



Prison entrants in 2018 were more likely than the general population to be non-drinkers, however those that did drink were more likely to drink at high risk levels than people in the general community.<sup>[2]</sup>



In 2018, **1 in 3 police detainees** indicated that **illicit drug** use contributed to their offending.<sup>[1]</sup>



Around 8% of prison discharges reported using a **needle and syringe** that had been **used by someone else** while in prison in 2018.<sup>[2]</sup>



79% of **police detainees** who provided a urine sample in 2018 tested **positive for at least one drug type**.<sup>[1]</sup>



Police detainees reporting **consumption of alcohol in the 48 hours prior to arrest**; 32% in 2018.<sup>[1]</sup>

15% of referral episodes for clients receiving **alcohol and other drug treatment** were referred from police or court diversion in 2017–18.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 2018, police detainees consumed a median **11 standard drinks** before their arrest.<sup>[1]</sup>



Prison entrants in 2018:  
75% currently **smoked tobacco**  
67% **smoked tobacco daily**.<sup>[2]</sup>



**65%** of prison entrants in 2018 reported **using illicit drugs** in the 12 months before incarceration, with the most common being methamphetamine (43%).<sup>[2]</sup>

Illicit drug offences accounted for 11% of magistrate court cases, of which 63% were **possess and/or use illicit drugs** in 2018–19.<sup>[3]</sup>

1. Voce A & Sullivan T 2019. [Drug use monitoring in Australia: Drug use among police detainees, 2018](#). Statistical Reports no. 18. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. Viewed 8 January 2020.  
2. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. [The health of Australia's prisoners 2018](#). Cat. no. PHE 207. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 30 May 2019.

3. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2020. [Criminal Courts, Australia, 2018–19](#). ABS cat. no. 4513.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 27 February 2020.  
4. AIHW 2019. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2017–18: key findings](#). Web Report. Viewed 17 April 2019.