three in five (61.9%) Australians had never used an illicit drug; this increased to four in five (81.4%) when marijuana/cannabis was excluded.
- Three in four (75.6%) of those who had never used an illicit drug gave 'just not interested' as their reason for not doing so; one in two (54.6%) gave reasons relating to health and/or addiction.
- One in nine (11.3%) Australians had used marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months; one in six (16.4%) of them used it every day.
- Of Australians aged 14 years and older, 0.6 million (3.8%) had used pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes. About three-quarters of that use was accounted for by the use of pain-killers/analgesics.
- Three in a thousand (0.3%) Australians used heroin, methadone (not for maintenance) or other opioids (opiates) in the last 12 months. Of those users, one in two (45.0%) used one of these opioids daily or weekly.
- Ecstasy was used in the last 12 months by three in a hundred (3.4%) Australians. Of these users, three in five (63.3%) had, most commonly, used it at raves/dance parties.
- Alcohol was the drug most commonly used concurrently with every illicit drug.

## **Drug-related abuse and potential harm**

- Three in ten (28.8%) Australians had been verbally or physically abused or put in fear by someone affected by alcohol.
- One in eight (12.9%) Australians had been verbally or physically abused or put in fear by someone affected by illicit drugs.
- One in two (46.8%) women and one in twelve (8.1%) men, who had been physically abused, knew the person who abused them.
- The most common places that drug-related physical abuse took place were in a pub or club (men) and in the home (women).

## Drug-related policy

- Nine in ten (92.0%) Australians supported stricter enforcement of laws against supplying tobacco to minors.
- Almost nine in ten (85.9%) Australians supported more severe penalties for drink driving and eight in ten (83.8%) supported stricter laws against serving drunk customers.
- Those who had used heroin in their lifetime were more likely than those who had not to support policies aimed at reducing heroin-related problems.
- Asked to allocate a nominal 'drug' budget between education, treatment and law enforcement for each of five drugs, the allocation to education was around two fifths for alcohol (40.8%), tobacco (45.6%) and marijuana/cannabis (41.7%) but closer to a third for meth/amphetamines (speed) (34.1%) and heroin or cocaine (31.4%). Recent users of each drug favoured education more than did those who had never used that drug.

## Legislation

- One in four (27.0%) Australians supported the legalisation of marijuana/cannabis.
- No more than one in twenty supported the legalisation of heroin (5.0%), meth/amphetamines (speed) (4.7%) or cocaine (4.7%).
- Two in five (males: 36.3%, females: 40.3%) supported the possession of marijuana/cannabis being a criminal offence.

## Drugs and health

- Of tobacco smokers, one in thirteen (7.8%) rated their health excellent whereas one in six (17.0%) non-smokers did so.
- One in two (50.3%) Australians who had used heroin in the last month were diagnosed or treated for mental illness in the last 12 months compared with only one in eleven (9.1%) of those who had not used heroin in the last 12 months.
- One in three (32.7%) Australians aged 18 years and older who had used heroin in the last month experienced very high levels of psychological distress compared with only two in a hundred (2.2%) of those who had not used heroin in the last 12 months.
- One in fifteen (6.5%) non-smokers lived in households where someone smoked daily.

## Young people

- Of Australians aged 12–15 years, two in a hundred (2.3%) smoked tobacco daily (males: 2.0%, females: 2.6%). For those aged 16–17 years, this difference between males and females had widened: one in thirteen (7.5%) males smoked daily and one in seven (14.5%) females smoked daily.
- Between the ages of 12–13 years and 18–19 years there was a tenfold increase in daily or weekly alcohol consumption.

- For most illicit drug types, a lower proportion of 12–15-year-olds had used in the last 12 months than of any other age group, the main exception being inhalants (1.1%).
- Two in three (68.8%) smokers and three in four ex-smokers aged 12–15 obtained their first cigarette from a friend or acquaintance.
- ‘Friends or acquaintances’ and ‘theft’ were each a more likely source of first supply for 12–17-year-olds than they were for those aged 18 years and older.

# 1 Introduction

## The National Drug Strategy

The National Drug Strategy (NDS), formerly the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), was created in 1985 with strong bipartisan political support to confront the impact licit and illicit drugs have on Australian society. The aims of the NDS are to prevent and reduce the uptake of harmful drug use and minimise the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs in Australia.

The NDS is the responsibility of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS). The MCDS is a national ministerial-level forum responsible for developing policies and programs to reduce the harm caused by drugs to individuals, families and communities in Australia. The MCDS is the peak policy- and decision-making body on licit and illicit drugs in Australia. It brings together the Australian Government, state and territory ministers responsible for health and law enforcement, and the Australian Government minister responsible for education. The MCDS is responsible for ensuring that Australia has a nationally coordinated and integrated approach to reducing the substantial harm associated with drug use.

## About the 2004 survey

The 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was built on the design of the 2001 survey, making it the most comprehensive survey concerning licit and illicit drug use ever undertaken in Australia. Almost 30,000 people aged 12 years and older provided information on their drug use patterns, attitudes and behaviours. The sample was based on households, so homeless and institutionalised people were not included in the survey (consistent with the approach in previous years).

The survey was the eighth conducted under the auspices of the NDS. Previous surveys were conducted in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2001. The data collected from these surveys have contributed to the development of policies for Australia's response to drug-related issues.

## Comparison with previous surveys

The methodology of the 2004 survey differed slightly from that of previous surveys.

The 2004 survey used the drop-and-collect method and the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) method to collect information from respondents. The 2004 sample (29,445) included almost 2,000 more respondents than the 2001 sample, was almost three times larger than the 1998 sample (10,030) and around eight times larger than the 1995 and 1993 samples (3,850 and 3,500 respectively). Owing to the greater sample size, the 2004 estimates should be the most reliable.

For the first time, the 2004 survey included 12- and 13-year-olds. They were asked the same questions as older respondents with some few exceptions – those covering drugs and issues not considered likely to affect the analysis of the results.

Questions relating to attitudes regarding giving up smoking, and to alcohol literacy, were included in 2004. Questions relating to use of ketamine and GHB were also included for the first time as were physical and mental health measures. There was a minor change in the wording of questions used to determine use of amphetamine-type stimulants including methamphetamine and ecstasy.

## About this report

The report presents estimates derived from survey responses, weighted to the Australian population aged 12 years and older or 14 years and older as specified. Not all questions were asked of all respondents (12- and 13-year-olds, as noted above, and CATI respondents) and the age of the population of interest varies from table to table.

In the manner of the 2001 report, after three introductory chapters (this chapter, Chapter 2 'Perceptions and acceptability of drug use' and Chapter 3 'Access to drugs'), the next thirteen chapters cover a different drug or type of drug or drug use. After these are chapters on drug-related abuse, policy and legislation. Finally, the report includes chapters on drugs and health and drugs and young people, both expanded to cover questions asked for the first time in 2004 and of 12- and 13-year-olds.

Where the context permits, the results are for those aged 14 years and older.

Totals and calculated results in this report are based on unrounded data – adding and/or multiplying rounded results may not replicate the reported derived amounts.

Population reference values are provided at Appendix 3.

## Alcohol risk

Central to much of the analysis of alcohol consumption in this report is the concept of risk. The model used is that outlined in the *Australian Alcohol Guidelines* (National Health and Medical Research Council, Canberra, 2001), for short-term and long-term risk of alcohol-related harm. In summary:

- Short-term risk of harm (particularly injury or death) is associated with given levels of drinking on a single day.
- Long-term risk of harm is associated with regular daily patterns of drinking.
- For short-term risk, for adult males the consumption of up to 6 standard drinks on a single day/occasion is considered 'Low risk', 7 to 10 per day 'Risky', and 11 or more per day 'High risk'.
- For short-term risk, for adult females the consumption of up to 4 standard drinks on a single day/occasion is considered 'Low risk', 5 to 6 per day 'Risky', and 7 or more per day 'High risk'.
- For long-term risk, for adult males the consumption of up to 28 standard drinks per week is considered 'Low risk', 29 to 42 per week 'Risky', and 43 or more per week 'High risk'.
- For long-term risk, for adult females the consumption of up to 14 standard drinks per week is considered 'Low risk', 15 to 28 per week 'Risky', and 29 or more per week 'High risk'.

In this report, unless otherwise noted, we have used a monthly measure of short-term risk – that is, occurring once or more a month.

## **Licit drugs—illicit use**

In the 2004 NDSHS survey, as in the past, respondents were asked about their use of certain drugs – pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates (termed ‘pharmaceuticals’) and meth/amphetamines (speed) and other opioids such as morphine or pethidine. These drugs have legitimate medical uses but the survey’s and report’s focus is on their use for non-medical purposes.

Nevertheless, for some questions in the survey, the distinction between licit and illicit use was not made. For instance, where users of a particular drug are asked about other substances used with or as a substitute for that drug, pharmaceuticals and other opioids are referred to without reference to their medical status.

Likewise, methadone is used in maintenance programs. The survey’s and report’s focus is on its not-for-maintenance use, but, as above, this distinction is not made in some cases.

Note that where each of these licit/illicit drugs is central to the analysis, it is their illicit use (either non-medical or not for maintenance) that is analysed.

## **Reliability of results**

Prevalence figures and population estimates are provided for information, regardless of their levels of statistical reliability. When interpreting results, readers should refer to the table of standard errors and relative standard errors (Appendix 4). Results that are statistically indistinguishable from zero or one (based on a two-tailed test at 95% significance) are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Further, where results compared in the text are not statistically different from one another, the comparison has been marked [NS] (again at a 95% significance).

The results of the 2004 NDSHS were potentially affected by systematic and random error. To the extent that it was recognised and could be eliminated, systematic error was removed by weighting the responses, edit checking of the data and data verification. Random error on the other hand (such as misstatements by respondents, whether or not intentional) could not be removed. In particular, the survey used terminology that may have been unfamiliar to respondents, even though every effort was made to explain/describe all terms.

Further, although most of the drug terms would have been relatively familiar to most respondents, it is likely that in some cases answers were given to the ‘wrong drug’. This would certainly be the case where a respondent was unable to identify the drug used, for example, if the respondent were deceived by a drug supplier. Ecstasy and related drugs are particularly susceptible to this misapprehension.

In summary, caution should be used when interpreting the reported findings as they are based on self-reported data and not empirical testing of the substance(s) used.

## **Precision**

Throughout the report, proportions are shown as percentages rounded to 1 decimal place and population estimates are shown to the nearest 100. Totals and further calculated results, in the text and the tables, are derived from the underlying, unrounded, data and not from the less precise tabular data.

## **2 Perceptions and acceptability of drug use**

The 2004 NDSHS explored the opinions and perceptions of Australians aged 14 years and older on a variety of drug-related issues, including personal approval of drug use, the impact of drugs on the general community and on mortality, and their perceptions of health risk from alcohol and tobacco consumption.

### **Drugs perceived to be associated with a ‘drug problem’**

In the 2004 survey, respondents were asked to name the first two drugs they thought of when talking of a ‘drug problem’. Heroin was the drug most associated with a ‘drug problem’, nominated first by two in five Australians aged 14 years and older (males: 39.7%, females: 39.1%) (Table 2.1).

For those aged 14–19, heroin was supplanted by marijuana/cannabis, associated first with a drug problem by 45.3% of males and 42.3% of females.

### **Form of drug use perceived to be of most serious concern for the general community**

Respondents were asked to nominate one form of drug use they considered to be of most serious concern for the general community.

In 2004, three in ten (males: 28.0%, females: 33.8%) Australians aged 14 years and older considered excessive alcohol consumption to be the most serious concern (Table 2.2).

Tobacco smoking (one in four (25.4%) males, one in five (22.5%) females) and use of heroin (one in four (21.5%) males, one in six (16.7%) females) were the next two most commonly nominated concerns for the general community. This pattern held for all age groups, except 14–19-year-olds, for whom tobacco was nominated first over alcohol.

### **Drugs perceived to be associated with mortality**

Drug use, both licit (tobacco and alcohol) and illicit, is a large contributor to both mortality and morbidity in Australia.

Respondents were asked which single drug they thought directly or indirectly caused the most deaths in Australia.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in two (46.4%) thought tobacco was the drug which caused the most deaths in Australia, one in four (24.2%) thought it was alcohol and one in eight (13.0%) thought it was heroin (Table 2.3). No other drug was thought to cause the most deaths in Australia by more than 10% of Australians aged 14 years and older.



**Table 2.1: Drugs most likely to be associated with a 'drug problem', persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Tobacco	7.8	2.5	2.2	3.6	5.0	5.1	4.1
Alcohol	10.1	9.0	9.1	10.7	10.7	11.8	10.2
Tea/coffee/caffeine	0.4 *	0.1 *	0.2 *	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	45.3	29.3	25.4	24.5	28.1	29.7	29.3
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.2
Inhalants	0.4 *	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.6	0.7	0.4
Heroin	19.5	39.3	45.4	44.6	42.2	39.0	39.7
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	3.2	7.1	7.0	6.4	4.2	2.5	5.2
Cocaine	6.5	6.5	7.1	5.4	5.3	6.9	6.3
Hallucinogens	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	3.5	3.7	1.8	2.2	1.3	1.4	2.2
Other	— *	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	— *	— *	— *
None/can't think of any	0.9	0.4 *	— *	0.2 *	0.5	1.0	0.5
	<b>Females</b>						
Tobacco	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.7	2.5
Alcohol	9.3	6.6	7.4	9.6	11.3	13.8	9.8
Tea/coffee/caffeine	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.3	0.2 *	0.5	0.2
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	42.3	29.8	25.6	26.4	29.2	27.6	29.1
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.4	3.2	1.5
Inhalants	0.3 *	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4
Heroin	24.8	34.8	45.0	44.7	42.2	37.2	39.1
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	6.0	10.5	6.9	4.7	4.4	2.9	5.8
Cocaine	5.8	8.5	8.6	7.1	5.7	6.7	7.2
Hallucinogens	0.1 *	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	6.3	5.6	2.3	2.3	1.2	1.8	3.0
Other	0.2 *	— *	— *	0.1 *	0.1 *	— *	0.1
None/can't think of any	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.7

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquilisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates, used for non-medical purposes.

**Table 2.2: Form of drug use thought to be of most serious concern for the general community, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Form of drug use	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Tobacco smoking	25.9	25.3	24.5	25.9	25.3	25.6	25.4
Excessive drinking of alcohol	23.3	25.0	28.6	30.3	30.6	28.3	28.0
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis use	13.5	7.6	5.2	3.6	6.3	5.6	6.5
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.9
Sniffing	5.0	2.8	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.5	2.3
Heroin use	16.2	20.1	22.1	22.1	22.2	23.9	21.5
Meth/amphetamines (speed) use	1.9	2.8	4.3	3.0	1.8	1.7	2.7
Cocaine use	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.2	6.3	6.7	5.4
Hallucinogen use	1.2	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.3	0.3
Ecstasy/designer drug use	6.7	8.6	7.3	7.2	4.9	5.2	6.7
None of these	0.8	0.8	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.3 *	0.3	0.4
	<b>Females</b>						
Tobacco smoking	28.9	21.8	20.6	21.2	22.4	22.8	22.5
Excessive drinking of alcohol	24.5	26.9	35.4	37.2	37.1	36.9	33.8
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis use	15.2	9.2	4.8	5.1	6.5	4.6	6.8
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.6
Sniffing	3.3	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.3
Heroin use	13.2	18.4	16.4	14.4	17.0	19.1	16.7
Meth/amphetamines (speed) use	3.6	4.9	3.2	2.9	1.8	1.5	2.9
Cocaine use	2.5	4.0	5.3	4.5	4.7	5.7	4.6
Hallucinogen use	0.3 *	0.8	0.0 *	0.3	0.3 *	0.3	0.3
Ecstasy/designer drug use	6.7	10.1	9.7	10.0	6.0	5.8	8.1
None of these	0.4 *	0.4	0.1 *	0.2 *	0.3 *	0.2	0.3

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates, used for non-medical purposes.

**Table 2.3: Drugs thought to either directly or indirectly cause the most deaths in Australia, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Tobacco	43.3	46.7	51.3	52.9	53.9	45.1	49.1
Alcohol	24.2	27.3	24.6	23.5	22.7	23.6	24.3
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	2.6	0.6	0.2 *	0.5	0.7	1.8	1.0
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5
Opiates/opioids (such as heroin)	9.8	11.2	10.9	11.8	11.5	16.2	12.2
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.7
Cocaine	5.9	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.7	5.7	4.5
Hallucinogens	0.4 *	0.5 *	0.2 *	0.3 *	0.3 *	0.5	0.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	9.9	6.2	5.3	4.3	3.8	4.6	5.4
	<b>Females</b>						
Tobacco	40.6	40.8	43.6	47.6	46.8	42.0	43.7
Alcohol	26.4	24.6	22.3	22.3	25.4	24.2	24.0
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	2.3	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.4
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	3.4	2.1	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.4	2.3
Opiates/opioids (such as heroin)	9.6	12.4	14.8	14.9	13.6	15.6	13.9
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	2.5	2.7	2.2	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.0
Cocaine	2.8	5.7	5.8	2.7	4.2	5.7	4.7
Hallucinogens	0.7 *	0.7	0.3	0.3 *	0.3 *	0.6	0.5
Ecstasy/designer drugs	11.6	9.2	8.0	6.9	5.7	6.2	7.6
	<b>Persons</b>						
Tobacco	42.0	43.8	47.5	50.2	50.4	43.5	46.4
Alcohol	25.3	25.9	23.5	22.9	24.0	23.9	24.2
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	2.4	1.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.7	1.2
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.9
Opiates/opioids (such as heroin)	9.7	11.8	12.9	13.3	12.5	15.9	13.0
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.8
Cocaine	4.4	4.6	4.8	3.2	4.4	5.7	4.6
Hallucinogens	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	10.7	7.7	6.7	5.6	4.7	5.5	6.5

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquilisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates, used for non-medical purposes.

## Approval of drug use

Respondents to the 2004 survey were asked if they personally approved or disapproved of the regular use by an adult of certain drugs.

Alcohol was approved of by more males (four in five (82.7%)) and females (seven in ten (71.4%)) than was any other drug (Table 2.4).

Other than tobacco, alcohol, marijuana/cannabis and pharmaceuticals (used for non-medical purposes), less than 8.0% of Australians aged 14 years and older approved of regular use by an adult.

Without exception, each drug was approved of by a greater proportion of males than of females.

**Table 2.4: Personal approval of the regular use by an adult of selected drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

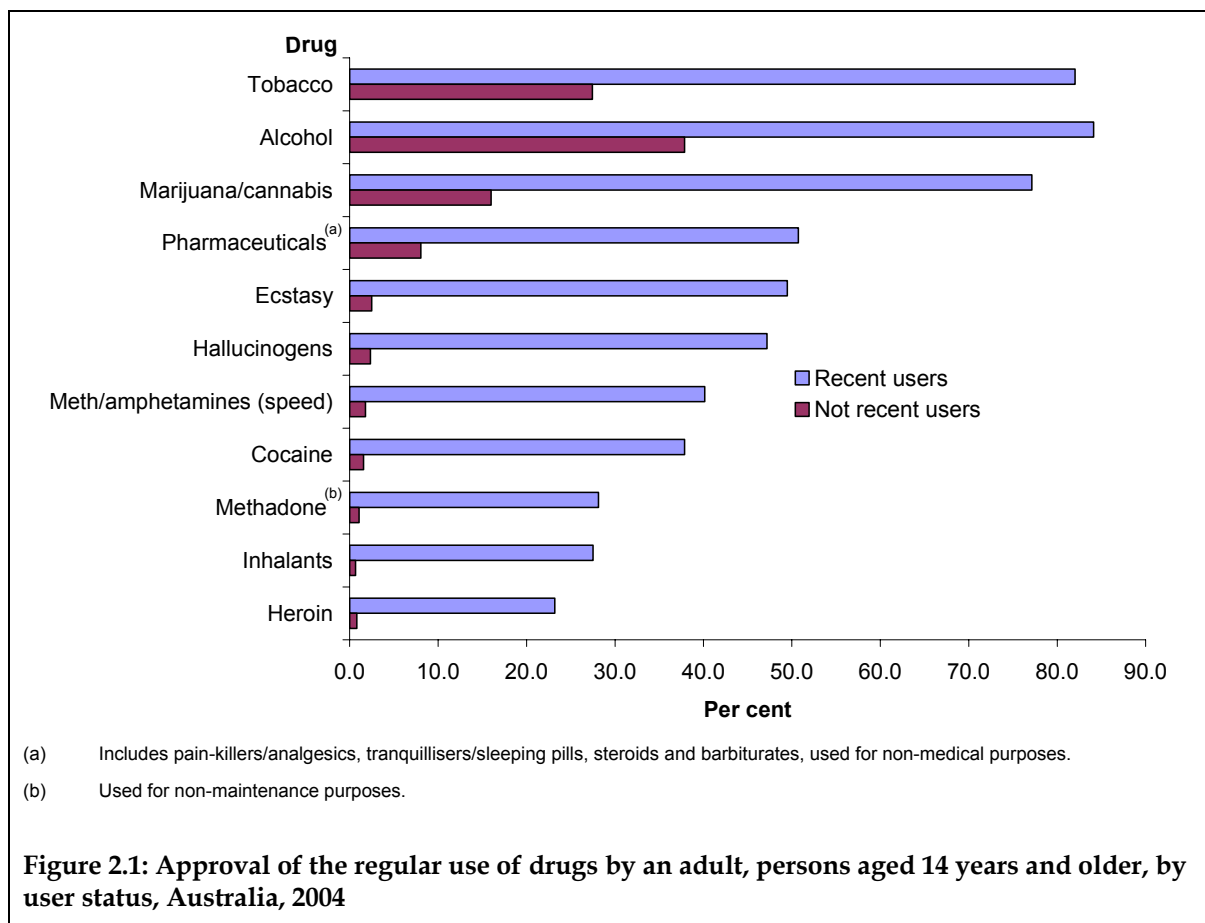
Drug	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Tobacco	45.7	53.1	49.8	43.4	36.0	26.6	42.1
Alcohol	84.5	84.6	85.4	85.9	82.4	74.7	82.7
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	27.3	41.5	40.3	31.2	19.1	5.3	27.4
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	13.7	16.4	12.5	11.3	8.8	7.5	11.6
Inhalants	2.1	2.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.1
Heroin	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	1.4	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.4	0.6	1.5
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	5.2	9.0	5.9	2.9	1.3	0.5	4.1
Cocaine	2.2	5.5	4.1	2.1	1.3	0.5	2.7
Hallucinogens	4.3	8.1	5.7	2.7	1.9	0.5	3.8
Ecstasy	7.8	14.3	7.4	3.8	2.0	0.6	5.9
Ketamine	1.3	2.9	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.3
GHB	1.7	2.6	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.3
	<b>Females</b>						
Tobacco	43.4	51.6	45.4	37.2	28.5	18.4	36.5
Alcohol	75.7	78.6	76.6	74.7	69.0	58.1	71.4
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	24.3	30.5	27.7	22.1	10.6	3.2	19.0
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	10.9	8.7	10.7	8.6	6.4	5.8	8.3
Inhalants	1.7	0.8	0.4	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.1 *	0.5
Heroin	1.4	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.5
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	1.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.7
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	5.2	4.2	2.9	1.1	0.5	0.3	2.1
Cocaine	3.4	2.2	2.1	1.0	0.3 *	0.1 *	1.4
Hallucinogens	3.7	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.6	0.2 *	1.6
Ecstasy	6.3	5.5	3.0	1.2	0.7	0.2 *	2.5
Ketamine	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3 *	0.3	0.6
GHB	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.3 *	0.3 *	0.1 *	0.5

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquilisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates, used for non-medical purposes.

(b) Used for non-maintenance purposes.

## Approval of personal use by an adult, by use status

For each of the selected drugs, personal use by an adult was approved of by a far greater proportion of recent users (of each drug) than by those who had not used that drug in the past 12 months (Figure 2.1).



## Perceptions of health effects of tobacco use

Respondents to the 2004 survey were asked for their thoughts on the health affects on non-smokers of tobacco smoke (passive smoking).

Of non-smokers aged 14 years and older, nine in ten (92.2%) thought that non-smokers who live with a smoker might one day develop smoke-related health problems. Of smokers, seven in ten (72.9%) thought so. On the other hand, one in seven (14.4%) smokers thought non-smokers might not develop health problems from living with smokers but one in eight (12.7%) did not know one way or another.

When it came to working or socialising with smokers, 89.5% of non-smokers and 66.9% of smokers thought non-smokers might develop health problems from passive smoking. Of smokers, 18.6% thought non-smokers might not develop health problems from working or socialising with smokers but 14.5% did not know.

**Table 2.5: Perception of whether the health of non-smokers living or working with smokers might be affected by passive smoking, persons aged 14 years and older, by smoking status, Australia, 2004**

Situation/perception	Non-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	Smokers <sup>(b)</sup>	All
	(per cent)		
<b>Live with smokers</b>			
Yes, might be affected	92.2	72.9	88.2
No, might not be affected	3.7	14.4	5.9
Don't know	4.1	12.7	5.9
<b>Work or socialise with smokers</b>			
Yes, might be affected	89.5	66.9	84.8
No, might not be affected	5.0	18.6	7.8
Don't know	5.5	14.5	7.4

(a) Never smoked or ex-smokers.

(b) Daily, weekly and less than weekly smokers.

## Perceptions of health effects of alcohol use

In this section the health effects of alcohol consumption are described in terms of the risk of harm in the short term (that is, consumption on a single drinking occasion) and long term (that is, consumption over many years). Alcohol risk is described more fully in Chapter 1.

The 2004 survey explored respondents' awareness of both the short- and long-term health risks for males and females related to their consumption of alcohol. Data are presented on perceptions of the health risk (to males and females, separately) from alcohol consumption in the short and long term.

### Alcohol-related health risk for males

This section presents data on male perceptions of:

- how many standard drinks an adult male could drink in a 6-hour period before he puts his health at risk (that is, short-term risk of harm)
- how many standard drinks an adult male could drink every day for many years without adversely affecting his health (that is, long-term risk of harm).

Of males aged 14 years and older who drank at low-risk levels for harm in the short term, one in three (33.7%) thought that an adult male could drink seven or more standard drinks in a 6-hour period without putting his health at risk (Table 2.6). In contrast, four in seven (56.8%) males who drank at risky or high-risk levels for short-term harm themselves thought that an adult male could drink seven or more standard drinks without putting his health at risk.

Again, of males aged 14 years and older who drank at low-risk levels for harm in the long term, one in ten (7.9%) thought that an adult male could drink five or more standard drinks every day for many years without putting his health at risk. Of males who drank at risky or high-risk levels for long-term harm themselves, three in ten (28.4%) thought that an adult male could drink five or more standard drinks every day for many years without putting his health at risk.

**Table 2.6: Perception of the number of standard drinks an adult male could drink before he puts his health at risk, males aged 14 years and older, by alcohol risk status, Australia, 2004**

Risk/standard drinks	Risk status			All
	Abstainer	Low risk	Risky or high risk	
	(per cent)			
<b>Short-term risk</b>				
11 or more	11.0	11.8	28.3	15.8
7–10	15.3	21.9	28.5	22.8
5–6	21.1	33.3	27.8	30.6
3–4	23.2	23.0	11.5	20.2
1–2	18.1	8.9	3.8	8.6
None	11.4	1.1	0.2	2.0
<b>Long-term risk</b>				
11 or more	1.4	0.8	2.5	1.0
7–10	3.9	1.7	7.1	2.5
5–6	4.8	5.4	18.9	6.7
3–4	26.6	35.8	44.4	35.6
1–2	39.5	47.6	23.8	44.1
None	23.8	8.8	3.4	10.1

Note: Risk status of respondents corresponds with the thresholds (short-term or long-term risk) being assessed.

## Alcohol-related health risk for females

This section presents data on female perceptions of:

- how many standard drinks an adult female could drink in a 6-hour period before she puts her health at risk
- how many standard drinks an adult female could drink every day for many years without adversely affecting her health.

Of females aged 14 years and older who drank at low-risk levels for harm in the short term, three in ten (29.5%) thought that an adult female could drink five or more standard drinks in a 6-hour period without putting her health at risk (Table 2.7). In contrast, one in two (52.8%) females who drank at risky or high-risk levels for short-term harm themselves thought that an adult female could drink five or more standard drinks without putting her health at risk.

Again, of females aged 14 years and older who drank at low-risk levels for harm in the long term, one in seven (13.5%) thought that an adult female could drink three or more standard drinks every day for many years without putting her health at risk. Of females who drank at risky or high-risk levels for long-term harm themselves, one in four (25.5%) thought that an adult female could drink three or more standard drinks every day for many years without putting her health at risk.

**Table 2.7: Perception of the number of standard drinks an adult female could drink before she puts her health at risk, females aged 14 years and older, by alcohol risk status, Australia, 2004**

Risk/standard drinks	Risk status			All
	Abstainer	Low risk	Risky or high risk	
	(per cent)			
<b>Short-term risk</b>				
11 or more	1.8	1.7	5.1	2.3
7–10	4.2	6.6	13.9	7.6
5–6	14.5	21.2	33.8	22.4
3–4	33.6	42.7	36.5	40.1
1–2	32.9	25.9	10.2	24.2
None	13.0	1.8	0.5	3.4
<b>Long-term risk</b>				
11 or more	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4
7–10	1.9	0.6	1.0	0.9
5–6	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.4
3–4	14.2	11.4	21.8	13.0
1–2	51.2	69.2	65.2	65.5
None	30.1	17.3	9.4	18.8

Note: Risk status of respondents corresponds with the thresholds (short-term or long-term risk) being assessed.

