



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 2018 **Australian Needle Syringe Program:**

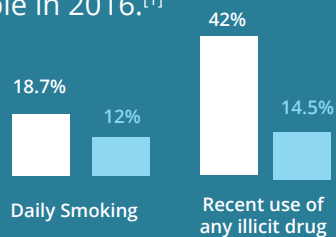
- **4%** were homosexual
- **9%** were bisexual
- **1%** were transgender.^[2]



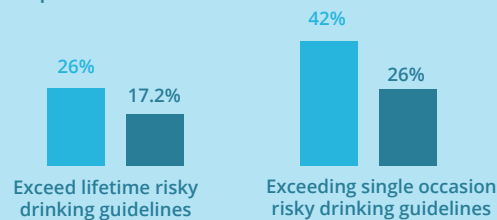
Compared with heterosexual people, in the previous 12 months in 2016 **homosexual/bisexual people** were:

- **5.8 x** as likely to use ecstasy
- **5.8 x** as likely to use meth/amphetamines
- **3.7 x** as likely to use cocaine
- **3.2 x** as likely to use cannabis
- **2.8 x** as likely to misuse pharmaceuticals.^[1]

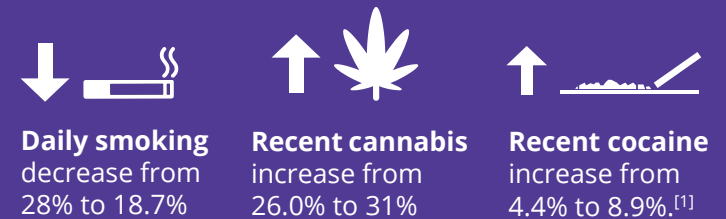
People who identify as **homosexual** or **bisexual** were more likely to report daily smoking and recent use of any illicit drug than **heterosexual** people in 2016.^[1]



People who identify as **homosexual** or **bisexual** were more likely to exceed lifetime and single occasion risky drinking guidelines than **heterosexual** people in 2016.^[1]



Homosexual/bisexual drug use in 2010 vs 2016



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older.^[1]

2. Heard S, Iversen J, Geddes L & Maher L 2019. Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey National Data Report 2014–2018: Prevalence of HIV, HCV and injecting and sexual behaviour among NSP attendees. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW.

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2017. *National Drug Strategy Household survey 2016: detailed findings*. Drug statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PHE 214. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 14 December 2017.

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019

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 can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website.



Stronger evidence,
better decisions,
improved health and welfare