

# **1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey**

**Detailed findings**

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## **Detailed findings**

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Amber Summerill

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# Preface

This report contains final results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Provisional results were published by the Institute as *1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results*. The purpose of this report is twofold: firstly to provide final results of the analysis in *First Results* and secondly to extend the analysis on correlates of drug use and the social and health effects of drug use.

The Institute managed the conduct of the survey on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, and custody of the survey data set rests with the Institute and is protected by the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*. Access to a public-use data set is available through the Social Science Data Archives at the Australian National University, with access to the Institute's data set possible following consideration of research proposals by the Institute's Health Ethics Committee.

# Summary

## The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

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 but the first to be managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Respondents were asked about their knowledge of drugs, their attitudes towards drugs, their drug consumption histories, and related behaviours.

## General findings

### Tobacco

Tobacco was primarily associated with a drug 'problem' by fewer than one in 20 Australians; two in every five approved of the regular use of tobacco by adults. Two-thirds of Australians had tried tobacco at some time in their lives, and more than one in four were recent smokers.

One in seven persons indicated that tobacco was their first drug of choice, and the proportion recently smoking daily or most days declined by two percentage points between 1995 and 1998 to 22%. The average age at which smokers took up tobacco increased from 15.6 to 15.8 years in the same period. Under-age smokers (that is, persons aged under 18 years, to whom it is illegal to sell tobacco products) were likely to have been introduced to smoking by friends and acquaintances. Subsequently, two out of every five under-age smokers obtained their cigarettes from retail outlets. Further, of those teenage recent smokers, nearly 96% also reported using alcohol recently and 76% using marijuana/cannabis recently.

Of persons aged 40–49 years who had ever smoked, 60% no longer did so.

### Alcohol

About one in every seven Australians primarily associated alcohol with a drug 'problem'; three in every five approved of the regular use of alcohol by adults. Nine out of every ten Australians had tried alcohol at some time in their lives and three-quarters had recently consumed alcohol.

Two in every five persons nominated alcohol as their first drug of choice, and the proportion drinking regularly increased from 44% to 49% between 1995 and 1998. One in four persons consumed alcohol daily or on most days in a week, and two in five consumed less often than weekly. Under-age alcohol drinkers (that is, persons aged under 18, to whom it is illegal to

sell alcohol) were likely to have been introduced to drinking by relatives. Subsequently, almost one in every five under-age drinkers obtained their alcohol from retail outlets.

One in six persons admitted to driving a motor vehicle, one in ten verbally abused someone, and one in 50 persons physically abused someone while under the influence of alcohol.

Three in every ten persons had been verbally abused and one in every 16 had been physically abused by someone who had been affected by alcohol.

In terms of alcohol-moderation behaviour by recent drinkers, the most frequently cited activity to moderate the consumption of alcohol was to reduce the amount of alcohol usually consumed (29%).

## **Illicit drugs**

More than three in every four Australians primarily associated an illicit drug with a drug 'problem'; one in four approved the regular use of marijuana by adults, and fewer than one in 20 persons approved the regular use of each of the other illicit drugs included in the survey. Almost one in every two Australians had used an illicit drug at some time in their lives and over one in five had used illicit drugs in the previous 12 months. One in every two persons supported measures designed to reduce harm associated with illicit drug use.

Around one in 14 persons nominated any illicit drug as their first drug of choice, with one in 18 nominating marijuana/cannabis as first choice. The average age at which people first tried illicit drugs declined slightly from 16.8 years in 1995 to 16.6 years in 1998.

Four in every five illicit drug users were introduced to illicit drugs by friends and acquaintances. Subsequently, most illicit drug users continued to obtain their illicit drugs from friends and acquaintances.

One in 16 persons drove a motor vehicle, one in 50 verbally abused someone, and one in 200 physically abused someone while under the influence of illicit drugs. One in ten persons were verbally abused and one in 40 were physically abused by someone affected by illicit drugs.

## **Correlates of drugs use**

The survey showed that the following appear to influence drug use:

- socioeconomic characteristics such as education, employment, occupational status and cultural background;
- geographical variables such as rural/remote location and the index of socioeconomic status of an area; and
- demographic variables such as marital status.

In general, the survey showed that unemployed persons, persons with low educational qualifications, persons working in blue collar jobs, and persons who were never married were more likely than others to be using drugs.

# 1 Introduction

## Background

### 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 in 1997 over 22,000 deaths and more than a quarter of a million hospital episodes were drug-related (AIHW 1999). The licit drugs (tobacco and alcohol) accounted for over 96% of the drug-related deaths and hospitalisations. The estimated direct health care cost of drug dependence and harmful use in Australia in 1992 was \$1 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, so homeless and institutionalised persons were not included in the survey (consistent with the approach in previous years). Details of the methodology can be found in *1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results* (AIHW 1999).

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

The 1998 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 6 of the Institute's *First Results* report. One of these changes (cross-validation between lifetime and recent use) may have systematically produced marginally higher prevalence estimates than if the 1995 methodology had been 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.

## About this report

Data presented in this report are based on estimates derived from responses weighted to the 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. All results in this report are based on final sample weighting. This is expected to result in minimal changes to the estimates presented in the earlier report.

The report contains chapters on correlates and social aspects of drug use. 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).

Readers are reminded, therefore, that in interpreting results, reference should always be made to the table of relative standard errors (Appendix 1). The demographic information in Table A.2 (Appendix 2) was used to determine the standard error on correlate data throughout this report. Results subject to relative standard errors of between 25% and 50% should be considered with caution and those with relative standard errors greater than 50% should be considered as unreliable for most practical purposes.

Throughout this report the following symbols are used:

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- \* relative standard error greater than 50%.

## Overview — the status of drug use in 1998

### Lifetime and recent use of drugs

In 1998 the drugs most commonly tried in the Australian community were alcohol and tobacco (Table 1.1). The 1998 survey showed that:

- Two-thirds of Australians aged 14 years and older had tried smoking tobacco.
- Nine out of every ten persons had tried alcohol.



- Of all the illicit drugs, marijuana was used by two-fifths of all Australians aged 14 years and over, while one in ten used hallucinogens and more than one in 20 had used tranquillisers.
- Although two-thirds of all Australians aged 14 years and over smoked tobacco at some time in their life, only one in four (27%) did so in the last 12 months.
- Drinking alcohol is more common than smoking, with more than four-fifths (81%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over reported to have drunk recently.

The age at which Australians aged 14 years and over first tried drugs differed according to the type of drug, with Australians trying legal drugs (such as tobacco and alcohol) at an earlier age than illicit drugs.

**Table 1.1: Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over and mean age of initiation, Australia, 1998**

Drug/behaviour	Drugs ever used	Drugs recently used <sup>(a)</sup>	Mean age of initiation (years)
	(per cent)		
Tobacco	66.2	26.6	15.8
Alcohol	90.5	80.5	17.1
Marijuana	39.1	17.9	18.8
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(b)</sup>	11.5	5.2	19.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(b)</sup>	6.2	3.0	23.3
Steroids <sup>(b)</sup>	0.8	0.2	21.4
Barbiturates <sup>(b)</sup>	1.6	0.3	19.8
Inhalants	3.9	0.9	17.5
Heroin	2.2	0.8	21.7
Methadone <sup>(c)</sup>	0.5	0.2	22.1
Amphetamines <sup>(b)</sup>	8.8	3.7	20.0
Cocaine	4.3	1.4	22.2
Hallucinogens	9.9	3.0	18.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	4.8	2.4	22.5
Injected illegal drugs	2.1	0.8	20.7
None of the above	6.6	14.3	..

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

(b) For non-medical purposes.

(c) Non-maintenance.

## Preferred drugs

In 1998 respondents to the survey were asked what their favourite or preferred drug was and, if it was not available, what their second choice was. Most Australians aged 14 years and over preferred alcohol or tobacco or no drugs at all to illicit drugs, with females more likely than males to show a preference for no drugs at all (Table 1.2).

In 1998 alcohol was the first-preference drug for over two in every five (44%) persons; tobacco was the other drug nominated most often, with approximately one in six (16%) Australians aged 14 years and older indicating it as the first preference.

The survey showed that there was a sex difference in the preference of drugs. Slightly more females (17%) than males (15%) chose tobacco as their first-preference drug, while more males (51%) nominated alcohol as their preferred drug compared with females (37%).

**Table 1.2: Preferred drugs of choice: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Males		Females		Persons	
	First choice	Second choice	First choice	Second choice	First choice	Second choice
	(per cent)					
Tobacco	14.7	9.9	17.4	9.1	16.1	9.5
Alcohol	50.9	19.4	36.9	17.8	43.9	18.6
Marijuana/cannabis	5.5	8.9	3.0	6.7	4.2	7.9
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.1 *	0.2 *	—	—	—	0.1 *
Inhalants	—	0.1 *	—	—	—	—
Heroin	0.3	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	0.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	—	0.1 *	—	0.1 *	—	0.1 *
Other opiates	0.1 *	—	—	0.1 *	—	0.1 *
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	0.2 *	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.8
Cocaine	0.1 *	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1 *	0.5
Hallucinogens	0.3	0.6	0.1 *	0.5	0.2	0.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.4
Benzodiazepines <sup>(a)</sup>	—	0.1 *	—	0.1 *	—	0.1 *
None	27.1	58.4	41.6	64.2	34.4	61.1

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

## Availability of drugs

The 1998 survey asked respondents whether they had been offered or had the opportunity to use any of the drugs. The survey showed that of all Australians aged 14 years or over, more than half (56%) had tobacco available for use, while alcohol was available for more than four-fifths (82%) (Table 1.3). The survey also showed that higher proportions of younger people (aged 14–29 years) had access to most of the drugs, such as tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens and other designer drugs, compared with their older aged counterparts (Table 1.4).

**Table 1.3: Availability of drugs in the past 12 months: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Tobacco	61.4	50.2	55.8
Alcohol	86.8	77.9	82.3
Marijuana	27.8	19.0	23.4
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	46.5	48.5	47.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	7.4	7.8	7.6
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	2.2	0.8	1.5
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	1.4	1.0	1.2
Inhalants	4.4	2.6	3.5
Heroin	3.4	1.4	2.4
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	7.2	4.8	6.0
Cocaine	3.2	2.1	2.7
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	3.5	2.0	2.7
LSD synthetic hallucinogens	7.4	3.8	5.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	6.3	3.2	4.8
Kava	2.4	1.3	1.8

(a) For non-medical purposes.

**Table 1.4: Availability of drugs in the past 12 months: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
Tobacco	69.2	77.7	62.3	56.3	42.0	26.1	55.8
Alcohol	82.0	90.9	89.5	84.2	82.6	64.0	82.3
Marijuana	47.8	49.6	24.4	11.7	8.4	2.6	23.4
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	39.7	50.7	52.4	53.2	50.6	35.9	47.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	4.7	10.7	7.1	7.2	10.0	5.3	7.6
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	2.1	3.1	0.9	1.1	1.6	0.3 *	1.5
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	1.5	2.0	0.9	0.8	1.6	0.4 *	1.2
Inhalants	7.6	6.7	2.5	1.8	3.3	0.6	3.5
Heroin	3.3	5.7	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.6	2.4
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	12.2	16.3	4.4	1.6	1.7	0.4 *	6.0
Cocaine	3.7	7.0	2.4	1.3	1.4	0.2 *	2.7
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	7.5	6.4	1.3	1.0	1.5	0.3 *	2.7
LSD synthetic hallucinogens	14.5	15.3	3.1	1.3	1.3	0.4 *	5.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	9.6	13.8	3.2	0.8	1.5	0.4 *	4.8
Kava	1.8	3.8	1.2	0.9	3.3	0.3 *	1.8

(a) For non-medical purposes.

## 2 Use of tobacco

Tobacco is associated with over four in every five drug-related deaths and almost three in every five drug-related hospital episodes. The Institute estimates that tobacco was associated with over 18,000 deaths in 1997 and almost 150,000 hospitalisations (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 to die from, tobacco-related causes.

### Smoking status

In 1998 the proportion of Australians who were recent (regular and occasional) smokers was 27% (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Smoking status	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	16.3	32.5	28.4	29.1	23.2	15.5	25.1
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	8.4	8.0	3.9	1.6	2.9	1.9	4.3
Ex-smokers	27.3	28.7	40.6	44.1	53.9	60.9	42.8
Never smoked	48.1	30.8	27.1	25.1	19.9	21.7	27.8
	<b>Females</b>						
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	15.8	30.6	24.6	22.5	14.8	9.4	20.0
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	10.1	6.6	3.8	2.6	2.8	0.4 *	3.9
Ex-smokers	29.1	31.1	40.5	36.7	43.6	36.6	36.5
Never smoked	45.0	31.7	31.2	38.3	38.8	53.7	39.6
	<b>Persons</b>						
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	16.1	31.6	26.5	25.8	19.1	12.1	22.5
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	9.2	7.3	3.8	2.1	2.8	1.0	4.1
Ex-smokers	28.2	29.9	40.5	40.4	48.9	47.3	39.6
Never smoked	46.5	31.2	29.2	31.7	29.1	39.5	33.8

(a) Smokes daily/most days.

(b) Smokes less often than daily/most days.

### Ages of smokers

In 1998 the age group which had the highest proportion of recent smokers was 20–29 years (39%), and the age group with the lowest proportion was 60 years or older (13%) (Table 2.1). The 1998 survey also showed that:

- One in four teenagers smoked in 1998, with slightly fewer than one in six (16%) being regular smokers and slightly fewer than one in ten (9%) being occasional smokers. About half (47%) of all teenagers had never smoked.

- Among the age group 20–29 years, similar proportions of males (33%) and females (31%) reported being regular smokers. Less than a third (31%) of persons in this age group had never smoked.
- From ages 30 years and older, males were less likely than females to have never smoked. Fewer than one in four males (22%) aged 60 years or older had never smoked, compared with more than half of females (54%) in this age group.

## Number of cigarettes smoked

The quantities of cigarettes smoked by female smokers did not differ much from those of male smokers, although slightly more males (33%) reported that they smoked 11–20 cigarettes a day compared with females (31%) (Table 2.2). The likelihood of recent smokers smoking less than weekly or smoking more than 20 cigarettes per day was age-related (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.2: Number of cigarettes: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by smoking status and sex, Australia, 1998**

Smoking status	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
<b>Recent regular</b>			
> 20/day	27.7	28.3	28.0
11–20/day	33.4	30.6	32.1
1–10/day	23.5	24.2	23.8
<b>Recent occasional</b>			
31+/week	0.9	0.8 *	0.9
11–30/ week	2.5	1.1	1.9
1–10/week	4.5	6.2	5.3
<b>Less than weekly</b>	7.6	8.8	8.1

Note: Base equals all recent smokers.

**Table 2.3: Number of cigarettes: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by smoking status and age, Australia, 1998**

Smoking status	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Recent regular</b>							
> 20/day	11.3	17.8	31.4	38.7	35.5	37.1	28.0
11–20/day	21.0	32.8	34.9	39.1	26.1	29.0	32.1
1–10/day	29.3	29.8	20.7	13.9	24.6	26.0	23.8
<b>Recent occasional</b>							
31+/week	0.5 *	0.7 *	1.0 *	1.4 *	0.3 *	0.9 *	0.9
11–30/week	4.4	1.4 *	1.2 *	2.7	1.4 *	1.1 *	1.9
1–10/week	10.4	8.1	2.9	1.2 *	6.8	3.3	5.3
<b>Less than weekly</b>	23.2	9.5	7.9	2.9	5.4	2.4	8.1

Note: Base equals all recent smokers.

The majority of recent smokers (60%) smoked 11 or more cigarettes a day, with more than a third of elderly smokers (37%) smoking in excess of 20 cigarettes a day. One in five (21%) teenage smokers smoked between 11 and 20 cigarettes a day.

## Multiple drugs use with tobacco

The 1998 survey showed that, of all the recent smokers aged 14 years and over, nine out of ten also drank alcohol and nearly two-fifths (39%) smoked marijuana (Table 2.4). In general, among recent smokers, males were more likely to use multiple drugs than females. Furthermore, teenagers were more likely to use multiple drugs than their older counterparts (Table 2.5). Further, among those teenage recent tobacco smokers, 96% reported using alcohol recently and 76% reported using marijuana/cannabis recently.

**Table 2.4: Polydrug use: proportion of recent tobacco smokers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Alcohol	92.3	87.3	90.0
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	7.4	7.8	7.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	4.7	5.0	4.8
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.9	0.3 *	0.6
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	1.0	0.5 *	0.8
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	11.7	6.9	9.5
Marijuana/cannabis	41.5	35.3	38.7
Heroin	2.9	1.1	2.1
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.8	0.1 *	0.5
Cocaine	3.9	2.7	3.4
Hallucinogens	9.7	5.3	7.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	5.8	3.8	4.9
Inhalants	1.7	1.7	1.7

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals recent smokers.

**Table 2.5: Polydrug use, proportion of recent tobacco smokers aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Alcohol	95.5	93.0	90.2	86.4	90.0
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	14.6	12.0	7.9	2.4	7.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	6.4	9.5	4.3	1.3	4.8
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.4 *	1.0 *	0.4 *	0.5 *	0.6
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	0.6 *	2.0	0.8 *	—	0.8
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	14.4	21.9	6.0	1.2 *	9.5
Marijuana/cannabis	76.1	57.9	40.9	13.9	38.7
Heroin	1.9	4.3	1.7	0.7 *	2.1
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.3 *	0.8 *	0.4 *	0.3 *	0.5
Cocaine	2.5	6.9	4.5	0.3 *	3.4
Hallucinogens	17.0	16.9	3.0	1.4	7.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	8.4	11.7	2.7	0.4 *	4.9
Inhalants	5.8	3.6	0.6 *	—	1.7

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals recent smokers.

## Source of supply of tobacco for under-age smokers

The 1998 survey showed that the majority of recent smokers obtained their first cigarettes from a friend or acquaintance (Table 2.6). Among under-age smokers (aged 14–17 years), two-thirds (67%) obtained their first cigarettes from a friend or acquaintance compared to 56% of adult smokers. There were sex differences in the way cigarettes were available for under-aged smokers, with nearly three in five (59%) under-aged male smokers getting their first cigarettes from a friend or acquaintance compared to nearly three-quarters (73%) of under-aged female smokers.

Among the adults, more than half of all recent smokers obtained their first cigarettes from a friend or acquaintance, and the source of supply did not vary greatly between males (54%) and females (57%). As for the recent supply, more than two-fifths (44%) of under-aged smokers reported purchasing from a shop, while another two-fifths (42%) reported obtaining from a friend or acquaintance. The majority (91%) of adult smokers now purchase their cigarettes, while one in 20 (6%) get their supply from a friend or acquaintance.

**Table 2.6: First and recent source of supply for under-age smokers: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Source	Recent smokers <18 years		Recent smokers 18+ years	
	First obtained	Now obtain	First obtained	Now obtain
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	58.5	49.6	54.3	7.2
Sibling	6.1	9.3	3.2	0.2 *
Parent	6.2	4.4	1.4	0.1 *
Spouse or partner	—	—	0.5	0.4 *
Other relative	1.0	—	3.0	—
Stole it	8.6	—	9.0	—
Purchased it—shop	4.5	35.1	14.0	90.7
Other	2.5	1.7	4.3	0.5
Can't recall	12.7	n.a.	10.2	0.9
<b>Females</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	73.4	36.0	57.0	4.7
Sibling	7.8	0.7 *	8.0	0.2 *
Parent	0.6 *	5.0	1.9	—
Spouse or partner	0.4 *	4.0	1.5	2.1
Other relative	0.8 *	—	1.6	0.2 *
Stole it	6.3	0.2 *	7.7	—
Purchased it—shop	1.3	49.8	10.1	91.0
Other	1.6	4.2	2.0	0.8 *
Can't recall	7.8	n.a.	10.1	0.6 *
<b>Persons</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	66.9	41.8	55.5	6.1
Sibling	7.1	4.4	5.4	0.2 *
Parent	3.0	4.7	1.6	0.1 *
Spouse or partner	0.2 *	2.3	1.0	1.2
Other relative	0.9 *	—	2.4	0.1 *
Stole it	7.3	0.1 *	8.4	—
Purchased it—shop	2.7	43.6	12.2	91.0
Other	2.0	3.1	3.3	0.8 *
Can't recall	9.9	n.a.	10.1	0.6 *

## Correlates of tobacco use

The 1998 survey collected information about the respondents' socioeconomic characteristics in order to investigate whether background characteristics correlate with drug use, attitudes and beliefs. The percentage distribution of background characteristics across smoking status is presented in Table 2.7. The explanation of these characteristics and how they were measured is in Appendix 2. The data indicate that background characteristics correlate with a person's smoking status:

- Slightly more than one in ten (12%) of all Australians with a tertiary qualification were regular smokers compared with one in four (26%) Australians with no qualification.
- Nearly two-fifths (38%) of all unemployed persons were regular smokers compared with only one in four (25%) employed persons.
- The higher the occupational status, the lower the proportion of regular smokers. However, nearly half of all (49%) white collar workers were ex-smokers compared with only one in three (34%) blue collar workers.
- Cultural background also played a role in smoking status, with more than one in five (22%) Australian-born persons reported being a regular smoker compared to only one in six (17%) persons born in non-English-speaking countries.
- Persons living in the least affluent areas were 1.5 times as likely to be regular smokers (27%) as persons living in the most affluent areas (18%).
- Persons from rural/remote areas also have increased likelihood of being regular smokers (26%) compared with persons from urban areas (21%).
- One in four (25%) never-married persons reported being regular smokers compared with about one in six (15%) widowed persons.
- Social influences on a person's smoking status were evident: when more than 50% of friends were smokers, the respondent was likely to be a regular smoker (46%) or an ex-smoker (30%). Of all the persons for whom less than 50% of friends smoked, approximately one in nine (11%) were regular smokers, 44% were ex-smokers and 42% had never smoked.



**Table 2.7: Correlates of tobacco use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Smoking status			
	Regular	Occasional	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
	(per cent)			
<b>Education</b>				
No qualification	26.1	2.8	37.1	33.9
HSC or equivalent	25.8	5.2	37.1	31.9
Trade/diploma	23.9	4.1	45.2	26.8
Tertiary	11.9	5.0	47.2	36.0
<b>Employment status</b>				
Employed	24.8	4.4	41.8	29.0
Student	12.7	8.0	29.5	49.8
Unemployed	38.3	5.0	23.5	33.2
Retired/pension	19.3	1.9	42.0	36.8
<b>Occupational status</b>				
Upper (white)	14.5	4.1	49.0	32.3
Middle	24.4	4.1	41.0	30.5
Lower (blue)	28.6	4.0	33.5	33.8
<b>Country of birth</b>				
Australian born	22.3	4.4	39.5	33.8
Other English-speaking born	25.9	3.0	47.5	23.5
Non-English-speaking born	17.4	2.4	35.0	45.2
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>				
1st quintile	26.8	3.2	36.7	33.2
2nd quintile	24.1	2.9	37.1	35.9
3rd quintile	23.6	4.8	38.3	33.3
4th quintile	20.8	5.0	42.2	32.0
5th quintile	18.2	4.9	43.3	33.6
<b>Geography</b>				
Urban	21.2	4.2	39.6	35.0
Rural/remote	25.8	3.9	39.6	30.8
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	25.0	7.3	28.8	38.9
Widowed	15.4	0.3	39.6	44.8
Divorced/separated	33.5	3.2	38.1	25.3
Presently married	19.6	2.9	45.4	32.2
<b>Social influences</b>				
At least 50% friends use	45.6	6.4	29.8	18.2
Less than 50% friends use	10.7	2.9	44.1	42.4

Note: Base equals recent smokers.

### 3 Use of alcohol

Alcohol is second only to tobacco as a cause of drug-related deaths and hospitalisations. The Institute estimates that in 1997 there were almost 4,000 alcohol-related deaths and just under 100,000 hospital episodes (AIHW 1999). Principal among alcohol-related causes of deaths and hospital episodes were cirrhosis of the liver, strokes and motor vehicle accidents.

#### Alcohol drinking status

In 1998 almost half (49%) of all Australians aged 14 years or over regularly drank alcohol (Table 3.1). The proportion of male regular drinkers (59%) was higher than that for females (38%). The 1998 survey also showed that:

- One in ten (10%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over were ex-drinkers and one in three (32%) were occasional drinkers.
- One in ten (9%) of all Australians aged 14 and over never drank alcohol, with fewer males (7%) than females (12%) reporting they never drank.
- Age-wise, persons aged 30–39 years had the highest proportion of regular drinkers (55%) while only 30% of all teenagers reported they were regular drinkers.
- Among the oldest age category (60 years or greater), almost three-fifths (59%) of males reported that they were regular drinkers compared with only one-third (33%) of women.

**Table 3.1: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Drinking status	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Regular	33.0	63.2	65.0	62.0	62.7	59.1	59.4
Occasional	37.5	25.8	24.0	23.6	25.1	20.1	25.2
Ex-drinker	8.2	6.0	7.6	8.7	8.9	12.6	8.6
Never	21.3	4.9	3.4	5.7	3.2	8.2	6.8
<b>Females</b>							
Regular	27.3	40.1	44.3	42.7	35.7	33.0	38.1
Occasional	43.9	44.1	40.3	38.4	41.3	27.3	38.5
Ex-drinker	4.6	9.6	9.5	10.7	16.6	15.8	11.4
Never	24.3	6.2	5.9	8.1	6.4	23.9	11.9
<b>Persons</b>							
Regular	30.2	51.8	54.7	52.2	49.6	45.0	48.6
Occasional	40.7	34.8	32.1	31.1	33.0	24.0	31.9
Ex-drinker	6.4	7.8	8.5	9.7	12.7	14.3	10.0
Never	22.8	5.6	4.6	6.9	4.8	16.7	9.4

## Frequency of drinking

The 1998 survey showed that, of all the recent drinkers (those reporting to have consumed alcohol at least once in the last 12 months), one in ten (11%) reported that they consumed alcohol at least daily, while one in six (17%) reported consuming alcohol at least weekly (Table 3.2). Furthermore, the survey showed that:

- As age increased the frequency of drinking also increased.
- Of those aged 60 years or over, more males (31%) than females (18%) were daily drinkers.
- Half of all females (50%) drank less often than one drink a week compared with 30% of males.