## Perceptions and attitudes towards drugs by social characteristics

In 2004, Australians aged 14 years and older varied in their perceptions and attitudes to drug-related issues according to sex and socioeconomic status (Table 2.8) and according to their geography, main language spoken at home and their Indigenous status (Table 2.9).

For example, one in twenty-five (4.1%) males thought tobacco was associated with a drug problem but only one in forty (2.5%) females thought so. Similarly, one in eight (12.4%) of Indigenous people thought alcohol was associated with a drug problem but one in ten (9.9%) other Australians thought so.



**Table 2.8: Perceptions and attitudes towards drugs, by sex and socioeconomic status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Perceptions and attitudes	Sex		Socioeconomic status (quintile)				
	Males	Females	1	2	3	4	5
	(per cent)						
<b>Drugs associated with a 'drug problem'</b>							
Tobacco	4.1	2.5	4.2	3.3	3.5	3.1	2.8
Alcohol	10.2	9.8	11.1	9.8	9.8	10.2	9.5
Marijuana	29.3	29.1	36.6	32.4	30.2	27.8	22.0
Heroin	39.7	39.1	30.5	35.1	37.8	40.8	49.1
Other	16.2	18.8	16.6	18.9	18.2	17.5	16.4
None/can't think of any	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
<b>Most serious concern for the community</b>							
Tobacco smoking	25.4	22.5	21.8	22.8	23.7	24.8	25.6
Excess drinking of alcohol	28.0	33.8	26.2	30.3	29.9	31.1	35.6
Marijuana/cannabis use	6.5	6.8	9.0	7.6	7.7	5.8	4.1
Heroin use	21.5	16.7	19.4	19.8	18.4	18.1	19.8
Other	18.2	19.9	22.9	19.2	19.9	20.0	14.5
None of these	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
<b>Approval of regular use by an adult</b>							
Tobacco	42.1	36.5	49.3	43.1	39.9	37.5	30.5
Alcohol	82.7	71.4	75.2	74.9	75.0	78.3	80.5
Marijuana	27.4	19.0	24.8	23.1	23.4	21.9	23.2
Heroin	1.2	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.9
Other	16.3	10.7	15.2	12.6	13.2	12.6	14.0

**Table 2.9: Perceptions and attitudes towards drugs, by geography, language and Indigenous status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Perceptions and attitudes	Geography		Main language spoken at home		Indigenous status	
	Capital city	Other	English	Other	Indigenous	Other Australians
	(per cent)					
<b>Drugs associated with a 'drug problem'</b>						
Tobacco	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.8	4.9	3.3
Alcohol	9.7	10.5	10.0	8.8	12.4	9.9
Marijuana	26.0	34.8	29.3	28.8	43.1	29.1
Heroin	42.4	34.2	40.0	32.5	17.3	39.8
Other	18.2	16.3	17.0	24.2	21.1	17.3
None/can't think of any	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.9	1.2	0.6
<b>Most serious concern for the community</b>						
Tobacco smoking	24.2	23.3	24.2	20.7	16.6	24.0
Excess drinking of alcohol	30.3	32.2	31.7	21.8	27.1	31.1
Marijuana/cannabis use	5.5	8.7	6.6	7.3	12.7	6.6
Heroin use	20.6	16.4	18.5	26.2	16.7	19.1
Other	19.0	19.1	18.7	23.1	26.9	18.9
None of these	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	—	0.3
<b>Approval of regular use by an adult</b>						
Tobacco	37.7	42.1	39.2	38.9	63.0	38.9
Alcohol	76.1	78.6	78.6	57.9	77.8	77.2
Marijuana	22.7	24.1	24.2	10.3	43.8	22.9
Heroin	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.8
Other	14.0	12.4	13.2	15.9	21.4	13.3

### 3 Access to drugs

Respondents to the 2004 survey were asked about their access to tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs. Their responses are analysed in this chapter in terms of the offer of, or opportunity to use; acceptance of such an offer or opportunity; and perception of ease of obtaining selected illicit drugs.

#### Offer of or opportunity to use drugs

Respondents to the 2004 survey were asked about the availability of drugs – if they had been offered or had the opportunity to use selected drugs in the past 12 months.

Alcohol and tobacco were the drugs most available to Australians aged 14 years and older (Table 3.1): nine in ten (88.4%) had alcohol available for use in the past 12 months and one in two (51.4%) had tobacco available for use. For each of these drugs, those aged 20–29 years indicated the greatest availability.

For Australians aged 14 years and older, a greater proportion of males than females had available each of the selected drugs (except pharmaceuticals). [NS: for pharmaceuticals and heroin the differences between males and females were not significant].

Marijuana/cannabis was available to 20.0% of Australians aged 14 years and older. It was available to 36.8% of those aged 14–19 years.

**Table 3.1: Offer of or opportunity to use selected drugs in the past 12 months, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	57.1	72.4	63.9	41.9	58.0	47.6	52.8
Alcohol	83.5	95.1	93.6	88.9	92.9	87.7	90.3
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	36.8	43.2	26.6	8.0	24.4	16.8	20.6
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	34.2	43.8	46.5	42.8	42.4	43.1	42.8
Inhalants	6.0	5.5	2.7	1.7	4.0	2.0	3.0
Heroin	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.9
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	11.0	19.4	8.5	1.4	8.3	5.4	6.8
Cocaine	4.8	8.4	3.8	0.8	3.6	2.6	3.1
Hallucinogens	6.1	8.6	2.7	0.8	3.8	2.3	3.0
Ecstasy	13.5	23.3	8.6	1.4	9.7	6.0	7.8
Ketamine	2.0	4.3	1.3	0.8	1.9	1.3	1.6
GHB	2.0	3.4	0.7	0.5	1.5	0.9	1.2
Kava	2.6	3.9	2.0	1.3	2.5	1.6	2.0

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquilisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates, used for non-medical purposes.

#### Uptake of the offer or opportunity to use drugs

Of Australians aged 14 years and older to whom a drug was made available recently, the proportion that used that drug in the last 12 months was calculated for selected drugs (Table 3.2).

The uptake of availability was greatest for alcohol (nine in ten, 92.8%), lowest for pharmaceuticals (one in ten, 10.7%) and of the illicit drugs, greatest for marijuana/cannabis (three in five, 58.1%).

The greatest difference in uptake of availability between males and females arose for marijuana/cannabis (61.8% for males, 52.7% for females), hallucinogens (31.1% for males, 17.4% for females) and ketamine (22.8% for males, 12.3% for females), but there was little difference for other drugs.

Recent use of available drugs was generally greatest among 20–29-year-olds and 30–39-year-olds. For those aged 40 years and older, recent use of available drugs was below the population average for each illicit drug.

**Table 3.2: Recent drug use, persons aged 14 years and older who had the opportunity to use, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	24.7	41.6	45.3	44.5	41.2	42.4	41.8
Alcohol	85.9	94.4	95.5	93.6	94.2	92.4	93.4
Illicit drugs							
Marijuana/cannabis	49.6	62.8	62.5	52.9	62.0	52.8	58.2
Pharmaceuticals <sup>(a)</sup>	13.2	13.5	9.9	9.8	10.3	11.2	10.7
Inhalants	20.9 *	25.2	15.4 *	8.8 *	18.0	16.9	17.6
Heroin	14.4 *	29.3 *	43.1	3.4 *	20.7 *	18.7 *	19.8
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	41.3	56.6	54.4	32.4	50.3	51.7	50.9
Cocaine	25.3	37.9	52.5	26.7	40.4	34.2	37.8
Hallucinogens	24.9	30.5	28.6	9.3 *	31.3	17.4	26.1
Ecstasy	33.0	54.1	51.1	27.3	48.7	44.8	47.2
Ketamine	12.0 *	21.6	29.1 *	9.5 *	22.8	12.3 *	18.3
GHB	15.9 *	12.4 *	18.9 *	4.9 *	10.6 *	14.4 *	12.0 *

(a) Includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquilisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates used for non-medical purposes.

Note: Base for each row is those who reported having been offered or had the opportunity to use in the past 12 months.

## Ease of obtaining illicit drugs

Survey respondents were asked how difficult or easy they thought it would be for them to obtain selected illicit drugs if they wanted them. Of Australians aged 14 years and older, three in seven (44.6%) thought marijuana/cannabis would be easy to obtain (Table 3.3). This was the highest 'easy' rating, although around one-third said, for each selected drug, that they did not know how easy obtaining it would be. Other results include:

- For each of the selected drugs, a greater proportion of males than females considered obtaining that drug to be 'easy'.
- For each of the selected drugs, a greater proportion of 20–29-year-olds than other age groups considered obtaining that drug to be 'easy'.
- Those aged 40 years and older were more likely than others not to know how difficult or easy it would be to obtain each of the selected illicit drugs – 33.4% rated marijuana/cannabis 'don't know' and close to 40% rated each of the other selected illicit drugs 'don't know'.

**Table 3.3: Perception of the ease of obtaining selected illicit drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Marijuana/cannabis							
Easy <sup>(a)</sup>	59.6	69.3	56.9	29.9	49.8	39.5	44.6
Don't know	12.5	11.2	18.6	33.4	22.9	26.6	24.8
Heroin							
Easy	10.4	15.8	13.1	8.7	13.1	8.7	10.9
Don't know	22.2	22.5	30.1	39.8	31.8	34.7	33.3
Meth/amphetamines (speed)							
Easy	24.4	39.3	26.7	12.3	24.0	17.7	20.8
Don't know	19.8	18.3	27.0	39.2	30.1	32.7	31.4
Hallucinogens							
Easy	13.2	22.4	14.6	7.7	14.4	9.7	12.0
Don't know	24.9	24.0	31.6	41.1	33.7	35.8	34.8
Cocaine							
Easy	13.6	20.3	15.0	7.7	13.9	9.7	11.8
Don't know	21.4	21.9	29.2	40.4	31.7	34.7	33.2
Ecstasy/designer drugs							
Easy	28.5	44.5	27.1	11.9	25.9	18.2	22.0
Don't know	19.5	17.3	26.9	39.5	29.9	32.8	31.3

(a) Responses of 'fairly easy' and 'very easy' were grouped to form 'easy'.

*Notes*

1. Respondents could select from 'probably impossible', 'very difficult', 'fairly difficult', 'fairly easy', 'very easy' and 'don't know'.
2. Respondents could select only one response.

## Ease of obtaining illicit drugs, by use status

People's perceptions of the ease of obtaining each of the drugs of Table 3.3 ('Persons' of that table) was analysed by use status—never used, ex-users and recent users (Table 3.4).

Perception of the ease of obtaining each of the selected drugs was substantially higher among recent or ex-users than among those who had never used. Not knowing was greatest among those who had never used.

Marijuana/cannabis was rated the easiest to obtain of the selected illicit drugs and cocaine the most difficult, rated so by each user-status group.

**Table 3.4: Perception of the ease of obtaining selected illicit drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
	(per cent)			
Marijuana/cannabis				
Easy <sup>(a)</sup>	27.6	69.7	93.8	44.7
Don't know	33.3	11.0	1.5	24.7
Heroin				
Easy	10.3	51.0	63.4	10.9
Don't know	33.5	11.3	14.9	33.2
Meth/amphetamines (speed)				
Easy	15.8	61.2	87.4	20.8
Don't know	33.8	8.3	2.0	31.3
Hallucinoens				
Easy	9.9	35.7	62.1	12.1
Don't know	36.2	17.4	3.6 *	34.6
Cocaine				
Easy	9.9	43.4	70.3	11.8
Don't know	34.4	9.9	2.0 *	33.1
Ecstasy/designer drugs				
Easy	17.6	65.0	91.2	22.1
Don't know	33.4	7.8	0.3 *	31.2

(a) Responses of 'fairly easy' and 'very easy' were grouped to form 'easy'.

# 4 Use of tobacco

## Tobacco smoking status

Of 16.4 million Australians aged 14 years and older, one in six (17.4%, 2.9 million) smoked on a daily basis in 2004 (Table 4.1). The rate of daily smoking was higher for males than females for every age group except 14–19-year-olds [NS: age groups 20–29 to 40–49]. For this age group, 83.8% of males had never smoked and a further 3.6% were ex-smokers; of females in this age group, 82.7% had never smoked and a further 3.0% were ex-smokers.

There were 4.3 million ex-smokers in 2004, 29.2% of males and 23.6% of females aged 14 years and older.

Smoking rates peaked in the 20–29 years age group, for males and females.

**Table 4.1: Tobacco smoking status, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Smoking status	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Daily	9.5	24.0	23.8	22.6	18.1	11.0	18.6
Weekly	1.9	3.8	2.5	1.8	1.9	0.5	2.0
Less than weekly	1.3	3.4	2.9	2.0	1.3	0.5	1.9
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	3.6	12.7	23.0	30.9	41.0	51.9	29.2
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	83.8	56.2	47.8	42.7	37.7	36.1	48.2
	<b>Females</b>						
Daily	11.9	22.9	21.8	20.1	14.4	7.1	16.3
Weekly	1.3	2.5	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.4	1.2
Less than weekly	1.0	2.5	2.0	1.6	0.8	0.2 *	1.3
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	3.0	14.5	26.6	30.8	27.8	28.5	23.6
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	82.7	57.5	47.7	46.4	56.5	63.9	57.5
	<b>Persons</b>						
Daily	10.7	23.5	22.8	21.3	16.3	8.9	17.4
Weekly	1.6	3.2	2.2	1.4	1.2	0.4	1.6
Less than weekly	1.2	2.9	2.4	1.8	1.0	0.3	1.6
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	3.3	13.6	24.8	30.9	34.4	39.3	26.4
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	83.3	56.9	47.7	44.6	47.1	51.0	52.9

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked more than 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life.

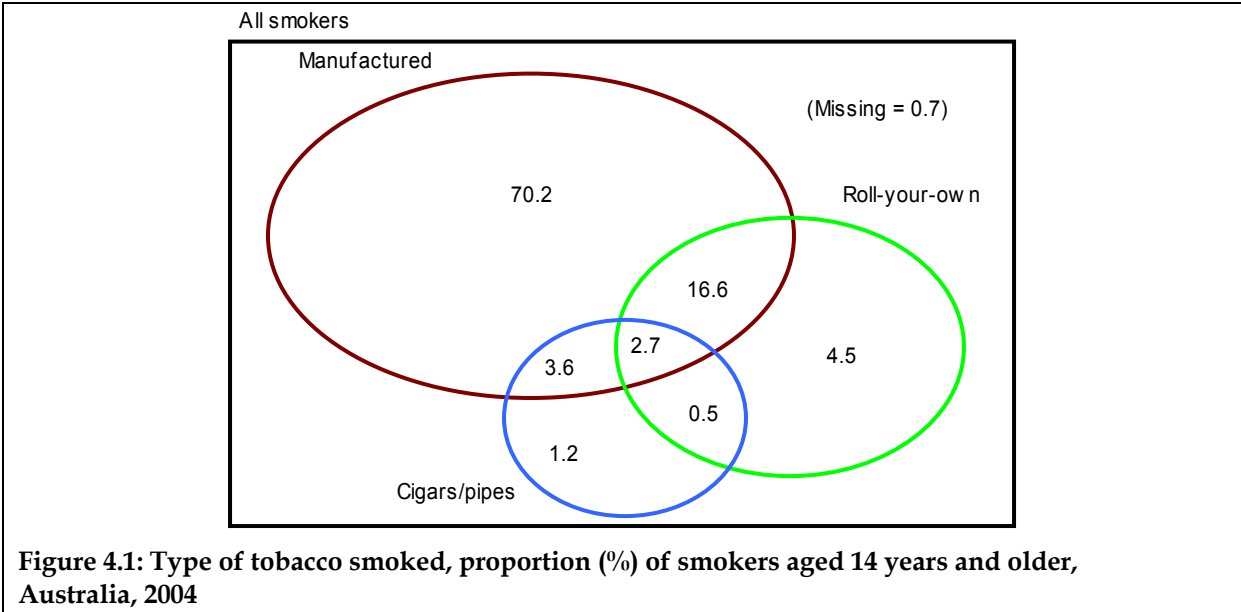
Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had ever smoked, males had their first full cigarette at age 15.2 years on average and females at 16.5 years.

In 2004, daily smokers had their first cigarette at 15.3 years for males and 17.2 years for females, but started smoking daily at 17.9 years for males and 19.1 years for females, on average.

# Type of tobacco smoked

Respondents who had smoked at least 100 cigarettes or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life and who still smoked were asked if they smoked manufactured cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes or cigars/pipes.

Of Australian smokers aged 14 years and older, seven in ten (70.2%) smoked manufactured cigarettes only and a further three in a hundred (2.7%) smoked all three types of tobacco; 16.6% smoked both manufactured and roll-your-own cigarettes (but not cigars/pipes); 1.2% smoked pipes/cigars alone.



# Unbranded loose tobacco

Survey respondents in 2004 were asked about their awareness and use of unbranded loose tobacco.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, three in eight (37.8%) had seen or heard of unbranded loose tobacco (Table 4.2). A higher proportion of males (41.8%) than females (33.9%) were aware of it. A higher proportion of 20–29-year-olds than of other age groups were aware of this form of tobacco.

Only one in ten (8.8%) Australians aged 14 years and older had actually smoked unbranded tobacco, which was 23.2% of those who were aware of it. A higher proportion, 13.1%, of the population of 30–39-year-olds than of other age groups had smoked this form of tobacco. Males were more likely than females to have smoked it.

Respondents were asked how much they smoked unbranded loose tobacco. Of those who had ever smoked this form of tobacco, 21.7% smoked it half the time or more, which was 0.4% of Australians aged 14 years and older.



**Table 4.2: Unbranded loose tobacco, awareness and use, Australians aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Behaviour	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Aware of unbranded loose tobacco	38.1	46.5	42.5	33.5	41.8	33.9	37.8
Ever smoked unbranded loose tobacco							
As proportion of those aware	16.8	28.2	28.6	20.1	26.6	19.1	23.2
As proportion of population	6.4	13.1	12.1	6.8	11.1	6.5	8.8
Smoke unbranded loose tobacco half the time or more							
As proportion of those ever smoked it	21.8	9.3	22.6	30.7	20.5	23.6	21.7
As proportion of population	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4

## Changes to smoking behaviour

Recent smokers were asked if they had changed their smoking behaviour in the last 12 months.

Of Australian smokers aged 14 years and older, one in three (32.5%) had reduced the amount smoked in a day, the highest proportion for any of the changed behaviours proposed in the survey (Table 4.3). Of those same recent smokers, one in four (25.9%) had tried unsuccessfully to give up smoking. Female smokers were more likely to have tried unsuccessfully than males [NS].

Only 3.1% of smokers tried unsuccessfully to change to a brand with a lower tar or nicotine content.

Of recent smokers, 24.8% tried none of the changes proposed in the survey.

**Table 4.3: Changes to smoking behaviour, recent smokers aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Behaviour	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Reduced amount smoked in a day	30.7	34.6	32.5
Tried to give up unsuccessfully	25.1	26.9	25.9
Given up for more than 1 month	26.2	24.5	25.4
Changed to a lower tar or nicotine content	15.9	19.2	17.4
Tried to reduced amount smoked daily unsuccessfully	13.4	14.7	14.0
Tried to changed to a lower tar or nicotine content unsuccessfully	3.0	3.1	3.1
None of the above	26.9	22.4	24.8

### Notes

1. Base is those who reported smoking in the last 12 months.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Motivators for change to behaviour

Those who reported undertaking a change in their smoking behaviour in the last 12 months were asked what motivated them.

Of those who had undertaken a change, one in two (51.1%) had done so because smoking was affecting their health. This was a higher proportion than for any other motivation (Table 4.4). The second most commonly nominated factor was cost (43.9%).

The least likely motivation was the Tobacco Information Line – 0.9% of smokers who had undertaken a change were motivated by it.

Except for the motivation of being pregnant or wanting to start a family, male and female responses to each motivation were similar.

**Table 4.4: Factors which motivated change to smoking behaviour, smokers aged 14 years and older who reported a change in behaviour, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Factor	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Affecting health or fitness	50.8	51.3	51.1
Costing too much	42.6	45.4	43.9
Wanted to get fit	29.9	25.8	28.0
Family/friends asked me to quit	24.9	27.5	26.2
Worried it was affecting the health of those around me	19.0	23.3	21.1
Anti-smoking advertisements	19.9	21.1	20.5
Health warnings on packets	16.7	16.1	16.4
Advice from doctor	16.0	16.0	16.0
Other	10.6	11.2	10.9
Smoking restrictions in public places	8.2	11.2	9.6
Pregnant or wanting to start a family	1.9	11.8	6.7
Smoking restrictions in the workplace	6.1	5.2	5.7
QUIT line	2.9	3.0	3.0
Tobacco Information Line (advertised on packet)	1.2	0.5	0.9

*Notes*

1. Base is those who reported undertaking measures in Table 4.3.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Characteristics by smoking status

In 2004, the population aged 14 years and older was distributed as follows: 52.9% had never smoked, 26.4% were ex-smokers and 20.7% smoked (Table 4.5).

With regard to labour force status, a lower proportion of students (one in ten, 11.9%) than of other people smoked. A higher proportion of unemployed people (four in ten, 41.4%) than of others smoked.

People whose main language spoken at home was English were more likely to have smoked than people whose main language spoken at home was not English: 21.1% versus 14.1%.

With regard to socioeconomic status, people living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas were most likely to smoke (27.3%) – this contrasts with the 15.1% of those living in the most advantaged areas who smoked.

Of people living in remote and very remote places, a higher proportion (29.2%) than of those living elsewhere smoked.

With regard to marital status, a greater proportion of people who were divorced, widowed or separated smoked (24.7%) than did those who were never married or who were married or in a de facto relationship.

Indigenous people were more likely than other Australians to smoke (39.0% versus 20.4%).

**Table 4.5: Characteristics by smoking status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Characteristic	Never smoked <sup>(a)</sup>	Ex-smokers <sup>(b)</sup>	Smokers <sup>(c)</sup>
	(per cent)		
All persons (aged 14+)	52.9	26.4	20.7
Education			
Without post-school qualifications	55.0	23.2	21.8
With post-school qualifications	51.2	29.0	19.8
Labour force status			
Currently employed	50.1	26.5	23.4
Student	82.0	6.1	11.9
Unemployed	40.1	18.5	41.4
Engaged in home duties	52.0	25.6	22.5
Retired or on a pension	48.6	38.7	12.7
Unable to work	33.9	27.5	38.6
Other	47.4	25.8	26.8
Main language spoken at home			
English	51.5	27.4	21.1
Other	72.7	13.3	14.1
Socioeconomic status			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	46.5	26.2	27.3
2nd quintile	50.2	26.2	23.6
3rd quintile	51.5	26.8	21.7
4th quintile	56.0	25.8	18.2
5th quintile (most advantaged)	58.0	26.9	15.1
Geography			
Major cities	54.9	25.4	19.7
Inner regional	49.6	28.2	22.1
Outer regional	48.4	28.7	22.9
Remote and very remote	42.2	28.6	29.2
Marital status			
Never married	65.9	10.7	23.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	44.4	30.8	24.7
Married/de facto	48.9	32.3	18.8
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	41.4	19.6	39.0
Other Australian	53.1	26.5	20.4

(a) Never smoked more than 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life.

(b) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(c) Smoked daily, weekly or less than weekly.

## Mean number of cigarettes smoked per week

In 2004, smokers aged 14 years and older smoked an average of 99 cigarettes per week (males: 103, females: 93) (Table 4.6).

In most subpopulations, males smoked on average more cigarettes per week than females. The notable exceptions were students, people unable to work and people whose main language spoken at home was not English.

People without post-school qualifications smoked more cigarettes per week than those with post-school qualifications: 106 versus 91.

With regard to socioeconomic status, people living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas smoked more cigarettes per week than others (120) – this contrasts with the average of 76 cigarettes smoked per week by those living in the most advantaged areas.

Indigenous people on average smoked more cigarettes per week than other Australians (130 versus 97).

**Table 4.6: Mean number of cigarettes smoked per week, current smokers aged 14 years and older, by social characteristics, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Characteristic	Males	Females (number)	Persons
All persons (aged 14+)	103	93	99
Education			
Without post-school qualifications	114	100	106
With post-school qualifications	95	86	91
Labour force status			
Currently employed	99	86	94
Student	56	70	64
Unemployed	110	104	108
Engaged in home duties	115	97	99
Retired or on a pension	129	122	126
Unable to work	119	122	120
Other	110	125	118
Main language spoken at home			
English	105	94	99
Other	69	87	75
Socio-economic status			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	126	112	120
2nd quintile	107	98	103
3rd quintile	101	89	96
4th quintile	98	87	93
5th quintile (most advantaged)	79	73	76
Geography			
Major cities	94	90	92
Inner regional	108	91	100
Outer regional	138	112	126
Remote and very remote	129	119	125
Marital status			
Never married	91	81	87
Divorced/separated/widowed	134	109	119
Married/defacto	103	95	99
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	136	125	130
Other Australian	102	92	97

Note: Base is current (daily, weekly and less than weekly) smokers.

## 5 Use of alcohol

In 2004, one in ten (9.3%) Australians aged 14 years and older had never consumed a full serve of alcohol; a further one in fourteen (7.1%) had not consumed alcohol in the last 12 months (Table 5.1). Much of the analysis in this chapter concerns the remaining 83.6%.

**Table 5.1: Alcohol drinking status, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drinking status	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Daily	0.7	4.5	8.7	11.9	17.5	23.3	12.0
Weekly	26.6	56.7	55.0	54.2	47.0	38.7	47.6
Less than weekly	42.2	30.9	27.3	25.4	25.0	20.7	27.5
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.6	3.0	5.1	5.6	6.8	10.7	6.0
Never a full glass of alcohol	27.7	4.9	3.8	3.0	3.7	6.6	6.9
	<b>Females</b>						
Daily	0.4	1.3	3.2	6.3	8.4	11.4	5.8
Weekly	22.2	38.4	38.9	43.0	35.6	28.3	35.0
Less than weekly	49.9	47.0	44.8	36.9	36.5	28.7	39.4
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.5	6.8	6.4	7.0	9.2	13.4	8.2
Never a full glass of alcohol	25.0	6.6	6.6	6.8	10.3	18.2	11.6
	<b>Persons</b>						
Daily	0.6	2.9	6.0	9.1	12.9	17.0	8.9
Weekly	24.4	47.6	46.9	48.6	41.3	33.1	41.2
Less than weekly	46.0	38.9	36.2	31.2	30.8	25.0	33.5
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.6	4.9	5.8	6.3	8.0	12.2	7.1
Never a full glass of alcohol	26.4	5.7	5.2	4.9	7.0	12.8	9.3

(a) Consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the last 12 months.

The average age at which males first consumed a full glass of alcohol was 16.4 years, whereas for females it was 18.0 years.

### Alcohol consumption risk status

In 2004, one in six (16.4%) Australians aged 14 years and older (12.9% of males and 19.8% of females) had not consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months. Also, three in five (61.4%) Australians drank at levels considered at low risk of harm in the short and long term, and a further one in ten (8.3%) drank at levels considered risky or high risk for both short-term and long-term harm.

The proportion of males aged 14 years and older drinking at levels for low risk of harm in the short term and long term were very similar for males (61.5%) and females (61.2%)

On the other hand, for those drinking at levels risky/high risk for short-term harm and for low risk in the long term, the proportions of males (15.5%) and for females (9.4%) were quite different.

**Table 5.2: Risk of harm in the long term by monthly risk of harm in the short term, by sex, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Long-term risk	Abstainer	Short-term risk		Total
		Low risk	Risky or high risk	
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Abstainer	12.9	..	..	12.9
Low risk	..	61.5	15.5	77.0
Risky or high risk	..	1.5	8.7	10.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>12.9</i>	<i>63.0</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Females</b>				
Abstainer	19.8	..	..	19.8
Low risk	..	61.2	9.4	70.6
Risky or high risk	..	1.7	7.9	9.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Persons</b>				
Abstainer	16.4	..	..	16.4
Low risk	..	61.4	12.4	73.7
Risky or high risk	..	1.6	8.3	9.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>

## Usual place of consumption of alcohol

People who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months were asked where they usually drank alcohol (Table 5.3). Five places were much more commonly nominated than the rest by a multiple of around 4 or more: own home, friend's home, private party, restaurants/cafes (except for 14–19-year-olds) and licensed premises.

The proportion of male and female drinkers usually consuming alcohol in their home increased with age, to 50–59 years for males and 40–49 years for females.

The proportions nominating private parties as the usual place of alcohol consumption decreased with age, ranging from seven in ten (70.5%) for teenagers to three in ten (31.9%) for those aged 60 years and older.

The proportions usually consuming in restaurants/cafes peaks at 40–49 years, and for licensed premises (pubs, clubs) proportions peaked at 20–29 years.

