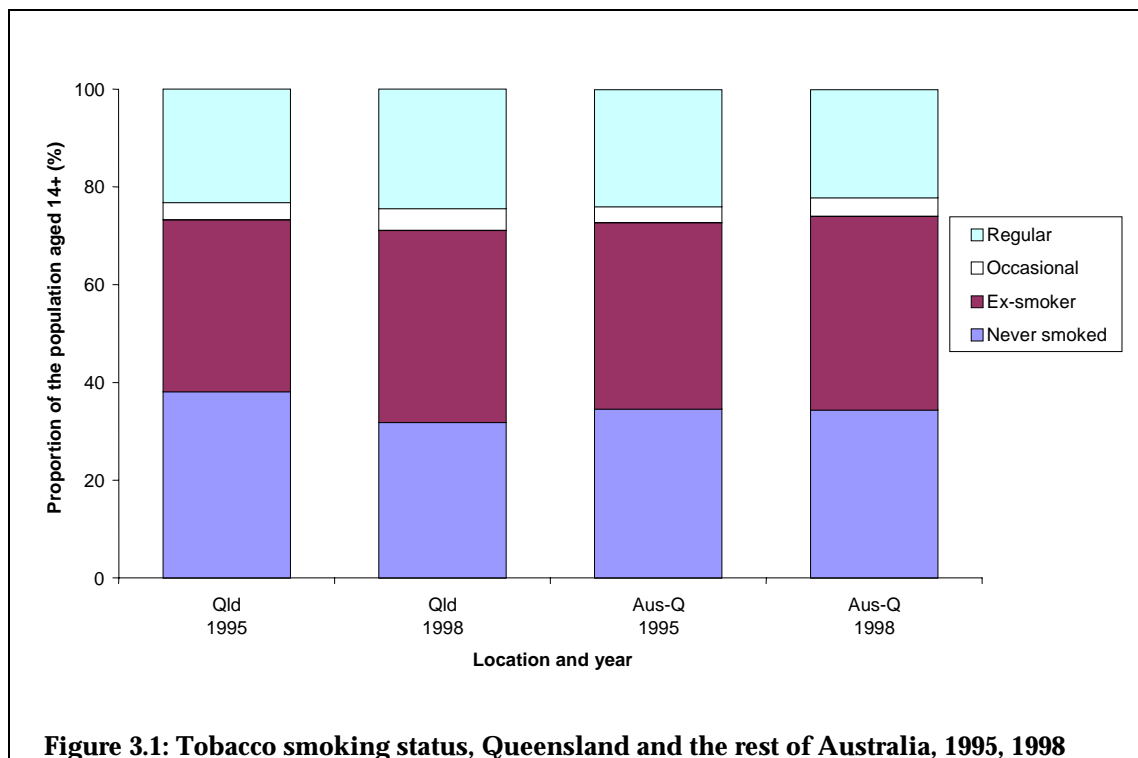


# 3 Consumption patterns

## Tobacco

Tobacco is associated with over four in every five drug-related deaths and almost three in every five drug-related hospital episodes. The Institute estimates that, nationally, tobacco was associated with over 18,000 deaths in 1997 and almost 150,000 hospitalisations (AIHW 1999). The most frequently occurring tobacco-related conditions were cancers (e.g. lung, oesophageal), ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Males are more than twice as likely as females to be hospitalised for, or die from, tobacco-related causes.

Between 1995 and 1998, tobacco smoking status varied only slightly for both Queensland and the other States and Territories combined (Figure 3.1).



## Smoking status

The proportion of people living in Queensland who were current (regular and occasional) smokers was similar in both 1995 (26.7%) and 1998 (28.9%) (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Smoking status	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)											
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	25.8	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.5</b>	24.8	22.1	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.4</b>	19.6	23.9	<b>23.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	22.1
Occasional <sup>(a)</sup>	3.7	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	4.1	3.0	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	3.6	3.3	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	3.8
Ex-smoker	40.9	<b>36.8</b>	<b>42.8</b>	42.9	35.6	<b>33.6</b>	<b>35.8</b>	36.5	38.1	<b>35.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	39.6
Never smoked	29.6	<b>33.1</b>	<b>26.7</b>	28.3	39.3	<b>43.0</b>	<b>36.8</b>	40.3	34.6	<b>38.1</b>	<b>31.8</b>	34.4

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: smokes less often than daily/most days.

### In Queensland:

- Approximately three in 10 persons (28.9%) smoked in 1998, one in four persons were regular (24.4%) smokers, and one in 20 were occasional (4.5%) smokers.
- Compared to 1995, there were higher proportions of people smoking in 1998, both regularly (1995 23.2%, 1998 24.4%) and occasionally (1995 3.5%, 1998 4.5%).
- The proportion of persons who had never smoked a full cigarette dropped from 38.1% in 1995 to 31.8% in 1998.
- Males (25.5%) were more likely than females (23.4%) to smoke regularly and occasionally (males 5.0%, females 3.9%) in 1998.
- The proportion of persons who smoked occasionally rose for both males and females between 1995 and 1998. Regular use remained stable for males at around 26% and increased for females (20.2% to 23.4%).

### Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportion of both regular and occasional smokers was greater in Queensland than in the other States and Territories combined, for both males and females.
- The proportion of ex-smokers was the same (at approximately 39%) and the proportion of persons who had never smoked a full cigarette was higher in the rest of Australia (34.4%) than in Queensland (31.8%).

## Ages of smokers

In 1998 the age group which had the highest proportion of current smokers was the 20–29 years age group, and the age group with the lowest proportion was 40 years or older (Table 3.2).

Rates of smoking by younger females were similar to rates in younger males in 1998.

- One in four Queensland teenagers smoked in 1998, with slightly fewer than one in five (17.8%) being regular smokers and slightly fewer than one in 12 (8.0%) being occasional smokers. Female teenagers (31.0%) were more likely than male

teenagers (20.4%) to be current smokers. More than two in five (44.6%) teenagers had never smoked.

- Regular smoking rates were highest in the 20–29 years age group. The proportion of female regular smokers (36.9%) was 8 percentage points higher than the proportion of male regular smokers (28.5%). Less than a third (29.7%) of persons in this age group had never smoked.
- From ages 30 years and older, males were less likely than females to have never smoked. One in five (20.1%) males aged 40 years or older had never smoked, compared to almost half of females (45.8%).

**Table 3.2: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Smoking status	Age				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(per cent)					
<b>Males</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	12.1	28.5	33.9	23.9	25.5
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	8.3	9.9	5.4	2.0	5.0
Ex-smoker	27.3	28.1	39.1	54.0	42.8
Never smoked	52.3	33.5	21.6	20.1	26.7
<b>Females</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	23.3	36.9	26.7	16.9	23.4
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	7.7	6.0	6.0	1.5	3.9
Ex-smoker	31.8	31.4	42.4	35.8	35.8
Never smoked	37.1	25.7	24.9	45.8	36.8
<b>Persons</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	17.8	32.5	30.2	20.4	24.4
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	8.0	8.0	5.7	1.7	4.5
Ex-smoker	29.6	29.7	40.8	44.7	39.3
Never smoked	44.6	29.7	23.3	33.2	31.8

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: smokes less often than daily/most days.

### Population estimates of the number of smokers

It is estimated that in 1998 there were almost 800,000 smokers aged 14 years or over living in Queensland (Table 3.3).

- Over 670,000 persons living in Queensland were regular smokers in 1998, with a further 124,000 occasional smokers. There were more males (350,000) than females (325,000) who were regular smokers.
- Approximately 78,000 Queensland teenagers smoked in 1998. There were just over 18,000 more female teenagers (46,000) than male teenagers (31,000) who smoked.
- The number of ex-smokers (1,084,000) and persons who had never smoked (877,000) exceeded the number of current smokers in 1998. More females (511,000) than males (366,000) had never smoked.

**Table 3.3: Tobacco: number of tobacco smokers, by status, age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Smoking status	Age				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
(number)					
<b>Males</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	19,000	76,000	89,000	164,000	350,000
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	13,000	27,000	14,000	14,000	69,000
Ex-smoker	42,000	75,000	103,000	371,000	587,000
Never smoked	80,000	90,000	57,000	138,000	366,000
<b>Females</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	34,000	97,000	71,000	120,000	325,000
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	11,000	16,000	16,000	11,000	54,000
Ex-smoker	47,000	83,000	113,000	255,000	497,000
Never smoked	55,000	68,000	66,000	326,000	511,000
<b>Persons</b>					
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	54,000	172,000	160,000	285,000	673,000
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	24,000	42,000	30,000	24,000	124,000
Ex-smoker	89,000	158,000	216,000	625,000	1,084,000
Never smoked	134,000	158,000	123,000	464,000	877,000

