

1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

State and Territory results

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1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

State and Territory results

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Foreword

This detailed report of State and Territory results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey is part of the drug statistics series by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The Institute managed the conduct of the Survey on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, and custody of the survey data set rests with the Institute and is protected by the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*. Access to a public-use data set is available through the Social Science Data Archives at the Australian National University, with access to the Institute's data set possible following consideration of research proposals by the Institute's Ethics Committee.

Richard Madden
Director
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
December 2000

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Abbreviations

ABCI	Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MCCOC	Model Criminal Code Officers Committee
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
MDMA	Methylene-dioxymethamphetamine
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NDSHS	1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey
—	Nil, or rounded to zero
*	Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%

States and Territories

NSW	New South Wales
Vic	Victoria
Qld	Queensland
WA	Western Australia
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NT	Northern Territory
Aus	Australia

Summary

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey was conducted during 1998, and included 10,030 Australians aged 14 years and older. Respondents were asked about their knowledge of drugs, attitudes towards drugs, drug consumption histories and related behaviours. Australians most frequently preferred and approved of drugs were the licit drugs: tobacco and alcohol. In contrast, only small numbers of Australians reported illicit drug use, with the exception of marijuana/cannabis. Overwhelmingly, Australians did not approve of the use of illicit drugs and supported increased penalties for the sale and supply of these drugs. Most Australians did not want illicit drugs legalised and illicit drugs were more likely than licit drugs to be associated with the concept of a drug 'problem'.

Licit drugs

Tobacco

Nearly one-quarter (23%) of the survey respondents indicated that they were regular smokers of tobacco. South Australia is the only State or Territory of recent times to report a proportion of regular smokers that was less than 20%. Of people who smoke daily, around 75% have commenced by their 20th year. The regular smoking rate was highest among the 20–29 years age group at 32%, with a range of 29% in Western Australia to 40% in the Northern Territory. In addition, the regular smoking rate was higher among males than females in all jurisdictions except the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

Alcohol

The prevalence of regular drinking was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (57%) and lowest in Tasmania (46%). Consistently higher proportions of men reported regular drinking behaviour than women across all States and Territories. The Northern Territory showed the highest proportions of its population drinking at hazardous or harmful levels (15% of males and 6% of females). In addition, results from Western Australia demonstrate that at least 14% of persons aged 20–29 years drank at hazardous or harmful levels which was far greater than other comparison groups. The sex difference in the hazardous/harmful use of alcohol showed that there were greater male proportions in all States and Territories by between 1 percentage point in Victoria to 8 points in the Northern Territory.

Illicit drugs

The Northern Territory and Western Australia reported consistently high results compared to the other States and Territories for lifetime and recent use of illicit drugs. Young people in the 20–29 years age group from Western Australia reported the:

- second highest lifetime usage of marijuana/cannabis (73%);
- second highest lifetime usage of amphetamines (30%);
- highest lifetime proportion of heroin use (7%); and
- highest lifetime proportion of ecstasy use (22%).

Young people in the 20–29 years age group from Western Australia also reported their recent use (previous 12 months) compared to other States and Territories and age groups was:

- second highest for marijuana/cannabis (50%);
- the highest for amphetamines (21%);
- the highest for heroin (5%); and
- the highest for ecstasy (19%).

In addition, the South Australia proportions for lifetime (55%) and recent (46%) use of marijuana/cannabis in the 14–19 years age group were higher than all other States and Territories.

Perceptions and acceptability

Around two of every five respondents were able to correctly recognise tobacco as the greatest cause of drug-related deaths in Australia, with a range of 34% in the Northern Territory to 47% in South Australia. Respondents from all States and Territories also considered that alcohol and tobacco were the most acceptable drugs for regular use by adults. With the exception of marijuana/cannabis, there was low acceptability for all other illicit drugs.