**Table 5.3: Usual place of consumption of alcohol, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
In my home	59.0	76.3	87.0	88.8	91.0	89.7	84.3
At friend's house	58.1	67.5	59.7	54.4	49.7	40.1	54.6
At licensed premises	40.3	76.5	59.3	51.0	50.1	46.2	55.3
At restaurants/cafes	19.7	52.2	53.8	53.0	53.4	39.2	47.8
At private parties	68.9	61.0	48.1	45.2	38.5	29.4	46.5
At workplace	2.8	13.3	13.8	9.5	6.0	1.2	8.3
At raves/dance parties	13.0	17.0	3.6	2.9	1.7	1.1	5.9
In public places	8.1	6.5	4.0	3.8	2.0	1.0	3.8
In a car	9.2	8.6	4.1	2.3	0.8	0.2	3.7
At school/TAFE/university, etc.	3.4	5.1	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.1	1.5
Somewhere else	11.9	4.6	3.4	2.1	2.0	1.4	3.4
	<b>Females</b>						
In my home	56.3	73.8	86.4	88.7	86.3	85.1	81.7
At friend's house	58.8	62.6	64.0	59.5	54.9	46.7	57.7
At licensed premises	44.2	75.3	52.4	47.0	42.7	32.3	49.4
At restaurants/cafes	21.5	57.8	60.8	63.7	61.7	55.3	56.5
At private parties	71.9	58.2	50.7	48.9	45.3	34.4	49.6
At workplace	2.0	7.6	5.5	2.8	2.8	0.7	3.7
At raves/dance parties	19.3	11.9	2.4	1.8	1.1	0.5	4.9
In public places	9.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	2.4
In a car	8.6	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.1	—	1.3
At school/TAFE/university, etc.	3.1	3.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	1.0
Somewhere else	4.8	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.3
	<b>Persons</b>						
In my home	57.6	75.1	86.7	88.7	88.8	87.4	83.0
At friend's house	58.4	65.1	61.8	56.9	52.2	43.3	56.1
At licensed premises	42.3	76.0	55.9	49.0	46.6	39.4	52.5
At restaurants/cafes	20.6	54.9	57.3	58.2	57.4	47.1	52.0
At private parties	70.5	59.7	49.4	47.0	41.7	31.9	48.0
At workplace	2.4	10.5	9.7	6.2	4.5	1.0	6.1
At raves/dance parties	16.2	14.6	3.0	2.3	1.4	0.8	5.4
In public places	8.7	4.3	3.1	3.0	1.8	1.0	3.2
In a car	8.9	5.4	2.4	1.4	0.5	0.1	2.6
At school/TAFE/university, etc.	3.3	4.2	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.1	1.3
Somewhere else	8.3	3.2	2.1	1.4	1.5	0.9	2.4

*Notes*

1. Base is recent drinkers.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Type of alcohol usually consumed

Those who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months were asked what type of alcohol they usually drank.

Males most commonly consumed regular strength beer, except for two groups, both drinking at low-risk levels in the long term:

- those aged 14–19 years, who preferred premixed spirits in a can
- those aged 40 years and older, who commonly drank bottled wine (Table 5.3).

Females aged 30 years and older most commonly consumed bottled wine. Females aged 14–29 years most commonly consumed bottled spirits and liqueurs, with the exception of 14–19-year-olds drinking at low risk in the long term, who preferred premixed spirits in a bottle.

**Table 5.4: Type of alcohol usually consumed, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by long-term risk status, Australia, 2004**

Age group	Long-term risk	
	Low risk	Risky or high risk
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	Premixed spirits in a can (58.1%)	Regular strength beer (76.8%)
20–29	Regular strength beer (66.4%)	Regular strength beer (84.3%)
30–39	Regular strength beer (55.8%)	Regular strength beer (71.1%)
40+	Bottled wine (53.2%)	Regular strength beer (56.3%)
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	Premixed spirits in a can (53.9%)	Bottled spirits and liqueurs (84.8%)
20–29	Bottled spirits and liqueurs (60.1%)	Bottled spirits and liqueurs (67.5%)
30–39	Bottled wine (64.0%)	Bottled wine (59.8%)
40+	Bottled wine (69.3%)	Bottled wine (66.4%)

### Notes

1. Base is recent drinkers.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Alcohol drinking behaviours

### Moderating behaviour

Australians aged 14 years and older who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months were asked if they undertook any measures to limit their blood alcohol levels. The proportions that always or most of the time undertook these measures ranged from one in ten (7.3%) (males aged 20–29 years, ‘low-alcohol drinks only’) to nine in ten (93.7%) (females aged 50–59 years, ‘limit number of drinks’) (Table 5.5).

For some measures, such as ‘count number of drinks consumed’ and ‘refuse unwanted alcoholic drink’, the proportion of female recent drinkers who had undertaken that measure was greater than the proportion of males at all ages.

There was no measure for which the opposite situation (male proportion greater than female proportion for *all* ages) was observed. For example, in the ‘Drank low-alcohol drinks only’ category, a higher proportion of males than of females aged 40 years and older drank low-



alcohol drinks only, but of those aged less than 40, a higher proportion of females than of males did so.

For all recent drinkers, the least undertaken measures were 'alternating between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks' (23.3%) and 'drinking low-alcohol drinks only' (18.3%).

**Table 5.5: Blood alcohol limiting measures undertaken always or most of the time, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Measure	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Limit number of drinks	48.3	65.9	78.0	85.5	88.4	90.3	78.6
Refuse alcoholic drink offered when not wanted	51.3	47.9	55.1	53.5	56.3	65.8	55.2
Make a point of eating while consuming	40.5	42.3	53.5	52.7	56.4	59.3	51.6
Count number of drinks consumed	50.9	45.8	51.7	49.4	51.9	57.3	51.0
Quench thirst before having alcohol	29.6	26.0	28.5	25.1	23.2	18.4	24.9
Alternate between alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks	17.9	12.7	14.0	13.9	16.6	12.7	14.2
Drink low-alcohol drinks only	14.4	7.3	14.5	21.1	24.2	35.4	19.4
	<b>Females</b>						
Limit number of drinks	60.0	78.2	88.8	91.0	93.7	93.3	86.2
Refuse alcoholic drink offered when not wanted	63.9	66.7	71.5	72.7	74.8	79.7	72.1
Make a point of eating while consuming	42.7	53.3	66.6	70.6	78.6	77.5	66.4
Count number of drinks consumed	59.8	54.1	62.3	64.5	67.6	67.7	62.7
Quench thirst before having alcohol	35.3	37.6	43.5	47.6	47.5	41.3	42.7
Alternate between alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks	25.4	23.6	32.7	37.4	41.2	35.7	32.9
Drink low-alcohol drinks only	20.7	12.3	11.8	15.7	20.9	26.2	17.0
	<b>Persons</b>						
Limit number of drinks	54.2	71.8	83.3	88.2	90.9	91.7	82.3
Refuse alcoholic drink offered when not wanted	57.7	56.9	63.2	62.8	65.0	72.6	63.4
Make a point of eating while consuming	41.6	47.6	59.9	61.4	66.8	68.1	58.8
Count number of drinks consumed	55.4	49.8	56.9	56.7	59.2	62.2	56.6
Quench thirst before having alcohol	32.5	31.6	35.8	36.0	34.5	29.3	33.5
Alternate between alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks	21.7	17.9	23.1	25.3	28.1	23.5	23.3
Drink low-alcohol drinks only	17.6	9.7	13.2	18.5	22.7	31.2	18.3

*Notes*

1. Base is recent drinkers.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

Of recent drinkers, fewer than one in fifty (0.7%) had undertaken no blood alcohol limiting measure – this ranged from 2.2% (of 14–19-year-old males) to 0.5% of 20–39-year-old females.

## Reduction measures by risk

Respondents who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months were asked if they had reduced the amount of alcohol or number of times they drank, consumed more low-alcohol drinks, or ceased drinking.

Those drinking at low short-term and long-term risk levels for alcohol-related harm were less likely to have reduced alcohol consumed than those drinking at risky or high-risk levels, with the exception of stopping drinking altogether (Table 5.7).

Of those drinking at low-risk levels in the short and long term, males were more likely than females to have adopted the reduction measures, again with the exception of stopping drinking altogether.

In contrast, of those drinking at risky or high-risk levels for alcohol-related harm in the short and long term, females were more likely than males to have reduced alcohol consumption, with the exception of having drunk more low-alcohol drinks.

**Table 5.6: Reduction in alcohol consumption, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by short- and long-term risk status, Australia, 2004**

Measure	Short-term risk		Long-term risk	
	Low risk	Risky or high risk	Low risk	Risky or high risk
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Reduced amount drunk per session	24.7	30.0	27.2	22.5
Reduced the number of times drank	22.6	31.8	27.1	22.5
Drank more low-alcohol drinks	10.7	11.0	10.8	10.7
Stopped drinking	4.5	2.5	3.7	3.1
None of the above	54.5	50.4	52.1	57.4
<b>Females</b>				
Reduced amount drunk per session	20.3	33.9	23.7	36.6
Reduced the number of times drank	21.8	35.3	25.7	34.3
Drank more low-alcohol drinks	4.6	5.4	4.6	6.9
Stopped drinking	8.1	4.8	7.2	4.2
None of the above	59.8	47.9	56.8	45.7
<b>Persons</b>				
Reduced amount drunk per session	22.4	31.7	25.5	31.0
Reduced the number of times drank	22.2	33.3	26.4	28.5
Drank more low-alcohol drinks	7.5	8.5	7.8	8.8
Stopped drinking	6.3	3.5	5.4	3.6
None of the above	57.3	49.2	54.4	51.5

### Notes

1. Base is recent drinkers.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Reasons for reduction, by risk

Respondents who undertook any of the alcohol reduction methods above were asked why they did so.

For all groups, the main reason nominated was health reasons (Table 5.8). For long-term harm, those drinking at risky or high-risk levels (one in three, 36.4%) were more likely than those drinking at low-risk levels (three in ten, 30.9%) to nominate health reasons. For short-

term harm, the opposite was true: those drinking at low-risk levels (one in three, 32.1%) were more likely than those drinking at risky or high risk levels (30.3%) to nominate health reasons [NS].

Lifestyle and social reasons were the next most commonly nominated reasons for alcohol reduction. 'Peer pressure' was the least common reason, ranging from 0.2% to 0.5%.

**Table 5.7: Reason for reduction in alcohol consumption, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by short- and long-term risk status, Australia, 2004**

Reason	Short-term risk		Long-term risk	
	Low risk	Risky or high risk	Low risk	Risky or high risk
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Health reasons	32.4	30.3	31.3	35.6
Lifestyle reasons	16.7	23.4	18.6	18.5
Social reasons	16.0	17.0	16.7	13.2
Drink driving regulations	13.7	12.5	13.1	15.4
Financial reasons	6.1	8.9	6.5	11.1
Prefer low-alcohol drinks, not to get drunk	9.2	4.1	8.3	3.2
Pregnant and/or breastfeeding	..	..	..	..
Peer pressure	0.5	0.5 *	0.5	0.2 *
Other	5.4	3.4	5.1	2.8
<b>Females</b>				
Health reasons	31.8	30.3	30.4	37.1
Lifestyle reasons	14.9	21.6	16.9	15.5
Social reasons	14.6	15.5	14.8	15.6
Drink driving regulations	8.6	9.1	8.6	9.1
Financial reasons	4.4	9.6	5.2	9.0
Prefer low-alcohol drinks, not to get drunk	6.4	3.3	5.9	3.7
Pregnant and/or breastfeeding	10.6	5.1	9.9	4.7
Peer pressure	0.3	0.3 *	0.4	0.2 *
Other	8.4	5.3	8.0	5.2
<b>Persons</b>				
Health reasons	32.1	30.3	30.9	36.4
Lifestyle reasons	15.8	22.6	17.8	16.8
Social reasons	15.4	16.3	15.8	14.5
Drink driving regulations	11.2	10.9	11.1	11.9
Financial reasons	5.3	9.2	5.9	9.9
Prefer low-alcohol drinks, not to get drunk	7.9	3.7	7.2	3.5
Pregnant and/or breastfeeding	5.1	2.3	4.5	2.6
Peer pressure	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2 *
Other	6.8	4.2	6.4	4.1

Note: Base is recent drinkers who had undertaken at least one measure to reduce their level of alcohol consumption in the last 12 months.

## Characteristics by alcohol risk status

In 2004, the characteristics of abstainers and those who consumed alcohol varied according to the level and pattern of alcohol consumption (Table 5.9).

For example, people without post-school qualifications were more likely to be non-drinkers (one in eight (12.3%)) than those with post-school qualifications (one in five (21.5%)). The

inverse was reflected in all levels of risk with the exception of risky or high-risk consumption in the long term.

People whose main language spoken at home was English were more likely to drink alcohol than those whose main language spoken at home was not English.

People who were married or in a de facto relationship were more likely to consume alcohol at low-risk levels than those who had never married or who were divorced, separated or widowed, for short- and long-term risk.

Indigenous people were more likely than other Australians to consume alcohol at risky or high-risk levels for harm in both the short term and long term.

**Table 5.8: Characteristics by short- and long-term risk status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Characteristic	Abstainer/ ex-drinker	Short-term risk		Long-term risk	
		Low risk	Risky or high risk	Low risk	Risky or high risk
(per cent)					
All persons (aged 14+)	16.4	62.9	20.7	73.7	9.9
Education					
Without post-school qualification	21.5	58.5	20.1	68.5	10.0
With post-school qualification	12.3	66.6	21.1	78.0	9.7
Labour force status					
Currently employed	9.3	65.1	25.6	79.3	11.4
Student	28.2	46.4	25.4	63.7	8.1
Unemployed	15.5	55.1	29.4	68.2	16.3
Engaged in home duties	22.5	65.0	12.5	70.0	7.5
Unable to work	25.9	50.0	24.0	62.6	11.5
Retired or on a pension	25.5	68.1	6.5	67.9	6.6
Other	23.7	55.8	20.5	66.2	10.1
Main language spoken at home					
English	14.5	63.8	21.7	75.1	10.4
Other	39.7	52.8	7.5	57.4	2.9
Socioeconomic status					
1st quintile	21.9	59.5	18.6	68.6	9.5
2nd quintile	19.4	59.6	20.9	70.3	10.3
3rd quintile	16.5	63.2	20.3	73.5	10.0
4th quintile	14.3	65.1	20.6	76.8	9.0
5th quintile	11.9	65.8	22.3	77.5	10.6
Geography					
Major cities	16.9	63.0	20.1	73.6	9.5
Inner regional	15.1	64.7	20.2	75.1	9.8
Outer regional	16.5	59.8	23.6	72.1	11.3
Remote and very remote	13.7	58.3	28.0	70.4	15.9
Marital status					
Never married	18.0	47.2	34.8	68.3	13.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	21.1	64.6	14.3	68.7	10.3
Married/de facto	14.6	69.4	16.0	77.2	8.2
Indigenous status					
Indigenous	21.3	40.0	38.7	56.0	22.7
Other Australians	16.1	63.3	20.5	74.1	9.7

## 6 Illicit drug use

This chapter presents data on use of any illicit drug. Illicit drugs include illegal drugs (such as marijuana/cannabis), pharmaceutical drugs (such as pain-killers, tranquillisers) when used for non-medical purposes (strictly an illicit behaviour), and other substances used inappropriately (such as inhalants). For a full list of drugs included in the survey questionnaire, see Glossary.

Data on the use of any illicit drug are presented including and then excluding marijuana/cannabis – the influence of marijuana/cannabis is removed because of its relatively high use compared with other illicit drugs.

The majority of recent users of illicit drugs (two in three, 66.7%) had used only one kind of illicit drug in the last 12 months. When marijuana/cannabis is excluded, three in five (61.6%) recent users had used only one kind of illicit drug in the last 12 months.

### Use of any illicit drug

In 2004, more than 6 million (two in five, 38.1%) Australians aged 14 years and older had used an illicit drug in their lifetime (Table 6.1). Males (two in five, 41.8%) were more likely than females (one in three, 34.4%) to have used an illicit drug in their lifetime.

More than 2.5 million (one in six, 15.3%) Australians had used an illicit drug in the last 12 months. Males (one in five, 18.2%) were more likely than females (one in eight, 12.5%) to have used in the last 12 months.

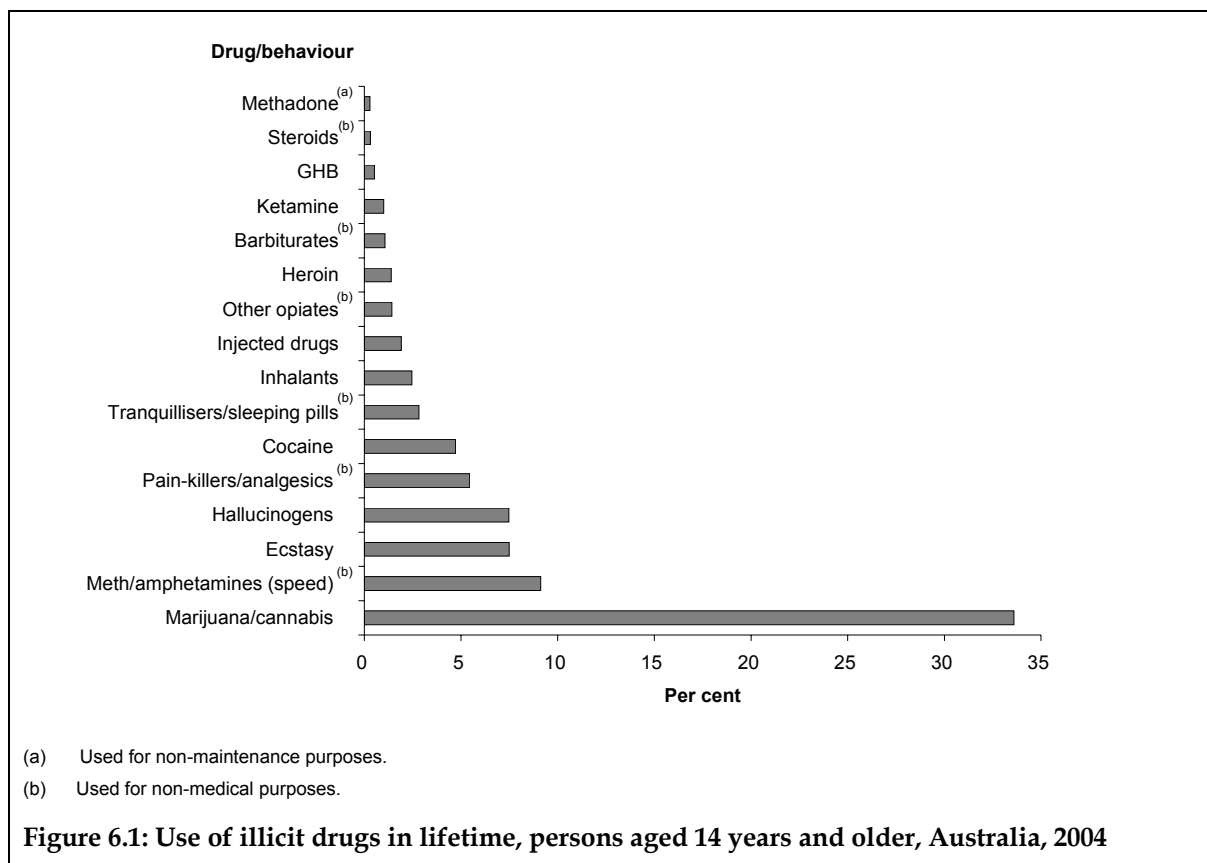
Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used an illicit drug in their lifetime and in the last 12 months, although the difference between 20–29-year-olds and 30–39-year-olds was very small for lifetime use.

**Table 6.1: Use of any illicit drug, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	29.3	58.1	58.0	26.7	41.8	34.4	38.1
In the last 12 months	21.3	31.5	20.2	7.4	18.2	12.5	15.3
In the last month	11.3	19.2	13.2	4.5	11.4	7.3	9.3
In the last week	6.2	12.4	9.5	3.1	7.8	4.5	6.2
	(number)						
In lifetime	485,800	1,604,800	1,728,800	2,405,100	3,386,800	2,861,700	6,245,700
In the last 12 months	354,400	870,800	602,200	664,400	1,473,000	1,039,600	2,510,100
In the last month	188,000	531,500	393,300	403,700	920,000	608,800	1,527,100
In the last week	102,300	342,300	282,200	277,900	634,600	377,700	1,010,900

### Type of illicit drugs used in lifetime

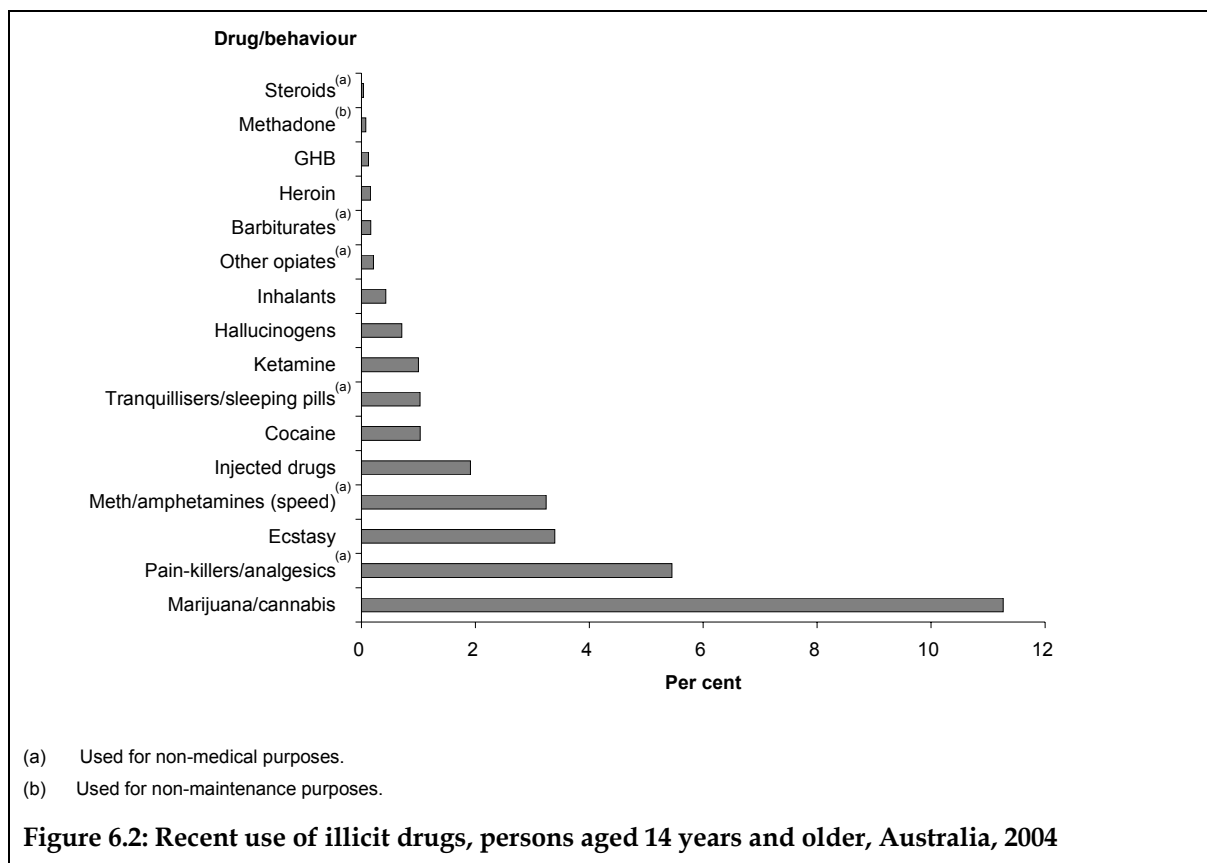
Marijuana/cannabis was the most commonly used illicit drug, with one in three (33.6%) Australians having used at least once in their lifetime (Figure 6.1). The next most commonly used drugs were meth/amphetamines (speed) (9.1%), ecstasy (7.5%), hallucinogens (7.5%) and pain-killers/analgesics (5.5%).



## Type of illicit drugs used recently

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in six (15.3%) had used an illicit drug at least once in the last 12 months.

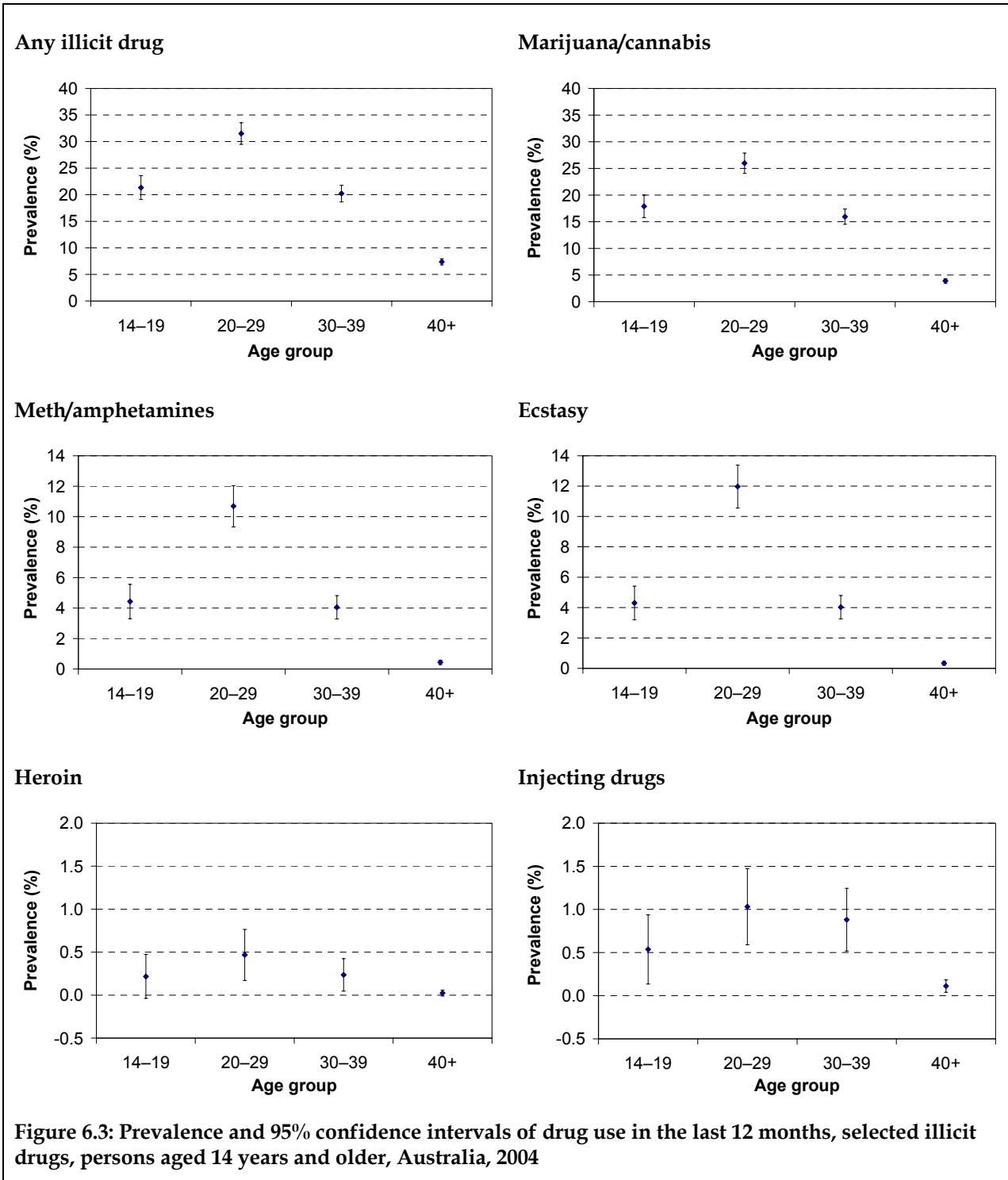
Marijuana/cannabis was the most common illicit drug used, with one in ten (11.3%) Australians reporting having used at least once in the last 12 months (Figure 6.2). The drugs next most commonly used in the last 12 months were pain-killers/analgesics (5.5%), ecstasy (3.4%), meth/amphetamines (speed) (3.2%) and injected drugs (1.9%).



## Recent illicit drug use by age group

Recent use of certain illicit drugs and of any illicit drug was most prevalent among people aged 20–29 years; one in four (26.0%) had used marijuana/cannabis and three in ten (31.5%) had used any illicit drug in the last 12 months (Figure 6.3).

Teenagers (aged 14–19 years) were the age group next most likely (21.3%) to have used any illicit drug in the last 12 months. Again, with 17.9% of teenagers having used marijuana/cannabis in the past 12 months, it was the drug most favoured for recent use.



## Factors influencing first use of an illicit drug

Australians who had used an illicit drug in their lifetime were influenced by a range of factors when they first used (Table 6.2). Respondents were asked to indicate all factors that influenced their use.

For Australians aged 14 years and older who had used illicit drugs in their lifetime, curiosity was the most common factor which influenced their decision to use for the first time (three in



four, 77.0%). Peer pressure was the next most common factor for first use – one in two (54.5%) Australians who had ever used illicit drugs were influenced by it in their first use.

**Table 6.2: Factors influencing first use of any illicit drug, lifetime users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Factor	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Curiosity	77.5	76.4	77.0
Peer pressure	52.7	56.7	54.5
To do something exciting	19.5	22.0	20.7
To enhance an experience	12.2	11.7	12.0
To take a risk	8.4	10.3	9.3
To feel better	5.0	7.1	5.9
Family, relationship, work or school problems	4.3	6.7	5.4
Traumatic experience	1.6	3.5	2.5
To lose weight	0.5	2.1	1.2
Other	3.3	3.4	3.3

*Notes*

1. Base is those who had ever used an illicit drug.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Characteristics—any illicit drug use

The survey enabled a profile to be built up of those who had never used any illicit drugs (61.9% of Australians aged 14 years and older), those who had used but not in the last 12 months (22.8%) and those who had used in the last 12 months (15.3%) (Table 6.3).

The highest proportion of recent drug use across all subpopulations was for people who were unemployed (one in three, 31.7%), more than twice the total population proportion for recent drug use (one in six, 15.3%). The lowest proportion of recent users for a subpopulation was for people who were retired or on a pension (one in twenty, 5.4%).

A higher proportion of people who were most socioeconomically advantaged were recent users of illicit drugs (16.6%) compared with the other socioeconomic groups.