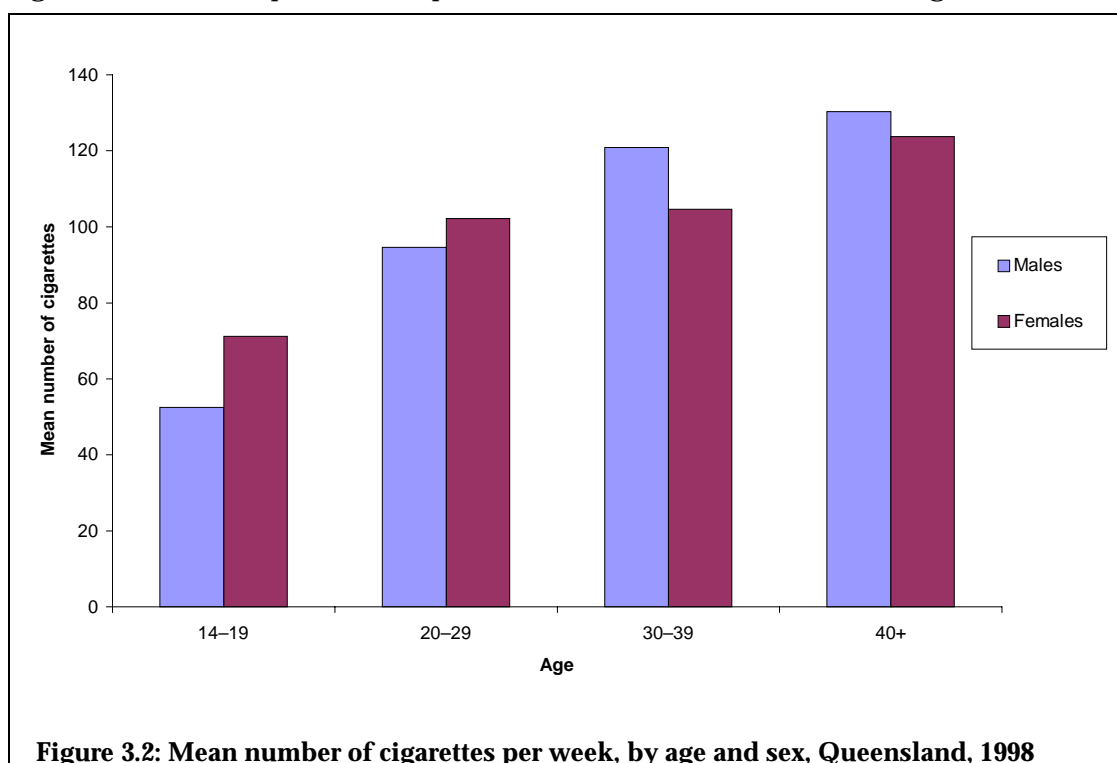
(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

(b) Occasional: smokes less often than daily/most days.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to sum of components due to rounding.

### Number of cigarettes smoked

In 1998, persons living in Queensland smoked more cigarettes on average as their age increased. This pattern was present for both males and females (Figure 3.2).



**Figure 3.2: Mean number of cigarettes per week, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

The likelihood of recent smokers smoking less than weekly or smoking more than 20 cigarettes per day was age related (Table 3.4). Generally, the quantities of cigarettes smoked by female smokers exceeded those of male smokers at younger ages (14–29 years). This pattern reversed after age 30 years. —

**Table 3.4: Number of cigarettes by smoking status, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Age	Smoking status							Mean per week
	Less than weekly	Occasional			Regular			
		1–10 week	11–30 week	31+ week	1–10 day	11–20 day	>20 day	
<b>Males</b>								
	(per cent)							(number)
14–19	38.3	2.2 *	2.8	—	30.1	14.2	12.4	53
20–29	5.2	13.8	6.7	4.9	15.6	25.1	28.6	95
30–39	6.8	0.8 *	1.3 *	5.5	11.8	35.3	38.5	121
40+	5.1	1.3 *	0.8 *	0.7 *	13.3	37.8	41.1	130
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Females</b>								
	(per cent)							(number)
14–19	12.9	8.9	1.9 *	—	34.1	31.7	10.6	71
20–29	11.1	2.0	0.3 *	0.1 *	25.7	36.6	24.2	102
30–39	10.8	5.4	2.7	—	18.8	32.0	30.3	105
40+	4.1	1.7 *	2.1 *	1.1 *	25.0	19.4	46.8	124
<b>All ages</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.4 *</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Persons</b>								
	(per cent)							(number)
14–19	22.5	6.4	2.2 *	—	32.6	25.1	11.3	64
20–29	8.4	7.5	3.3	2.4	21.0	31.2	26.3	99
30–39	8.7	3.0	2.0	2.9	15.2	33.7	34.5	113
40+	4.7	1.5 *	1.3 *	0.9 *	18.0	30.3	43.4	128
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>110</b>

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: Base equals all current smokers.

- The average number of cigarettes for all current smokers in Queensland in 1998 was 110 per week. This was a function of age, ranging from 64/week for 14–19 year olds, to 128/week for those aged 40+ years.
- On average, males (114 cigarettes per week) smoked more than females (106 cigarettes per week). Females tended to smoke more per week than males in the younger age groups: 14–19 years (males 53, females 71) and 20–29 years (males 95, females 102). Males were more likely than females to smoke more cigarettes per week after age 30 years: 30–39 years (males 121, females 105) and 40+ years (males 130, females 124).
- The majority of regular smokers smoked 11 or more cigarettes per day, with more than a third of smokers aged 30 years or more smoking in excess of 20 cigarettes a day.
- One in three (36.4%) teenage smokers smoked 11 or more cigarettes per day, with more females (42.3%) than males (26.6%) in the age group smoking at this rate.

## Alcohol

Alcohol is second only to tobacco in drug-related deaths and hospitalisations. The Institute estimates that nationally in 1997 there were almost 4,000 alcohol-related deaths and just under 100,000 hospital episodes (AIHW 1999). Principal among alcohol-related causes of death and hospital episodes were cirrhosis of the liver, strokes and motor vehicle accidents. Drinking status differed only slightly between 1995 and 1998 for both Queensland and the rest of Australia (Figure 3.3).

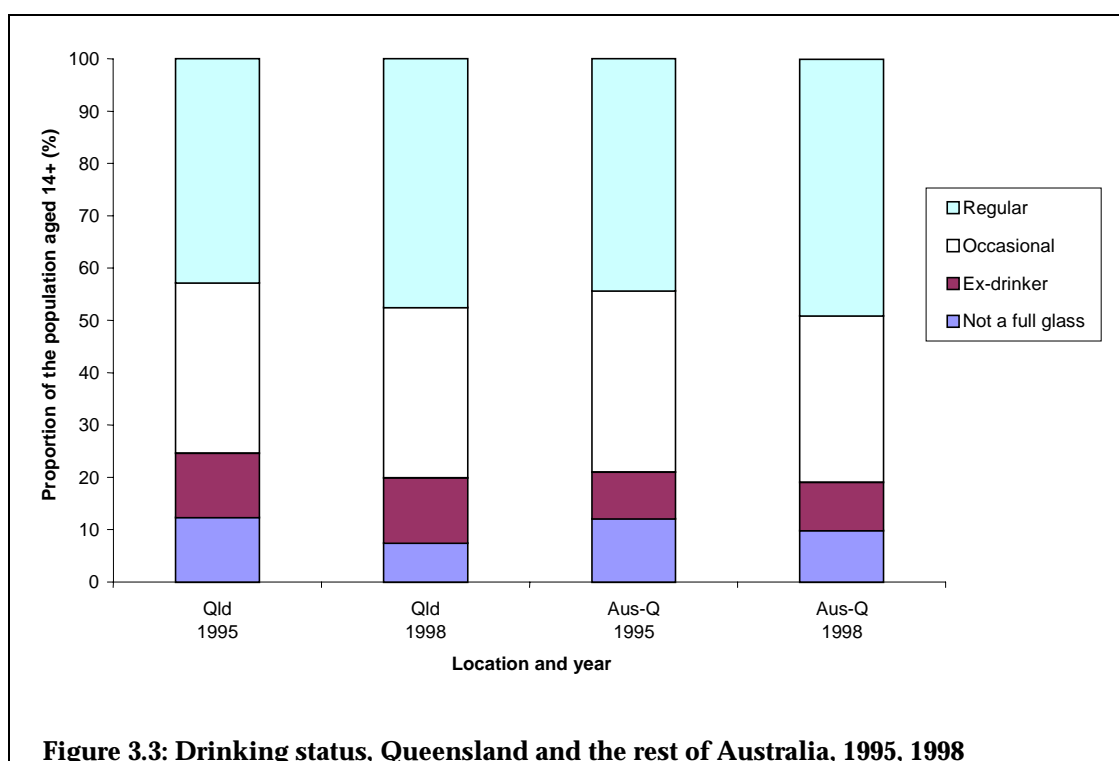


Figure 3.3: Drinking status, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998

## Alcohol drinking status

Between 1995 and 1998 the proportion of people living in Queensland who were current drinkers (regular and occasional) increased from 75.4% to 80.1% (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998

Drinking status	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)												
Regular <sup>(a)</sup>	56.0	51.2	59.1	59.3	33.0	34.7	35.7	39.0	44.3	42.8	47.5	49.0
Occasional <sup>(b)</sup>	27.9	29.2	25.4	24.9	41.3	35.9	39.9	38.5	34.7	32.6	32.6	31.8
Ex-drinker	7.4	11.6	10.8	8.3	10.3	12.7	14.1	10.3	8.9	12.2	12.4	9.3
Not a full glass of alcohol	8.7	8.0	4.7	7.5	15.4	16.7	10.3	12.1	12.1	12.4	7.5	9.8

(a) Regular: consumes alcohol on at least one day per week.

(b) Occasional: consumes alcohol less often than one day per week.

In Queensland:

- Approximately four in five persons in Queensland consumed alcohol in 1998 (80.1%). One in two were regular drinkers and one in three were occasional drinkers.
- The proportion of persons aged 14 years or older who consumed alcohol on a regular basis increased by 5 percentage points from 42.8% in 1995 to 47.5% in 1998. The proportion of persons who had never consumed a full glass of alcohol decreased from 12.4% to 7.5%.
- In 1998, males (59.1%) were more likely than females (35.7%) to drink regularly. However, females (39.9%) were more likely than males (25.4%) to consume alcohol on an occasional basis. In 1998, females (10.3%) were more than twice as likely as males (4.7%) to have never consumed a full glass of alcohol.
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of males who consumed alcohol regularly increased from 51.2% to 59.1%, whereas the proportion of females who consumed alcohol regularly remained constant.
- The proportion of males who consumed alcohol occasionally decreased by 4 percentage points between 1995 (29.2%) and 1998 (25.4%), and increased for females by the same amount (35.9% to 39.9%).