Policy support

Across the States and Territories there was generally consistent support for a range of policy measures for reducing the problems associated with smoking, alcohol, and illicit drugs. The measures with the greatest support in each category were:

- stricter enforcement of the law against supplying cigarettes to persons under age (82% in the Northern Territory to 91% in the Australian Capital Territory);
- more severe legal penalties for drunk drivers (82% in the Northern Territory to 91% in New South Wales);
- rapid detoxification therapy for heroin control (54% in the Northern Territory to 64% in New South Wales); and
- increased penalties for the sale and supply of:
 - heroin (71% in the Northern Territory to 87% in New South Wales);
 - amphetamines (67% in the Northern Territory to 86% in Western Australia);
 - cocaine (70% in the Northern Territory to 86% in Western Australia); and
 - marijuana/cannabis (44% in the Northern Territory to 62% in New South Wales).

Social effects of drug use

Far greater proportions of the population reported being victims of drug-related abuse and crime (in the last 12 months) than proportions admitted being perpetrators. The Northern Territory reported consistently higher proportions of drug-related perpetrators and victims (particularly of alcohol-related harm) than other States and Territories. Specifically, around one-third (29%) of respondents in the Northern Territory alleged that they were verbally abused in the past 12 months by someone under the influence of alcohol.

1 Introduction

About this report

1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory Results aims to present comparative results for the States and Territories from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS). Chapters are provided for each of the drug types covered by the NDSHS: tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs. Additional chapters cover perception and acceptability of drug use, community support for policy and the social effects of drug use.

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey of 10,030 Australians aged 14 years and older was conducted between June and September 1998. This was the sixth survey in a series that commenced in 1985, but was the first to be managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Respondents were asked about their knowledge of drugs, their attitudes towards drugs, their drug consumption histories and related behaviours. The sample was based on households, therefore homeless and institutionalised persons were not included in the survey (consistent with the approach in previous years).

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey provides an opportunity for the collection of data items that contribute to the development of policies for Australia's response to drug issues. Previous surveys were conducted in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. In 1997 the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, under which AIHW managed the conduct of the 1998 survey.

Comparing results

The sample size and the level of prevalence affect statistical reliability of the survey. Prevalence and population estimates are provided for interpretation, without regard to their levels of statistical reliability. That is, for a number of the measures of low prevalence behaviours (e.g. use of injecting drugs), resultant estimates are more likely to be statistically unreliable than the same measures of high prevalence behaviours (e.g. alcohol consumption).

Readers are reminded, therefore, that in interpreting results, reference should always be made to the tables of standard and relative standard errors (Appendix 1). Results subject to relative standard errors of between 25% and 50% should be considered with caution and those with relative standard errors greater than 50% should be considered unreliable for most practical purposes.

Conventions

Data presented in this report were based on estimates derived from responses weighted to the Australian population aged 14 years and over. Unless otherwise specified, the base for all estimates is the number of respondents who answered the relevant question(s) in the survey instrument. Missing cases were excluded and responses were rebased to 100%.

Context for this report

Drug-related harm

The Institute estimated that in 1997 over 22,000 deaths and more than a quarter of a million hospital episodes were related to the use of drugs. The licit drugs (tobacco and alcohol) accounted for over 96% of the drug-related deaths and hospitalisations. The Institute estimates that in 1993–94 the direct health system cost of the management of substance abuse disorders was \$274 million (this does not include the cost of managing other conditions attributable to the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs).

National Drug Strategic Framework 1998–99 to 2002–03

The National Drug Strategic Framework 1998–99 to 2002–03 presents a shared vision, a framework for cooperation and a basis for coordinated action to reduce the harm caused by drugs in Australia. The framework maintains the policy principles of the previous phases of the NDS and adopts the major recommendations of *The National Drug Strategy: Mapping the Future*. The Framework has been prepared under the direction of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) which brings together the Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for health and law enforcement. This group has collectively determined national policies and programs designed to reduce the harm caused by drugs to individuals, families and communities of Australia.

Demographics of the population

In 1998 the estimated resident population of Australia aged 14 years and over was 15,075,577 people. Proportions by State for each age and sex group are presented in Table 1.1. Population estimates are presented in Appendix 1. As can be seen from these tables, just less than 50% of the population is aged between 14 and 39 years.