A greater proportion of people from remote and very remote regions used illicit drugs in the last 12 months (19.0%) than people from other regions.

Indigenous people were almost twice as likely to be recent users of illicit drugs as other Australians (26.9% versus 15.0%) but there was no difference between these two subpopulations with regard to ex-users (22.9%).

**Table 6.3: Characteristics by illicit drug use status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Characteristic	Never used	Ex-users (per cent)	Recent users
All persons (aged 14+)	61.9	22.8	15.3
Education			
Without post-school qualifications	66.7	17.9	15.4
With post-school qualifications	58.1	26.8	15.2
Labour force status			
Currently employed	53.2	29.5	17.3
Student	68.6	11.8	19.6
Unemployed	46.5	21.9	31.7
Engaged in home duties	62.9	26.0	11.1
Retired or on a pension	86.4	8.2	5.4
Unable to work	52.7	24.7	22.6
Other	55.5	27.6	16.8
Main language spoken at home			
English	60.3	24.0	15.7
Other	84.1	7.4	8.5
Socioeconomic status			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	63.5	21.4	15.2
2nd quintile	63.1	22.2	14.7
3rd quintile	62.3	22.2	15.5
4th quintile	62.2	23.7	14.2
5th quintile (most advantaged)	59.3	24.1	16.6
Geography			
Major cities	61.8	22.5	15.6
Inner regional	62.8	22.7	14.5
Outer regional	63.0	23.8	13.2
Remote and very remote	52.9	28.1	19.0
Marital status			
Never married	54.1	18.2	27.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	66.3	20.7	13.0
Married/de facto	64.5	25.3	10.2
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	50.1	22.9	26.9
Other Australians	62.1	22.9	15.0

## Use of any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis

When marijuana is excluded from the use of illicit drugs, the number of Australians who had used an illicit drug in their lifetime drops from 6.1 million to 3.1 million – that is, one in five (18.6%) Australians aged 14 years and older had used an illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime (Table 6.4).

Approximately 1.4 million people (one in ten, 8.3%) had used an illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months.

When marijuana/cannabis is excluded, Australians aged 20–29 years were still the age group most likely to have used illicit drugs – 18.3% had used in the last 12 months, 9.1% in the last month.

**Table 6.4: Use of any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	13.6	33.0	27.5	12.1	21.1	16.2	18.6
In the last 12 months	10.1	18.3	10.1	4.1	9.3	7.3	8.3
In the last month	4.9	9.1	4.5	2.3	4.6	3.8	4.2
In the last week	2.3	4.6	2.4	1.4	2.5	2.0	2.2
	(number)						
In lifetime	225,300	913,000	819,000	1,085,600	1,708,100	1,349,900	3,056,000
In the last 12 months	168,000	505,600	302,300	371,700	751,500	605,900	1,356,400
In the last month	81,200	252,000	134,600	211,100	370,100	313,000	682,800
In the last week	37,600	128,400	71,700	128,100	204,000	163,800	367,600

### Characteristics—any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis

The 2004 survey collected information on the characteristics of users and non-users (81.4% of the population) of any illicit drugs except marijuana/cannabis (Table 6.5).

With regard to employment status, unemployed persons had the highest proportion that had used an illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months.

A greater proportion of people whose main language spoken at home was not English had never used an illicit drug (nine in ten, 89.2%) than those whose main language spoken at home was English (eight in ten, 80.9%).

A greater proportion of people from major cities (9.0%) had used illicit drugs except marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months than people from other regions (6.2% to 6.8%).

Of Indigenous people, 11.6% had used an illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis, compared with 8.1% of other Australians [NS].

**Table 6.5: Characteristics by any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis use status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Characteristic	Never used	Ex-users (per cent)	Recent users
All persons (aged 14+)	81.4	10.4	8.3
Education			
Without post-school qualifications	83.2	8.3	8.5
With post-school qualifications	79.9	12.1	8.0
Labour force status			
Currently employed	78.0	13.0	9.0
Student	84.2	5.8	9.9
Unemployed	70.0	12.9	17.1
Engaged in home duties	83.9	9.7	6.3
Retired or on a pension	91.7	4.2	4.1
Unable to work	68.9	18.0	13.2
Other	74.8	16.4	8.8
Main language spoken at home			
English	80.9	10.8	8.3
Other	89.2	4.4	6.4
Socioeconomic status			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	82.1	9.8	8.1
2nd quintile	82.2	10.4	7.4
3rd quintile	81.5	10.4	8.1
4th quintile	82.4	10.0	7.6
5th quintile (most advantaged)	79.1	11.2	9.7
Geography			
Major cities	80.3	10.7	9.0
Inner regional	84.0	9.3	6.8
Outer regional	83.8	10.0	6.2
Remote and very remote	79.3	14.3	6.4
Marital status			
Never married	74.2	10.4	15.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	83.0	9.6	7.4
Married/de facto	84.2	10.5	5.3
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	74.2	14.2	11.6
Other Australians	81.5	10.3	8.1

## Non-users of illicit drugs

Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used an illicit drug in their lifetime were asked to indicate the factors that influenced their decision to never try.

The most common responses were 'just not interested' (nominated as an influencing factor by three in four (75.6%) Australians who had never used an illicit drug) and 'for reasons related to health and addiction' (one in two, 54.6%) (Table 6.6).

The proportions of males and females nominating each influence were similar.

**Table 6.6: Factors influencing the decision never to try an illicit drug, people who had never used aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Persons</b>
		<b>(per cent)</b>	
Just not interested	73.0	77.7	75.6
For reasons related to health or addiction	56.0	53.3	54.6
Didn't like to feel out of control	24.6	29.1	27.1
For reasons related to the law	26.4	24.3	25.3
Religious/moral reasons	21.3	24.0	22.8
Didn't think it would be enjoyable	20.8	23.8	22.4
Pressure from family or friends	11.9	9.8	10.8
No opportunity	8.8	10.6	9.8
Didn't want family/friends/employer or teachers to know	9.5	7.2	8.2
Financial reasons	9.2	7.4	8.2
Friends didn't use or stopped using	7.9	8.3	8.1
Drugs too hard to acquire	5.0	3.8	4.3
Seen the negative effects of drugs	1.6	2.1	1.9
Education/awareness	1.0	1.4	1.2
Other	4.0	4.0	4.0

*Notes*

1. Base is those who had never used any illicit drug.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

# 7 Marijuana/cannabis

## Use of marijuana/cannabis

In 2004, marijuana/cannabis was the most commonly used illicit drug in Australia – one in three (33.6%, 5.5 million) Australians aged 14 years and older had used it in their lifetime; one in twenty (4.6% , 0.8 million) had used it in the last week (Table 7.1).

Males (14.4%) were more likely than females (8.3%) to have used marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months. This relationship is also true for lifetime use and for use in the last month or last week.

**Table 7.1: Marijuana/cannabis use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	25.5	54.5	54.5	21.7	37.4	29.9	33.6
In the last 12 months	17.9	26.0	15.9	3.9	14.4	8.3	11.3
In the last month	9.1	14.9	10.9	2.4	8.9	4.6	6.7
In the last week	4.8	9.9	8.1	1.8	6.2	3.0	4.6
	(number)						
In lifetime	424,200	1,506,600	1,623,000	1,954,200	3,028,200	2,487,800	5,513,800
In the last 12 months	297,100	718,000	475,000	351,900	1,163,700	686,400	1,848,200
In the last month	151,500	412,600	324,100	212,500	718,800	386,300	1,103,900
In the last week	79,700	272,600	240,000	157,700	502,400	250,300	751,700

The average age at which Australians first used marijuana/cannabis was 18.7 years.

## Frequency of use of marijuana/cannabis

Of the 1.8 million recent users of marijuana/cannabis, one in six (16.4%) used it every day and a further one in five (22.8%) used it at least once per week (Table 7.2).

Males (18.2%) were more likely than females (13.4%) to have used marijuana/cannabis every day but females were more likely than males to have used only once or twice a year (35.6% versus 28.4%).

Australians aged 30–39 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used marijuana/cannabis every day.

**Table 7.2: Frequency of marijuana/cannabis use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Every day	8.8	15.7	21.2	17.8	18.2	13.4	16.4
Once a week or more	21.2	20.9	24.6	26.0	23.7	21.4	22.8
About once a month	13.5	11.5	12.6	10.5	11.9	12.0	11.9
Every few months	21.9	20.3	13.5	14.9	17.9	17.6	17.8
Once or twice a year	34.6	31.6	28.2	30.8	28.4	35.6	31.1

Note: Base is recent users.

## Form, quantity and method of use of marijuana/cannabis

Recent users of marijuana/cannabis were asked what form of marijuana/cannabis they used and, on average, how many cones, bongs or joints they normally had on a day they used this drug.

Heads were the most common form of marijuana/cannabis used by recent users; a greater proportion of males (eight in ten, 78.9%) than females (seven in ten, 71.5%) used this form (Table 7.3).

Marijuana/cannabis leaf was the next most commonly used form of the drug, for both male (39.9%) and female (50.1%) recent users.

**Table 7.3: Form of marijuana/cannabis used, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Form of drug	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Heads	78.9	71.5	76.2
Leaf	39.9	50.1	43.7
Skunk	22.9	12.9	19.3
Resin (including hash)	14.7	11.2	13.4
Oil (including hash oil)	6.0	3.6	5.1
Other	4.3	4.7	4.4

Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

Although three in ten (29.1%) recent users of marijuana/cannabis used only one cone, bong or joint on a day this drug was used, the average was 3.2.

The two most common methods of use of marijuana/cannabis among recent users were smoking as joints and smoking from a bong or pipe.

## Source of supply of marijuana/cannabis

Recent users of marijuana/cannabis were asked where they usually obtained this drug. Seven in ten (69.4%) obtained marijuana/cannabis from friends or acquaintances (Table 7.4). A further one in six (16.9%) obtained marijuana/cannabis from a dealer.

**Table 7.4: Usual source of marijuana/cannabis, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	69.6	69.1	69.4
Dealer	18.7	14.0	16.9
Relative	3.6	10.4	6.1
Grew it myself	5.2	2.2	4.1
Other	3.0	4.4	3.5

Note: Base is recent users.

## Usual place of use of marijuana/cannabis

Recent users of marijuana/cannabis were asked where they usually used this drug. Nine in ten (89.1%) nominated their own home or a friend's house as where they usually used marijuana/cannabis – this was the most usual place (Table 7.5). The least usual place for use of marijuana/cannabis was at work or at school, TAFE or university. Only one in ten (6.1%) recent users usually did so there.

**Table 7.5: Usual place of use of marijuana/cannabis, recent users aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In a private home	88.3	90.5	89.1
At private parties	51.0	45.8	49.1
In a car or other vehicle	23.1	17.2	20.9
In public places (e.g. parks)	20.3	15.1	18.3
At public establishment	12.1	6.3	9.9
At raves/dance parties	10.0	7.6	9.1
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	7.7	4.5	6.5
Somewhere else	10.8	8.3	9.9

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.



## Concurrent drug use with marijuana/cannabis

Recent users of marijuana/cannabis were asked which of some nine selected drugs, if any, were used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as marijuana/cannabis.

Six in seven (86.2%) had used alcohol at the same time as marijuana/cannabis (Table 7.6).

The next two drugs most commonly used with marijuana/cannabis were meth/amphetamines (two in seven, 27.9% of users) and ecstasy (one in four, 24.3%).

Of recent users of marijuana/cannabis, 10.8% had used none of the other specified drugs at the same time.

**Table 7.6: Other drugs used with marijuana/cannabis, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	88.8	82.0	86.2
Heroin	2.4	2.6	2.5
Cocaine/crack	9.6	5.8	8.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	4.6	4.0	4.4
Anti-depressants	4.3	8.0	5.7
Pain-killers/analgesics	6.0	7.7	6.6
Barbiturates	0.9	0.4 *	0.7
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	29.8	24.6	27.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs	26.3	20.6	24.2
Other	3.5	2.5	3.2
None	8.6	14.6	10.8

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for marijuana/cannabis

Recent users of marijuana/cannabis were asked whether they had used another drug when marijuana/cannabis was not available.

Three in five (60.4%) substituted alcohol for marijuana/cannabis (Table 7.7) and one in three (34.2%) made no substitution at all – these two proportions accounted for all but 5.4% of recent users of marijuana/cannabis.

Females were more likely than males to make no substitution in the absence of marijuana/cannabis.

**Table 7.7: Other drugs used to substitute for marijuana/cannabis when marijuana/cannabis not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	65.2	52.3	60.4
Heroin	0.3 *	0.4 *	0.3
Cocaine/crack	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.1 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	0.4 *	0.8	0.5
Anti-depressants	— *	0.6	0.2 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	0.3 *	1.6	0.8
Barbiturates	0.2 *	— *	0.1 *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	1.1	0.7	1.0
Ecstasy/designer drugs	1.4	1.1	1.3
Other	1.1	1.0	1.0
None	29.9	41.5	34.2

Note: Base is recent users.

## Marijuana/cannabis use by friends and acquaintances

All respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used marijuana/cannabis. The proportions varied depending on the use history of the respondent (Table 7.8).

For two in seven (28.0%) recent users of marijuana/cannabis, all or most of their friends and acquaintances also used it. Of people who had never used marijuana/cannabis, 71.2% had no friends and acquaintances that used marijuana/cannabis, compared with 1.0% of recent users.

**Table 7.8: Marijuana/cannabis use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by use status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
			(per cent)	
All or most	0.6	3.5	28.0	4.4
About half or fewer	28.2	75.7	71.0	43.8
None	71.2	20.8	1.0	51.8

## 8 Pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes

In this report, pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes means the use of pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers, barbiturates and/or steroids for non-medical purposes.

### Use of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes

In 2004, one in twenty-five (3.8%) Australians aged 14 years and older (0.6 million) had used pain-killers, tranquillisers, barbiturates and/or steroids for non-medical purposes in the last 12 months (Table 8.1).

Whereas males were more likely than females to have used pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes in their lifetime (8.2% versus 7.0%), roughly equal proportions of males and females (3.6% and 3.9% respectively) had used these drugs in the last 12 months. A lower proportion of males than females had used pharmaceuticals in the last month or in the last week.

Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes in their lifetime (10.8%), in the past 12 months (5.1%) and in the last month (2.4%).

**Table 8.1: Pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	6.3	10.8	9.0	6.4	8.2	7.0	7.6
In the last 12 months	4.0	5.1	3.9	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.8
In the last month	1.6	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.0
In the last week	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2
	(number)						
In lifetime	103,900	172,900	186,300	563,200	506,300	520,000	1,026,300
In the last 12 months	66,600	110,900	119,500	361,200	324,800	333,500	658,300
In the last month	26,300	43,700	47,100	142,400	128,000	131,400	259,400
In the last week	14,000	23,400	25,200	76,100	68,400	70,300	138,700

Of the 0.6 million Australians aged 14 years and older who had used pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes in the last 12 months, the majority (86.5%) had used only one type of pharmaceutical.

The average age at which Australians first used pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes ranged from 19.6 years for barbiturates to 25.2 years for steroids.

## Recent use of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes

In the last 12 months the pharmaceutical used for non-medical purposes by Australians aged 14 years and older was most likely (three in a hundred, 3.1%) to be pain-killers/analgesics (Table 8.2).

Recent use of pain-killers/analgesics and tranquillisers/sleeping pills peaked among persons aged 20–29 years.

Recent use of steroid and barbiturates was low and was similar across all age groups.

**Table 8.2: Recent use of selected pharmaceuticals, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Pharmaceuticals	Age group				Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Pain-killers/analgesics	1.9	4.1	2.6	2.8	2.9
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	0.9	2.3	1.2	0.6	1.1
Steroids	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.2 *	— *	0.1 *
Barbiturates	0.4 *	0.5	0.3 *	0.1 *	0.2
	<b>Females</b>				
Pain-killers/analgesics	4.2	3.5	3.6	2.9	3.3
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	1.3	1.9	1.1	0.7	1.0
Steroids	— *	— *	— *	— *	— *
Barbiturates	0.5 *	0.1 *	0.2 *	— *	0.1
	<b>Persons</b>				
Pain-killers/analgesics	3.1	3.8	3.1	2.9	3.1
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	1.1	2.1	1.2	0.6	1.0
Steroids	0.1 *	— *	0.1 *	— *	—
Barbiturates	0.5	0.3	0.2	— *	0.2

## Frequency of use of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes

Of the 0.6 million recent users of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes, the majority used these drugs less than once a month (Table 8.3). By age group, this generalisation was true for all but those aged 40 years and older. A majority of female users were likely to use these pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes monthly or more frequently.

**Table 8.3: Frequency of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Daily or weekly	10.9 *	16.1	23.2	33.4	23.2	26.2	24.8
About once a month	24.5	24.6	25.7	20.0	19.9	25.3	22.7
Every few months	29.8	20.9	18.1	23.2	20.8	23.8	22.4
Once or twice a year	34.8	38.4	33.0	23.3	36.1	24.7	30.1

Note: Base is recent users.

## Source of supply of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes

Recent users were asked to indicate where they usually obtained pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers and steroids for non-medical purposes.

Of people who had used pain-killers for non-medical purposes in the last 12 months, seven in ten (68.8%) usually obtained them from a shop/retail outlet.

'Friend or acquaintance' was the most commonly nominated source of supply for recent users of tranquillisers (41.8%) and steroids (58.1%).

## Usual place of use of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes

Recent users were asked to indicate the places they usually used pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers and steroids for non-medical purposes.

Recent users of pain-killers most commonly used them in their own home (nine in ten, 91.9%). The next most common places of use were at a friend's house (one in eight, 12.3%) and in the workplace (one in nine, 11.3%).

Similarly, recent users of tranquillisers were most likely to use them in their own home (85.2%) or at a friend's house (27.1%).

In their own home (51.2%) and at a restaurant/café were the most commonly cited places for use by recent users of steroids.

## Concurrent drug use with pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes

Recent users of pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers and steroids for non-medical purposes were asked which, if any, other drugs were used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as those pharmaceuticals.

Of recent users of pain-killers/analgesics, three in five (60.6%) used no other drug at the same time, one in three (31.6%) used alcohol and one in six (15.6%) used marijuana/cannabis.

Of recent users of tranquillisers, 37.6% used no other drug at the same time, 45.9% used alcohol and 31.2% used marijuana/cannabis.

Of recent users of steroids, 39.3% used no other drug at the same time, 30.5% used alcohol and 28.3% used pain-killers/analgesics.

## **Substitution of other drugs for pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes**

Recent users of pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers and steroids for non-medical purposes were asked which other drug they would use if the pharmaceuticals they used for non-medical purposes were not available.

Of recent users of pain-killers/analgesics, seven in ten (69.0%) would make no substitution and one in seven (14.4%) would use alcohol.

Of recent users of tranquillisers, 43.9% would make no substitution, 21.9% would use alcohol and 14.0% would use marijuana/cannabis.

Of recent users of steroids, 66.1% would make no substitution and 28.3% would use marijuana/cannabis.

## 9 Hallucinogens

The 2004 survey asked questions on the use of synthetic and natural hallucinogens (see Glossary for inclusions). In this chapter, data are presented on the use of synthetic and natural hallucinogens combined.

### Use of hallucinogens

In 2004, 1.2 million Australians aged 14 years and older had used hallucinogens in their lifetime, 116,400 of them in the last 12 months (Table 9.1). These population counts represent seven in a hundred (7.5%) and seven in a thousand (0.7%) Australians aged 14 years and older, respectively.

A higher proportion of males than females had used hallucinogens in their lifetime, in the last 12 months, in the last month and in the last week.

Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used hallucinogens.

**Table 9.1: Hallucinogens use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	3.0	14.2	12.8	4.4	9.4	5.6	7.5
In the last 12 months	1.5	2.3	0.7	0.1	1.1	0.4	0.7
In the last month	0.2 *	0.7	0.2	— *	0.3	0.1	0.2
In the last week	— *	0.1 *	0.1 *	— *	0.1 *	— *	—
	(number)						
In lifetime	50,100	392,800	381,700	399,500	759,500	468,200	1,226,800
In the last 12 months	24,900	63,000	21,700	5,900	86,700	29,900	116,400
In the last month	4,000	18,600	5,600	400	21,600	7,400	29,000
In the last week	700	3,100	2,100	—	4,700	1,200	5,900

The average age at which Australians first used hallucinogens was 19.5 years.

### Frequency of use of hallucinogens

Of the 116,400 recent users of hallucinogens, one in fifteen (6.4%) used them once or more a month, but this proportion varied markedly by age and sex (Table 9.2). For example, the female rate for use once or more a month (14.2%) was nearly four times that for males (3.7%) [NS]. Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority of users at all ages and both sexes were relatively infrequent users (once or twice a year) and the proportion of each age group of users was relatively stable, ranging from 61.9% to 86.3%.

**Table 9.2: Frequency of hallucinogens use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
One or more times a month	14.1 *	2.2 *	11.4 *	— *	3.7 *	14.2	6.4
Every few months	24.1	27.9	18.3	13.7 *	25.6	22.0	24.7
Once or twice a year	61.9	69.9	70.3	86.3 *	70.7	63.8	69.0

Note: Base is recent users.

## Form and quantity of hallucinogens used

Recent users of hallucinogens were asked what form of the drug they used and, on average, how many ‘trips’ they normally had on a day they used this drug.

The most common form of hallucinogens used by recent users was tabs (five in seven, 72.2%), although for males it was magic mushrooms (three in four, 74.8%) (Table 9.3).

**Table 9.3: Form of hallucinogens used, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
LSD/tabs	68.3	83.8	72.2
LSD/liquid	21.5	17.0	20.4
Magic mushrooms	74.8	46.1	67.6
Datura/angel’s trumpet	2.8 *	5.9 *	3.6 *

Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

On a day when hallucinogens were used, seven in ten (70.5%) recent users had one trip only, with an average overall of 1.4 trips.

## Source of supply of hallucinogens

Recent users were asked to indicate where they usually obtained hallucinogens.

The most common source of hallucinogens for recent users was from a friend or acquaintance (four in seven (57.9%) users); one in five (20.9%) recent users obtained them from a dealer (Table 9.4).

**Table 9.4: Usual source of hallucinogens, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	55.7	64.9	57.9
Dealer	21.5	19.0	20.9
Relative	3.0 *	3.7 *	3.1 *
Other	19.9	12.5	18.1

Note: Base is recent users.



## Usual place of use of hallucinogens

Recent users were asked where they usually used hallucinogens.

At a friend's house or in own home was the most commonly nominated places for use by both male (three in four, 75.6%) and female (three in five, 61.1%) users (seven in ten (71.9%) overall) (Table 9.5).

At places such as work or school/TAFE/university was the least nominated place for male (4.1%) and female (5.4%) users (4.4% overall).

**Table 9.5: Usual place of use of hallucinogens, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In a home	75.6	61.1	71.9
At private parties	47.4	52.1	48.6
At raves/dance parties	37.3	54.1	41.7
In public places (for example, parks)	25.4	25.2	25.4
At public establishment	19.3	23.2	20.3
In a car or other vehicle	12.4	16.8	13.6
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	4.1 *	5.4 *	4.4
Somewhere else	19.8	8.5 *	16.8

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Concurrent drug use with hallucinogens

Recent users of hallucinogens were asked if they used any other drugs (on at least one occasion) at the same time as this drug.

Seven in ten (71.6%) had used alcohol (Table 9.6); 67.0% had used marijuana/cannabis at the same time as hallucinogens.

**Table 9.6: Other drugs used with hallucinogens, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	73.8	65.2	71.6
Marijuana/cannabis	69.9	58.5	67.0
Heroin	0.9 *	0.0 *	0.7 *
Cocaine/crack	2.8 *	3.7 *	3.0 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	1.5 *	0.0 *	1.1 *
Anti-depressants	2.8 *	7.1 *	3.9 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	1.9 *	0.0 *	1.4 *
Barbiturates	0.4 *	0.0 *	0.3 *
Methamphetamines/amphetamines (speed)	19.9	22.9	20.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	23.3	22.0	23.0
Other	2.8 *	4.3 *	3.2 *
None	8.7	13.0	9.8

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for hallucinogens

Recent users of hallucinogens were asked if they had used another drug when hallucinogens were not available.

One in three (32.2%) used marijuana/cannabis when hallucinogens were not available (Table 9.7). However, one in five (21.4%) did not use any other drug.

**Table 9.7: Other drugs used to substitute for hallucinogens when hallucinogens not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	21.8	26.7	23.0
Marijuana/cannabis	36.5	19.3	32.2
Heroin	0.9 *	— *	0.6 *
Cocaine/crack	— *	— *	— *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	— *	— *	— *
Anti-depressants	— *	0.7 *	0.2 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	— *	— *
Barbiturates	— *	— *	— *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	3.2 *	5.6 *	3.8 *
Ecstasy/designer drugs	15.6	21.5	17.0
Other	2.2 *	— *	1.6 *
No other drug	19.9	26.2	21.4

*Note:* Base is recent users.

## Use of hallucinogens by friends and acquaintances

All respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used hallucinogens.

Almost all (nine in ten, 93.8%) of those who had never used hallucinogens had no friends and acquaintances who used hallucinogens, compared with one in two (52.1%) of those who had used in their lifetime (Table 9.8).

Of recent users, 7.7% reported that all or most of their friends or acquaintances used hallucinogens.

**Table 9.8: Use of hallucinogens by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by use status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
	(per cent)			
All or most	—	0.9	7.7	0.2
About half or less	6.1	47.1	88.1	9.5
None	93.8	52.1	4.2 *	90.3

# 10 Heroin, methadone and other opioids

This chapter presents data on use of heroin, methadone for non-maintenance purposes and other opioids (termed opiates in the survey) such as morphine and pethidine for non-medical purposes. The survey's coverage of other opioids was not the same as for heroin and methadone; therefore, some of the tables presented below do not include other opioids.

## Use of heroin, methadone and/or other opioids

In 2004, 384,800 Australians aged 14 years and older had used heroin, methadone and/or other opioids in their lifetime (Table 10.1).

Roughly twice as many males as females had used opioids in their lifetime (248,100 versus 137,200). For recent use, this variation was greatly reduced, to 32,800 versus 23,600 (0.4% of males, 0.3% of females or 0.3% overall).

The age group 20–29 years was the most likely to have used any opiate in their lifetime and in the last 12 months.

**Table 10.1: Heroin, methadone and/or other opiate use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	1.3	3.4	3.4	1.9	3.1	1.7	2.3
In the last 12 months	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3
In the last month <sup>(a)</sup>	0.1 *	0.2	0.2	— *	0.1	0.1	0.1
In the last week <sup>(a)</sup>	— *	0.2	0.1 *	— *	0.1	— *	0.1
	(number)						
In lifetime	21,800	94,800	100,300	167,600	248,100	137,200	384,800
In the last 12 months	9,800	19,000	15,600	11,600	32,800	23,600	56,300
In the last month <sup>(a)</sup>	2,000	6,700	5,000	1,300	9,900	5,300	15,100
In the last week <sup>(a)</sup>	400	6,700	3,400	300	7,000	4,000	11,000

(a) Heroin and methadone only; excludes other opioids.

Of recent users of opioids, 73.1% had used only one kind of opiate in the last 12 months.

The average age at which Australians first used heroin was 21.2 years and for methadone it was 24.8 years.

## Frequency of use of heroin, methadone

Of recent users of heroin and/or methadone, four in nine (45.0%) used these drugs weekly or more frequently and three in ten (29.3%) used them only once or twice a year (Table 10.2).

**Table 10.2: Frequency of heroin, methadone and/or other opiate use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Daily or weekly	— *	56.4	61.1	41.2 *	46.0	43.7	45.0
Monthly	88.6 *	7.8 *	10.6 *	12.0 *	13.8 *	40.4	25.8
Once or twice a year	11.4 *	35.8	28.3 *	46.8 *	40.1	16.0 *	29.3

Note: Base is recent users.

## Form and quantity of heroin, methadone and other opioids used

A greater proportion of recent users of heroin used heroin rock (four in five (83.5%) users) than heroin powder (two in three, 67.8%) [NS].

A greater proportion of recent users of methadone used physeptone (three in four (74.8%) users) than methadone syrup (two in three, 68.1%) [NS].

A greater proportion of recent users of other opioids used morphine (one in two (51.9%) users) than pethidine (one in five, 23.5%) [NS].

On a day when heroin was used, the majority of recent users of heroin had one or two hits with an overall average of 1.9 hits. On a day when methadone was used, the majority of recent users of methadone had one hit with an overall average of 1.4 hits.

## Method of use of heroin, methadone and other opioids

Recent users of heroin were asked how they used it—seven in eight (86.8%) injected heroin, and two in three (64.6%) smoked it.

Similarly, recent users of methadone were asked how they used it—two in three (67.7%) swallowed methadone, and two in three (64.6%) injected it.

Again, recent users of other opioids were asked how they used them—one in two (52.3%) swallowed those opioids, and three in ten (28.5%) injected them and three in ten (28.3%) used some other method.

## Source of supply of heroin and methadone

Recent users were asked to indicate where they usually obtained heroin or methadone.

Of recent users of heroin, two in three (63.5%) obtained it from a dealer. Of recent users of methadone, one in two (54.6%) obtained it from family or friends.

## **Usual place of use of heroin and methadone**

Recent users were asked where they usually used heroin or methadone.

Of recent users of heroin, two in three (65.7%) used it in their own home, and one in two (49.1%) used it at a friend's house.

Similarly, of recent users of methadone, one in two (54.0%) used it in their own home, and one in three (37.8%) used it at a friend's house.

## **Concurrent drug use with heroin, methadone and other opioids**

Recent users of heroin, methadone and other opioids were asked which other drugs they had used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as each opiate.

