

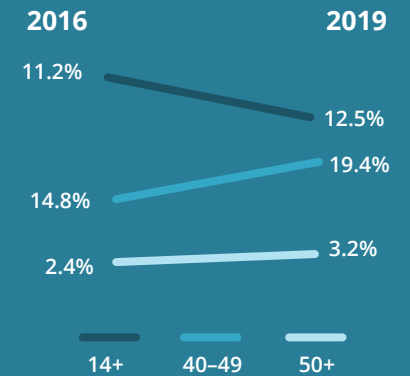


The death rate involving meth/ amphetamine and other stimulants was **4 times higher** in 2019 than 2000.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2019–20, **amphetamines** were the principal drug of concern in 28% of closed treatment episodes for clients own alcohol and other drug use.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Recent use of meth/ amphetamine** among people aged 14+ was stable between 2016 (1.4%) and 2019 (1.3%), but has declined since 2013 (2.1%).<sup>[4]</sup>

**Lifetime use of ecstasy** <sup>[4]</sup>



50% of people who used meth/ amphetamine in 2019 reported **crystal/ice as the main form used**.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 2020, **56% of police detainees** tested positive to **methamphetamine**.<sup>[5]</sup>

In 2018–19, around a **third of national illicit drug seizures** (34.0%) and **arrests** (30.3%) were for **amphetamine-type substances** (including MDMA).<sup>[6]</sup>

In 2019, 49% of Australians associated the use of meth/ amphetamine with a drug problem.<sup>[4]</sup>

The estimated **social costs** of methamphetamine use in 2013–14 was **over \$5 billion**.<sup>[8]</sup>



2020 national wastewater data analysis indicates that **methamphetamine remains the highest consumed illicit drug** monitored by the program.<sup>[3]</sup>



Reported **cocaine use is increasing** in Australia and is particularly prevalent among people living in **Major cities** and areas with the **highest socioeconomic advantage**.<sup>[4]</sup>



In 2019, **over the last 12 months**, people aged 14+ used:

**Ecstasy** 3.0%  
**Cocaine** 4.2%  
**Meth/amphetamine** 1.3%<sup>[4]</sup>

**Recent use of crystal/ice** among the general population was stable between 2016 (0.8%) and 2019 (0.7%) but has increased since 2010 (0.4%).<sup>[4]</sup>

In 2020, among people who use ecstasy, the main approaches for arranging to purchase illicit or non-prescribed stimulants were:



**Social media** (75%) **face-to-face** (67%).<sup>[7]</sup>

Wastewater data analysis indicates that **regional consumption of methamphetamine and MDMA exceeded capital city consumption** in August 2020. Conversely, **cocaine consumption was higher in capital cities** than regional areas.<sup>[3]</sup>



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older.<sup>[4]</sup>

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2021. AIHW analysis of the National Mortality Database.
2. AIHW 2021. *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2019–20*. Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 16 July 2021.
3. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2021. *National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 12*. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 1 March 2021.
4. AIHW 2020. *National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019*. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 4 August 2020.

5. 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.
6. ACIC 2019. *Illicit Drug Data Report 2018–19*. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 12 November 2020.
7. Peacock A, Karlsson A, Uporova J, Price O, Chan R, Swanton R et al. 2020. *Australian Drug Trends 2020: Key Findings from the National Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Interviews*. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW.
8. Whetton S, Shanahan M, Cartwright K, Duraisingam V, Ferrante A, Gray D et al. 2016. *The social costs of methamphetamine in Australia 2013/14*. National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.

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For more detail, see the full report, *Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia*, which is available from the AIHW website.



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