**Table 3.2: Frequency of drinking: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
At least daily	0.7 *	5.8	9.8	13.0	23.5	31.4	14.3
4 to 6 days a week	5.1	14.3	18.4	21.8	17.8	16.1	16.5
2 to 3 days a week	15.6	29.3	25.9	19.1	21.2	19.8	22.8
At least weekly	25.4	21.5	19.0	18.5	8.9	7.3	16.6
Less often	53.2	29.0	27.0	27.6	28.6	25.4	29.8
<b>Females</b>							
At least daily	—	2.1	4.5	7.6	7.1	17.7	6.6
4 to 6 days a week	2.0	5.9	9.0	14.6	16.8	10.1	10.0
2 to 3 days a week	10.6	19.8	19.4	14.8	11.8	13.6	15.9
At least weekly	25.7	19.7	19.4	15.6	10.7	13.4	17.3
Less often	61.7	52.4	47.7	47.3	53.6	45.2	50.3
<b>Persons</b>							
At least daily	0.3 *	4.0	7.2	10.3	16.0	24.9	10.6
4 to 6 days a week	3.6	10.3	13.8	18.3	17.3	13.3	13.4
2 to 3 days a week	13.1	24.8	22.8	17.0	17.0	16.9	19.5
At least weekly	25.6	20.7	19.2	17.1	9.7	10.2	16.9
Less often	57.4	40.2	37.0	37.3	39.9	34.7	39.6

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Type of alcohol consumed

Bottled wine, regular beer (with alcohol content more than 4%) and bottled spirits were the type of alcoholic drinks most Australians preferred (Table 3.3). Of the recent drinkers, almost half (49%) reported drinking bottled wine as opposed to one in five (21%) drinking cask wine. The survey also showed that:

- A higher proportion of females drink wine compared with males. The proportion of females drinking bottled wine was 57% and drinking cask wine was 24%. Among males, only 41% drank bottled wines; the proportion of males drinking cask wine was also lower, at 19%.

- The proportion of recent drinkers drinking low-alcohol beer increased with increasing age. Nearly one in ten (9%) teenagers reported drinking low-alcohol beer compared with nearly one in three (31%) persons aged 60 years or over.
- The consumption pattern for high-alcohol drinks by age category was opposite to that for low-alcohol beer, with a higher proportion (63%) of younger aged drinkers (aged 14–19 years) consuming bottled spirits compared with those aged 60 years or over (22%).

**Table 3.3: Type of alcohol consumed: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Type of alcohol	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Cask wine	11.3	12.5	16.8	17.0	27.9	26.6	18.7
Bottled wine	13.9	37.9	45.4	45.0	50.7	38.2	40.6
Regular beer (>4% Alc/Vol)	66.9	73.7	60.1	52.2	45.9	25.2	54.3
Mid-strength beer (3%–3.9% Alc/Vol)	13.4	15.8	24.1	26.7	20.7	15.2	20.0
Low-alcohol beer (1%–2.9% Alc/Vol)	11.2	10.7	22.8	35.9	27.8	39.4	25.1
Premixed spirits (e.g. UDL)	30.6	19.5	8.9	7.1	6.1	1.6	11.0
Bottled spirits	62.3	59.2	37.8	30.2	30.7	22.3	39.4
Alcoholic soda (e.g. SubZero)	22.0	16.2	3.7	1.2	0.2 *	0.2 *	6.3
Cider	5.5	6.1	4.6	4.3	3.4	1.8	4.3
Fruit-flavoured 'coolers'	11.2	6.5	2.6	0.2	3.7	1.4	3.7
Other	10.4	4.5	4.4	3.8	1.6	2.8	4.2
<b>Females</b>							
Cask wine	13.7	15.8	24.7	26.9	25.2	34.6	23.8
Bottled wine	24.6	53.3	63.5	63.9	63.0	61.9	57.4
Regular beer (>4% Alc/Vol)	28.1	28.8	17.9	12.7	8.9	11.1	17.9
Mid-strength beer (3%–3.9% Alc/Vol)	8.3	5.8	6.9	4.7	4.5	5.0	5.8
Low-alcohol beer (1%–2.9% Alc/Vol)	6.8	5.2	13.9	17.2	12.9	22.0	13.2
Premixed spirits (e.g. UDL)	44.3	24.4	9.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	13.2
Bottled spirits	62.9	57.8	45.4	25.7	15.9	21.3	38.2
Alcoholic soda (e.g. SubZero)	46.3	25.6	6.2	2.3	0.9 *	2.1 *	12.0
Cider	13.3	8.8	6.9	3.8	2.1	2.9	6.1
Fruit-flavoured 'coolers'	24.8	20.7	11.3	7.5	9.2	4.0	12.4
Other	15.7	8.6	4.9	6.3	7.8	5.2	7.4
<b>Persons</b>							
Cask wine	12.5	14.1	20.6	21.9	26.6	30.3	21.1
Bottled wine	19.3	45.3	54.1	54.4	56.3	49.2	48.7
Regular beer (>4% Alc/Vol)	47.4	52.2	39.7	32.7	29.1	18.6	36.8
Mid-strength beer (3%–3.9% Alc/Vol)	10.8	11.0	15.8	15.8	13.4	10.5	13.2
Low-alcohol beer (1%–2.9% Alc/Vol)	9.0	8.1	18.5	26.6	21.1	31.3	19.4
Premixed spirits (e.g. UDL)	37.5	21.8	9.3	5.3	5.0	2.6	12.1
Bottled spirits	62.6	58.5	41.5	28.0	24.0	21.8	38.9
Alcoholic soda (e.g. SubZero)	34.2	20.7	4.9	1.7	0.6 *	1.1 *	9.1
Cider	9.4	7.4	5.7	4.0	2.8	2.3	5.1
Fruit-flavoured 'coolers'	18.0	13.3	6.8	3.8	6.2	2.6	7.8
Other	13.1	6.5	4.7	5.0	4.4	3.9	5.7

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Usual place of alcohol consumption

Slightly more than three-quarters (77%) of all recent drinkers reported that their usual place of alcohol consumption is in their homes, followed by a friend's house (54%) (Table 3.4). Less than one in 20 recent drinkers reported public places as their usual place of alcohol consumption. The survey further showed that:

- Slightly more female drinkers (55%) nominated restaurants/cafes as usual drinking place compared with males (47%).
- Slightly more male drinkers (57%) nominated licensed premises as a regular drinking place compared with females (47%).
- Similar proportions of male and female drinkers (52%) reported that parties were the usual place of drinking alcohol.
- As age increased, the proportion of people reporting home as their usual place of drinking increased.
- Persons reporting parties as their usual place of drinking decreased as age increased. More than three-quarters of teenagers reported that parties were the usual place of drinking alcohol compared with less than one in three persons aged 60 years or over.
- Only 4% of regular drinkers reported that their usual place of drinking alcohol was public places.

**Table 3.4: Where alcohol is usually consumed: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Place consumed	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
In my home	52.8	69.0	82.4	92.4	88.0	83.2	79.8
Friend's house	53.4	64.5	62.9	54.6	45.1	36.7	54.0
Parties	75.2	67.6	56.7	46.1	43.3	26.5	51.7
Restaurants/cafes	17.2	54.0	57.9	48.7	46.0	36.8	46.7
Licensed premises	41.6	78.6	62.9	57.8	46.4	39.6	57.1
Educational institutions	7.0	5.8	1.1	1.6 *	0.6 *	0.6 *	2.5
Workplace	6.5	12.7	15.3	7.8	7.3	0.4 *	9.0
Public places	9.7	7.9	5.0	5.3	3.9	0.4 *	5.1
Car or other vehicle	6.4	8.7	3.4	1.6 *	4.3	—	4.0
Other places	8.2	4.8	3.3	3.3	2.0 *	0.4 *	3.4
<b>Females</b>							
In my home	46.1	67.0	80.7	81.1	82.0	79.5	74.6
Friend's house	56.0	60.3	58.3	49.7	55.2	46.2	54.5
Parties	78.2	66.1	56.2	40.9	38.4	36.3	52.0
Restaurants/cafes	24.9	62.8	63.7	54.2	55.8	52.0	55.1
Licensed premises	43.8	73.2	49.3	36.2	37.8	33.3	47.2
Educational institutions	2.1	2.7	0.5 *	0.3 *	—	0.9 *	1.1
Workplace	1.2	6.5	3.7	2.1	1.0 *	3.0	3.3
Public places	11.3	1.7	1.4	2.0	0.7 *	2.9	2.7
Car or other vehicle	4.6	1.3	0.4 *	0.8 *	—	—	0.9
Other places	11.0	3.2	1.0	0.1 *	0.4 *	1.6 *	2.3
<b>Persons</b>							
In my home	49.4	68.0	81.6	86.9	85.2	81.2	77.3
Friend's house	54.7	62.5	60.7	52.2	49.6	41.2	54.3
Parties	76.7	66.9	56.5	43.6	41.1	31.1	51.8
Restaurants/cafes	21.1	58.2	60.7	51.4	50.5	43.9	50.7
Licensed premises	42.7	76.0	56.3	47.1	42.5	36.7	52.4
Educational institutions	4.5	4.3	0.8	1.0 *	0.3 *	0.7 *	1.8
Workplace	3.8	9.7	9.7	5.0	4.5	1.6	6.3
Public places	10.5	4.9	3.3	3.6	2.5	1.6	4.0
Car or other vehicle	5.5	5.1	1.9	1.2 *	2.3	—	2.5
Other places	9.6	4.1	2.2	1.7	1.3 *	1.0 *	2.8

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Amount of alcohol consumed

To assess the amount of alcohol consumed in a typical day, the 1998 survey asked respondents to provide information on the number of standard drinks they usually consumed. The results show that more than half (51%) of recent drinkers usually consumed three or more standard drinks on a typical day (Table 3.5). Only a small proportion of recent drinkers (3%) reported that they consumed 13 or more standard drinks on a day. The results also showed that:

- One in ten teenagers drank more than 12 standard drinks on a day that they drank alcohol, with more male teenagers (14%) reporting drinking more than 12 standard drinks in a day than females (6%).

- As age increased, the proportion of people drinking excessive amounts of alcohol decreased. For example, only one-quarter of all teenagers who were recent drinkers consumed a maximum of two standard drinks on a day compared with 70% of persons aged 60 years or over.
- In general, for every age group, higher proportions of males seem to drink larger amounts of alcohol than females.

**Table 3.5: Amount of alcohol usually consumed: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Amount	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
13+ standard drinks	14.2	10.8	2.4	2.4 *	0.4 *	1.0 *	4.6
9 to 12 standard drinks	18.8	9.1	6.5	2.5 *	5.4	1.6	6.4
7 to 8 standard drinks	14.2	11.3	7.0	6.3	4.4	1.6	7.1
5 to 6 standard drinks	15.0	16.7	15.0	20.0	14.4	8.0	15.1
3 to 4 standard drinks	17.3	25.0	33.2	40.6	31.1	28.9	30.5
1 to 2 standard drinks	20.5	27.0	35.8	28.2	44.2	59.0	36.3
<b>Females</b>							
13+ standard drinks	6.0	3.8	0.6 *	1.2 *	—	—	1.7
9 to 12 standard drinks	8.2	4.1	1.2	1.1 *	—	0.1 *	2.1
7 to 8 standard drinks	12.7	6.2	2.1	0.8 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	3.1
5 to 6 standard drinks	19.1	14.5	8.0	4.3	6.7	0.6 *	8.4
3 to 4 standard drinks	25.2	26.8	26.6	19.6	15.1	17.4	22.3
1 to 2 standard drinks	28.8	44.7	61.5	73.0	78.2	81.8	62.4
<b>Persons</b>							
13+ standard drinks	10.1	7.4	1.5	1.8	0.2 *	0.5 *	3.3
9 to 12 standard drinks	13.5	6.7	3.9	1.8	3.0	0.9 *	4.4
7 to 8 standard drinks	13.4	8.9	4.6	3.6	2.5	0.9 *	5.2
5 to 6 standard drinks	17.1	15.7	11.6	12.3	10.9	4.6	11.9
3 to 4 standard drinks	21.3	25.9	30.0	30.4	24.0	23.6	26.6
1 to 2 standard drinks	24.7	35.5	48.2	50.0	59.4	69.6	48.7

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Multiple drugs use with alcohol

When recent drinkers (those who had consumed alcohol in the 12 months prior to the survey) were asked whether they had also used other drugs, a little less than a third (30%) reported that they smoked cigarettes and a further one-quarter (21%) reported that they smoked marijuana (Table 3.6).

As age increased the proportion of recent drinkers who also smoked either tobacco or marijuana decreased (Table 3.7). In general, multiple drugs use with alcohol was higher among persons aged 14 to 29 years and lower among those aged 40 years and over.

**Table 3.6: Polydrug use: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females		Persons
		(per cent)		
Tobacco	32.4	27.9		30.2
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	5.4	5.6		5.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	2.9	3.5		3.2
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.3 *	0.1 *		0.2 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	0.4 *	0.1 *		0.3
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	5.8	3.2		4.6
Marijuana/cannabis	24.3	18.3		21.4
Heroin	1.2	0.6		0.9
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.3 *	0.1 *		0.2 *
Cocaine	2.2	1.1		1.7
Hallucinogens	4.8	2.6		3.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	3.8	2.0		2.9
Inhalants	1.1	1.0		1.0

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

**Table 3.7: Polydrug use: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Tobacco	35.0	42.3	31.9	23.4	30.2
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	8.4	7.6	5.0	4.2	5.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	3.4	5.8	3.3	2.0	3.2
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.1 *	0.5 *	0.1 *	0.2 *	0.2 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	0.3 *	1.0	0.1 *	—	0.3
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	8.5	13.7	2.9	0.6	4.6
Marijuana/cannabis	47.2	41.2	22.3	7.7	21.4
Heroin	1.4	2.3	0.6	0.3	0.9
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	0.1 *	0.5 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.2 *
Cocaine	1.2	4.4	2.1	0.5	1.7
Hallucinogens	10.1	10.7	1.6	0.5	3.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	4.5	9.6	1.6	0.4	2.9
Inhalants	3.2	2.5	0.6	0.2 *	1.0

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Source of supply of alcohol for under-age drinkers

The proportion of recent drinkers aged 14–17 years obtaining their first drink through a friend or acquaintance was 41%, by far the most frequently cited source for alcoholic drinks (Table 3.8). However, among under-age male drinkers, parents were the most cited supplier of alcohol, with more than two-fifths (43%) reporting that their parents supplied their first alcoholic drinks. The survey also showed that:



- A friend or acquaintance as the primary supplier of the first alcoholic drink, even for the adult drinkers, with two-fifths (40%) of all adult recent drinkers reporting obtaining their first drinks through a friend or an acquaintance.
- A little over one in four (27%) adult drinkers reported that their parents offered them their first alcoholic drinks.

**Table 3.8: First and recent source of supply for recent drinkers, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Source	Recent drinkers <18 years		Recent drinkers 18+ years	
	First obtained	Now obtain	First obtained	Now obtain
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	34.0	39.2	38.3	4.0
Sibling	6.0	10.7	3.0	0.1 *
Parent	43.2	21.5	28.1	0.6
Spouse or partner	—	1.6 *	0.3 *	1.0
Other relative	4.6	2.0	3.6	1.0
Stole it	1.0 *	—	2.9	—
Purchased it—shop	0.5 *	17.4	11.8	89.3
Other	2.8	7.6	2.8	4.1
Can't recall	7.9	Not asked	9.1	Not asked
<b>Females</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	47.7	47.2	41.3	6.2
Sibling	2.4	2.2	3.0	0.2 *
Parent	34.4	24.0	25.5	0.5
Spouse or partner	0.4 *	2.6	5.4	10.4
Other relative	2.1	1.2 *	2.5	1.9
Stole it	1.3 *	1.4 *	0.9	—
Purchased it—shop	0.4 *	18.0	8.4	75.1
Other	1.8	3.5	2.1	5.7
Can't recall	9.5	Not asked	10.8	Not asked
<b>Persons</b>				
Friend or acquaintance	41.0	43.4	39.7	5.0
Sibling	4.2	6.3	3.0	0.1 *
Parent	38.7	22.8	26.9	0.6
Spouse or partner	0.2 *	2.1	2.8	5.5
Other relative	3.3	1.6	3.1	1.4
Stole it	1.1	0.7 *	1.9	—
Purchased it—shop	0.4 *	17.7	10.2	82.5
Other	2.3	5.4	2.5	4.8
Can't recall	8.7	Not asked	9.9	Not asked

Note: Base equals all recent drinkers.

## Correlates of alcohol use

The analysis of alcohol correlates shows that alcohol use is associated with employment and educational attainment. For example, nearly two-thirds of tertiary-qualified persons are regular drinkers and 58% of currently employed persons are regular drinkers (Table 3.9). Further, the data highlight that:

- The highest proportions of non-drinkers were among students (22%), persons from a non-English-speaking background (25%), and widowed persons (23%).

- Retired/pensioners had the highest proportion of persons who were ex-drinkers (17%).
- Students (41%) had the largest proportion of occasional drinkers.
- The area which had the highest socioeconomic status also had the highest proportion of regular drinkers (56%).
- In urban areas there were proportionally more persons who never drank (11%) and more persons who were regular drinkers (49%) compared with rural and remote areas (6% and 47% respectively).
- Nearly one in four (25%) persons born in non-English-speaking countries reported not to have consumed alcohol compared with 8% Australian-born.

**Table 3.9: Correlates of alcohol use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Drinking status			
	Never	Ex-drinker	Occasional	Regular
	(per cent)			
<b>Education</b>				
No qualification	10.3	13.6	35.8	40.3
HSC or equivalent	8.1	8.3	30.1	53.5
Trade/diploma	4.6	8.2	27.9	59.3
Tertiary	5.6	7.0	27.6	59.8
<b>Employment status</b>				
Currently employed	4.9	7.0	30.0	58.2
Student	21.9	6.6	40.5	31.1
Unemployed	12.5	10.9	34.4	42.2
Retired/pension	12.4	16.5	32.3	38.8
<b>Occupational status</b>				
Upper (white)	4.8	7.7	27.0	60.4
Middle	7.0	9.0	32.4	51.6
Lower (blue)	9.4	12.8	36.6	41.2
<b>Country of birth</b>				
Australian born	8.0	10.0	32.8	49.2
Other English-speaking born	3.6	10.8	26.8	58.8
Non-English-speaking born	24.5	10.3	32.7	32.5
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>				
1st quintile	8.7	13.4	31.2	46.7
2nd quintile	11.3	10.9	33.6	44.2
3rd quintile	8.9	9.9	34.2	47.0
4th quintile	8.8	9.7	33.7	47.8
5th quintile	8.6	7.1	28.3	56.1
<b>Geography</b>				
Urban	10.7	9.4	30.5	49.4
Rural/remote	6.0	11.7	35.6	46.7
<b>Marital status</b>				
Never married	11.6	7.8	35.6	45.0
Widowed	23.0	10.7	34.3	32.0
Divorced/separated	4.6	10.7	34.7	49.9
Presently married	8.0	11.0	29.5	51.5
<b>Social influences</b>				
At least 50% friends use	3.9	6.0	31.1	59.1
Less than 50% friends use	24.7	22.5	35.3	15.2

# 4 Use of non-medical prescription drugs

## Prescription drug use for non-medical purposes

In this chapter 'prescription drug use' refers to the use for non-medical purposes of particular drugs such as pain-killers, tranquillisers, steroids and barbiturates.

In 1998 nearly one in seven Australians aged 14 years and over reported having used prescription drugs for non-medical purpose in their lifetime (Table 4.1). The 1998 survey also showed that:

- Pain-killers/analgesics were the prescription drugs most frequently cited (12%) for non-medical use, followed by tranquillisers/sleeping pills (6%), barbiturates (2%) and steroids (1%).
- Overall, lifetime use of prescription drugs such as pain-killers and sleeping pills did not differ much between males and females.
- As age increased, the proportion of people reporting lifetime use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes decreased.

**Table 4.1: Prescription drugs ever used for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Prescription drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	13.4	15.9	10.5	10.6	11.0	6.8	11.3
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	3.6	10.3	6.9	8.0	1.5	2.5	5.9
Steroids	0.1 *	2.6	1.4	1.4 *	0.4 *	0.3 *	1.2
Barbiturates	0.1 *	3.6	3.5	2.7	0.7 *	0.9	2.2
	<b>Females</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	14.8	16.0	11.7	11.0	11.4	7.0	11.7
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	5.8	10.5	7.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	6.5
Steroids	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.1 *	—	1.3 *	0.4 *	0.4
Barbiturates	1.3	2.1	1.2	0.9 *	0.5 *	—	1.0
	<b>Persons</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	14.1	15.9	11.1	10.8	11.2	6.9	11.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	4.7	10.4	6.9	6.5	3.0	3.9	6.2
Steroids	0.3 *	1.5	0.7	0.7 *	0.9	0.4 *	0.8
Barbiturates	0.7	2.8	2.3	1.8	0.6 *	0.4 *	1.6

When the data on recent use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes were analysed, the 1998 survey showed that more than one in 20 Australians aged 14 years and over had recently used prescription drugs for non-medical purpose (Table 4.2). As with lifetime use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes, the survey also showed that:

- Pain-killers/analgesics were the prescription drugs most often cited for non-medical use.
- There was very little difference in the recent use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes by males and females.
- As age increased, the proportion of Australians reporting using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes decreased.

**Table 4.2: Prescription drugs recently used for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Prescription drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	6.1	8.1	4.9	5.6	2.2	3.6	5.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	2.3	5.3	3.6	2.7	0.6 *	0.5 *	2.7
Steroids	—	0.9	0.3 *	0.6 *	—	—	0.4
Barbiturates	—	1.5	0.3 *	—	—	—	0.3
	<b>Females</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	7.6	7.0	5.1	4.2	4.9	3.2	5.1
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	3.6	5.6	2.6	1.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
Steroids	0.2 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.2 *	0.1 *
Barbiturates	0.4 *	0.3 *	0.3 *	—	—	—	0.2
	<b>Persons</b>						
Pain-killers/analgesics	6.8	7.5	5.0	4.9	3.5	3.3	5.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	2.9	5.4	3.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Steroids	0.1 *	0.5	0.2 *	0.3 *	—	0.1 *	0.2
Barbiturates	0.2 *	0.9	0.3	—	—	—	0.3

## Multiple drugs use with non-medical prescription drugs

The 1998 survey showed that the majority of Australians aged 14 years and over reporting using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes also used a variety of other drugs. For example, nearly nine in ten (87%) persons using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes reported using alcohol, nearly four in ten (39%) reported using tobacco, and a similar proportion (41%) reported using marijuana/cannabis (Table 4.3). The survey also showed that nearly one in five (19%) users of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes also used amphetamines, and one in ten (11%) also used ecstasy/designer drugs. There were some sex and age differences in the use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes:

- Slightly more males (90%) than females (84%) reported using alcohol, tobacco (42% versus 36%) and marijuana/cannabis (45% versus 41%).
- As age increased, the proportion of persons reporting using other drugs in addition to prescription drugs decreased.

**Table 4.3: Other drugs used by persons who have recently used prescription drugs for non-medical purposes: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances currently used	Age group				
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	All ages
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Alcohol	95.0	89.2	95.9	85.7	89.8
Tobacco	54.4	61.5	44.7	21.4	42.4
Amphetamines	20.4	46.5	24.7	4.5	23.2
Marijuana/cannabis	54.4	69.5	53.0	16.3	44.8
Heroin	2.6 *	19.6	5.1	6.6	9.9
Methadone <sup>(a)</sup>	2.5 *	7.4	3.0	0.3 *	3.3
Cocaine	4.7	23.9	15.5	3.3 *	12.3
Hallucinogens	21.2	34.1	11.1	3.6 *	16.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	6.7	32.9	10.8	—	13.0
Inhalants	7.6	10.6	7.1	—	5.6
	<b>Females</b>				
Alcohol	87.9	91.5	84.4	77.0	83.7
Tobacco	52.2	64.4	44.7	9.2	35.6
Amphetamines	28.0	39.3	2.9 *	2.0 *	15.7
Marijuana/cannabis	72.7	62.1	29.2	13.8	38.0
Heroin	8.9	5.9	2.6 *	—	3.3
Methadone <sup>(a)</sup>	—	1.3 *	1.2 *	—	0.5
Cocaine	2.5 *	10.4	2.9 *	—	3.6
Hallucinogens	26.8	25.1	1.7 *	—	10.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs	14.0	16.5	0.7 *	4.4	8.2
Inhalants	21.1	11.6	0.1 *	—	6.1
	<b>Persons</b>				
Alcohol	90.7	90.3	90.3	81.1	86.6
Tobacco	53.2	62.8	44.7	14.7	38.9
Amphetamines	24.8	43.1	14.1	3.1 *	19.3
Marijuana/cannabis	65.1	66.0	41.6	14.9	41.3
Heroin	6.3	13.2	3.9	3.0 *	6.5
Methadone <sup>(a)</sup>	1.1 *	4.5	2.1 *	0.2 *	1.9
Cocaine	3.4 *	17.5	9.4	1.5 *	7.8
Hallucinogens	24.5	29.9	6.5	1.7 *	13.7
Ecstasy/designer drugs	10.9	25.2	5.9	2.4 *	10.6
Inhalants	15.5	11.1	3.6	—	5.9

(a) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals non-medical prescription drug users.

## Correlates of non-medical prescription drug use

The 1998 survey showed that education, employment status, cultural background and marital status correlate with the use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes. For example, persons with tertiary qualifications (7%) were nearly twice as likely to report using prescription drugs compared with those not having any qualification (4%) (Table 4.4). Unemployment seems to be the biggest contributor to inappropriate use of prescription drugs, with more than one in ten (12%) of all unemployed persons aged 14 years and over reporting misusing prescription drugs. The survey also showed that:

- Persons employed in lower status jobs (7%) were more likely to report using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes compared with those working in high status jobs (4%).
- Those born in Australia (6%) were more likely to report using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes compared with persons born in non-English-speaking countries (4%) or those born in other English-speaking countries (5%).
- Persons who had never married were nearly twice (9%) as likely to report using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes as those who were presently married (5%).

