



# New and emerging psychoactive substances

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

The New (and emerging) Psychoactive Substance (NPS) market is highly dynamic with fluctuations in the types of NPS available.[6]



## Main types of NPS include:

- synthetic cannabinoids
- phenethylamines
- tryptamines
- piperazines
- synthetic cathinones
- novel benzodiazepines.[1]

2022 EDRS participants past 6 months use of NPS:

- **11%** had used any NPS, including plant-based
- **9%** had used any NPS, excluding plant-based. [3]

NPS **often mimic the effects** of existing illicit substances.[1]



**97%** of **secondary school students** in 2017 reported **never using synthetic cannabis** or any new synthetic drug in the last twelve months.[4]



**0.1%\*** of the Australian population **reported recent use** of other NPS such as 'meow meow' and N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) in 2019.[2]

The number of **NPS border detections increased** by **6%** from 2018–19 to 2019–20.[5]

**0.2%** of the Australian population reported the **recent use** of **synthetic cannabinoids** in 2019.[2]



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## References

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older.[2]

\* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

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