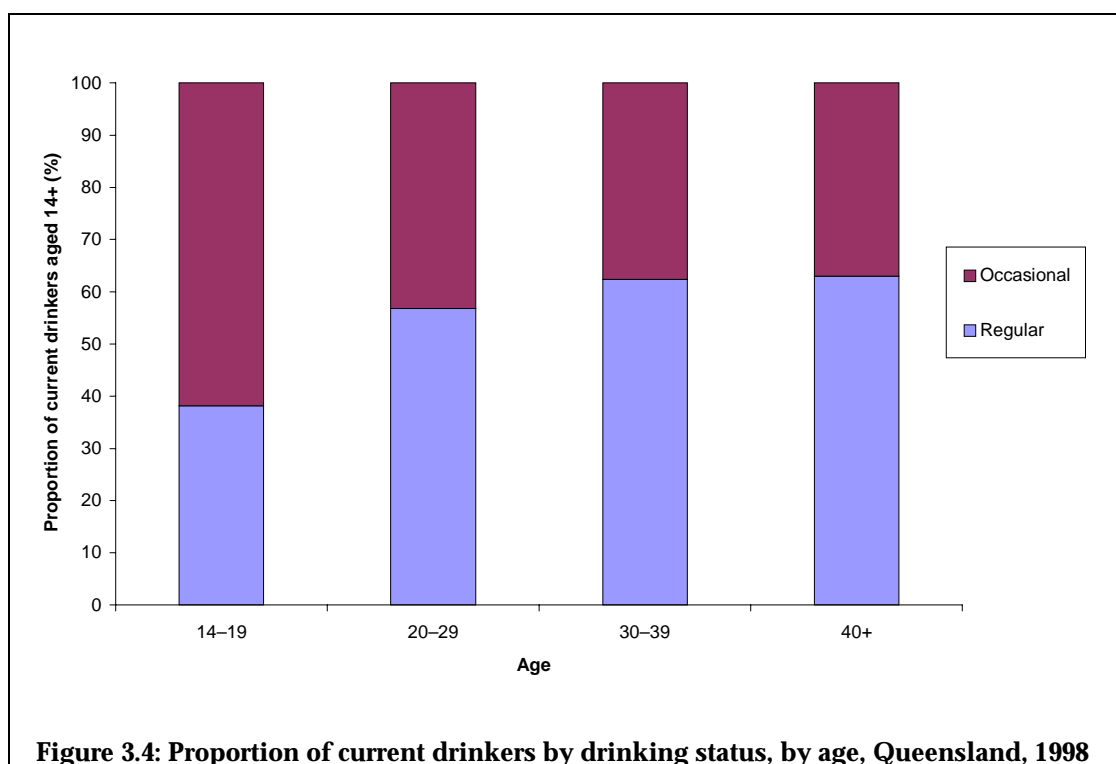
Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportion of persons who currently consume alcohol in the rest of Australia (80.8%) in 1998 was only slightly greater than the equivalent Queensland figure (80.1%).
- The largest difference for all persons was observed for ex-drinkers where 12.4% of the Queensland population were ex-drinkers in 1998 compared to 9.3% of persons in the other States and Territories combined.
- Proportions were generally consistent for males and females in Queensland and the rest of Australia in 1998. However, the proportion of persons who had never consumed a full glass of alcohol was higher in the rest of Australia than in Queensland for both males and females.

### **Ages of alcohol drinkers**

In 1998, the proportion of current drinkers in Queensland who consumed alcohol regularly, as opposed to occasionally, increased with age (Figure 3.4).

Beyond age 20 years, approximately two in every three current drinkers in Queensland in 1998 were regular drinkers (Table 3.6).



**Figure 3.4: Proportion of current drinkers by drinking status, by age, Queensland, 1998**

**Table 3.6: Proportion of current alcohol drinkers aged 14 years and over, by drinking status, <sup>(a)(b)</sup> age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1998**

Age	Males				Females				Persons			
	Regular		Occasional		Regular		Occasional		Regular		Occasional	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)												
14-19	47.0	46.8	53.2	53.0	39.7	31.1	68.9	60.3	43.4	38.2	61.8	56.6
20-29	71.8	68.6	31.4	28.2	48.8	43.6	56.4	51.2	60.8	56.8	43.2	39.2
30-39	72.5	75.7	24.3	27.5	53.0	48.8	51.2	47.0	63.0	62.4	37.6	37.0
40+	73.2	71.6	28.4	26.8	51.8	52.1	47.9	48.2	62.7	63.0	37.0	37.3
<b>All ages</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>39.4</b>

(a) Regular: consumes alcohol on at least one day per week.  
 (b) Occasional: consumes alcohol less often than one day per week.  
 Note: Base equals all current drinkers.

**In Queensland:**

- In 1998, approximately three in five drinkers consumed alcohol regularly. This was consistent for all age groups aside from the 14-19 year olds where two in five drinkers consumed alcohol regularly.
- Patterns for males and females were distinctly different. Approximately equal proportions of female drinkers consumed alcohol regularly (47.2%) and occasionally (52.8%). However, males were more than twice as likely to be regular drinkers (69.9%) as occasional (30.1%).
- Aside from 14-19 year olds, males were far more likely to be regular drinkers than occasional in 1998. For example, 68.6% of males aged 20-29 years were regular drinkers and 31.4% were occasional drinkers.
- For females, 14-19 year olds were more likely to be occasional than regular drinkers. From age 20 years, females were equally likely to be regular as occasional drinkers.



Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In 1998, the proportion of Queensland current drinkers who were occasional drinkers, as opposed to regular, was larger than the proportion of the rest of Australia.
- This pattern was more pronounced for females. Proportions of occasional drinkers were higher in Queensland than in the rest of Australia across all age groups with the exception of those females aged 40 years or more (48% for both Qld and Aus-Q).

### Population estimates of the number of alcohol drinkers

It is estimated that in 1998 there were about 2.8 million people aged 14 years and over in Queensland who had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months (Table 3.7).

**Table 3.7: Alcohol consumption: numbers of current alcohol drinkers, by drinking status,<sup>(a)(b)</sup> age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Age	Males		Females		Persons	
	Regular	Occasional	Regular	Occasional	Regular	Occasional
	(number)					
14–19	72,000	82,000	46,000	102,000	115,000	186,000
20–29	184,000	84,000	115,000	148,000	301,000	229,000
30–39	200,000	64,000	130,000	136,000	331,000	199,000
40+	491,000	195,000	371,000	341,000	880,000	517,000
<b>All ages</b>	<b>959,000</b>	<b>413,000</b>	<b>655,000</b>	<b>733,000</b>	<b>1,636,000</b>	<b>1,123,000</b>

(a) Regular: consumes alcohol on at least one day per week.

(b) Occasional: consumes alcohol less often than one day per week.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to the sum of components due to rounding.

- There were more than twice the number of male regular drinkers (960,000) as occasional drinkers (413,000), but there were more female occasional drinkers (733,000) than regular drinkers (655,000).
- It is estimated that 301,000 Queensland teenagers consumed alcohol in 1998. Around 115,000 teenagers were regular drinkers and approximately 186,000 were occasional drinkers. More female than male teenagers consumed alcohol in 1998, but more male teenagers (72,000) than female teenagers (46,000) were regular drinkers.
- With the exception of teenage drinkers, the number of male regular drinkers exceeded the number of occasional drinkers. For example, in the age group 30–39 years there were 200,000 regular drinkers and 64,000 occasional drinkers.
- The pattern for females by age group was more variable. Between the ages of 14 and 29 years, females were more likely to be occasional (250,000) than regular (161,000) drinkers, but for ages 40+ there were more similar numbers of regular and occasional drinkers.

## Consumption patterns

In 1998, 70.1% of males living in Queensland consumed alcohol at least once per week compared to 47.3% of females.

**Table 3.8: Quantity of alcohol consumed by frequency of consumption, proportion of current alcohol drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland, 1998**

Frequency	Quantity (standard drinks)				Total
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7+	
(per cent)					
<b>Males</b>					
Every day	3.5	6.8	3.5	3.2	16.9
4-6 days/week	3.0	6.7	2.4	2.6	14.6
2-3 days/week	4.8	7.5	2.2	6.3	20.8
1 day/week	4.5	4.5	3.7	5.0	17.7
Less often	16.2	6.6	3.1	4.1	29.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>					
Every day	3.9	1.7	0.3 *	0.2 *	6.1
4-6 days/week	3.9	3.4	0.5 *	0.5 *	8.2
2-3 days/week	7.9	3.7	1.0	1.9	14.6
1 day/week	8.5	4.4	1.5	4.1	18.5
Less often	32.8	9.8	5.4	4.7	52.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>					
Every day	3.6	4.4	2.0	1.8	11.9
4-6 days/week	3.4	5.1	1.5	1.6	11.6
2-3 days/week	6.3	5.7	1.7	4.2	17.9
1 day/week	6.4	4.4	2.7	4.6	18.1
Less often	23.9	8.1	4.2	4.4	40.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Current is equal to regular and occasional drinkers.

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: Base equals current alcohol drinkers.