Table 1.1: Proportions of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, June 1998

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(per cent)									
Males									
14–19	10.7	10.6	11.4	11.3	10.3	11.5	12.4	11.9	10.9
20–29	18.7	19.4	19.5	19.9	18.0	17.1	22.4	25.6	19.2
30–39	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.9	18.9	18.4	19.8	23.9	19.5
40+	51.1	50.5	50.0	48.9	52.7	53.0	45.5	38.6	50.5
<i>Total 14+</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Females									
14–19	9.8	9.7	10.7	10.7	9.5	10.6	11.1	12.5	10.1
20–29	18.0	18.4	18.9	19.0	16.7	16.3	21.3	26.1	18.3
30–39	19.0	19.0	19.2	19.7	18.2	18.4	20.1	24.5	19.1
40+	53.2	52.8	51.3	50.6	55.6	54.7	47.5	36.9	52.5
<i>Total 14+</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Persons									
14–19	10.2	10.2	11.0	11.0	9.9	11.0	11.7	12.2	10.5
20–29	18.4	18.9	19.2	19.4	17.3	16.7	21.8	25.8	18.8
30–39	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.8	18.6	18.4	19.9	24.2	19.3
40+	52.2	51.7	50.6	49.8	54.2	53.8	46.5	37.8	51.5
Total 14+	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS. Australian Demographic Statistics. Catalogue No. 3101.0.

Legislation

States and Territories have independent and different approaches to drug-related legislation. These differences mean that any Australian aggregation of the law-related questions from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey were not possible as the results are not comparable.

The following lists some distinctions between States' and Territories' legislation:

- Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have a single set of laws aimed to regulate the licit market and eliminate the illicit market.
- New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria distinguish their measures between the black market and control of the legitimate trade.
- Victoria has prosecutorial discretion where the unlawful sale of a drug of dependence may be listed as either of two distinct offences, one being punishable by a 25-year prison term and the other with a fine (MCCOC 1998).

Selected legislation covering illicit drugs

New South Wales Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985

Victoria Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

Queensland Drugs Misuse Act 1986

Western Australia Misuse of Drugs Act 1981

South Australia Controlled Substances Act 1984

Tasmania Poisons Act 1971

Northern Territory Misuse of Drugs Act 1990

Australian Capital Territory Drugs of Dependence Act 1989

Commonwealth Customs Act 1901

Crimes (Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act 1990

Drug supply and trafficking

The reports entitled *Australian Illicit Drug Report 1998–99* (ABCI 2000) and *Australian Drug Trends* (McKetin et al. 2000) provide a detailed States and Territories discussion of recent drug supply and trafficking information. These reports provide contextual information including manufacture or growing sources, police reports, price data, and customs seizures.

2 Overview of drug use

Lifetime drug use (ever used drugs)

Lifetime use of drugs refers to whether a person has ever used a drug. In 1998 the drugs most frequently tried in all the Australian States and Territories were tobacco and alcohol. Low proportions of respondents aged 14 years and over, weighted to reflect the Australian population, reported illicit drug use at some time in their life, with the exception of marijuana/cannabis (Table 2.1).

The survey showed that:

- 66% persons aged 14 years or more have smoked tobacco with a range of 62% in New South Wales to 72% in South Australia;
- 91% or around nine out of every ten people have drunk alcohol with a range of 88% in New South Wales to 95% in the Australian Capital Territory;
- 39% have used marijuana/cannabis with a range of 35% in Victoria to 59% in the Northern Territory;
- 12% have taken painkillers/analgesics for non-medical purposes with a range of 10% in the Australian Capital Territory to 15% in South Australia;
- 6% have taken tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes with a range of 5% in Western Australia to 11% in the Northern Territory;
- 2% have used heroin with a range of less than 2% in South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory to 5% in the Northern Territory;
- 5% have used ecstasy (designer drugs) with a range of 2% in Tasmania to 7% in Western Australia; and
- 46% have used any illicit drug, with a range of 44% in Victoria to 62% in the Northern Territory.