**Table 4.4: Correlates of use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	88.2	11.8	4.1
HSC or equivalent	89.1	10.9	5.1
Trade/diploma	82.7	17.3	5.5
Tertiary	84.2	15.8	6.9
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	84.6	15.4	5.9
Student	86.7	13.3	5.7
Unemployed	77.4	22.6	12.1
Retired/pension	88.9	11.1	4.7
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	87.2	12.8	4.4
Middle	86.5	13.5	5.8
Lower(blue)	83.4	16.6	7.1
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	85.2	14.8	6.2
Other English-speaking born	87.8	12.2	5.2
Non-English-speaking born	87.3	12.7	4.4
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	86.4	13.6	5.9
2nd quintile	86.8	13.2	6.3
3rd quintile	85.2	14.8	4.8
4th quintile	83.3	16.7	6.6
5th quintile	86.3	13.7	5.7
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	86.3	13.7	5.8
Rural/remote	84.4	15.6	6.2
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	81.6	18.4	8.7
Widowed	91.6	8.4	6.3
Divorced/separated	86.1	13.9	4.7
Presently married	87.5	12.5	4.5

# 5 Use of marijuana/cannabis

## Marijuana/cannabis use

The 1998 survey estimated that nearly two in five (39%) Australians aged 14 years and over had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime and nearly one in five (18%) had used recently (Table 5.1). The survey also showed that males were more likely to report both types of use – lifetime and recent – than females, with 21% of all males reporting using marijuana/cannabis within the 12 months preceding the survey compared with 15% of females. The survey also showed that:

- In each age category males were more likely to report using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime compared with females, except among persons aged 60 years or over.
- The highest proportion of persons reporting recent use of marijuana/cannabis was among the two youngest age categories – 14–19 years and 20–29 years – with more than a third of all in these age groups reporting using marijuana/cannabis.

**Table 5.1: Marijuana/cannabis use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	45.3	35.6
20–29	68.3	44.8
30–39	59.9	24.1
40–49	53.7	16.7
50–59	21.3	5.2
60+	4.0	1.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>21.4</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	45.1	34.6
20–29	59.3	28.9
30–39	53.6	16.4
40–49	30.0	6.4
50–59	14.8	7.3
60+	4.8	1.3 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	45.2	35.1
20–29	63.9	36.9
30–39	56.7	20.3
40–49	41.7	11.5
50–59	18.1	6.3
60+	4.4	1.2
<b>All ages</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>17.9</b>



## Type of marijuana/cannabis and method of consumption

Respondents were asked about the method of consumption and type of marijuana/cannabis they used. The survey showed that:

- More than half (54%) of all marijuana/cannabis users reported smoking from a bong and a further 45% reported smoking the drug as a 'joint'.
- As age increased, the proportion of marijuana/cannabis users reporting that they consumed marijuana in the form of joints increased. For example, only a little over one in five (22%) marijuana/cannabis users in the age group 14–19 years consumed the drug as joints, compared with nearly nine in ten (87%) aged 60 years and over.
- The majority of users (57%) preferred marijuana heads as the type of marijuana/cannabis, and a further 30% used marijuana leaf.

The survey also showed that there were sex differences in the type of marijuana/cannabis used as well as the method of consumption. Males (60%) were more likely to use marijuana heads compared with females (53%) (Table 5.3).

**Table 5.2: Type of marijuana/cannabis used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
<b>Type</b>							
Leaf	28.8	25.2	30.4	35.2	72.9	29.1 *	30.1
Heads	47.9	60.6	62.9	58.6	27.1	70.9	57.1
Resin	0.6 *	0.9 *	0.3 *	0.3 *	—	—	0.6 *
Oil	—	0.2 *	—	—	—	—	0.1 *
Skunk	19.7	11.9	3.0	5.8 *	—	—	10.2
Other	2.9	1.3	3.4	—	—	—	1.9
<b>How consumed</b>							
Smoked as joints	21.6	38.9	54.7	73.1	75.1	86.5	45.2
Smoked from bong	77.5	59.8	44.5	26.9	24.9	13.5 *	53.9
Usually eaten	0.9 *	1.3	0.8 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.9

*Note:* Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

**Table 5.3: Type of marijuana/cannabis used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
<b>Type</b>			
Leaf	26.6	35.1	30.1
Heads	60.1	52.8	57.1
Resin	0.2 *	1.1	0.6 *
Oil	0.1 *	—	0.1 *
Skunk	11.6	8.3	10.2
Other	1.4	2.7	1.9
<b>How consumed</b>			
Smoked as joints	43.9	47.0	45.2
Smoked from bong	55.3	52.0	53.9
Usually eaten	0.8 *	1.0 *	0.9

*Note:* Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

## Usual place of marijuana/cannabis consumption

The survey showed that two-thirds of all marijuana/cannabis users usually consumed the drug in their own home (66%) or at a friend's house (68%) (Table 5.4). The third most cited usual place of consumption was at parties (58%). The most frequently cited usual place of consumption among male users was their own home (69%), while among female users it was a friend's house (70%). More than one in five users also nominated public places as their usual place of marijuana/cannabis consumption, while 18% of users nominated a car or other vehicle as their usual place of consumption.

**Table 5.4: Where marijuana/cannabis is usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
In my own home	49.3	69.6	77.5	75.3	68.8
Friend's house	77.4	68.7	67.8	46.0	66.8
Parties	68.1	60.9	65.0	37.0	59.8
Restaurants/cafes	1.8 *	8.7	5.9	0.4 *	5.5
Licensed premises	8.5	20.7	13.2	1.2 *	13.8
Educational institutions	17.0	5.2	2.7	0.2 *	6.0
Workplace	4.6	6.0	4.1	3.2	4.9
Public places	32.0	27.0	19.1	10.3	23.5
Car, other vehicle	21.6	24.8	19.6	7.0	20.4
Other places	22.3	16.7	14.5	7.4	15.8
	<b>Females</b>				
In my own home	34.5	69.0	87.0	59.4	61.8
Friend's house	82.1	70.9	50.4	73.3	70.2
Parties	71.5	54.0	43.5	41.7	55.4
Restaurants/cafes	3.1	3.9	1.3 *	2.6 *	3.0
Licensed premises	7.2	12.3	2.6	2.6 *	7.8
Educational institutions	4.5	1.0 *	1.3 *	—	1.9
Workplace	1.9 *	1.9	0.2 *	—	1.3
Public places	34.2	12.2	5.4	4.6 *	16.1
Car, other vehicle	22.0	13.6	6.8	10.1	14.2
Other places	9.7	9.6	4.8	7.6	8.4
	<b>Persons</b>				
In my own home	41.7	69.4	80.8	69.6	66.0
Friend's house	79.8	69.6	61.7	55.8	68.2
Parties	69.8	58.2	57.5	38.7	58.0
Restaurants/cafes	2.5	6.8	4.3	1.2 *	4.5
Licensed premises	7.9	17.5	9.5	1.7 *	11.4
Educational institutions	10.6	3.6	2.2	0.2 *	4.4
Workplace	3.2	4.4	2.7	2.1	3.5
Public places	33.1	21.2	14.3	8.3	20.5
Car, other vehicle	21.8	20.4	15.1	8.1	17.9
Other places	15.8	13.9	11.1	7.5	12.8

Note: Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

## Frequency of marijuana/cannabis use

In 1998 the survey showed that one in six (17%) recent marijuana users smoked every day and a further one in four (25%) smoked at least once a week (Table 5.5). Further, the survey showed that nearly half (48%) male users smoked once or more a week compared with only about one in three (32%) females. The survey also showed that:

- Male users (20%) were almost twice as likely to report using marijuana every day as females (12%).
- Proportionally more females were casual smokers, with more than half (52%) of female users reported using marijuana/cannabis at most once in every few months compared with slightly more than one-third of male users (36%).

**Table 5.5: Frequency of marijuana/cannabis use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Every day	10.7	21.4	21.3	31.3	1.6 *	—	19.6
Once a week or more	32.7	28.8	30.2	22.1	13.7 *	1.9 *	28.3
Once a month	16.9	14.5	14.3	16.3	28.1	50.6 *	16.0
Every few months	19.0	11.0	10.5	11.2	3.1 *	—	11.9
Once or twice a year	16.9	12.6	18.0	17.7	19.8 *	21.6 *	15.6
Less often	3.8	11.7	5.7	1.3 *	33.7	25.9 *	8.7
<b>Females</b>							
Every day	12.7	12.0	14.6	6.9	1.7 *	—	11.8
Once a week or more	12.7	25.5	15.9	33.3	15.3 *	27.6 *	20.4
Once a month	20.4	16.1	12.6	17.5	—	—	15.9
Every few months	24.5	18.4	20.6	25.9	5.5 *	—	20.4
Once or twice a year	21.7	18.2	22.2	9.8	77.4	72.4 *	21.9
Less often	7.9	9.9	14.2	6.6	—	—	9.6
<b>Persons</b>							
Every day	11.7	17.9	18.8	23.4	1.6 *	—	16.5
Once a week or more	22.6	27.6	24.9	25.8	14.1	17.7 *	25.1
Once a month	18.7	15.1	13.7	16.7	20.7	19.5 *	16.0
Every few months	21.8	13.7	14.3	16.0	3.7 *	—	15.3
Once or twice a year	19.3	14.7	19.6	15.1	35.0	52.8	18.1
Less often	5.9	11.0	8.8	3.1 *	24.9	10.0 *	9.0

Note: Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

## Source of supply of marijuana/cannabis

In 1998, of all Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using marijuana in their lifetime, nearly nine in ten (89%) obtained their first supply from a friend or acquaintance (Table 5.6). Slightly more males (91%) than females (86%) obtained their first supply from a friend or acquaintance. Less than one in 50 users reported obtaining their first supply of marijuana/cannabis through a street dealer.

**Table 5.6: First supplier: proportion of persons who have tried marijuana/cannabis aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	90.9	86.2	88.8
Brother or sister	3.0	4.6	3.7
Parent	0.3 *	0.6	0.4
Spouse or partner	0.2 *	4.7	2.2
Other relative	1.2	1.8	1.4
Street dealer	2.6	1.1	1.9
Stole it	0.4 *	0.3	0.4
Other	1.4	0.6	1.1

Note: Base equals all marijuana/cannabis users.

The current source of supply of marijuana/cannabis did not differ much from that of first supply. The majority of recent users (85%) obtained their supply from a friend or acquaintance, and a further one in 20 (6%) users obtained their recent supply from a street dealer (Table 5.7). The survey also showed that more males (8%) than females (2%) obtained their recent supply from a street dealer.

**Table 5.7: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent users of marijuana/ cannabis aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	84.9	85.9	85.3
Brother or sister	1.3	1.8	1.5
Parent	—	0.4 *	0.2 *
Spouse or partner	0.2 *	5.1	2.1
Other relative	0.4 *	1.1	0.7
Street dealer	7.6	2.4	5.5
Stole it	0.1 *	—	0.1 *
Other	5.5	3.4	4.6

*Note:* Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

## Multiple drugs use with marijuana/cannabis use

Persons who used marijuana/cannabis in 1998 also used a variety of other drugs. The survey showed that:

- Nearly all (96%) recent users of marijuana/cannabis had also used alcohol.
- Nearly three-fifths (57%) of recent marijuana users had also used tobacco.
- Nearly one in five (20%) recent users had also used amphetamines.
- Nearly one in six (16%) recent users had also used hallucinogens.

The use of other drugs was similar for males and females, except that more males than females reported also using amphetamines (23% versus 15%), hallucinogens (19% versus 12%), and ecstasy/designer drugs (14% versus 9%).

**Table 5.8: Polydrug use: proportion of recent marijuana/cannabis users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	96.2	95.6	95.9
Tobacco	56.3	57.5	56.8
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	10.7	13.6	11.9
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	7.1	8.7	7.8
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.9 *	0.4 *	0.7 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	1.6	0.9 *	1.3
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	22.5	15.3	19.5
Heroin	5.1	3.3	4.4
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	1.3	0.2 *	0.9 *
Cocaine	8.2	5.4	7.1
Hallucinogens	18.6	12.3	16.0
Ecstasy/designer drugs	14.0	8.8	11.8
Inhalants	3.6	4.5	4.0

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent marijuana/cannabis users.

When the data on concurrent use of other substances together with marijuana/cannabis were analysed, the survey showed that nearly three-quarters (73%) of all recent users also consumed alcohol simultaneously with marijuana/cannabis (Table 5.9). However, one in four (25%) marijuana/cannabis users did not consume any drug simultaneously with marijuana/cannabis. Some sex difference existed, with males (79%) more likely to use other substances along with marijuana/cannabis compared with females (69%).

**Table 5.9: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent marijuana/cannabis users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	76.3	67.5	72.7
Heroin	4.4	2.5	3.6
Cocaine	6.0	2.3	4.4
Benzodiazepines	0.7 *	0.3 *	0.5 *
Anti-depressants	2.4	3.1	2.7
Barbiturates	0.8 *	0.8 *	0.8 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	7.8	7.0	7.5
None of the above	20.8	31.4	25.2

Note: Base equals recent marijuana/cannabis users.

## Correlates of marijuana/cannabis use

The 1998 survey showed that possession of certain socioeconomic and cultural characteristics increased the likelihood of respondents reporting marijuana/cannabis use. For example, proportionally fewer persons (21%) born in non-English-speaking countries reported being lifetime users compared with Australian-born (41%) or those born in other English-speaking countries (45%). The survey further showed that:

- Nearly half (49%) of all persons with HSC or equivalent qualifications reported using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime, while more than one in five (23%) reported using recently.
- Nearly half (48%) of all employed persons reported using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime, but the proportion of recent users among them was only 21%.
- Two in five (40%) persons employed in blue collar jobs reported using marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime, and more than half (21%) of lifetime users reported being recent users.
- The use of marijuana across rural/urban regions did not vary, with 18% of Australians aged 14 years and over living in urban areas reporting using recently compared with 17% among rural/remote dwellers.
- Persons who were never married at the survey period had the highest proportion of recent users of marijuana/cannabis, with more than one in three (36%) reporting using recently compared with only one in ten (10%) married persons.

**Table 5.10: Correlates of marijuana/cannabis use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Never used</b>	<b>Lifetime use</b>	<b>Recent use</b>
		<b>(per cent)</b>	
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	68.1	31.9	13.9
HSC or equivalent	51.1	48.9	23.4
Trade/diploma	57.1	42.9	19.8
Tertiary	54.2	45.8	15.9
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	51.6	48.4	20.6
Student	57.0	43.0	29.2
Unemployed	52.9	47.1	32.1
Retired/pension	80.0	20.0	6.2
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	57.9	42.1	16.4
Middle	60.4	39.6	16.9
Lower (blue)	60.0	40.0	20.7
<b>Cultural background</b>			
Australian born	58.9	41.1	19.3
Other English-speaking born	55.0	45.0	18.6
Non-English-speaking born	79.3	20.7	8.0
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	64.5	35.5	16.7
2nd quintile	64.3	35.7	15.3
3rd quintile	57.7	42.3	19.0
4th quintile	59.8	40.2	18.5
5th quintile	57.3	42.7	20.4
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	61.0	39.0	18.3
Rural/remote	60.6	39.4	16.9
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	46.7	53.3	36.1
Widowed	90.2	9.8	1.8 *
Divorced/separated	53.2	46.8	17.9
Presently married	66.7	33.3	10.1



# 6 Use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes

## General use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes

The survey showed that in 1998 little more than one in ten (12%) Australians aged 14 years and over had used pain-killers/analgesics drugs for non-medical purposes in their lifetime (Table 6.1). It also showed that less than half (45%) of these were current users of such drugs for non-medical purposes. Further:

- Higher proportions of younger aged persons reported being lifetime users, with more than twice (14%) those aged 14–19 years reporting life time use compared with those aged 60 years and over (7%).
- Similar patterns were observed among recent users, with more than twice (7%) those aged 14–19 years reporting current use compared with those aged 60 years or older (3%).
- There was very little difference between male and female users in lifetime or recent use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

**Table 6.1: Lifetime and recent use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	13.4	6.1
20–29	15.9	8.1
30–39	10.5	4.9
40+	9.4	3.9
<b>All ages</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	14.8	7.6
20–29	16.0	7.0
30–39	11.7	5.1
40+	9.5	4.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	14.1	6.8
20–29	15.9	7.5
30–39	11.1	5.0
40+	9.5	4.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>

## Usual place of pain-killers/analgesics consumption

In 1998 persons aged 14 years and over who used pain-killers/analgesics recently for non-medical purposes mostly consumed at home (96%), although nearly one in seven (14%) reported using such drugs at a friend's house (Table 6.2). The third most cited usual place of consumption was a person's workplace, with more than one in ten (12%) recent users reporting using such drugs in the workplace. The survey also showed that there was some sex difference in the use of pain-killers/analgesics, with more males (18%) nominating a friend's place as the usual place of consumption compared with females (11%).

**Table 6.2: Where pain-killers/analgesics used for non-medical purposes are usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In my own home	97.0	95.2	96.1
Friend's house	17.9	10.9	14.4
Parties	6.6	6.4	6.5
Restaurants/cafes	3.0 *	2.1 *	2.6
Licensed premises	2.0 *	1.8 *	1.9 *
Educational institutions	0.3 *	4.4	2.3
Workplace	17.3	7.2	12.3
Public places	1.4 *	3.2	2.3
Car, other vehicle	2.6 *	1.0 *	1.8 *
Other places	12.7	1.0 *	6.9

Note: Base equals all recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

## Frequency of use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who recently used pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes:

- A little over one in 12 (8%) took pain-killers/analgesics daily.
- Nearly one-third (29%) used once a month.
- Nearly one in four (23%) used every few months.
- More males (11%) than females (5%) reported using daily.

**Table 6.3: Frequency of pain-killers/analgesics use for non-medical purposes: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Every day	11.1	5.3	8.0
Once a week or more	16.3	17.8	17.1
About once a month	24.8	32.4	28.8
Every few months	24.1	22.1	23.1
Once or twice a year	15.1	9.9	12.3
Less often	8.5	12.5	10.6

Note: Base equals all recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

## Sources of supply of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical use

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who had ever used pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes, one-third (33%) reported that they obtained their first supply of such drugs from a friend or acquaintance and a further 24% said a parent supplied them (Table 6.4). The survey showed that proportionally more males obtained their first supply from a friend or acquaintance (42%) followed by parent (27%) compared with females (23% and 22% respectively).

**Table 6.4: First supplier: proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who have ever tried pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	42.3	23.4	32.9
Brother or sister	1.1 *	2.2 *	1.7 *
Parent	26.8	21.9	24.3
Spouse or partner	5.5	6.8	6.1
Other relative	0.7 *	—	0.3 *
Street dealer	0.7 *	2.8	1.8 *
Stole it	1.9 *	1.9 *	1.9 *
Other	21.0	40.9	31.0

Note: Base equals users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

In the case of the source of supply for recent use, nearly three-fifths (58%) of recent users aged 14 years and over reported that they obtained their drugs from other sources, whereas one in seven (15%) obtained their supply from a friend or acquaintance (Table 6.5).

**Table 6.5: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	15.6	15.1	15.4
Brother or sister	—	—	—
Parent	18.1	6.9	12.7
Spouse or partner	5.7	6.9	6.3
Other relative	—	—	—
Street dealer	12.8	1.5 *	7.3
Stole it	—	0.4 *	0.2 *
Other	47.7	69.3	58.2

Note: Base equals all recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

## Multiple drugs use with pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes

In 1998 nearly nine out of ten (87%) Australians aged 14 years and over who had recently used pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes also used alcohol, and four out of ten used tobacco (39%), marijuana/cannabis (41%) or tranquillisers/sleeping pills (43%) (Table 6.6). The survey also showed that more males than females used alcohol (90% versus 84%), tobacco (42% versus 37%), and marijuana/cannabis (44% versus 39%), while slightly more females (44%) than males (41%) used tranquillisers/sleeping pills.

**Table 6.6: Polydrug use: proportion of recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	90.0	84.4	87.2
Tobacco	41.5	36.5	39.0
Marijuana/cannabis	43.9	39.0	41.4
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	41.3	44.3	42.8
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	2.4 *	0.5 *	1.5 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	5.3	2.5	3.9
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	22.8	14.0	18.4
Heroin	10.3	3.5	6.9
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	3.9 *	0.7 *	2.3
Cocaine	11.9	3.9	7.8
Hallucinogens	16.2	10.9	13.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	12.7	7.6	10.1
Inhalants	5.5	5.6	5.6

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

In the case of concurrent use of multiple drugs, the 1998 survey revealed that, of those persons who were using pain-killers/analgesics, one-third (33%) took alcohol and one-quarter (28%) were using marijuana/cannabis at the same time (Table 6.6). Across sexes it was found that:

- More males (41%) than females (24%) were using alcohol at the same time as pain-killers/analgesics.
- More males tend to use other drugs with pain-killers/analgesics than females: only 48% of males reported not using any other substances concurrently compared with 62% of females.

**Table 6.7: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	40.7	23.8	32.9
Marijuana/cannabis	32.2	23.5	28.2
Heroin	4.9	1.7 *	3.4
Cocaine	3.7 *	0.7 *	2.3
Benzodiazepines	3.7 *	1.4 *	2.6
Anti-depressants	4.3	6.6	5.4
Barbiturates	2.6 *	1.1 *	1.9 *
None of the above	48.2	62.0	54.6

Note: Base equals all recent users of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes.

## Correlates of pain-killers/analgesics use for non-medical purposes

The 1998 survey showed that persons who were unemployed, were never married, were Australian-born, and if employed then worked in blue collar jobs had a higher propensity to use pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes (Table 6.8). The survey showed that:

- There was very little difference in the use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes among people from different socioeconomic areas.
- There was only one percentage point difference in the usage between urban and rural areas, with more people from rural areas (6%) reporting using pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes recently compared with people from urban areas (5%).
- The largest variation in the use of pain-killers/analgesics for non-medical purposes was found among unemployed and retired persons, with the rate of unemployed persons reporting using such drugs nearly three times (11%) higher compared with retired persons (4%).

**Table 6.8: Correlates of pain-killers/analgesics use for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	86.2	13.8	6.4
HSC or equivalent	86.0	14.0	5.0
Trade/diploma	91.7	8.3	3.9
Tertiary	92.5	7.5	3.4
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	87.9	12.1	5.0
Student	88.8	11.2	5.1
Unemployed	82.2	17.8	11.4
Retired/pension	90.4	9.6	4.2
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	90.5	9.5	4.0
Middle	89.4	10.6	4.7
Lower (blue)	85.3	14.7	6.5
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	87.9	12.1	5.5
Other English-speaking born	91.7	8.3	3.8
Non-English-speaking born	89.3	10.7	4.1
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	88.1	11.9	5.7
2nd quintile	89.1	10.9	5.5
3rd quintile	87.7	12.3	4.2
4th quintile	87.1	12.9	5.1
5th quintile	89.4	10.6	5.1
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	89.3	10.7	4.8
Rural/remote	86.4	13.6	5.9
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	85.0	15.0	7.8
Widowed	92.9	7.1	3.5
Divorced/separated	89.7	10.3	4.5
Presently married	89.8	10.2	4.0

# 7 Use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes

## General use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes

The 1998 survey found that 6% of all Australians aged 14 years and over had used tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes in their lifetime and 3% had recently used them (Table 7.1). Since the estimated rate of recent use is small and the measurement error quite large, care should be taken when interpreting these results.

**Table 7.1: Lifetime and recent use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	3.6	2.3
20–29	10.3	5.3
30–39	6.9	3.6
40+	4.2	1.3
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	5.8	3.6
20–29	10.5	5.6
30–39	7.0	2.6
40+	4.9	2.6
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	4.7	2.9
20–29	10.4	5.4
30–39	6.9	3.1
40+	4.6	2.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>

## Usual place of consumption of tranquillisers/sleeping pills

The survey showed that, of those who recently used tranquillisers/sleeping pills, more than nine in ten (92%) reported their homes as the usual place of consumption and one in eight (12%) reported a friend's house as the usual place for consumption (Table 7.2). The survey also showed that more males (99%) reported home as the usual place of consumption compared with females (84%).

**Table 7.2: Where tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes are usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
In my own home	98.9	84.3	91.9
Friend's house	17.0	7.4	12.3
Licensed premises	4.1 *	15.7	9.7
Other places <sup>(a)</sup>	4.7 *	8.9	6.8

(a) Includes parties, restaurants/cafes, educational institutions, workplace and public places.

Note: Base equals all recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

## Frequency of use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes

In 1998, of all the Australians who were recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes, nearly one in four (24%) used them at least weekly, with one in ten (11%) using them daily. Further, the survey showed that more females (12%) than males (9%) used tranquillisers/sleeping pills on a daily basis.

**Table 7.3: Frequency of tranquillisers/sleeping pills use for non-medical purposes: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Every day	9.3	12.1	10.6
Once a week or more	23.1	3.1 *	13.7
About once a month	22.9	14.6	19.0
Every few months	17.5	20.4	18.9
Once or twice a year	16.1	18.0	17.0
Less often	11.2	31.7	20.9

Note: Base equals all recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

## Source of supply of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical use

In 1998, of all the persons aged 14 years and over who used tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes, half (50%) reported obtaining their first supply from a friend or acquaintance (Table 7.4). There was a sex difference in reporting the source of supply, with three-fifths (63%) of male users reporting a friend or acquaintance as first source compared with nearly two-fifths (38%) of female users.

However, the survey also revealed, that among the recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills, only a third (34%) reported they currently got their supply from a friend or acquaintance, while nearly half (49%) reported they obtained it from other sources (Table 7.5).

**Table 7.4: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever used tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	63.4	38.4	50.2
Brother or sister	2.8 *	2.7	2.7
Parent	7.5	7.0	7.2
Spouse or partner	6.2	6.2	6.2
Other relative	—	2.4 *	1.3 *
Street dealer	0.6 *	0.6 *	0.6 *
Stole it	4.4	4.3	4.3
Other	15.1	38.4	27.4

Note: Base equals all users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

**Table 7.5: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	36.7	31.4	34.1
Brother or sister	2.5 *	—	1.2 *
Parent	10.3	0.2 *	5.2
Spouse or partner	10.4	4.0 *	7.2
Other relative	—	—	—
Street dealer	—	1.5 *	0.7 *
Stole it	—	4.7 *	2.4 *
Other	40.1	58.2	49.3

Note: Base equals all recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

## Multiple drugs use with tranquillisers/sleeping pills

The 1998 survey showed that, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes recently, nearly nine out of ten (87%) had also consumed alcohol recently and three-quarters (76%) had consumed pain-killers/analgesics recently (Table 7.6). Among those who used tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes, proportionally more males used multiple drugs recently compared with females.