- Approximately three in five current drinkers consumed alcohol at least one day per week and 56.4% of current drinkers consumed three or more drinks when they drank.
- Current male drinkers (16.9%) were more likely to consume alcohol every day than current female drinkers (6.1%).
- Over two-thirds of males (67.9%) consumed three or more drinks on a day that they consumed alcohol, compared to two in five females (43.0%).
- Approximately 21.2% of males usually consumed seven or more standard drinks when they consumed alcohol compared to 11.4% of females.

## Illicit drugs

The Institute estimates that, nationally in 1997, 831 persons died and there were over 11,000 hospitalisations from illicit drug-related causes (AIHW 1999). While apparently small in numbers relative to deaths (22,000) and hospitalisations (250,000) due to tobacco and alcohol, illicit drug-related morbidity and mortality usually affects the young (14–29 years), resulting in relatively more life years debilitated or lost.

In Queensland in 1998, the highest proportion of both lifetime and recent users were in the 20–29 years age group (Figure 3.5).

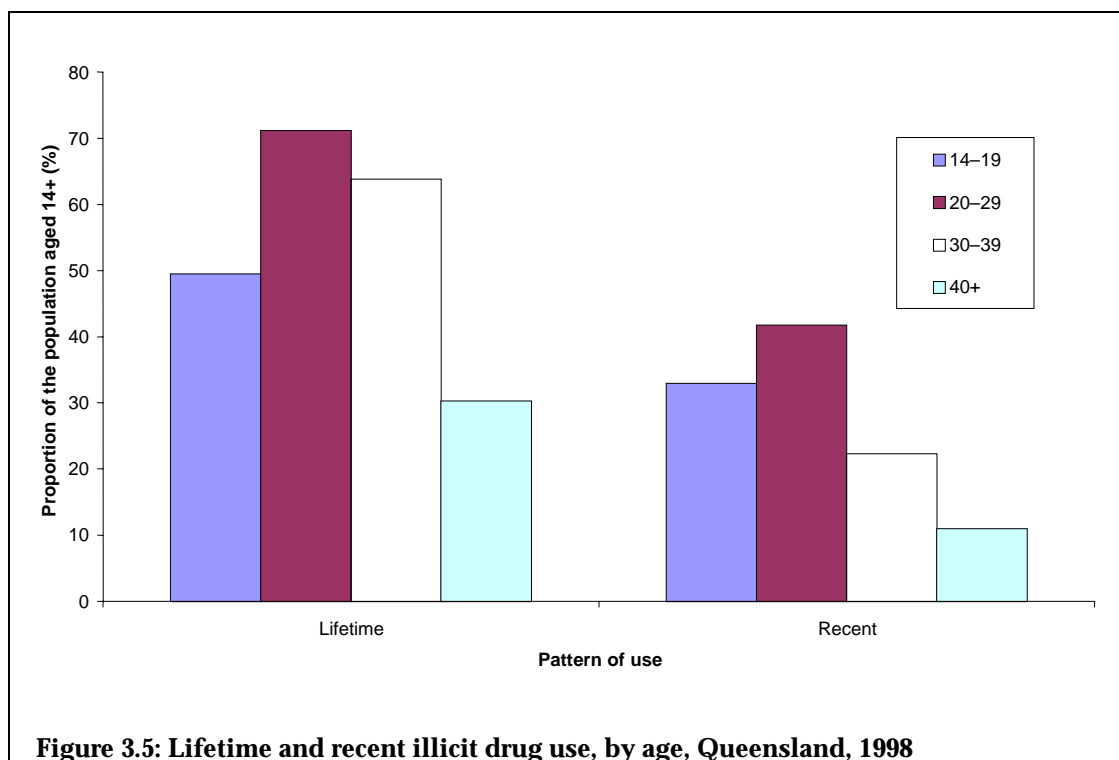


Figure 3.5: Lifetime and recent illicit drug use, by age, Queensland, 1998

### Any illicit

Between 1995 and 1998 the proportion of people aged 14 years or over living in Queensland who had used an illicit drug increased from 39.8% to 47.0% (Table 3.9).

Illicit drugs include illegal drugs (such as marijuana/cannabis), prescription drugs (such as tranquillisers) when used for illicit purposes and other substances (such as naturally occurring hallucinogens and inhalants).

### Lifetime illicit drug use

In Queensland:

- In 1998, approximately one in two persons (47.0%) had consumed at least one illicit drug at some time in their life.
- In 1998, respondents aged 20–29 years were more likely to have used an illicit drug in their lifetime (71.2%) than persons in other age groups.
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of persons who had used an illicit drug in their lifetime increased for all persons. This was consistent for all age groups, the largest increase being for the 20–29 years age group which rose from 51.2% to 71.2%.

- In 1998, males (49.8%) were more likely than females (44.3%) to have consumed at least one illicit drug.
- Females less than 30 years of age were more likely to have ever used an illicit drug than their male counterparts in 1998. This pattern reversed from age 30 years onward.
- Between 1995 and 1998, rates of lifetime use increased across all age groups for females by between 10 and 30 percentage points; proportions also increased for males over the age of 20 years but remained stable for males aged 14–19 years.

**Table 3.9: Use of any illicit drug: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use				Recent use <sup>(a)</sup>			
	1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)								
<b>Males</b>								
14–19	51.6	<b>44.8</b>	<b>43.7</b>	52.7	39.1	<b>33.5</b>	<b>26.3</b>	41.7
20–29	72.5	<b>60.4</b>	<b>68.9</b>	71.7	49.4	<b>28.1</b>	<b>44.0</b>	48.1
30–39	61.5	<b>58.8</b>	<b>68.4</b>	62.4	26.2	<b>18.0</b>	<b>26.9</b>	28.0
40+	28.1	<b>26.5</b>	<b>35.8</b>	34.4	7.3	<b>1.8</b>	<b>13.2</b>	11.8
<b>All ages</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>
<b>Females</b>								
14–19	32.5	<b>38.2</b>	<b>55.2</b>	50.8	23.8	<b>30.5</b>	<b>39.3</b>	36.3
20–29	63.2	<b>42.4</b>	<b>73.6</b>	61.7	27.8	<b>25.1</b>	<b>39.2</b>	31.9
30–39	52.1	<b>45.4</b>	<b>59.5</b>	59.5	15.3	<b>7.1</b>	<b>17.8</b>	21.4
40+	17.7	<b>14.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	26.9	5.7	<b>2.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	9.8
<b>All ages</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>18.8</b>
<b>Persons</b>								
14–19	42.6	<b>42.2</b>	<b>49.5</b>	51.8	31.9	<b>32.3</b>	<b>32.9</b>	39.0
20–29	67.9	<b>51.2</b>	<b>71.2</b>	66.7	38.7	<b>26.6</b>	<b>41.7</b>	40.1
30–39	56.6	<b>51.5</b>	<b>63.8</b>	61.0	20.5	<b>12.0</b>	<b>22.3</b>	24.7
40+	22.7	<b>20.4</b>	<b>30.3</b>	30.5	6.5	<b>2.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	10.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>22.0</b>

(a) Consumed in the last 12 months.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In 1998, Queensland respondents (47.0%) were only slightly more likely than other Australians (45.6%) to have used one or more illicit substances in their lifetime.
- The male 40+ age group was slightly more likely than the rest of Australia to have used an illicit drug at some stage in their lifetime.

- For both males and females in 1998, the proportions of Queensland respondents who had used one or more illicit drugs were generally comparable with the rest of Australia. Exceptions to this included: females aged 14–19 years (Qld 55.2%, Aus-Q 50.8%), females aged 20–29 years, (Qld 73.6%, Aus-Q 61.7%), males aged 14–19 years, (Qld 43.7%, Aus-Q 52.7%), and males aged 30–39 years (Qld 68.4%, Aus-Q 62.4%).

### **Recent illicit drug use**

In Queensland:

- Between 1995 and 1998 there was almost an 80% increase in the proportion of persons who recently used illicit drugs, from 12.3% to 21.7%.
- In 1998, the highest proportion of recent illicit drug users was in the 20–29 years age group (41.7%). This was an increase of 15 percentage points from 1995.
- The age group with the highest increase in recent illicit drug use between 1995 and 1998 was the 40+ years age group. In 1995, 2.4% were recent illicit drug users and by 1998 recent illicit drug use had increased to 11.0% in this group.
- Between 1995 and 1998 there were major increases in the use of at least one illicit drug for all age groups and for both males and females. For example, the proportion of males aged 20–29 years increased from 28.1% to 44.0%, females aged 20–29 years increased from 25.1% to 39.2%, and females aged 30–39 years increased from 7.1% to 17.8%. The one exception was the decrease observed for males aged 14–19 years between 1995 (33.5%) and 1998 (26.3%).

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In 1998, comparisons between persons living in Queensland and those living elsewhere in Australia showed little difference in the proportions recently using illicit drugs for those aged 20 years or more.
- Differences were somewhat larger for males aged 14–19 years, where 26.3% of Queensland males recently used illicit drugs compared to 41.7% of the rest of the Australian population.
- Also, for both males and females aged 20–29 years, proportions varied between Queensland and the rest of Australia. For males, 44.0% of Queensland respondents had used one or more illicit drugs in the last 12 months compared to 48.1% of other Australians. Approximately 39.2% of females aged 20–29 years living in Queensland were recent users compared to 31.9% of those in the rest of Australia.

In the 1998 survey, non-maintenance methadone was included for the first time in the group of illicit drugs measured. Additionally, more information was provided to 1998 respondents on the meaning of the term ‘non-medical use’ of common pharmaceuticals (refer also to Chapter 6). It is possible that these changes contributed to the increases observed between 1995 and 1998.

