1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Western Australia results

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Prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the Health Department of Western Australia and the Western Australian Drug Abuse Strategy Office.

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Between June and September 1998, 10,030 Australians aged 14 years and older participated in the National Drug Strategy Household Survey. This was the sixth survey in a series which commenced in 1985. Respondents were asked about their knowledge of drugs, their attitudes towards drugs, their drug consumption histories and related behaviours. This report features results for Western Australia, based on responses from 764 participants in that state.

General findings

In Western Australia between 1995 and 1998, there was slightly higher use amongst most illicit drugs included in the survey, both in terms of lifetime use (that is, used at any time in one's life) and recent use (used in the last 12 months). Such consistent changes in lifetime and recent use of tobacco and alcohol were not evident and remained fairly stable. It appears that young females aged 14–19 years accounted for a large part of the overall increases in use of illicit substances (notably cannabis), and it appears that for some substances recent use by females is now similar to use by males.

Tobacco

In 1998, approximately two-thirds (69%) of West Australians aged 14 years and over had tried tobacco at some time in their lives, and fewer than one in four (24%) were regular smokers. The proportion recently smoking daily or most days remained relatively stable between 1995 and 1998 at around 23%. The average age at which smokers took up tobacco smoking remained stable at just over 15 years of age. The highest proportion of smokers was 42% in the 20–29 years age group. Approval of use of tobacco by adults increased from 34% in 1995 to 43% in 1998. The proportion of persons who were ex-smokers increased by six percentage points to 42% in 1998, whilst the proportion of persons who had never smoked decreased by four percentage points to 31% in 1998.

Alcohol

Approximately nine out of every 10 (93%) West Australians aged 14 years and over had tried alcohol at some time in their lives and more than half (53%) consumed alcohol regularly. In 1998, the acceptability of alcohol use by adults increased by 13 percentage points to 64%. The proportion of victims of alcohol-related incidents decreased from 93% to 65% in 1998. Approximately 24% of persons who were recent drinkers admitted to driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, and 14% of recent drinkers verbally abused someone while under the influence of alcohol.

Illicit drugs

In 1998, 51% of the Western Australian population had used an illicit drug at some time in their lifetime. This is a substantial increase from 44% in 1995. One in every four (25%) persons in Western Australia had used an illicit substance in the previous 12 months. One in three (33%) people approved of the regular use of cannabis by adults. With the exception of analgesics (12%), fewer than one in 20 persons approved of the regular use of illicit drugs. Of persons who had used a drug other than alcohol in the last 12 months, approximately 8% admitted to driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

In Western Australia, one in 10 people reported being verbally abused or put in fear by persons under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. The majority of illicit drugs were supplied to users via a friend or acquaintance. Approximately 32% of the Western Australian population supported the legalisation of cannabis use, whilst the proportion who supported heroin, cocaine and amphetamine use was less than 7%. The lowest age of initiation for illicit drugs was 19 years of age for cannabis, with the highest being 25 years of age for cocaine.

Acknowledgments

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was a complex undertaking that required the valued input of many individuals and organisations.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care Policy Reference Group and the Survey Technical Advisory Committee (refer to Appendix 1) were the main steering committees.

This report was prepared by Keiran Faulkner, Amber Summerill and Mark Cooper-Stanbury from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Abbreviations and symbols

Abbreviations

AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
DHAC	Department of Health and Aged Care
NCADA	National Campaign Against Drug Abuse
NDS	National Drug Strategy
SE	Standard error
RSE	Relative standard error
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy

Symbols

*	Relative Standard Error (RSE) greater than 50%
—	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not available

1 Introduction

The National Drug Strategy

The National Drug Strategy (NDS) is a comprehensive, integrated approach to the harmful use of licit and illicit drugs and other substances. The NDS is managed under the direction of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) which brings together Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for health and law enforcement to collectively determine national policies and programs designed to reduce the harm caused by drugs to individuals, families and communities in Australia (MCDS 1998).

The Strategy aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes by preventing the uptake of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs in Australian society. Both licit and illicit drugs are the focus of Australia's harm-minimisation strategy. Harm minimisation includes preventing anticipated harm as well as reducing actual harm. Harm minimisation is therefore consistent with a comprehensive approach to drug-related harm, involving a balance between demand-reduction, supply-reduction and harm-reduction strategies.

Drug-related harm

The Institute estimates that nationally in 1997 over 22,000 deaths and more than a quarter of a million hospital episodes were drug-related. The licit drugs (tobacco and alcohol) accounted for over 96% of the drug-related deaths and hospital episodes. The estimated direct health care cost of drug dependence and harmful use in Australia in 1992 was $1.0 billion: $833 million for tobacco; $145 million for alcohol; and $43 million for illicit drugs (Collins & Lapsley 1996). More recently, the Institute estimates that in 1993–94 the direct health system cost of the management of substance abuse disorders was $274 million (this does not include the cost of managing other conditions attributable to the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs).

About the 1998 survey

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was the most comprehensive survey concerning licit and illicit drug use ever undertaken in Australia. It gathered information from over 10,000 persons aged 14 years and over. The sample was based on households, therefore homeless and institutionalised persons were not included in the survey (consistent with the approach in previous years).

The survey comprised questions on drug-related knowledge, awareness, attitudes, use and behaviours. It was the sixth survey conducted under the auspices of the NDS. Previous surveys were conducted in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. An Indigenous (urban) supplement survey was conducted in 1994. The data collected in these surveys contribute to the development of policies for Australia's response to drug issues.

Comparisons with 1995 results

This survey introduced a number of methodological enhancements that could potentially affect comparison with previous survey results. A discussion of the main differences between the 1995 and 1998 surveys is in Chapter 5. One of these changes (cross-validation between lifetime and recent use) may have systematically produced marginally higher prevalence estimates than if the 1995 methodology was used. However, the Technical Advisory Committee considered that the slight loss of comparison with 1995 was more than compensated for by the increase in the reliability of 1998 estimates.

Notwithstanding, most of the differences in prevalence estimates between 1995 and 1998 are real differences (within usual statistical tolerance limits).

The results are also consistent with an expectation that overall prevalences will be higher due to the experience of age cohorts that have been successively more exposed to the substantial increases in acceptability of and access to recreational drugs that began in the late 1960s. As these higher-prevalence cohorts are added to the sample, and cohorts with lower experience are removed (due to death corresponding with older age), then the overall prevalence of lifetime use will increase. The reversal of this trend will occur only if there is a radical reduction in the prevalences among younger cohorts introduced into subsequent survey samples.

About this report

Data presented in this report are based on estimates derived from responses weighted to the Western Australian population aged 14 years and over. Unless otherwise specified, the base for all estimates is the number of respondents who answered the relevant question(s) in the survey instrument.

In the 1995 survey report, some tables included a 'Don't know/not stated' response category. Where these types of responses are compared with 1998, the 1995 results were recalculated to be comparable with the 1998 analysis. Missing cases were excluded and responses were rebased to 100%.

The report contains chapters on summary measures, patterns of consumption, drug-related harm and policy support. A background chapter (Explanatory notes) and estimates of sampling errors (Appendix 2) are also provided. A copy of the survey instrument is provided in Appendix 5. In most instances, the proportions reporting use and knowledge of and attitudes about drugs, or drug-related behaviours, are presented first.

Prevalences are provided for information, regardless of their levels of statistical reliability. For a number of the measures of low prevalence behaviours (e.g. use of injecting drugs), resultant estimates are more likely to be statistically unreliable than the same measures of high prevalence behaviours (e.g. alcohol consumption). In particular, estimates shown by age group and sex are based on very small numbers of respondents, and should be treated with caution. Results in the tables are marked with an asterisk (*) if the relative standard error (RSE) is greater than 50%. For prevalence proportions, this means that there is only a 5% chance that the result is different from zero, and such results are therefore considered as unreliable for most practical purposes. Results subject to RSEs of between 25% and 50% should be considered with caution (these are not marked in the tables, but can be determined by reference to the tables of standard errors and RSEs at Appendix 2).

Detailed information to estimate RSEs for the 1995 results is not available. As a guide, a prevalence of 1% of persons aged 14 years or more in Western Australia was associated with an RSE of approximately 50% in 1995.

2 Overview—the status of drug use in 1998

The drugs most commonly used by West Australians in 1998 were the licit drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Apart from cannabis use, use of other illicit drugs was not found to be acceptable and similarly the legalisation of selected illicit drugs was not supported. The ages of initiation (the age when the person first used drugs) for persons in Western Australia varied considerably between 1995 and 1998.

Lifetime use of drugs by males

In 1998, the drugs most commonly tried by males in the Western Australian community were tobacco (69%) and alcohol (95%). The proportion of males in Western Australia that had ever used an illicit drug increased by eight percentage points from 47% in 1995 to 55% in 1998 (Tables 2.1, 2.2).

Table 2.1: Summary of drug use: proportion of males aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	28.4	66.3	79.2	72.7	67.0	73.4	67.2
Alcohol	62.9	100.0	100.0	92.5	98.1	100.0	91.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	28.1	70.0	71.9	19.4	64.7	71.1	41.6
Analgesics[a]	10.9	24.4	27.1	4.7	29.0	25.9	14.1
Tranquillisers[a]	—	10.1	9.3	0.6	11.2	9.6	4.2
Steroids[a]	—	—	2.3	—	1.6	1.3	0.5
Barbiturates[a]	—	5.5	10.5	1.2	8.6	8.3	4.0
Inhalants	1.2	8.8	10.3	2.4	12.1	9.7	5.2
Heroin	–	5.1	10.0	1.3	8.4	7.9	3.8
Methadone[b]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]
Amphetamines[a]	4.8	30.1	13.2	4.2	21.1	20.5	11.0
Cocaine	—	11.8	10.1	—	10.4	10.8	4.4
Hallucinogens	6.3	30.1	14.4	3.9	22.0	21.2	11.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	8.5	18.0	—	2.4	9.7	7.8	5.4
Injected illegal drugs	1.2	12.0	10.0	—	12.1	10.9	4.6
Any illicit	*31.7*	*74.2*	*77.8*	*25.4*	*69.4*	*76.2*	*46.9*
None of the above	33.4	—	—	3.5	1.8	—	5.7

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.2: Summary of drug use: proportion of males aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	36.7	60.2	79.8	83.2	60.4	69.9	72.6
Alcohol	90.5	100.0	96.8	95.3	96.8	98.4	95.0
Illicits							
Marijuana	38.1	78.3	61.6	29.6	74.0	69.9	47.5
Analgesics[(a)]	19.9	6.0	8.7	7.4	6.0	7.3	8.8
Tranquillisers[(a)]	5.8	4.1	5.7	2.3 *	4.7	4.9	3.8
Steroids[(a)]	—	1.4 *	1.6	1.3 *	1.3 *	1.5 *	1.2 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	4.8	5.2	2.3 *	4.4	5.0	3.2
Inhalants	4.4	10.5	7.7	3.8	7.5	9.1	6.1
Heroin	1.5 *	12.6	4.7	3.0 *	9.0	8.7	5.2
Methadone[(b)]	1.5 *	1.8 *	1.8 *	—	1.6 *	1.8 *	0.9 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	8.0	43.1	18.2	4.7	32.6	30.6	15.9
Cocaine	—	6.5	9.2	3.2	7.1	7.8	4.8
Hallucinogens	11.4	41.5	18.0	7.6	32.2	29.7	17.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	3.1	34.5	9.0	2.3 *	24.5	21.7	10.5
Injected illegal drugs	1.5 *	12.6	5.5	0.9 *	8.6	9.0	4.4
Any illicit	*49.2*	*81.9*	*62.9*	*39.8*	*76.2*	*72.4*	*54.5*
None of the above	16.0	—	2.3	1.6 *	2.6	1.2 *	3.1

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- Almost one in two (48%) males had tried **cannabis** in 1998. This was an increase from two in five males (42%) in 1995.
- **Amphetamine** use by males increased in Western Australia by five percentage points, from 11% in 1995 to 16% in 1998.
- Lifetime use of **hallucinogens** increased by over 50%, from slightly over 11% in 1995 to 17% in 1998.
- The proportion of males who had ever tried **ecstasy** (and other designer drugs) doubled from 5% in 1995 to 11% in 1998.
- The lifetime use of other illicit drugs by males, including **heroin** and **cocaine**, also increased between 1995 and 1998, but at lower levels.

Lifetime use of drugs by females

In 1998, the drugs most commonly tried by females in the Western Australian community were tobacco and alcohol. With the exception of cannabis, the proportion of the female population that had used at least one illicit drug at some time in their life, although increasing since 1995, was relatively low (Tables 2.3, 2.4).

Table 2.3: Summary of drug use: proportion of females aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	42.7	71.1	74.1	57.0	70.7	72.7	62.0
Alcohol	52.9	95.7	92.5	86.5	91.9	93.9	85.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	31.2	70.4	48.7	8.3	60.3	58.9	32.1
Analgesics[(a)]	13.0	12.9	19.2	14.0	18.6	16.2	14.8
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	2.7	3.2	2.1	2.7	3.0	2.2
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	1.7	—	1.1	0.9	0.4
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	6.2	2.4	0.3	4.6	4.2	1.9
Inhalants	—	0.7	1.6	—	0.9	1.2	0.5
Heroin	—	2.5	0.7	—	1.4	1.5	0.6
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	8.4	21.1	3.0	0.9	15.1	11.4	6.1
Cocaine	—	6.5	0.8	1.1	4.3	3.5	2.0
Hallucinogens	11.2	16.8	4.0	0.3	12.9	10.0	5.6
Ecstasy, designer drugs	1.4	18.8	3.9	0.3	11.8	10.8	4.9
Injected illegal drugs	1.4	—	—	1.0	0.4	—	0.6
Any illicit	*42.3*	*74.6*	*53.7*	*20.8*	*67.6*	*63.5*	*41.1*
None of the above	35.4	2.1	2.9	11.4	5.6	2.5	10.2

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.4: Summary of drug use: proportion of females aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	57.9	70.7	64.8	64.9	70.0	67.7	65.3
Alcohol	80.0	94.3	95.9	89.4	95.0	95.0	89.8
Illicits							
Marijuana	48.1	66.9	60.4	23.1	67.5	63.6	42.2
Analgesics[a]	8.8	22.9	12.5	10.3	16.2	17.7	13.1
Tranquillisers[a]	5.5	10.1	9.9	3.3	9.1	10.0	6.2
Steroids[a]	—	0.7 *	—	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Barbiturates[a]	1.2 *	5.3	—	—	3.5	2.6	1.2 *
Inhalants	2.5 *	9.2	3.0	—	6.0	6.0	2.7
Heroin	3.9	1.4 *	2.3	—	1.7 *	1.8 *	1.2 *
Methadone[b]	1.5 *	0.7 *	1.7 *	—	0.9 *	1.2 *	0.7 *
Amphetamines[a]	5.8	15.8	5.3	1.1 *	12.2	10.5	5.4
Cocaine	2.7 *	6.6	3.7	2.3 *	5.4	5.1	3.5
Hallucinogens	12.7	17.9	9.3	1.2 *	14.5	13.5	7.5
Ecstasy, designer drugs	4.3	9.0	4.4	—	7.7	6.7	3.2
Injected illegal drugs	3.9	3.1 *	3.4	—	3.1	3.3	1.8
Any illicit	*51.8*	*68.7*	*66.2*	*31.6*	*69.3*	*67.5*	*48.3*
None of the above	16.4	5.1	4.0	3.4	4.5	4.5	5.2

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- In 1998, almost two in three (65%) West Australian females aged 14 years and older had tried smoking **tobacco**, which was an increase from 1995 (62%).
- Approximately nine out of 10 (90%) females had tried **alcohol** in 1998. This was an increase of four percentage points over rates in 1995 (86%).
- The proportion of West Australian females aged 14 years or older that had ever used an **illicit drug** increased from 41% in 1995 to 48% in 1998.
- Just over four out of 10 (42%) females had tried **cannabis** in 1998. This was an increase of 31%, from one in three females (32%) in 1995.
- **Amphetamine** use by females decreased from 6% in 1995 to 5% in 1998.
- The proportion of females who had ever used **ecstasy** (and other designer drugs) decreased from 5% in 1995 to 3% in 1998.

Lifetime use of drugs by all persons

In 1998, the drugs most commonly tried in Western Australia were tobacco and alcohol. With the exception of cannabis, the proportion of the population that had used at least one illicit drug at some time in their life, although increasing since 1995, was relatively low (Tables 2.5, 2.6).