Table 2.1: Summary of lifetime drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance/behaviour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Tobacco	62.2	66.9	68.0	69.0	72.1	69.6	69.0	68.7	66.2
Alcohol	87.6	91.1	92.4	92.8	93.3	91.6	95.4	93.9	90.6
Marijuana/cannabis	38.9	35.3	40.2	44.8	39.3	37.6	46.1	59.1	39.1
Painkillers/analgesics ^(a)	10.7	12.2	11.2	11.0	14.7	12.8	10.0	10.1	11.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills ^(a)	5.1	7.4	6.5	5.0	6.6	8.0	7.5	10.8	6.2
Steroids ^(a)	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7*	0.8*	0.7*	1.0	1.0*	0.8
Barbiturates ^(a)	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.2	2.6	2.1	4.5	1.6
Glue/petrol/solvents/rush	3.9	3.5	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.3	4.1	5.8	3.9
Heroin	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	4.5	2.2
Methadone ^(b)	0.5*	0.3*	0.7	0.8*	0.1*	0.7*	0.9	0.6*	0.5
Amphetamines (speed/uppers) ^(a)	8.8	8.7	8.0	10.6	8.2	6.5	8.9	17.6	8.8
Cocaine/crack	5.8	3.6	3.5	4.1	2.3	2.4	5.0	5.6	4.3
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	9.8	8.8	10.4	12.3	9.0	7.9	11.3	21.8	9.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs	5.3	4.8	3.8	6.9	2.8	2.4	5.6	5.9	4.8
Injected illegal drugs	1.4	2.2	3.0	3.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	4.3	2.1
Ever used any illicit drug	45.1	43.5	47.6	52.0	48.5	46.2	51.5	62.0	46.4
None of the above	9.3	6.3	5.6	4.3	6.0	5.7	3.3	3.2	6.9

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Recent drug use

This section describes the proportions of current usage of drugs (use in the 12 months prior to the survey) by respondents aged 14 years and over, weighted to reflect the Australian population. There was no clear pattern of consistent high or low use among the jurisdictions (Table 2.2).

The survey showed that:

- 27% of persons aged 14 years and over smoked tobacco in the past 12 months with a range of 22% in South Australia to 36% in the Northern Territory;
- 81% or around four of every five people drank alcohol with a range of 78% in New South Wales to 90% in the Australian Capital Territory;
- 18% used marijuana/cannabis with a range of 16% in Tasmania to 37% in the Northern Territory;
- 5% took painkillers/analgesics for non-medical purposes with a range of 4% in New South Wales to 7% in South Australia;
- 3% took tranquillisers/sleeping pills for non-medical purposes with a range of 2% in New South Wales to 5% in the Northern Territory; and
- less than 1% used heroin with little variation between States and Territories.

Table 2.2: Summary of recent drug use (previous 12 months): proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance/behaviour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Tobacco	25.4	27.3	28.8	27.5	22.2	28.3	26.5	35.8	26.6
Alcohol	78.3	80.1	79.9	85.9	84.6	80.2	89.6	83.0	80.6
Marijuana/cannabis	16.7	17.8	17.5	22.3	17.6	15.9	20.3	36.5	17.9
Painkillers/analgesics ^(a)	4.2	6.1	5.2	4.4	6.8	6.7	5.0	5.5	5.2
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills ^(a)	2.1	4.0	2.7	3.1	3.7	2.9	2.5	4.7	3.0
Steroids ^(a)	0.4*	0.2*	0.2*	0.1*	0.2*	—	—	0.1*	0.2
Barbiturates ^(a)	0.2*	0.3*	0.2*	0.3	0.3*	0.5*	0.3*	0.3*	0.3
Glue/petrol/solvents/rush	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.7*	0.7*	0.9	1.1*	0.9
Heroin	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.5	0.5*	0.5*	0.4*	0.5*	0.8
Methadone ^(b)	—	0.2*	0.4	0.2*	—	0.6*	0.1*	0.2*	0.2
Amphetamines (speed/uppers)	3.8	3.4	3.0	6.0	3.5	1.6	3.1	7.2	3.7
Cocaine/crack	2.1	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.6*	0.1*	1.2	1.6*	1.4
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	2.6	3.6	2.5	3.9	3.1	2.0	2.8	5.8	3.0
Ecstasy/designer drugs	2.1	3.1	1.4	5.1	1.0	0.7*	2.8	3.1	2.4
Injected illegal drugs	0.3*	0.9	1.0	1.8	0.4*	0.6*	0.2*	0.9*	0.8
Recent use of any illicit drug	20.5	23.5	22.5	26.9	23.9	22.6	24.7	39.9	22.8
None of the above	17.4	15.4	15.7	10.0	11.6	13.7	6.8	8.9	15.1

