



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.^[2]



1 in 3 (33%) police detainees in 2019 indicated that **illicit drug** use contributed to their offending.^[1]



In 2020, 47% of police detainees had used cannabis and 45% had used methamphetamine in the past month.^[1]

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



In 2020, 82% of **police detainees** who provided a urine sample tested **positive for at least one drug type**.^[1]



In 2020, over 1 in 4 (28%) police detainees reported **consuming alcohol in the 24 hours prior to their arrest**.^[1]

In 2019–20, 8% of alcohol and other drug treatment episodes were for clients who were referred for treatment via **police or court diversion**.^[4]

In 2020, police detainees consumed a median **11 standard drinks** in the 24 hours before their arrest.^[1]



Prison entrants in 2018:
75% currently **smoked tobacco**
67% **smoked tobacco daily**.^[2]



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

In 2019–20, 11% of defendants in the Magistrates' Courts had a principal offence of illicit drug offences; 67% of these were **possess or use offences**.^[3]

1. Voce A & Sullivan T 2021. *Drug use monitoring in Australia: Drug use among police detainees, 2020*. Statistical Report 35. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. Viewed 23 June 2021.
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) 2021. *Criminal Courts, Australia, 2019–20*. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 26 March 2021.

4. AIHW 2021. *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2019–20*. Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 16 July 2021.