Of recent users of heroin, two in three (66.4%) had used marijuana/cannabis, three in five (58.8%) had drunk alcohol, and one in ten (10.3%) had not used another drug.

Of recent users of methadone, 72.0% had used marijuana/cannabis, 42.8% had drunk alcohol and 8.1% had not used another drug.

Of recent users of other opioids, 37.8% had used marijuana/cannabis, 30.3% had drunk alcohol, and 36.1% had not used another drug.

## **Substitution of other drugs for heroin and methadone**

Recent users of heroin and methadone were asked whether they had used another drug when their drug of choice was not available.

Of recent users of heroin, one in five (19.5%) had substituted meth/amphetamines, one in five (19.3%) had used pain-killers, one in five (18.5%) had used marijuana/cannabis, and one in six (14.0%) had not used another drug.

Of recent users of methadone for non-maintenance purposes, 31.6% had substituted marijuana/cannabis, 18.8% had used heroin and 10.4% had not used another drug.

# 11 Meth/amphetamines used for non-medical purposes

## Use of meth/amphetamines

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, three in a hundred (3.2%, 0.5 million) had used meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes in the last 12 months (Table 11.1).

Males were more likely than females to have used meth/amphetamines in any time period [NS for 'in the last week'].

People aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used meth/amphetamines.

Of the 1.5 million lifetime users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes, 64.5% (1.0 million) had not done so in the last 12 months.

**Table 11.1: Meth/amphetamines use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	6.6	21.1	16.0	3.6	11.0	7.3	9.1
In the last 12 months	4.4	10.7	4.1	0.4	4.0	2.5	3.2
In the last month	1.8	4.2	1.7	0.2	1.6	1.0	1.3
In the last week	0.8	1.8	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.6
	(number)						
In lifetime	109,300	582,400	477,800	322,700	890,500	607,600	1,497,000
In the last 12 months	73,600	295,300	120,700	39,400	321,600	210,900	532,100
In the last month	29,900	115,400	50,100	17,700	129,800	84,800	214,400
In the last week	13,500	49,700	25,000	8,300	54,900	42,200	97,000

The average age at which Australians first used meth/amphetamines was 20.8 years.

## Frequency of use of meth/amphetamines

Of the 532,100 recent users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes, one in ten (10.8%) used them at least once a week, and a further one in six (16.1%) had used about once a month (Table 11.2). The most common frequency of use was once or twice a year (43.9% of recent users)

**Table 11.2: Frequency of meth/amphetamines use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Daily or weekly	14.1	9.6	10.5	14.7	8.8	13.8	10.8
About once a month	15.4	16.4	16.4	14.6	17.9	13.4	16.1
Every few months	29.2	30.7	25.4	28.7	30.3	27.4	29.2
Once or twice a year	41.2	43.3	47.7	42.0	42.9	45.4	43.9

Note: Base is recent users.

## Form and quantity of meth/amphetamines used

Recent users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes were asked what form of the drug they used.

Powder was the most common form; a greater proportion of females (four in five, 80.3%) than males (seven in ten, 70.5%) used this form (Table 11.3).

**Table 11.3: Form of meth/amphetamines used, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Form of drug	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Powder	70.5	80.3	74.3
Crystal	41.3	34.6	38.6
Base/paste/pure	27.1	23.9	25.8
Tablet	11.1	12.2	11.6
Liquid	7.5	11.6	9.1

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

On a day when meth/amphetamines were used, recent users typically used 1, 5 or 10 points (10 points = 1 gram), although the average quantity was 7.2 points.

## Source of supply of meth/amphetamines

Recent users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes were asked to indicate where they usually obtained this drug.

Seven in ten (69.9%) typically obtained this drug from a friend or acquaintance (Table 11.4). A further two in ten (22.7%) obtained meth/amphetamines from a dealer.



**Table 11.4: Usual source of meth/amphetamines, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	69.9	69.8	69.9
Dealer	24.0	20.8	22.7
Other	4.2	4.5	4.3
Relative	1.9	4.8	3.1

Note: Base is recent users.

## Usual place of use of meth/amphetamines

Recent users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes were asked to indicate where they usually used this drug.

Both males (two in three, 63.8%) and females (seven in ten, 69.7%) were most likely to use meth/amphetamines in their own home or at a friend's house (Table 11.5). Substantial proportions used the drug at parties or other public establishments.

**Table 11.5: Usual place of use of meth/amphetamines, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In a home	63.8	69.7	66.1
At private parties	52.3	45.4	49.6
At public establishment	47.1	44.7	46.2
At raves/dance parties	43.9	49.4	46.1
In a car or other vehicle	19.0	17.3	18.3
In public places (e.g. parks)	10.7	12.3	11.3
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	9.1	10.0	9.5
Somewhere else	8.6	9.4	8.9

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Concurrent drug use with meth/amphetamines

Recent users of meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes were asked whether any other drugs were used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as this drug.

Nine in ten (87.2%) had consumed alcohol with meth/amphetamines (on at least one occasion) (Table 11.6). Next most commonly, 67.6% of recent users had used marijuana/cannabis and 49.4% had used ecstasy.

**Table 11.6: Other drugs used with meth/amphetamines, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	86.9	87.5	87.2
Marijuana/cannabis	71.6	61.5	67.6
Heroin	2.6	2.4	2.5
Cocaine/crack	13.9	13.3	13.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	7.3	6.8	7.1
Anti-depressants	3.1	8.8	5.4
Pain-killers/analgesics	5.5	8.7	6.8
Barbiturates	1.2 *	0.5 *	0.9
Ecstasy	53.9	42.5	49.4
GHB	4.1	3.4	3.9
Ketamine	10.3	7.6	9.2
Other	4.1	2.6	3.5
None	3.5	4.1	3.8

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for meth/amphetamines

Recent users of meth/amphetamines were asked what drug they had mostly used when meth/amphetamines were not available.

Three in eight (37.6%) substituted alcohol (Table 11.7), with ecstasy the next most common substitute for meth/amphetamines (23.5%).

**Table 11.7: Other drugs used to substitute for meth/amphetamines when meth/amphetamines not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	37.0	38.5	37.6
Marijuana/cannabis	20.7	16.4	19.0
Heroin	0.6 *	0.7 *	0.6 *
Cocaine/crack	2.3	1.8 *	2.1
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	— *	0.6 *	0.3 *
Anti-depressants	0.5 *	1.1 *	0.8 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	0.7 *	0.3 *
Barbiturates	— *	0.8 *	0.3 *
Ecstasy	25.2	21.0	23.5
GHB	0.2 *	0.5 *	0.3 *
Ketamine	0.6 *	0.1 *	0.4 *
Other	— *	0.4 *	0.2 *
No other drug	12.9	17.4	14.7

*Note:* Base is recent users.

## Meth/amphetamines use by friends and acquaintances

All respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used meth/amphetamines for non-medical purposes.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used meth/amphetamines, nine in ten (89.7%) had no friends and acquaintances who used meth/amphetamines (Table 11.8). Among ex-users, 32.0% had no friends and acquaintances who used meth/amphetamines. Among recent users, 2.0% had no friends and acquaintances who used meth/amphetamines.

**Table 11.8: Meth/amphetamines use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by use status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
	(per cent)			
All or most	0.1	1.5	17.7	0.8
About half or less	10.2	66.5	80.3	15.8
None	89.7	32.0	2.0	83.4

# 12 Ecstasy

In the 2001 and earlier surveys, ecstasy was analysed as ecstasy/designer drugs, with the term 'designer drugs' never being defined in the survey. The 2004 survey separated out ecstasy, ketamine and GHB, and did not cover any other 'designer drugs'. In this report ketamine and GHB are dealt with in the following chapter.

## Use of ecstasy

Of Australians aged 14 years and older three in a hundred (3.4%, 0.6 million) had used ecstasy in the last 12 months (Table 12.1).

Males were more likely than females to have used ecstasy, in any time period.

Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used ecstasy.

Of the 1.2 million lifetime users of ecstasy/designer, 54.7% (0.7 million) have not done so in the last 12 months.

**Table 12.1: Ecstasy use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	6.2	22.0	12.5	1.5	9.1	6.0	7.5
In the last 12 months	4.3	12.0	4.0	0.3	4.4	2.4	3.4
In the last month	1.8	5.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	0.9	1.3
In the last week	0.5	1.9	0.4	— *	0.7	0.3	0.5
	(number)						
In lifetime	103,500	608,100	373,100	138,500	735,500	495,500	1,230,000
In the last 12 months	71,500	330,900	120,000	30,000	355,600	201,700	556,600
In the last month	30,700	137,600	38,000	9,500	139,900	78,100	217,700
In the last week	8,900	53,900	11,500	1,800	53,100	23,900	76,800

The average age at which Australians used ecstasy for the first time was 22.8 years.

## Frequency of use of ecstasy

Of the 0.6 million recent users of ecstasy, three in fifty (6.3%) used it at least once a week (Table 12.2).

Of recent users aged 40 years and older, none used ecstasy on a weekly or daily basis but 61.5% used it once or twice a year.

The highest weekly or daily use was among 14–19-year-olds (12.1%).

**Table 12.2: Frequency of ecstasy use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Daily or weekly	12.1	5.5	6.1	— *	5.8	7.1	6.3
About once a month	14.0	16.4	11.6	13.1	15.3	14.2	14.9
Every few months	27.0	34.4	26.7	25.4	30.3	33.2	31.3
Once or twice a year	46.8	43.7	55.5	61.5	48.7	45.5	47.5

Note: Base is recent users.

## Quantity of ecstasy used

On a day when ecstasy was used, the majority of recent users of ecstasy (three in four, 76.3%) normally had one or two pills with an overall average of 1.5 pills.

## Source of supply of ecstasy

Recent users of ecstasy were asked where they usually obtained this drug.

Seven in ten (72.1%) typically obtained the drug from a friend or acquaintance (Table 12.3). A further 22.6% obtained ecstasy from a dealer.

**Table 12.3: Usual source of ecstasy, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	70.9	74.3	72.1
Dealer	25.2	18.1	22.6
Relative	0.9 *	5.2	2.4
Other	3.1	2.4	2.8

Note: Base is recent users.

## Usual place of use of ecstasy

Recent users were asked where they usually used ecstasy.

Two in three (63.3%) used it at raves/dance parties but sizeable proportions used it at public establishments (57.5%), at private parties (53.3%) and in a home (47.9%) (Table 12.4).

**Table 12.4: Usual place of use of ecstasy, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
At raves/dance parties	64.3	61.6	63.3
At public establishment	56.1	59.7	57.5
At private parties	53.5	53.0	53.3
In a home	49.6	45.0	47.9
In public places (e.g. parks)	11.8	9.7	11.1
In a car or other vehicle	8.6	9.0	8.8
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	2.2	3.5	2.7
Somewhere else	7.0	5.1	6.3

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Concurrent drug use with ecstasy

Recent users of ecstasy were asked which other drugs they had used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as ecstasy.

Four in five (82.6%) had drunk alcohol, four in seven (56.8%) had used marijuana/cannabis, two in five (38.5%) had used meth/amphetamines (speed), and one in ten (7.1%) had not used another drug (Table 12.5).

**Table 12.5: Other drugs used with ecstasy, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	86.0	76.8	82.6
Marijuana/cannabis	60.8	49.8	56.8
Heroin	0.8 *	— *	0.5
Cocaine/crack	14.4	11.9	13.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	3.8	2.4	3.3
Anti-depressants	2.8	5.3	3.7
Pain-killers/analgesics	2.0	1.3 *	1.8
Barbiturates	0.4 *	0.2 *	0.3
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	40.1	35.5	38.5
Viagra	1.1 *	0.4 *	0.8
GHB	3.6	1.8 *	3.0
Ketamine	10.0	6.1	8.6
Other	3.2	2.6	3.0
None	4.8	11.2	7.1

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for ecstasy

Recent users of ecstasy were asked whether they had used another drug when ecstasy was not available.

Two in five (42.2%) had drunk alcohol, one in five (23.5%) had used meth/amphetamines, one in ten (11.1%) had used marijuana/cannabis and one in five (19.4%) had not used another drug (Table 12.6).

**Table 12.6: Other drugs used to substitute for ecstasy when ecstasy not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	42.5	41.8	42.2
Marijuana/cannabis	12.6	8.2	11.0
Heroin	0.1 *	— *	0.1 *
Cocaine/crack	2.5	1.8 *	2.2
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	0.5 *	0.2 *
Barbiturates	0.1 *	— *	0.1 *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	23.3	23.9	23.5
GHB	0.3 *	0.9 *	0.5 *
Ketamine	0.4 *	0.9 *	0.6 *
Other	0.2 *	0.4 *	0.3 *
None	18.1	21.6	19.4

Note: Base is recent users.

## Ecstasy use by friends and acquaintances

All respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used ecstasy.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used ecstasy, six in seven (85.8%) had no friends and acquaintances that used ecstasy (Table 12.7). Among those who had used in their lifetime, but not in the last 12 months, 20.0% had no friends and acquaintances that used ecstasy. Among recent users, 1.0% had no friends and acquaintances that used ecstasy.

**Table 12.7: Ecstasy use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
		(per cent)		
All or most	0.2	3.4	28.6	1.3
About half or less	14.0	76.6	70.5	18.5
None	85.8	20.0	1.0	80.2

# 13 Designer drugs—ketamine and GHB

This chapter presents data on use of ketamine and GHB. The survey had limited coverage of these drugs because of their low prevalence in the community. Nevertheless, their inclusion in the survey in 2004 for the first time warrants their individual analysis in this chapter.

## Use of ketamine and GHB

### Ketamine

In 2004, 45,000 Australians aged 14 years and older had used ketamine in the last 12 months (Table 13.1).

Over twice as many males as females had used ketamine in their lifetime (113,000 versus 51,300). This variation was even greater, proportionately, for recent use (in the last 12 months).

The age group 20–29 years old was the most likely to have ever used ketamine (3.4% of them) and recently (0.8%).

**Table 13.1: Ketamine use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	0.7	3.4	1.3	0.2	1.4	0.6	1.0
In the last 12 months	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3
In the last month	— *	0.2 *	— *	— *	0.1	— *	0.1
In the last week	— *	0.1 *	— *	— *	— *	— *	— *
	(number)						
In lifetime	12,100	95,300	39,300	16,100	113,000	51,300	164,000
In the last 12 months	5,600	21,500	12,600	5,000	34,500	10,600	45,000
In the last month	200	4,800	600	3,700	6,800	2,600	9,400
In the last week	—	1,600	600	1,400	3,400	300	3,700

The average age at which Australians aged 14 years and older first used ketamine was 23.7 years (males: 24.4%; females: 22.3%).

### GHB

In 2004, 20,200 Australians aged 14 years and older had used GHB in the last 12 months (Table 13.2).

Over one-and-a-half times as many males as females had used GHB in their lifetime (52,200 versus 32,900). This variation was similar for recent use [NS].

The age group 20–29 years was the most likely to have used GHB in their lifetime.



**Table 13.2: GHB use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	0.6	1.8	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5
In the last 12 months	0.3	0.3	0.1 *	— *	0.2	0.1	0.1
In the last month	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	— *	0.1	— *	—
In the last week	— *	0.1 *	0.1 *	— *	— *	— *	— *
	(number)						
In lifetime	9,600	48,900	19,500	6,500	52,200	32,900	85,100
In the last 12 months	5,300	9,300	3,800	1,700	12,200	8,100	20,200
In the last month	2,300	2,600	2,100	—	5,400	1,600	6,900
In the last week	—	1,400	2,100	—	2,700	800	3,500

The average age at which Australians aged 14 years and older first used GHB was 23.7 years (males: 23.8%; females: 23.5%).

## Frequency of use of ketamine and GHB

Of recent users of ketamine, one in two (50.1%) used the drug once or twice a year and a further one in three (34.1%) used it every few months (Table 13.3). Similarly, 55.5% of recent users of GHB did so once or twice a year and a further 32.7% used it every few months. This pattern of the majority of users of ketamine and/or GHB doing so less frequently than monthly holds for males and females and across all age groups except for recent ketamine users aged 40 years and older.

**Table 13.3: Frequency of ketamine and GHB use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, by age, Australia, 2004**

Drug/frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
<b>Ketamine</b>							
Daily or weekly	3.0 *	4.5 *	— *	29.8 *	4.3 *	11.8 *	6.0 *
About once a month	5.9 *	9.5 *	4.3 *	25.9 *	8.7 *	12.5 *	9.5 *
Every few months	39.5 *	29.1	43.5	27.5 *	32.1	40.9	34.1
Once or twice a year	51.6	56.8	52.2	16.8 *	54.9	34.9	50.4
<b>GHB</b>							
Daily or weekly	6.9 *	8.9 *	— *	— *	5.4 *	6.9 *	6.0 *
About once a month	5.1 *	4.2 *	13.5 *	— *	2.3 *	11.2 *	5.8 *
Every few months	42.3	22.7 *	58.7 *	— *	42.4	18.0 *	32.7
Once or twice a year	45.6	64.2	27.7 *	100.0 *	49.9	63.9	55.5

Note: Base is recent users.

## Concurrent drug use with ketamine and GHB

Recent users of ketamine and/or GHB were asked which other drugs they had used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as each designer drug.

## Ketamine

Of recent users of ketamine, three in five (58.3%) had used Viagra, one in two (52.9%) had drunk alcohol and four in nine (45.6%) had used meth/amphetamines (Table 13.4); 18.6% had not used any other drug at the same time.

Generally, a greater proportion of females than of males used any particular drug at the same time as ketamine, with the main exceptions of cocaine and Viagra.

**Table 13.4: Other drugs used with ketamine, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	51.9	56.2	52.9
Marijuana/cannabis	32.2	48.4	36.1
Heroin	1.9 *	4.8 *	2.6 *
Cocaine/crack	18.6	10.9 *	16.8
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	3.8 *	9.4 *	5.1 *
Anti-depressants	4.2 *	9.4 *	5.4 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	1.5 *	4.4 *	2.2 *
Barbiturates	2.4 *	— *	1.8 *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	42.9	54.1	45.6
Viagra	59.8	53.4	58.3
GHB	4.4 *	11.9 *	6.2 *
Other	9.7 *	7.1 *	9.1 *
None	19.1	17.0 *	18.6

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## GHB

Of recent users of GHB, four in nine (46.5%) had used marijuana/cannabis, two in five (43.0%) had used Viagra, two in five (41.3%) had used meth/amphetamines, and one in three (33.3%) had drunk alcohol (Table 13.5); 22.5% had not used any other drug at the same time.

Females were more than twice as likely as males (48.5% versus 23.2%) to consume alcohol with GHB.

**Table 13.5: Other drugs used with GHB, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	23.2 *	48.5	33.3
Marijuana/cannabis	47.8	44.5	46.5
Heroin	9.5 *	— *	5.7 *
Cocaine/crack	12.1 *	6.9 *	10.0 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	2.3 *	9.7 *	5.2 *
Anti-depressants	— *	6.3 *	2.5 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	— *	— *
Barbiturates	— *	— *	— *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	46.0	34.1	41.3
Viagra	45.9	38.5	43.0
Ketamine	12.9 *	15.8 *	14.1 *
Other	— *	— *	— *
None	18.5 *	28.6 *	22.5

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Ketamine and GHB use by friends and acquaintances

Survey respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used ketamines and what proportion used GHB.

### Ketamine

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used ketamine, almost all (97.9%) had no friends and acquaintances who used ketamine (Table 13.6). Of ex-users of ketamine, 69.6% had no friends and acquaintances who used ketamine. Among recent users, 37.4% had no friends and acquaintances who used ketamine.

**Table 13.6: Ketamine use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
		(per cent)		
All or most	— *	— *	3.7 *	— *
About half or less	2.1	30.4	58.9	2.4
None	97.9	69.6	37.4	97.5

## GHB

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used GHB, almost all (97.6%) had no friends and acquaintances who used GHB (Table 13.7). Of ex-users of GHB, 43.7% had no friends and acquaintances who used GHB. Among recent users, 28.7% had no friends and acquaintances who used GHB.

**Table 13.7: GHB use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
		(per cent)		
All or most	0.1	1.9 *	18.2	0.1
About half or less	2.3	54.4	53.0	2.5
None	97.6	43.7	28.7	97.3

# 14 Cocaine

## Use of cocaine

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in a hundred (1.0%, 0.8 million) had used cocaine in the last 12 months (Table 14.1).

Males were more likely than females to have used cocaine in any time period [NS for 'in last month' and 'in last week'].

Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have used cocaine.

**Table 14.1: Cocaine use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	1.9	8.9	8.8	2.6	5.8	3.7	4.7
In the last 12 months	1.0	3.0	1.8	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.0
In the last month	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3
In the last week	0.2 *	0.4	0.2	— *	0.2	0.1	0.2
	(number)						
In lifetime	31,900	245,000	262,700	233,400	470,100	305,000	774,500
In the last 12 months	16,500	83,200	52,700	16,200	103,300	66,200	169,400
In the last month	7,900	23,100	17,100	4,700	30,700	22,400	53,000
In the last week	4,100	10,200	7,400	2,900	13,000	11,700	24,700

The average age at which Australians used cocaine for the first time was 23.5 years.

## Frequency of use of cocaine

Of the 0.2 million recent users of cocaine, one in six (15.4%) used it at least once a month (Table 14.2).

Of recent users aged 30–39 years, 5.7% used cocaine once a month or more often but 75.8% used it only once or twice a year.

The highest use once a month or more often was among 14–19-year-olds (21.0%) and 20–29-year-olds (20.0%).

Of recent users overall, 62.7% had used only once or twice in the last 12 months.

**Table 14.2: Frequency of cocaine use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Once a month or more	21.0 *	20.0	5.7 *	18.4 *	15.1	15.9	15.4
Every few months	29.0	23.1	18.5	19.8 *	19.3	26.1	21.9
Once or twice a year	50.0	57.0	75.8	61.9	65.6	58.0	62.7

Note: Base is recent users.

## Form, quantity and method of use of cocaine

Recent users of cocaine were asked what form of cocaine they used. They were also asked how many hits or lines on average they normally had on a day they used this drug, and how they had used it.

Almost all (98.9%) used cocaine powder; one in eight (12.1%) used crack cocaine.

On a day they used cocaine, a majority of recent users normally had one, two or three hits/lines, averaging 3.7 overall.

Of recent users, 93.7% had snorted cocaine; 7.6% had injected it.

## Source of supply of cocaine

Recent users of cocaine were asked where they usually obtained this drug.

Seven in ten (71.5%) usually obtained cocaine from a friend or acquaintance (Table 14.3). The next most common source of cocaine was from a dealer (18.0%).

**Table 14.3: Usual source of cocaine, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	71.8	71.1	71.5
Dealer	21.3	12.7	18.0
Relative	3.7	12.4	7.0
Other	3.2	3.8	3.4

Note: Base is recent users.

## Usual place of use of cocaine

Recent users of cocaine were asked where they usually used cocaine.

One in two (54.1%) usually used it in their own home or at a friend's house, one in two (53.1%) used it at private parties, and one in two (51.9%) used it at public establishments (Table 14.4).

**Table 14.4: Usual place of use of cocaine, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In a home	54.1	66.8	59.0
At private parties	53.1	50.6	52.1
At public establishment	51.9	36.9	46.0
At raves/dance parties	31.9	31.6	31.8
In a car or other vehicle	15.0	8.9	12.6
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	4.7 *	9.3	6.5
In public places (e.g. parks)	3.6 *	6.4	4.7
Somewhere else	5.7	6.3	5.9

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Concurrent drug use with cocaine

Recent users of cocaine were asked which other drugs they had used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as cocaine.

Five in six (84.4%) had drunk alcohol, one in two (50.4%) had used ecstasy, one in two (49.8%) had used marijuana/cannabis, and two in fifty (4.3%) had not used another drug (Table 14.5).

**Table 14.5: Other drugs used with cocaine, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	87.4	79.9	84.4
Marijuana/cannabis	56.2	39.7	49.8
Heroin	5.4	7.1	6.1
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	14.2	11.9	13.3
Anti-depressants	2.9 *	5.0 *	3.7
Pain-killers/analgesics	5.1	3.2 *	4.4
Barbiturates	2.3 *	1.4 *	2.0 *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	32.7	35.0	33.6
Ecstasy	50.9	49.4	50.4
GHB	2.1 *	3.7 *	2.7 *
Ketamine	9.6	8.3	9.1
Other	4.2 *	2.3 *	3.5
None	2.0 *	7.9	4.3

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for cocaine

Recent users of cocaine were asked if they had used another drug when cocaine was not available.

Three in ten (30.6%) had drunk alcohol, one in five (21.0%) had used ecstasy, and one in four (24.0%) had not used another drug (Table 14.6).

**Table 14.6: Other drugs used to substitute for cocaine when cocaine not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	31.1	29.9	30.6
Marijuana/cannabis	8.3	7.3	8.0
Heroin	— *	2.8 *	1.1 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	— *	— *	— *
Anti-depressants	— *	— *	— *
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	0.8 *	0.3 *
Barbiturates	— *	— *	— *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	10.6	18.4	13.7
Ecstasy	24.1	16.1	21.0
GHB	0.3 *	0.5 *	0.4 *
Ketamine	0.1 *	— *	0.1 *
Other	1.1 *	0.8 *	0.9 *
No other drug	24.4	23.5	24.0

Note: Base is recent users.

## Cocaine use by friends and acquaintances

In 2004, respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used cocaine.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used cocaine, almost all (94.2%) had no friends and acquaintances who used cocaine (Table 14.7). Among those who had used in their lifetime, 44.2% had no friends and acquaintances who used cocaine. Among recent users, 5.8% had no friends and acquaintances who used cocaine.

**Table 14.7: Cocaine use by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
		(per cent)		
All or most	0.1	0.9	12.2	0.3
About half or less	5.7	54.8	82.0	8.3
None	94.2	44.2	5.8	91.4



# 15 Inhalants

This chapter presents data on the use of volatile substances such as solvents, aerosols, glue and petrol used as inhalants.

## Use of inhalants

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in 250 (0.4%, 70,000) had used inhalants in the last 12 months (Table 15.1).

Males were more likely than females to have used inhalants in any time period [NS for 'in the last week'].

Australians aged 20–29 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have ever used inhalants.

**Table 15.1: Inhalants use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	2.4	5.4	4.6	0.9	3.0	2.0	2.5
In the last 12 months	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4
In the last month	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
In the last week	0.3	0.2	— *	0.1	0.2	— *	0.1
	(number)						
In lifetime	39,800	147,900	136,100	78,300	241,300	162,400	403,400
In the last 12 months	16,600	30,700	11,300	10,900	47,800	22,300	70,000
In the last month	8,000	13,800	4,800	7,900	28,700	6,000	34,700
In the last week	5,700	5,300	800	4,600	13,000	3,600	16,500

The average age at which Australians used inhalants for the first time was 18.6 years.

## Frequency of use of inhalants and quantity used

Of the 70,000 recent users of inhalants, one in two (54.8%) used it at least three times a year, with no apparent variation between males and females (Table 15.2).

**Table 15.2: Frequency of inhalants use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
Once or more a month	57.5	14.8 *	32.6	58.8	33.3	39.1	35.1
Three or more times a year	22.3 *	22.1	15.2 *	13.8 *	21.7	15.2 *	19.7
Once or twice a year	20.1 *	63.1	52.2	27.5 *	45.0	45.7	45.2

Note: Base is recent users.

On a day they used inhalants, a majority (seven in ten, 71.0%) of recent users normally had one to five hits but a further one in five (22.6%) had ten or more, giving an average of 6.0 hits overall.

## Source of supply of inhalants

Recent users of inhalants were asked where they usually obtained this drug.

Five in eleven (46.7%) usually obtained inhalants from a shop (Table 15.3).

**Table 15.3: Usual source of inhalants, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Buy at shop	48.2	43.0	46.7
Friend or acquaintance	35.3	40.3	36.7
Other	16.5	16.7 *	16.5

Note: Base is recent users.

## Usual place of use of inhalants

Recent users of inhalants were asked where they usually used inhalants.

Three in four (73.7%) usually used in their own home or at a friend's house.

**Table 15.4: Usual place of use of inhalants, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In a home	73.7	64.3	71.0
At private parties	16.3	17.4 *	16.6
At raves/dance parties	14.9	13.1 *	14.3
At public establishment	11.1	8.2 *	10.2
In a car or other vehicle	9.5 *	6.0 *	8.4
At work or school/TAFE/university, etc.	3.7 *	23.4	10.0
In public places (e.g. parks)	2.4 *	7.6 *	4.1 *
Somewhere else	14.0	9.2 *	12.5

Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Concurrent drug use with inhalants

Recent users of inhalants were asked which other drugs they had used (on at least one occasion) at the same time as inhalants.

Five in nine (55.7%) had drunk alcohol, two in five (40.9%) used marijuana/cannabis, and one in four (23.9%) had not used another drug (Table 15.5).

**Table 15.5: Other drugs used with inhalants, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	62.4	41.9	55.7
Marijuana/cannabis	44.6	33.1	40.9
Heroin	— *	— *	— *
Cocaine/crack	6.2 *	1.5 *	4.6 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	— *	— *	— *
Anti-depressants	1.3 *	3.8 *	2.1 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	1.3 *	6.2 *	2.9 *
Barbiturates	— *	— *	— *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	30.3	11.9 *	24.3
Ecstasy/designer drugs	33.5	25.3	30.8
Other	1.8 *	2.5 *	2.0 *
None	18.2	35.6	23.9

*Notes*

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Substitution of other drugs for inhalants

Recent users of inhalants were asked if they used another drug when inhalants were not available.

