



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



# People identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Compared with heterosexual people, in the previous 12 months in 2019 **lesbian, gay or bisexual** people were:

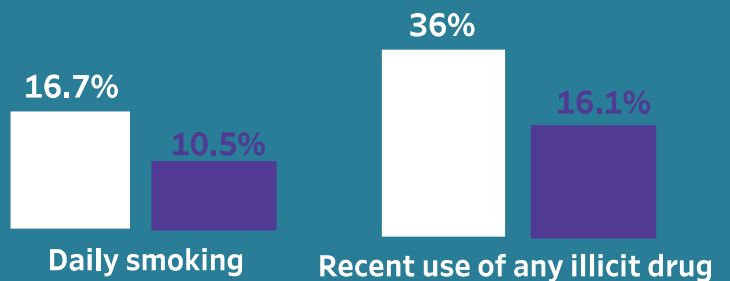
**9 x** as likely to use inhalants

**3.9 x** as likely to use meth/amphetamines

**3.5 x** as likely to use hallucinogens

**2.6 x** as likely to use ecstasy.[1]

People who identify as **lesbian, gay or bisexual** were more likely to report daily smoking and recent use of any illicit drug than **heterosexual** people in 2019.[1]



## Lesbian, gay or bisexual drug use in 2010 vs 2019:



**Daily smoking** decreased from 28% in 2010 to 16.0% in 2019



**Lifetime risky drinking** decreased from 30% in 2010 to 22% in 2019



**Recent non-medical use of pharmaceuticals** decreased from 12.0% in 2010 to 7.5% in 2019



**Inhalants** increased from 6.5% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2019.[1]

In 2019, at least **2 in 5** (44%) participants in the **Private Lives survey reported using one or more drugs** for non-medical purposes in the previous 6 months. [4]

Respondents from the 2020 **Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey**:

- **4%** were **homosexual**
- **10%** were **bisexual**. [2]



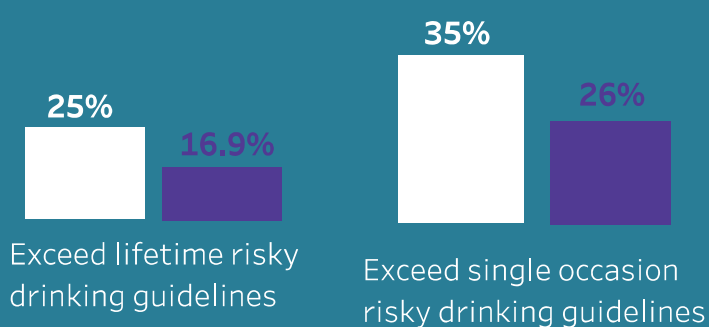


# People identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer

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In 2019, **27%** of participants aged 14–17 years in the **Writing Themselves In survey** reported using any drug for **non-medical purposes** in the past six months. [3]

People who identify as **lesbian, gay or bisexual** were more likely to exceed lifetime and single occasion risky drinking guidelines than **heterosexual** people in 2019.[1]



## References

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. Findings for homosexual/bisexual people compared with those for heterosexual people are age-standardised [1]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2020. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 3 August 2020.
2. Heard S, Iversen J & Maher L 2021. Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey National Data Report 2016–2020: Prevalence of HIV, HCV and injecting and sexual behaviour among NSP attendees. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW
3. Hill AO, Bourne A, McNair R, Carman M & Lyons A 2021. Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.
4. Hill AO, Lyons A, Jones J, McGowan I, Carman M, Parsons M, Power J, Bourne A.. 2021. Writing Themselves In 4: The health and wellbeing of LGBTQA+ young people in Australia. National report, monograph series number 124. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia (<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).