Table 2.5: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	35.2	68.8	76.8	64.6	68.9	73.1	64.6
Alcohol	58.4	97.7	96.2	89.4	95.1	96.9	88.8
Illicits							
Marijuana	29.5	70.2	60.5	13.9	62.5	64.9	36.9
Analgesics[(a)]	11.9	18.3	23.2	9.3	23.7	21.0	14.5
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	6.3	6.3	1.4	6.9	6.3	3.2
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	2.0	—	1.3	1.1	0.5
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	5.9	6.5	0.8	6.6	6.2	3.0
Inhalants	0.6	4.5	6.0	1.2	6.3	5.3	2.9
Heroin	—	3.7	5.4	0.6	4.8	4.6	2.2
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	6.5	25.4	8.2	2.5	18.0	15.9	8.6
Cocaine	—	9.0	5.5	0.5	7.2	7.1	3.2
Hallucinogens	8.6	23.1	9.2	2.1	17.3	15.5	8.4
Ecstasy, designer drugs	5.2	18.4	1.9	1.4	10.8	9.3	5.1
Injected illegal drugs	1.3	5.7	5.1	0.5	6.1	5.4	2.6
Any illicit	*36.6*	*74.4*	*65.9*	*23.1*	*68.5*	*69.7*	*44.0*
None of the above	34.3	1.1	1.4	7.5	3.8	1.3	8.0

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.6: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	47.2	65.4	72.2	74.2	67.0	68.9	68.9
Alcohol	80.2	97.2	96.3	92.4	96.0	96.8	92.8
Illicits							
Marijuana	42.9	72.7	61.0	26.2	70.7	66.8	44.8
Analgesics[a]	14.5	14.3	10.6	8.9	11.1	12.4	11.0
Tranquillisers[a]	5.6	7.1	7.8	2.8 *	6.9	7.4	5.0
Steroids[a]	—	1.1 *	0.8 *	0.6 *	0.9 *	0.9 *	0.7 *
Barbiturates[a]	0.6 *	5.0	2.6	1.1 *	4.0	3.8	2.2
Inhalants	3.4	9.9	5.3	1.8 *	6.7	7.6	4.4
Heroin	2.6	7.1	3.5	1.5 *	5.3	5.3	3.2
Methadone[b]	1.5 *	1.3 *	1.7 *	—	1.2 *	1.5 *	0.8 *
Amphetamines[a]	6.9	29.7	11.7	2.8 *	22.3	20.7	10.6
Cocaine	1.3 *	6.5	6.5	2.7 *	6.2	6.5	4.1
Hallucinogens	12.1	29.9	13.7	4.3	23.3	21.7	12.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	3.7	22.0	6.7	1.1 *	16.0	14.3	6.9
Injected illegal drugs	2.7	7.9	4.4	0.4 *	5.8	6.2	3.1
Any illicit	*50.4*	*75.4*	*64.6*	*35.6*	*72.7*	*69.9*	*51.4*
None of the above	16.2	2.5 *	3.1	2.5 *	3.6	2.8	4.1

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- In 1998, approximately seven in 10 (69%) persons aged 14 years and older in Western Australia had tried smoking **tobacco**, which shows an increase from 1995 (65%).
- Slightly more than nine in 10 (93%) persons had tried **alcohol** in 1998. This was an increase of four percentage points since 1995.
- **Cannabis** use increased by 21%, from 37% in 1995 to 45% in 1998.
- The higher rate of **cannabis** use was reported by the 20–29 years age group, with just seven out of 10 (73%) having ever used in their lifetime.
- **Ecstasy** (and other designer drugs) increased by 35%, from 5% in 1995 to 7% in 1998.
- Overall, the use of **any illicit** drug by West Australians aged 14 years and over increased by 23%, from 44% in 1995 to 51% in 1998.

Drugs recently used by males

Between 1995 and 1998, proportions of males in Western Australia recently (in the last 12 months) using tobacco decreased slightly, using alcohol increased slightly, and increased for most illicit drugs (Tables 2.7, 2.8).

Table 2.7: Summary of drug use: proportion of males aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	13.9	46.0	35.0	25.5	38.4	39.8	29.8
Alcohol	58.1	94.0	86.9	86.0	85.0	90.1	84.2
Illicits							
Marijuana	28.1	50.7	26.4	4.2	42.4	37.3	20.4
Analgesics[(a)]	—	10.2	7.8	0.6	10.3	8.8	3.9
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inhalants	—	2.5	—	—	1.3	1.1	0.4
Heroin	—	—	3.4	—	2.4	1.9	0.8
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	4.8	14.7	—	—	7.9	6.3	3.2
Cocaine	—	1.7	3.4	—	3.3	2.7	1.1
Hallucinogens	6.3	14.0	—	—	7.6	6.1	3.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	8.5	13.3	—	—	7.2	5.8	3.4
Injected illegal drugs	1.2	3.1	—	—	1.7	1.4	0.7
Any illicit	*28.1*	*57.3*	*32.8*	*4.8*	*50.6*	*43.5*	*23.4*
None of the above	41.9	—	4.6	10.0	6.9	2.6	10.9

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.8: Summary of drug use: proportion of males aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	13.8	40.7	30.0	27.7	39.6	35.4	29.3
Alcohol	70.8	96.7	91.9	91.1	93.1	94.3	90.2
Illicits							
Marijuana	32.3	67.0	20.3	11.1	52.0	44.1	27.3
Analgesics[a]	6.3	4.5	2.8	1.1 *	4.0	3.7	2.8
Tranquillisers[a]	5.8	0.7 *	3.0	—	1.4 *	1.8 *	1.4 *
Steroids[a]	—	—	0.7 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Barbiturates[a]	—	1.5 *	0.7 *	—	1.4 *	1.1 *	0.5 *
Inhalants	1.8 *	1.6 *	—	1.7 *	1.2 *	0.8 *	1.3 *
Heroin	—	8.5	2.5	—	5.7	5.5	2.3
Methadone[b]	1.5 *	—	0.7 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.3 *
Amphetamines[a]	6.6	36.0	3.0	2.3 *	24.3	19.7	10.1
Cocaine	—	4.0 *	1.4 *	2.3 *	3.1	2.7	2.2
Hallucinogens	8.8	19.2	1.8 *	—	14.1	10.6	5.4
Ecstasy, designer drugs	3.1	30.5	2.2	2.3 *	20.0	16.3	8.3
Injected illegal drugs	1.5 *	11.7	1.7 *	—	8.0	6.7	3.0
Any illicit	*33.7*	*69.6*	*21.7*	*13.6*	*53.9*	*45.6*	*29.3*
None of the above	24.0	3.2 *	5.8	6.6	4.8	4.5	7.7

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- The proportion of males in Western Australia recently using **alcohol** increased from 84% in 1995 to 90% by 1998.
- The proportion of males that recently used **any illicit drug** increased between 1995 (23%) and 1998 (29%).
- The recent use of **cannabis** by males in Western Australia aged 14 years and over increased from 20% in 1995 to 27% in 1998.
- The proportion of males recently using **amphetamines** in the 12 months prior to the survey increased from 3% in 1995 to 10% in 1998.
- Between 1995 and 1998 the use of **ecstasy** (and other designer drugs) increased five percentage points from 3% in 1995 to 8% in 1998.
- Just over one in four (27%) males reported the use of **cannabis** in the last 12 months. However, two-thirds (67%) of males aged 20–29 years had recently used cannabis. This age group constituted the highest recent users of cannabis for any age group and almost double the highest female rate of 36% for the 14–19 years age group.

Drugs recently used by females

Between 1995 and 1998, proportions of West Australian females recently (in the last 12 months) using tobacco decreased slightly, using alcohol increased slightly, and increased for most illicit drugs (Tables 2.9, 2.10).

Table 2.9: Summary of drug use: proportion of females aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	13.0	40.5	35.8	20.4	33.0	37.9	26.9
Alcohol	48.8	84.4	77.1	79.6	77.2	80.4	76.6
Illicits							
Marijuana	18.6	29.4	18.4	2.5	26.0	23.8	13.0
Analgesics[(a)]	11.2	5.7	10.1	7.5	10.0	8.0	8.1
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	2.0	3.2	0.3	2.3	2.7	1.3
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	2.0	—	—	1.1	0.9	0.4
Inhalants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heroin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	1.4	10.6	0.7	0.3	6.4	5.3	2.5
Cocaine	—	1.0	—	—	0.6	0.5	0.2
Hallucinogens	5.5	6.7	—	—	5.5	3.1	1.9
Ecstasy, designer drugs	—	10.2	—	—	5.8	4.8	2.0
Injected illegal drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any illicit	*29.7*	*35.5*	*26.8*	*9.5*	*35.9*	*30.9*	*20.7*
None of the above	47.0	6.5	14.8	17.7	13.9	10.9	17.9

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.10: Summary of drug use: proportion of females aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	17.1	42.5	30.7	18.1	39.3	36.5	25.6
Alcohol	76.2	78.3	85.7	82.6	81.5	82.0	81.7
Illicits							
Marijuana	36.0	31.3	20.2	6.2	31.0	25.5	17.2
Analgesics[(a)]	6.4	5.2	7.0	5.7	4.7	6.1	5.9
Tranquillisers[(a)]	4.3	5.9	7.1	3.3	5.8	6.5	4.7
Steroids[(a)]	—	0.7 *	—	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	0.7 *	—	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Inhalants	1.2 *	4.3	1.5 *	—	2.5	2.9	1.3 *
Heroin	3.9	0.7 *	0.6 *	—	1.3 *	0.6 *	0.7 *
Methadone[(b)]	—	0.7 *	—	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	5.8	6.2	0.6 *	—	5.2	3.4	2.0
Cocaine	1.2 *	1.1 *	—	—	1.1 *	0.6 *	0.4 *
Hallucinogens	10.1	6.7	—	—	5.4	3.3	2.5
Ecstasy, designer drugs	4.3	6.9	0.5 *	—	5.1	3.6	2.0
Injected illegal drugs	1.2 *	2.4 *	0.6 *	—	1.8 *	1.5 *	0.7 *
Any illicit	*37.3*	*30.2*	*28.3*	*11.7*	*30.5*	*29.2*	*21.6*
None of the above	18.8	8.0	7.1	11.7	7.8	7.5	10.8

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- Between 1995 (27%) and 1998 (26%) there was a slight decline in the proportion of females recently using **tobacco**.
- The proportion of West Australian females recently using **alcohol** increased from 77% in 1995 to 82% in 1998.
- In 1998, approximately 17% of females aged 14 years and over had used **cannabis** in the last 12 months. This was a 32% increase from 13% in 1995. However, just over one in three (36%) of 14–19 year old females reported recent cannabis use—a rate higher than that for 14–19 year old males (32%).
- The data indicates that use of **cannabis** declines with age for both males and females, reaching the same rate (20%) for the 30–39 years age group. Females aged 40 years and over are almost half as likely (6%) to have recently used cannabis than males (11%) in the same age group.
- In 1998, females aged 30–39 years in Western Australia were the highest recent users of **alcohol** (86%).
- The recent use of **alcohol** by female teenagers in Western Australia increased by the largest margin from 49% in 1995 to 76% in 1998.
- Females in Western Australia aged 20–29 years were the highest recent users of **tobacco** (43%).

Drugs recently used by all persons

Between 1995 and 1998, proportions of Western Australian persons recently (in the last 12 months) using tobacco decreased slightly, using alcohol increased slightly, and increased for most illicit drugs/substances (Tables 2.11, 2.12).

Table 2.11: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
Tobacco	13.6	43.2	35.5	22.9	35.7	38.9	28.4
Alcohol	53.8	89.0	82.0	82.7	81.1	85.2	80.3
Illicits							
Marijuana	23.7	39.5	22.5	3.4	33.9	30.5	16.7
Analgesics[(a)]	5.2	7.8	8.9	4.0	10.2	8.4	6.0
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	1.1	1.6	0.2	1.2	1.3	0.6
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inhalants	—	1.2	—	—	0.7	0.5	0.2
Heroin	—	—	1.7	—	1.2	1.0	0.4
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	3.2	12.5	0.3	0.2	7.2	5.8	2.9
Cocaine	—	1.3	1.7	—	1.9	1.5	0.6
Hallucinogens	6.0	10.1	—	—	6.5	4.6	2.6
Ecstasy, designer drugs	4.6	11.7	—	—	6.5	5.3	2.7
Injected illegal drugs	0.6	1.5	—	—	0.8	0.7	0.4
Any illicit	*28.9*	*45.8*	*29.9*	*7.2*	*43.1*	*37.1*	*22.0*
None of the above	44.3	3.4	9.6	13.9	10.5	6.8	14.4

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.12: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over that have used drugs in the past 12 months, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	15.4	41.6	30.3	23.0	39.4	36.0	27.4
Alcohol	73.4	87.7	88.8	86.8	87.3	88.3	85.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	34.1	50.2	20.3	8.6	41.7	35.0	22.3
Analgesics[(a)]	6.4	4.8	4.9	3.5	4.4	4.9	4.4
Tranquillisers[(a)]	5.1	3.2 *	5.0	1.7 *	3.6	4.1	3.1
Steroids[(a)]	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	1.1 *	0.4 *	—	0.9 *	0.7 *	0.3 *
Inhalants	1.5 *	2.9 *	0.8 *	0.8 *	1.9 *	1.8 *	1.3
Heroin	1.9 *	4.7	1.5 *	—	3.5	3.1	1.5
Methadone[(b)]	0.8 *	0.4 *	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.2 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	6.2	21.4	1.8 *	1.1 *	14.6	11.5	6.0
Cocaine	0.6 *	2.6 *	0.7 *	1.1 *	2.1	1.6 *	1.3
Hallucinogens	9.4	13.1	0.9 *	—	9.7	7.0	3.9
Ecstasy, designer drugs	3.7	18.9	1.4 *	1.1 *	12.5	10.1	5.1
Injected illegal drugs	1.3 *	7.1	1.1 *	—	4.9	4.1	1.8
Any illicit	*35.4*	*50.3*	*25.0*	*12.6*	*42.1*	*37.5*	*25.4*
None of the above	21.5	5.5	6.5	9.2	6.3	6.0	9.3

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- Between 1995 (28%) and 1998 (27%) there was a slight decline in the proportion of persons recently using **tobacco**.
- The proportion of the Western Australian population recently using **alcohol** increased from 80% in 1995 to 86% by 1998.
- The proportion of the Western Australian population that had used **any illicit drug** in the 12 months prior to the survey increased from 22% in 1995 to 25% in 1998.
- Recent use of **cannabis** increased from 17% in 1995 to 22% in 1998. This was a 34% increase across the 3-year period. Approximately 50% of 20–29 year olds had used **cannabis** in the last 12 months.
- Recent use of **heroin** and/or **cocaine** also increased between 1995 and 1998.
- Persons in Western Australia aged 30–39 years were the highest recent users of **alcohol** (89%).

Age of initiation—lifetime use for males

In 1998, the mean age at which males in Western Australia first used drugs had generally increased since 1995 (Tables 2.13, 2.14).

Table 2.13: Age of initiation of males aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(mean age)			
Tobacco	13.0	14.3	13.9	14.7	13.8	14.1	14.3
Alcohol	13.0	14.9	15.4	17.1	14.8	15.1	15.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	13.5	16.0	18.2	23.3	16.5	17.2	18.3
Analgesics[(a)]	13.0	15.0	18.9	20.6	16.5	17.3	17.3
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	15.8	14.7	35.0	15.3	15.2	16.6
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	29.0	—	29.0	29.0	29.0
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	16.0	15.4	28.0	15.2	15.5	17.3
Inhalants	13.0	15.2	15.4	29.0	15.4	15.4	18.2
Heroin	—	16.0	17.5	48.0	15.9	17.1	21.9
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	15.8	18.2	18.1	29.0	18.0	18.2	19.3
Cocaine	—	17.8	23.2	—	18.7	20.6	20.6
Hallucinogens	14.4	17.6	17.3	23.6	17.1	17.5	18.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	15.1	19.8	—	37.0	19.8	19.8	22.5
Injected illegal drugs	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.14: Age of initiation of males aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(mean age)						
Tobacco	12.4	14.7	14.3	15.0	15.0	14.5	14.6
Alcohol	13.8	14.9	14.7	16.3	15.0	14.8	15.4
Illicits							
Marijuana	13.5	16.4	19.1	22.2	17.3	17.5	18.5
Analgesics[(a)]	13.2	16.0	20.7	43.4 *	19.8	18.8	27.7
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	21.0 *	27.5	—	25.5 *	25.5 *	25.5 *
Steroids[(a)]	—	21.0	21.0 *	26.0	21.0 *	21.0 *	25.5 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	19.9 *	21.0 *	19.0	21.2 *	20.7 *	20.2 *
Inhalants	10.2 *	18.6 *	18.9	48.0 *	18.5 *	18.7 *	24.1 *
Heroin	—	25.7	22.3	25.2	25.9	25.2	25.2
Methadone[(b)]	16.0 *	19.5	27.4 *	—	23.3 *	22.7 *	21.3 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	15.5	20.6	20.0	26.9 *	20.5	20.4	20.8
Cocaine	—	20.2 *	23.5 *	26.9 *	21.7	22.1	23.8
Hallucinogens	16.1	19.2	19.3 *	18.7	19.3	19.3	19.9
Ecstasy, designer drugs	16.4	19.6	26.9	30.0 *	20.4	21.2	22.0
Injected illegal drugs	14.0 *	21.3	20.1	19.0	21.7	20.9	20.5

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- The mean age of initiation for **alcohol** and **tobacco** appears to have changed little between 1995 and 1998.
- The largest increase in age of initiation for males was recorded for **analgesics** where the mean age increased from 17 years in 1995 to 28 years of age in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **tranquillisers** increased by 9 years from 17 in 1995 to 26 years in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **inhalants** and **heroin** increased from 18 to 24 years and 22 to 25 years respectively between 1995 and 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **cocaine** and **barbiturates** increased 3 years between 1995 and 1998 from 21 to 24 years and 17 to 20 years respectively.