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Notes

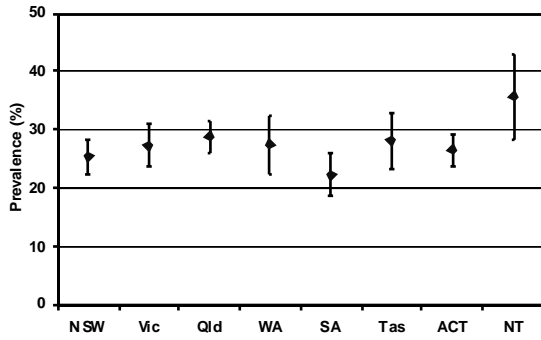
1. Tobacco reflects the sum of daily and occasional smoking behaviour.

2. Alcohol reflects the sum of regular and occasional drinkers.

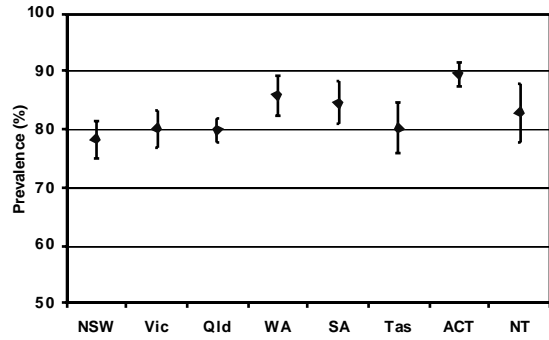
Recent drug use—statistical differences between States and Territories

The results of recent use for eight selected substances are presented with an additional analysis of 95% confidence intervals shown as 'error bars' in Figure 2.1. This analysis enables the reader to determine if the result for a State or Territory was significantly different from the others. If an error bar does not overlap the comparison jurisdiction then the difference was statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. The figures show that for all selected substances, there were very few statistically significant differences in the prevalence of recent drug use among the jurisdictions.

