

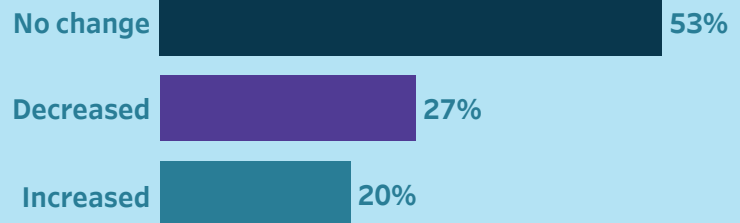


# Alcohol and other drug use during COVID-19

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Data sources on this factsheet are **not directly comparable** and care should be taken when interpreting data.

In May 2020, **20%** of ANUPoll respondents reported having **increased their alcohol consumption** since the spread of COVID-19. [1]



**1.2%** of respondents in the January 2021 ABS Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey reported **quitting or reducing smoking to manage their physical health**. [2]

In April 2022, **national wastewater** analysis indicated that **most drug markets** are **returning to pre COVID 19 settings**. [3]


The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data set observed:

- **Decreases in rehabilitation** treatment episodes in **April to June 2020**
- **Increases in counselling** episodes between **April and December 2020**. [4]



Between **2019-20** and **2020-21**, national wastewater data analysis indicated estimated **methylamphetamine consumption fell by 53%**. [3]





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## References

1. Biddle N, Edwards B, Gray M & Sollis K (2020). Alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 period: May 2020. ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods: Canberra. Viewed 10 June 2020.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey, January 2021, accessed 27 July 2022.
3. Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) 2022. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 17, Canberra: ACIC, accessed 7 November 2022.
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2022. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report. AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 27 July 2022.

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