Age of initiation—lifetime use for females

In 1998, excluding inhalants and cocaine, the mean ages at which females in Western Australia first used drugs varied considerably between the different types of licit and illicit drugs (Tables 2.15, 2.16).

Table 2.15: Age of initiation of females aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(mean age)			
Tobacco	13.8	15.0	16.6	18.3	15.2	15.9	16.8
Alcohol	14.5	15.5	18.4	19.3	15.9	17.0	17.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	14.7	17.0	21.3	27.3	17.5	18.9	19.5
Analgesics[(a)]	10.0	15.7	18.0	20.8	16.0	17.0	17.9
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	13.3	23.1	33.4	18.2	19.0	25.4
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	18.5	19.0	30.0	18.5	18.5	19.8
Inhalants	—	14.0	27.7	—	18.6	23.9	23.9
Heroin	—	17.0	32.0	—	17.0	20.6	20.6
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	17.5	19.2	27.3	24.1	19.0	20.3	20.1
Cocaine	—	19.5	26.0	24.7	20.4	20.4	21.5
Hallucinogens	—	16.4	26.0	18.0	16.4	17.9	17.9
Ecstasy, designer drugs	16.0	19.7	31.0	36.0	20.5	21.9	22.2
Injected illegal drugs	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.16: Age of initiation of females aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(mean age)						
Tobacco	14.2	14.2	15.6	17.1	14.7	14.9	15.9
Alcohol	13.1	15.8	16.7	20.4	15.8	16.3	18.0
Illicits							
Marijuana	14.6	16.7	19.4	25.9	17.4	18.0	19.6
Analgesics[(a)]	15.6	17.0	21.1	27.4	16.6	18.9	21.0
Tranquillisers[(a)]	16.8	18.9	19.7	45.0	18.2	19.3	23.6
Steroids[(a)]	—	17.0 *	—	—	17.0 *	17.0 *	17.0 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	18.3 *	—	—	18.3 *	18.3 *	18.3 *
Inhalants	13.0 *	17.2	16.1 *	—	16.7	16.9	16.7 *
Heroin	15.1	18.0 *	25.5 *	—	16.5 *	22.7 *	20.6 *
Methadone[(b)]	—	19.0 *	—	—	19.0 *	21.7 *	21.7 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	15.4	19.6	23.4 *	24.0	19.6	20.6	20.4
Cocaine	15.8 *	20.7 *	20.7	36.1	19.8 *	20.7 *	25.3 *
Hallucinogens	15.3	18.7	19.9	—	18.4	19.0	18.1
Ecstasy, designer drugs	15.9	19.3	26.9 *	—	20.1	21.4	20.7
Injected illegal drugs	15.2 *	19.9 *	23.8 *	—	19.1 *	21.9 *	20.3 *

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- The mean age of initiation for **alcohol** and **tobacco** among females aged 14 years and over in Western Australia remained stable at 18 years and 16 years respectively in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **inhalants** experienced the largest decrease, from 24 years in 1995 to 17 years of age in 1998.
- The age of initiation for **cocaine** increased from 22 years in 1995 to 25 years of age in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **cannabis**, **amphetamines** and **hallucinogens** increased marginally between 1995 and 1998.
- **Ecstasy** (and other designer drugs) and **tranquillisers** both decreased by 2 years to 21 years and to 24 years respectively in 1998.

Age of initiation—lifetime use for all persons

In 1998, the mean ages at which persons living in Western Australia first used drugs generally remained relatively stable for the most commonly used drugs, with increases recorded for analgesics, tranquillisers, inhalants, heroin and cocaine (Tables 2.17, 2.18).

Table 2.17: Age of initiation of the population aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Drug/behaviour	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(mean age)			
Tobacco	13.5	14.7	15.2	16.3	14.5	15.0	15.5
Alcohol	13.6	15.2	16.8	18.2	15.4	16.1	16.9
Illicits							
Marijuana	14.1	16.5	19.4	24.5	17.0	18.0	18.8
Analgesics[(a)]	11.5	15.3	18.6	20.7	16.3	17.2	17.6
Tranquillisers[(a)]	—	15.3	16.8	33.8	15.9	16.1	19.7
Steroids[(a)]	—	—	29	—	29.0	29.1	29.2
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	17.4	15.6	28.5	16.2	16.4	18.0
Inhalants	13.0	15.1	17.0	29.0	15.6	16.3	18.7
Heroin	—	16.4	18.4	48.0	16.1	17.7	21.7
Methadone[(b)]	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Amphetamines[(a)]	16.8	18.7	19.8	27.7	18.4	19.0	19.6
Cocaine	—	18.4	23.4	24.7	19.2	20.6	20.9
Hallucinogens	15.3	17.6	18.6	24.1	17.5	17.9	18.3
Ecstasy, designer drugs	15.3	19.7	31.0	36.9	20.2	21.0	22.4
Injected illegal drugs	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

Table 2.18: Age of initiation of the population aged 14 years and over that have ever used drugs, Western Australia, 1998

Drug/behaviour	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(mean age)						
Tobacco	13.6	14.4	14.9	15.9	14.9	14.7	15.2
Alcohol	13.5	15.3	15.7	18.4	15.4	15.5	16.7
Illicits							
Marijuana	14.1	16.5	19.3	23.9	17.3	17.7	19.0
Analgesics[(a)]	13.8	16.8	20.9	36.4	17.6	18.9	24.0
Tranquillisers[(a)]	16.8	19.8 *	24.6	45.0 *	21.5	22.6	24.4
Steroids[(a)]	—	19.6 *	21.0 *	—	19.6 *	20.1 *	23.0 *
Barbiturates[(a)]	—	18.7 *	21.0 *	—	19.6 *	19.6 *	19.5 *
Inhalants	11.0 *	18.0 *	18.1 *	48.0 *	17.7 *	18.0 *	21.7
Heroin	15.1 *	24.9	23.9 *	—	24.2	24.6	24.2
Methadone[(b)]	16.0 *	19.4 *	26.6 *	—	22.4 *	22.4 *	21.4 *
Amphetamines[(a)]	15.4	20.4	20.7 *	26.2 *	20.3	20.5	20.7
Cocaine	15.8 *	20.5 *	22.7 *	30.8 *	20.9	21.6	24.5
Hallucinogens	15.6	19.0	19.6 *	—	19.0	19.2	19.4
Ecstasy, designer drugs	16.1	19.6	26.9 *	30.0 *	20.4	21.2	21.7
Injected illegal drugs	14.9 *	21.0	21.5	—	21.0	21.2	20.4

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

- The mean age of initiation of **alcohol** for persons in Western Australia aged 14 years and over remained stable at 17 years of age between 1995 and 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **tobacco** decreased from 16 years in 1995 to 15 years of age in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **analgesics** increased from 18 years in 1995 to 24 years of age in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **cocaine** increased by 4 years to 25 years of age in 1998.
- The mean age of initiation for **heroin** and **amphetamines** increased slightly between 1995 and 1998.

Acceptability of drug use

In 1998, the licit drugs—tobacco and alcohol—were considered by West Australians to be the most acceptable for regular use by adults (Table 2.19). With the exceptions of cannabis and analgesics, fewer than one in 10 West Australians aged 18 years or older in 1998 thought that regular use of illicit drugs by adults was acceptable.

Table 2.19: Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over who find regular drug use by adults acceptable, by sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Males		Females		Persons	
Drug	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)			
18–34 years						
Tobacco	45.0	53.9	47.8	53.4	46.4	53.7
Alcohol	62.0	80.2	54.9	57.9	58.4	68.9
Marijuana/cannabis	44.1	62.8	48.2	35.1	46.2	48.8
Pain killers/analgesics[a]	9.0	21.0	9.3	11.0	9.1	15.9
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills[a]	7.1	3.0	4.5	8.4	5.8	5.8
Steroids[a]	7.2	4.8	0.9	0.8 *	4.0	2.8
Barbiturates[a]	1.8	2.9	0.9	0.4 *	1.3	1.7 *
Inhalants	1.8	1.1 *	—	—	0.9	0.5 *
Heroin	4.1	2.7	3.4	1.1 *	3.7	1.9
Methadone[b]	[c]	1.9 *	[c]	2.8	[c]	2.4
Amphetamines	3.9	5.7	3.5	3.0	3.7	4.3
Cocaine	0.9	2.1	0.8	1.3 *	0.9	1.7 *
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	8.9	9.1	5.5	2.6	7.2	5.8
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	6.7	6.9	2.3	1.2 *	4.5	4.0
Ecstasy/designer drugs	6.3	6.3	3.2	2.6	4.7	4.4
18+ years						
Tobacco	35.8	44.5	31.3	42.1	33.5	43.3
Alcohol	56.7	73.4	45.7	55.1	51.1	64.2
Marijuana/cannabis	28.1	40.8	26.7	26.0	27.4	33.3
Pain killers/analgesics[a]	6.8	12.2	9.2	11.3	8.0	11.8
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills[a]	2.9	3.5	4.1	5.5	3.5	4.5
Steroids[a]	3.2	3.1	0.3	1.2 *	1.8	2.1
Barbiturates[a]	2.2	1.6 *	1.1	0.7 *	1.7	1.2
Inhalants	0.6	0.6 *	—	—	0.3	0.3 *
Heroin	2.4	1.8	1.9	0.6 *	2.2	1.2
Methadone[b]	[c]	1.0 *	[c]	1.0 *	[c]	1.0
Amphetamines	2.4	2.3	1.5	1.2 *	1.9	1.8
Cocaine	1.3	2.2	0.3	0.5 *	0.8	1.3
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	6.2	6.5	2.5	1.2 *	4.3	3.8
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	5.4	2.9	0.8	0.4 *	3.1	1.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	5.2	2.6	1.3	1.2 *	3.3	1.9

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Not asked in 1995.

- Regular use of **alcohol** by adults was considered acceptable by over two-thirds (69%) of West Australians aged 18–34 years in 1998, an increase of 11 percentage points over 1995 (58%). Males were more likely than females in both 1995 and 1998 to consider the regular use of alcohol to be acceptable.
- Regular use of **tobacco** by adults was considered acceptable by 54% of the Western Australian population aged 18–34 years in 1998.
- In 1998, approximately one in two (49%) West Australians aged 18–34 years considered the regular use of **cannabis** to be acceptable. There was a difference in male and female attitudes to regular cannabis use, with about six in 10 (63%) males expressing agreement compared with one in three (35%) females.
- Regular use of **alcohol** by adults was considered acceptable by almost two-thirds (64%) of West Australians aged 18 years or older in 1998, an increase of 13 percentage points over 1995 (51%).
- Regular use of **tobacco** by adults was considered acceptable by 43% of the Western Australian population aged 18 years or older in 1998. This is a 29% increase compared with 1995 (34%).
- In 1998, approximately one in three (33%) West Australians aged 18 years or older considered the regular use of **cannabis** to be acceptable, an increase of six percentage points over 1995 (27%). Support by males increased from 28% in 1995, to 41% in 1998, whereas support by females decreased from 27% in 1995 to 26% in 1998.

Support for the legalisation of illicit drugs

Between 1995 and 1998, support for the legalisation of selected illicit drugs generally increased, with the exception of cannabis (Table 2.20).

Table 2.20: Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over who support the personal use of selected drugs being made legal, by sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Males		Females		Persons	
Drug	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)			
18–34 years						
Marijuana/cannabis	44.3	56.9	46.4	31.6	45.3	44.2
Heroin	2.2	12.1	9.3	2.9	5.9	7.5
Amphetamines/speed	1.3	10.1	6.0	3.9	3.6	7.0
Cocaine	0.9	11.1	5.7	2.7	3.3	6.8
18+ years						
Marijuana/cannabis	38.9	37.6	32.4	27.0	35.6	32.3
Heroin	5.4	8.5	5.8	4.8	5.6	6.7
Amphetamines/speed	4.3	7.2	3.1	3.6	3.7	5.4
Cocaine	4.9	8.1	3.9	4.3	4.3	6.2

- The support for legalisation of **cannabis** by persons aged 18–34 years in Western Australia remained stable at around 45% between 1995 and 1998.
- In 1998, males (57%) aged 18–34 years were more likely to support the legalisation of **cannabis** than females (32%).
- The support by persons aged 18–34 years for the legalisation of **heroin**, **amphetamines** and **cocaine** all increased between 1995 and 1998, but support still remained at less than one in 10 persons.
- The support for legalisation of **cannabis** by persons aged 18 years and over in Western Australia decreased four percentage points from 36% in 1995 to 32% in 1998.
- Males (38%) were more likely than females (27%) to support the legalisation of **cannabis**.
- Support by persons in Western Australia aged 18 years and over for the legalisation of **heroin** and **cocaine** remained low.

3 Consumption patterns

Tobacco

Tobacco is associated with over four in five drug-related deaths and almost three in every five drug-related hospital episodes. The AIHW estimates that over 18,000 deaths nationally in 1997 and almost 150,000 hospital episodes were attributable to tobacco-related conditions (AIHW 1999). This amounts to an annual cost of approximately $3.9 million based on an average hospital episode costing $2,575 (AIHW 1999). The most frequently occurring tobacco-related conditions were cancers (e.g. lung, oesophageal), ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Males are more than twice as likely as females to be hospitalised for, or die from, tobacco-related causes.

Smoking status

In 1998, the age group which had the highest proportion of regular smokers was 18–34 years, and the age group with the lowest proportion was the 14–19 years age group (Tables 3.1, 3.2). Rates of smoking by younger females were similar to rates in younger males in 1998, further evidence of the apparent sustainability of a trend established in the last decade.

Table 3.1: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Smoking status	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Regular[(a)]	6.7	39.5	25.0	22.8	28.6	31.4	24.2
Occasional[(b)]	7.2	6.5	10.0	2.7	9.8	8.4	5.6
Ex-smokers	14.5	20.3	44.2	47.2	28.6	33.6	37.4
Never smoked	71.6	33.7	20.8	27.4	32.9	26.5	32.7
				Females			
Regular[(a)]	11.6	38.9	27.9	17.1	30.9	32.9	23.1
Occasional[(b)]	1.4	1.6	7.9	3.3	2.1	5.0	3.8
Ex-smokers	29.7	30.6	38.3	36.6	37.7	34.8	35.1
Never smoked	57.3	28.9	25.8	43.1	29.3	27.2	38.0
				Persons			
Regular[(a)]	9.0	39.2	26.5	19.9	29.8	32.2	23.7
Occasional[(b)]	4.5	4.0	9.0	3.0	5.9	6.7	4.7
Ex-smokers	21.6	25.6	41.3	41.7	33.2	34.2	36.2
Never smoked	65.0	31.2	23.3	35.4	31.1	26.9	35.4

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: smokes less often than daily/most days.

Table 3.2: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Smoking status	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Regular[(a)]	8.9	28.5	27.5	25.6	31.5	28.0	24.7
Occasional[(b)]	4.9	12.2	2.5	2.1 *	8.1	7.4	4.6
Ex-smokers	22.9	19.5	49.8	55.5	24.4	34.5	43.3
Never smoked	63.3	39.8	20.2	16.8	36.0	30.1	27.4
				Females			
Regular[(a)]	10.9	29.6	27.8	15.6	29.3	31.2	20.5
Occasional[(b)]	6.2	12.9	2.9	2.5 *	10.0	7.8	5.1
Ex-smokers	40.8	28.2	34.1	46.8	30.7	28.7	39.7
Never smoked	42.0	29.3	35.2	35.1	30.1	32.3	34.7
				Persons			
Regular[(a)]	9.9	29.1	27.6	20.7	30.4	28.4	22.6
Occasional[(b)]	5.5	12.5	2.7	2.3 *	9.0	7.6	4.8
Ex-smokers	31.8	23.8	41.9	51.2	27.6	32.9	41.5
Never smoked	52.8	34.6	27.7	25.8	33.0	31.2	31.0

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: smokes less often than daily/most days.

- Approximately 15% of West Australian teenagers smoked in 1998, which is a slight increase from 14% in 1995. One in 10 were considered to be regular smokers, with one in 20 (6%) considered to be occasional smokers. More than half (53%) of all teenagers had never smoked.
- Regular smoking rates for West Australians peaked at 20–29 years of age (29%).
- Males in Western Australia were more likely to be regular smokers (25%) than females (21%).
- The proportion of the West Australian community aged 20–29 years that were regular smokers decreased 10 percentage points from 39% in 1995 to 29% in 1998.
- Overall smoking levels for persons in Western Australia decreased slightly from 28% in 1995 to 27% in 1998.