### Population estimates of the number of recent illicit drug users

It is estimated that in 1998 there were almost 600,000 recent illicit drug users aged 14 years or older in Queensland (Table 3.10).

**Table 3.10: Any illicit drug: number of recent<sup>(a)</sup> users, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Age	Males	Females (number)	Persons
14–19	40,000	58,000	99,000
20–29	118,000	103,000	221,000
30–39	71,000	47,000	118,000
40+	91,000	63,000	154,000
<b>All ages</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>599,000</b>

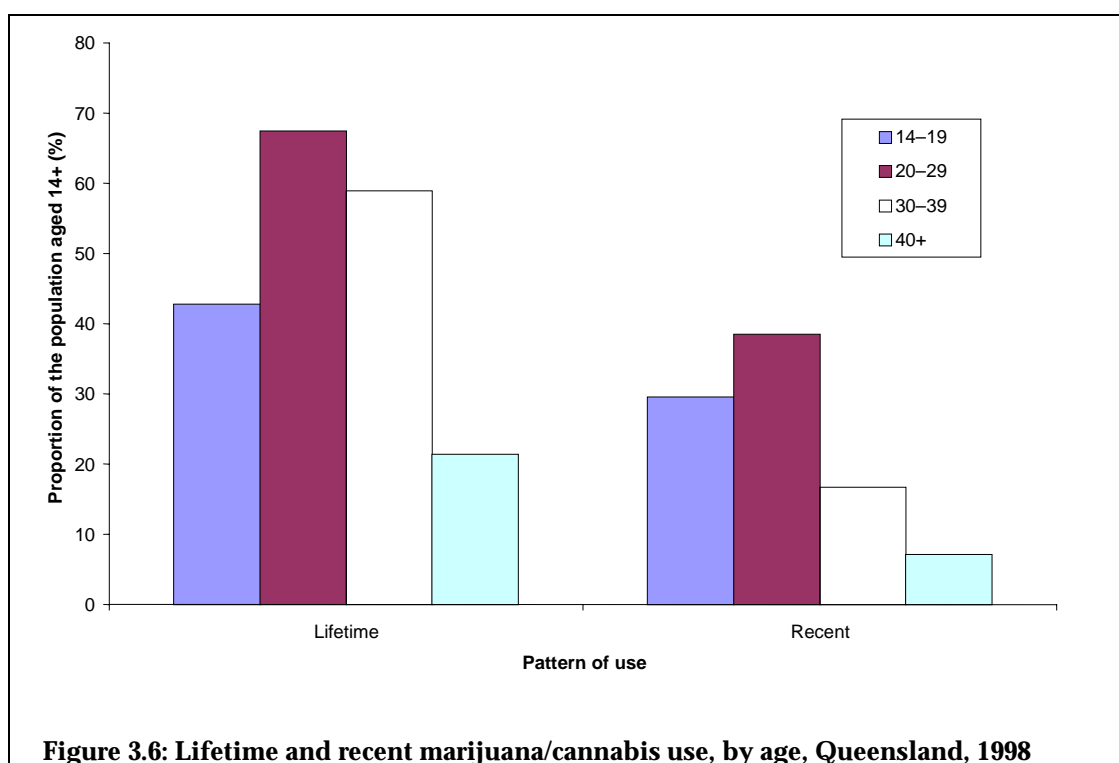
(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to the sum of components due to rounding.

- There were considerably more male (325,000) recent illicit drug users in 1998 than female illicit drug users (273,000).
- Approximately 99,000 teenagers were recent illicit drug users in 1998, with about 18,000 more females than males.
- The age group with the highest numbers of recent illicit drug users was the 20–29 years group, with about 15,000 more males (118,000) than females (103,000).
- There were about 154,000 persons aged 40 years or older who were recent illicit drug users in 1998, with more males than females in this age group using illicit drugs (refer to definitions of illicit drugs in Chapter 6).

## Marijuana/cannabis use

In 1998, the highest proportion of marijuana/cannabis users, for both lifetime and recent use, was in the 20–29 years age group (Figure 3.6).



**Figure 3.6: Lifetime and recent marijuana/cannabis use, by age, Queensland, 1998**

In 1998, almost two in five persons living in Queensland aged 14 years or older had used marijuana/cannabis at some time in their lives (Table 3.11).

### Lifetime use of marijuana/cannabis

In Queensland:

- In 1998, approximately two in five persons (40.3%) had consumed marijuana/cannabis at some time in their life. This was a 50% increase over the proportion of those who had ever used in 1995.
- The highest proportion of persons in 1998 who had ever used was in the 20–29 years age group (67.5%), which was a 20 percentage point increase over the proportion in 1995.
- The 20–29 years and 30–39 years age groups in 1998 had equal proportions of those who had used in their lifetime (48%). However, in 1998 the proportion of persons in the 20–29 years age group (67.5%) was considerably higher than the proportion of persons in the 30–39 years age group (58.9%).

**Table 3.11: Use of marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use				Recent use <sup>(a)</sup>				
	1995		1998		1995		1998		
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	
(per cent)									
<b>Males</b>									
14–19	47.7	34.7	38.1	46.6	36.6	33.5	24.0	37.9	
20–29	67.9	53.9	65.6	68.5	46.3	29.3	43.7	43.9	
30–39	59.6	55.5	64.5	58.9	19.3	18.0	21.2	25.0	
40+	18.2	15.0	28.8	26.6	4.2	1.1	10.4	7.6	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	
<b>Females</b>									
14–19	25.5	19.1	47.4	44.2	20.3	19.1	35.0	33.8	
20–29	56.0	42.4	69.6	56.9	23.7	21.9	32.9	28.2	
30–39	43.7	42.4	53.6	54.0	9.4	3.5	12.5	17.6	
40+	7.1	5.2	14.0	17.4	1.4	0.4	3.9	5.0	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	
<b>Persons</b>									
14–19	37.2	28.5	42.8	45.4	28.9	27.8	29.6	35.9	
20–29	62.0	48.0	67.5	62.7	35.0	25.4	38.5	36.1	
30–39	51.3	48.4	58.9	56.5	14.2	10.1	16.7	21.3	
40+	12.6	10.0	21.4	21.8	2.8	0.8	7.1	6.2	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

- The proportion of females aged 14–29 years who had ever used marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime was higher than the proportion of males in that age group in 1998. This pattern was reversed for those aged 30 years or more.
- Between 1995 and 1998, for both males and females, the proportion of persons who had ever used marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime increased. For males, the proportion increased from 32.5% in 1995 to 44.3% in 1998, and for females, the increase was from 21.4% to 36.3%.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportion of persons who had ever used marijuana/cannabis in their lifetime was slightly higher in Queensland (40.3%) than in the other States and Territories combined (38.9%).
- Patterns of lifetime use across all Queensland age groups were generally consistent with those of other Australians, with only a few exceptions.
- The proportion of Queensland males aged 30–39 years who had ever used (64.5%) was higher than for males in the same age group in the rest of Australia (58.9%).
- The proportion of females aged 20–29 years who had ever tried marijuana/cannabis was higher in Queensland (69.6%) than in the rest of Australia (56.9%).



## **Recent marijuana/cannabis users**

In Queensland:

- The proportion of recent marijuana/cannabis users in Queensland increased by 70% between 1995 (10.4%) and 1998 (17.7%).
- The highest proportion of recent users was in the 20–29 years age group in 1998 (38.5%), as opposed to the 14–19 years age group in 1995 (27.8%).
- Increases were observed across all age groups between 1995 and 1998. For example, for those persons aged 30–39 years, the proportion of recent users increased from 10.1% to 16.7%. The proportion of persons aged 40 years or more increased substantially from 0.8% to 7.1% between 1995 and 1998.
- The proportion of male recent users (20.9%) was higher than the proportion of females (14.6%) in 1998.
- When broken down by age and sex, similar patterns emerged for recent use as were apparent for lifetime use. For example, the proportion of females aged 14–19 years (35.0%) who had used marijuana/cannabis in the last 12 months was higher than the proportion of males (24.0%). Proportions were higher for males than for females in all other age groups.
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of recent users increased for all age groups, for both males and females, with the exception of males aged 14–19 years, where the proportion decreased from 33.5% in 1995 to 24.0% in 1998.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Proportions of recent users of marijuana/cannabis were very similar between Queensland and other Australia in 1998 (18.0%).
- For both males (21.0%) and females (14.6%), proportions were equal for those in Queensland and the rest of Australia. However, when broken down by age, some differences were apparent.
- The proportion of males aged 14–19 years was lower in Queensland (24.0%) than in the other States and Territories combined (37.9%).
- Queensland females aged 20–29 years (32.9%) had a higher proportion of marijuana/cannabis users than females in the rest of Australia (28.2%), but for females aged 30–39 years, the proportion of recent users was higher in other Australia (17.6%) than in Queensland (12.5%).

## **Estimates of the number of recent marijuana/cannabis users**

In 1998, it is estimated that there were almost 490,000 persons living in Queensland aged 14 years or older who were recent marijuana/cannabis users (Table 3.12).

- In Queensland in 1998 there were more than 280,000 males and 200,000 females who had used marijuana/cannabis in the past 12 months.
- The 20–29 years age group had the highest number of recent users with over 210,000 recent users. This figure was over double that of any other age group.

**Table 3.12: Marijuana/cannabis: number of recent<sup>(a)</sup> users, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Age	Males	Females (number)	Persons
14–19	37,000	52,000	89,000
20–29	117,000	87,000	204,000
30–39	56,000	33,000	89,000
40+	71,000	28,000	99,000
<b>All ages</b>	287,000	203,000	488,000

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to the sum of components due to rounding.