One in three (32.1%) had drunk alcohol, one in six (17.5%) had used marijuana/cannabis, and one in three (33.8%) had not used another drug (Table 15.6).

**Table 15.6: Other drugs used to substitute for inhalants when inhalants not available, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	33.6	28.9	32.1
Marijuana/cannabis	18.8	14.9 *	17.5
Heroin	— *	— *	— *
Cocaine/crack	— *	0.5 *	0.2 *
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	— *	— *	— *
Anti-depressants	— *	3.6 *	1.2 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	— *	3.8 *	1.2 *
Barbiturates	— *	— *	— *
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	4.5 *	7.1 *	5.3 *
Ecstasy/designer drugs	11.7	2.4 *	8.7
Other	— *	— *	— *
No other drug	31.5	38.8	33.8

*Note:* Base is recent users.

## Inhalants use by friends and acquaintances

All respondents were asked what proportion of their friends and acquaintances used inhalants.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had never used inhalants, almost all (98.0%) had no friends and acquaintances who used inhalants (Table 15.7). Among those who had used in their lifetime, 72.5% had no friends and acquaintances who used inhalants. Among recent users, 16.1% had no friends and acquaintances who used inhalants.

**Table 15.7: Use of inhalants by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**

Proportion of friends	Never used	Ex-users	Recent users	All
		(per cent)		
All or most	—	0.7 *	8.7	0.1
About half or less	1.9	26.8	75.2	2.7
None	98.0	72.5	16.1	97.2

# 16 Injecting drugs

This chapter presents data on the use of injectable drugs that are not medically prescribed for injection. Some examples of injectable drugs are steroids, speed, heroin, pethidine, cocaine and ecstasy. Apart from the health risks of the illicit drugs themselves, further risks arise from injection, including infected injecting equipment.

## Lifetime and recent injecting drug use

Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in 250 (0.4%, 73,800) had injected illicit drugs in the last 12 months.

People aged 20–29 years and 30–39 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have injected illicit drugs.

Males were more likely than females to have used injected drugs at any time and in the last 12 months.

**Table 16.1: Injecting drug use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Period	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
In lifetime	1.0	3.7	3.6	1.0	2.4	1.4	1.9
In the last 12 months	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4
	(number)						
In lifetime	16,400	101,100	107,300	88,500	196,300	117,400	313,500
In the last 12 months	8,900	28,500	26,200	10,000	44,900	28,900	73,800

The average age at which users first injected illicit drugs was 21.7 years.

## Frequency of injecting drug use

Of the 73,800 recent illicit drug injectors, one in five (18.1%) injected daily, and three in four (72.6%) injected at least once per week (Table 16.2).

**Table 16.2: Frequency of injecting drug use, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Daily	18.8	17.0	18.1
Twice a week or more but less than daily	8.0 *	11.4	9.4
Once a week or less	73.3	71.6	72.6

Note: Base is recent users.

## Source of injecting equipment

Recent illicit drug injectors were asked where they usually obtained needles and syringes, as opposed to the drugs injected. The source of injected drugs is covered in the discussion of those drugs.

Of recent users, six in ten (63.4%) usually obtained needles and syringes from a chemist (Table 16.3).

**Table 16.3: Usual source of needles and syringes, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Source	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Chemist	70.0	53.3	63.4
Needle and syringe program	35.7	42.6	38.4
Friends	22.3	34.6	27.1
Hospital or doctor	13.2	14.8	13.8
Other	— *	3.5 *	1.4 *

### Notes

1. Base is recent users.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

## Re-use of needles and syringes

Of recent injecting drug users, five in nine (54.2%) had never used a needle or other injecting equipment after someone else had already used it.

For 56.7% of recent injecting drug users, no one else had ever used a needle or other injecting equipment after they had used it themselves.

# 17 Drug-related abuse and potential harm

An objective of the National Drug Strategy is to minimise the harmful effects on the population of both licit and illicit drugs. The NDSHS contributes to this by exploring and reporting on the experiences of drug-related incidents and harm for Australians.

This chapter presents data on persons aged 14 years and older who were victims of drug-related incidents, where drug-related incidents occurred and what the outcomes were. Also presented are data on the perpetrators of drug-related incidents and persons who, while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, put themselves or others at risk of harm.

## Drug-related incidents

### Victims of drug-related incidents

Respondents were asked if they had been verbally or physically abused or put in fear in the past 12 months by persons affected by either alcohol or illicit drugs.

Australians aged 14 years and older were more likely to have been abused or put in fear by someone affected by alcohol (two in seven, 28.8%) than by someone affected by illicit drugs (one in eight, 12.9%) (Table 17.1). The likelihood of each separate type of alcohol-related abuse (verbal, physical and being put in fear) was greater than that for the illicit drug-related equivalent. This was the case for every age group and for males and females.

For both alcohol- and illicit drug-related incidents, 'verbal abuse' was more likely than 'put in fear', which was in turn more likely than 'physical abuse', for every age group and for males and females.

Although males were more likely than females to have been verbally or physically abused in the past 12 months, females were more likely than males to have been put in fear, for both alcohol- and illicit drug-related incidents.

Australians aged 20–29 years were most likely to have experienced each sort of incident, both alcohol- and illicit drug-related.

**Table 17.1: Victims of drug-related incidents in the past 12 months, persons aged 14 years and older, by age, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Influence and incident	Age group				Sex		Persons
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	Males	Females	
	(per cent)						
<b>Alcohol</b>							
Verbal abuse	28.9	40.5	28.7	18.0	27.5	22.5	24.9
Physical abuse	9.1	9.1	4.5	1.9	5.4	3.5	4.4
Put in fear	18.5	20.6	14.9	8.9	10.6	15.3	13.0
<i>Any incident</i>	35.6	45.2	32.7	21.0	30.3	27.4	28.8
<b>Illicit drugs</b>							
Verbal abuse	11.4	14.8	10.8	7.5	10.8	8.8	9.8
Physical abuse	2.4	2.8	1.9	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.6
Put in fear	8.5	11.0	7.6	5.7	6.0	8.5	7.3
<i>Any incident</i>	15.4	19.0	14.1	10.0	13.3	12.5	12.9

## Victims of alcohol-related incidents by alcohol consumption status

In 2004, patterns of alcohol-related incidents varied by alcohol consumption status (recent drinkers, ex-drinkers and those who had never drunk).

Compared with both ex-drinkers and those who had never drunk, recent drinkers were significantly more likely to have experienced both verbal (two in seven, 27.0%) and physical abuse (one in twenty, 4.8%) by someone affected by alcohol (Figure 17.1). The difference between recent drinkers and ex-drinkers reduces when being put in fear (by someone affected by alcohol) is considered.

Those who had never consumed alcohol were least likely to have experienced any of the incidents of abuse in the past 12 months (verbal abuse: 9.4%; physical abuse: 1.6%; put in fear: 7.6%).

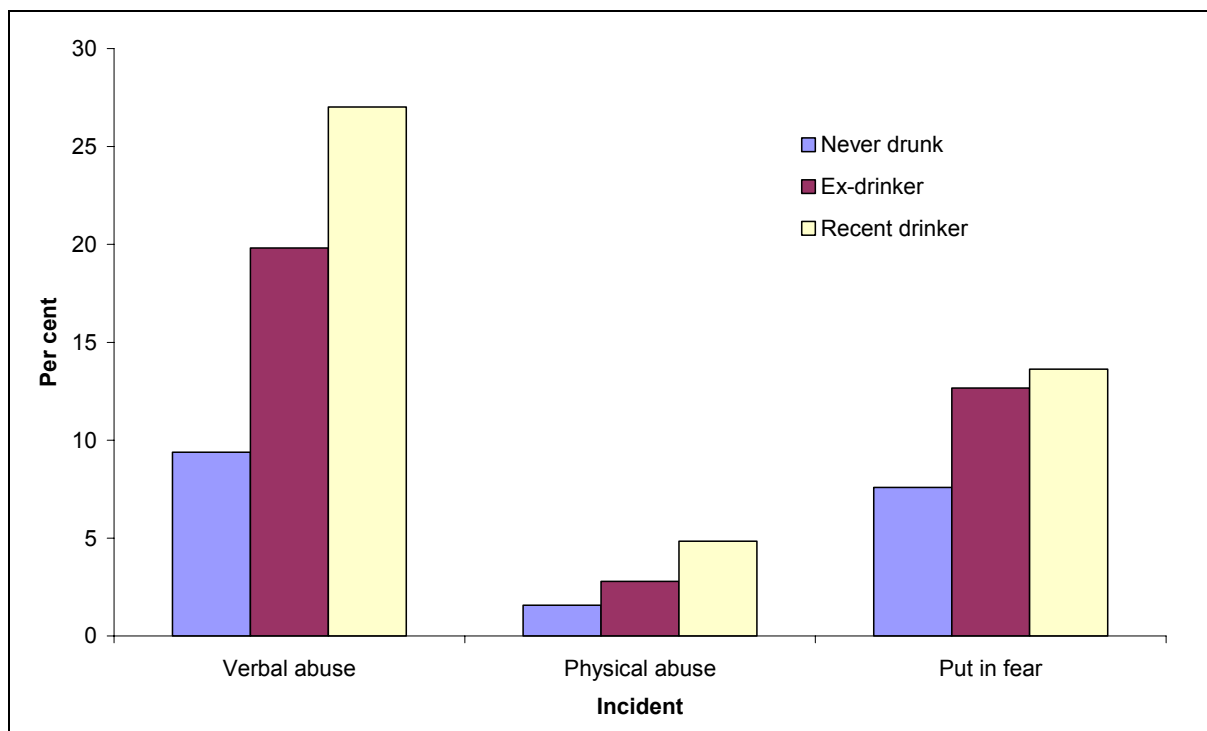
## Victims of illicit drug-related incidents by illicit drug use status

Consistent with the pattern of alcohol-related incidents, recent users of illicit drugs were more likely to have experienced each of the three types of incident (verbal abuse: 17.6%; physical abuse: 4.1%; put in fear: 11.7%) than those who had not used recently and those who had never used (Figure 17.2).

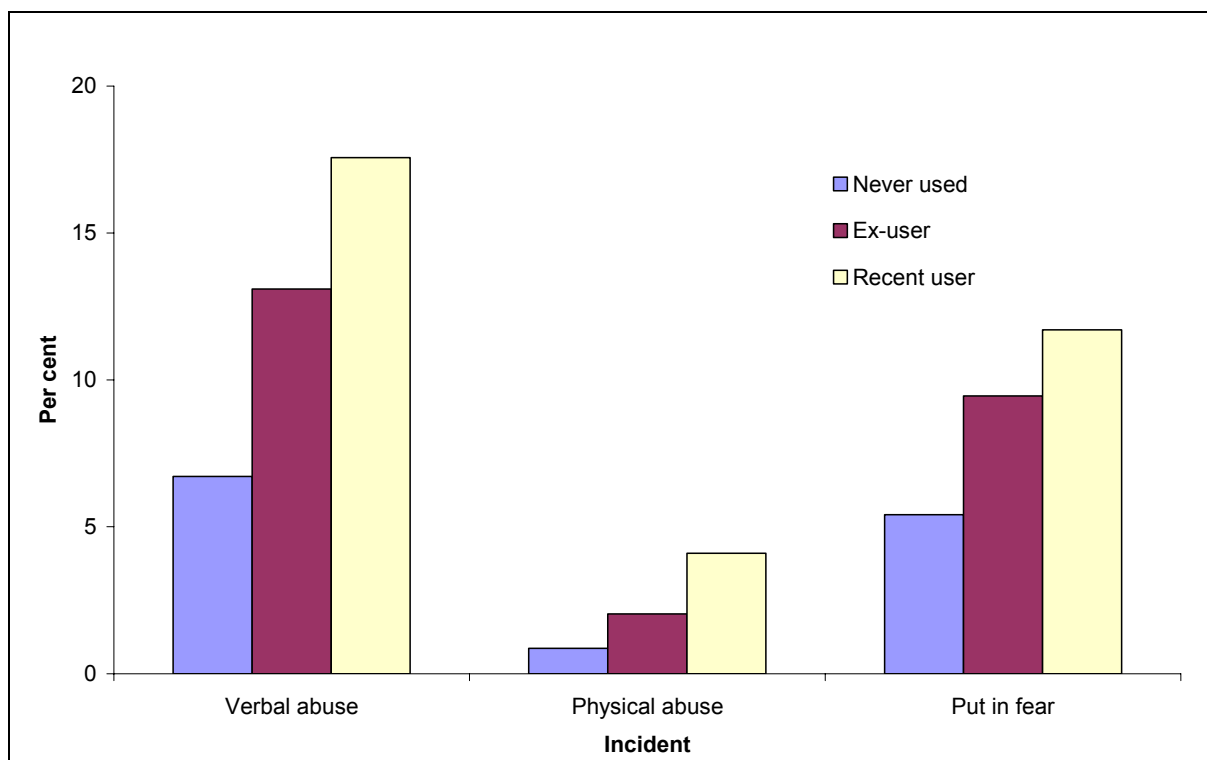
## Use of alcohol or other drugs by victims

Victims of alcohol- or illicit drug-related incidents in the past 12 months were asked whether, at the time of the incident(s), they themselves had been drinking alcohol or using drugs other than alcohol. A majority (three in five, 58.5%) had not (Figure 17.3). A greater proportion had been using alcohol and other drugs (3.5%) than had been using other (illicit) drugs alone (1.0%).

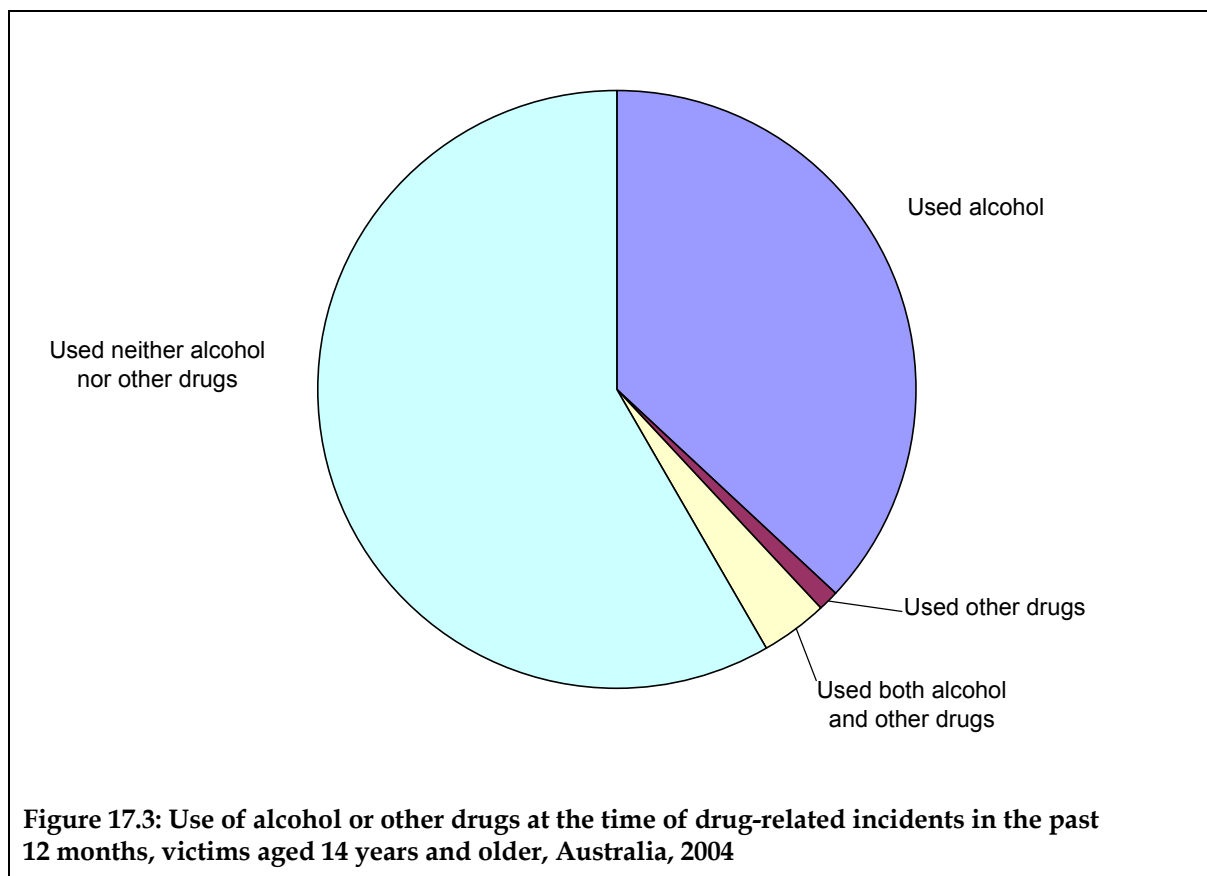




**Figure 17.1: Victims of alcohol-related incidents in the past 12 months, persons aged 14 years and older, by drinking status, Australia, 2004**



**Figure 17.2: Victims of drug-related incidents in the past 12 months, persons aged 14 years and older, by illicit drug use status, Australia, 2004**



## Reporting of drug-related incidents to police

Respondents who had experienced alcohol- and/or illicit drug-related abuse were asked whether they had reported it to the police. Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had experienced such abuse, nine in ten (90.5%) had not reported it. Of those, two in three (67.9%) considered the matter too trivial/unimportant.

Where at least some of the abuse experienced was physical, 71.9% of Australians aged 14 years and older had not reported it to the police. Of those, 52.1% considered the matter too trivial/unimportant.

## Relationship of perpetrator to victim

Respondents who experienced alcohol- and/or illicit drug-related abuse in the past 12 months were asked to indicate who was responsible for the abuse. Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had experienced such abuse, five in nine (54.4%) had been verbally abused by someone they did not know, four in nine (44.2%) had been physically abused by someone they did not know, and one in two (47.9%) had been put in fear by someone they did not know (Table 17.2).

Females were generally more likely than males to know their abuser. For example, 46.8% of females (and only 8.1% of males) had been physically abused by a current or former spouse or partner. Males were more likely than females to have been abused by a friend or someone else known to them (not a spouse or partner or relation).

**Table 17.2: Relationship of perpetrators to victims of drug-related incidents, victims aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Incident and relationship of perpetrator	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
<b>Verbal abuse</b>			
Someone not known to me	63.5	43.7	54.4
Current or former spouse or partner	10.7	32.9	21.0
Other person known to me	25.2	21.0	23.3
Relative	10.4	18.4	14.1
Friend	13.8	10.7	12.4
<b>Physical abuse</b>			
Someone not known to me	59.6	21.5	44.2
Current or former spouse or partner	8.1	46.8	23.7
Other person known to me	31.5	18.9	26.4
Relative	7.9	19.7	12.7
Friend	14.0	11.2	12.9
<b>Put in fear</b>			
Someone not known to me	67.5	30.4	47.9
Current or former spouse or partner	8.3	49.4	30.0
Other person known to me	28.9	20.4	24.4
Relative	11.7	23.2	17.8
Friend	10.6	13.6	12.2

*Notes*

1. Base is those who reported being a victim of drug-related incidents in the past 12 months.
2. Respondents were able to select more than one response.

## Location of drug-related incidents

Respondents who were victims of alcohol- and/or illicit drug-related incidents in the past 12 months were asked where the incidents had occurred.

For both males and females, the most common location of abuse was in the street: one in three (35.3%) victims of verbal abuse, four in ten (39.3%) victims of physical abuse and four in ten (39.5%) of those put in fear (Table 17.3).

Nevertheless, females were much more likely than males to have been abused or put in fear in their own home. Of females who had suffered verbal abuse, 39.2% had been abused in their own home, exceeding the 29.3% who had been abused in the street.

The least likely place for a victim to have been abused by someone affected by alcohol and/or illicit drugs was at school/university: 0.8% for verbal abuse, 1.7% for physical abuse and 1.1% for having been put in fear.

**Table 17.3: Location of drug-related incidents, victims aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Incident, location	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
<b>Verbal abuse</b>			
In the street	40.4	29.3	35.3
In own home	16.5	39.2	27.0
In a pub or club	37.6	23.7	31.2
At a party	12.5	11.1	11.9
At own workplace	10.4	10.8	10.6
Public transport	7.1	6.8	7.0
At school/university	0.9	0.7	0.8
Somewhere else	12.2	15.4	13.7
<b>Physical abuse</b>			
In the street	46.5	28.7	39.3
In own home	23.1	58.7	37.4
In a pub or club	50.7	26.7	41.1
At a party	24.2	17.7	21.6
At own workplace	12.6	9.1	11.2
Public transport	12.2	8.8	10.9
At school/university	1.4 *	2.3	1.7
Somewhere else	12.8	22.2	16.6
<b>Put in fear</b>			
In the street	46.0	34.6	39.5
In own home	17.4	40.8	30.8
In a pub or club	37.7	23.3	29.5
At a party	11.1	12.6	12.0
At own workplace	11.3	11.2	11.3
Public transport	11.5	9.8	10.5
At school/university	1.3	1.0	1.1
Somewhere else	12.3	16.8	14.9

*Notes*

1. Base is those who reported being a victim of drug-related incidents in the past 12 months.
2. Respondents were able to select more than one response.

## Potential for drug-related harm

Survey respondents were asked if they had undertaken any of a selection of activities in the past 12 months while under the influence of either alcohol or illegal drugs.

### Activities under the influence of alcohol

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months, in the same time period one in six (16.1%) had driven a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (that is, 2.2 million people, comprising 1.5 million males and 0.7 million females) (Table 17.4).

Across all the reported activities, males were more likely than females to have undertaken them while under the influence of alcohol.

**Table 17.4: Activities undertaken in the past 12 months while under the influence of alcohol, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Activity	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Drove a vehicle	21.5	10.4	16.1
Verbally abused someone	9.1	5.4	7.3
Went swimming	8.4	4.1	6.3
Went to work	7.7	2.6	5.2
Created a disturbance, damaged or stole goods	6.0	2.6	4.3
Operated a boat or hazardous machinery	3.5	0.3	1.9
Physically abused someone	1.8	0.8	1.3
		(number)	
Drove a vehicle	1,513,900	692,700	2,202,600
Verbally abused someone	638,700	359,600	996,600
Went swimming	594,300	271,700	864,200
Went to work	543,300	174,800	716,500
Created a disturbance, damaged or stole goods	420,900	176,100	595,500
Operated a boat or hazardous machinery	248,100	19,800	266,700
Physically abused someone	124,900	53,100	177,600

Note: Base is recent drinkers.

## Activities under the influence of illicit drugs

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had used any illicit drug in the last 12 months, in the same time period one in four (23.1%) had driven a motor vehicle while under the influence of illicit drugs (that is, 0.6 million people) (Table 17.5).

For most activities, males were roughly twice as likely as females to have undertaken a particular activity. The standout exception was the operation of a boat or hazardous machinery – males were around 12 times more likely than females to have done this while under the influence of illicit drugs.

**Table 17.5: Activities undertaken in the past 12 months while under the influence of illicit drugs, recent users aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Activity	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Drove a vehicle	27.7	16.7	23.1
Went to work	16.3	8.3	13.0
Went swimming	16.2	7.1	12.4
Verbally abused someone	6.4	5.0	5.8
Created a disturbance, damaged or stole goods	6.3	4.2	5.4
Operated a boat or hazardous machinery	7.4	0.6	4.6
Physically abused someone	1.5	0.8	1.2
		(number)	
Drove a vehicle	408,200	173,400	581,100
Went to work	240,300	86,800	326,600
Went swimming	238,300	74,200	312,000
Verbally abused someone	93,700	52,000	145,500
Created a disturbance, damaged or stole goods	93,000	43,400	136,200
Operated a boat or hazardous machinery	109,200	6,600	115,500
Physically abused someone	21,700	8,700	30,400

Note: Base is recent illicit drug users.

# 18 Drug-related policy

In this chapter, data are presented on the levels of support for various policy measures and the distribution of a notional drugs budget.

## Support for policy measures

In this analysis, responses of either 'strongly support' or 'support' (on a scale of five possible responses – strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, strongly oppose) are reported as 'support'. Responses of 'don't know enough to say' are excluded from the analysis.

### Tobacco use

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for various tobacco-related policy measures.

In 2004, for Australians aged 14 years and older, across all measures, ex-smokers and those who had never smoked were more likely than smokers to support policies aimed at reducing the problems associated with tobacco use (Table 18.1).

The policy measure with the highest level of support was the stricter enforcement of the law against supplying cigarettes to minors. An estimated 92.0% of those who had never smoked and 91.7% of ex-smokers supported this measure. Of smokers, 81.1% supported this policy measure.

**Table 18.1: Support for measures to reduce the problems associated with tobacco use, persons aged 14 years and older, by smoking status, Australia, 2004**

Measure	Never smoked <sup>(a)</sup>	Ex-smokers <sup>(b)</sup>	Smokers <sup>(c)</sup>	All
		(per cent)		
Stricter enforcement of law against supplying minors	92.0	91.7	81.1	91.7
Ban smoking...				
in restaurants	90.4	89.1	77.3	89.1
in the workplace	91.0	87.1	55.2	87.1
in pubs/clubs	81.8	73.1	28.4	73.1
in shopping centres	78.8	72.3	47.0	72.3
Immediate ban on tobacco advertising at sporting events	77.5	74.3	46.1	74.3
Increase tax on tobacco products...				
to contribute to treatment costs	79.8	70.7	31.9	70.7
to pay for health education	78.7	67.6	26.0	67.6
to discourage smoking	77.0	65.5	27.2	65.5
Making it harder to buy tobacco in shops	75.3	66.8	31.2	66.8

(a) Never smoked more than 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life.

(b) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(c) Smoked daily, weekly or less than weekly.

## Excessive consumption of alcohol

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for policy measures aimed at reducing the problems associated with excessive alcohol use.

Generally, the support for these measures was not as high as the level of support for measures to reduce tobacco-related harm (Table 18.2).

In 2004, for Australians aged 14 years and older, across all measures non-drinkers and those drinking at low-risk levels were more likely than those drinking at risky or high-risk levels to support policies aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm.

The policy measure with the highest level of support was 'more severe penalties for drink driving'. An estimated 87.1% of non-drinkers and those drinking at low-risk levels and 74.8% of those drinking at risky or high-risk levels supported this measure.

Increasing the price of alcohol was supported by 22.6% of non-drinkers and those drinking at low-risk levels and by 5.2% of risky/high-risk drinkers.

**Table 18.2: Support for measures to reduce the problems associated with excessive alcohol use, persons aged 14 years and older, by long-term alcohol risk status, Australia, 2004**

Measure	Abstainers/low-risk drinkers	Risky/high-risk drinkers	All
		(per cent)	
More severe penalties for drink driving	87.1	74.8	85.9
Stricter laws against serving drunk customers	85.1	72.0	83.8
Strict monitoring of late-night licensed premises	73.4	60.0	72.1
Limiting TV advertising until after 9:30 p.m.	72.8	57.9	71.4
Adding information on the national drinking guidelines to alcohol containers	71.7	54.0	69.9
Increasing the size of standard drink labels on alcohol containers	68.0	51.9	66.4
Increasing the number of alcohol-free events	65.9	40.3	63.3
Increasing the number of alcohol-free dry zones	65.8	40.4	63.3
Serving only low-alcohol beverages at sporting events	63.0	38.9	60.6
Restricting late night trading of alcohol	54.2	30.3	51.9
Banning alcohol sponsorship of sporting events	48.0	27.9	46.0
Raising the legal drinking age	42.1	27.6	40.7
Increasing the tax on alcohol products	40.8	18.0	38.5
Reducing trading hours for pubs and clubs	33.9	14.2	32.0
Reducing the number of outlets that sell alcohol	30.4	11.3	28.5
Increasing the price of alcohol	22.6	5.2	20.8

Note: Respondents could select more than one response.

## Heroin use

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for policy measures aimed at reducing the problems associated with heroin use.

In 2004, of Australians aged 14 years and older, across all measures those who had used heroin in their lifetime were more likely than those who had not to support policies aimed at reducing heroin-related problems (Table 18.3).

The policy measure with the highest level of support among those who had ever used heroin was 'needle and syringe programs'. Of those users, 79.1% supported this measure.

The policy measure with the highest level of support among those who had never used heroin was 'rapid detoxification therapy'. Of those non-users, 73.4% supported this measure.