Number of cigarettes smoked

Generally, the quantities of cigarettes smoked by male smokers exceeded those of female smokers (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Recent[(a)] tobacco smokers: number of cigarettes, by smoking status, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1998

	Smoking status							
	Less than	Recent occasional			Recent regular			Mean
Age groups	weekly	1–10 week	11–30 week	31+ week	1–10 day	11–20 day	> 20 day	per week
				(per cent)				(number)
				Males				
14–19	41.4	—	—	—	10.2	38.6	9.9	57
20–29	22.0	8.5	—	—	28.1	31.7	9.7	61
30–39	8.3	—	—	—	20.3	23.4	48.0	135
40+	—	—	4.0	3.6	3.2	44.6	44.7	151
18–34	15.5 *	5.6 *	—	—	29.3	30.0	19.6	80
20–39	16.2	4.9	—	—	24.8	28.2	25.9	93
All ages	**9.9**	**2.4**	**1.8**	**1.6**	**14.2**	**36.2**	**33.8**	**118**
				Females				
14–19	15.5	18.1	5.5	—	31.8	29.2	—	51
20–29	12.0	15.4	2.9	—	13.6	43.8	12.2	77
30–39	9.8	—	—	—	17.2	53.8	19.2	104
40+	—	—	—	14.4 *	4.1	25.8	55.7	143
18–34	10.7	12.4	2.6	—	17.4	43.0	13.8	79
20–39	11.1	8.9	1.7	—	15.1	48.0	15.1	88
All ages	**7.8**	**6.7**	**1.4**	**4.7**	**12.7**	**39.4**	**27.4**	**103**
				Persons				
14–19	26.6	10.3	3.1	—	22.5	33.2	4.3	54
20–29	16.9	12.0	1.5	—	20.8	37.8	11.0	69
30–39	9.1	—	—	—	18.7	38.7	33.5	120
40+	—	—	2.5 *	7.6 *	3.5	37.5	48.8	148
18–34	13.1	9.0	1.3	—	23.2	36.6	16.7	80
20–39	13.6	6.9	0.9	—	19.9	38.2	20.5	90
All ages	**8.9**	**4.4**	**1.6**	**3.0**	**13.5**	**37.6**	**30.9**	**111**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: Base equals all recent smokers.

- The typical quantity of cigarettes for recent regular smokers was 11–20 cigarettes per day.
- One in three teenagers smoked between 11 and 20 cigarettes per day, with more males (39%) than females (29%) in the age group smoking at this rate. The mean number of cigarettes smoked per week by teenage males was 57, which was more than the number for teenage female smokers (51).
- The mean number of cigarettes smoked per week peaked at 148 for smokers aged 40 years and over. Male smokers in this age group smoked, on average, eight cigarettes more (151) per week than did females (143).
- Female smokers aged 20–29 years, however, smoked on average 77 cigarettes per week compared with 20–29 year old males who smoked only 61 cigarettes per week on average.

Alcohol

Alcohol is second only to tobacco in drug-related deaths and hospital episodes. The Institute estimates that nationally in 1997 there were almost 4,000 alcohol-related deaths and just under 100,000 hospital episodes. Principal among alcohol-related causes of deaths and hospital episodes were cirrhosis of the liver, strokes and motor vehicle accidents.

Drinking status

In 1998, the age group that had the highest proportion of regular drinkers was 20–29 years (58%), and the age group with the lowest proportion was 14–19 years (34%). Rates of regular drinking by males compared with females were consistently higher for all age groups in 1998 (Tables 3.4, 3.5).

Table 3.4: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Smoking status	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Regular[(a)]	19.6	58.0	55.3	62.3	58.1	56.5	54.6
Occasional[(b)]	38.5	36.0	31.6	23.7	26.9	33.6	29.6
Ex-drinker	4.8	6.0	13.1	6.5	13.1	9.9	7.7
Not more than one glass of alcohol	37.1	—	—	7.5	1.8	—	8.1
				Females			
Regular[(a)]	11.2	47.9	28.1	39.3	37.8	37.2	35.4
Occasional[(b)]	37.6	36.5	49.0	40.3	39.4	43.2	41.2
Ex-drinker	4.1	11.3	15.4	6.9	14.7	13.5	9.3
Not more than one glass of alcohol	47.0	4.3	7.6	13.5	8.0	6.1	14.1
				Persons			
Regular[(a)]	15.7	52.8	41.7	50.6	47.8	46.7	44.9
Occasional[(b)]	38.1	36.2	40.3	32.1	33.3	38.5	35.4
Ex-drinker	4.5	8.7	14.2	6.7	13.9	11.7	8.5
Not more than one glass of alcohol	41.7	2.2	3.8	10.5	5.0	3.1	11.1

(a) Regular: drinks daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: drinks less often than daily/most days.

Table 3.5: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Smoking status	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Males							
Regular[(a)]	34.3	68.8	65.2	64.6	62.9	67.0	62.2
Occasional[(b)]	36.5	27.9	26.7	26.5	30.2	27.3	28.0
Ex-drinker	9.7	3.3 *	4.9	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.8
Not more than one glass of alcohol	19.4	—	3.2	4.7	3.2	1.6	5.0
Females							
Regular[(a)]	33.5	46.3	42.8	45.1	46.6	44.5	43.6
Occasional[(b)]	42.7	32.0	42.9	37.5	34.9	37.5	38.1
Ex-drinker	3.8	16.0	10.2	6.8	13.5	13.0	9.1
Not more than one glass of alcohol	20.1	5.7	4.1	10.5	5.0	4.9	9.3
Persons							
Regular[(a)]	33.9	57.8	54.0	54.7	54.7	55.9	52.9
Occasional[(b)]	39.5	29.9	34.8	32.1	32.6	32.4	33.0
Ex-drinker	6.8	9.5	7.5	5.6	8.7	8.5	6.9
Not more than one glass of alcohol	19.8	2.8	3.6	7.7	4.1	3.2	7.2

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Regular: drinks daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: drinks less often than daily/most days.

- In 1998, approximately nine in 10 (86%) persons in Western Australia had consumed alcohol recently. This was consistent for all age groups aside from the 14–19 years group where approximately seven in 10 (73%) persons had recently consumed alcohol.
- In 1998, males were more likely to be regular drinkers of alcohol (62%) than females (44%).
- Recent consumption of alcohol by teenagers increased from 54% in 1995 to 73% in 1998.

Consumption patterns

In 1995, more than half of all recent drinkers (53%) in Western Australia usually consumed 1–2 standard drinks on an occasion when they drank (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6: Quantity of alcohol usually consumed, proportion of recent[(a)] alcohol drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Quantity (standard drinks)	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
			(per cent)				
			Males				
1–2	28.6	25.3	36.9	47.7	27.6	31.2	39.3
3–4	22.0	33.9	30.5	33.3	29.9	32.2	31.7
5–6	23.7	18.2	21.1	10.7	21.2	19.7	15.5
7+	25.8	22.5	11.5	8.4	21.2	16.9	13.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Females				
1–2	30.8	41.5	69.4	83.4	46.5	56.8	67.1
3–4	39.5	29.8	21.2	13.7	28.2	25.1	21.0
5–6	16.4	13.1	3.9	2.2	12.2	8.1	6.0
7+	13.3	15.6	5.5	0.7	13.0	10.0	5.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Persons				
1–2	29.6	33.1	53.8	64.3	36.9	44.1	52.6
3–4	29.9	31.9	25.7	24.2	29.0	28.6	26.6
5–6	20.4	15.8	12.1	6.7	16.8	13.8	11.0
7+	20.1	19.2	8.3	4.8	17.2	13.4	9.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: Base equals recent alcohol drinkers.

Table 3.7: Quantity of alcohol usually consumed, proportion of recent[(a)] alcohol drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Quantity (standard drinks)	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
			(per cent)				
			Males				
1–2	41.8	29.5	37.8	42.8	33.6	33.5	38.5
3–4	12.4	20.0	40.0	35.5	23.4	29.6	31.0
5–6	11.5	13.2	6.2	14.3	11.9	9.8	12.1
7+	34.3	37.3	16.0	7.4	31.1	27.0	18.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Females				
1–2	24.4	43.5	63.6	82.5	46.0	54.3	64.6
3–4	31.8	27.7	29.3	13.7	27.0	28.6	21.9
5–6	16.1	14.1	5.6	3.0	11.9	9.5	7.1
7+	27.6	14.8	1.4	0.7	15.1	7.6	6.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Persons				
1–2	32.4	35.5	50.3	61.7	39.4	43.0	50.8
3–4	22.9	23.3	34.8	25.2	25.1	29.1	26.7
5–6	14.0	13.6	5.9	8.9	11.9	9.7	9.7
7+	30.7	27.6	8.9	4.2	23.6	18.1	12.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: Base equals recent alcohol drinkers.

- In 1995, approximately one in four persons in Western Australia consumed 3–4 standard drinks on an occasion when they drank.
- In 1998, the 14–19 years age group was more likely (31%) to consume 7 or more standard drinks on an occasion than any other age group.
- In 1998, persons aged 40 and over were the most likely (62%) to consume 1–2 drinks on an occasion when they drank.

In 1992 the National Health and Medical Research Council published guidelines on responsible drinking, namely:

- that the consumption of alcohol by men should not exceed 4 units or 40 grams of absolute alcohol per day on a regular basis, or 28 units per week; that 4–6 units per day or 28–42 units per week be considered hazardous and that more than 6 units per day or 42 units per week be regarded as harmful;
- that the consumption of alcohol by women should not exceed 2 units per day or 14 units per week on a regular basis; that is 2–4 units per day or 14–28 units per week be considered hazardous and that more than 4 units per day or 28 units per week be considered harmful.

Illicit drugs

The Institute estimates that, nationally in 1997, 831 persons died and there were over 11,000 hospital episodes from illicit drug-related causes. Although apparently small in numbers relative to deaths and hospital episodes due to tobacco and alcohol, illicit drug-related morbidity and mortality usually affects the young, resulting in relatively more life years debilitated or lost.

Use of cannabis

In 1998, more than two in every five (45%) West Australians aged 14 years or older had used cannabis at some time in their lives (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8: Use of cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Last 7 days		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
				(per cent)					**(mean years)**	
					Males					
14–19	28.1	38.1	28.1	32.3	10.0	22.4	10.0	21.7	13.5	13.5
20–29	70.0	78.3	50.7	67.0	32.6	38.6	21.3	26.6	16.0	16.4
30–39	71.9	61.6	26.4	20.3	11.5	11.7	11.5	8.0	18.2	19.1
40+	19.4	29.6	4.2	11.1	3.0	4.1	3.0	2.3 *	23.3	22.2
18–34	64.7	74.0	42.4	52.0	22.2	29.3	16.1	20.4	16.5	17.3
20–39	71.1	69.9	37.3	44.1	20.6	25.2	15.7	17.3	17.2	17.5
All ages	**41.6**	**47.5**	**20.4**	**27.3**	**11.1**	**15.0**	**9.1**	**10.8**	**18.3**	**18.5**
					Females					
14–19	31.2	48.1	18.6	36.0	10.2	12.5	10.2	7.3	14.7	14.6
20–29	70.4	66.9	29.4	31.3	20.3	7.5	17.8	4.7	17.0	16.7
30–39	48.7	60.4	18.4	20.2	9.0	4.3	6.5	3.2	21.3	19.4
40+	8.3	23.1	2.5	6.2	0.3	3.2	0.3	1.9 *	27.3	25.9
18–34	60.3	67.5	26.0	31.0	17.5	9.0	15.0	6.3	17.5	17.4
20–39	58.9	63.6	23.8	25.5	14.3	5.9	11.8	3.9	18.9	18.0
All ages	**32.1**	**42.2**	**13.0**	**17.2**	**7.3**	**5.3**	**6.2**	**3.3**	**19.5**	**19.6**
					Persons					
14–19	29.6	42.9	23.7	34.1	10.1	17.5	10.1	14.6	14.1	14.1
20–29	70.2	72.7	39.4	50.2	26.1	23.3	19.4	15.8	16.5	16.5
30–39	60.5	61.0	22.5	20.3	10.2	8.0	9.0	5.6	19.4	19.3
40+	13.9	26.2	3.3	8.6	1.7	3.7	1.7	2.1 *	24.5	23.9
18–34	62.5	70.7	33.9	41.7	19.8	19.1	15.5	13.3	17.0	17.3
20–39	64.9	66.8	30.5	35.0	17.4	15.6	13.7	10.6	18.0	17.7
All ages	**36.9**	**44.8**	**16.7**	**22.3**	**9.2**	**10.1**	**7.7**	**7.0**	**18.8**	**19.0**

* RSE greater than 50%.

- Between 1995 and 1998, the lifetime use of cannabis for West Australians aged 14 years and over increased from 37% to 45%.
- Female lifetime use of cannabis had the largest increase, from 32% in 1995 to 42% in 1998.
- The 20–29 years age group in 1998 had the highest proportion of lifetime users of cannabis (73%).
- Use of cannabis by West Australians in the last 12 months increased 34% from 17% in 1995 to 22% in 1998.
- Males (15%) in Western Australia were almost 3 times as likely to have used cannabis in the last 4 weeks as females (5%).
- Use of cannabis by West Australians in the last 7 days decreased slightly to 7% in 1998.
- Males (11%) in Western Australia were approximately 3 times more likely to have used cannabis in the last 7 days than West Australian females (3%).
- The age of initiation for cannabis for West Australians remained stable at around 19 years of age between 1995 and 1998.

Use of heroin

The proportion of Western Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever tried heroin appears to have increased slightly, from 2.2% in 1995 to 3.2% in 1998 (Table 3.9).

Table 3.9: Use of heroin: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				(mean years)	
				Males				
14–19	—	1.5 *	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	5.1	12.6	—	8.5	—	—	16.0	25.7
30–39	10.0	4.7	3.4	2.5	—	—	17.5	22.3
40+	1.3	3.0 *	—	—	—	—	48.0	25.2 *
18–34	8.4	9.0	2.4	5.7	—	—	15.9	25.9
20–39	7.9	8.7	1.9	5.5	—	—	17.1	25.2
All ages	**3.8**	**5.2**	**0.8**	**2.3**	—	—	**21.9**	**25.2**
				Females				
14–19	—	3.9	—	3.9	—	—	—	15.1
20–29	2.5	1.4 *	—	0.7 *	—	—	17.0	18.0 *
30–39	0.7	2.3	—	0.6 *	—	0.6 *	32.0	25.5
40+	—	—	—	–	—	—	—	—
18–34	1.4	1.7 *	—	1.3 *	—	—	17.0	16.5 *
20–39	1.5	1.8 *	—	0.6 *	—	0.3 *	20.6	22.7 *
All ages	**0.6**	**1.2**	—	**0.7** *	—	**0.1** *	**20.6**	**20.6**
				Persons				
14–19	—	2.6	—	1.9 *	—	—	—	15.1
20–29	3.7	7.1	—	4.7	—	—	16.4	24.9
30–39	5.4	3.5	1.7	1.5 *	—	0.3 *	18.4	23.9
40+	0.6	1.5 *	—	—	—	—	48.0	25.2 *
18–34	4.8	5.3	1.2	3.5	—	—	16.1	24.2
20–39	4.6	5.3	1.0	3.1	—	0.1 *	17.7	24.6
All ages	**2.2**	**3.2**	**0.4**	**1.5**	—	**0.1** *	**21.7**	**24.2**

* RSE greater than 50%.

The relatively low rates of heroin usage revealed in this survey render most stratified analyses statistically unreliable (see notes in Chapter 5).

- In 1998, males (5.2%) in Western Australia were more likely to have ever used heroin than females (1.2%).
- The age groups that had the highest proportions of persons ever using heroin in both 1995 and 1998 were the 20–29 years and 30–39 years groups.
- The mean age of initiation for heroin use increased by 2.5 years between 1995 and 1998 from 21.7 years to 24.2 years of age, although the age of initiation for females was unchanged.

Use of amphetamines

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried amphetamines increased slightly between 1995 (9%) and 1998 (11%) (Table 3.10).