- There were over 89,000 Queensland teenagers who used marijuana/cannabis in 1998. More female teenagers (52,000) than male teenagers (37,000) were recent marijuana/cannabis users.
- From age 20 years and over, males who used marijuana/cannabis outnumbered females who used in corresponding age groups.

## Heroin

In 1998, the age group with the highest proportion of persons who had ever used heroin in their lifetime was the 20–29 years age group. However, for recent use, the age group with the highest proportion of users was the 14–19 years age group (Table 3.13).

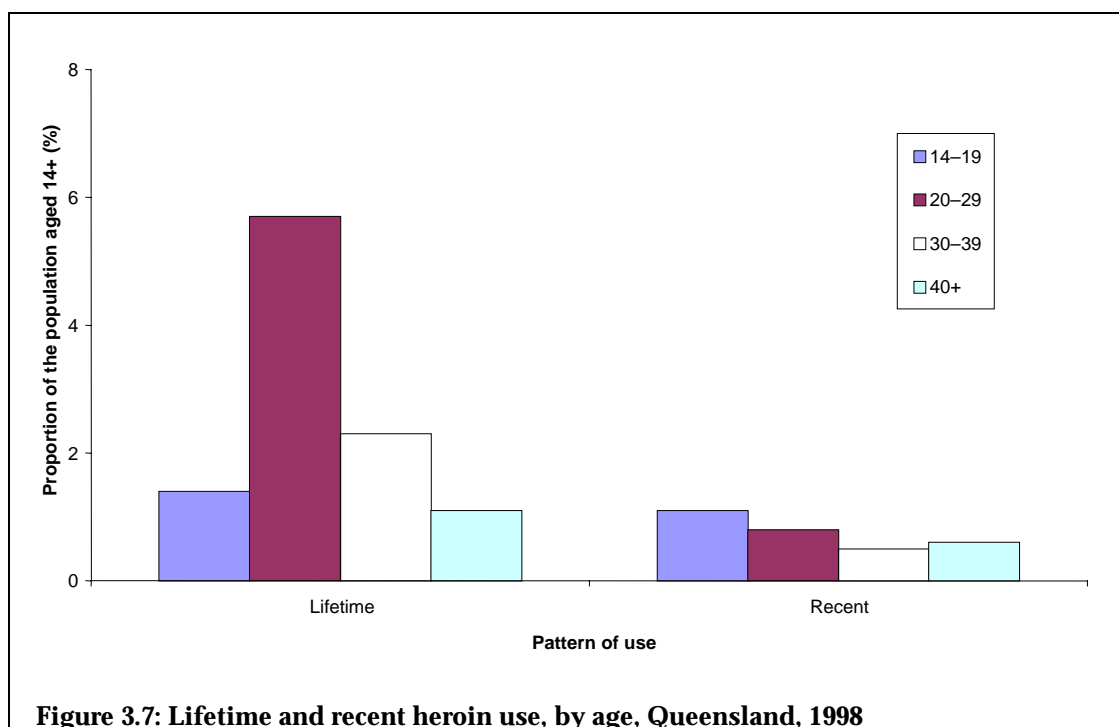


Figure 3.7: Lifetime and recent heroin use, by age, Queensland, 1998

### Lifetime heroin use

In Queensland:

- In 1998, the proportion of persons who had ever used heroin in their lifetime was 2.3%. This was an increase from 1.0% in 1995.
- The age group with the highest proportion of persons who had used heroin in their lifetime was the 20–29 years age group (5.7%). This was a substantial increase from 1995 (2.1%).
- All other age groups also experienced increases in the proportion of persons who had used in their lifetime. However, males and females showed different trends between 1995 and 1998.
- The lifetime use for the age group 40+ increased substantially from 0.3% in 1995 to 1.9% in 1998. Although from a low base, the increase for the 20–29 year old age group does not explain the overall increase for males.
- The proportion of females who had used heroin in their lifetime increased for all ages. For example, the proportion of females aged 20–29 years increased from 0.6% in 1995 to 5.0% in 1998.

**Table 3.13: Use of heroin: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use				Recent use <sup>(a)</sup>			
	1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)								
<b>Males</b>								
14–19	—	1.9	1.3	1.0	—	1.9	0.7 *	0.5 *
20–29	3.6	3.6	6.3	6.3	2.4	1.4	0.7 *	3.4
30–39	4.2	3.4	2.7	4.5	0.5	—	0.2 *	1.0
40+	1.1	0.3	1.9	1.5	—	—	1.0 *	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7 *</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Females</b>								
14–19	1.0	—	1.6	2.5	—	1.0	1.6	1.3
20–29	2.3	0.6	5.0	2.8	—	0.6	0.8 *	1.4
30–39	0.5	0.9	2.0	2.1	0.3	—	0.7 *	0.3 *
40+	0.6	—	0.3	0.4	—	—	0.2 *	0.1 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	—	<b>0.6 *</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Persons</b>								
14–19	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.7	0.5	1.1	1.1 *	0.9
20–29	2.9	2.1	5.7	4.6	1.5	0.7	0.8 *	2.4
30–39	2.3	2.0	2.3	3.3	0.4	—	0.5 *	0.6
40+	0.9	0.2	1.1	0.9	—	—	0.6 *	0.2 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In Queensland, the proportion of persons who had used heroin in their lifetime was the same as for persons in the rest of Australia combined.
- Patterns of lifetime use of heroin were inconsistent between Queensland and the rest of Australia. For example, the proportion of persons aged 14–19 years was slightly higher in the rest of Australia (1.7%) than in Queensland (1.4%), also for those aged 30–39 years (Qld 2.3%, Aus-Q 3.3%). Proportions were higher in Queensland for ages 20–29 years (Qld 5.7%, Aus-Q 4.6%) and 40 years or more (Qld 1.1%, Aus-Q 0.9%).
- Patterns for both males and females were similar to patterns for all persons. Most differences between Queensland and the rest of Australia proportions were small; one exception was a 67% difference between Queensland (2.7%) and the rest of Australia (4.5%) for males aged 30–39 years. Also, the proportion of females aged 14–19 years was approximately 50% larger in the rest of Australia than in Queensland in 1998, and the proportion of females aged 20–29 years was larger in Queensland (5.0%) than in the rest of Australia (2.8%) in 1998.

## Recent heroin users

In Queensland:

- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of recent heroin users rose from 0.3% to 0.6% of the population.
- For persons aged less than 30 years, recent use remained stable at approximately 1.0% of the population.
- In 1998, the proportion of females who used heroin in the last 12 months was larger than the proportion of males in all age groups, with the exception of persons aged 40 years or more (males 1.0%, females 0.2%).
- For males aged less than 30 years, the proportion of recent heroin users decreased between 1995 and 1998, but increased for females in the same age range.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- As for lifetime use, patterns of recent use were inconsistent between Queensland and the rest of Australia. In 1998, persons in the rest of Australia (0.8%) were slightly more likely to be recent users than persons in Queensland (0.6%).
- In 1998, the proportion of males aged 20–29 years who were recent users in the rest of Australia (3.4%) was almost five times the proportion in Queensland (0.7%).
- In 1998, the proportion of female recent users was generally higher in Queensland than in the rest of Australia; the exception to this was for those aged 20–29 years (Qld 0.8%, Aus-Q 1.4%).

**Table 3.14: Use of heroin: number of recent<sup>(a)</sup> users, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Age	Males	Females	Persons
		(number)	
14–19	1,000 *	2,000	3,000 *
20–29	2,000 *	2,000 *	4,000 *
30–39	1,000 *	2,000 *	3,000 *
40+	7,000 *	1,000 *	8,000 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>10,000 *</b>	<b>8,000 *</b>	<b>17,000</b>

\* RSE greater than 50%.

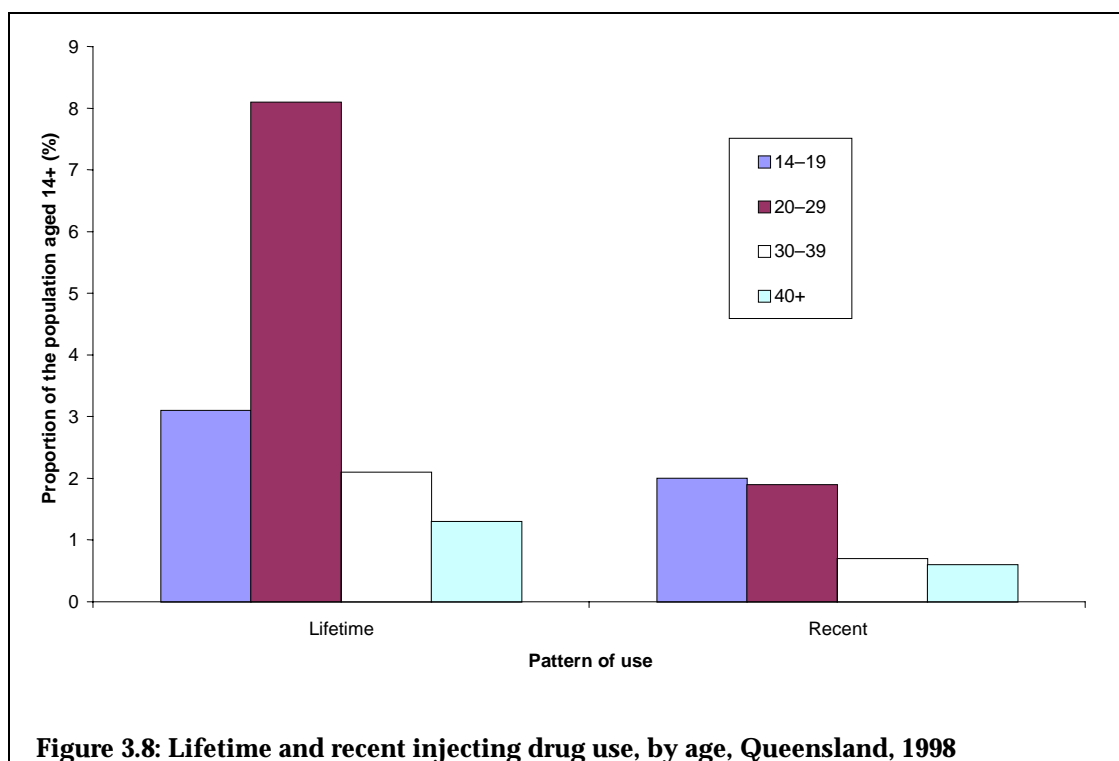
(a) Used in the last 12 months.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to the sum of components due to rounding.

