Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Meth/amphetamines and other stimulants

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

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%[2]

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.[3]

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%).[4]

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

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

47% of police detainees tested positive to amphetamines in 2017.[5]

Lifetime use of ecstasy[4]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2013</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20–29</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>40–49</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>50–59</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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2018 national wastewater data analysis indicates that methamphetamine remains the highest consumed illicit drug monitored by the program.[8]

In 2016–17, nearly a third of national illicit drug seizures (32.9%) and arrests (30.7%) were for amphetamine type substances (including MDMA).[6]
Users source of meth/amphetamine, ecstasy and cocaine in 2018 were:

Friends (55%)

Dealers (33%) [7]

Consumption of methamphetamine decreased among the general population

2.1% in 2013
1.4% in 2016 [4]

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%) [4]

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


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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.