**Table 18.3: Support for measures to reduce the problems associated with heroin use, persons aged 14 years and older, by heroin use status, Australia, 2004**

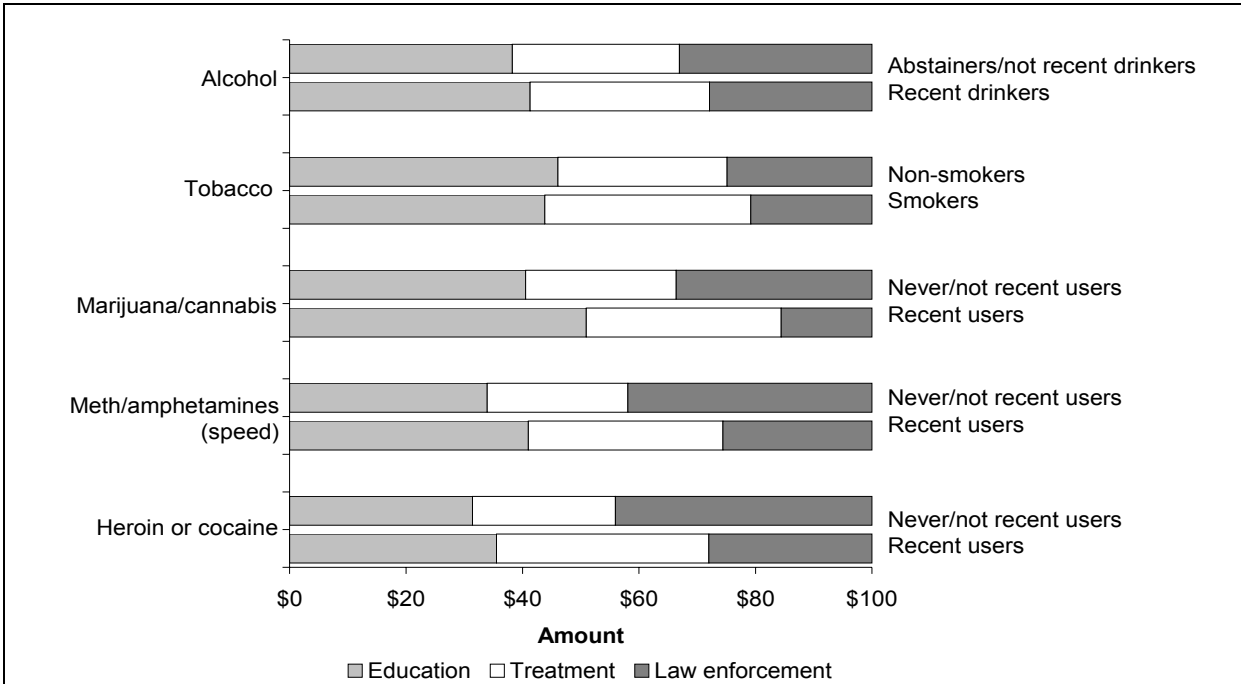
Measure	Never used	Ever used	All
		(per cent)	
Rapid detoxification therapy	73.4	75.8	73.4
Use of Naltrexone	68.0	73.5	68.1
Treatment with drugs other than methadone	58.8	74.6	59.1
Methadone maintenance programs	57.9	64.9	58.0
Needle and syringe programs	54.2	79.1	54.6
Regulated injecting rooms	39.6	56.7	39.9
Trial of prescribed heroin	25.4	52.2	25.8

### Distribution of a notional drugs budget

In 2004, survey respondents were asked to allocate \$100 across the three areas of education, treatment and law enforcement for each of five drug categories.

For alcohol, tobacco and marijuana/cannabis, education typically received the greater proportion of the allotted \$100 (Figure 18.1). For meth/amphetamines and heroin or cocaine, the emphasis was on law enforcement.

Comparison of users and non-users of each drug or category shows a higher allocation to law enforcement by non-users, and a higher allocation to education by users for all drugs but tobacco, where smokers emphasise treatment.



**Figure 18.1: Notional allocation of \$100 to address the use of selected drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by user status, Australia, 2004**



# 19 Drug-related legislation

In this chapter, data are presented on the levels of support for various legislative measures.

In this analysis, responses of either 'strongly support' or 'support' (on a scale of five possible responses – strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, strongly oppose) are reported as 'support'. Responses of 'don't know enough to say' are excluded from the analysis.

## Support for legalisation of illicit drugs

The 2004 survey respondents were asked about their level of support for the legalisation of four illicit drugs for personal use: marijuana/cannabis, heroin, meth/amphetamines and cocaine.

In 2004, for Australians aged 14 years and older, for all four illicit drug categories support for their legalisation was higher among males than females and highest among people aged 20–29 years and 30–39 years old (Table 19.1).

Support for legalisation was higher for marijuana/cannabis (27.0%) than it was for the other three drugs, for which support ranged from 4.7% to 5.0%.

**Table 19.1: Support for the legalisation of selected illicit drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	25.4	40.2	39.7	33.5	24.9	12.8	29.6
Heroin	3.4	5.0	6.4	6.7	6.8	4.0	5.5
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	4.9	7.3	6.8	5.6	5.0	3.1	5.5
Cocaine	4.7	6.3	6.8	5.7	5.4	3.5	5.4
	<b>Females</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	21.8	31.0	31.3	28.7	21.2	12.9	24.4
Heroin	3.6	3.5	4.2	4.9	5.5	4.6	4.4
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.9
Cocaine	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.4	3.8	3.9
	<b>Persons</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	23.6	35.6	35.5	31.1	23.0	12.8	27.0
Heroin	3.5	4.2	5.3	5.8	6.2	4.3	5.0
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	4.5	5.8	5.3	4.7	4.6	3.4	4.7
Cocaine	4.2	5.1	5.3	4.8	4.9	3.7	4.7

Recent users of each of marijuana/cannabis, heroin, meth/amphetamines and cocaine were more likely to support legalisation for personal use than were non- and ex-users. For example, three in four (73.9%) recent users of marijuana/cannabis supported its legalisation; one in five (20.7%) non- and ex-users supported it. Four in nine (44.0%) recent users of heroin supported its legalisation; one in twenty (4.9%) non- and ex-users supported it.

## Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of illicit drugs

The 2004 survey respondents were asked about their level of support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of four illicit drugs for personal use: marijuana/cannabis, heroin, meth/amphetamines and cocaine.

In 2004, for Australians aged 14 years and older, support for increased penalties for sale or supply was higher among females than males (Table 19.2) for each of the four illicit drug categories.

Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of marijuana/cannabis (58.2%) was lower than for the other drug categories (ranging from 83.7% to 86.0%).

**Table 19.2: Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of illicit drugs, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	54.3	41.8	47.3	49.6	60.4	71.2	54.2
Heroin	81.4	82.5	83.8	85.4	86.5	88.3	85.0
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	76.6	74.6	80.3	84.0	86.2	87.7	82.0
Cocaine	80.0	77.1	80.9	84.0	86.0	88.1	83.0
	<b>Females</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	58.6	53.8	55.9	58.8	66.1	74.9	62.0
Heroin	79.9	88.0	87.1	88.9	87.3	87.6	87.1
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	76.4	82.7	85.3	88.3	87.5	87.3	85.3
Cocaine	77.8	85.4	86.1	88.4	87.3	87.5	86.1
	<b>Persons</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	56.4	47.8	51.6	54.3	63.2	73.1	58.2
Heroin	80.7	85.3	85.5	87.2	86.9	88.0	86.0
Meth/amphetamines (speed)	76.5	78.7	82.8	86.2	86.8	87.5	83.7
Cocaine	78.9	81.3	83.5	86.2	86.7	87.8	84.6

Recent users of each of marijuana/cannabis, heroin, meth/amphetamines and cocaine were less likely to support increased penalties for sale or supply than were non- and ex-users. For example, only 14.4% of recent users of marijuana/cannabis supported increased penalties for its sale or supply but 64.0% of non- and ex-users supported them; 35.6% of recent users of heroin supported increased penalties whereas 86.2% of non- and ex-users supported them.

## Treatment of those in possession of illicit drugs

In 2004, for four selected drugs, survey respondents were asked to select the single action they thought best described what should happen to anyone found in possession of small quantities of each drug for personal use.

For the possession of marijuana/cannabis, 44.4% of Australians aged 14 years and older favoured a caution/warning or no action, and a further 28.6% favoured referral to treatment or education program (Table 19.3).

In contrast, for the possession of heroin, only 2.5% of Australians aged 14 years and older favoured a caution/warning or no action, but 45.6% favoured referral to treatment or education program and 26.3% favoured a prison sentence.

**Table 19.3: Support for actions taken in relation to anyone found in possession of selected illicit drugs for personal use, persons aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drug/action	Age group				Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Marijuana/cannabis					
A caution/warning or no action	37.6	48.5	49.5	42.7	44.4
Referral to treatment or education program	22.3	19.7	23.8	34.1	28.6
Fine	28.0	22.5	19.0	14.6	18.1
Community service or weekend detention	7.1	6.3	4.1	4.5	5.0
Prison sentence	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.2
Some other arrangement	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs					
A caution/warning or no action	7.6	14.0	10.3	6.8	8.8
Referral to treatment or education program	26.6	29.5	37.3	48.8	41.1
Fine	38.9	32.3	24.9	19.3	24.6
Community service or weekend detention	11.1	10.2	10.2	8.6	9.4
Prison sentence	13.6	12.7	16.0	15.4	14.8
Some other arrangement	2.1	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.2
Heroin					
A caution/warning or no action	2.4	2.6	3.4	2.3	2.5
Referral to treatment or education program	28.8	39.6	43.4	51.3	45.6
Fine	26.5	18.0	12.7	11.6	14.4
Community service or weekend detention	15.4	11.2	9.0	6.8	8.9
Prison sentence	23.9	26.4	28.6	26.0	26.3
Some other arrangement	3.1	2.2	2.9	1.9	2.2
Meth/amphetamines (speed)					
A caution/warning or no action	4.9	8.3	5.7	3.4	4.8
Referral to treatment or education program	25.5	33.5	39.6	49.7	42.6
Fine	33.7	25.0	19.2	15.5	19.7
Community service or weekend detention	14.0	12.1	10.3	9.0	10.3
Prison sentence	18.9	19.6	23.0	20.8	20.8
Some other arrangement	3.0	1.6	2.2	1.7	1.9

Recent users of certain illicit drugs (marijuana/cannabis, ecstasy/designer drugs, heroin and meth/amphetamines (speed)) were much more likely than people who had not used in the past 12 months to support a caution/warning or no action against those found in possession of small quantities of these drugs. For example, four in five (79.2%) recent users of marijuana/cannabis thought this should happen – two in five (39.8%) of those who had not used in the past 12 months thought so.

Again comparing recent users and people who had not used in the past 12 months, a lower proportion of recent users favoured a prison sentence for someone found in possession of small quantities of the selected drugs. For example, 0.4% of recent users of marijuana/cannabis thought a prison sentence was what should happen; 3.5% of those who had not used in the past 12 months thought so.

For possession of heroin, the action most supported by both recent users (52.0%) and those who had not used in the last 12 months (45.6%) was education or treatment [NS].

Similarly, for possession of meth/amphetamines, education or treatment was the action most supported by both recent users (41.7%) and by those who had not used in the last 12 months (42.6%) [NS].

## Criminal status of marijuana/cannabis possession

Survey respondents were asked whether they thought that the possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be a criminal offence and that offenders should acquire a criminal record – note that ‘small quantity’ was not defined. Of Australians aged 14 years and older, two in five (38.3%) thought that such possession should be a criminal offence (Table 19.4).

Support for the possession of marijuana/cannabis being a criminal offence was less for males (one in three, 36.3%) than for females (two in five, 40.3%).

Those aged 14–19 years (47.1%) and 60 years and older (50.7%) were the age groups most likely to agree that marijuana/cannabis possession should be a criminal offence.

**Table 19.4: Support for the possession of marijuana/cannabis being a criminal offence, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Sex	Age group						Aged 14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
Males	45.2	31.3	28.5	28.9	36.5	51.7	36.3
Females	49.2	37.2	32.6	36.6	39.6	49.7	40.3
Persons	47.1	34.1	30.5	32.6	38.0	50.7	38.3

Of recent users of marijuana/cannabis, one in twenty-five (4.0%) thought possession of a small quantity should be a criminal offence. Of people who had not used in the last 12 months, two in five (43.2%) thought such possession should be a criminal offence.

## Use of marijuana/cannabis if legalised

If marijuana/cannabis were legal to use, two in three (64.7%) recent users thought they would use marijuana/cannabis about as often as they did presently and three in fifty (5.9%) thought they would use it more often.

Of those who were not recent users, nine in ten (92.9%) thought they would not use it even if it were legal.

## 20 Drugs and health

This chapter reports the results of a number of health assessments from the 2004 NDSHS survey. They are presented in terms of the respondents' drug use status. The main limitation of these results is that they are based on self-assessment, which was not empirically verified.

Three further results, for tobacco, alcohol and prescribed medicine, are also included at the end of this chapter.

### Self-assessed health status

Respondents were asked to assess their general health status. Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in eight (13.1%) rated their health as fair or poor (Table 20.1). However, rated health status varied by recent drug use status, with recent users generally reporting poorer health than non-users.

For example, 7.8% of smokers rated their health as excellent, compared with 17.0% of non-smokers. For risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term, 4.5% of those drinking at high-risk levels reported their health status as poor compared with 1.8% of those drinking at low-risk levels. Of non-drinkers, 3.7% reported their health status as poor.

Whereas 15.4% of those who had not used marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months reported their health status as excellent, 12.6% of recent users did so.

### Self-reported health conditions

Respondents were asked whether, in the last 12 months, they had been diagnosed and/or treated for selected health conditions. Of Australians aged 14 years and older, one in twenty-five (4.2%) reported diagnosis or treatment for diabetes, one in six (16.0%) for heart disease, one in thirteen (7.8%) for asthma, one in forty (2.4%) for cancer and one in eleven (9.1%) for mental illness (Table 20.1).

However, reported diagnosis or treatment varied by recent drug use status. For example, 15.3% of daily smokers reported diagnosis or treatment for a mental illness in the last 12 months, compared with 7.8% of non-smokers, and 9.1% of the general population (aged 14 years and older).

Of recent marijuana/cannabis users, 16.5% reported diagnosis and/or treatment for a mental health condition in the last 12 months, compared with 8.6% of non-users. In contrast, 0.9% of recent users reported diagnosis and/or treatment for diabetes, compared with 4.4% of those who had not used in the last 12 months.

**Table 20.1: Self-assessed health status<sup>(a)</sup> by selected drug use status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Drug/use	Health status				
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
	(per cent)				
All persons (14+)	15.0	36.4	34.4	11.9	2.2
Tobacco					
Smoker	7.8	29.5	41.3	18.0	3.4
Non-smoker	17.0	38.2	32.6	10.3	1.9
Risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term					
Abstainer	17.4	32.6	32.3	14.1	3.7
Low risk	15.2	37.9	34.1	11.0	1.8
Risky	10.4	34.5	39.6	13.7	1.8
High risk	10.0	24.3	43.2	18.0	4.5
Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term					
Abstainer	17.4	32.6	32.3	14.1	3.7
Low risk	15.3	37.4	34.0	11.4	1.9
Risky	13.2	38.7	35.6	11.2	1.2
High risk	11.5	34.0	39.4	12.6	2.5
Marijuana/cannabis					
Used in the last 12 months	12.6	34.0	38.2	13.0	2.2
Not used in the last 12 months	15.4	36.8	33.9	11.8	2.1
Any illicit drug other than marijuana/cannabis					
Used in the last 12 months	12.7	32.6	38.3	14.1	2.3
Not used in the last 12 months	15.3	37.0	34.1	11.6	2.1

(a) In response to the question 'In general, would you say your health is...?'.

**Table 20.2: Self-reported health conditions<sup>(a)</sup> by selected drug use status, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Drug/use	Condition				
	Diabetes	Heart diseases <sup>(b)</sup>	Asthma	Cancer	Mental illness <sup>(c)</sup>
	(per cent)				
All persons (aged 14+)	4.2	16.0	7.8	2.4	9.1
Tobacco smoking status					
Daily	3.4	10.8	9.4	2.0	15.3
Other recent smokers	2.5	9.0	7.2	1.0	7.6
Non-smokers	4.4	17.4	7.5	2.5	7.8
Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term					
Abstainer	7.2	20.8	8.1	3.0	8.9
Low risk	4.3	17.2	7.5	2.5	8.7
Risky	2.0	9.8	7.6	1.9	10.0
High risk	1.3	7.2	9.3	1.2	11.1
Marijuana/cannabis					
Used in the last month	0.9	4.0	10.1	1.0	16.5
Not used in the last month	4.4	16.8	7.6	2.5	8.6
Inhalants					
Used in the last month	2.1 *	8.9 *	15.9	7.5 *	22.1
Not used in the last month	4.2	15.9	7.8	2.4	9.1
Heroin					
Used in the last month	— *	2.8 *	16.2 *	— *	50.3
Not used in the last month	4.2	15.9	7.8	2.4	9.1
Meth/amphetamines					
Used in the last month	1.2 *	4.0	13.9	1.9 *	19.8
Not used in the last month	4.2	16.1	7.7	2.4	9.0
Cocaine					
Used in the last month	1.2 *	1.5 *	8.4 *	— *	13.1
Not used in the last month	4.2	15.9	7.8	2.4	9.1
Ecstasy					
Used in the last month	0.7 *	0.8 *	11.8	0.3 *	16.0
Not used in the last month	4.2	16.1	7.7	2.4	9.0
Any illicit drug					
Used in the last month	2.0	7.4	9.7	1.5	16.6
Not used in the last month	4.3	16.5	7.6	2.5	8.3

(a) Respondents could select more than one condition, in response to the question 'In the last 12 months have you been diagnosed or treated for...?'.

(b) Includes heart diseases and hypertension (high blood pressure).

(c) Includes depression, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, an eating disorder and other form of psychosis.

## Psychological distress and patterns of drug use

The Kessler 10 scale of psychological distress was developed for screening populations. The scale consists of ten questions on non-specific psychological distress and relates to the level of anxiety and depressive symptoms a person may have experienced in the preceding 4 weeks.

Respondents were asked the ten questions and their responses accumulated to give a numerical score, which ranges from ten to fifty. Grouped, these scores give the four-level scale of psychological distress shown in Table 20.3). The Kessler 10 scale has mostly been validated only for people aged 18 years and older, hence the reporting here is restricted to that group.

Although one in forty (2.3%) of the general population (aged 18 years and older) experienced very high levels of psychological distress, one in three (32.7%) users of heroin in the last month experienced that level of distress. In contrast, one in ten (9.9%) of these heroin users experienced low levels of psychological distress whereas two in three (68.4%) of the general population (18+) did so. For Australians aged 18 years and older and for each illicit drug analysed, a greater proportion of those who had used in the last month reported high and very high levels of psychological stress than of those who had not used. This is summarised by use of any illicit drug: 14.0% of those who had used in the last month, compared with 6.9% of those who had not, reported a high level of psychological stress; 5.6% of those who had used and 1.9% of those who had not used reported a very high level of psychological stress.



**Table 20.3: Psychological distress<sup>(a)</sup> by selected drug use patterns, persons aged 18 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Drug/use	Level of psychological distress <sup>(b)</sup>			
	Low	Moderate	High	Very high
	(per cent)			
All persons (aged 18+)	68.4	21.8	7.6	2.3
Tobacco smoking status				
Daily	58.4	24.7	12.0	5.0
Other recent smokers	60.5	27.3	10.5	1.7
Non-smokers	71.0	20.9	6.4	1.7
Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term				
Abstainer	69.8	20.3	7.4	2.5
Low risk	71.0	20.4	6.7	1.9
Risky	64.5	24.2	9.0	2.4
High risk	54.3	30.1	11.8	3.8
Marijuana/cannabis				
Used in the last month	49.8	31.0	13.4	5.8
Not used in the last month	69.8	21.1	7.1	2.0
Inhalants				
Used in the last month	45.9	31.7	12.5 *	9.8 *
Not used in the last month	68.5	21.7	7.5	2.2
Heroin				
Used in the last month	9.9 *	25.2 *	32.2	32.7
Not used in the last month	68.5	21.7	7.5	2.2
Meth/amphetamines				
Used in the last month	36.1	32.8	21.0	10.1
Not used in the last month	68.8	21.6	7.4	2.2
Cocaine				
Used in the last month	45.2	31.0	17.2	6.7 *
Not used in the last month	68.5	21.8	7.5	2.2
Ecstasy				
Used in the last month	44.5	33.9	15.8	5.8
Not used in the last month	68.8	21.6	7.4	2.2
Any illicit <sup>(c)</sup>				
Used in the last month	50.0	30.4	14.0	5.6
Not used in the last month	70.4	20.9	6.9	1.9

(a) Using the Kessler 10 scale of psychological distress.

(b) Low: K10 score 10–15; Moderate: 16–21; High: 22–29; Very high: 30–50.

(c) 'Any illicit' includes: marijuana/cannabis; pharmaceuticals, meth/amphetamine (speed) other opioids/opiates for non-medical purposes; inhalants; heroin; methadone for non-maintenance purposes; cocaine; hallucinogens; ecstasy; ketamine; GHB; and injected drugs.

## Environmental tobacco smoke

### Avoidance of exposure to tobacco smoke

Respondents were asked whether they avoided places where they may be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke. In 2004, two in five (39.2%) non-smokers (never/ex-smokers) always avoided places where they might be exposed to other people's tobacco smoke; one in twenty-five (3.8%) recent smokers did so (Table 20.4).

**Table 20.4: Avoidance of places where respondents may be exposed to other people's tobacco smoke, recent smokers and never/ex-smokers, persons aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Frequency	Recent smokers			Never/ex-smokers		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
Yes, always	3.6	4.0	3.8	35.3	42.8	39.2
Yes, sometimes	32.9	29.8	31.5	51.0	47.4	49.1
No, never	63.5	66.1	64.7	13.7	9.8	11.7

### Exposure of non-smokers to household tobacco smoke

Non-smokers were asked whether, in the last 12 months, any member of their household had smoked at least one cigarette, cigar or pipe per day in the home.

Of non-smokers, one in fifteen (6.5%) lived in households where someone smoked at least one cigarette, cigar or pipe inside every day and a further one in seven (14.7%) lived in a household with smoking only outside the home (Table 20.5).

**Table 20.5: Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in the home at least daily, non-smokers aged 14 years and older, by sex, Australia, 2004**

Exposure	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Yes, inside the home	7.0	6.1	6.5
No, only smokes outside the home	13.7	15.6	14.7
No one at home regularly smokes	79.3	78.3	78.7

Note: Base is non-smokers.

## Alcohol-induced memory lapse

People who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months were asked how often they had been unable to remember afterwards what happened while they were drinking.

Compared with all other age groups, teenagers were most likely to have had a drinking incident where they could not remember afterwards what happened at least weekly (one in twenty-five, 3.8%) and at least monthly (but not weekly) (one in ten, 9.5%) (Table 20.6).

Male drinkers were more likely than female drinkers to have had such an experience of memory loss after drinking weekly, monthly or at least once in the last 12 months, for all age

groups with the exception of teenagers in the lowest frequency group (at least once in the last 12 months) [NS for 14–19-year-olds, 30–39-year-olds ‘at least weekly’].

**Table 20.6: Loss of memory after drinking at least once in the last 12 months, recent drinkers aged 14 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Age group	At least weekly	At least monthly	At least once in the last 12 months	Never
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
14–19	4.4	10.7	29.8	55.2
20–29	4.0	12.0	33.1	50.9
30–39	2.0	5.0	23.8	69.2
40+	2.4	2.8	12.4	82.4
<i>Aged 14+</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>71.8</i>
<b>Females</b>				
14–19	3.2	8.4	32.1	56.3
20–29	2.2	4.9	28.3	64.6
30–39	2.0	1.9	14.3	81.9
40+	1.7	1.0	7.2	90.1
<i>Aged 14+</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>80.9</i>
<b>Persons</b>				
14–19	3.8	9.5	30.9	55.7
20–29	3.1	8.6	30.8	57.5
30–39	2.0	3.4	19.1	75.5
40+	2.1	1.9	9.9	86.1
<i>Aged 14+</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>76.2</i>

Note: Base is recent drinkers.

## Use of someone else’s prescribed medication

In 2004, respondents were asked whether, when they were feeling unwell, they had ever used medication prescribed or recommended for another person, and what that medication was.

Of Australians aged 14 years and older who had ever used medication prescribed or recommended for someone else, one in ten (10.6%) males had used tranquillisers/sleeping pills prescribed for someone else, whereas one in twelve (8.5%) females had done so (Table 20.7). This greater proportion of males to females for tranquillisers/sleeping pills was also the case for pain-killers/analgesics (males: 53.1%, females: 47.8%), but not for any other medication.

**Table 20.7: Type of medication used, by those who had used medication prescribed or recommended for another person, by sex, persons aged 14 years and older, Australia, 2004**

Medication	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Pain-killers/analgesics	53.1	47.8	50.4
Antibiotics	17.8	17.9	17.8
Anti-depressants	2.2	2.3	2.3
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	10.6	8.5	9.5
Asthma medication	14.2	15.9	15.1
Herbal and alternative medicines	14.0	15.8	14.9
Others	9.5	10.7	10.1
None in the last 12 months	13.4	14.6	14.0

*Notes*

1. Base is those who had ever used medication prescribed or recommended for another person.
2. Respondents could select more than one response.

# 21 Drugs and young people

This chapter presents data on the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs by Australians aged 12 years and older. This extension of the reporting of previous NDSHS waves and in the rest of this report arises from the extension of the 2004 survey to include 12- and 13-year-olds.

The focus of this chapter is therefore on young people. Hence, the tabulation covers three age groups to age 19 years and then 'the rest', that is, 20 years and older.

## Drug use

### Tobacco use

In 2004, of Australians aged 12–15 years, almost all (95.7%) had never smoked, but one in fifty (2.3%) smoked daily and one in a hundred (1.2%) were ex-smokers (Table 21.1). For males and females aged 12–15 years, the proportion smoking daily (one in fifty, 2.3%) was lower than any other age group. However, by 18–19 years, one in six (16.9%) were daily smokers, equivalent to the population (aged 12 years and older) rate.

Daily smoking was more than twice as likely among males aged 18 years and older than it was among those younger than 18 years. This margin was greatly decreased for females.

**Table 21.1: Tobacco smoking status: persons aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Smoking status	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Daily	2.0	7.5	17.5	19.7	18.0
Weekly	0.6 *	2.1	2.6	2.0	2.0
Less than weekly	0.4 *	2.0	1.2 *	2.0	1.9
Ex-smokers	1.5	2.9	5.4	32.3	28.3
Never smoked	95.5	85.5	73.3	44.0	49.9
	<b>Females</b>				
Daily	2.6	14.5	16.3	16.8	15.8
Weekly	0.1 *	1.3 *	2.3	1.2	1.2
Less than weekly	0.4 *	0.7 *	1.7 *	1.4	1.3
Ex-smokers	0.9	2.1	5.6	25.9	22.9
Never smoked	95.9	81.4	74.0	54.8	58.8
	<b>Persons</b>				
Daily	2.3	10.9	16.9	18.2	16.9
Weekly	0.4 *	1.7	2.5	1.6	1.6
Less than weekly	0.4 *	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.6
Ex-smokers	1.2	2.6	5.5	29.0	25.5
Never smoked	95.7	83.5	73.7	49.5	54.4

## Alcohol consumption

In 2004, of Australians aged 12–15 years, two in three (64.8%) had never had a full glass of alcohol, one in a thousand (0.1%) consumed alcohol daily, one in thirty (3.3%) consumed alcohol weekly and three in ten (29.1%) consumed alcohol less frequently than weekly (Table 21.2). In this age group there was little difference between male and female alcohol consumption rates.

Between age 12–15 and 18–19 there was a tenfold increase in daily or weekly alcohol consumption.

For 16–17-year-olds, each of these consumption proportions had increased (daily to 0.6%; weekly to 21.6%; and less than weekly to 55.2%). These proportions were still lower in total than the total consumption proportion of those aged 18 years and older.

**Table 21.2: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Drinking status	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Daily	0.1 *	1.0 *	1.3 *	13.4	11.6
Weekly	3.3	21.9	51.5	50.1	46.0
Less than weekly	28.3	53.2	32.8	25.7	27.1
Ex-drinker	3.3	2.9	1.4 *	6.4	5.9
Never a full glass of alcohol	64.9	21.0	13.0	4.4	9.4
	<b>Females</b>				
Daily	— *	0.3 *	0.9 *	6.4	5.6
Weekly	3.2	21.3	39.1	36.4	33.9
Less than weekly	29.8	57.2	48.8	38.2	38.6
Ex-drinker	2.2	3.5	1.2 *	8.8	8.0
Never a full glass of alcohol	64.8	17.7	10.0	10.1	13.8
	<b>Persons</b>				
Daily	0.1 *	0.6 *	1.1	9.8	8.6
Weekly	3.3	21.6	45.4	43.1	39.9
Less than weekly	29.1	55.2	40.6	32.1	32.9
Ex-drinker	2.8	3.2	1.3	7.6	6.9
Never a full glass of alcohol	64.8	19.4	11.6	7.4	11.6

## Illicit drugs

In 2004, of Australians aged 12–15 years, one in fourteen (7.2%) had used an illicit drug, marijuana/cannabis use accounting for most of this (one in twenty, 5.2%) (Table 21.3). Only for inhalants use was the proportion of 12–15-year-olds greater than the population (20+) proportion.

**Table 21.3: Use of illicit drugs: proportion of the population aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Marijuana/cannabis	5.2	18.0	26.5	10.5	10.9
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	2.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	0.2 *	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.0
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	— *	— *	0.1 *	0.0	0.0
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	0.1 *	0.3 *	0.8 *	0.1	0.2
Inhalants	1.1	0.5 *	0.9 *	0.4	0.4
Heroin	0.1 *	0.3 *	0.2 *	0.2	0.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.1 *	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.1	0.1
Other opiates/opioids <sup>(a) (c)</sup>	0.1 *	0.4 *	0.6 *	0.2	0.2
Meth/amphetamine (speed) <sup>(a)</sup>	0.7	3.0	8.8	3.1	3.1
Cocaine	0.2 *	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.0
Hallucinogens	0.4	1.0	2.6	0.6	0.7
Ecstasy	0.6	2.8	8.8	3.3	3.3
Ketamine <sup>(c)</sup>	— *	— *	1.0 *	0.3	0.3
GHB <sup>(c)</sup>	0.1 *	0.2 *	0.6 *	0.1	0.1
Injected drugs <sup>(c)</sup>	0.2 *	0.5 *	0.9 *	0.4	0.4
<i>Any illicit</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	7.6	20.9	30.8	14.6	14.9

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked of 12–13-year-olds.

(d) Does not include 'other opiates', ketamine, GHB or injected drugs for 12–13-year-olds.