The survey further showed that more than half (53%) of recent tranquillisers/sleeping pills users also consumed alcohol at the same time as taking these drugs and more than one in three (36%) reported smoking marijuana/cannabis at the same time (Table 7.7).



**Table 7.6: Polydrug use: proportion of recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	95.3	80.2	86.8
Tobacco	50.4	37.1	43.1
Marijuana/cannabis	57.3	38.5	46.8
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	81.3	71.2	75.7
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	3.6 *	0.8 *	2.1 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	10.1	4.1 *	6.7
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	34.5	20.8	26.8
Heroin	15.5	4.3 *	9.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	7.2 *	1.0 *	3.8
Cocaine	13.1	4.2 *	8.2
Hallucinogens	22.9	13.2	17.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	18.6	9.1	13.3
Inhalants	10.0	8.6	9.2

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

**Table 7.7: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	62.2	46.2	53.3
Marijuana/cannabis	50.0	25.0	36.1
Heroin	10.4	3.2 *	6.4
Cocaine	7.6 *	2.3 *	4.6
Pain-killers/analgesics	16.6	18.0	17.4
None of the above	30.6	38.9	35.2

Note: Base equals recent users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes.

## Correlates of tranquillisers/sleeping pills use for non-medical purposes

The correlates that stand out distinctly with the use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills are occupational status and country of birth (Table 7.8). The survey showed that the highest proportion of lifetime (16%) as well as recent (9%) users of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes were among the unemployed. The group that reported the least use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes was persons with a non-English-speaking background, with one in 20 reporting a lifetime use and only one in 100 reporting recent use.

**Table 7.8: Correlates of tranquillisers/sleeping pills use for non-medical purposes: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	93.5	6.5	3.1
HSC or equivalent	92.9	7.1	3.1
Trade/diploma	94.7	5.3	3.3
Tertiary	93.5	6.5	2.2
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	93.9	6.1	2.5
Student	95.0	5.0	2.8
Unemployed	84.2	15.8	9.1
Retired/pension	94.9	5.1	2.7
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	94.2	5.8	2.3
Middle	94.0	6.0	3.5
Lower (blue)	92.9	7.1	3.1
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	93.6	6.4	3.2
Other English-speaking born	93.8	6.2	3.0
Non-English-speaking born	95.1	4.9	1.3
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	94.0	6.0	3.0
2nd quintile	94.4	5.6	3.1
3rd quintile	94.4	5.6	2.7
4th quintile	93.1	6.9	3.2
5th quintile	93.1	6.9	2.9
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	93.6	6.4	3.1
Rural/remote	94.5	5.5	2.7
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	91.3	8.7	4.9
Widowed	94.3	5.7	5.4
Divorced/separated	91.9	8.1	2.2
Presently married	95.5	4.5	1.8

# 8 Use of amphetamines

## Lifetime and recent use of amphetamines

In 1998 nearly one in ten (9%) Australians aged 14 years and over reported using amphetamines during their lifetime, while one in 25 (4%) reported using in the past 12 months (Table 8.1). Males (5%) were almost twice as likely to be recent users as females (3%). Generally, proportionally fewer in the older age groups reported using amphetamines than their younger counterparts, with less than 1% of persons aged 60 years and over reporting being a user compared with one in five persons aged 20–29 years.

**Table 8.1: Lifetime and recent use of amphetamines: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	7.0	5.5
20–29	25.3	16.4
30–39	16.5	4.1
40+	3.6	0.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	8.3	6.3
20–29	16.5	7.6
30–39	7.9	1.2
40+	2.4	0.3 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	7.7	5.9
20–29	20.9	12.0
30–39	12.2	2.6
40+	3.0	0.5
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>

## Types of amphetamines and methods of consumption

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who were recently using amphetamines, nine in ten (91%) used the drug in a powder form while one in six (17%) used prescription amphetamines (Table 8.2). In the case of the method of consumption, the majority of the recent users either swallowed (58%) and/or snorted (60%), with only one in six (17%) injecting themselves. The survey further showed that slightly more females (9%) than males (6%) used amphetamines as a liquid. A slightly higher proportion of female users (65%) preferred to swallow it compared with males (55%).

**Table 8.2: Type of amphetamines used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
<b>Type</b>			
Amphetamine powder	93.4	85.6	90.9
Amphetamine liquid	6.0	9.1	7.0
Prescription amphetamines	16.0	18.4	16.8
<b>How consumed</b>			
Smoked	15.0	17.5	15.8
Snorted	61.7	55.0	59.5
Swallowed	55.2	64.6	58.3
Injected	16.8	16.7	16.8

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

**Table 8.3: Type of amphetamines used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
<b>Type</b>					
Amphetamine powder	93.8	91.1	94.8	71.4	90.9
Amphetamine liquid	9.7 *	5.8 *	5.4 *	15.4	7.0
Prescription amphetamines	17.2	18.3	11.3	13.1	16.8
<b>How consumed</b>					
Smoked	23.8	15.5	9.7	10.1	15.8
Snorted	55.2	57.5	69.4	68.0	59.5
Swallowed	55.8	64.2	53.9	18.1	58.3
Injected	11.2 *	17.4	19.9	19.1	16.8

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

## Usual place of consumption of amphetamines

In 1998, more than half (56%) of recent amphetamine users nominated clubs or restaurants as usual places of consumption, while nearly one in six (16%) said their usual place of consumption was their or a friend's home (Table 8.4).

**Table 8.4: Where amphetamines usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Own home, friend's house	11.8	25.2	16.1
Clubs, restaurants	56.6	54.0	55.8
School/work	3.1 *	2.6 *	2.9 *
Other	28.5	18.2	25.2

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

## Frequency of amphetamines use

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who used amphetamines in the past 12 months, one in four (26%) used at least once a month, while one in ten (11%) used at least weekly (Table 8.5). Further, more males (13%) used weekly compared with females (6%).

**Table 8.5: Frequency of amphetamines use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
<b>Males</b>					
Every day	—	—	—	—	—
Once a week or more	5.0 *	13.1	19.0	—	12.9
About once a month	7.2 *	14.7	15.2	8.0 *	13.6
Every few months	29.2	20.3	23.6	—	21.5
Once or twice a year	43.4	36.9	36.0	92.0	39.3
Less often	15.2	15.0	6.1 *	—	12.6
<b>Females</b>					
Every day	—	2.5 *	—	—	1.3 *
Once a week or more	7.2 *	6.5 *	—	—	5.5
About once a month	10.2 *	23.9	14.9 *	—	17.5
Every few months	22.1	28.0	6.4 *	92.7	27.2
Once or twice a year	54.5	36.8	19.0	—	37.5
Less often	6.1 *	2.2 *	59.7	7.3 *	10.8
<b>Persons</b>					
Every day	—	0.8 *	—	—	0.5 *
Once a week or more	6.2 *	11.0	14.6	—	10.4
About once a month	8.8	17.6	15.1	4.1 *	15.0
Every few months	25.4	22.7	19.6	45.2	23.5
Once or twice a year	49.3	36.9	32.0	47.1	38.7
Less often	10.3	11.0	18.6	3.6 *	12.0

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

## Source of supply of amphetamines

In 1998, of all the amphetamines users aged 14 years and over, nearly nine in ten (88%) first obtained the drug from a friend or acquaintance, and slightly less than one in 20 (5%) got their first supply from a street dealer (Table 8.6). Among recent users, eight in ten (81%) obtained the drug from a friend or acquaintance while one in ten (11%) reported that they obtained it through a street dealer (Table 8.7).

**Table 8.6: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever tried amphetamines aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	91.0	82.6	87.8
Spouse or partner	0.3 *	5.2	2.1
Street dealer	4.2	5.0	4.5
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	4.6 *	7.3	5.6

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

**Table 8.7: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent amphetamines users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	79.1	84.3	80.8
Spouse or partner	—	3.6 *	1.2 *
Street dealer	14.0	6.0	11.4
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	6.8	6.0	6.6

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

## Multiple drugs use with amphetamines

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who had used amphetamines in the past 12 months, nearly all had used alcohol (98%) and marijuana/cannabis (93%) recently (Table 8.8). The proportion of amphetamines users reporting recent use of hallucinogens was 47% and the proportion of those using ecstasy/designer drugs was 46%.

Of the recent users, eight in ten (81%) used alcohol concurrently with amphetamines and two-thirds (66%) reported using marijuana/cannabis with amphetamines (Table 8.9).

**Table 8.8: Polydrug use: proportion of recent amphetamine users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Alcohol	97.5	98.4	97.9
Tobacco	67.9	66.9	67.6
Marijuana/cannabis	94.8	88.0	92.5
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	24.0	29.7	26.0
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	18.5	28.7	21.9
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	2.4 *	1.1 *	1.9 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	5.9	3.5 *	5.1
Heroin	14.9	10.0	13.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	4.0 *	0.8 *	2.9 *
Cocaine	30.2	27.0	29.2
Hallucinogens	48.5	43.5	46.8
Ecstasy/designer drugs	49.6	37.6	45.7
Inhalants	11.8	12.7	12.1

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

**Table 8.9: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent amphetamine users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	83.7	76.7	81.4
Marijuana/cannabis	69.4	60.3	66.3
Heroin	2.9 *	1.9 *	2.6 *
Cocaine	8.5	7.2	8.1
Benzodiazepines	0.7 *	0.2 *	0.6 *
Anti-depressants	3.8 *	6.8	4.8
Barbiturates	0.2 *	1.0 *	0.4 *
Pain-killers/analgesics	4.9	5.0	4.9
None of the above	6.8	11.6	8.4

*Note:* Base equals all recent amphetamines users.

## Correlates of amphetamines use

Lifetime use and recent use of amphetamines varied greatly among people with different socioeconomic characteristics. The highest proportions of lifetime users were found among the unemployed (17%) and among those who were never married (18%) (Table 8.10). In the case of recent users, the survey found that:

- The lowest levels of use were among widowed (0.2%) persons, followed by those presently married (0.9%).
- A person's place of residence in terms of socioeconomic status made very little difference in the use of amphetamines.
- Unemployed persons and persons who were never married were the groups with the highest proportion of recent amphetamines users (10% and 11% respectively).

**Table 8.10: Correlates of amphetamines use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	92.7	7.3	3.1
HSC or equivalent	88.7	11.3	5.8
Trade/diploma	89.6	10.4	4.3
Tertiary	90.7	9.3	2.2
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	89.4	10.6	4.3
Student	90.8	9.2	5.3
Unemployed	82.8	17.2	10.3
Retired/pension	96.1	3.9	1.0
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	91.8	8.2	2.6
Middle	89.6	10.4	4.5
Lower (blue)	91.6	8.4	3.8
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	90.5	9.5	4.2
Other English-speaking born	90.9	9.1	2.5
Non-English-speaking born	96.6	3.4	1.7
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	91.3	8.7	3.0
2nd quintile	92.1	7.9	4.0
3rd quintile	90.5	9.5	3.5
4th quintile	92.5	7.5	3.1
5th quintile	90.0	10.0	4.3
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	90.7	9.3	3.9
Rural/remote	92.5	7.5	3.3
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	82.3	17.7	10.5
Widowed	99.1	0.9 *	0.2 *
Divorced/separated	92.4	7.6	1.8
Presently married	94.8	5.2	0.9



# 9 Use of heroin

## Lifetime and recent use of heroin

According to the 1998 survey, the number of recent users of heroin was estimated at around 113,000 persons, or 0.8% of the total Australian population aged 14 years and over (Table 9.1). Since the prevalence is very small, care should be taken when interpreting the survey results. The survey further showed that:

- Males were twice as likely to be recent heroin users as females.
- Among the youngest age group (aged 14–19 years), females were twice as likely to report being a recent user compared with males.
- Among those aged 30 years and over, as age increased, the reporting of heroin use decreased.

**Table 9.1: Lifetime and recent use of heroin: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	1.1	0.5
20–29	6.5	3.2
30–39	4.2	0.8
40+	1.6	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	2.3	1.3
20–29	3.2	1.2
30–39	2.1	0.4 *
40+	0.3 *	0.1 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	1.7	0.9
20–29	4.9	2.2
30–39	3.2	0.6
40+	0.9	0.3 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>

## Types of heroin used and methods of consumption

The survey showed that heroin in the form of powder was the most frequently used (66%) type of heroin among recent users (Table 9.2). The preferred method of consumption was through injection (68%). There were very few sex differences in the types of heroin used and the methods of consumption. Age-wise, there appeared to be some differences in the types of heroin used and methods of consumption, but care in interpretation is necessary since the figures are based on small numbers of cases (Table 9.3).

**Table 9.2: Type of heroin used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Type</b>			
Heroin powder	64.3	72.1	66.3
Heroin rock	53.6	54.4	53.9
<b>How consumed</b>			
Smoked	28.3	29.6	28.6
Snorted	11.6 *	21.4	13.8
Swallowed	6.3 *	24.4	10.5 *
Injected	67.4	68.8	67.7

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

**Table 9.3: Type of heroin used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
<b>Type</b>					
Heroin powder	98.2	77.4	69.5	27.3	66.3
Heroin rock	32.6 *	39.7	76.1	79.9	53.9
<b>How consumed</b>					
Smoked	19.5 *	46.0	7.9 *	—	28.6
Snorted	44.4 *	16.4 *	7.9 *	—	13.8
Swallowed	1.8 *	16.3 *	7.5 *	—	10.5 *
Injected	72.0	46.3	100.0	100.0	67.7

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

## Usual place of heroin consumption

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who had used heroin in the last 12 months, more than a third (36%) reported that the usual place of consumption was their own home or a friend's house (Table 9.4). For more than half (53%) of all recent users, the usual place of consumption was away from home, clubs or work; that is, probably in public places.

**Table 9.4: Where heroin usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Male	Female	Persons
Own home, friend's house	30.3	58.9	35.9
Parties, restaurants or licensed premises	3.7 *	—	3.0 *
School/work	10.2 *	—	8.2 *
Other	55.8	41.1	52.9

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

## Frequency of heroin use

In 1998, of all Australians aged 14 years and over who were recent users of heroin, nearly one in six (18%) reported using daily (Table 9.5). Approximately one half (48%) of all recent heroin users reported using less frequently than once a month.

**Table 9.5: Frequency of heroin use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Every day	—	7.3 *	22.8 *	31.4 *	17.5
Once a week or more	—	2.9 *	9.3 *	23.6 *	10.5 *
About once a month	5.6 *	52.1	—	—	24.3
Less often	94.5	37.6	68.0	45.0	47.7

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

## Source of supply of heroin

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who had used heroin in their lifetime, more than four-fifths (84%) obtained their first dose from a friend or acquaintance, while only one in 12 (8%) obtained it from a street dealer (Table 9.6).

The data on current source of heroin revealed a slightly different picture. Although the majority of recent users (73%) still obtained their supply from a friend or acquaintance, more than one in four (27%) obtained heroin from a street dealer (Table 9.7).

**Table 9.6: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever tried heroin aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	84.8	81.9	83.9
Spouse or partner	—	13.6 *	4.3 *
Street dealer	11.4 *	1.9 *	8.4 *
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	3.8 *	2.7 *	3.5 *

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all heroin users.

**Table 9.7: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Friend or acquaintance	72.4	77.7	73.3
Spouse or partner	—	—	—
Street dealer	27.3	22.3 *	26.5
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	0.3 *	—	0.2 *

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

## Multiple drugs use with heroin

The 1998 survey showed that Australians aged 14 years and over who had used heroin recently also used other drugs. For example, of recent users, almost all reported using alcohol (98%) and marijuana/cannabis (99%), while more than two-thirds (71%) reported using tobacco, and three-fifths (62%) reported using amphetamines (Table 9.8).

The data on concurrent polydrug use revealed that more than four-fifths (83%) of recent users smoked marijuana/cannabis while on heroin and two-fifths said that they used alcohol and heroin concurrently (Table 9.9).

**Table 9.8: Polydrug use: proportion of recent heroin users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	98.5	97.1	98.0
Tobacco	80.7	52.0	71.2
Marijuana/cannabis	100.0	95.3	98.5
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	49.9	35.7	45.3
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	37.9	28.1	34.7
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	8.9 *	5.5 *	7.8 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	25.0 *	8.7 *	19.7
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	68.1	49.1	62.0
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	21.1	6.8 *	16.5
Cocaine	30.3 *	37.9	32.8
Hallucinogens	31.2	31.2	31.2
Ecstasy/designer drugs	23.6 *	32.7	26.4
Inhalants	6.6 *	15.7 *	9.6 *

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

**Table 9.9: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent heroin users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	42.2	35.2	40.1
Marijuana/cannabis	84.9	78.8	83.1
Pain-killers/analgesics	22.8	15.7	20.7
Other substances <sup>(a)</sup>	24.9	19.3	23.3
None of the above	11.4 *	3.2 *	9.0 *

(a) Includes cocaine, benzodiazapines, anti-depressants and barbiturates.

Note: Base equals all recent heroin users.

## Correlates of heroin use

As with most illicit drugs, a person's employment status, cultural background and marital status were correlated with both lifetime and recent heroin use. In 1998, of all unemployed persons aged 14 years and over, one in 20 (5%) reported using heroin (Table 9.10).

**Table 9.10: Correlates of heroin use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	98.0	2.0	0.9
HSC or equivalent	96.8	3.2	0.8
Trade/diploma	97.8	2.2	0.8
Tertiary	98.0	2.0	0.5 *
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	97.6	2.4	0.7
Student	98.5	1.5	0.5 *
Unemployed	91.6	8.4	4.5
Retired/pension	98.9	1.1	0.4
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	98.0	2.0	0.4 *
Middle	97.6	2.4	0.9
Lower (blue)	97.6	2.4	1.0
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	97.7	2.3	0.8
Other English-speaking born	97.5	2.5	1.0 *
Non-English-speaking born	98.6	1.4	0.5 *
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	97.7	2.3	0.9
2nd quintile	97.5	2.5	0.8
3rd quintile	98.2	1.8	0.8
4th quintile	98.3	1.7	0.3
5th quintile	97.5	2.5	1.1
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	97.7	2.3	0.8
Rural/remote	98.1	1.9	0.7
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	95.6	4.4	2.3
Widowed	99.8	0.2 *	—
Divorced/separated	98.3	1.7	0.3 *
Presently married	98.6	1.4	0.2

# 10 Use of cocaine

## Cocaine use

The 1998 survey estimated that 1.4% of all Australians aged 14 years and over had used cocaine in the preceding 12 months. It also showed that more than one in 25 (4%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over had used cocaine at some time in their lives (Table 10.1). Further:

- Males (2%) were twice as likely to be a recent user compared with females (1%).
- Cocaine was used mostly by younger aged persons.

**Table 10.1: Lifetime and recent use of cocaine: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	1.0	0.6
20–29	9.8	5.0
30–39	10.3	2.7
40+	2.5	0.6
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	2.5	1.0
20–29	6.9	2.9
30–39	6.2	1.0
40+	1.0	0.1 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	1.8	0.8
20–29	8.4	3.9
30–39	8.3	1.8
40+	1.7	0.3 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>

## Types of cocaine and methods of consumption

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over using cocaine recently, more than nine in ten (92%) used cocaine as powder and only 14% used in a crack form. (Table 10.2).

The survey also showed that 'snorting' was the most frequently cited usual method of cocaine consumption, with nearly nine in ten (89%) recent users reporting this method of consumption. Further, female users (34%) were twice as likely to swallow cocaine compared with males (17%), who in turn were more likely to smoke (16%) compared with females (12%).

The age breakdown of type of cocaine used and the method of consumption showed that all users aged 14–19 years used cocaine in a powder form (100%) while one in five (20%) injected it.

**Table 10.2: Type of cocaine used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
<b>Type</b>			
Cocaine powder	90.4	95.4	91.9
Crack (cocaine crystals)	13.3	14.2	13.6
<b>How consumed</b>			
Smoked	16.0	11.5 *	14.6
Snorted	86.7	93.7	88.9
Swallowed	17.3	34.1	22.7
Injected	5.0 *	13.5	7.7 *

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

**Table 10.3: Types of cocaine used and method of consumption: proportion of recent users, by age, Australia, 1998**

Type/method	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
<b>Type</b>					
Cocaine powder	100.0	88.2	94.7	100.0	91.9
Crack (cocaine crystals)	22.7 *	18.8	5.5 *	—	13.6
<b>How consumed</b>					
Smoked	11.1 *	19.1	11.7 *	—	14.6
Snorted	80.6	85.5	94.2	100.0	88.9
Swallowed	33.0 *	15.8	34.9	25.3	22.7
Injected	20.4 *	8.5 *	6.1 *	—	7.7

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

## Usual place of cocaine consumption

In 1998, of all Australians aged 14 years and over who used cocaine recently, two-thirds (68%) reported consuming in clubs/restaurants, while only about one in six (16%) reported using in their own home or in a friend's house (Table 10.4). The survey also showed that:

- More females (79%) than males (63%) used cocaine in clubs/restaurants.
- More males (18%) than females (11%) used cocaine in their own home or at a friend's house.

**Table 10.4: Where cocaine usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Own home, friend's house	17.9	11.4 *	16.0
Parties, restaurants or licensed premises	63.0	78.5	67.5
School/work	5.0 *	—	3.5 *
Other	14.1	10.1 *	12.9

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

## Frequency of cocaine use

The 1998 survey showed that, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using cocaine recently:

- Only 15% said they used cocaine at least once every month (Table 10.5).
- A further 21% said they only used once every few months.
- Half (51%) of all recent users used at most twice a year.

**Table 10.5: Frequency of cocaine use, proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
Males					
Every day	—	—	—	—	—
Once a week or more	4.3 *	—	6.1 *	—	2.0 *
About once a month	—	12.4 *	25.5	—	14.9
Every few months	67.2 *	15.3 *	14.8 *	—	15.4
Once or twice a year	28.5 *	54.8	38.2	100.0	53.0
Less often	—	17.6	15.3 *	—	14.7
Females					
Every day	—	—	—	—	—
Once a week or more	—	2.1 *	—	—	1.4 *
About once a month	52.2 *	3.8 *	—	—	8.8 *
Every few months	27.3 *	39.4	5.7 *	—	29.5
Once or twice a year	20.4 *	43.8	40.5	—	46.8
Less often	—	10.8 *	53.8	—	13.5 *
Persons					
Every day	—	—	—	—	—
Once a week or more	1.4 *	0.8 *	5.0 *	—	1.8 *
About once a month	35.5 *	9.1 *	20.9	—	12.7
Every few months	40.1 *	24.7	13.2	—	20.5
Once or twice a year	23.0 *	50.5	38.7	100.0	50.8
Less often	—	14.9	22.3	—	14.3

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.



## Source of supply of cocaine

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who had used cocaine in their lifetime:

- Nearly nine out of ten (87%) obtained their first supply through a friend or acquaintance.
- Only 8% reported buying their first dose from a street dealer.

**Table 10.6: First supplier: proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who have ever used cocaine, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	88.9	85.0	87.4
Spouse or partner	—	4.9	2.0 *
Street dealer	9.0 *	7.1	8.3
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	1.3 *	3.0 *	2.0 *

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all cocaine users.

The source of supply for recent cocaine users was not much different, with more than nine in ten (93%) recent users reporting a friend or acquaintance as their current source, a slight increase on the level for lifetime users.

**Table 10.7: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent cocaine users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	93.6	91.1	92.9
Spouse or partner	—	—	—
Street dealer	4.1 *	8.9 *	5.4 *
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	2.3 *	—	1.6 *

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

## Multiple drugs use with cocaine

In 1998, of all the recent users of cocaine aged 14 years and over:

- Almost all (97%) reported using alcohol recently (Table 10.8).
- Nine in ten (91%) reported using marijuana/cannabis recently.
- More than three-quarters (77%) reported using amphetamines.
- Nearly three-fifths (58%) reported using ecstasy/designer drugs.

**Table 10.8: Polydrug use: proportion of cocaine recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	97.1	97.5	97.3
Tobacco	60.5	70.9	64.0
Marijuana/cannabis	93.0	85.8	90.6
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	33.0	21.6	29.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	19.1	16.4	18.3
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	5.5 *	3.0 *	4.7 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	7.4 *	5.8 *	6.8 *
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	79.8	72.1	77.2
Heroin	17.3	20.8	18.5
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	1.1 *	3.7 *	1.9 *
Hallucinogens	49.5	40.3	46.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	55.6	61.4	57.5
Inhalants	13.9	20.7	16.2

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

When data on concurrent polydrug use among recent cocaine users were analysed, the survey showed that:

- Three-quarters (76%) of all recent cocaine users used alcohol concurrently with cocaine (Table 10.9).
- Nearly three-fifths (58%) used marijuana/cannabis with cocaine.

**Table 10.9: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	79.8	66.5	75.7
Marijuana/cannabis	66.5	39.0	57.9
Pain-killers/analgesics	9.9 *	3.9 *	8.0
Other substances <sup>(a)</sup>	1.6 *	9.9 *	4.2 *
None of the above	8.1 *	25.4	13.5

(a) Includes heroin, benzodiazapines, anti-depressants and barbiturates.

Note: Base equals all recent cocaine users.

## Correlates of cocaine use

The 1998 survey showed that variables such as education, cultural background, socioeconomic status of area of residence and marital status were correlated with cocaine use. For example:

- A higher proportion of people with a trade/diploma qualification (2%) reported being recent cocaine users, compared with persons with a tertiary qualification (1%).
- A higher proportion of Australian-born (2%) persons were recent cocaine users compared with persons from a non-English-speaking background (1%).

- Persons who lived in areas that rank highest in socioeconomic index were eight times more likely to be recent cocaine users compared with persons living in areas with the lowest socioeconomic quintile.