Table 3.10: Use of amphetamines[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
	(per cent)						(mean years)	
				Males				
14–19	4.8	8.0	4.8	6.6	—	2.0 *	15.8	15.5
20–29	30.1	43.1	14.7	36.0	1.7	4.0 *	18.2	20.6
30–39	13.2	18.2	—	3.0	—	0.4 *	18.1	20.0
40+	4.2	4.7	—	2.3 *	—	—	29.0	26.9
18–34	21.1	32.6	7.9	24.3	0.9	2.7 *	18.0	20.5
20–39	20.5	30.6	6.3	19.7	0.7	2.2 *	18.2	20.4
All ages	**11.0**	**15.9**	**3.2**	**10.1**	**0.3**	**1.2** *	**19.3**	**20.8**
				Females				
14–19	8.4	5.8	1.4	5.8	—	2.7	17.5	15.4
20–29	21.1	15.8	10.6	6.2	—	1.9 *	19.2	19.6
30–39	3.0	5.3	0.7	0.6 *	—	0.6 *	27.3	23.4
40+	0.9	1.1 *	0.3	—	—	—	24.1	24.0 *
18–34	15.1	12.2	6.4	5.2	—	2.0 *	19.0	19.6
20–39	11.4	10.5	5.3	3.4	—	1.2 *	20.3	20.6
All ages	**6.1**	**5.4**	**2.6**	**2.0**	—	**0.8** *	**20.1**	**20.4**
				Persons				
14–19	6.5	6.9	3.2	6.2	—	2.4	16.8	15.4
20–29	25.4	29.7	12.5	21.4	0.8	3.0 *	18.7	20.4
30–39	8.2	11.7	0.3	1.8 *	—	0.5 *	19.8	20.7
40+	2.5	2.8 *	0.2	1.1 *	—	—	27.7	26.2 *
18–34	18.0	22.3	7.2	14.6	0.4	2.4	18.4	20.3
20–39	15.9	20.7	5.8	11.5	0.4	1.7 *	19.0	20.5
All ages	**8.6**	**10.6**	**2.9**	**6.0**	**0.1**	**1.0**	**19.6**	**20.7**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

- In 1998, West Australian males (16%) were more than 3 times more likely to have ever used amphetamines than females (5%).
- The 20–29 years age group in Western Australia reported the highest use of amphetamines in the last 12 months for both 1995 (13%) and 1998 (21%).
- Use of amphetamines by West Australians in the last 12 months doubled from 3% in 1995 to 6% in 1998.
- In 1998, males (10%) were more likely to have used amphetamines in the last 12 months than females (2%).

Use of hallucinogens

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried hallucinogens increased slightly between 1995 (10%) and 1998 (12%) (Table 3.11).

Table 3.11: Use of hallucinogens: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				**(mean years)**	
				Males				
14–19	6.3	11.4	6.3	8.8	—	—	14.4	15.8
20–29	30.1	41.5	15.7	19.2	3.3	0.3 *	17.6	21.3
30–39	21.0	18.0	—	1.8 *	—	—	17.3	—
40+	4.5	7.6	—	—	—	—	23.6	—
18–34	25.1	32.2	8.5	14.1	1.8	0.2 *	17.1	20.5
20–39	24.9	29.7	6.8	10.6	1.4	0.1 *	17.5	21.3
All ages	**13.0**	**17.3**	**3.5**	**5.4**	**0.6**	**0.1** *	**18.3**	**18.3**
				Females				
14–19	11.2	12.7	5.5	10.1	—	1.3 *	—	15.4
20–29	19.2	17.9	6.7	6.7	—	—	16.4	20.0
30–39	5.5	9.3	—	—	—	—	26.0	—
40+	0.7	1.2 *	—	—	—	—	18.0	—
18–34	14.3	14.5	5.5	5.4	—	0.4 *	16.4	18.9
20–39	11.8	13.5	3.1	3.3	—	—	17.9	20.0
All ages	**6.5**	**7.5**	**1.9**	**2.5**	—	**0.1** *	**17.9**	**17.0**
				Persons				
14–19	8.6	12.1	6.0	9.4	—	0.6 *	15.3	15.6
20–29	24.3	29.9	10.9	13.1	1.6	0.1 *	17.6	20.8
30–39	13.3	13.7	—	0.9 *	—	—	18.6	—
40+	2.6	4.3	—	—	—	—	24.1	—
18–34	19.6	23.3	6.9	9.7	0.9	0.3 *	17.5	19.8
20–39	18.3	21.7	4.9	7.0	0.7	0.1 *	17.9	20.8
All ages	**9.8**	**12.3**	**2.7**	**3.9**	**0.3**	**0.1** *	**18.3**	**17.8**

* RSE greater than 50%.

- In 1998, West Australian males (17%) were more than twice as likely to have ever used hallucinogens as females (8%).
- The 20–29 years age group in Western Australia reported the highest use of hallucinogens in 1995 (24%) and 1998 (30%).
- The use of hallucinogens by West Australians in the last 12 months increased marginally to 4% in 1998.
- In 1998, males (5%) were approximately twice as likely to have used hallucinogens in the last 12 months as females (3%).
- Between 1995 and 1998, the age of initiation for use of hallucinogens for persons in Western Australia remained stable at around 18 years of age.

Use of ecstasy

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried ecstasy increased between 1995 (5%) and 1998 (7%) (Table 3.12).

Table 3.12: Use of ecstasy: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
	(per cent)						(mean years)	
				Males				
14–19	8.5	3.1	8.5	3.1	—	—	15.1	16.4
20–29	18.0	34.5	13.3	30.5	1.7	1.5 *	19.8	19.6
30–39	—	9.0	—	2.2 *	—	—	—	26.9
40+	2.4	2.3 *	—	2.3 *	—	—	37.0	30.0
18–34	9.7	24.5	7.2	20.0	0.9	0.9 *	19.8	20.4
20–39	7.8	21.7	5.8	16.3	0.7	0.8 *	19.8	21.2
All ages	**5.4**	**10.5**	**3.4**	**8.3**	**0.3**	**0.3** *	**22.5**	**22.0**
				Females				
14–19	1.4	4.3	—	4.3	—	1.2 *	16.0	15.9
20–29	18.8	9.0	10.2	6.9	—	0.4 *	19.7	19.3
30–39	3.9	4.4	—	0.5	—	0.5 *	31.0	26.9
40+	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	36.0	—
18–34	11.8	7.7	5.8	5.1 *	—	0.6 *	20.5	20.1
20–39	10.8	6.7	4.8	3.6	—	0.5 *	21.9	21.4
All ages	**4.9**	**3.2**	**2.0**	**2.0**	—	**0.3** *	**22.2**	**20.7**
				Persons				
14–19	5.2	3.7	4.6	3.7	—	0.6 *	15.3	16.1
20–29	18.4	22.0	11.7	18.9	0.8	1.0 *	19.7	19.6
30–39	1.9	6.7	—	1.4 *	—	0.3 *	31.0	26.9
40+	1.4	1.1 *	—	1.1 *	—	—	36.9	30.0
18–34	10.8	16.0	6.5	12.5	0.4	0.8 *	20.2	20.4
20–39	9.3	14.3	5.3	10.1	0.4	0.6 *	21.0	21.2
All ages	**5.1**	**6.9**	**2.7**	**5.1**	**0.1**	**0.3** *	**22.4**	**21.7**

* RSE greater than 50%.

- Lifetime use of ecstasy by males in Western Australia almost doubled from 5.4% in 1995 to 10.5% in 1998.
- Lifetime use of ecstasy for females decreased from 4.9% in 1995 to 3.2% in 1998.
- Approximately 19% of West Australians in the 20–29 years age group had used ecstasy at some stage in their lives.
- Use of ecstasy by West Australians in the last 12 months increased from 2.7% in 1995 to 5.1% in 1998.
- Approximately 31% of West Australian males aged 20–29 years had used ecstasy in the last 12 months.

Use of cocaine

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried cocaine appears to have increased slightly between 1995 (3%) and 1998 (4%) (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13: Use of cocaine: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				**(mean years)**	
				Males				
14–19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	11.8	6.5	1.7	4.0	1.7	—	17.8	20.2
30–39	10.1	9.2	3.4	1.4 *	—	—	23.2	23.5
40+	—	3.2	—	2.3	—	—	—	26.9
18–34	10.4	7.1	3.3	3.1	0.9	—	18.7	21.7
20–39	10.8	7.8	2.7	2.7	0.7	—	20.6	22.1
All ages	**4.4**	**4.8**	**1.1**	**2.2**	**0.3**	—	**20.6**	**23.8**
				Females				
14–19	—	2.7	—	1.2 *	—	—	—	15.8
20–29	6.5	6.6	1.0	1.1 *	—	—	19.5	20.7
30–39	0.8	3.7	—	—	—	—	26.0	20.7
40+	1.1	2.3 *	—	—	—	—	24.7	36.1 *
18–34	4.3	5.4	0.6	1.1 *	—	—	20.4	19.8
20–39	3.5	5.1	0.5	0.6 *	—	—	20.4	20.7
All ages	**2.0**	**3.5**	**0.2**	**0.4** *	—	—	**21.5**	**25.3**
				Persons				
14–19	—	1.3 *	—	0.6 *	—	—	—	15.8 *
20–29	9.0	6.5	1.3	2.6 *	0.8	—	18.4	20.5
30–39	5.5	6.5	1.7	0.7 *	—	—	23.4	22.7
40+	0.5	2.7 *	—	1.1 *	—	—	24.7	30.8 *
18–34	7.2	6.2	1.9	2.1	0.4	—	19.2	20.9
20–39	7.1	6.5	1.5	1.6 *	0.4	—	20.6	21.6
All ages	**3.2**	**4.1**	**0.6**	**1.3**	**0.1**	—	**20.9**	**24.5**

* RSE greater than 50%.

- Lifetime use of cocaine by females in Western Australia appears to have increased from 2.0% in 1995 to 3.5% in 1998, but increased less for males.
- Use of cocaine by West Australians in the last 12 months appears to have doubled from 0.6% in 1995 to 1.3% in 1998.
- The age of initiation for cocaine increased almost 4 years, from 20.9 in 1995 to 24.5 years of age in 1998. The biggest increase was for females aged 40 years and over, where there was an increase of 11 years.

Use of analgesics

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried analgesics for non-medical purposes decreased between 1995 (15%) and 1998 (11%) (Table 3.14).

Table 3.14: Use of analgesics[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				**(mean years)**	
				Males				
14–19	10.9	19.9	—	6.3	—	—	13.0	13.2
20–29	24.4	6.0	10.2	4.5	10.0	1.4 *	15.0	16.0
30–39	27.1	8.7	7.8	2.8	2.0	0.7 *	18.9	20.7
40+	4.7	7.4	0.6	1.1 *	—	2.1 *	20.6	43.4
18–34	29.0	6.0	10.3	4.0	5.4	1.3 *	16.5	19.8
20–39	25.9	7.3	8.8	3.7	5.5	1.1 *	17.3	18.8
All ages	**14.1**	**8.8**	**3.9**	**2.8**	**2.2**	**1.4** *	**17.3**	**27.7**
				Females				
14–19	13.0	8.8	11.2	6.4	1.8	—	10.0	15.6
20–29	12.9	22.9	5.7	5.2	3.8	4.4	15.7	17.0
30–39	19.2	12.5	10.1	7.0	8.0	0.9 *	18.0	21.1
40+	14.0	10.3	7.5	5.7	2.4	3.2	20.8	27.4
18–34	18.6	16.2	10.0	4.7	5.5	2.8	16.0	16.6
20–39	16.2	17.7	8.0	6.1	6.1	2.6	17.0	18.9
All ages	**14.8**	**13.1**	**8.1**	**5.9**	**3.9**	**2.6**	**17.9**	**21.0**
				Persons				
14–19	11.9	14.5	5.2	6.4	0.8	—	11.5	13.8
20–29	18.3	14.3	7.8	4.8	6.8	2.9	15.3	16.8
30–39	23.2	10.6	8.9	4.9	4.9	0.8 *	18.6	20.9
40+	9.3	8.9	4.0	3.5	1.2	2.7 *	20.7	36.4
18–34	23.6	11.1	10.2	4.4	5.4	2.1	16.3	17.6
20–39	21.0	12.4	8.4	4.9	5.8	1.8 *	17.2	18.9
All ages	**14.5**	**11.0**	**6.0**	**4.4**	**3.1**	**2.0**	**17.6**	**24.0**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

- In 1998, West Australian females (13%) were more likely than males (9%) to have ever used analgesics.
- The 14–19 years (15%) and 20–29 years (14%) age groups reported the highest lifetime use of analgesics in 1998.
- Use of analgesics by West Australians in the last 12 months appears to have decreased from 6% in 1995 to 4% in 1995.
- Females (6%) were more than twice as likely than males (3%) to have used analgesics in the last 12 months.
- The age of initiation for analgesic use increased 6 years, from 18 years in 1995 to 24 years of age in 1998.

Use of tranquillisers

The proportion of Western Australians that had ever tried tranquillisers appears to have increased between 1995 (3%) and 1998 (5%) (Table 3.15).

Table 3.15: Use of tranquillisers[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				**(mean years)**	
				Males				
14–19	—	5.8	—	5.8	—	—	—	–
20–29	10.1	4.1	—	0.7 *	—	—	15.8	21.0
30–39	9.3	5.7	—	3.0	—	0.7 *	14.7	27.5
40+	0.6	2.3 *	—	—	—	—	35.0	—
18–34	11.2	4.7	—	1.4 *	—	0.4 *	15.3	25.5
20–39	9.6	4.9	—	1.8 *	—	0.4 *	15.2	25.5
All ages	**4.2**	**3.8**	—	**1.4**	—	**0.1** *	**16.6**	**25.5**
				Females				
14–19	—	5.5	—	4.3	—	—	—	16.8
20–29	2.7	10.1	2.0	5.9	2.0	—	13.3	18.9
30–39	3.2	9.9	3.2	7.1	—	0.9 *	23.1	19.7
40+	2.1	3.3 *	0.3	3.3	—	—	33.4	45.0 *
18–34	2.7	9.1	2.3	5.8	1.1	0.6 *	18.2	18.2
20–39	3.0	10.0	2.7	6.5	0.9	0.5 *	19.0	19.3
All ages	**2.2**	**6.2**	**1.3**	**4.7**	**0.4**	**0.2** *	**25.4**	**23.6**
				Persons				
14–19	—	5.6	—	5.1	—	—	—	16.8
20–29	6.3	7.1	1.1	3.2	1.0	—	15.3	19.8
30–39	6.3	7.8	1.6	5.0	—	0.8 *	16.8	24.6
40+	1.4	2.8 *	0.2	1.7 *	—	—	33.8	45.0 *
18–34	6.9	6.9	1.2	3.6	0.6	0.5 *	15.9	21.5
20–39	6.3	7.4	1.3	4.1	0.5	0.4 *	16.1	22.6
All ages	**3.2**	**5.0**	**0.6**	**3.1**	**0.2**	**0.2** *	**19.7**	**24.4**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

- Females (6%) were more likely to have ever used tranquillisers than males (4%).
- In 1998, the age group with the highest lifetime use of tranquillisers in Western Australia was the 30–39 years age group (8%).
- Use of tranquillisers in the last 12 months appears to have increased substantially from 0.6% in 1995 to 3.1% in 1998.
- The age of initiation for persons aged 14 years and over in Western Australia using tranquillisers increased 4 years from 20 years in 1995 to 24 years of age in 1998.

Use of barbiturates

The proportion of persons in Western Australia that had ever used barbiturates appears to have decreased slightly from 3% in 1995 to 2% in 1998 (Table 3.16). However, these estimates are considered to be statistically unreliable. For this reason, there is no highlighted breakdown analysis.

Table 3.16: Use of barbiturates[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
			(per cent)				**(mean years)**	
				Males				
14–19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	5.5	4.8	—	1.5 *	—	—	16.0	19.9
30–39	10.5	5.2	—	0.7 *	—	—	15.4	21.0
40+	1.2	2.3 *	—	–	—	—	28.0	19.0 *
18–34	8.6	4.4	—	1.4 *	—	—	15.2	21.2
20–39	8.3	5.0	—	1.1 *	—	—	15.5	20.7
All ages	**4.0**	**3.2**	—	**0.5** *	—	—	**17.3**	**20.2**
				Females				
14–19	—	1.2 *	—	—	–	—	—	—
20–29	6.2	5.3	2.0	0.7 *	2.0	—	18.5	18.3
30–39	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	19.0	—
40+	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	30.0	—
18–34	4.6	3.5	1.1	0.4 *	1.1	—	18.5	18.3
20–39	4.2	2.6	0.9	0.4 *	0.9	—	18.5	18.3
All ages	**1.9**	**1.2** *	**0.4**	**0.1** *	**0.4**	—	**19.8**	**18.3** *
				Persons				
14–19	—	0.6 *	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	5.9	5.0	1.0	1.1 *	1.0	—	17.4	18.7
30–39	6.5	2.6 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	15.6	21.0 *
40+	0.8	1.1 *	—	—	—	—	28.5	19.0 *
18–34	6.6	4.0	0.6	0.9 *	0.6	—	16.2	19.6
20–39	6.2	3.8	0.5	0.7 *	0.5	—	16.4	19.6
All ages	**3.0**	**2.2**	**0.2**	**0.3** *	**0.2**	—	**18.0**	**19.5**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

Use of steroids

The proportion of Western Australians that have ever used steroids appears to have increased slightly from 0.5% in 1995 to 0.7% in 1998 (Table 3.17). However, these estimates are considered to be statistically unreliable. For this reason, there is no highlighted breakdown analysis.

