



# People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

The **National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS)** is the primary source on alcohol and other drug use in the CALD\* population in Australia, with **limited data available**.



**Cannabis** was the **most commonly used drug** in 2022–2023 among people from CALD backgrounds (4.8%).<sup>[1]</sup>



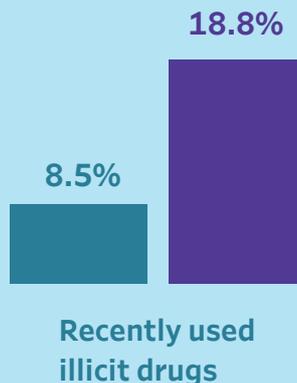
People from **CALD backgrounds (82%)** were more likely to report **never smoking**, compared with those whose primary language spoken at home is English (63%) in 2022–2023.<sup>[1]</sup>



**Average number of cigarettes smoked per week in 2022–2023 by current smokers:**



People from **CALD backgrounds** were less likely to have recently used illicit drugs compared to primary **English speakers** in 2022–2023.<sup>[1]</sup>



People from **CALD backgrounds** were more likely to be alcohol abstainers/ex drinkers compared to primary **English speakers** in 2022–2023.<sup>[1]</sup>





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## References

\* CALD data from the NDSHS refers to persons who indicated that English was not the main language spoken at home. 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 people from CALD backgrounds compared with primary English speakers are age-standardised.[1]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2024. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022–2023, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 02 April 2024.

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