**Table 10.10: Correlates of cocaine use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Never used</b>	<b>Lifetime use</b> (per cent)	<b>Recent use</b>
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	93.5	6.5	1.8
HSC or equivalent	94.6	5.4	1.9
Trade/diploma	94.0	6.0	2.4
Tertiary	97.3	2.7	0.6 *
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	94.4	5.6	1.9
Student	96.0	4.0	1.7
Unemployed	91.8	8.2	1.5 *
Retired/pension	98.4	1.6	0.3 *
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	94.5	5.5	1.9
Middle	95.1	4.9	1.6
Lower (blue)	97.0	3.0	0.9
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	95.7	4.3	1.5
Other English-speaking born	93.4	6.6	1.3
Non-English-speaking born	97.3	2.7	0.7 *
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	96.9	3.1	0.3
2nd quintile	96.9	3.1	0.7
3rd quintile	95.9	4.1	1.9
4th quintile	95.4	4.6	1.3
5th quintile	93.8	6.2	2.5
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	95.0	5.0	1.7
Rural/remote	97.4	2.6	0.5
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	92.6	7.4	3.4
Widowed	99.8	0.2 *	—
Divorced/separated	96.3	3.7	0.7 *
Presently married	96.8	3.2	0.6

# 11 Use of hallucinogens

## Hallucinogen use

The 1998 survey estimated that 3% of all Australians aged 14 years and over had used hallucinogens within the past 12 months. It also showed that:

- Males were twice (4%) as likely to report using hallucinogens than females (2%).
- Males were also more likely (13%) to report lifetime use compared with females (7%).
- The use of hallucinogens was lower among the older age groups (age 40 years and above).
- The highest proportion of recent users was in the 20–29 years age group, with nearly one in 10 (9%) reporting using hallucinogens.

**Table 11.1 Lifetime and recent use of hallucinogens: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	9.1	7.4
20–29	28.1	13.1
30–39	16.5	2.3
40+	6.1	0.6
<b>All ages</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	11.2	6.8
20–29	15.7	5.7
30–39	8.5	0.4
40+	2.5	0.2 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	10.2	7.1
20–29	21.9	9.4
30–39	12.5	1.3
40+	4.3	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>

## Type of hallucinogens used

Of those recent users of hallucinogens, the survey showed that nine in ten (90%) used tabs and a quarter (26%) used magic mushrooms. There appeared to be some age differences in the type of hallucinogens used.

**Table 11.2: Type of hallucinogens used: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Type	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Tabs	81.5	95.1	91.9	59.7	90.0
Liquid	4.3 *	2.8 *	4.7 *	22.1 *	4.2
Magic mushrooms	32.4	20.4	27.0	62.3	25.7
Datura/angel's trumpet	1.7 *	1.2 *	1.4 *	—	1.3 *

Note: Base equals all recent hallucinogens users.

## Usual place of hallucinogen consumption

The 1998 survey classified hallucinogens into two groups – naturally occurring and synthetic (LSD). When recent users of hallucinogens were asked about their usual place of consumption the following was found:

- One in three (34%) users of naturally occurring hallucinogens reported clubs or restaurants as the usual place of consumption (Table 11.3).
- Nearly two in three (64%) female users reported clubs or restaurants as the usual place of consumption of natural hallucinogens compared with about one in four (24%) males.
- More than two-fifths (42%) of recent users of LSD reported clubs or restaurants as the usual place of consumption, with more female users consuming in clubs or restaurants than males (54% and 36% respectively).

**Table 11.3: Where hallucinogens usually consumed, proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Naturally occurring</b>			
Own home, friend's house	24.8	16.5	22.7
Clubs, restaurants	23.9	63.7	33.9
School/ work	—	2.0 *	0.5 *
Other	51.3	17.8	42.8
<b>LSD</b>			
Own home, friend's house	20.9	15.0	19.1
Clubs, restaurants	36.0	53.9	41.6
School/ work	2.9 *	—	2.0 *
Other	40.2	31.0	37.3

Note: Base equals all recent hallucinogens users.

## Frequency of hallucinogens use

Although the 1998 survey estimated that 3% of all Australians aged 14 years and over reported using hallucinogens recently, the data for the frequency of use show that hallucinogens use is less frequent than other drugs (Table 11.4 and Table 11.5). The survey showed that:

- Approximately 3% of users of naturally occurring hallucinogens and 9% of synthetic hallucinogens users reported using at least once in a month.

- Nearly two-fifths (39%) of users of naturally occurring hallucinogens, and slightly more (44%) users of LSD, reported that they used these hallucinogens only once or twice a year.

**Table 11.4: Frequency of use: proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who have recently used naturally-occurring hallucinogens, by age, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Every day	0.6 *	—	8.0 *	—	1.3 *
Once a week or more	—	—	—	5.4 *	0.3 *
About once a month	0.4 *	2.2 *	—	—	1.5 *
Every few months	11.1	18.1	10.2 *	—	15.0
Once or twice a year	24.0	42.0	25.9	94.6	39.4
Less often	63.9	37.7	56.0	—	42.6

Note: Base equals all recent naturally occurring hallucinogens users.

**Table 11.5: Frequency of use: proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who have recently used synthetic hallucinogens, by age, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(per cent)				
Every day	—	—	—	—	—
Once a week or more	1.8 *	0.5 *	2.7 *	—	1.0 *
About once a month	13.1	5.2	10.8 *	—	7.5
Every few months	30.4	26.8	16.6	30.1 *	26.7
Once or twice a year	37.1	47.4	28.8	66.0	43.7
Less often	17.7	20.2	41.2	3.9 *	21.0

Note: Base equals all recent synthetic hallucinogens users.

## Source of supply of hallucinogens

Of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using hallucinogens at least once in their lifetime, three-quarters (75%) reported obtaining their first dose from a friend or acquaintance (Table 11.6). The survey also showed that:

- Slightly more females (78%) than males (74%) reported obtaining their first dose of hallucinogens from a friend or acquaintance.
- A little over one in 20 (6%) lifetime users – both males and females – purchased their first dose of hallucinogens from a street dealer.

**Table 11.6: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever used hallucinogens, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	73.6	78.2	75.2
Spouse or partner	—	3.4 *	1.2 *
Street dealer	5.6	7.4	6.2
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	20.9	11.0	17.3

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all users of hallucinogens.

When data on source of supply for recent use of hallucinogens were analysed, it was found that nearly three-quarters (74%) of recent users obtained their drugs from a friend or acquaintance and more than one in ten (12%) obtained them from a street dealer (Table 11.7).

**Table 11.7: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent hallucinogens users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	72.9	76.3	73.9
Spouse or partner	—	0.6 *	0.2 *
Street dealer	11.8	13.3	12.3
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	15.2	9.8	13.6

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent hallucinogens users.

## Multiple drugs use with hallucinogens

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who used hallucinogens in the 12 months preceding the survey, nearly all had recently used alcohol (99%) and marijuana/cannabis (94%) (Table 11.8). The survey also showed that:

- Two-thirds (68%) of all recent hallucinogen users had used tobacco recently.
- Nearly three-fifths (58%) reported using amphetamines recently.
- Slightly more than two-fifths (43%) reported using ecstasy/designer drugs recently.
- One in five (21%) reported using cocaine recently.

**Table 11.8: Polydrug use: proportion of recent hallucinogens users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Alcohol	97.9	99.9	98.5
Tobacco	65.9	68.4	67.6
Marijuana/cannabis	95.7	91.7	94.4
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	20.5	29.3	23.4
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	14.9	23.4	17.6
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	—	0.7 *	0.2 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	2.2 *	4.1	2.8 *
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	58.6	55.4	57.5
Heroin	8.1	8.1	8.1
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	1.2 *	0.7 *	1.0 *
Cocaine	22.4	18.9	21.3
Ecstasy/designer drugs	42.0	45.2	43.1
Inhalants	10.2	20.0	13.2

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent hallucinogens users.

The analysis of concurrent use of multiple drugs with hallucinogens showed that more than two-thirds of all recent users of hallucinogens also used alcohol (72%) and/or marijuana/cannabis (67%) concurrently with hallucinogens (Table 11.9).

**Table 11.9: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent hallucinogens users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Alcohol	72.9	69.2	71.7
Marijuana/cannabis	71.0	58.3	67.0
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	8.4	9.8	8.8
None of the above	13.4	16.9	14.5

(a) Includes heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines, anti-depressants, barbiturates and pain killers/analgesics.

Note: Base equals all recent hallucinogens users.

## Correlates of hallucinogens use

The data showed that certain socioeconomic characteristics were correlated with hallucinogens use. As with other illicit drugs, persons who were unemployed, were never married or possessed less education were more likely to use hallucinogens. Specifically, the survey showed that:

- Unemployed persons (5%) or students (6%) were more likely to use hallucinogens compared with employed persons (3%).
- Persons who were never married were nine times (9%) more likely to report using hallucinogens compared with presently married persons (1%).
- Australian-born persons (3%) were twice as likely to use hallucinogens compared with persons born in non-English-speaking countries (1.5%).



**Table 11.10: Correlates of hallucinogen use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Never used</b>	<b>Lifetime use</b>	<b>Recent use</b>
		(per cent)	
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	93.4	6.6	1.9
HSC or equivalent	87.2	12.8	5.4
Trade/diploma	86.7	13.3	3.5
Tertiary	87.6	12.4	2.1
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	87.8	12.2	3.4
Student	88.0	12.0	6.3
Unemployed	81.9	18.1	5.1
Retired/pension	96.0	4.0	0.7
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	89.0	11.0	1.8
Middle	89.3	10.7	3.3
Lower (blue)	90.4	9.6	4.0
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	89.4	10.6	3.2
Other English-speaking born	88.3	11.7	3.4
Non-English-speaking born	96.4	3.6	1.5
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	91.7	8.3	3.1
2nd quintile	92.3	7.7	1.7
3rd quintile	90.2	9.8	3.0
4th quintile	90.3	9.7	3.6
5th quintile	86.5	13.5	3.9
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	89.3	10.7	3.3
Rural/remote	91.9	8.1	2.2
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	81.3	18.7	8.9
Widowed	99.4	0.6 *	0.1 *
Divorced/separated	91.7	8.3	1.5
Presently married	93.3	6.7	0.6

# 12 Use of ecstasy/designer drugs

## Ecstasy/designer drugs use

In 1998 it was estimated that a little over 2% of all Australians aged 14 years and over used ecstasy/designer drugs within the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 12.1). The proportion of Australians aged 14 years and over who used ecstasy/designer drugs at least once in their lifetime was estimated at 5%. The data also showed that:

- Males were twice as likely as females to report using ecstasy/designer drugs recently.
- Persons aged 20–29 years (14%) were more likely to report lifetime use than either the 14–19 years age group (5%) or those aged 60 years and over (1%).

**Table 12.1: Lifetime and recent use of ecstasy: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	4.0	3.3
20–29	17.9	11.9
30–39	7.2	1.9
40+	1.3	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	4.9	3.0
20–29	9.8	4.9
30–39	3.6	0.8
40+	0.9	1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	4.5	3.1
20–29	13.9	8.4
30–39	5.4	1.3
40+	1.1	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>

## Usual place of ecstasy/designer drugs consumption

In 1998, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using ecstasy/designer drugs recently, three-quarters (75%) reported parties, restaurants or licensed premises as the usual place of consumption (Table 12.2). The survey also showed that there was a slight variation between males and females in reporting the usual place of consumption, with slightly fewer (3%) females nominating their own home or a friend's house as a usual place for consumption compared with males (5%).

**Table 12.2: Where ecstasy/designer drugs usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
Own home, friend's house	5.4 *	2.5 *	4.6
Parties, restaurants or licensed premises	74.6	75.1	74.7
School/work	1.3 *	—	1.0 *
Other	18.7	22.4	19.7

Note: Base equals all recent ecstasy/designer drugs users.

## Frequency of ecstasy/designer drugs use

The 1998 survey showed that, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who were recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs, slightly more than one in five (22%) used at least once a month, with only 4% of all users reporting using at least once a week (Table 12.3).

**Table 12.3: Frequency of ecstasy/designer drugs use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Frequency	Age group				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
Every day	0.5 *	0.8 *	—	—	0.6 *
Once a week or more	0.3 *	4.0 *	0.5 *	—	2.9 *
About once a month	21.8	14.6	23.7	44.1 *	18.3
Every few months	35.7	34.3	30.2	52.4 *	34.9
Once or twice a year	26.5	32.5	36.6	—	30.6
Less often	15.2	13.7	9.0 *	3.5 *	12.7

Note: Base equals all recent ecstasy/designer drugs users.

## Source of supply of ecstasy/designer drugs

Of all Australians aged 14 years and over who ever used ecstasy/designer drugs, nearly nine in ten (86%) reported that they obtained their first supply from a friend or acquaintance and only 7% reported buying from a street dealer (Table 12.4). The survey also showed that:

- Among females, nearly 5% of users obtained their first supply of ecstasy/designer drugs from a spouse or partner, while less than 1% of males obtained their first supply from their spouse or partner.
- Similarly, more females (9%) than males (5%) obtained their first supply through a street dealer.

**Table 12.4: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever used ecstasy aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	87.5	84.2	86.3
Spouse or partner	0.3 *	4.5 *	1.8
Street dealer	5.4 *	9.2	6.8
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	6.7 *	2.2 *	5.1

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all persons who have ever used ecstasy/designer drugs.

The survey showed that nearly nine in ten (89%) recent users obtained ecstasy/designer drugs from a friend or acquaintance while one in ten (10%) obtained their supply from street dealers (Table 12.5). The sex breakdown of recent supply showed that:

- More female (96%) than male (86%) recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs got their supply from a friend or acquaintance.
- Males (13%) were four times more likely to get their supply from a street dealer compared with females (3%).

**Table 12.5: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	85.6	96.1	88.5
Spouse or partner	—	0.8 *	0.2 *
Street dealer	12.9	3.1 *	10.2
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	1.5 *	—	1.1 *

(a) Includes siblings, parents and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent ecstasy/designer drugs users.

## Multiple drugs use with ecstasy/designer drugs

The survey showed that Australians aged 14 years and over who recently used ecstasy/designer drugs also used a multitude of other drugs. Among the recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs, nearly all (99%) reported using alcohol recently, while nearly nine in ten (87%) reported using pain-killers/analgesics. A high proportion (70%) of users had also used amphetamines.

**Table 12.6: Polydrug use: proportion of recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	98.3	100.0	98.8
Tobacco	51.7	55.8	53.1
Marijuana/cannabis	91.6	77.8	86.9
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	20.5	24.2	21.8
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	15.4	19.2	16.7
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	0.7 *	1.2 *	0.9 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	4.3 *	2.0 *	3.5
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	78.2	54.4	70.0
Heroin	7.8	9.5	8.4 *
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	3.7 *	1.3 *	2.9 *
Cocaine	32.1	34.2	32.8
Hallucinogens	53.2	53.2	53.2
Inhalants	15.5	23.8	18.3

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent ecstasy/designer drugs users.

When data on concurrent use of other drugs with ecstasy/designer drugs were analysed, the survey showed that nearly three-quarters (74%) of all recent users had consumed alcohol with ecstasy and more than half (54%) had used marijuana/cannabis with ecstasy/designer drugs (Table 12.7). The survey also revealed that more females were using marijuana/cannabis (60%) and anti-depressants (8%) concurrently with ecstasy/designer drugs compared with males (41% and 3% respectively).

**Table 12.7: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent users of ecstasy/designer drugs aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Alcohol	74.7	72.1	73.9
Marijuana/cannabis	41.4	59.8	53.8
Heroin	1.5 *	—	1.0 *
Cocaine	12.7	8.1	11.2
Benzodiazepines	0.2 *	—	0.1 *
Anti-depressants	2.6 *	8.3	4.4
Barbiturates	—	0.1 *	—
Pain-killers/analgesics	2.7 *	3.7 *	3.0 *
None of the above	18.0	15.7	17.2

*Note:* Base equals all recent ecstasy/designer drugs users.

## Correlates of ecstasy/designer drugs use

The 1998 survey showed that ecstasy/designer drugs use is popular among students, among those who have HSC or equivalent education, are Australian-born, or are living in an area of high socioeconomic status. It showed that nearly one in 20 (5%) persons with HSC or equivalent education reported using ecstasy/designer drugs compared with only one in 50 (2%) persons without any qualification. It further showed that:

- Students were more likely to report using ecstasy/designer drugs (4%) compared with employed (3%) or unemployed (3%) persons.
- Australian-born persons (3%) were more likely to report recent use of ecstasy/designer drugs compared with other English-speaking born (2%) or non-English-speaking born (2%).
- Persons living in areas with high socioeconomic status (5th quintile) were twice (3%) as likely to report using ecstasy/designer drugs compared with persons in the bottom quintile of the socioeconomic scale.
- Persons who were never married were 10–15 times more likely to be using ecstasy/designer drugs compared with persons in other marital status categories.

**Table 12.8: Correlates of ecstasy/designer drugs use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Never used</b>	<b>Lifetime use</b>	<b>Recent use</b>
		<b>(per cent)</b>	
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	96.9	3.1	1.6
HSC or equivalent	92.1	7.9	4.6
Trade/diploma	94.6	5.4	2.6
Tertiary	94.7	5.3	2.4
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	94.1	5.9	2.9
Student	93.7	6.3	3.9
Unemployed	92.9	7.1	3.3
Retired/pension	98.3	1.7	0.8
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	95.7	4.3	1.9
Middle	94.3	5.7	2.9
Lower (blue)	95.8	4.2	2.2
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	94.9	5.1	2.6
Other English-speaking born	95.2	4.8	1.5
Non-English-speaking born	97.7	2.3	1.6
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	96.8	3.2	1.5
2nd quintile	95.8	4.2	1.8
3rd quintile	94.6	5.4	2.6
4th quintile	95.3	4.7	2.5
5th quintile	93.9	6.1	3.4
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	94.6	5.4	2.7
Rural/remote	96.8	3.2	1.6
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	88.5	11.5	7.0
Widowed	99.5	0.5 *	0.5 *
Divorced/separated	96.5	3.5	0.7 *
Presently married	97.9	2.1	0.6

# 13 Use of inhalants

## Inhalants use

The 1998 survey estimated that nearly 1% of the Australian population aged 14 years and over used inhalants in the 12 months preceding the survey, and nearly 4% had used inhalants in their lifetime (Table 13.1). The survey also showed that:

- The use of inhalants was popular among young adults, with one in 50 aged 14–29 years reporting using inhalants.
- Female teenagers (aged 14–19 years) were more likely to report using inhalants compared to same-aged males (3% and 2% respectively).

**Table 13.1: Lifetime and recent use of inhalants, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	4.7	1.9
20–29	11.9	2.4
30–39	7.6	0.7
40+	1.3	0.2 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	7.4	3.0
20–29	6.8	1.9
30–39	3.1	0.4 *
40+	0.3 *	0.1 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	6.1	2.4
20–29	9.4	2.2
30–39	5.4	0.6
40+	0.8	0.1 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>

## Usual place of inhalants consumption

The 1998 survey showed that, of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported using inhalants, two-fifths (40%) said that they normally consumed the inhalants at parties, restaurants or licensed premises. A further one-third (34%) of recent inhalant users reported their own home or at a friend's house as the usual place of consumption (Table 13.2). The survey also showed that:

- Males (42%) were twice as likely to consume inhalants at their own home or at a friend's house compared with females (22%).
- Females (46%) were more likely to use inhalants at parties, restaurants or licensed premises compared with males (36%).

**Table 13.2: Where inhalants usually consumed: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Place	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Own home, friend's house	42.4	21.6	33.6
Parties, restaurants or licensed premises	36.0	46.0	40.2
School/work	0.6 *	14.6	6.5 *
Other	21.0 *	17.8	19.7

Note: Base equals all recent inhalants users.

## Frequency of inhalants use

In 1998, of all Australians aged 14 years and over who reported recent use of inhalants:

- A little more than 3% used them at least once a week or more (Table 13.3).
- Females were more likely to use them frequently compared with males, whereby 6% of female users reporting using inhalants once a week or more compared with 1.8% of males.

**Table 13.3: Frequency of inhalants use: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998.**

Frequency	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Once a week or more	1.8 *	6.0 *	3.2 *
About once a month	27.7	10.2 *	21.9
Every few months	22.7 *	—	15.1
Once or twice a year	25.4	37.8	29.5
Less often	21.2 *	41.5	28.0

Note: Base equals all recent inhalants users.

## Source of supply of inhalants

The 1998 survey showed that the main source of supply of inhalants was a friend or acquaintance, with nearly three-quarters (73%) of lifetime users reporting obtaining their first supply from this source. Equal proportions of males and females reported that their first supply of inhalants was obtained from a friend or acquaintance.

**Table 13.4: First supplier: proportion of persons who have ever used inhalants, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Friend or acquaintance	73.1	73.0	73.0
Brother or sister	3.3 *	6.1 *	4.4 *
Street dealer	1.8 *	2.2 *	2.0 *
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	21.9 *	18.7	20.6

(a) Includes parents, spouse/partner and stolen.

Note: Base equals all persons who have ever tried inhalants.

In 1998 the recent inhalant users aged 14 years and over reported that most of their supply was obtained through a friend or acquaintance (59%), while nearly two-fifths reported



obtaining from other sources (Table 13.5). By sex, slightly fewer female users (54%) obtained their recent supply from a friend or acquaintance compared with males (63%).

**Table 13.5: Recent suppliers: proportion of recent inhalants users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Supplier	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Friend or acquaintance	63.4	53.5	59.4
Brother or sister	—	—	—
Street dealer	—	4.5 *	1.8 *
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	36.6	42.0	38.8

(a) Includes parents, spouse/partner and stolen.

Note: Base equals all recent inhalants users.

## Multiple drugs use with inhalants

As with other illicit substances, persons aged 14 years and over who reported using inhalants recently also reported using a multitude of other drugs. In 1998, of all recent users of inhalants, 95% recently used alcohol, while 82% reported using marijuana/cannabis (Table 13.6). Tobacco was another substance recently used by more than half (53%) of inhalants users.

**Table 13.6: Polydrug use: proportion of recent inhalants users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	98.6	91.9	95.4
Tobacco	54.3	51.3	52.9
Marijuana/cannabis	83.3	80.0	81.7
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	31.1	36.9	33.8
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	30.4	36.2	33.2
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	—	1.7 *	0.8 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	2.0 *	5.7 *	3.8 *
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	65.7	36.8	51.8
Heroin	7.5 *	9.8 *	8.6 *
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	6.5 *	1.7 *	4.3 *
Cocaine	28.7	24.6	26.8
Hallucinogens	45.9	44.8	45.4
Ecstasy/designer drugs	56.5	48.1	52.5

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent inhalants users.

The data on concurrent use of other substances by recent inhalant users showed that alcohol and marijuana/cannabis were the drugs most frequently used. More than two-fifths (45%) reported using alcohol and nearly one in three (30%) reported using marijuana/cannabis concurrently with inhalants (Table 13.7). There were sex differences in concurrent polydrug use, with fewer females (38%) than males (66%) reporting using other drugs concurrently with inhalants.

**Table 13.7: Concurrent polydrug use: proportion of recent inhalants users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances concurrently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	56.8	31.1	44.8
Marijuana/cannabis	38.9	20.6	30.3
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	19.6 *	16.6	18.3
None of the above	34.4	62.5	47.5

(a) Includes heroin, cocaine, benzodiazapines, anti-depressants, barbiturates and pain killers/analgesics.

Note: Base equals all recent inhalants users.

## Correlates of inhalants use

The 1998 survey showed that:

- Persons with only HSC or equivalent education were nearly six times (1.8%) more likely to report using inhalants compared with persons with no qualification (0.3%) (Table 13.8).
- Students (2%) were more likely to use inhalants compared with employed persons (0.9%) or those who were unemployed during the survey (1.4%).
- The highest proportion of inhalants users was among persons who were never married (2.3%).

**Table 13.8: Correlates of inhalants use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	97.2	2.8	0.3
HSC or equivalent	94.2	5.8	1.8
Trade/diploma	95.8	4.2	0.9
Tertiary	95.9	4.1	0.8
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	95.6	4.4	0.9
Student	93.1	6.9	2.0
Unemployed	91.5	8.5	1.4 *
Retired/pension	98.7	1.3	0.3 *
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	95.6	4.4	0.9
Middle	96.6	3.4	0.7
Lower (blue)	95.7	4.3	0.8
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	95.7	4.3	1.0
Other English-speaking born	95.9	4.1	0.7 *
Non-English-speaking born	98.8	1.2	0.1 *
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	96.4	3.6	0.5
2nd quintile	97.0	3.0	0.4
3rd quintile	95.6	4.4	1.3
4th quintile	95.6	4.4	1.1
5th quintile	95.5	4.5	1.1
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	95.8	4.2	1.0
Rural/remote	96.9	3.1	0.5
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	91.9	8.1	2.3
Widowed	99.4	0.6 *	0.5 *
Divorced/separated	97.6	2.4	0.5 *
Presently married	97.6	2.4	0.2 *

# 14 Use of injecting drugs

## Injecting drug use

The 1998 survey estimated that 0.8% of all Australians aged 14 years and over injected drugs (Table 14.1). Males were nearly three times (1.1%) more likely to inject drugs compared with females (0.4%).

When the respondents were asked to name the drug they had first injected in their life, more than half (52%) reported first injecting amphetamines, followed by heroin (36%) (Table 14.2). However, when recent injecting drug users (those who had injected drugs in the preceding 12 months) were asked about the type of drugs they injected, nearly three-quarters (72%) reported injecting amphetamines, half (50%) reported injecting heroin, and more than one in ten (11%) reported injecting cocaine.

**Table 14.1: Lifetime and recent injecting drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Males</b>		
14–19	0.7	0.3 *
20–29	6.8	3.3
30–39	4.2	1.1
40+	1.3	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Females</b>		
14–19	2.5	1.2
20–29	2.8	1.1
30–39	1.8	0.3
40+	0.3 *	—
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Persons</b>		
14–19	1.6	0.7
20–29	4.8	2.2
30–39	3.0	0.7
40+	0.8	0.2 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>

**Table 14.2: Drugs first and recently injected: proportion of injecting drugs users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

<b>Drug first injected<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Persons</b>
		<b>(per cent)</b>	
Heroin	32.9	42.7	35.9
Methadone	1.6 *	—	1.1 *
Other opiates	3.4 *	0.6 *	2.5 *
Amphetamines	55.4	44.0	52.0
Cocaine	1.6 *	2.8 *	2.0 *
Hallucinogens	0.1 *	—	—
Ecstasy/designer drugs	1.0 *	—	0.7 *
Benzodiazepines	—	—	—
Steroids	3.6 *	—	2.5 *
Other drugs	0.6 *	9.9	3.4 *
<b>Drugs injected last 12 months<sup>(b)</sup></b>			
Heroin	52.6	41.0	49.6
Methadone	10.0 *	—	7.4 *
Other opiates	5.5 *	—	4.1 *
Amphetamines	69.5	77.4	71.6
Cocaine	7.3 *	22.4	11.2 *
Hallucinogens	5.2 *	—	3.8 *
Ecstasy/designer drugs	6.5 *	2.4 *	5.5 *
Benzodiazepines	5.2 *	—	3.8 *
Steroids	7.0 *	—	5.2 *
Other drugs	3.9 *	6.8 *	4.6 *

(a) Base equals all respondents who have injected.