Table 3.17: Use of steroids[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1995, 1998

	Lifetime use		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks		Age of initiation	
Age groups	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**	**1995**	**1998**
	(per cent)						(mean years)	
				Males				
14–19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	—	1.4 *	—	—	—	—	—	21.0 *
30–39	2.3	1.6 *	—	0.7 *	—	—	29.0	21.0 *
40+	—	1.3 *	—	—	—	—	—	26.0 *
18–34	1.6	1.3 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	29.0	21.0 *
20–39	1.3	1.5 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	29.0	21.0 *
All ages	**0.5**	**1.2** *	—	**0.1** *	—	—	**29.0**	**23.8** *
				Females				
14–19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	—	0.7 *	—	0.7 *	—	—	—	17.0 *
30–39	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18–34	1.1	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	—	17.0 *
20–39	0.9	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	—	17.0 *
All ages	**0.4**	**0.1** *	—	**0.1** *	—	—	—	**17.0** *
				Persons				
14–19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–29	—	1.1 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	—	19.6 *
30–39	2.0	0.8 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	29.0	21.0 *
40+	—	0.6 *	—	—	—	—	—	26.0 *
18–34	1.3	0.9 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	29.0	19.6 *
20–39	1.1	0.9 *	—	0.4 *	—	—	29.1	20.1 *
All ages	**0.5**	**0.7** *	—	**0.1** *	—	—	**29.2**	**23.0** *

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) For non-medical purposes.

Injecting drug use

In 1998, the proportion of the Western Australian population aged 14 years and over who reported injecting an illicit drug at some stage in their life was 3% (Table 3.18).

Table 3.18: Injecting drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, and mean age of initiation, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1998

Age groups	Lifetime use	Last 12 months	Age of initiation
	(per cent)		(mean years)
		Males	
14–19	1.5 *	1.5 *	14.0 *
20–29	12.6	11.7	21.3
30–39	5.5	1.7 *	20.1
40+	0.9 *	—	19.0 *
18–34	8.6	8.0	21.7
20–39	9.0	6.7	20.9
All ages	**4.4**	**3.0**	**20.5**
		Females	
14–19	3.9	1.2 *	15.2
20–29	3.1 *	2.4 *	19.9 *
30–39	3.4	0.6 *	23.8
40+	—	—	—
18–34	3.1	1.8 *	19.1
20–39	3.3	1.5 *	21.9
All ages	**1.8**	**0.7** *	**20.3**
		Persons	
14–19	2.7	1.3 *	14.9
20–29	7.9	7.1	21.0
30–39	4.4	1.1 *	21.5
40+	0.4 *	—	19.0 *
18–34	5.8	4.9	21.0
20–39	6.2	4.1	21.2
All ages	**3.1**	**1.8**	**20.4**

* RSE greater than 50%.

- Males (4.4%) in Western Australia were more than twice as likely to have injected an illicit drug at some stage in their life than females (1.8%).
- In 1998, approximately 2% of persons in Western Australia had injected an illicit drug within the last 12 months.
- Males (3%) were more likely than females (0.7%) to have injected an illicit drug in the last 12 months.
- The mean age of initiation for West Australians in 1998 for injecting illicit drugs was 20.4 years.

Injecting drug use: first and recent

Overwhelmingly, the first drug injected was amphetamines, followed by heroin (Table 3.19).

Table 3.19: Injecting drug use: first and recent[a] illicit drugs injected, proportion of the injecting population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

	First injected[b]			Recently injected[c]		
Drug	**Males**	**Females**	**Persons**	**Males**	**Females**	**Persons**
			(per cent)			
Heroin	14.8	21.0	16.6	13.2	35.9	17.8
Methadone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other opiates	4.0	—	2.9	11.0	—	8.8
Amphetamines	81.2	56.7	74.1	88.9	100.0	97.8
Cocaine	—	14.5	4.2	7.3	19.9	9.8
Hallucinogens	—	—	—	11.9	—	9.5
Ecstasy	—	—	—	7.3	—	5.8
Benzodiazepines	—	—	—	5.1	—	4.1
Steroids	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	7.8	2.3	—	11.1	2.2

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

(b) Base equals respondents who have ever injected.

(c) Base equals respondents who have injected in the last 12 months.

- Approximately three in four persons (74%) in Western Australia aged 14 years or older who had injected illicit drugs first injected amphetamines. Males (81%) who had injected illicit drugs were more likely than females (57%) to have injected amphetamines as their first drug.
- The most common drug recently injected overall was amphetamines (98%).
- The second most common drug injected in 1998 was heroin, with 18% of injecting drug users injecting this drug.

Use of any illicit drug

In 1998, the proportion of the Western Australian population aged 14 years and over who had ever used an illicit drug was 51% (Table 3.20).

Table 3.20: Use of any illicit drug[(a)]: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1998

Age groups	Lifetime use	Last 12 months	Last 4 weeks
		(per cent)	
		Males	
14–19	49.2	33.7	21.6
20–29	81.9	69.6	41.0
30–39	62.9	21.7	12.3
40+	39.8	13.6	6.2
18–34	76.2	53.9	31.3
20–39	72.4	45.6	26.7
All ages	**54.5**	**29.3**	**16.5**
		Females	
14–19	51.8	37.3	12.3
20–29	68.7	30.2	11.8
30–39	66.2	28.3	5.2
40+	31.6	11.7	5.0
18–34	69.3	30.5	11.7
20–39	67.5	29.2	8.4
All ages	**48.3**	**21.6**	**7.2**
		Persons	
14–19	50.4	35.4	17.1
20–29	75.4	50.3	26.7
30–39	64.6	25.0	8.8
40+	35.6	12.6	5.6
18–34	72.7	42.1	21.4
20–39	69.9	37.5	17.6
All ages	**51.4**	**25.4**	**11.8**

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Illicit drugs, drugs and volatile substances used illicitly, and pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes.

- Males (48%) in Western Australia aged 14 years and over were more likely to have ever used an illicit drug than females (42%).
- The age group 20–29 years reported the highest lifetime use of at least one illicit drug (73%).
- In 1998, the proportion of the West Australian population aged 14 years and over that had used an illicit drug in the last 12 months was 22%.
- Males (27%) were more likely than females (17%) to have used an illicit drug in the last 12 months.
- Approximately 11% of the Western Australian population aged 14 years and over had used an illicit drug in the last 4 weeks.
- Males (17%) were almost 3 times as likely to have used an illicit drug in the last 4 weeks as females (6%).

Use of any illicit drug other than cannabis

The proportion of the Western Australian population in 1998 aged 14 years and over who had ever used any illicit drug other than cannabis was 16% (Table 3.21).

Table 3.21: Use of any illicit drug[(a)] other than cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Western Australia, 1998

Age groups	Lifetime use	Last 12 months	Last 4 weeks
		(per cent)	
		Males	
14–19	29.3	18.1	2.0
20–29	64.2	50.2	5.7
30–39	30.8	7.8	1.1
40+	18.1	5.1	2.1
18–34	49.5	35.4	4.2
20–39	47.5	29.0	3.4
All ages	**31.6**	**16.6**	**2.6**
		Females	
14–19	18.5	16.0	3.8
20–29	36.6	12.8	6.3
30–39	23.9	11.5	2.6
40+	12.5	5.6	3.1
18–34	27.8	11.0	5.5
20–39	30.1	12.1	4.4
All ages	**20.3**	**9.4**	**3.7**
		Persons	
14–19	24.0	17.1	2.9
20–29	50.7	31.8	6.0
30–39	27.3	9.7	1.9
40+	15.3	5.3	2.6
18–34	38.6	23.1	4.9
20–39	38.9	20.7	3.9
All ages	**26.0**	**13.0**	**3.2**

(a) Illicit drugs, drugs and volatile substances used illicitly, and pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes.

- In 1998, males (23%) were more than twice as likely as females (9%) to have used an illicit drug other than cannabis in their lifetime.
- Approximately 9% of West Australians had used an illicit drug other than cannabis in the last 12 months.
- In the last 12 months, males (13%) were more than 3 times as likely as females (4%) to have used an illicit drug.
- In 1998, the proportion of the Western Australian population that had used an illicit drug other than cannabis in the last 4 weeks was approximately 1%.

Source of supply

Illicit drugs were almost always first sourced from friends and acquaintances, with little movement away from initial sources during the course of drug use (Table 3.22).

Table 3.22: Source of first and recent supply of illicit drugs, by drug, Western Australia, 1998

	Friend or acquaintance		Relative		Spouse or partner		Street dealer		Other	
Drug	**First[a]**	**Now[b]**	**First**	**Now**	**First**	**Now**	**First**	**Now**	**First**	**Now**
					(per cent)					
Cannabis	88.9	80.8	5.6	0.5	2.9	2.0	1.9	10.8	0.7	6.0
Analgesics[c]	31.9	15.4	10.3	3.0	2.0	—	2.5	—	53.3 [d]	81.6 [d]
Tranquillisers[c]	61.1	15.9	16.2	—	—	—	—	—	22.7 [d]	84.1 [d]
Steroids[c]	50.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49.7 [d]	—
Barbiturates[c]	60.6	—	5.2	—	—	—	25.0	—	9.2 [d]	—
Inhalants	75.8	11.3	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	22.0	88.7
Heroin	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Methadone[e]	84.7	—	—	—	—	—	15.3	—	—	—
Amphetamines[c]	84.4	73.8	3.4	9.4	2.5	4.6	9.7	12.2	—	—
Cocaine	83.5	86.1	1.6	—	—	—	15.0	13.9	—	—
Natural hallucinogens	69.8	71.1	—	—	—	—	10.6	20.8	19.6 [f]	8.1 [f]
LSD	88.5	82.7	1.5	—	0.8	—	8.3	17.3	0.9	—
Ecstasy, designer drugs	85.3	95.6	2.4	—	1.4	—	10.9	4.4	—	—

(a) Base equals respondents ever used.

(b) Base equals respondents using in the last 12 months.

(c) For non-medical use.

(d) Includes doctor's script.

(e) Non-maintenance.

(f) Includes from fields.

Note: Base for first supply equals respondents ever used; recent supply equals respondents using in last 12 months.

First suppliers of illicit drugs

Overwhelmingly, the first suppliers of illicit drugs were friends or acquaintances.

- Nearly nine out of every 10 illicit drug users first obtained **cannabis** (89%), **heroin** (100%), **amphetamines** (84%), **cocaine** (84%), **LSD** (89%) and **ecstasy** (85%) from friends and acquaintances.
- **Steroids** were first sourced from friends or acquaintances by 50% of users, **inhalants** by 76% and **methadone** by 85% of drug users.

Exceptions to the predominance of friends and acquaintances were the common pharmaceuticals, where their availability by prescription was an apparent alternative first source.

Recent suppliers of illicit drugs

Friends and acquaintances remained the primary source for most illicit drugs. Exceptions were:

- **Analgesics** (82%), **tranquillisers** (84%) and **inhalants** (89%) where the majority of recent supplies were obtained from 'other' sources, e.g. doctors' prescriptions.

4 Drug-related activities

Perpetrators of drug-related harm

Survey respondents were asked how many times in the past 12 months they had undertaken specific activities while under the influence of alcohol (Tables 4.1, 4.2) and other drugs (Table 4.3).

Table 4.1: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent[(a)] drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	Total
	(per cent)						
Males							
Drove a motor vehicle	12.5	23.5	23.1	19.2	22.7	23.3	20.1
Operated hazardous machinery	7.0	4.6	3.7	—	2.6	4.1	2.5
Verbally abused someone	12.1	18.3	8.4	7.4	14.5	12.7	10.1
Physically abused someone	7.0	5.6	1.2 *	—	4.5	3.1	2.1
Caused damage to property	19.1	0.7 *	1.2 *	—	3.1	1.0 *	2.5
Stole property	7.0	0.7 *	1.2 *	—	1.7 *	1.0 *	1.2 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	20.4	18.3	5.8	0.3 *	14.8	11.2	7.1
Females							
Drove a motor vehicle	7.0	21.3	12.4	4.6	18.0	16.5	9.9
Operated hazardous machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verbally abused someone	9.8	10.7	0.7 *	2.0 *	8.7	5.3	4.3
Physically abused someone	—	4.0	—	—	2.2	1.8 *	0.8 *
Caused damage to property	—	4.3	—	—	2.4	2.0 *	0.8 *
Stole property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	17.7	7.8	4.5	—	5.3	6.0	4.5
Persons							
Drove a motor vehicle	9.8	22.4	17.8	11.9	20.3	19.9	15.0
Operated hazardous machinery	3.6	2.2 *	1.9	—	1.2 *	2.0 *	1.3
Verbally abused someone	11.0	14.3	4.6	4.7	11.5	9.0	7.2
Physically abused someone	3.6	4.8	0.6 *	—	3.3	2.5	1.4
Caused damage to property	9.7	2.5 *	0.6 *	—	2.8	1.5 *	1.7
Stole property	3.6	0.3 *	0.6 *	—	0.8 *	0.5 *	0.6 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	19.1	12.8	5.2	0.2 *	9.9	8.6	5.8

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Table 4.2: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent[(a)] drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Males							
Drove a motor vehicle	11.6	37.6	36.3	29.8	32.9	36.9	30.6
Operated hazardous machinery	—	1.9 *	0.5 *	—	1.5 *	1.2 *	0.5 *
Verbally abused someone	21.3	39.6	11.7	13.0	30.8	25.7	19.3
Physically abused someone	14.0	6.0	3.3	2.4 *	5.6	4.7	4.7
Caused damage to property	13.9	7.2	4.3	—	5.7	5.8	4.1
Stole property	9.4	1.2 *	—	—	0.8 *	0.6 *	1.4 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	15.6	4.7	6.6	—	6.8	5.6	4.2
Females							
Drove a motor vehicle	12.8	40.7	21.8	6.7	31.4	31.2	17.5
Operated hazardous machinery	—	3.6 *	0.3 *	—	2.1	1.9 *	0.8 *
Verbally abused someone	25.9	14.0	7.0	3.2	15.8	10.5	8.7
Physically abused someone	3.5	0.4 *	0.6 *	—	1.1 *	0.5 *	0.6 *
Caused damage to property	3.1	1.4 *	—	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	0.6 *
Stole property	1.6 *	—	—	—	0.3 *	—	0.2 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	10.3	5.6	0.4 *	—	5.5	3.0	2.4
Persons							
Drove a motor vehicle	12.2	39.1	29.1	18.2	32.1	34.1	24.1
Operated hazardous machinery	—	2.7 *	0.4 *	—	1.8 *	1.6 *	0.7 *
Verbally abused someone	23.5	26.9	9.4	8.0	23.2	18.1	14.0
Physically abused someone	8.9	3.2 *	2.0 *	1.2 *	3.4	2.6	2.7
Caused damage to property	8.7	4.3	2.2	—	3.4	3.2	2.4
Stole property	5.6	0.6 *	—	—	0.5 *	0.3 *	0.8 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	13.0	5.2	3.5	—	6.1	4.3	3.3

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Alcohol-related activities

- In 1995, the most common activity undertaken by West Australian persons while under the influence of alcohol was to **drive a motor vehicle** (15% of recent drinkers).
- In 1995, West Australian males (20%) were twice as likely to have driven a motor vehicle in the last 12 months whilst under the influence of alcohol as females (10%).
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of the Western Australian population aged 14 years or older who **drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol** increased from 15% to 24%. In 1998, males (31%) were more likely than females (18%) to drive while under the influence.
- The proportion of persons that **verbally abused someone** while under the influence of alcohol doubled from 7% in 1995 to 14% in 1998. Males (19%) in 1998 were more than twice as likely as females (9%) to verbally abuse someone while under the influence of alcohol.
- The proportion of the population that **physically abused someone** while under the influence of alcohol appears to have increased from 1.4% in 1995 to 2.7% in 1998.

Drugs other than alcohol

Relative to the rates of alcohol-related activities, the prevalence of behaviours while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol were much lower (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Activities undertaken while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent[(a)] users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Males							
Drove a motor vehicle	11.0	29.0	9.8	0.9 *	22.6	19.4	9.8
Operated hazardous machinery	2.2	10.4	1.3 *	—	7.5	5.8	2.7
Verbally abused someone	14.7	5.5	0.7 *	—	4.7	3.1	3.0
Physically abused someone	9.4	3.7 *	—	—	2.3	1.8	1.9
Caused damage to property	11.2	4.2	—	—	2.6	2.1	2.2
Stole property	8.2	0.7 *	0.7 *	—	0.9 *	0.7 *	1.3 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	8.7	0.6 *	0.7 *	—	1.0 *	0.6 *	1.3 *
Females							
Drove a motor vehicle	11.5	11.9	10.6	0.7 *	13.1	11.2	6.2
Operated hazardous machinery	—	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	0.4 *	0.6 *	0.6 *
Verbally abused someone	3.9	1.1 *	1.6 *	—	2.5	1.3 *	1.0 *
Physically abused someone	1.5 *	—	0.6 *	—	0.9 *	0.3 *	0.3 *
Caused damage to property	—	—	0.6 *	—	0.4 *	0.3 *	0.1 *
Stole property	—	—	–	—	—	—	—
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	4.4	0.7 *	0.6 *	—	1.5 *	0.7 *	0.8 *
Persons							
Drove a motor vehicle	11.3	20.7	10.2	0.8 *	17.8	15.4	8.0
Operated hazardous machinery	1.1 *	5.3	1.3 *	0.4 *	3.9	3.3	1.6
Verbally abused someone	9.4	3.3 *	1.1 *	—	3.6	2.2	2.0
Physically abused someone	5.6	1.9 *	0.3 *	—	1.6 *	1.1 *	1.1
Caused damage to property	5.8	2.1 *	0.3 *	—	1.5 *	1.2 *	1.2
Stole property	4.2	0.3 *	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.6 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	6.5	0.6 *	0.7 *	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	1.0

* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

- The activity most likely to be undertaken by West Australian persons while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol in 1998 was **driving a motor vehicle** (8% of recent drinkers). Males (10%) were more likely than females (6%) to drive while under the influence.
- Approximately 2% of persons in Western Australia **verbally abused someone**, with males (3%) being more likely than females (1%) to have done so.
- Less than 2% of persons **operated hazardous machinery**, **physically abused someone**, **caused damage to property**, **stole property** or **created a public disturbance or nuisance**.

