



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]

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]



People who use psychostimulant drugs such as ecstasy were more likely to use NPS than the general population in 2020.^[3]



The **number of NPS border detections decreased by 16%** from 2017–18 to 2018–19.^[5]



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

30% of **regular ecstasy and other stimulant users** reported **recent use** of any NPS in the past 6 months in 2019.^[3]



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

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.

1. NSW Ministry of Health 2017. A quick guide to drugs & alcohol, 3rd edn. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.
2. AIHW 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 03 August 2020.
3. Peacock A, Karlsson A, Uporova J, Price O, Chan R, Swanton R et al. 2020. [Australian Drug Trends 2020. Key Findings from the National Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System \(EDRS\) Interviews](#). Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW.

4. Guerin N & White V 2018. [Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2017](#). Victoria: Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer. Viewed 11 March 2019.

5. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2020. [Illicit Drug Data Report 2018–19](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 12 November 2020.

6. Burns L, Roxburgh A, Matthews A, Bruno R, Lenton S & Buskirk JV 2014. The rise of new psychoactive substance use in Australia. *Drug Testing and Analysis* 6:846–849.