(b) Base equals all recent injecting drug users.

## Frequency of injecting drugs

The 1998 survey showed that, of all the recent injecting drugs users, the majority (69%) injected once a week or less, while about one in ten (10%) injected twice or more a day. The survey also showed that:

- Male injecting drug users injected more often, with one in five (22%) injecting at least once a day compared with females (17%).
- Three-quarters (76%) of female injecting drug users injected at most once a week compared with two-thirds (66%) of male injecting drug users.

**Table 14.3: Frequency of injecting drugs: proportion of recent injecting drug users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Persons</b>
		<b>(per cent)</b>	
Once a week or less	66.0	75.8	68.5
More than once a week but less than daily	12.5 *	7.2 *	11.1 *
Once a day	11.9 *	5.2 *	10.1 *
2–3 times daily	8.0 *	11.9 *	9.0 *
More than 3 times daily	1.7 *	—	1.3 *

Note: Base equals all recent injecting drug users.

## Multiple drugs use by injecting drug users

Of those who injected drugs in 1998, a majority also reported using other drugs. For example, 96% of injecting drug users also consumed alcohol, 92% used marijuana/cannabis, and 80% used tobacco.

**Table 14.4: Polydrug use: proportion of recent injecting drug users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Other substances recently used	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Alcohol	96.5	92.6	95.5
Tobacco	82.0	74.6	80.0
Marijuana/cannabis	95.3	84.4	92.4
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	48.3	45.7	47.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	37.9	35.9	37.3
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	7.2 *	5.4 *	6.7 *
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	17.5 *	11.3 *	15.8
Amphetamines <sup>(a)</sup>	75.5	92.2	80.0
Heroin	63.9	42.2	58.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	22.3 *	5.3 *	17.8
Cocaine	23.3 *	31.7	25.5
Hallucinogens	36.6	46.5	39.3
Ecstasy/designer drugs	27.2	37.4	29.8
Inhalants	8.2 *	15.3	10.1 *

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

Note: Base equals all recent injecting drug users.

## Correlates of injecting drugs

The 1998 survey showed that injecting behaviour among drug users was fairly evenly spread, except among unemployed drug users, who have a higher proportion of injecting drug users (5%) compared with other groups. The data showed that:

- Persons born in Australia (0.8%) and those born in other English-speaking countries (0.9%) were more likely to inject drugs compared with persons born in non-English-speaking countries (0.2%).
- Persons living in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (1st quintile) were more likely to inject drugs compared with persons living in less disadvantaged areas (2nd–5th quintiles).
- Persons who were never married were more likely to inject drugs compared with persons who were either married or divorced.
- Persons employed in blue collar jobs were more likely to inject drugs compared to persons employed in higher status jobs.

**Table 14.5: Correlates of injecting behaviour: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Characteristics	Never used	Lifetime use (per cent)	Recent use
<b>Education</b>			
No qualification	97.5	2.5	1.0
HSC or equivalent	97.7	2.3	0.7
Trade/diploma	97.8	2.2	0.7
Tertiary	98.8	1.2	0.3 *
<b>Employment status</b>			
Currently employed	97.8	2.2	0.7
Student	98.6	1.4	0.4 *
Unemployed	90.0	10.0	5.1
Retired/pension	99.0	1.0	0.3 *
<b>Occupational status</b>			
Upper (white)	98.5	1.5	0.5
Middle	97.9	2.1	0.9
Lower (blue)	96.9	3.1	1.0
<b>Country of birth</b>			
Australian born	97.8	2.3	0.8
Other English-speaking born	97.4	2.6	0.9 *
Non-English-speaking born	99.4	0.6 *	0.2 *
<b>Socioeconomic area</b>			
1st quintile	97.8	2.2	1.1
2nd quintile	97.4	2.6	1.0
3rd quintile	98.6	1.4	0.5
4th quintile	97.9	2.1	0.4
5th quintile	98.0	2.0	0.8
<b>Geography</b>			
Urban	97.8	2.2	0.8
Rural/remote	98.1	1.9	0.7
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	95.7	4.3	2.3
Widowed	99.5	0.5 *	—
Divorced/separated	98.2	1.8	0.4 *
Presently married	98.8	1.2	0.1 *

*Note:* Base equals all recent injecting drug users.

# 15 Health and social impact of drug use

## Use of selected substances by pregnant or breastfeeding women

The 1998 survey collected information on whether or not pregnant or breastfeeding women were using substances. The survey showed that, of all the pregnant respondents aged 14–49 years, more than a quarter (26%) smoked tobacco daily or most days (Table 15.1). The proportion of breastfeeding women aged 14–49 years reporting smoking tobacco was 18%. The survey also showed that nearly one in four (24%) females aged 14–49 years who were neither breastfeeding nor pregnant reported smoking tobacco.

The survey further showed that nearly three-quarters (73%) of all pregnant respondents aged 14–49 years reported drinking alcohol recently and 17% of all pregnant respondents reported drinking at least three standard drinks when they drank. A slightly higher proportion of breastfeeding women (76%) reported drinking alcohol, and the proportion of breastfeeding women reporting drinking at least three standard drinks when they drank was 26%. In comparison, the data for female respondents aged 14–49 who were neither pregnant nor breastfeeding showed that more than four-fifths of them drank alcohol and one in four drank at least three standard drinks when they drank. As for the use of marijuana/cannabis, one in six (17%) pregnant women reported using it during their pregnancy.

**Table 15.1: Proportion of pregnant and/or breastfeeding women who recently used selected substances, Australia, 1998**

Current activity	Pregnant <sup>(a)</sup>	Breastfeeding only (per cent)	Neither pregnant nor breastfeeding
Smokes tobacco <sup>(b)</sup>	25.9	17.5	24.1
Drinks alcohol <sup>(c)</sup>	73.1	75.7	82.3
Drinks at least 3 standard drinks			
Every day	1.6	2.7	1.6
4–6 days/week	0.6	6.8	3.2
2–3 days/week	6.4	2.2	7.5
Less often	8.3	14.5	24.8
Subtotal <sup>(d)</sup>	16.9	26.2	37.1
Uses marijuana/cannabis <sup>(e)</sup>	17.2	16.4	20.1
Injects drugs <sup>(e)</sup>	1.3	0.6	0.5

(a) Includes pregnant or pregnant and breastfeeding.

(b) Defined as smokes daily or most days.

(c) Defined as those who drink regularly or occasionally.

(d) Prevalence of at least 3 standard drinks.

(e) Defined as used in past 12 months.

Note: Base equals females aged 14–49 in each column.



## Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

The 1998 survey asked respondents whether they drove a motor vehicle, operated machinery, abused others or damaged property while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The data showed that, of all alcohol users aged 14 years and over, nearly one in five (18%) drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (Table 15.2). One in ten (10%) alcohol users reported verbally abusing someone in the preceding 12 months while under the influence of alcohol. The survey also showed that:

- Male users were twice (24%) as likely to drive a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol compared with females (11%).
- Males were twice (13%) as likely to verbally abuse others under the influence of alcohol compared with females (6%).
- Males (7%) were more likely to report creating a public disturbance or nuisance compared with females (3%).

The survey showed that, among those Australians aged 14 years and over using drugs other than alcohol, proportionally fewer persons reported engaging in hazardous or undesirable activities under the influence of those drugs compared with respondents using alcohol. For example, more than one in 20 (6%) among those using drugs other than alcohol reported driving a motor vehicle under the influence of such drugs compared with 18% who drove under the influence of alcohol. Proportionally, males under the influence of other drugs were more likely to report engaging in hazardous or anti-social behaviours compared with females under the influence of other drugs.

**Table 15.2: Activities engaged in while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in the preceding 12 months: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Influence and activity	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
<b>Under the influence of alcohol<sup>(a)</sup></b>			
Drove a motor vehicle	23.9	11.2	17.5
Operated hazardous machinery	1.6	0.1 *	0.9
Verbally abused someone	13.0	6.1	9.5
Physically abused someone	3.2	0.9	2.1
Caused damage to property	4.4	1.0	2.6
Stole property	1.6	0.3 *	1.0
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	6.7	2.6	4.6
<b>Under the influence of other drugs<sup>(b)</sup></b>			
Drove a motor vehicle	8.3	3.9	6.1
Operated hazardous machinery	1.3	0.1 *	0.7
Verbally abused someone	2.5	1.2	1.8
Physically abused someone	0.8	0.2 *	0.5
Caused damage to property	1.1	0.2 *	0.7
Stole property	0.7	0.1 *	0.4
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	1.4	0.6 *	1.0

(a) Base equals all persons who consumed alcohol in the preceding 12 months.

(b) Base equals all persons who used an illicit drug in the preceding 12 months.

When data on dangerous activities and anti-social behaviours under the influence of alcohol or other drugs by different age groups were analysed, the survey revealed that a higher

proportion of persons aged 14–29 years reported engaging in such activities compared with other groups (Table 15.3). For example, nearly a third (28%) of alcohol users in the age group 20–29 years reported driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and one in five (21%) reported verbally abusing others. However, the teenagers (aged 14–19 years) were more likely to report physically abusing others (5%), stealing property (3%) and damaging property (9%) while under the influence of alcohol compared with other age groups. Similarly, teenagers (14–19 years) were also more likely to verbally abuse (7%), damage property (3%), steal property (2%) or create a public nuisance (4%) while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol compared with other age groups.

**Table 15.3: Activities engaged in while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in the preceding 12 months: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Influence and activity	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
<b>Under the influence of alcohol<sup>(a)</sup></b>							
Drove a motor vehicle	8.3	27.9	23.9	21.8	12.2	4.6	17.5
Operated hazardous machinery	1.9	1.5	1.1	0.6 *	0.2 *	—	0.9
Verbally abused someone	18.4	20.5	6.9	7.8	5.3	0.4 *	9.5
Physically abused someone	5.3	4.5	0.8 *	1.0	2.0	—	2.1
Caused damage to property	9.3	6.6	1.2	0.3 *	0.3 *	0.1 *	2.6
Stole property	3.4	2.6	0.3 *	0.2 *	—	—	1.0
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	14.4	10.8	2.2	1.2	1.9	0.1 *	4.6
<b>Under the influence of other drugs<sup>(b)</sup></b>							
Drove a motor vehicle	8.1	15.4	7.2	3.1	0.8 *	0.8 *	6.1
Operated hazardous machinery	1.5	1.8	0.6 *	0.1 *	0.2 *	—	0.7
Verbally abused someone	6.6	4.6	0.5 *	0.5 *	0.4 *	—	1.8
Physically abused someone	1.8	1.3	0.1 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.5
Caused damage to property	2.9	1.6	0.1 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.7
Stole property	1.7	0.8 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	—	—	0.4
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	4.0	2.3	0.4 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	0.1 *	1.0

(a) Base equals all persons who consumed alcohol in the preceding 12 months.

(b) Base equals all persons who used an illicit drug in the preceding 12 months.

## Activities undertaken in order to buy alcohol or drugs

The 1998 survey asked respondents whether they committed any fraud, sold illegal drugs or stole money in order to buy alcohol or other drugs. The survey showed that:

- Among those using alcohol in the preceding 12 months, one in 25 (4%) users reported stealing money without force or threats to buy alcohol.
- A similar proportion (4%) reported stealing property without force or threats.
- The proportion of alcohol users reporting using a weapon to get money from a person was estimated at 4%, while those using a weapon or force to get things other than money was 3%.
- Among other drug users, one in 30 (3%) sold illegal drugs in order to buy drugs.

**Table 15.4: Activities undertaken in order to buy alcohol or other drugs: proportion of recent users aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Activities	To buy alcohol <sup>(a)</sup>	To buy drugs <sup>(b)</sup>
	(per cent)	
Stole money without force or threats	4.1	1.7
Stole property without force or threats	3.7	0.8
Used a weapon, force, or strong arm-methods to get money from a person	3.5	0.1 *
Used a weapon, force, or strong-arm methods to get things other than money from a person	3.4	0.1 *
Committed a fraud	3.6	0.6
Sold illegal drugs	3.7	3.3

(a) Base is people who consumed alcohol in the preceding 12 months.

(b) Base is people who used an illicit drug in the preceding 12 months.

## Incidence of alcohol- and other drug-related violence

The 1998 survey showed that an estimated 29% of all Australians aged 14 years and over were verbally abused by persons affected by alcohol (Table 15.5). More than one in 20 (6%) Australians aged 14 years and over also reported being physically abused by persons affected by alcohol. The proportion of people verbally abused by persons affected by other drugs was lower, at 10%. The survey further showed that:

- Males were more likely to report being verbally abused by persons affected by alcohol, with nearly one in three (33%) compared with one in four females (26%).
- Slightly more females (18%) reported being put in fear by persons affected by alcohol compared with males (14%).
- More males (12%) than females (9%) reported being verbally abused by persons affected by other drugs.

**Table 15.5: Victims of alcohol- and other drug-related incidents: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Influence and incident	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Alcohol-related incidents</b>			
Verbal abuse	32.5	26.0	29.2
Physical abuse	7.7	5.1	6.4
Put in fear	14.0	17.6	15.8
Property damaged	8.9	7.7	8.3
Property stolen	4.2	3.3	3.8
<b>Other drug-related incidents</b>			
Verbal abuse	12.0	8.6	10.3
Physical abuse	2.9	2.0	2.4
Put in fear	6.3	8.4	7.4
Property damaged	3.3	3.0	3.1
Property stolen	3.8	3.0	3.4

When incidents were analysed by age group, the survey showed that:

- Nearly half (48%) of persons aged 20–29 years reported being verbally abused by persons affected by alcohol.
- Persons aged 20–29 years reported higher rates of all kind of drug-related incidents.

**Table 15.6: Victims of alcohol- and other drug-related incidents: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age, Australia, 1998**

Influence and incident	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(per cent)						
<b>Alcohol-related incidents</b>							
Verbal abuse	34.9	47.7	32.3	29.3	23.4	7.2	29.2
Physical abuse	9.5	12.9	5.2	5.7	4.9	0.5	6.4
Put in fear	23.8	27.4	17.9	13.8	8.2	4.0	15.8
Property damaged	11.2	14.6	9.2	6.9	4.8	2.7	8.3
Property stolen	7.1	6.5	3.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	3.8
<b>Other drug-related incidents</b>							
Verbal abuse	12.4	18.2	10.4	9.7	7.8	3.1	10.3
Physical abuse	3.0	4.6	2.6	2.3	1.0	0.7	2.4
Put in fear	9.3	11.7	8.9	5.9	5.0	3.2	7.4
Property damaged	3.3	5.0	3.1	3.4	1.4	2.0	3.1
Property stolen	4.0	4.3	4.2	2.9	1.9	2.7	3.4

The survey showed that most of the alcohol- or other drug-related incidents involving verbal or physical abuse occurred in pubs and clubs, while damage to property occurred in victims' homes. Of those Australians aged 14 years and over who reported being verbally abused by persons affected by alcohol or other drugs, nearly two-fifths (39%) said that the incident took place in pubs and clubs (Table 15.7). Nearly a third (33%) of respondents who were physically abused reported that the incident happened in the street, while more than one in five (23%) respondents reported that the incident happened at his/her home (Table 15.7). The survey also showed that:

- Males were more likely to report being abused verbally (46%) and physically (43%) in pubs and clubs compared with females (32% and 23% respectively).
- Females were more likely to report being abused verbally (37%) and physically (54%) in their homes compared with males (12% and 14% respectively).
- More males (49%) reported being put in fear by persons affected by alcohol or other drugs in the street compared with females (35%).

**Table 15.7: Location of alcohol- or other drug-related incident: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Incident	In victim's home	In pubs and clubs	At victim's workplace	School/ university	In the street	Elsewhere
(per cent)						
<b>Males</b>						
Verbal abuse	12.1	45.7	10.0	0.7	37.3	15.7
Physical abuse	13.6	42.9	11.5	0.7 *	35.2	10.2
Put in fear	11.2	32.0	7.8	1.2	48.7	18.1
Property damaged	53.3	10.3	8.1	0.7 *	28.1	8.4
Property stolen	64.6	5.1	10.1	1.4 *	17.2	10.7
<b>Females</b>						
Verbal abuse	36.5	32.0	10.4	1.0	27.3	16.4
Physical abuse	54.4	22.7	3.1	0.5 *	15.1	13.8
Put in fear	34.9	24.9	10.7	1.3	35.2	18.1
Property damaged	75.8	6.6	4.8	1.0 *	12.9	7.4
Property stolen	71.8	7.0	7.3	1.6 *	7.7	11.2
<b>Persons</b>						
Verbal abuse	23.2	39.4	10.2	0.9	32.7	16.0
Physical abuse	29.7	34.9	8.1	0.6 *	27.2	11.6
Put in fear	24.3	28.1	9.4	1.3	41.3	18.1
Property damaged	63.9	8.6	6.6	0.8 *	21.0	7.9
Property stolen	67.8	6.0	8.9	1.5 *	13.0	10.9

Note: Base equals respondents who experienced the relevant incident.

When respondents were asked to identify the person(s) responsible for alcohol- or other drug-related incidents, the survey showed that the majority of the incidents were perpetrated by persons the victims knew very well. For example, of those verbally abused, nine in ten (91%) reported that a spouse or partner was responsible for the incident, 87% reported parents were responsible, and 86% said boyfriends/ girlfriends were responsible (Table 15.8). However, the survey also showed that, of those verbally abused, more than three in four (76%) said that the persons responsible for the incident were not known to them.

In the case of other incidents, the survey showed that:

- Nearly a third (30%) of all physically abused persons reported a former partner as the perpetrator of the incident, with more females (37%) than males (19%) reporting being abused by former partners.
- Of those who reported being put in fear, more than two-fifths (44%) reported the person responsible for the incident was unknown to the victims. However, among female victims, former partners (62%) were the most cited perpetrator for causing fear compared with only 15% among male victims.
- Of those who reported their property had been damaged, most cited alleged offenders were 'other relative' (27%), former partner (27%), or 'other house/flat resident' (25%).

**Table 15.8: Person(s) alleged responsible for alcohol- or other drug-related incident: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Person/s	Verbal abuse	Physical abuse	Put in fear	Property damaged	Property stolen
(per cent)					
Males					
Spouse or partner	90.6	11.7	9.6	11.7	7.5
Parent	83.0	7.9	31.2	3.5	3.0
Child	73.6	15.0	6.8	9.6	22.0
Sibling	74.9	14.9	26.8	16.4	14.4
Other relative	77.5	6.9	13.4	18.1	2.9 *
Other house/flat resident	83.4	9.6	27.5	20.2	8.0
Current boy/girlfriend	87.1	4.5	8.7	14.1	12.3
Former spouse/partner, boy/girlfriend	83.4	18.8	14.6	20.5	13.7
Work/school mate	86.5	9.4	18.8	11.4	5.1
Friend/acquaintance	78.5	20.0	15.5	17.4	11.2
Unknown	80.0	19.5	38.2	16.4	14.2
Females					
Spouse or partner	91.1	29.0	45.6	29.1	6.5
Parent	88.4	16.0	36.9	5.9	7.5
Child	77.9	17.5	26.2	13.3	6.2
Sibling	83.1	12.3	35.4	15.1	16.5
Other relative	71.3	4.6	54.3	33.8	41.8
Other house/flat resident	70.9	13.3	50.6	35.4	7.8
Current boy/girlfriend	84.5	38.4	51.5	27.3	9.2
Former spouse/partner, boy/girlfriend	85.3	36.9	61.9	30.4	14.7
Work/school mate	84.6	11.1	41.6	7.8	9.2
Friend/acquaintance	68.0	10.2	39.1	23.6	12.6
Unknown	70.6	7.4	52.1	12.9	12.7
Persons					
Spouse or partner	91.0	24.4	36.1	24.5	6.8
Parent	86.3	12.8	34.7	5.0	5.7
Child	75.8	16.2	16.4	11.5	14.1
Sibling	78.0	13.9	30.1	15.9	15.2
Other relative	74.1	5.6	36.2	26.9	24.7
Other house/flat resident	79.3	10.8	35.2	25.3	7.9
Current boy/girlfriend	85.9	21.0	29.4	20.5	10.8
Former spouse/partner, boy/girlfriend	84.6	30.1	44.2	26.7	14.3
Work/school mate	85.9	9.9	25.7	10.3	6.3
Friend/acquaintance	73.7	15.5	26.3	20.3	11.8
Unknown	76.3	14.8	43.6	15.1	13.6

Note: Base equals respondents who were abused in the preceding 12 months by person(s) affected by either alcohol or other drugs.

When respondents who sustained an injury as a result of an incident perpetrated by a person affected by alcohol or other drugs were asked to describe the most serious injuries they sustained (Table 15.9), the following was found:

- Of all injuries, nearly three in four (66%) were minor in nature, not requiring suturing or admission to a hospital.
- Nearly one in five (19%) respondents who sustained an injury reported that the injury was serious enough to require suturing, was a fracture, or required a hospital admission.

- Females (11%) were more likely to sustain serious injuries such as fractures compared with males (6%).

**Table 15.9: Most serious injury sustained as a result of an alcohol- or other drug-related incident: proportion of injured persons aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Injury	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Bruising/abrasions	68.0	63.8	65.9
Burns not requiring admission to hospital	0.7 *	0.5 *	0.6 *
Minor lacerations	14.2	15.3	14.7
Lacerations requiring suturing	2.3 *	6.4	4.4
Fractures	5.9	11.1	8.5
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	8.9	2.8	5.8

Note: Base equals people who sustained an injury as a result of an incident perpetrated by a person affected by alcohol or other drugs.

The survey showed that more than nine in ten (91%) persons who had been the victim of verbal or physical abuse or whose property was damaged or stolen by people affected by alcohol or other drugs, reported the incidents – either all or some – to the police (Table 15.10). Females (80%) were more likely to report all incidents to police compared with males (77%). However, more than one in four (22%) victims chose either not to report any incidents or report only some incidents to the police.

Respondents who were abused or whose property was stolen or damaged but who did not report any or all such incidents to the police were asked to give reasons for not reporting such incidents. More than three-fifths (64%) of those who did not report incidents to the police said that the incident was too trivial or unimportant to report (Table 15.11). More than one in ten (12%) gave their reason for non-reporting as ‘police could not do anything’. Nearly one in ten (9%) did not report the incidents to the police due to fear of reprisal. Across sex, the survey showed that:

- More males (72%) than females (54%) thought the incidents were too trivial/unimportant.
- More females (14%) than males (6%) did not report the incidents due to the fear of reprisal.
- More females (21%) than males (14%) thought the incidents were a private matter.

**Table 15.10: Incidents reported to police: proportion of victims of alcohol- or other drug-related incidents aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Reported	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Yes, all	77.1	79.6	78.3
Yes, some	12.3	13.9	13.0
No, none	10.6	6.5	8.7

Note: Base equals people who had been physically or verbally abused or had property damaged or stolen by people affected by alcohol or other drugs.

**Table 15.11: Reason why all or some incidents not reported to police: proportion of victims of alcohol- or other drug-related incidents aged 14 years and over who did not report the incident, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Reason	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Too trivial/unimportant	72.0	54.3	64.0
Private matter	14.3	21.4	17.5
Police could not do anything	8.5	16.6	12.1
Police would not do anything	9.0	6.4	7.8
Did not want offender punished	4.6	7.4	5.9
Too confused/upset	2.6	8.0	5.0
Afraid of reprisal	5.6	13.7	9.2
Incident not uncommon for me	13.6	11.6	12.7
Other	6.1	8.3	7.1

*Note:* Base equals people who had been physically or verbally abused or had property damaged or stolen, by people affected by alcohol or other drugs and did not report any or some of these incidents to the police.

The 1998 survey also collected from respondents who were the victims of verbal or physical abuse or whose property was damaged by the persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs information about whether the victims were themselves under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident. The survey suggested that nearly half (48%) of those reporting being a victim of abuse or whose property was damaged or stolen by persons under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, were themselves taking drugs or consuming alcohol at the time of such incidents (Table 15.12). Sex-wise, more male (56%) than female (38%) victims were themselves under the influence of drugs when such incidents took place.

**Table 15.12: Concomitant alcohol or other drug consumption by victim at time of incident: proportion of victims of alcohol- or other drug-related incidents aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Consumption	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol only	42.3	29.5	36.4
Drugs other than alcohol only	2.3	3.0	2.6
Both alcohol and other drugs	11.3	5.2	8.5
Neither alcohol nor other drugs	44.1	62.3	52.5

*Note:* Base equals people who had been physically or verbally abused or had property damaged or stolen by people affected by alcohol or other drugs.

## Lost days of school or work

The 1998 survey collected information on the loss of school or work days due to personal use of alcohol or other drugs. The survey estimated that in the preceding three months:

- Of all the recent users of alcohol, one in 20 (5%) reported missing school or work due to personal use of alcohol (Table 15.13).
- Among recent users of other drugs, one in 50 (2%) reported missing school or work due to personal use of those drugs.
- Proportionally more younger aged users reported missing school or work compared with their older counterparts due to the personal use of alcohol or other drugs.
- Males were slightly more likely to report missing school or work due to personal use of alcohol or other drugs compared with females.



**Table 15.13: Persons who missed days of work or study in the preceding three months due to personal use of alcohol or other drugs: proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who were working or studying, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Consumption	Age group				
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	All ages
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Alcohol <sup>(a)</sup>	10.4	13.2	3.7	0.3 *	5.3
Other drugs <sup>(b)</sup>	4.5	3.4	1.4 *	0.6 *	1.9
	<b>Females</b>				
Alcohol <sup>(a)</sup>	7.2	6.9	2.7	2.1	4.1
Other drugs <sup>(b)</sup>	3.6	2.5	0.7 *	2.5	2.2
	<b>Persons</b>				
Alcohol <sup>(a)</sup>	8.8	10.6	3.3	1.0 *	4.8
Other drugs <sup>(b)</sup>	4.0	3.0	1.1 *	1.4	2.0

(a) Base equals people who were working or studying and consumed alcohol in the preceding three months.

(b) Base equals people who were working or studying and used any illicit drug in the preceding three months.

