



Death rate involving meth/amphetamine was **4 times higher** in 2017 than 1999.<sup>[1]</sup>

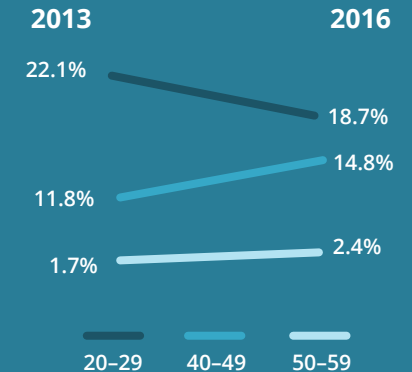
Proportion of closed alcohol and other drug treatment episodes in 2017–18 by **principal drug of concern**:

Amphetamines 27%  
Ecstasy 0.6%  
Cocaine 0.7%<sup>[2]</sup>

Waste water data analysis indicates that **regional consumption of methamphetamine exceeded capital city consumption** in 2018. **Ecstasy consumption is similar in regional areas and capital cities** and **cocaine consumption is higher in capital cities** than regional areas.<sup>[3]</sup>



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



The proportion of **self-reported mental illness increased** between 2013–2016 for people using methamphetamine (29% to 42%), ecstasy (MDMA) (17.9% to 27%) and cocaine (17.4% to 25%).<sup>[4]</sup>



2018 national wastewater data analysis indicates that **methamphetamine remains the highest consumed illicit drug** monitored by the program.<sup>[3]</sup>



In 2016, 46% of people associated the use of meth/amphetamine with a drug problem.<sup>[4]</sup>

57% of methamphetamine users in 2016 reported **crystal/ice as the main form used**, up from 50% in 2013.<sup>[4]</sup>

**47% of police detainees tested positive to amphetamines in 2017.**<sup>[5]</sup>

In 2016–17, **nearly a third of national illicit drug seizures** (32.9%) and arrests (30.7%) were for amphetamine type substances (including MDMA).<sup>[6]</sup>

Consumption of **methamphetamine decreased** among the general population

2.1% in 2013  
1.4% in 2016.<sup>[4]</sup>



Proportion of the total population using crystal/ice remained relatively stable between 2013 (1%) and 2016 (0.8%) and has increased since 2010 (0.4%).<sup>[4]</sup>

Reported **cocaine use is increasing** in Australia and is particularly prevalent among employed people, living in **high socioeconomic areas** in 2016.<sup>[4]</sup>



Users source of meth/ amphetamine, ecstasy and cocaine in 2018 were:

Friends (55%)



Dealers (33%).<sup>[7]</sup>

In 2016, over the last 12 months, people aged 14+ used:

Ecstasy 2.2%

Cocaine 2.5%

Meth/amphetamine 1.4%<sup>[4]</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 2019. Alcohol and other drug use in regional and remote Australia: consumption, harms and access to treatment, 2016–17. Cat. no. HSE 212. Canberra: AIHW.
2. AIHW 2019. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2017–18: key findings. Web Report. Viewed 17 April 2019.
3. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2019. National wastewater drug monitoring program, report 7. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 18 June 2019.
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2017. National drug strategy household survey 2016: detailed findings. Drug statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PHE 214. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 14 December 2017.

5. Patterson, E Sullivan, T, Ticehurst, A & Bricknell, S 2011. Drug use monitoring in Australia: Drug use among police detainees, 2017, Statistical Reports Number 14. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. Viewed 18 April 2019.
6. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2018. Illicit drug data report 2016–17. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 21 September 2018.
7. Peacock A, Gibbs D, Karlsson A, Uporova J, Sutherland R, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Alati R, Degenhardt L, & Farrell, M 2018. Australian Drug Trends 2018. Key findings from the National Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Interviews. Sydney, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

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For more detail, see the full report, [Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia](#), which can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website.



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