

## Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

## People identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer



There is currently limited data available on the use of alcohol and other drugs by people identifying as LGBTIQ.

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) is the only national data source that provides comprehensive estimates by sexual identity, however, it does not include estimates for people identifying as transgender, intersex or queer.

Respondents from the 2019 **Australian Needle Syringe Program**:

- 5% were homosexual
- 10% were bisexual
- 1% were transgender.[2]



## Homosexual/bisexual drug use in 2010 vs 2019

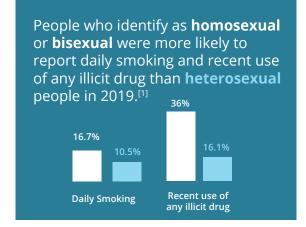








Daily smoking decreased from 28% in 2010 to 16.0% in 2019 Lifetime risky drinking decreased from 30% in 2010 to 22% in 2019 Recent non-medical use of pharmaceuticals decreased from 12.0% in 2010 to 7.5% in 2019 Inhalants increased from 6.5% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>





Compared with heterosexual people, in the previous 12 months in 2019 **homosexual/bisexual people** were:

- 9 x as likely to use inhalants
- **3.9 x** as likely to use meth/amphetamines
- **3.5 x** as likely to use hallucinogens
- 2.6 x as likely to use ecstasy.[1]

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. Findings for homosexual/bisexual people compared with those for heterosexual people are age-standardised [1]

- AlHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2020. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AlHW. Viewed 3 August 2020.
- Heard S, Iversen J, Geddes L & Maher L 2020. Australian NSP Survey 25 Year National Data Report 1995–2019: Prevalence of HIV, HCV and injecting and sexual behaviour among NSP attendees. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW.

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2021 (a) BY



Any enquiries about copyright and/or this fact sheet should be directed to: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, Tel: (02) 6244 1000, Email: <info@aihw.gov.au>.

For more detail, see the full report, *Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia*, which is available from the AIHW website.



better decisions, improved health and welfare