## Physical and mental health status of drug users

The 1998 survey collected information about respondents' health status using the SF-36 survey instrument, the items of which represent eight of the most important health concepts. The SF-36 is a generic measure assessing health concepts representing basic human values that are relevant to everyone's functional status and wellbeing (Ware 1990). The details of SF-36 survey and how the scores are interpreted are discussed in detail in the *SF-36 Health Survey: Manual and Interpretation Guide* (Ware 1993). The higher the score on each scale, the better the health status. The SF-36 scores can be used to compare the relative physical and mental health status of different groups. For example, if regular smokers score lower for the item 'Physical functioning' compared with those who never smoked, we can say that persons from the non-smoker group can perform all types of physical activities with fewer limitations compared with persons in the smoker group, who will have some limitation in performing all physical activities.

The age-standardised mean SF-36 scores for eight items are presented in Table 15.14. The first column lists the drug categories and the consumption status and columns 2–9 list the age-standardised average scores for eight items. The data show that there are differences in health status among users depending on the types of drug used and the consumption pattern.

When mean SF-36 scores obtained from the 1998 survey for all persons are compared with Australian population norms (ABS 1997), we find that mean scores obtained from 1998 survey are higher for seven of the eight items (the exception being Vitality) compared with the Australian population norms.

**Table 15.14: Mean physical and mental health measures by consumption status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australia, 1998**

Consumption	Physical functioning	Physical role	Bodily pain	General health	Vitality	Social functioning	Emotional role	Mental health
(mean)								
<b>Smoking status</b>								
Regular	84.8	83.3	75.7	68.7	62.0	85.2	83.8	74.8
Occasional	89.4	85.3	75.4	73.0	61.8	87.6	87.4	79.9
Past	86.2	81.6	76.0	73.1	63.0	87.0	87.5	77.2
Never	87.4	86.5	80.3	75.9	67.3	89.8	89.5	79.6
<b>Alcohol status</b>								
Regular	88.4	85.0	78.1	73.5	65.3	89.0	88.1	78.7
Occasional	85.5	83.5	75.6	73.5	63.5	87.7	87.2	77.5
Past	80.9	77.2	75.5	68.7	62.0	82.6	83.9	75.4
Never	85.0	88.5	82.1	73.4	66.6	89.5	88.7	77.2
<b>Marijuana / cannabis status</b>								
Recent	84.2	82.8	72.5	64.7	61.1	85.3	85.3	75.1
Past	87.1	82.0	75.4	69.7	61.3	86.0	86.0	76.2
Never	85.9	84.8	78.6	74.7	65.9	89.0	88.8	78.9
<b>Illicit drug status</b>								
Recent	84.9	80.0	72.6	68.4	61.4	84.7	85.2	75.4
Past	86.0	81.2	74.7	70.1	61.9	85.9	85.5	75.9
Never	86.5	85.2	79.2	75.3	66.5	89.6	89.3	79.5
<b>Injecting drug status</b>								
Current	81.4	70.6	63.5	58.0	48.9	72.6	67.2	62.0
Past	85.0	80.7	64.9	59.6	54.5	73.8	69.2	66.5
Never	86.6	84.0	77.7	73.5	64.8	88.1	87.6	78.0
<b>All persons</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>77.7</b>
<b>Population Norms</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>75.9</b>

(a) For injecting drug status, age standardisation was conducted using four age group categories (aged 14–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40+ years); for other drug consumption status, six age groups (aged 14–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60+ years) were used.

Note: Figures are age-standardised to 1995 Australian standard population.

When various measures of health are compared by types of drug consumed, the survey data show that persons regularly consuming alcohol report better health compared with users of other types of drugs. However, if we compare the physical and mental wellbeing of persons who are regular drinkers with that of those who are either occasional drinkers or were former drinkers, the data show that persons who regularly drink alcohol have better health than those who either drink occasionally or are ex-drinkers. The finding shows that there is some association between drinking status and health, but no causality can be inferred.

If the health status of persons with different smoking status is compared, the data show that, in general, those persons who smoke regularly are slightly less healthy compared with those who smoke only occasionally or are ex-smokers. Of all the drug consumption status, persons who are current users of injecting drugs have reported the lowest physical and mental health status. The data also show that those persons who had used injecting drugs in the past but no longer use have slightly better health compared with the recent injecting drug users.

## Drug consumption status and contact with health services

In 1998 the survey collected information on recency of respondents' consultation with a doctor and the number of hospital admissions of at least an overnight stay. The survey showed that:

- Proportionally more (60%) recent injecting drug users reported consulting a doctor within the preceding three months compared with regular smokers (51%), recent regular drinkers (52%) and recent marijuana/cannabis users (51%) (Table 15.15).
- The average number of hospital admissions was highest among recent drug users, with nine admissions for every ten drug users in the preceding 12 months compared with three admissions for every ten regular smokers and four admissions for every ten persons who had not taken any drugs in the preceding 12 months.

**Table 15.15: Contact with health services: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by consumption status, Australia, 1998**

Consumption status	Recency of consultation with doctor			Mean number of times admitted to hospital in preceding 12 months
	Within last 3 months	3 to 6 months ago	>6 months ago	
		(per cent)		
Recent regular smoker <sup>(a)</sup>	51.1	13.2	35.7	0.3
Recent regular drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	52.1	14.9	33.0	0.2
Recent marijuana/cannabis user <sup>(c)</sup>	50.8	15.8	33.4	0.3
Recent injecting drug user <sup>(d)</sup>	60.2	9.0	30.8	0.9
Currently not using any drug	57.3	14.8	27.9	0.4

(a) Those smoking daily or most days.

(b) Those drinking daily or most days.

(c) Those who have consumed marijuana/cannabis in the preceding 12 months.

(d) Those who injected drugs in the preceding 12 months.

# 16 Drug avoidance behaviour

## Avoidance of cigarette smoke

The 1998 survey asked respondents whether they avoided places where they might be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke. The survey results showed that nearly two-fifths (39%) of Australians aged 14 years and over who never smoked or were former smokers reported always avoiding such places (Table 16.1). At the same time, the proportion of non-smokers or former smokers not avoiding places where they could be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke was 18%. A further 43% reported that they sometimes avoided places where they could be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke. The survey also showed that:

- Proportionally more females (41%) than males (37%) always avoided places where they were likely to be exposed to other people's tobacco smoke.
- As age increased, so did the proportion of people who avoided places where they might be exposed to other people's tobacco smoke.

**Table 16.1: Non-smokers' avoidance of places where they may be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke: proportion of persons, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Avoidance	Age group						All ages
	14-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Yes, always	22.2	21.8	30.9	39.4	50.2	51.5	36.9
Yes, sometimes	52.9	57.8	56.3	40.0	35.5	24.3	43.7
No, never	24.8	20.4	12.8	20.6	14.3	24.2	19.4
<b>Females</b>							
Yes, always	19.6	27.6	40.3	42.4	53.1	48.8	40.5
Yes, sometimes	62.6	57.7	48.5	42.6	24.5	29.5	42.2
No, never	17.8	14.7	11.2	15.1	22.4	21.6	17.2
<b>Persons</b>							
Yes, always	20.9	24.8	35.8	41.0	51.7	49.9	38.8
Yes, sometimes	57.7	57.7	52.2	41.4	29.8	27.3	42.9
No, never	21.3	17.5	12.0	17.7	18.5	22.7	18.2

Note: Base equals respondents who have never smoked and former smokers who had not smoked in the preceding 12 months.

## Restrictions on smoking in workplaces or educational institutions

The 1998 survey showed that, of all the respondents who were either working or studying, nearly 10% reported that there were no restrictions on smoking anywhere in their workplace, while more than twice as many (22%) reported that a total ban on smoking was in place (Table 16.2). However, the majority (58%) reported that their workplace or educational institution did allow smoking outside the building.

**Table 16.2: Non-smoking policies or restrictions in workplaces, schools or colleges: proportion of persons working or studying aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Restriction	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
No restrictions	12.4	6.0	9.7
Allowed to smoke in own room	1.2	0.5	0.9
Allowed to smoke in smoking area	13.1	6.6	10.3
Allowed to smoke outside building	55.1	60.8	57.5
Total ban (even outside)	18.2	26.2	21.6

Note: Base equals all respondents who were working or studying.

## Effort in quitting smoking

The 1998 survey asked respondents who smoked at least on a weekly basis whether they had attempted to quit smoking. The survey showed that more than one-third (36%) of those smoking tobacco at least on a weekly basis reported that they had not initiated any activity towards quitting smoking in the past six months. Of those who initiated some efforts in quitting, the most frequently cited activity was 'discussed smoking and health at home' (45%), followed by reading 'how to quit' literature (20%). More than one-tenth asked doctors for help (11%) and 12% used nicotine gum or a patch. Some sex difference existed in attempting to stop smoking, with more females (67%) than males (59%) reporting taking steps to quit.

**Table 16.3: Activities related to quitting smoking: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Activity	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Discussed smoking and health at home	42.3	47.0	44.5
Telephoned the 'Quit' line	3.4	5.8	4.5
Asked doctor for help	8.0	14.1	10.8
Used nicotine gum or patch	10.2	13.2	11.6
Bought a product other than nicotine patch	2.6	2.5	2.6
Read 'how to quit' literature	16.7	23.2	19.7
Something else	9.6	10.1	9.8
None of the above	39.0	32.4	35.9
Can't say	2.1	0.9	1.6

Note: Base equals all smokers who currently smoke at least one cigarette a week.

## Encouragement to quit smoking

In 1998 the survey asked those respondents who did smoke tobacco at least on a weekly basis whether or not they were asked to quit smoking by other people living in the house. The data (Table 16.4) showed that:

- More than two-fifths (42%) reported no one trying to get them to quit smoking.
- The most frequently cited person in the house encouraging them to quit was a spouse/partner (22%) followed by a child (19%).
- Among males, the most frequently cited person encouraging them to quit was a spouse/partner (27%), while for females it was a child (24%).

**Table 16.4: Co-residents' encouragement to quit smoking: proportion of recent smokers living with others, aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Person encouraging	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Parent	10.8	11.6	11.2
Child	14.4	23.5	18.6
Sibling	2.1	3.1	2.6
Spouse/partner	26.8	17.4	22.4
Friend/flatmate	5.5	8.2	6.7
Other resident	1.6	6.4	3.8
No-one trying	43.6	39.6	41.7

Note: Base equals all smokers who smoked at least one cigarette in the preceding week and live with other people.

## Intention to give up smoking

The 1998 survey estimated that, of all the current smokers aged 14 years and over, more than one in four (26%) intended giving up smoking within the next three months (Table 16.5). Further, more than one-third (35%) of smokers intended to quit smoking, but not within the next three months. However, the survey also showed that two-fifths (39%) of all smokers aged 14 years and above had no intention of quitting smoking. Across sex, slightly more males (14%) expressed their intention to quit smoking within the next 30 days compared with females (10%). The survey also showed that as age increased the intention to quit smoking decreased.

**Table 16.5: Intention to give up smoking: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Intention	Age group						All ages
	14-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Yes, within 30 days	25.1	11.5	13.6	18.2	10.5	8.7	14.1
Yes, after 30 days but within the next 3 months	9.3	24.2	13.3	5.5	8.6	13.3	13.8
Yes, but not within the next 3 months	36.7	35.1	37.3	28.5	31.6	17.5	32.2
No	28.9	29.1	35.7	47.8	49.4	60.5	39.9
	<b>Females</b>						
Yes, within 30 days	16.7	9.5	11.4	8.2	10.7	5.8	10.3
Yes, after 30 days but within the next 3 months	7.2	14.3	16.0	11.9	7.0	11.7	12.5
Yes, but not within the next 3 months	36.3	41.9	40.8	30.0	47.0	38.7	39.0
No	39.8	34.3	31.8	49.9	35.2	43.9	38.2
	<b>Persons</b>						
Yes, within 30 days	20.7	10.6	12.6	13.8	10.6	7.5	12.3
Yes, after 30 days but within the next 3 months	8.2	19.5	14.6	8.3	7.9	12.7	13.2
Yes, but not within the next 3 months	36.5	38.3	38.9	29.2	37.8	26.0	35.3
No	34.5	31.6	33.9	48.7	43.7	53.8	39.1

Note: Base equals all smokers who smoked at least one cigarette in the preceding week.

When respondents were further asked whether they had actually tried to quit smoking in the preceding 12 months, the survey showed that:

- Nearly one-fifth (19%) reported successfully giving up smoking for more than a month (Table 16.6).
- One in three (33%) smokers reported unsuccessfully trying to give up smoking, and a similar proportion (32%) reported changing to a cigarette brand with lower nicotine or tar content.
- More than two-fifths reported reducing daily cigarette consumption.
- More females (36%) than males (28%) reported changing to a cigarette brand with lower tar and nicotine contents.

**Table 16.6: Actual attempts at giving up smoking in the past 12 months: proportion of recent smokers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Attempt	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Successfully given up smoking (for more than a month)	19.6	18.2	19.0
Unsuccessfully tried to give up smoking	33.9	31.1	32.6
Changed to cigarette brand with lower tar or nicotine content	28.4	35.6	31.7
Reduced daily cigarette consumption	43.8	42.1	43.0

*Note:* Base equals smokers who had smoked at least one cigarette in the preceding week.

## Alcohol moderation behaviour

In 1998 the survey asked respondents whether or not they intended to reduce their intake of alcoholic drinks in any session by means of moderating behaviour such as counting the number of drinks, alternating between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, eating while consuming alcohol, and so on.

Of those who reported drinking at least three drinks in one session in the past three months, the survey data (Table 16.7) showed that:

- More than nine out of ten reported limiting the number of drinks in an evening (92%) or refusing an alcoholic drink when they did not want it (95%).
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) reported alternating between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Of all the drinkers, the survey showed that the most frequently cited activity to moderate consumption of alcohol was to reduce the amount of alcohol usually consumed (29%).

**Table 16.7: Alcohol moderation behaviour: proportion of recent drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Behaviour	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
<b>Behaviour of recent heavy drinkers<sup>(a)</sup></b>			
Count number of drinks	76.4	81.2	78.4
Alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks	59.9	70.9	64.6
Eat while consuming alcohol	88.0	90.8	89.3
Quench thirst with non-alcoholic drink before having alcohol	72.3	76.7	74.3
Sometimes only drink low-alcohol drinks	73.2	72.5	72.9
Limit number of drinks in an evening	90.9	92.4	91.6
Refuse an alcoholic drink when don't want it	93.5	96.3	94.8
<b>Behaviour of all recent drinkers<sup>(b)</sup></b>			
Reduce amount of alcohol usually consumed	30.2	28.3	29.3
Reduce the number of times consumed alcohol	28.4	26.6	27.5
Switch to low-alcohol drinks more often	14.1	7.5	10.9
None of the above	52.4	58.7	55.4

(a) Base equals all persons who had consumed at least three standard drinks in a session in the preceding three months.

(b) Base equals all persons who had consumed at least one standard drink in the preceding 12 months.

## Participation in drug treatment programs

In 1998 the survey estimated that more than one in 20 (6%) Australians aged 14 years and over participated in Quit or similar smoking treatment programs (Table 16.8). Among the recent smokers, the proportion of persons participating in Quit or similar programs was estimated at 15%. The survey also showed that:

- Among the recent drinkers, only 1% reported attending programs designed to reduce the consumption of alcohol.
- The participation of recent users of illicit drugs in programs such as methadone maintenance and GP-supervised prescription programs was 1% or less.



**Table 16.8: Participation in alcohol or other drug treatment programs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

<b>Program</b>	<b>All respondents</b>	<b>Recent smokers</b>	<b>Recent drinkers</b>	<b>Recent illicit drug users</b>
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
Smoking (e.g. Quit)	5.8	14.4	6.6	8.7
Alcohol (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous)	1.7	3.7	1.5	3.3
Detoxification centre	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.9
Methadone maintenance	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.7
Prescription drugs (e.g. GP-supervised)	1.2	0.9	1.4	0.9
Other program	0.8	1.4	0.8	1.4
<b>Females</b>				
Smoking (e.g. Quit)	6.3	15.5	7.4	8.5
Alcohol (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous)	0.5	1.0	0.5	1.2
Detoxification centre	0.2	0.8	0.2 *	0.9
Methadone maintenance	0.1	0.3	—	0.2 *
Prescription drugs (e.g. GP-supervised)	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.0
Other program	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.6 *
<b>Persons</b>				
Smoking (e.g. Quit)	6.1	14.9	7.0	8.6
Alcohol (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous)	1.1	2.5	1.0	2.4
Detoxification centre	0.5	1.3	0.5	1.5
Methadone maintenance	0.3	0.9	0.4	1.0
Prescription drugs (e.g. GP-supervised)	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
Other program	0.5	1.2	0.6	1.0

# 17 Awareness of drug problems and drug regulations

## Drugs thought to be causing the most deaths in Australia

In 1998 nearly two-fifths (39%) of Australians aged 14 years and over reported that tobacco, directly or indirectly, caused the most drug-related deaths in Australia (Table 17.1). More than a quarter (27%) reported alcohol caused the most drug-related deaths in Australia. The survey also showed that:

- More than one in five (22%) Australians aged 14 years and over reported narcotics such as heroin being the cause of most drug-related deaths in Australia.
- Nearly one in 20 (5%) Australians aged 14 years and over thought cocaine caused the most deaths in Australia.
- More males (42%) than females (35%) reported tobacco being the cause of most drug-related deaths in Australia. However, more females (24%) than males (20%) thought narcotics caused the most deaths in Australia.

**Table 17.1: Drugs thought to cause the most deaths in Australia: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Tobacco	31.1	47.2	48.0	47.6	40.0	34.8	42.4
Cocaine	5.9	2.8	3.3	3.4	7.6	6.7	4.7
Marijuana/cannabis	2.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.4	3.3	1.4
Narcotics (e.g. heroin)	21.3	18.3	15.3	16.9	22.2	27.3	20.0
Alcohol	28.7	28.1	28.5	28.0	24.6	24.0	27.0
Prescribed drugs	0.1	0.7	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.0
Amphetamines	10.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.7	3.5
<b>Females</b>							
Tobacco	32.1	35.0	37.4	40.5	33.9	30.1	34.9
Cocaine	5.2	4.8	3.2	3.4	3.7	7.9	4.8
Marijuana/cannabis	2.8	1.2	0.9	3.0	3.0	4.2	2.5
Narcotics (e.g. heroin)	26.9	23.5	25.4	18.4	23.2	25.8	23.7
Alcohol	23.1	26.7	27.1	29.4	30.1	24.7	26.9
Prescribed drugs	1.0	2.3	2.3	1.7	4.1	3.5	2.6
Amphetamines	8.9	6.7	3.7	3.7	2.0	3.7	4.6
<b>Persons</b>							
Tobacco	31.6	41.1	42.7	44.1	37.0	32.2	38.6
Cocaine	5.6	3.7	3.2	3.4	5.7	7.3	4.8
Marijuana/cannabis	2.7	0.8	0.9	1.8	2.2	3.8	2.0
Narcotics (e.g. heroin)	24.1	20.9	20.3	17.6	22.7	26.5	21.9
Alcohol	25.9	27.4	27.8	28.7	27.3	24.4	26.9
Prescribed drugs	0.5	1.5	2.0	1.4	2.5	2.6	1.8
Amphetamines	9.7	4.6	3.1	3.1	2.6	3.3	4.0

## Likely source of information on health effects of drugs

When respondents were asked where they would go if they required information on the health effects of drugs, the survey showed that:

- The most frequently cited potential source of information on the health effects of drug use was a doctor/medical centre/clinic (50%).
- More than one in ten (13%) said that they would contact the health department.
- The proportion of persons who would contact an alcohol and drug counselling service was 13%.
- Females (14%) were twice as likely as males (7%) to contact a community health centre for information on the health effects of drugs.

**Table 17.2: Nominated likely source of information on the health effects of alcohol and other drugs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Information source	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Drug and alcohol information service/drug advisory centre	7.1	8.9	8.0
Alcohol and drug counselling service <sup>(a)</sup>	11.2	13.8	12.5
Cancer council/National Heart Foundation	0.7	1.1	0.9
Telephone information service	0.8	0.8	0.8
Community health centre	6.9	13.7	10.4
Drop-in centre/community centre	1.2	2.1	1.7
Welfare worker	1.3	0.8	1.1
Library	4.7	7.6	6.2
Chemist	4.6	3.8	4.2
Doctor/medical centre/clinic	49.4	50.9	50.2
Other health worker	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hospital	6.1	8.3	7.2
Health department	13.4	12.1	12.7
Other government department or service	7.4	6.5	6.9
Friend/relative about the same age (e.g. sibling)	2.0	1.7	1.8
Parent	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other relative	0.5	0.3	0.4
Priest/church	0.5	0.6	0.5
Teacher/school/university	3.3	3.5	3.4
Books/journals/magazines	2.1	2.8	2.5
Internet	3.5	2.1	2.8
Quit line	1.3	1.8	1.6
Other	1.4	0.9	1.2
Can't say	10.8	10.4	10.6

(a) Includes Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

## Perceived health risk from passive smoking

The 1998 survey asked respondents whether or not those non-smokers who live with smokers might one day develop health problems because of other person's cigarette smoke. The survey showed that:

- More than four-fifths (83%) of Australians aged 14 years and over thought that non-smokers who live with smokers might develop health problems one day.
- More females (85%) than males (81%) reported that non-smokers living with smokers might develop health problems one day.

**Table 17.3: Perceived health risk from passive smoking: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Perceived risk	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Yes	86.5	86.6	85.0	76.3	81.9	71.4	81.0
No	7.0	5.7	6.7	11.6	14.0	18.4	10.6
Not sure	6.4	7.7	8.3	12.1	4.2	10.2	8.4
<b>Females</b>							
Yes	95.1	86.8	87.7	82.6	83.7	78.8	84.9
No	2.0	5.2	5.9	10.5	9.8	12.2	8.1
Not sure	2.9	7.9	6.4	6.9	6.5	9.1	7.0
<b>Persons</b>							
Yes	90.7	86.7	86.4	79.4	82.8	75.4	83.0
No	4.6	5.5	6.3	11.1	11.9	15.0	9.3
Not sure	4.7	7.8	7.4	9.5	5.3	9.6	7.7

## Health risk from alcohol

The 1998 survey asked respondents about their awareness of the health risks of alcohol consumption. Respondents were specifically asked about their knowledge of the number of standard drinks an adult can consume in a day. The NHMRC suggests that an adult male can consume four standard drinks and an adult female can drink two standard drinks before the health of the consumer might be affected. The survey showed that:

- About one in six (17%) Australians aged 14 years and over correctly identified the number of standard drinks for an adult male.
- One in three (34%) Australians aged 14 years and over correctly identified the number of standard drinks for an adult female.
- In general, as age increased, the proportion of Australians correctly identifying the number of standard drinks increased.

**Table 17.4: Correct identification of the recommended number of standard drinks per day: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Age group	Correctly identify number of standard drinks for males	Correctly identify number of standard drinks for females
	(per cent)	
	<b>Males</b>	
14–19	9.6	27.2
20–29	16.4	31.0
30–39	15.5	35.1
40–49	17.7	29.2
50–59	20.4	32.4
60+	16.6	27.3
<b>All ages</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>30.6</b>
	<b>Females</b>	
14–19	13.1	33.2
20–29	14.1	34.1
30–39	13.8	41.7
40–49	17.7	41.2
50–59	19.5	34.7
60+	21.3	39.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>38.0</b>
	<b>Persons</b>	
14–19	11.2	30.0
20–29	15.3	32.5
30–39	14.6	38.4
40–49	17.7	35.3
50–59	20.0	33.5
60+	19.0	33.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>34.2</b>

When respondents were further asked about whether or not they knew about the information on the number of standard drinks shown on cans and bottles of alcoholic beverages, only 29% of respondents reported knowing it (Table 17.5). The survey also showed that:

- Males (38%) were more likely than females (20%) to know that the number of standard drinks is shown on cans and bottles of alcoholic beverages. However, the survey did not ask about the details of respondents' knowledge.
- The higher the age, the lower the likelihood of the knowledge that cans and bottles of alcoholic beverages contain information regarding the number of standard drinks.

**Table 17.5: Knowledge that numbers of standard drinks are shown on cans and bottles of alcoholic beverages: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Knowledge status	Age group						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	All ages
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Yes	45.9	56.8	40.7	29.4	31.4	23.0	37.8
No	24.2	27.3	39.6	46.1	42.8	41.1	37.4
Not sure	29.9	16.0	19.7	24.5	25.8	35.9	24.7
<b>Females</b>							
Yes	33.0	38.2	21.6	14.1	11.9	6.1	19.9
No	39.0	39.0	47.4	44.9	38.6	34.0	40.6
Not sure	28.0	22.8	31.0	41.0	49.5	59.8	39.5
<b>Persons</b>							
Yes	39.6	47.6	31.1	21.7	21.9	13.8	28.8
No	31.4	33.1	43.5	45.5	40.8	37.2	39.0
Not sure	29.0	19.3	25.4	32.8	37.3	49.0	32.2

## **Awareness of regulations relating to the use of marijuana/cannabis**

The 1998 survey asked respondents about their awareness of regulations relating to marijuana/cannabis use. As each State/Territory has its own regulations, the national data presented in Table 17.6 may be misleading. The survey found that:

- Less than 1% of Australians aged 14 years and over thought that activities such as growing, possessing and selling marijuana/cannabis were legal.
- More than one in five (23%) Australians aged 14 years and over thought that possessing equipment for smoking or using marijuana/cannabis was legal.
- The proportion of Australians aged 14 years and over reporting that the use of a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis is a legal activity was 17%, the proportion reporting growing small quantities of marijuana/cannabis is a legal activity was 15%, and the proportion reporting that possessing a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis is legal was 17%.