Victims of drug-related harm

In 1998, Western Australians were more likely to be victims of alcohol-related incidents, than to be victims of incidents related to other drugs (Tables 4.4, 4.5, 4.6).

Table 4.4: Victims of alcohol-related incidents, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995

	Age groups						
Activity	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Verbal abuse	40.0	76.0	51.3	33.2	63.9	61.9	45.7
Physical abuse	10.0	15.4	14.9	2.2 *	16.7	15.1	8.5
Put in fear	35.9	23.9	25.4	15.5	27.6	24.8	21.8
Property damaged	7.2	25.0	20.7	17.9	23.7	22.5	18.5
Property stolen	6.3	19.1	7.8	5.5	14.9	12.7	8.6
				Females			
Verbal abuse	44.7	49.3	35.7	23.4	44.8	42.1	33.7
Physical abuse	9.8	8.9	5.7	3.9	8.1	7.2	6.0
Put in fear	38.6	41.9	31.2	15.9	38.7	36.2	27.0
Property damaged	17.3	19.9	6.6	5.8	17.5	12.8	10.1
Property stolen	7.0	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.4	5.8	6.2
				Persons			
Verbal abuse	42.1	61.8	43.6	28.3	54.0	51.8	39.7
Physical abuse	9.9	12.0	10.3	3.1	12.3	11.1	7.2
Put in fear	37.1	33.4	28.3	15.7	33.3	30.6	24.4
Property damaged	11.9	22.3	13.7	11.9	20.6	17.6	14.3
Property stolen	6.7	12.0	6.9	5.9	10.6	9.2	7.4

* RSE greater than 50%.

Table 4.5: Victims of alcohol-related incidents, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
Males							
Verbal abuse	23.7	58.8	46.4	22.2	57.8	52.6	35.4
Physical abuse	12.2	25.4	6.3	3.8	21.6	15.9	10.1
Put in fear	15.0	21.1	23.5	6.2	22.3	22.3	14.3
Property damaged	7.9	21.1	10.4	5.8	19.9	15.7	10.4
Property stolen	3.5	3.4 *	6.0	2.2 *	4.2	4.7	3.4
Females							
Verbal abuse	36.5	48.2	21.7	13.7	38.9	34.8	24.9
Physical abuse	11.1	4.5	3.9	0.9 *	6.6	4.2	3.4
Put in fear	25.6	23.5	22.5	8.7	24.0	23.0	16.5
Property damaged	20.8	9.7	9.2	1.5 *	12.5	9.4	7.1
Property stolen	4.3	6.0	5.0	1.5 *	5.0	5.5	3.5
Persons							
Verbal abuse	30.0	53.6	34.1	17.8	48.2	43.8	30.1
Physical abuse	11.7	15.3	5.1	2.3 *	14.1	10.2	6.8
Put in fear	20.4	22.3	23.0	7.5	23.2	22.7	15.4
Property damaged	14.4	15.5	9.8	3.6	16.2	12.6	8.7
Property stolen	3.9	4.6	5.5	1.9 *	4.6	5.1	3.5

* RSE greater than 50%.

Alcohol-related incidents

- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of persons in Western Australia aged 14 years or older who were victims of alcohol-related **verbal abuse** decreased from 40% in 1995 to 30% in 1998. Males (46%) were more likely than females (34%) to be victims of alcohol-related verbal abuse in 1995.
- The proportion subjected to alcohol-related **physical abuse** remained relatively stable at around 7%. Males (10%) were more likely than females (3%) to be victims of alcohol-related physical abuse in 1998.
- The likelihood of **being put in fear** decreased from 24% in 1995 to 15% in 1998.
- The likelihood of having **property stolen** or **damaged** both decreased between 1995 and 1998.

Victims of incidents related to drugs other than alcohol

In 1998, slightly more than one in 10 (12%) West Australians aged 14 years or over were victims of verbal abuse from a person affected by drugs other than alcohol (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Victims of incidents related to drugs other than alcohol, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Activity	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Verbal abuse	10.8	26.4	10.5	10.1	21.3	17.9	13.5
Physical abuse	2.5	8.3	4.0	2.8 *	7.9	6.2	4.3
Put in fear	6.9	12.8	13.6	11.7	11.5	13.2	11.8
Property damaged	5.3	8.4	3.1	4.6	7.3	5.8	5.2
Property stolen	5.2	5.3	6.1	3.2	6.5	5.7	4.6
				Females			
Verbal abuse	9.8	22.4	7.8	6.8	16.1	15.0	10.5
Physical abuse	—	3.0 *	0.6 *	—	2.1	1.8 *	0.7
Put in fear	9.4	19.7	11.1	3.2	13.8	15.3	9.0
Property damaged	4.4	10.4	3.3	1.0 *	7.5	6.8	3.8
Property stolen	—	2.6 *	4.2	2.5 *	2.3	3.4	2.6
				Persons			
Verbal abuse	10.3	24.3	9.2	8.4	18.5	16.4	12.0
Physical abuse	1.2 *	5.8	2.3	1.3 *	5.0	4.0	2.5
Put in fear	8.2	16.2	12.3	7.2	12.7	14.2	10.4
Property damaged	4.8	9.4	3.2	2.7 *	7.4	6.3	4.5
Property stolen	2.6	4.0 *	5.2	2.9 *	4.4	4.6	3.6

* RSE greater than 50%.

- Approximately 10% of persons in Western Australia in 1998 were **put in fear** in an incident related to drugs other than alcohol.
- Rates of **physical abuse** (3%) and **property damage** (5%) were half the corresponding alcohol-related incidents.
- Approximately the same proportion of persons reported **property theft** resulting from drugs other than alcohol as for alcohol (4%).

Injuries resulting from drug-related incidents

Approximately 7% of all West Australians suffered an injury (non-self-inflicted) as a result of an alcohol or other drug-related incident in the 12 months preceding the 1998 survey (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7: Most serious injury sustained as a result of alcohol or other drug-related incident, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

	Age groups						
Injury	**14–19**	**20–29**	**30–39**	**40+**	**18–34**	**20–39**	**All ages**
				(per cent)			
				Males			
Total injured	**12.9**	**25.4**	**7.2**	**4.3**	**22.3**	**16.4**	**10.9**
Bruising, abrasions	40.0	78.9	29.0	—	63.6	68.3	58.4
Burns, not involving hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minor lacerations	21.6	3.1	8.0	—	7.6	4.1	6.4
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	22.1	3.9	14.0	—	9.5	6.1	8.0
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	16.2	14.1	34.5	—	16.5	18.4	16.5
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	14.5	100.0	2.8	3.1	10.7
				Females			
Total injured	**11.1**	**6.3**	**3.9**	**0.9** *	**7.6**	**5.1**	**3.8**
Bruising, abrasions	60.9	67.6	65.8	100.0 *	53.2	66.8	75.1
Burns, not involving hospital admission	39.1	—	—	—	—	—	6.6
Minor lacerations	—	32.4	34.2	—	46.8	33.2	18.3
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				Persons			
Total injured	**12.0**	**16.2**	**5.5**	**2.4** *	**14.9**	**10.8**	**7.2**
Bruising, abrasions	44.3	77.7	38.6	43.9 *	62.5	68.1	61.5
Burns, not involving hospital admission	8.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.2
Minor lacerations	17.1	6.2	14.8	—	11.5	8.3	8.7
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	17.6	3.5	10.3	—	8.6	5.2	6.5
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	12.9	12.6	25.5	—	14.9	15.8	13.4
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	10.8	56.1 *	2.5	2.6	8.7

* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: Base of total injured equals all respondents, base of injury breakdown equals total physically injured.

- The most frequent serious injuries sustained as a result of alcohol or other drug-related incidents were **bruises** and **abrasions** (62%). Males who had been injured (58%) were less likely than females (75%) to sustain bruises or abrasions.
- Females (18%) were approximately 3 times more likely to have sustained a **minor laceration** than males (6%).

5 Explanatory notes

Introduction

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was the sixth in a series which commenced in 1985. In October 1997 the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Family Services to manage the 1998 survey. The Institute was supported in this task by a Departmental Policy Reference Group and a Technical Advisory Committee. The Roy Morgan Research Centre was selected by competitive tender in February 1998 to conduct the survey, and Hermes Precisa Pty Ltd was contracted to scan the completed questionnaires. Quantitative Evaluation and Design was subsequently engaged to independently evaluate the derivation of population weights and design effects.

The survey was conducted between June and September 1998, with over 90% of data collected in July and August 1998.

Scope

The estimates for 1998 contained in this publication are based on information obtained from persons aged 14 years and over from the Western Australian population. National results from the same survey are published as *1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results*.

Methodology

Households were selected by a multistage, stratified area, random-quota sample. Minimum sample sizes sufficient to return reliable strata estimates were allocated to States and Territories and the remainder of the available quota was distributed proportional to population. At the invitation of the Survey Technical Advisory Committee, the health authorities in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory funded additional interviews supplementary to those allocated.

Survey design

The survey employed a split sample design which incorporated random household selection from a national sample of 8,357 private dwellings and a mixture of random and targeted respondent selection.

Sample 1. National random selection of households, where a person aged 14 years or over was randomly selected by next birth-date. Data were collected from personal interviews and self-completion booklets for the more sensitive issues. The number of respondents who completed the survey from the national sample was 4,012. The number of persons in Western Australia who completed the Sample 1 questionnaire was 239.

Sample 2. Was the same household as in Sample 1. The youngest person aged 14 years or older other than the Sample 1 respondent was selected. Data were collected by self-completion booklets. Where a questionnaire was completed subsequent to the Sample 1 interview, one attempt was made to personally collect the questionnaire. If it was still incomplete, the respondent was provided with a reply-paid pre-addressed envelope. The number of respondents who completed the national survey from this sample was 1,983. The number of West Australians who completed the Sample 2 questionnaire was 126 persons.

Sample 3. Capital cities only. From a random selection of households, a person aged between 14 and 39 years was randomly selected by next birth-date. Data were collected by self-completion booklets. Questionnaires were left for completion and interviewers returned 2 days later for their collection. Where a questionnaire was not completed by this time, the respondent was provided with a reply-paid pre-addressed envelope. The number of respondents who completed the survey from this sample was 4,035. The number of West Australians who completed Sample 3 questionnaire was 399 persons.

Persons aged 14 and 15 years completed the survey with the consent of a parent or guardian.

The combination of split sampling, oversampling of the lesser populated States and Territories and the interviews supplementary to quota resulted in a sample which was not proportional to the State/Territory distribution of the Australian population aged 14 years and over.

Table 5.1: Comparison of sample and State/Territory population distributions, 1998

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Sample size	1,468	1,483	2,586	764	831	1,031	1,164	703
% of total sample	14.6	14.8	25.8	7.6	8.3	10.3	11.6	7.0
1998 population (%)	33.9	25.0	18.3	9.7	8.0	2.5	1.6	0.9

Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory were oversampled and New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia were undersampled relative to the estimated population aged 14 years and over.

Targeting younger persons to obtain more reliable estimates for the illicit drugs in particular also resulted in a sample which was disproportionate to the estimated age distribution of persons aged 14 years and over.

Table 5.2: Comparison of the Western Australian sample and estimated population distributions, 1998

	Sample distribution						1998 Population estimates		
Age group	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
		(number)			**(per cent)**			**(per cent)**	
14–19	64	66	130	8.4	8.6	17.0	5.7	5.4	11.0
20–29	86	121	207	11.3	15.8	27.1	10.0	9.5	19.5
30–39	108	148	256	14.1	19.4	33.5	9.9	9.8	19.8
40–49	25	34	59	3.3	4.5	7.7	9.4	9.3	18.7
50–59	23	29	52	3.0	3.8	6.8	6.9	6.4	13.3
60+	32	28	60	4.2	3.7	7.9	8.1	9.6	17.7
Total	**338**	**426**	**764**	**44.2**	**55.8**	**100.0**	**50.1**	**49.9**	**100.0**

Females in the survey sample were over-represented, as were persons aged under 39 years. The bias towards youth was not unexpected and was in line with the survey design. The over-representation of females in all age groups was unexpected.

Response rates

When compared with 1995, the 1998 survey achieved a slightly lower but comparable response rate.

Table 5.3: Response characteristics, Australia, 1998 (by sample) and 1995

	1998 survey samples					
Response	**Sample 1**	**Sample 2**	**Sample 3**	**Total sample**	**Total**	**1995 survey**
Interviewed/self-completed	4,012	1,983	4,035	10,030	56%	57%
Refused, did not return q'naire	3,034	352	2,576	5,962	33%	30%
Unavailable, sent back q'naire unusable	36	288	788	1,112	6%	5%
Busy, temporary refusal	—	—	—	—	—	2%
No English, incapable	84	49	67	200	1%	3%
Other	189 (a)	561 (a)	—	750	4%	3%
Total attempts	7,355	3,233	7,466	18,054	100%	100%
Response rate	55%	61%	54%	56%	—	—
Western Australia response rate	**51%**	**64%**	**59%**	**57%**	—	**n.a.**

(a) Includes cases where completed questionnaire failed edit checks, and where field worker inadequately recorded reason for non responses.

The experimental survey design, and in particular the procedures adopted for verification of completions, contributed to a lower response rate than might have been expected.

Estimation procedures

Multistage editing and weighting procedures were applied to derive the estimates.

Editing

All open-ended questions were coded manually prior to scanning. Following processing, responses were checked for consistency using cross-validation items within the questionnaire. Resultant transformations were manually completed according to predetermined logic and edit rules. Less than 0.3% (3 in 1,000) of data items were transformed. An audit of the transfer from the questionnaire to the data file was then conducted to confirm the accuracy of responses recorded.

Weighting

The sample was designed to provide a random sample of households within each geographic stratum. Respondents within each stratum were assigned weights designed to overcome proportional imbalances introduced by the split and supplementary sampling design, and the subsequent lower-than-expected male response rate. Estimates in this publication are based on the weighted combined samples. Further details on the derivation of weights and the nature and extent of non-responses can be found in the Technical Report accompanying the CURF.

Table 5.4: Comparison of Western Australian weighted sample with population estimates distributions, 1998

	Weighted sample				1998 population estimates		
Age groups	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**		**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
				(per cent)			
14–19	5.7	5.3	11.0		5.7	5.4	11.0
20–29	10.0	9.5	19.5		10.0	9.5	19.5
30–39	9.9	9.8	19.8		9.9	9.8	19.8
40–49	9.4	9.3	18.7		9.4	9.3	18.7
50–59	6.9	6.4	13.3		6.9	6.4	13.3
60+	8.1	9.6	17.7		8.1	9.6	17.7
Total	**50.1**	**49.9**	**100.0**		**50.1**	**49.9**	**100.0**

Reliability of estimates

Sampling error

As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability (that is, the extent to which the sample varies from all persons, had a complete census been conducted). Estimates in this publication are assumed to be reliable if the relative standard error (the ratio of the sampling error to the population estimate) is less than 25%. Estimates between 25% and 50% should be interpreted with caution. Estimates over 50% should be considered unreliable for most practical purposes. A table of standard errors and relative standard errors can be found in Appendix 2 and further details on their calculation are available in the Technical Report accompanying the CURF.

Non-sampling error

In addition to sampling errors, the estimates are subject to non-sampling errors. These can arise from errors in transcription of responses, errors in reporting of responses (e.g. failures of respondents' memories), and the unwillingness of respondents to reveal their 'true' responses.

Counter-balancing

The order in which multiple possible answers are presented can sometimes affect the likelihood of responses (the earlier a possible response in a list, the higher the likelihood that it will be selected). To overcome this tendency, possible responses were rotated within questions. There were three rotations in all, which resulted in a total of nine different questionnaires (three per sample) with identical sequencing of questions, but different orders of possible responses within. The copy at Appendix 5 is a Sample 2, Rotation 1 version of the questionnaire.

Limitations of the data

Excluded from sampling were non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, boarding houses, etc.), and institutional settings (hospitals, nursing homes, other clinical settings such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres, prisons, military establishments, and university halls of residence). Accordingly, homeless persons were also excluded. With the exception of Tasmania, non-mainland islands were also excluded.

Illicit drug users, by definition, are committing illegal acts. They are in part marginalised and difficult to reach. Accordingly, estimates of illicit drug use and related behaviours are likely to be underestimates of actual prevalences.

Definitions

Definitions used in previous waves of the survey were retained for 1998, with one exception. In the present survey, greater assistance was provided to respondents on what was meant by 'non-medical use'.