## Initiation of drug use

### Age of initiation

In 2004, current and ex-users of drugs were asked their age when they had their first cigarette, full glass of alcohol or 'hit' or other use of a particular drug.

For 12–15-year-olds the lowest age of initiation was 11.4 years, for pain-killers/analgesics (Table 21.4).

Generally high ages of initiation were seen across all age groups for tranquillisers/sleeping pills and methadone.

For 12–15-year-olds, steroids had a relatively young age of initiation, in contrast to other age groups.

Note that the average age of initiation increases with the age of each age group. This arises in part from the aging of the group itself – for example, 12–15-year-olds cannot have an average greater than 15 years whereas the average for the 16–17-year-old group will be based on ages up to 17 years.

**Table 21.4: Average age of initiation for tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug, persons aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Drug	Age group					Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	20+	
	(years)					
Tobacco	12.6	13.9	14.7	13.9	16.0	15.9
Alcohol	12.7	14.2	15.0	14.1	17.5	17.2
Illicit drugs						
Marijuana/cannabis	13.3	14.7	15.5	14.9	19.1	18.7
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	11.4	13.5	15.4	13.4	24.4	23.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	13.7	14.7	16.5	15.7	25.9	25.2
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	12.0	14.5	17.6	16.4	25.8	25.1
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	13.6	15.1	14.9	14.7	19.9	19.6
Inhalants	12.2	13.7	14.7	13.4	19.2	18.5
Heroin	12.7	14.9	14.6	14.0	21.6	21.1
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	13.2	15.7	15.9	15.1	25.7	24.8
Meth/amphetamine (speed) <sup>(a)</sup>	13.7	15.4	16.8	16.2	21.2	20.8
Cocaine	12.9	14.8	17.0	15.8	23.8	23.5
Hallucinogens	13.6	15.8	16.2	15.7	19.7	19.5
Ecstasy	13.9	15.5	17.2	16.5	23.4	22.8
Ketamine <sup>(c)</sup>	14.0	16.0	16.0	15.9	24.4	23.7
GHB <sup>(c)</sup>	13.6	15.9	16.8	16.2	24.7	23.7
Injected drugs <sup>(c)</sup>	13.8	14.8	15.8	15.2	22.1	21.7

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked of 12–13-year-olds.

*Notes*

1. Base is those who had ever used.

2. Age of initiation was not asked for 'other opiates'.

## Supply of first cigarette

In 2004, two in three (68.8%) smokers and three in four (73.9%) ex-smokers aged 12–15 years obtained their first cigarette from a friend or acquaintance (Table 21.5). For these smokers, the next most common means of obtaining their first cigarette was by theft (recent smokers: 21.7%, ex-smokers: 18.9%). 'Friends and acquaintances' was a more likely source of first supply for 12–17-year-olds than it was for those aged 18 years and older. This was despite the higher proportion of 18–19-year-olds for whom 'friends and acquaintances' was their first supply. Theft, too, was a more likely source of first supply for 12–17-year-olds than it was for those aged 18 years and older.



**Table 21.5: Supply of first cigarette, recent smokers and ex-smokers aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Smoking status/first supply	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Recent smokers					
Friend or acquaintance	68.8	66.7	71.5	58.1	58.9
Relative	5.2 *	12.7	10.1	13.1	12.9
Stole it	21.7	13.0	10.4	11.8	11.9
Bought it	2.9 *	5.3	5.2	15.3	14.6
Other	1.3 *	2.2 *	2.9 *	1.7	1.7
Ex-smokers					
Friend or acquaintance	73.9 *	66.1	78.9	57.5	57.8
Relative	7.2 *	22.3 *	6.7 *	10.5	10.5
Stole it	18.9 *	6.8 *	9.7 *	9.2	9.2
Bought it	— *	4.9 *	4.2 *	20.7	20.5
Other	— *	— *	0.5 *	2.0	2.0

Note: Base is recent and ex-smokers.

## First supply of alcohol

In 2004, three in five (59.8%) drinkers and two in three (64.8%) ex-drinkers aged 12–15 years obtained their first glass of alcohol from a relative (Table 21.6). For these drinkers, the next most common means of obtaining their first full serve of alcohol was from a friend or acquaintance (recent drinkers: 34.7%, ex-drinkers: 16.9%). A comparison of 12–17-year-olds with those aged 18 years and older shows little difference in their first supply of alcohol. An exception to this is the extent to which the older group were more likely to have bought their first alcoholic drink.

**Table 21.6: First supply of alcohol, recent drinkers and ex-drinkers aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Drinking status/first supply	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Recent drinker					
Friend or acquaintance	34.7	44.8	43.9	40.5	40.6
Relative	59.8	49.6	45.4	39.0	40.2
Stole it	2.4	3.2	2.3	2.6	2.6
Bought it	0.1 *	0.8 *	5.9	15.1	13.9
Other	2.9	1.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Ex-drinker					
Friend or acquaintance	16.9	57.5	40.2 *	41.8	41.3
Relative	64.8	42.5	16.7 *	29.9	30.9
Stole it	4.3 *	— *	— *	2.4	2.4
Bought it	— *	— *	32.3 *	21.3	20.5
Other	14.0 *	— *	10.8 *	4.6	4.8

Note: Base is recent and ex-drinkers.

## First supply of selected illicit drugs

For each of the selected illicit drugs, the most common first supply was a friend or acquaintance, with the exception of heroin for 18–19-year-olds, for two in three (64.0%) of whom their first supply was through a relative (Table 21.7).

**Table 21.7: First supply of selected illicit drugs, users and ex-users, aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Drug/first supply	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
<b>Marijuana/cannabis</b>					
Friend or acquaintance	79.1	85.3	83.6	78.9	79.7
Relative	11.7	5.5	6.9	11.2	10.5
Dealer	3.6 *	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.7
Grew it myself	0.9 *	— *	0.5 *	1.5	1.3
Other	4.7 *	3.2 *	2.9 *	2.7	2.8
<b>Inhalants</b>					
Friend or acquaintance	38.3	81.1 *	49.9 *	53.5	51.8
Relative	— *	— *	— *	1.8 *	1.3 *
Dealer	— *	— *	— *	— *	— *
Bought at a shop/retail outlet	16.3 *	18.9 *	46.0 *	33.6	31.1
Other	45.4	— *	4.2 *	11.1	15.9
<b>Heroin</b>					
Friend and acquaintance	27.0 *	39.3 *	36.0 *	53.1	49.9
Relatives	— *	21.8 *	64.0 *	15.5 *	17.7
Dealer	— *	39.0 *	— *	28.3	26.3
Other	73.0 *	— *	— *	3.1 *	6.1 *
<b>Meth/amphetamines</b>					
Friend and acquaintance	49.3	62.5	82.2	79.7	79.0
Relatives	30.8 *	6.9 *	1.8 *	4.4	4.6
Dealer	— *	15.6 *	13.2	12.9	12.9
Other	19.9 *	14.9 *	2.8 *	3.0	3.5
<b>Cocaine/crack<sup>(a)</sup></b>					
Friend and acquaintance	— *	35.2 *	56.3	81.9	78.5
Relatives	15.9 *	21.1 *	16.2 *	6.2	7.2
Dealer	— *	43.7 *	23.6 *	8.9	10.3
Other	84.1 *	— *	3.8 *	3.1 *	4.0
<b>Ecstasy</b>					
Friend and acquaintance	81.9 *	70.9	69.8	85.8	83.9
Relatives	— *	5.7 *	10.1 *	4.5	5.0
Dealer	7.1 *	18.8	17.6	9.0	10.0
Other	10.9 *	4.5 *	2.5 *	0.7 *	1.1

(a) Not asked of 12–13-year-olds.

## Means of obtaining drugs

This section describes the general (not initial) means of obtaining tobacco, alcohol and 'other drugs' as a group, by recent users of those drugs. The proportions shown are of the using population for the drug(s) in question, but multiple means could be nominated.

### Means of obtaining tobacco

In 2004, for three in five (60.7%) smokers aged 12–15 years, the most common means of obtaining tobacco was a friend or relative (Table 21.8). For the other teenagers, the emphasis had moved to buying tobacco at shops or other retail outlets; for example, almost all (97.9%) 18–19-year-olds did so.

A greater proportion of 12–17-year-olds obtained tobacco from a friend or relative than did those aged 18 years and older. This was reversed for 'bought at shop/retail outlet', from where almost all those aged 18 years and older had obtained tobacco.

**Table 21.8: Means of obtaining tobacco, smokers aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Means of obtaining	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Friend or relative	49.9	49.9	35.0	14.9	16.4
Bought at shop/retail outlet	45.8	66.4	99.1 *	97.1	96.3
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	37.0	10.3 *	3.9 *	1.7	2.2
Stole or traded goods or services	41.1	16.7 *	0.4 *	1.2	1.7
Other	6.1 *	18.6 *	0.7 *	0.9	1.2
	<b>Females</b>				
Friend or relative	69.2	49.4	44.7	12.6	15.5
Bought at shop/retail outlet	49.7	88.7	96.7 *	98.1	97.3
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	45.6	25.3	4.7 *	1.2	2.5
Stole or traded goods or services	29.6	7.8 *	5.6 *	0.7	1.4
Other	48.6	12.1	2.6 *	0.6	1.6
	<b>Persons</b>				
Friend or relative	60.7	49.6	39.9	13.8	16.0
Bought at shop/retail outlet	48.0	79.9	97.9 *	97.6	96.7
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	41.8	19.4	4.3 *	1.5	2.4
Stole or traded goods or services	34.7	11.3	3.0 *	0.9	1.6
Other	29.8	14.6	1.7 *	0.8	1.4

Note: Base is recent smokers.

### Means of obtaining alcohol

The means of obtaining alcohol was not, for teenagers at least, too different from that of tobacco, although there was a greater emphasis on friend or relative as the main means of obtaining alcohol for teenage drinkers (Table 21.9).

For four in five (79.5%) drinkers aged 12–15 years, 'friend or relative' was a means of obtaining alcohol. For 18–19-year-old drinkers, that proportion was 44.2% but 96.7% bought alcohol at a shop or retail outlet. This pattern continued when 12–17-year-olds were

compared with those aged 18 years and older: nearly all the older group obtained alcohol from a shop or retail outlet but 12–17-year-olds relied more heavily on friends or relatives.

**Table 21.9: Means of obtaining alcohol, drinkers aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Means of obtaining	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Friend or relative	78.4	58.8	41.4	23.0	25.9
Bought at shop/retail outlet	8.1	38.9	96.9 *	97.8	94.1
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	12.6	19.8	5.1	1.5	2.4
Stole or traded goods or services	4.2 *	8.8	6.5	3.3	3.6
Other	14.8	13.8	5.1	3.8	4.4
	<b>Females</b>				
Friend or relative	80.6	76.6	46.8	27.5	31.1
Bought at shop/retail outlet	13.5	38.1	96.6	96.6	92.7
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	14.4	15.5	4.4	1.0	1.9
Stole or traded goods or services	7.0	1.3 *	3.5	0.9	1.1
Other	13.9	12.3	1.9 *	1.5	2.2
	<b>Persons</b>				
Friend or relative	79.5	67.9	44.2	25.2	28.4
Bought at shop/retail outlet	10.8	38.5	96.7	97.2	93.5
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	13.5	17.6	4.7	1.3	2.2
Stole or traded goods or services	5.6	5.0	4.9	2.1	2.4
Other	14.3	13.0	3.5	2.7	3.3

Note: Base is recent drinkers.

## Means of obtaining other drugs

In 2004, survey respondents were asked how they obtained 'other drugs' without specific reference to illicit drugs, or use of licit drugs for non-medical purposes.

Again, as for tobacco and alcohol, 'friend or relative' was a common means of obtaining other drugs – seven in ten (70.8%) 12–15-year-old users obtained drugs from a friend or relative (Table 21.10). Older male users were more likely to obtain drugs by paying cash (not at a retail outlet) than they were to obtain them from friends or relatives.

**Table 21.10: Means of obtaining other drugs, users aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Means of obtaining	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Friend or relative	66.0	53.3	51.0	51.5	51.9
Bought at shop/retail outlet	1.4 *	1.8 *	0.8 *	5.0	4.6
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	30.4	60.8	60.3	57.9	57.5
Stole or traded goods or services	13.5 *	22.9	5.8 *	7.5	8.1
Other	18.4 *	36.6	11.1 *	13.7	14.4
	<b>Females</b>				
Friend or relative	75.8	67.7	69.2	52.7	56.0
Bought at shop/retail outlet	— *	2.6 *	3.3 *	7.5	6.5
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	34.7	42.2	57.6	51.3	50.8
Stole or traded goods or services	12.5 *	10.8 *	13.9	4.7	6.2
Other	24.0	18.5	12.4	11.6	12.5
	<b>Persons</b>				
Friend or relative	70.8	61.0	60.4	52.0	53.5
Bought at shop/retail outlet	0.7 *	2.2 *	2.1 *	5.9	5.3
Paid cash but not at retail outlet	32.5	50.8	58.9	55.4	54.8
Stole or traded goods or services	13.0	16.4	10.0	6.5	7.3
Other	21.1	26.9	11.8	12.9	13.6

Note: Base is recent users of any illicit drugs.

## Influences on illicit drug initiation

### Influences on first using an illicit drug

All users (ex- and current) of any illicit drug were asked what factors influenced their decision to first use an illicit drug. Curiosity was the most common reason given: four in five (81.9%) users aged 12–15 years nominated curiosity as an influence in their decision (Table 21.11).

More than half of users of illicit drugs were influenced to do so by peer pressure, although only 45.3% of those aged 12–15 years were so influenced.

**Table 21.11: Influences on first use of an illicit drug, recent and former users aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Influence	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Curiosity	81.9	81.1	82.9	76.6	77.0
Peer pressure	45.3	55.5	50.7	54.7	54.5
To do something exciting	34.2	30.7	30.9	19.8	20.7
To enhance an experience	13.9	16.5	19.3	11.5	12.0
To take a risk	23.2	18.1	16.2	8.6	9.3
To feel better	18.5	14.2	6.1	5.5	5.9
Family, relationship, work or school problems	17.3	11.4	12.4	4.8	5.4
Traumatic experience	8.5	4.2	4.6	2.2	2.5
To lose weight	1.6 *	2.2 *	3.6	1.1	1.2
Other	5.7 *	2.7 *	4.8	3.3	3.3

Note: Base is recent and former users of any illicit drugs.

## Influences in not using an illicit drug

All those who had never used illicit drugs were asked what factors influenced their decision never to try illicit drugs. Reasons relating to health or addiction were the most common given by teenagers: three in four (73.2%) non-users aged 12–15 years nominated such reasons as an influence in their decision (Table 21.12). ‘Just not interested’ was an influence for two in three (64.7%) non-users aged 12–15 years and for three in four (74.9%) non-users aged 12 years and older.

**Table 21.12: Influences on decision never to try illicit drugs, never-users aged 12 years and older, by age, Australia, 2004**

Influence	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Just not interested	64.7	73.8	74.0	76.1	74.9
For reasons related to health or addiction	73.2	72.7	75.1	52.1	55.4
Didn't like to feel out of control	27.1	30.4	35.0	26.5	27.0
For reasons related to the law	43.8	32.1	37.7	23.6	26.1
Didn't think it would be enjoyable	31.9	33.3	34.0	20.9	22.8
Religious/moral reasons	16.8	27.2	31.0	22.5	22.4
Pressure from family or friends	28.6	22.9	22.1	9.0	11.6
No opportunity	17.0	9.6	8.7	9.5	10.1
Didn't want family/friends/employer or teachers to know	22.8	20.0	18.3	6.6	8.9
Financial reasons	10.8	11.0	15.4	7.7	8.3
Friends didn't use or stopped using	13.4	14.2	12.7	7.3	8.2
Drugs too hard to acquire	7.1	4.3	7.7	4.1	4.5
Seen the negative effects of drugs	1.0	1.9	1.1 *	1.9	1.8
Education/awareness	2.7	2.6	2.1 *	1.0	1.3
Other	5.9	3.8	5.8	3.9	4.1

Note: Base is those who had not used any illicit drugs in their lifetime.

## Drug use by friends and acquaintances

### Tobacco smoking by friends and acquaintances

For two in three (64.4%) recent smokers aged 12–15 years, all or most of their friends and acquaintances also smoked (Table 21.13). For only one in thirty (3.3%) non-smokers aged 12–15 years did all or most of their friends and acquaintances smoke.

The proportion of 12–17-year-olds for whom all or most of their friends and acquaintances smoked was higher than that for smokers aged 18 years and older. This relationship was reversed for non-smokers: 12–17-year-olds were less likely than those aged 18 years and older to have all or most of their friends and acquaintances smoking.

**Table 21.13: Tobacco smoking by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 12 years and older, by tobacco smoking status and age, Australia, 2004**

Smoking status/proportion of friends	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Recent smokers					
All or most	64.4	58.8	57.0	27.8	29.9
About half	20.3	25.2	34.6	32.4	32.2
A few	14.1 *	14.2	8.4	38.6	36.7
None	1.2 *	1.8 *	— *	1.2	1.1
Ex-smokers/Never-smokers					
All or most	3.3	9.4	12.4	5.1	5.4
About half	5.4	15.5	24.0	11.1	11.2
A few	43.0	59.0	56.3	68.1	65.4
None	48.3	16.1	7.4	15.7	18.0

### Alcohol consumption by friends and acquaintances

For one in two (49.8%) recent drinkers aged 12–15 years, all or most of their friends and acquaintances also consumed alcohol (Table 21.14). For only one in twenty (5.5%) abstainers and ex-drinkers aged 12–15 years did all their friends and acquaintances consume alcohol.

There was little difference between 12–17-year-olds, taken as a group, and those aged 18 years and older with respect to the proportion of friends and acquaintances who consumed alcohol.

**Table 21.14: Alcohol consumption by friends and acquaintances, persons aged 12 years and older, by alcohol consumption status and age, Australia, 2004**

Drinking status/proportion of friends	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
Recent drinkers					
All or most	49.8	82.3	90.1	78.5	78.3
About half	17.3	8.8	6.4	9.4	9.5
A few	27.6	8.7	3.3	11.6	11.6
None	5.2	0.2 *	0.2 *	0.5	0.6
Ex-drinker/Never drank					
All or most	5.5	31.2	20.0	26.5	21.5
About half	9.2	29.8	16.4	12.4	12.4
A few	37.7	26.3	41.5	47.5	44.2
None	47.6	12.7	22.1	13.6	21.9

## Environmental tobacco smoke at home

In 2004, non-smokers were asked if any household member had smoked (at least one cigarette, cigar or pipe of tobacco per day) in the home, or outside the home, in the last 12 months.

In 2004, three in five (58.3%) non-smokers aged 12–15 years lived in households where no-one regularly smoked tobacco (Table 21.15). On the other hand, one in six (17.2%) non-smokers aged 12–15 years lived in households where someone did smoke in the home. In contrast, only one in twenty (5.8%) non-smokers aged 20 years and older lived in households where someone smoked in the home.

**Table 21.15: Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in the home at least daily, non-smokers aged 12 years and older, by age and sex, Australia, 2004**

Exposure	Age group				Aged 12+
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Yes, inside the home	16.2	12.9	21.0	6.3	7.4
No, only smokes outside the home	24.7	23.0	19.1	12.9	14.0
No one at home regularly smokes	59.1	64.1	59.9	80.7	78.6
	<b>Females</b>				
Yes, inside the home	18.2	14.1	16.6	5.4	6.4
No, only smokes outside the home	24.3	18.8	21.4	15.2	15.8
No one at home regularly smokes	57.5	67.1	62.0	79.5	77.8
	<b>Persons</b>				
Yes, inside the home	17.2	13.5	18.8	5.8	6.8
No, only smokes outside the home	24.5	21.0	20.3	14.1	15.0
No one at home regularly smokes	58.3	65.6	61.0	80.1	78.2

Note: Base is non-smokers.



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# Appendix 3: Population estimates

Table A3.1: Population estimates, by age and sex, Australia, 2004

Age group	Males	Females	Persons
		(14 years and older)	
14–19	849,800	810,900	1,660,700
20–29	1,402,400	1,361,300	2,763,700
30–39	1,479,400	1,499,600	2,979,000
40–49	1,478,300	1,494,000	2,972,300
50–59	1,263,000	1,259,800	2,522,900
60+	1,622,000	1,887,200	3,509,100
<i>Aged 14+</i>	8,094,800	8,312,800	16,407,600
		(12 years and older)	
12–15	568,800	541,400	1,110,300
16–17	279,700	266,800	546,500
18–19	287,400	274,900	562,300
12–19	1,135,900	1,083,100	2,219,100
20+	7,245,000	7,501,900	14,747,000
<i>Aged 12+</i>	8,381,000	8,585,100	16,966,000

Source: AIHW National Population Database.

# Appendix 4: Standard errors

Table A4.1: Standard errors (SE) and relative standard errors (RSE) for indicative population sizes, Australia, 2004

Prevalence	Indicative population											
	250,000		500,000		1,500,000		2,500,000		8,250,000		16,500,000	
	SE <sup>(a)</sup>	RSE <sup>(b)</sup>	SE	RSE	SE	RSE	SE	RSE	SE	RSE	SE	RSE
	(per cent)											
95	1.48	1.6	1.05	1.1	0.60	0.6	0.47	0.5	0.26	0.3	0.18	0.2
90	2.04	2.3	1.44	1.6	0.83	0.9	0.64	0.7	0.35	0.4	0.25	0.3
80	2.72	3.4	1.92	2.4	1.11	1.4	0.86	1.1	0.47	0.6	0.33	0.4
70	3.11	4.4	2.20	3.1	1.27	1.8	0.98	1.4	0.54	0.8	0.38	0.5
50	3.39	6.8	2.40	4.8	1.39	2.8	1.07	2.1	0.59	1.2	0.42	0.8
30	3.11	10.4	2.20	7.3	1.27	4.2	0.98	3.3	0.54	1.8	0.38	1.3
20	2.72	13.6	1.92	9.6	1.11	5.5	0.86	4.3	0.47	2.4	0.33	1.7
10	2.04	20.4	1.44	14.4	0.83	8.3	0.64	6.4	0.35	3.5	0.25	2.5
5	1.48	29.6	1.05	20.9	0.60	12.1	0.47	9.4	0.26	5.2	0.18	3.6
3	1.16	38.6	0.82	27.3	0.47	15.8	0.37	12.2	0.20	6.7	0.14	4.8
2	0.95	47.5	0.67	33.6	0.39	19.4	0.30	15.0	0.17	8.3	0.12	5.8
1	0.68	67.6	0.48	47.8	0.28	27.6	0.21	21.4	0.12	11.8	0.08	8.3
0.5	0.48	95.8	0.34	67.7	0.20	39.1	0.15	30.3	0.08	16.7	0.06	11.8
0.3	0.37	123.8	0.26	87.5	0.15	50.5	0.12	39.1	0.06	21.5	0.05	15.2
0.2	0.30	151.7	0.21	107.2	0.12	61.9	0.10	48.0	0.05	26.4	0.04	18.7
0.1	0.21	214.6	0.15	151.7	0.09	87.6	0.07	67.9	0.04	37.4	0.03	26.4

(a) Standard error expressed in same units as prevalence.

(b) Relative standard error.

#### Notes

1. The standard error estimates are modelled on the average design effects across 35 key variables.
2. Light shading indicates caution in using estimates; dark shading indicates unreliable for most practical purposes.

**Table A4.2: Prevalence and population estimate thresholds for 50% relative standard error, Australia, 2004**

Age group	Males		Females		Persons	
	Prevalence (Per cent)	Estimate (Number)	Prevalence (Per cent)	Estimate (Number)	Prevalence (Per cent)	Estimate (Number)
			<b>(14 years and over)</b>			
14–19	0.70	5,900	0.56	4,500	0.31	5,200
20–29	0.48	6,800	0.33	4,500	0.20	5,400
30–39	0.39	5,800	0.26	3,900	0.16	4,700
40–49	0.37	5,400	0.28	4,200	0.16	4,800
50–59	0.38	4,800	0.30	3,800	0.17	4,200
60+	0.24	3,900	0.21	4,000	0.11	3,900
<i>Aged 14+</i>	<i>0.06</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>4,100</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>4,600</i>
			<b>(12 years and over)</b>			
12–15	0.94	5,400	0.84	4,600	0.45	5,000
16–17	1.91	5,300	1.50	4,000	0.85	4,600
18–19	2.61	7,500	1.90	5,200	1.11	6,200
<i>12–19</i>	<i>0.51</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>0.42</i>	<i>4,600</i>	<i>0.23</i>	<i>5,200</i>
20+	0.07	5,100	0.05	4,100	0.03	4,500
<i>Aged 12+</i>	<i>0.06</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>4,100</i>	<i>0.03</i>	<i>4,600</i>

# Appendix 5: Definition of characteristics variables

Table A5.1: Definitions and population proportions<sup>(a)</sup> of characteristics variables, Australia, 2004

Variable	Description	Measurement	Definition	%
Education	Level of education	Without post-school qualification	Is still at school, did or did not complete highest level of secondary school	45.0
		With post-school qualification	Has skilled or basic vocational qualification, undergraduate or associate diploma, bachelor degree or higher	55.0
Employment status		Currently employed	Working full time or part time for pay	55.9
		Student	Full-time or part-time student	11.1
		Unemployed	Unemployed looking for work	2.5
		Engaged in home duties	Engaged in home duties	7.9
		Retired or on a pension	Retired or on a pension	19.8
		Unable to work	Unable to work	1.5
		Other	Other than the above cases	1.4
Main language spoken at home		English	Main language spoken at home is English	93.1
		Other	Main language spoken at home is a language other than English	6.9
Socioeconomic status	Relative socioeconomic status of the census collection district of the residence, based on the Index of Relative Advantage/Disadvantage	1st quintile	Index score below 914.2850	15.9
		2nd quintile	Index score between 914.2851 and 965.5514	19.2
		3rd quintile	Index score between 965.5515 and 1,017.7479	20.2
		4th quintile	Index score between 1,017.7480 and 1,089.4959	22.4
		5th quintile	Index score more than 1,089.4959	22.3
Geography	Locality of residence	Major cities	Major cities	67.6
		Inner regional	Inner regional	21.0
		Outer regional	Outer regional	9.3
		Remote and very remote	Remote and very remote regions	2.2
Marital status		Never married	Never married	26.4
		Divorced/separated/widowed	Divorced, separated or widowed	11.5
		Married/de facto	Married or in a de facto relationship	62.2
Indigenous status	Self-reported origin	Indigenous	Origin Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both	1.4
		Other Australians	All other origins	98.6

(a) Estimated population proportions, persons aged 14 years or older.

# Glossary

<b>Abstainer (alcohol)</b>	Never consumed a full serve of alcohol.
<b>Concurrent use</b>	Use of two or more substances at the same time.
<b>Ever use</b>	Used at least once in lifetime.
<b>Ex-drinker</b>	A person who has consumed a full serve of alcohol in their lifetime, but not in the last 12 months.
<b>Ex-smoker</b>	A person who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their lifetime, but does not smoke at all now.
<b>Ex-user</b>	A person who has used a substance in their lifetime, but not in the last 12 months.
<b>High risk (alcohol)</b>	Defines a level of drinking at which there is substantial risk of serious harm, and above which risk continues to increase rapidly.
<b>Illicit drugs</b>	Illegal drugs, drugs and volatile substances used illicitly, and pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes. The survey included questions on the following illicit drugs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>pain-killers/analgesics*</li><li>tranquillisers/sleeping pills*</li><li>steroids*</li><li>barbiturates*</li><li>meth/amphetamines (speed)*</li><li>marijuana/cannabis</li><li>heroin</li><li>methadone**</li><li>other opiates (opioids)*</li><li>cocaine</li><li>LSD/synthetic hallucinogens</li><li>natural hallucinogens</li><li>ecstasy</li><li>ketamine</li><li>GHB</li><li>inhalants</li><li>(any) injected drug</li></ul>

*Note*

\* used for non-medical purposes

\*\* non-maintenance program

Non-medical and non-maintenance use is noted in the report.

<b>Long-term risk (alcohol)</b>	The level of risk associated with regular daily patterns of drinking, defined by the total amount of alcohol typically consumed per week.
<b>Low risk (alcohol)</b>	Defines a level of drinking at which there is only a minimal risk of harm. At this level, there may be health benefits for some of the population.
<b>Never smoker</b>	A person who does not smoke now and has smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes or the equivalent tobacco in their lifetime.
<b>Non-maintenance</b>	Use of a substance other than as part of a medically supervised maintenance program. In this report this includes methadone.
<b>Non-medical use</b>	Use of drugs either alone or with other drugs in order to induce or enhance a drug experience, for performance enhancement or for cosmetic purposes. In this report this includes pain-killers/analgesics, tranquillisers/sleeping pills, steroids and barbiturates (termed 'pharmaceuticals') and meth/amphetamines (speed) and other opioids such as morphine or pethidine.
<b>Non-smoker</b>	Never smoked or an ex-smoker.
<b>Recent</b>	In the last 12 months.
<b>Risky (alcohol)</b>	Defines a level of drinking at which risk of harm is significantly increased beyond any possible benefits.
<b>Short-term risk (alcohol)</b>	The risk of harm (particularly injury or death) in the short term, that is associated with given levels of drinking on a single day. These levels assume that overall drinking patterns remain within the levels set for long-term risk, and that these heavier drinking days occur a maximum of three times per week. Outside these limits, risk is further increased.
<b>Smoker</b>	A person who reported currently smoking daily, weekly or less often than weekly.
<b>Standard drink</b>	Containing 10 grams of alcohol (equivalent to 12.5 millilitres of alcohol). Also referred to as a full serve.