**Table 17.6: Knowledge of legal status of marijuana/cannabis activities: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Activity	Males			Females			Persons		
	Legal	Illegal	Unsure	Legal	Illegal	Unsure	Legal	Illegal	Unsure
	(per cent)								
Grow marijuana/cannabis for supply to others	0.9	97.4	1.6	0.6	97.6	1.8	0.8	97.5	1.7
Possess marijuana/cannabis for supply to others	1.0	97.3	1.6	0.5	97.7	1.8	0.8	97.5	1.7
Sell marijuana/cannabis to someone else for money	0.5	98.5	1.0	0.3	98.5	1.2	0.4	98.5	1.1
Sell a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis to someone else for their personal use	2.0	94.4	3.7	1.8	93.8	4.4	1.9	94.1	4.0
Actually use small quantities of marijuana/cannabis	16.9	72.5	10.6	17.3	71.5	11.2	17.1	72.0	10.9
Grow small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use	14.7	76.2	9.1	14.7	75.5	9.8	14.7	75.8	9.5
Possess small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use	17.6	72.7	9.7	16.3	73.3	10.3	17.0	73.0	10.0
Possess implements for smoking or using marijuana/cannabis	25.4	62.5	12.1	20.4	65.2	14.4	22.9	63.8	13.3
Drive a vehicle after smoking marijuana/cannabis	10.6	76.6	12.8	9.8	77.2	13.0	10.2	76.9	12.9

## Understanding of the term ‘decriminalised’

The 1998 survey asked respondents about their understanding of the term ‘decriminalised’ in relation to drug use. The respondents were given two meanings to choose from. The survey showed that:

- More than one in three (36%) Australians aged 14 years and over reported the meaning of ‘decriminalised’ in relation to drug use as ‘illegal, caution, small fine up to \$200 applies’, while more than half (53%) reported the meaning as ‘legal, no penalty applies’ (Table 17.7).
- Slightly more males (41%) than females (32%) reported the meaning of ‘decriminalised’ as illegal, while more females (54%) than males (51%) thought ‘decriminalised’ meant legal.



**Table 17.7: Understanding of the term 'decriminalised': proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Meaning of the term 'decriminalised'	Age group						All ages
	14-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Legal, no penalty applies	44.8	48.8	54.3	51.9	53.0	51.6	51.1
Illegal, caution, small fine up to \$200 applies	36.3	42.7	38.8	42.2	41.9	40.9	40.7
Don't know	18.8	8.6	6.9	5.9	5.1	7.5	8.2
	<b>Females</b>						
Legal, no penalty applies	40.5	51.7	61.5	60.3	62.1	46.3	54.2
Illegal, caution, small fine up to \$200 applies	30.6	33.1	28.7	31.7	31.1	36.1	32.1
Don't know	28.9	15.1	9.9	8.0	6.8	17.7	13.7
	<b>Persons</b>						
Legal, no penalty applies	42.7	50.2	57.9	56.1	57.5	48.7	52.7
Illegal, caution, small fine up to \$200 applies	33.5	38.0	33.7	37.0	36.6	38.2	36.4
Don't know	23.8	11.8	8.4	6.9	5.9	13.1	11.0

# 18 Community perceptions of drug problems in society

## Drugs thought to be associated with a 'drug problem'

The 1998 survey asked respondents to name drugs that were causing a 'drug problem' in Australia. The survey showed that 37% of Australians aged 14 years and over listed heroin as the top drug associated with a 'drug problem' (Table 18.1). A further one-fifth (21%) of Australians reported marijuana/cannabis as the problem drug. The proportion of people who first thought of alcohol as a problem drug was 14%, followed by amphetamines/speed (13%). Only one in 25 (4%) Australians aged 14 years and over thought of tobacco as the top problem drug.

**Table 18.1: Drugs associated with a drug problem: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Drugs	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Alcohol	14.9	13.2	14.0
Tobacco	4.3	4.0	4.2
Tea/coffee/caffeine	0.3	0.3	0.3
Barbiturates	0.2	0.2	0.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	0.5	0.9	0.7
Pain-killers/analgesics	0.4	0.5	0.4
Steroids	0.4	0.3	0.3
Inhalants	0.2	0.3	0.3
Marijuana/hashish/cannabis resin	20.4	21.2	20.8
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	0.5	0.3	0.4
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	0.4	1.6	1.0
Amphetamines/speed	13.5	12.6	13.0
Heroin	37.6	37.3	37.4
Cocaine	3.9	4.1	4.0
Ecstasy/designer drugs	1.1	1.3	1.2
Drugs other than listed	1.0	1.2	1.1
None/can't think of any	0.5	0.8	0.7

## Most serious concern regarding drug use/activity in the community

In 1998 the survey asked respondents to nominate one drug use/activity which in their view was the most serious concern for the general community. Of the 14 drug uses/activities listed, the survey showed that:

- One in four (25%) Australians aged 14 years and over reported excess drinking of alcohol as the most serious concern for the general community (Table 18.2).
- Use of heroin was reported as the most serious concern by a further one-quarter (24%) of Australians aged 14 years and over.

- More than one in six (17%) Australians aged 14 years and over nominated tobacco smoking as the most serious concern for the general community.
- Sharing of needles or syringes was reported as the most serious drug-related activity by 14% of Australians aged 14 years and over.
- Males (26%) were more likely to report heroin use as the most serious concern for the general community compared with females (22%).

**Table 18.2: Drug use/activity that is the most serious concern for the general community: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug use/activity	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Marijuana/ hash use	4.1	4.4	4.3
Tobacco smoking	18.0	16.3	17.1
Heroin use	26.1	21.5	23.8
Sharing needles or syringes	11.5	16.4	14.0
Excessive use of barbiturates	1.0	0.6	0.8
Excessive drinking of alcohol	24.2	25.2	24.7
Excessive use of tranquillisers	0.3	0.8	0.5
Sniffing glue/petrol/solvents/rush	1.9	1.4	1.6
Ecstasy/designer drug use	3.4	4.5	4.0
Amphetamine/speed use	1.6	1.7	1.6
Cocaine/crack use	5.4	4.7	5.1
Hallucinogen use	0.3	0.4	0.3
Excessive use of pain-killers/analgesics	0.8	1.4	1.1
Steroid use	0.7	0.2	0.4
None of these	0.6	0.4	0.5

## Acceptability of regular use of drugs

The 1998 survey asked respondents about their personal opinions on whether it was acceptable for an adult to regularly use a variety of drugs. In general, approval for regular use of drugs was not very high, except for alcohol. The data showed that:

- More than three-fifths (61%) of Australians aged 14 years or over reported it was acceptable for an adult to regularly use alcohol.
- Two-fifths (40%) of Australians aged 14 years and over thought regular use of tobacco/cigarettes by an adult was acceptable.
- More than one-quarter (26%) thought regular use of marijuana/cannabis by an adult was acceptable.
- In general, males were more likely than females to approve regular use of drugs by an adult.

**Table 18.3: Acceptability of regular use of drugs by an adult: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Drugs	Males	Females	Persons
		(per cent)	
Tobacco/cigarettes <sup>(a)</sup>	42.1	38.2	40.2
Alcohol <sup>(a)</sup>	67.8	54.8	61.2
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(b)</sup>	10.6	8.6	9.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(b)</sup>	7.3	3.8	5.5
Steroids <sup>(b)</sup>	3.9	0.9	2.4
Barbiturates <sup>(b)</sup>	2.7	0.7	1.7
Marijuana/cannabis <sup>(c)</sup>	30.5	20.6	25.5
Heroin <sup>(c)</sup>	2.9	0.8	1.8
Amphetamines <sup>(c)</sup>	4.6	1.6	3.1
Cocaine/crack <sup>(c)</sup>	3.8	1.1	2.4
Naturally occurring hallucinogens <sup>(c)</sup>	6.4	2.2	4.3
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens <sup>(c)</sup>	4.5	1.4	2.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs <sup>(c)</sup>	5.1	1.5	3.3
Glue/petrol/solvents/rush <sup>(c)</sup>	1.7	0.3	1.0
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	2.8	0.8	1.8

(a) Regular use means every day.

(b) For non-medical purposes.

(c) Regular use means used at least once a month.

## Opinion on legal status of possession of marijuana/cannabis for personal use

When respondents were asked to express their opinion on whether the possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be legal or illegal, the survey showed that:

- Half (50%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over said that possession of a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be illegal, while 43% preferred it to be legal.
- More females (54%) than males (46%) expressed the view that the possession of a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis should be illegal.
- More persons aged 40 years and over preferred marijuana/cannabis to be illegal, while proportionally more persons aged 14–39 years preferred the possession of small quantities of it to be legal.

**Table 18.4: Preferred legal status of possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Preferred status	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Legal	49.1	61.1	55.9	49.6	37.1	28.7	47.4
Illegal	42.0	33.7	38.5	43.1	56.5	65.3	46.2
Unsure	8.9	5.3	5.6	7.3	6.4	6.0	6.4
<b>Females</b>							
Legal	43.9	50.7	44.9	37.3	38.9	21.0	38.6
Illegal	47.4	40.8	46.3	56.8	56.5	72.5	54.2
Unsure	8.7	8.5	8.8	5.9	4.6	6.6	7.2
<b>Persons</b>							
Legal	46.6	56.0	50.4	43.5	38.0	24.5	42.9
Illegal	44.6	37.2	42.4	49.9	56.5	69.2	50.3
Unsure	8.8	6.9	7.2	6.6	5.5	6.3	6.8

When respondents were further asked whether possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be a criminal offence, the survey showed that:

- Nearly half (48%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over reported that possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be a criminal offence (Table 18.5).
- Slightly more males (50%) than females (47%) reported that the possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be a criminal offence.

**Table 18.5: Preference for criminality of possession of a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis for personal use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Preference	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Yes	50.1	47.7	47.9	48.4	46.9	55.8	50.0
No	37.8	43.6	38.0	43.6	46.1	32.4	39.7
Unsure	12.1	8.7	14.0	8.0	7.0	11.8	10.3
<b>Females</b>							
Yes	45.8	55.6	48.9	44.5	50.0	41.1	46.8
No	38.0	28.7	39.5	45.5	38.2	44.9	40.2
Unsure	16.2	15.7	11.6	10.1	11.8	14.0	13.0
<b>Persons</b>							
Yes	47.9	52.1	48.5	46.2	48.4	47.4	48.2
No	37.9	35.3	38.8	44.7	42.3	39.5	40.0
Unsure	14.2	12.6	12.7	9.2	9.3	13.1	11.8

When those respondents who said the possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis should be illegal were further asked what type of penalties they would prefer if a person was found in possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use, 36%

reported a compulsory drug education program as a penalty (Table 18.6). The survey also showed that:

- Of those Australians aged 14 years and over who preferred possession of small quantity of marijuana/cannabis to be illegal, one in 25 (4%) preferred a gaol sentence as a penalty.
- More than one in five (21%) said they preferred a fine of up to \$200.
- One in six (16%) preferred a substantial fine of around \$1,000.
- More than one in ten (12%) preferred a caution or warning as a penalty for possessing a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis for personal use.
- More females (39%) than males (32%) preferred a compulsory education program as a penalty for persons possessing a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis for personal use.

**Table 18.6: Preferred penalty for possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Type of penalty	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
A caution or warning only	13.4	11.6	8.2	5.8	15.2	16.5	12.0
Something similar to a parking fine, up to \$200	31.0	31.5	22.0	15.9	17.7	20.8	22.2
A compulsory drug education program	24.8	19.4	32.6	42.0	42.4	29.5	32.4
A substantial fine, around \$1,000	16.9	22.2	21.5	12.2	11.5	15.6	16.3
A community service order	5.3	5.5	6.2	6.5	4.0	4.5	5.3
Weekend detention	0.7 *	0.7 *	1.7	2.3	—	2.4	1.5
A gaol sentence	4.0	2.9	3.9	4.6	6.3	8.0	5.3
Some other arrangement	3.8	6.1	3.9	10.7	2.8	2.6	4.9
<b>Females</b>							
A caution or warning only	11.1	8.2	9.1	11.9	13.0	17.8	12.6
Something similar to a parking fine, up to \$200	30.8	26.6	22.0	16.5	12.2	15.3	19.3
A compulsory drug education program	21.9	29.2	33.2	47.5	48.6	42.0	38.7
A substantial fine, around \$1,000	22.3	25.0	20.2	11.9	12.8	12.6	16.5
A community service order	6.4	3.1	8.5	5.4	4.2	6.3	5.7
Weekend detention	1.7	0.6	1.5	0.3 *	0.2 *	1.1	0.9
A gaol sentence	2.8	2.5	2.5	3.2	5.0	3.7	3.3
Some other arrangement	3.0	4.6	3.1	3.4	4.0	1.3	3.0
<b>Persons</b>							
A caution or warning only	12.2	9.7	8.7	9.2	14.1	17.2	12.3
Something similar to a parking fine, up to \$200	30.9	28.8	22.0	16.2	15.0	17.7	20.6
A compulsory drug education program	23.3	24.9	32.9	45.0	45.4	36.6	35.9
A substantial fine, around \$1,000	19.7	23.8	20.8	12.0	12.2	13.9	16.4
A community service order	5.9	4.2	7.4	5.9	4.1	5.5	5.5
Weekend detention	1.2	0.7	1.6	1.2	0.1 *	1.6	1.1
A gaol sentence	3.4	2.7	3.1	3.8	5.7	5.6	4.2
Some other arrangement	3.4	5.3	3.5	6.6	3.4	1.9	3.9

Note: Base equals only those reporting that the possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use should be illegal.

## Potential consumption rate of marijuana/cannabis if it was legal to use

The 1998 survey asked the respondents what they would do if marijuana/cannabis was legal to use. The data showed that four-fifths of Australians aged 14 years and over would not use marijuana/cannabis even if it was legal and available. The survey showed that only one in 20 (5%) Australians aged 14 years and over would try it if marijuana/cannabis was legal and available. The survey further showed that more females (84%) than males (76%) would not use marijuana/cannabis even if it was legal and available.

**Table 18.7: Expected rate of consumption of marijuana/cannabis if it was legal to use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Intention	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Not use it	76.4	84.1	80.3
Try it	5.9	4.5	5.2
Use it about as often as I do now	12.5	7.5	10.0
Use it more often than I do now	1.1	0.7	0.9
Use it less often than I do now	0.7	0.5	0.6
Don't know	3.4	2.5	3.0

## Preferred resource allocation to reduce the use of various drugs

In 1998, respondents were asked to allocate \$100 in three areas – education, treatment and law enforcement – to reduce the use of drugs. In all, respondents were asked to allocate resources for five drug categories – alcohol, tobacco, marijuana/cannabis, amphetamines, and heroin/cocaine. The data showed that people tend to allocate resources differently in order to reduce the use of different drugs. For example:

- Except for heroin and cocaine use, Australians aged 14 years and over preferred to spend more resources on education than other measures to reduce the use of drugs (Table 18.8). Australians aged 14 years and over preferred to spend half of all available resources on education in order to reduce the use of tobacco, while a little over one-third (\$36) of available resources was allocated on education to reduce the use of drugs such as heroin and cocaine.
- Almost equal amounts were allocated to treatment activities in order to reduce the use of alcohol (\$31) and tobacco (\$30), while drugs such as marijuana/cannabis (\$25), amphetamines (\$24), and heroin/cocaine (\$25) received slightly lower allocations for treatment activities.
- Australians preferred to spend large amounts of resources on law enforcement in order to reduce the use of heroin and cocaine, with nearly \$40 allocated to law enforcement to reduce the use of these drugs, compared with only \$19 for tobacco and \$26 for alcohol.

**Table 18.8: Hypothetical allocation of \$100 to reduce the use of various drugs, by sex, Australia, 1998**

<b>Areas</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>	<b>Marijuana/ cannabis</b>	<b>Amphetamine</b>	<b>Heroin/cocaine</b>
<b>(Mean \$)</b>					
<b>Males</b>					
Education	45.60	52.20	48.30	39.90	36.60
Treatment	28.30	28.70	23.10	22.40	23.00
Law enforcement	26.10	19.10	28.60	37.70	40.40
<b>Females</b>					
Education	42.00	48.30	43.10	37.40	34.60
Treatment	33.00	32.10	27.00	26.30	26.90
Law enforcement	25.00	19.60	29.90	36.30	38.50
<b>Persons</b>					
Education	43.80	50.20	45.70	38.70	35.60
Treatment	30.70	30.40	25.10	24.40	25.00
Law enforcement	25.50	19.40	29.30	37.00	39.50



# 19 Community support for drug-related policy

## Measures against tobacco use

In 1998 respondents were asked to indicate their support for policies aimed at reducing the problems associated with tobacco use. Responses that indicated either 'strongly support' or 'support' out of five possible responses – strongly support, support, neither support or oppose, oppose, strongly oppose – were grouped into a single category of support.

The data showed that nine out of ten (90%) Australians aged 14 years and over supported stricter enforcement of laws against the supply of cigarettes to minors (Table 19.1). The survey further showed that:

- Four-fifths approved banning smoking in workplaces (80%), shopping centres (83%) and restaurants (77%).
- Half (50%) approved banning smoking in pubs and clubs.
- Three-fifths or more of Australians aged 14 years and over supported the increasing tax on tobacco products to pay for health education programs, for treating smoking-related diseases, and to discourage people from smoking.
- With the exception of banning smoking in restaurants, females were more supportive than males for all policy measures.

**Table 19.1: Support for measures to reduce tobacco-related harm: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Measure	Males	Females (per cent)	Persons
Stricter enforcement of the law against supplying cigarettes to customers who are under age	88.1	91.8	90.0
Banning tobacco advertising at sporting events	57.1	65.5	61.4
Banning smoking in the workplace	76.3	83.6	80.0
Banning smoking in shopping centres	80.5	84.6	82.6
Banning smoking in restaurants	77.4	76.9	77.1
Banning smoking in pubs/clubs	47.7	52.1	49.9
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to pay for health education programs	58.0	65.1	61.6
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to contribute to the cost of treating smoking-related diseases	63.8	68.0	65.9
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to discourage people from smoking	56.6	64.0	60.4

## Measures against alcohol use

The support for measures to reduce the problems associated with excessive alcohol use was not as high as the level of support measures to reduce tobacco-related harm. A little more than one in four (27%) Australians aged 14 years and over supported increasing the price of

alcohol as a measure to reduce alcohol-related harm (Table 19.2). There was very high support for measures such as severe legal penalties for drivers who are drunk (89%), stricter enforcement of the law against serving customers who are drunk (86%), and limiting advertising for alcohol on TV until after 9.30 p.m. (73%). Furthermore, females were more supportive than males of all the measures listed to reduce the harm due to excessive use of alcohol.

**Table 19.2: Support for measures to reduce alcohol-related harm: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Measure	Males	Females		Persons
		(per cent)		
Increasing the price of alcohol	19.4	33.9		26.7
Reducing the number of outlets that sell alcohol	27.5	41.0		34.3
Reducing trading hours for all pubs and clubs	29.8	40.2		35.0
Raising the legal drinking age	36.0	46.9		41.5
Increasing the number of alcohol-free public events	59.9	73.1		66.6
Increasing the number of alcohol-free zones or dry areas	63.7	73.2		68.5
Stricter enforcement of the law against serving customers who are drunk	82.4	90.0		86.3
Serving only low-alcohol drinks, such as low-alcohol beer at sporting events or venues	64.5	77.7		71.2
Limiting advertising for alcohol on TV until after 9.30 p.m.	66.0	79.0		72.6
Banning alcohol sponsorship of sporting events	36.9	52.7		44.9
More severe legal penalties for drivers who are drunk	84.4	93.1		88.8

## Measures against heroin use

The 1998 survey showed a range of support levels for measures that would reduce the problems associated with heroin use. The data showed that:

- Rapid detoxification therapy was the most supported measure to reduce the problems associated with heroin use, with three-fifths (60%) of all Australians aged 14 years and over supporting this measure (Table 19.3).
- Methadone maintenance programs were supported by 58% and treatment with drugs other than methadone was supported by 54% of Australians aged 14 years and over.
- The two least supported measures were free needle/syringe exchanges (50%) and regulated injecting rooms (33%).
- With the exception of rapid detoxification therapy, females were more supportive than males of all listed measures.

**Table 19.3: Support for measures to reduce heroin-related harm: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Australia, 1998**

Measure	Males	Females		Persons
		(per cent)		
Free needle/syringe exchanges	46.3	53.6		50.0
Methadone maintenance programs	56.9	58.6		57.8
Treatment with drugs other than methadone	54.2	54.4		54.3
Regulated injecting rooms	32.3	33.9		33.1
Rapid detoxification therapy	61.3	59.2		60.3

## Support for legalising drugs for personal use

The 1998 survey showed very little support for legalising drugs such as heroin, amphetamines and cocaine, while there was moderate support for legalising marijuana/cannabis for personal use (Table 19.4). Specifically, the survey showed that:

- More than one in four (29%) Australians aged 14 years and over supported legalising marijuana/cannabis for personal use.
- A little over one in 15 (7%) supported legalising heroin for personal use.
- Only 6% of all Australians supported legalising amphetamines or cocaine for personal use.
- Females were less likely than males to support legalising drugs for personal use.

When the support for legalising selected drugs was analysed by age group, the data showed that:

- Persons aged 20–39 years were more likely than any other age group to support legalising drugs for personal use.
- Except for the younger age group (14–19 years), as age increased, support for legalising drugs for personal use decreased.

**Table 19.4: Support for personal use of selected drugs being made legal: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	38.2	49.6	41.4	37.3	21.6	12.9	33.8
Heroin	4.9	10.6	11.0	10.4	4.6	6.4	8.4
Amphetamines/speed	6.1	10.7	7.7	8.1	3.6	3.5	6.8
Cocaine	4.3	10.0	9.0	7.9	4.4	4.4	7.0
<b>Females</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	35.6	37.7	31.2	24.2	16.3	10.2	25.1
Heroin	4.6	6.1	8.4	6.1	6.5	5.2	6.2
Amphetamines/speed	4.2	5.3	6.6	3.9	3.7	4.3	4.8
Cocaine	4.4	5.3	6.7	4.6	4.2	4.8	5.1
<b>Persons</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	36.9	43.7	36.3	30.7	19.0	11.4	29.4
Heroin	4.8	8.4	9.7	8.2	5.5	5.7	7.3
Amphetamines/speed	5.2	8.0	7.1	6.0	3.7	4.0	5.8
Cocaine	4.4	7.7	7.8	6.3	4.3	4.6	6.0

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

The 1998 survey showed that the majority of Australians aged 14 years and over supported increased penalties for the sale or supply of drugs such as marijuana/cannabis, heroin, amphetamines and cocaine (Table 19.5). The support for increased penalties varied by drug. For example:

- More than four-fifths supported increased penalties for selling or supplying heroin (85%), cocaine (84%) and amphetamines (83%).

- Only about six in ten (59%) supported increased penalties for the sale or supply of marijuana/cannabis.
- More females than males supported increased penalties for the sale and supply of drugs.
- As age increased so did support for increased penalties for the sale and supply of drugs.

**Table 19.5: Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of drugs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australia, 1998**

Drug	Age group						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	45.1	35.7	45.7	53.6	74.1	79.4	55.4
Heroin	78.6	79.1	81.6	84.8	93.5	90.7	84.7
Amphetamines/speed	74.9	71.3	78.9	84.1	92.0	89.8	81.8
Cocaine	77.3	74.3	79.8	84.4	92.5	90.5	83.1
<b>Females</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	43.3	49.5	57.2	64.7	74.2	82.3	63.4
Heroin	77.4	82.4	85.9	85.2	87.9	89.6	85.4
Amphetamines/speed	73.7	79.2	84.4	84.3	87.2	88.6	83.6
Cocaine	75.6	81.3	85.2	84.2	87.3	89.5	84.5
<b>Persons</b>							
Marijuana/cannabis	44.2	42.5	51.5	59.2	74.1	81.0	59.4
Heroin	78.0	80.7	83.8	85.0	90.7	90.1	85.1
Amphetamines/speed	74.3	75.2	81.6	84.2	89.6	89.2	82.7
Cocaine	76.5	77.8	82.5	84.3	90.0	90.0	83.8

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# Appendix 1: Relative standard errors

Table A1.1: Prevalence (P) and relative standard errors (RSE) for different age and sex groups, Australia, 1998

# Appendix 2: Definition, measurement and distribution of correlates

Table A2.1: Definition of correlate variables, Australia, 1998

Variable	Description	Measurement	Definition
Education	Possession of post-school qualification	No qualification	Persons with no post-school qualification. Includes persons with schooling up to year 10, non-trade qualification and those with no schooling at all
		HSC or equivalent	HSC/SACE/VCE/high school certificate/leaving certificate or equivalent
		Trade/diploma	Persons with trade qualification, associate diploma or undergraduate diploma
		Tertiary	Persons with bachelor's degree or post-graduate degree/diploma
Employment status	Employment status at survey time	Employed	Working full time or part time for pay
		Student	A full-time or part-time student
		Unemployed	Unemployed
		Retired/ pension	Retired or on a pension or doing home duties
Occupational status	Status of the job, derived from ASCO coding	Upper (white)	ASCO codes 1 to 2999
		Middle	ASCO codes 3000 to 6999
		Lower (blue)	ASCO codes 7000 and above
Country of birth	The birthplace of the respondent	Australian-born	Those born in Australia; includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
		Other English-speaking born	Those born in United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States
		Non-English speaking countries	Persons born in other countries
Socioeconomic area	Relative socioeconomic status of the statistical local area of residence based on the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage	1st quintile	Index score below 949 (based on sample distribution)
		2nd quintile	Index score between 950 and 981
		3rd quintile	Index score between 982 and 1012
		4th quintile	Index score between 1013 and 1060
		5th quintile	Index score between 1061 and 1196
Geography	Type of locality of residence	Urban	Capital cities and other urban areas
		Rural/remote	Non-urban areas

(continued)

**Table A2.1 (continued): Definition of correlate variables, Australia, 1998**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Marital status	Respondent's present marital status	Never married	Respondent never married
		Widowed	Respondent is widowed
		Divorced/ separated	Respondent is either divorced or separated but not divorced
		Presently married	Respondent is married, including in <i>de facto</i> relationship
Social influences	A proxy measure to assess whether social network impacts on drug use behaviour	At least 50% of friends use	If at least 50% of the respondent's friends use the drug
		Less than 50% of friends use	If less than 50% of respondent's friends use the drug

**Table A2.2: Sample distribution of correlate variables, Australia, 1998**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Proportion of sample (per cent)</b>
<b>Education</b>	
No qualification	43.3
HSC or equivalent	17.9
Trade/diploma	23.0
Tertiary	15.7
<b>Employment status</b>	
Currently employed	52.4
Student	11.0
Unemployed	5.0
Retired/pension	31.6
<b>Occupational status</b>	
Upper (white)	25.0
Middle	44.7
Lower (blue)	30.3
<b>Country of birth</b>	
Australian born	80.0
Other English-speaking born	9.2
Non-English-speaking born	10.8
<b>Geography</b>	
Urban	71.3
Rural/remote	28.7
<b>Marital status</b>	
Never married	27.7
Widowed	5.4
Divorced/separated	10.4
Presently married	56.5