



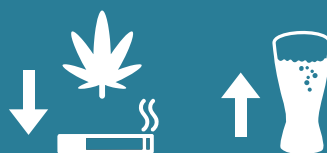
Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia **Younger people**



In 2015, **alcohol and illicit drug use were the leading causes of total burden of disease in males aged 15–24** and the **second and third leading causes (respectively) for females**.^[1]



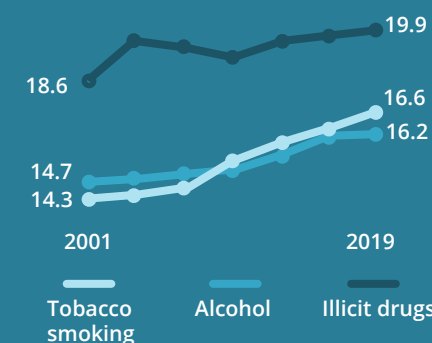
Tobacco smoking and the use of alcohol and **illicit drugs** are declining among young people, however the consumption of alcohol at risky levels remained high in 2019.^[2]



An increasing proportion of people aged **14–17** and **18–24** are reporting alcohol abstinence.^[2]



Age of initiation increased between 2001–2019.^[2]



Risky drinkers aged 14–19 in the last 12 months in 2016–17:

- 83% **injured** as a result of their drinking,
- 7% attended the **emergency department** for an alcohol related injury.^[3]



In 2015, **males aged 15–24 experienced nearly two times the burden of disease from alcohol and drug use**, compared to females.^[1]

In 2019–20, over **1 in 10 (11%)** clients who sought treatment for their own use of alcohol and other drugs were **aged 10–19**, and 1 in 4 (26%) were aged 20–29.^[4]

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. [New Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol](#) were released in December 2020. Data for alcohol risk in this fact sheet are measured against the 2009 guidelines, reflecting the time period in which the data were collected.^[2]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. [Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2015](#). Australian Burden of Disease Study series no.19. Cat. no. BOD 22. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 13 June 2019.
2. AIHW 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 31 July 2020.

3. Lam T, Lenton S, Chikritzhs T, Gilmore W, Liang W, Pandzic et al. 2017. [Young Australians' Alcohol Reporting System \(YAARS\): National Report 2016/17](#). National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.

4. AIHW 2021. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2019–20](#). Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 16 July 2021.



5% of secondary school students aged 12–17 in 2017 were **current smokers**, this is significantly lower than the 7% reported in 2011.^[5]



In 2017, **48%** of current secondary school smokers stated their most common **source for cigarettes was from friends**.^[5]



7% of secondary school students aged 12–17 in 2017 had **smoked in the last month**, down from 9% in 2011.^[5]



In 2017, 46% of secondary students aged 12–17 **drank alcohol** in the past year.^[5]



82% of secondary school students had **never tried smoking** (not even a single puff) in 2017 compared to 77% in 2011.^[5]



Among secondary school students aged 12–17 years, **14% had tried e-cigarettes** in 2017.^[5]



Among students aged 12–17, **cannabis** was the most **commonly used illicit substance** in 2017.^[5]



Among secondary school students aged 12–17, 29% of past month smokers had used **roll your own** at least 20 times or more in 2017, up from 24% in 2014.^[5]



22% of current smokers in secondary school aged 12–17 **smoked daily** in 2017.^[5]



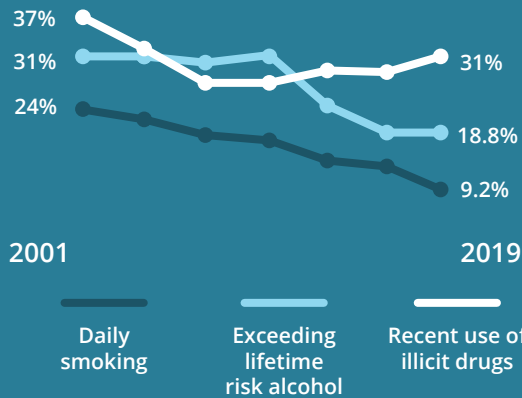
48% of secondary school students who had tried **vaping** reported in 2017 that they had **not previously smoked a cigarette**.^[5]



5. Guerin N & White V (2020). *ASSAD 2017 Statistics & Trends: Australian Secondary Students' Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Over-the-counter Drugs, and Illicit Substances*. Second Edition. Cancer Council Victoria. Viewed 21 July 2020.



Daily smoking, drinking at levels **exceeding lifetime alcohol risk** and recent use of **illicit drugs** have all decreased for young adults aged 18-24.^[2]



In 2019, **18-24 year olds** were the **most likely age group to have used illicit drugs** in the last 12 months (31%, down from 37% in 2001).^[2]



41% of young adults aged 18-24 **exceeded the single occasion risk guideline** in 2019 by consuming on average more than 4 standard drinks in one occasion.^[2]



In 2019, 14.6% of young adults aged 18-24 consumed 11 or more standard drinks on one occasion.^[2]

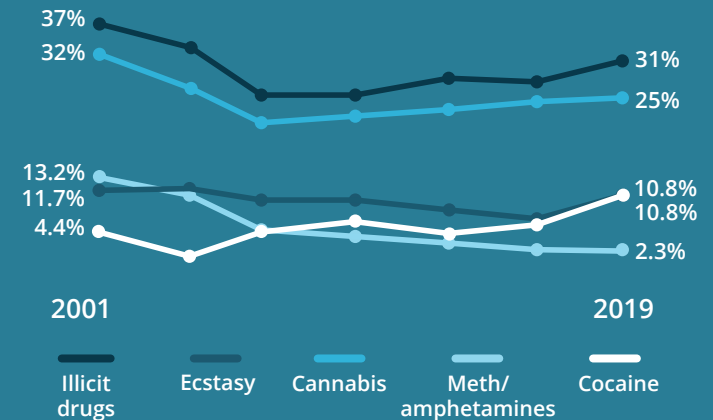


Average **number of cigarettes smoked per day** for 18-24 year olds:

11 in 2001,
8 in 2019.^[2]



18-24 year olds drug use in the last 12 months ^[2]



2. AIHW 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 31 July 2020.