- In Queensland in 1998 there were approximately 10,000 males and 8,000 females that had used heroin in the past 12 months.
- The age group with the highest number of users was the 40 years and over age group, with approximately 8,000 recent users.
- There were about 3,000 Queensland teenagers that had used heroin in the last 12 months. Females (2,000) were more likely than males (1,000) to have used heroin in the last 12 months.

## Injecting drug use

In 1998, the proportion of persons living in Queensland who had tried injecting drugs in their lifetime was much larger for those aged 20–29 years than for any other age group. For recent use, the proportion of persons aged 14–19 years was very similar to that for persons aged 20–29 years (Figure 3.8).



Between 1995 and 1998 the proportion of the Queensland population aged 14 years or older that had ever injected illicit drugs increased from 0.9% to 3.0% (Table 3.15).

### Lifetime injecting

In Queensland:

- The age group with the highest proportion of persons who had ever injected was the 20–29 years age group (1995 2.9%, 1998 8.1%).
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of persons who had ever injected increased for all age groups. For example, the proportion of 14–19 year olds increased from 1.1% to 3.1% between 1995 and 1998.
- In 1998, the proportion of males who had ever injected was larger than the proportion of females for all age groups, with the exception of 14–19 year olds (males 2.3%, females 3.9%).

**Table 3.15: Use of injecting drugs:<sup>(a)</sup> proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Age	Lifetime use				Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>			
	1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)								
<b>Males</b>								
14–19	2.1	1.9	2.3	0.4 *	0.8	1.9	0.8 *	0.2 *
20–29	6.0	5.2	8.7	6.0	3.4	—	1.7	3.4
30–39	3.6	1.3	3.1	4.5	0.7	—	0.7 *	1.1
40+	—	0.3	1.7	1.2	—	—	1.0	0.4 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Females</b>								
14–19	1.2	—	3.9	2.2	1.0	—	3.2	0.7
20–29	1.4	0.6	7.4	1.8	0.9	—	2.2	0.9
30–39	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.9	—	—	0.7 *	0.2 *
40+	0.5	—	0.8	0.2 *	0.4	—	0.2 *	—
<b>All ages</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.3 *</b>
<b>Persons</b>								
14–19	1.7	1.1	3.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	2.0	0.5 *
20–29	3.7	2.9	8.1	3.9	2.1	—	1.9	2.1
30–39	2.1	1.1	2.1	3.2	0.4	—	0.7 *	0.6 *
40+	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.7 *	0.2	—	0.6 *	0.2 *
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Any illicit drug injected.

(b) Used in the last 12 months.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In 1998, there were more persons who had ever injected in their lifetime in Queensland (3.0%) than in the rest of Australia (1.9%).
- Proportions were larger in Queensland for all age groups with the exception of persons aged 30–39 years (Qld 2.1%, Aus-Q 3.2%).
- This pattern was observed for both males and females by age group. For 30–39 year old males, the proportion of Queensland persons injecting was 3.1% and for the rest of Australia, 4.5%. For females the same age, 1.2% of Queensland respondents had injected in their lifetime compared to 1.9% of other Australians.
- For all other age groups there were higher proportions of Queensland respondents than respondents from the other States and Territories combined.

### Recent injecting drug users

Because data for recent injecting users in Queensland was limited in 1995, direct comparisons cannot be made. However, in Queensland:

- In 1998, 1.0% of the population had injected a drug in the last 12 months.
- In 1998, the age group with the highest proportion of injecting drug users was the 14–19 years age group (2.0%), closely followed by the 20–29 years age group (1.9%).

- The proportions of male and female recent injecting drug users were similar in 1998 (males 1.1%, females 1.0%).
- In 1998, 1.7% of males aged 20–29 years were recent injecting drug users; this compares to 2.2% of females in the same age group.
- The highest proportion of female injecting drug users was in the 14–19 years age group (3.2%), which compares to just 0.8% of males in the same age group.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportion of injecting drug users in Queensland in 1998 (1.0%) appears slightly higher than in the other States and Territories combined (0.7%).
- The proportion of injecting drug users was consistently higher in Queensland than in the rest of Australia for most age groups, with the exception of persons aged 20–29 years (Qld 1.9%, Aus-Q 2.1%) where the difference was very slight.
- For males aged 20–29 years, 1.7% of Queensland respondents were recent injecting drug users compared to 3.4% of other Australians.

### Illicit drugs injected

The first drugs injected by users of illicit drugs were **amphetamines**, followed by **heroin** (Table 3.16).

**Table 3.16: Injecting drug use: first and recent<sup>(a)</sup> illicit drugs injected, proportion of the injecting population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1998**

Drug	First injected <sup>(b)</sup>						Recently injected <sup>(c)</sup>					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld
	(per cent)											
Heroin	33.0	35.5	47.9	32.4	37.1	34.3	56.5	50.3	41.3	41.1 *	53.5	45.9
Methadone	0.5	5.9	—	—	0.3	3.5	10.5	3.2	—	—	8.4	1.7
Other opiates	4.2	—	0.2	1.2	3.1	0.5	7.0	—	—	—	5.6	—
Amphetamines	55.1	51.1	40.9	50.0	51.3	50.6	67.9	56.5	69.4	87.5 *	68.2	71.4
Cocaine	0.9	3.9	3.3	2.1	1.6	3.2	8.1	5.8	35.2	7.2 *	13.4	6.5
Hallucinogens	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	5.0	8.5	—	—	4.0	4.4
Ecstasy	0.4	3.5	—	—	0.3	2.1	8.4	—	4.5	—	7.6	—
Benzodiazepines	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.7	—	—	—	5.4	—
Steroids	5.1	—	—	—	3.7	—	9.1	3.9	—	—	7.3	2.0
Other	0.7	—	7.7	14.3	2.6	5.8	2.6	11.7	9.0	4.1 *	3.9	8.0

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

(b) Base equals respondents ever injected.

(c) Base equals respondents injecting in the last 12 months.

### First drug injected

- Approximately half (50.6%) of all persons living in Queensland aged 14 years or older who had injected illicit drugs in their lifetime first injected **amphetamines**, while 34.3% injected **heroin** first and 3.5% injected **methadone** first.
- The proportion of males (51.1%) who injected **amphetamines** and the proportion of females (50.0%) was similar.



- **Heroin** (34.3%) was the next most frequent first illicit drug injected in Queensland. Males (35.5%) who had ever injected were more likely than females (32.4%) to have injected **heroin** as their first drug.
- For the rest of Australia, the proportion who injected **amphetamines** or **heroin** first was similar to Queensland.

### Recent drugs injected

Recent injecting drug users in 1998, in both Queensland and in the rest of Australia, tended to be injecting more than one drug.

In Queensland:

- Approximately seven in 10 recent users living in Queensland named **amphetamines** as a recently injected drug.
- Approximately 45.9% of recent users recently injected **heroin**, and 6.5% injected **cocaine**.
- Almost 90% of female injecting drug users recently injected **amphetamines**, compared to 56.5% of male injecting drug users.
- Approximately 8.5% of male injecting drug users recently injected **hallucinogens**.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- As in Queensland, the drug with the highest proportion of recent injectors in the rest of Australia was **amphetamines** (68.2%), then **heroin** (53.5%), and **cocaine** (13.4%).
- Approximately two in three male recent injecting drug users injected **amphetamines**, compared to 56.5% in Queensland. For both first and recent injecting drug use, the proportions injecting **amphetamines** and **heroin** were far larger than proportions injecting other drugs (Figure 3.9).