Recent smoker

A recent smoker was a person who smoked tobacco daily (Question G8) or who smoked tobacco at least occasionally in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent regular smoker

A recent regular smoker was a recent smoker who consumed cigarettes at least daily (Question G8) or most days in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent occasional smoker

A recent occasional smoker was a recent smoker who consumed cigarettes less than daily or most days in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent drinker

A recent drinker was a person who consumed alcohol in the last 12 months.

Recent regular drinker

A recent regular drinker was a recent drinker who consumed alcohol at least weekly in the past 12 months (Question H7).

Recent occasional drinker

A recent occasional drinker was a recent drinker who consumed alcohol less than weekly in the past 12 months.

Non-medical drug use

The definition used in the survey questionnaire and for this publication is:

1. either alone or with other drugs in order to induce or enhance a drug experience;
2. for performance (e.g. athletic) enhancement; or
3. for cosmetic (e.g. body shaping) purposes.

In 1995, 'non-medical use' was undefined in the questionnaire.

Non-maintenance

Methadone that was not prescribed for the recipient personally as part of maintenance program.

Illicit drugs

Illegal drugs, drugs and volatile substances used illicitly, and pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes.
Painkillers/analgesics*
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills*
Steroids*
Barbiturates*
Amphetamines*
Cannabis
Heroin
Methadone**
Cocaine
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens
Ecstasy and other designer drugs
(Any) injected*
* for non-medical purposes
** non-maintenance program

Recent illicit drug use (all and any substances)

Use within the previous 12 months.

Comparability with the 1995 survey

The 1998 survey varies from the 1995 (and earlier) NDS Household Surveys in several respects.

- All respondents in 1995 were interviewed, and self-completed the more sensitive sections of the questionnaire. In 1998, only Sample 1 (see 'Survey design' above) completed questionnaires in the same way. Samples 2 and 3 in 1998 self-completed the entire questionnaire.

- Due to the data collection methods related to the split sample, questions retained from the 1995 survey which relied upon the use of show-cards were presented as fixed lists in Samples 2 and 3.

- A small number of questions which were open-ended in 1995 were changed to forced choice in 1998, and one question which was forced choice in 1995 was changed to open-ended in 1998 (but the same template was retained for coding purposes). Where this occurred, a footnote to the relevant table indicates the circumstances.

- Inter-sample reliability tests were conducted to determine the extent and nature of variability of responses which might be attributable to the different collection methods. Results indicated that the different data collection methods did not affect responses.

- In an attempt to enhance the reliability of estimates in the 1998 survey, a small number of missing and contradictory responses were imputed through a rigorous menu of cross-validation edit and logic checks. For example, if a respondent failed to indicate a lifetime usage response (missing) or answered 'no-never used', but then provided detailed responses to subsequent questions (e.g. used in the last 12 months, how used, where used, source of supply) the missing or contradictory response was recoded as 'yes'. In the 1995 survey, in general, responses were recorded as given, without correction for obvious error. If an 'entry level' question was missing or the response was 'no-never used' in 1995, all subsequent responses in the category were declared missing. The effect of the changes implemented in 1998 is to amplify the size of increases and reduce the size of decreases in estimates between the two surveys by approximately 1–2% of the positive ('yes') lifetime use responses (e.g. a lifetime prevalence estimate of 30% in 1998 possibly includes a 0.3–0.6% recoded component). For lifetime estimates this effect is insubstantial. However, recent usage estimates can include up to 9% of responses which in 1995 would have been declared missing (e.g. a 30% estimate of recent usage in 1995 would have been 32.7%, if the 1998 treatment had been applied and if the level of missing/contradictory responses had been equivalent in that year).

- Data collection in 1998 was conducted between June and September, compared with May and June in 1995.

Interpretation of results

The exclusion of persons from dwellings and institutional settings described in 'Limitations of the data' above, and the difficulty in reaching marginalised persons, are likely to have affected estimates.

It is known from past studies of alcohol and tobacco consumption that respondents tend to underestimate actual consumption levels. There are no equivalent data on the tendencies for under- or over-reporting of actual illicit drug use. Anecdotal data, however, suggest that younger persons may overestimate actual consumption of these drugs.

The methodology of the 1998 Survey was generally comparable to past NDS Household Surveys. The possibility that systematic biases were introduced by the split sampling design in 1998 compared with that used in 1995, and the treatment of missing and contradictory responses discussed above, cannot be dismissed, however.

Appendix 1: Membership of survey committees

Department of Health and Aged Care Policy Reference Group

Member	Policy section	Substitute
Paul Williams (Chair)	AIHW (outposted)	Mark Cooper-Stanbury
Leilani Pearce	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services (OATSIHS)	John Riley (OATSIHS)
Malcolm Wares	Illicit Drug Strategy Unit	Louise Thom
Megan McNeil	Public Health Education Unit	Joelie Hilhorst
Joy Eshpeter	Evaluation and Research Unit	Deborah Tunnicliff
Elizabeth Clout	Tobacco and Alcohol Section	Audrey Graviou
Michael O'Hara	Mental Health	
Fiona Brooke	HIV/AIDS Section	
Karl Higgins (secretary)	AIHW (outposted)	

Survey Technical Advisory Committee

Member	Organisation	Substitute
Paul Williams (Chair)	AIHW	Mark Cooper-Stanbury
Professor Ian McAllister	Research School of Social Sciences (ANU)	Dr Toni Makkai (Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC))
Maggie Brady	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	John Riley (Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services (DHAC)
Paddy Mahony	Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI)	
Dr Michael Lynsky	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre	Michael Lodge (DHAC)
Jennifer Taylor	Research and Marketing (DHAC)	Paul Cramer (DHAC)
Karl Higgins (secretary)	AIHW	

Note: Roger Jones (Qualitative Evaluation and Design) attended a number of committee meetings.

Appendix 2: Standard errors and relative standard errors

Table A2.1: Prevalence (P), standard error (SE) and relative standard error (RSE) relating to totals, by sex, Western Australia, 1998

Population	Western Australia total			Males			Females		
estimate	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE
('000s)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)
1,400	95.7	15	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,200	82.1	28	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,000	68.4	34	3.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
750	51.3	36	4.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
600	41.0	36	6.0	82.0	20	3.3	82.2	17	2.8
500	34.2	35	6.9	68.3	24	4.7	68.5	20	4.0
400	27.4	32	8.1	54.6	25	6.3	54.8	22	5.4
300	20.5	29	9.8	41.0	25	8.3	41.1	21	7.1
200	13.7	25	12.5	27.3	23	11.3	27.4	19	9.7
100	6.8	18	18.3	13.7	17	17.5	13.7	15	14.9
90	6.2	18	19.5	12.3	17	18.6	12.3	14	15.9
80	5.5	17	20.7	10.9	16	19.9	11.0	14	17.0
70	4.8	16	22.2	9.6	15	21.4	9.6	13	18.3
60	4.1	14	24.0	8.2	14	23.3	8.2	12	19.9
50	3.4	13	26.4	6.8	13	25.7	6.8	11	22.0
40	2.7	12	29.5	5.5	12	28.9	5.5	10	24.7
30	2.1	10	34.8	4.1	10	33.6	4.1	9	28.8
20	1.4	9	42.7	2.7	8	41.5	2.7	7	35.5
10	0.7	6	60.6	1.4	6	59.1	1.4	5	50.5

Note: Light shading indicates caution in using estimates; darker shading indcates unreliable for most practical purposes.

Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of sample dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey.

One measurement of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs of all estimates in this publication. A table of SEs and RSEs for estimates of numbers of persons is given in Table A2.1 and A2.2. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude. Based on these indicative SEs, results marked with an asterisk in the tables are associated with an RSE of greater than 50%. An example of the calculation and use of SEs follows (ABS 1997).

Table 2.6 shows that in 1998 the survey estimated that 69% of population aged 14 years and over in Western Australia had used tobacco at least once in their lifetime, or 1,000,000 persons. The estimate is relatively close to the prevalence value of 68.4% as shown in Table A2.1.

The standard error for this estimated prevalence is 34,000 which means that there are about two chances in three (67%) that the estimated prevalence of smoking would fall within one SE of true population prevalence. In other words, the estimated prevalence is within plus or minus one SE of the estimated of 1,000,000 persons in Western Australia, that is somewhere between 966,000 and 1,034,000 persons. Similarly, we are 95% confident that the estimated number of persons aged 14 years and over who had used tobacco at least once in their life in Western Australia will be between 932,000 and 1,068,000 persons.

Table A2.2: Prevalence (P), standard error (SE) and relative standard error (RSE) relating to age groups, Western Australia, 1998

Population estimate	Age groups																	
	14–19			20–29			30–39			40+			18–34			20–39		
	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE	P	SE	RSE
('000s)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)	(%)	('000)	(%)
700	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96.2	12	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82.5	25	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68.7	30	6.1	—	—	—	87.1	13	2.7
450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61.9	32	7.1	94.2	9	1.9	78.4	17	3.7
400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.0	33	8.1	83.7	14	3.4	69.7	19	4.6
350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48.1	33	9.3	73.3	16	4.7	61.0	20	5.6
300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41.2	32	10.7	62.8	18	5.9	52.3	20	6.7
250	—	—	—	87.8	10	3.9	86.5	7	2.9	34.4	31	12.4	52.3	18	7.4	43.6	20	8.0
200	—	—	—	70.2	13	6.7	69.2	10	4.9	27.5	29	14.6	41.9	18	9.1	34.9	19	9.6
150	93.1	4	2.4	52.7	15	9.8	51.9	11	7.1	20.6	26	17.6	31.4	17	11.4	26.1	18	11.8
100	62.1	7	6.7	35.1	14	14.1	34.6	10	10.1	13.7	23	22.5	20.9	15	15.0	17.4	15	15.3
90	55.9	7	7.7	31.6	14	15.2	31.1	10	10.9	12.4	22	23.9	18.8	14	16.0	15.7	15	16.3
80	49.6	7	8.7	28.1	13	16.6	27.7	9	11.9	11.0	20	25.6	16.7	14	17.2	13.9	14	17.4
70	43.4	7	9.8	24.6	13	18.1	24.2	9	13.0	9.6	19	27.6	14.7	13	18.6	12.2	13	18.8
60	37.2	7	11.2	21.1	12	20.0	20.8	9	14.4	8.2	18	30.0	12.6	12	20.4	10.5	12	20.6
50	31.0	6	12.9	17.6	11	22.4	17.3	8	16.1	6.9	17	33.1	10.5	11	22.6	8.7	11	22.7
40	24.8	6	15.0	14.0	10	25.6	13.8	7	18.3	5.5	15	37.3	8.4	10	25.5	7.0	10	25.7
30	18.6	5	18.0	10.5	9	30.2	10.4	6	21.6	4.1	13	43.4	6.3	9	29.8	5.2	9	29.9
20	12.4	5	22.9	7.0	8	37.7	6.9	5	26.9	2.7	11	53.5	4.2	7	36.9	3.5	7	37.0
10	6.2	3	33.5	3.5	5	54.2	3.5	4	38.8	1.4	8	76.2	2.1	5	52.8	1.7	5	52.7
5	3.1	2	48.2	1.8	4	77.4	1.7	3	55.4	—	—	—	1.0	4	75.1	0.9	4	74.9

Note: Light shading indicates caution in using estimates; darker shading indcates unreliable for most practical purposes.

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Appendix 3: Population estimates

Table A3.1: Population estimates, by age and sex, Australia, 1998

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					(number)				
					Males				
14–19	268,552	196,245	156,548	82,810	61,384	21,208	15,140	9,048	811,068
20–29	472,689	360,228	267,814	145,946	107,120	31,516	27,455	19,384	1,432,422
30–39	492,292	360,118	263,967	145,385	112,592	33,856	24,237	18,117	1,450,878
40–49	455,097	330,530	250,916	138,078	107,471	34,128	23,282	14,324	1,354,137
50–59	352,493	254,352	194,069	100,681	82,938	26,711	17,028	9,490	1,037,921
60+	479,648	347,803	241,285	119,153	122,582	36,686	15,283	5,453	1,367,964
All ages	**2,520,771**	**1,849,276**	**1,374,599**	**732,053**	**594,087**	**184,105**	**122,425**	**75,816**	**7,454,390**
					Females				
14–19	254,881	187,391	148,013	78,332	58,546	20,403	13,921	8,347	769,942
20–29	467,322	354,762	262,920	138,787	102,974	31,532	26,589	17,496	1,402,585
30–39	491,746	366,250	266,024	143,697	112,693	35,541	25,091	16,373	1,457,726
40–49	452,659	336,287	247,974	135,537	108,665	34,370	24,540	12,798	1,353,070
50–59	340,203	251,196	183,930	93,716	83,185	26,007	16,511	7,086	1,001,938
60+	585,311	429,053	279,442	140,118	151,990	45,076	18,331	4,769	1,654,136
All ages	**2,592,122**	**1,924,939**	**1,388,303**	**730,187**	**618,053**	**192,929**	**124,983**	**66,869**	**7,639,397**
					Persons				
14–19	523,433	383,636	304,561	161,142	119,930	41,611	29,061	17,395	1,581,010
20–29	940,011	714,990	530,734	284,733	210,094	63,048	54,044	36,880	2,835,007
30–39	984,038	726,368	529,991	289,082	225,285	69,397	49,328	34,490	2,908,604
40–49	907,756	666,817	498,890	273,615	216,136	68,498	47,822	27,122	2,707,207
50–59	692,696	505,548	377,999	194,397	166,123	52,718	33,539	16,576	2,039,859
60+	1,064,959	776,856	520,727	259,271	274,572	81,762	33,614	10,222	3,022,100
All ages	**5,112,893**	**3,774,215**	**2,762,902**	**1,462,240**	**1,212,140**	**377,034**	**247,408**	**142,685**	**15,093,787**

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, September quarter 1998.

Appendix 4: Survey-related materials

Related publications

AIHW. Australian hospital statistics 1997–98. Health Services Series. Canberra: AIHW.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 1997. 1995 National Health Survey: summary results. Canberra: ABS.

Collins D & Lapsley H 1996. The social costs of drug abuse in Australia in 1998 and 1992. National Drug Strategy Monograph Series No. 30.

Higgins K, Cooper-Stanbury M & Williams P (forthcoming). Statistics on drug use in Australia 1998. AIHW Drug Statistics Series. Canberra: AIHW.

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) 1998. National drug strategic framework 1998–99 to 2002–03. Canberra.

National Health and Medical Research Council 1992. Is there a safe level of daily consumption of alcohol for men and women?: Canberra, NHMRC.

Stevenson C (forthcoming). Mortality and morbidity attributable to alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs in Australia, 1996. AIHW Drug Statistics Series. Canberra: AIHW.

Planned publications

AIHW [release 2000]. 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: correlates of drug use. Drug Statistics Series. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW [release early 2000]. 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory results. Drug Statistics Series. Canberra: AIHW.

Unpublished statistics

A standard set of cross-tabulations at general, demographic and geographic levels will be available in 2000 as PDF files on the Institute's web page http://aihw.gov.au/publications. All questionnaire items will be represented in this set and will be cross-tabulated by age and sex, by State and Territory, and by capital city, urban and rural geographic identifiers.

Other analyses may be available on request. Provision of data may be subject to an AIHW Health Ethics Committee application and charges may apply. For further information, contact the Institute on (02) 6244 1000; or by e-mail at mark.cooper-stanbury@aihw.gov.au.

Access to the Confidentialised Unit Record Files

A public-use CURF is available for researchers through the Social Sciences Data Archives at the Australian National University: ssda@anu.edu.com.au.

Data items removed from the master datafile in producing the public-use datafile comprise census collectors district (CCD), statistical local area (SLA), postcode, and dates of data collection. Geographic areas have been aggregated to a minimum of 50,000 persons and the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) code was reduced to two digits.

Application for research access to the master datafile, which contains all of the data items, may be approved subject to the agreement of the Institute's Health Ethics Committee. Contact the Institute on (02) 6244 1000; or by e-mail at mark.cooper-stanbury@aihw.gov.au.

Appendix 5: The questionnaire

The questionnaire was not a single document. Three samples were selected, each with equivalent numbers of questions in the same sequence (refer to 'Survey design' above).

Sample 1 comprised face-to-face interviews with a self-completion booklet for the more sensitive issues. Consequently, there were two booklets constituting this questionnaire.

Sample 2 respondents (selected from the same household as Sample 1) self-completed the entire questionnaire. An additional data item (relationship to Sample 1 respondent) was collected in this questionnaire and interviewer instructions were replaced with directions appropriate to self-completion.

Sample 3 respondents self-completed the entire questionnaire which was identical to the Sample 2 questionnaire, except the 'relationship to Sample 1' data item was not collected.

Additionally, to obviate the possibility that the order of possible responses within questions might affect the likelihood of selection, response lists were rotated so that blocks of possible answers were presented in equal numbers across all samples. Three rotations were used. Accordingly, there were nine different questionnaires, all with the same question sequence, but different orders of possible responses within particular questions.