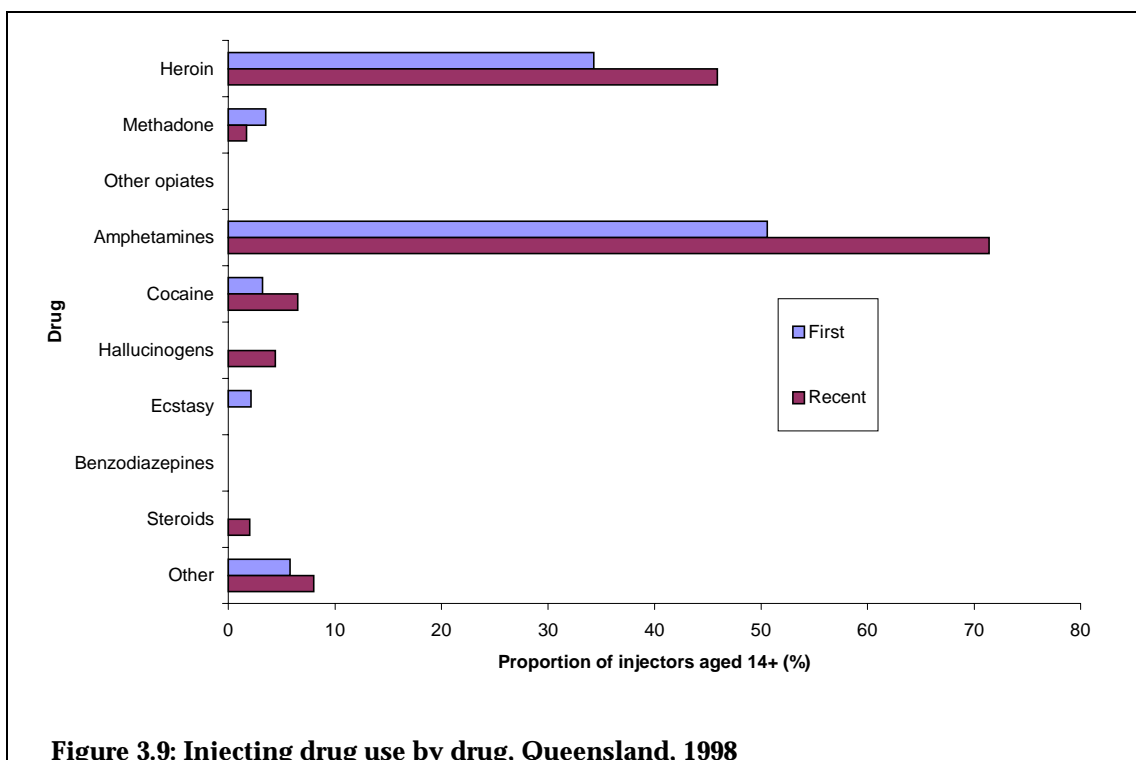


Figure 3.9: Injecting drug use by drug, Queensland, 1998

## Sources of supply

Illicit drugs were almost always first obtained from friends or acquaintances, and there was little change in this source of supply over the course of drug use (Table 3.17).

**Table 3.17: Source of first and recent supply of illicit drugs, Queensland, 1998**

Drug	Friend or acquaintance		Relative		Spouse or partner		Street dealer		Other	
	First <sup>(a)</sup>	Now <sup>(b)</sup>	First	Now	First	Now	First	Now	First	Now
	(per cent)									
Marijuana/cannabis	88.1	82.6	6.4	3.6	2.2	3.1	1.8	6.4	1.4	4.2
Analgesics <sup>(c)</sup>	31.4	14.7	30.7	26.3	10.0	2.4	2.0	1.2	25.9 <sup>(d)</sup>	55.4 <sup>(d)</sup>
Tranquillisers <sup>(c)</sup>	54.5	17.7	11.6	7.2	7.5	14.3	1.5	—	24.9 <sup>(d)</sup>	60.7 <sup>(d)</sup>
Steroids <sup>(c)</sup>	71.4	50.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	28.6 <sup>(d)</sup>	49.7 <sup>(d)</sup>
Barbiturates <sup>(c)</sup>	75.0	26.6	8.2	33.2	—	—	4.4	22.6	12.4 <sup>(d)</sup>	17.7 <sup>(d)</sup>
Inhalants	64.2	48.7	8.5	7.2	4.0	—	7.7	4.9	15.6	39.2
Heroin	81.2	70.6	11.9	—	3.1	—	3.7	21.5	—	8.0
Methadone <sup>(e)</sup>	84.7	61.3	10.9	—	—	—	—	—	4.4 <sup>(f)</sup>	38.7 <sup>(f)</sup>
Amphetamines <sup>(c)</sup>	84.4	78.5	4.2	6.1	2.7	2.7	4.2	10.4	4.5	2.2
Cocaine	90.6	72.4	2.2	8.8	—	—	7.2	7.6	—	11.2
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	70.5	48.9	3.6	3.2	0.7 *	—	0.4 *	—	24.8 <sup>(g)</sup>	47.8 <sup>(g)</sup>
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	89.8	79.0	1.9	—	1.1	—	6.8	17.6	0.4 *	3.3
Ecstasy	88.0	68.4	2.2	—	1.2	—	8.6	27.3	—	4.4

\* RSE greater than 50%.

- (a) Base equals respondents ever used.
- (b) Base equals respondents using in the last 12 months.
- (c) Non-medical use.
- (d) Includes doctor's script.
- (e) Non-maintenance.
- (f) Includes stolen/doctor's script.
- (g) Includes from fields.

## First suppliers of illicit drugs

The first suppliers of illicit drugs in Queensland were typically friends or acquaintances.

- Nearly nine out of every ten illicit drug users first obtained **marijuana/cannabis** (88.1%), **cocaine** (90.6%), **LSD** (89.8%), and **ecstasy** (88.0%) from friends or acquaintances.
- The proportion of persons who first obtained an illicit drug from a friend or acquaintance did not fall below 50% for any substance, with the exception of **analgesics**. Only 31.4% of Queensland persons who had ever tried analgesics for non-medical purposes obtained them first from a friend or acquaintance.
- Exceptions to the predominance of friends and acquaintances as the first supply source were the common pharmaceuticals, where their availability by prescription was an alternative first source.
- Relatives were an alternative source of first supply for many substances, including **analgesics** (30.7%), **tranquillisers** (11.6%), **heroin** (11.9%), and **methadone** (10.9%).
- Very few persons obtained their first illicit drug from a street dealer.

## Recent suppliers of illicit drugs

The proportion of persons who obtained their supply from friends or acquaintances remained stable between first and recent supplies for most illicit drugs in Queensland. Exceptions were:

- **heroin**, where 3.7% were first obtained from a street dealer, compared to 21.5% for recent supplies;
- **barbiturates**, where 4.4% were first obtained from a dealer, compared to 22.6% for recent supplies;
- **amphetamines**, where 4.2% were first obtained from street dealers, compared to 10.4% of recent supplies;
- **LSD**, where 6.8% were first obtained from street dealers, compared to 17.6% of recent supplies; and
- **ecstasy**, where the increase in use of street dealers was from 8.6% to 27.3% between first and recent supplies.

Obtaining common pharmaceuticals for recent illicit purposes was less common from friends and relatives than purchasing them 'over the counter' or using prescriptions.

## Suppliers of cigarettes and alcohol to persons aged less than 18 years

Friends or acquaintances were most likely to be the source of first supply of cigarettes and alcohol to under-age teenagers (Table 3.18).

**Table 3.18: Persons under 18 years: first and recent suppliers of tobacco and alcohol, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1998**

Source	Males				Females				Persons			
	First		Now		First		Now		First		Now	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
<b>Tobacco</b>	(per cent)											
Friend/acquaintance	72.8	<b>75.0</b>	<b>29.1</b>	39.2	82.6	<b>79.8</b>	<b>24.3</b>	18.4	78.2	<b>77.9</b>	<b>25.8</b>	27.9
Relative	15.9	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	23.6	7.3	<b>14.0</b>	<b>21.4</b>	2.6	11.2	<b>11.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	12.3
Spouse/partner	—	—	—	—	0.1 *	<b>0.6 *</b>	<b>9.4</b>	4.4	—	<b>0.4 *</b>	<b>6.5</b>	2.4
Retailer	2.7	<b>9.8</b>	<b>52.7</b>	36.9	0.9	<b>1.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	72.6	1.7	<b>4.5</b>	<b>42.7</b>	56.2
Other	8.6	<b>7.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>	0.2	9.1	<b>4.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	2.0	8.9	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	1.2
<b>Alcohol</b>												
Friend/acquaintance	35.9	<b>39.6</b>	<b>53.1</b>	37.2	48.0	<b>67.2</b>	<b>52.8</b>	46.2	41.9	<b>54.4</b>	<b>52.9</b>	41.8
Relative	59.6	<b>54.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	35.0	47.2	<b>30.4</b>	<b>24.9</b>	28.4	53.5	<b>41.3</b>	<b>25.2</b>	31.7
Spouse/partner	—	—	<b>3.5</b>	1.2	—	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	2.0	—	<b>1.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	1.6
Retailer	0.5 *	<b>0.6 *</b>	<b>13.6</b>	17.7	0.5 *	—	<b>13.5</b>	18.5	0.5	<b>0.3 *</b>	<b>13.5</b>	18.1
Other	4.1	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	8.8	4.2	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	4.8	4.2	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	6.8

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: For 'First', base equals persons aged 14–17 years who have ever smoked or drunk alcohol, for 'Now', base equals current smokers and drinkers aged 14–17 years.

In Queensland:

- Between first and recent use (and despite still being under-age), there was a shift in the proportions obtaining tobacco from friends (77.9%) to purchasing from retailers (42.7%). Under-age male smokers were more likely (52.7%) than female under-age smokers (38.3%) to obtain tobacco products from retailers for recent supplies.
- A similar, but smaller, trend towards purchasing alcohol from retailers for recent supplies was also observed. Whereas less than 1.0% of first supplies of alcohol were obtained directly from a retailer, approximately 13.5% of under-age drinkers subsequently obtained their alcohol from retailers.

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- Persons aged 14–17 years living in the rest of Australia were more likely to obtain tobacco now from friends/acquaintances (27.9%) or from retailers (56.2%) than persons living in Queensland (25.8% and 42.7%, respectively).
- In the rest of Australia, there was a 22 percentage point drop for those who obtained alcohol from a relative, between first and recent supply, compared to a 16 percentage point drop in Queensland. In both cases, supply seemed to have shifted to retailers and 'other' sources.