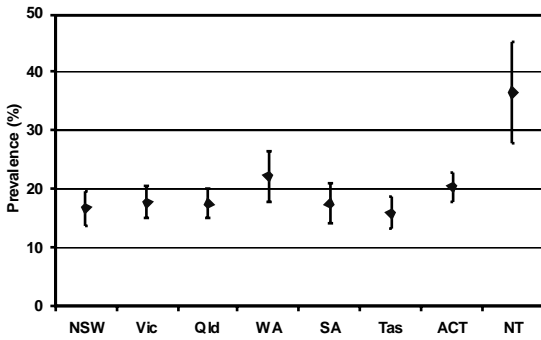
Tobacco



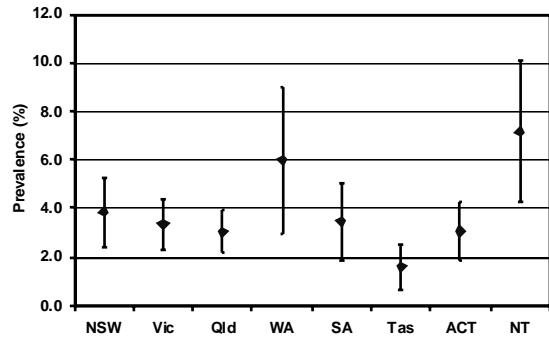
Alcohol



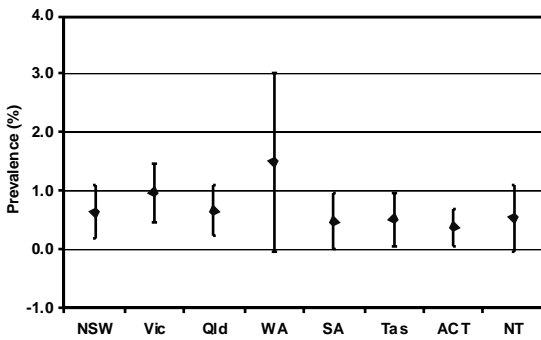
Marijuana/cannabis



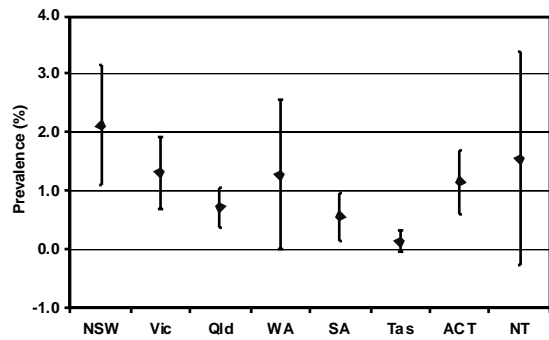
Amphetamines



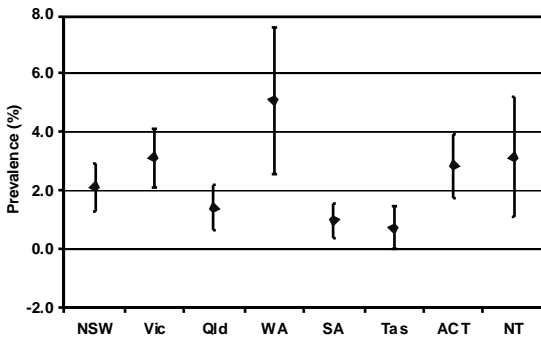
Heroin



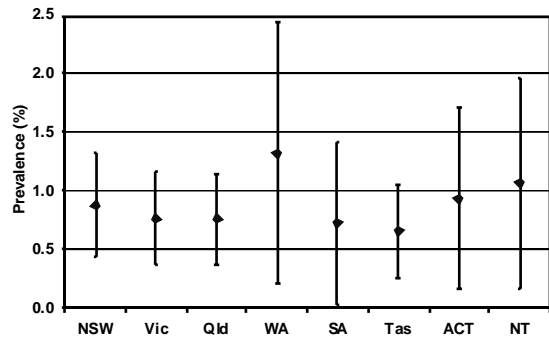
Cocaine



Ecstasy



Inhalants



Source: 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

Figure 2.1: Prevalence (and 95% confidence intervals) of recent use of selected drugs, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Age of initiation of drug use

The mean age of first drug use is affected by a number of factors including increased opportunities to try a drug as people grow older; the availability and popularity of the drug at different times; and population momentum. The latter, population momentum refers to the movement of age cohorts with previous exposure rates into older age groups. Their contribution to the mean age of first use tends to dilute and disguise the ages at which new users enter the population that uses drugs. Mean age of initiation of drug use is presented in Table 2.3.

Among those that reported drug use at some time in their life, the mean age at first use for:

- smoking tobacco was 16 years with a range of 15 years in the Northern Territory to 17 years in South Australia;
- drinking alcohol was 17 years with a range of 16 years in the Northern Territory to 18 years in New South Wales;
- using marijuana/cannabis was 19 years with a range of 18 years in the Northern Territory to 19 years in South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania;
- using heroin was 22 years with a range of 20 years in Queensland and Tasmania to 24 years in Western Australia;
- consuming ecstasy/designer drugs was 23 years with a range of 22 years in Western Australia to 26 years in Tasmania; and
- injecting illegal drugs was 21 years with a range of 18 years in Queensland to 24 years in Victoria.

Table 2.3: Mean age of initiation of drug use for respondents aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance/behaviour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(years)								
Tobacco	15.9	15.7	15.6	15.2	16.6	15.5	15.8	14.7	15.8
Alcohol	17.5	17.4	17.0	16.9	16.4	16.6	17.0	15.6	17.2
Marijuana/cannabis	18.6	18.6	19.0	19.0	19.4	19.1	18.5	18.4	18.8
Painkillers/analgesics ^(a)	20.8	19.1	18.3	24.0	16.0	18.4	16.6	19.7	19.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills ^(a)	23.8	24.3	20.9	24.4	21.4	23.4	23.9	21.0	23.3
Steroids ^(a)	21.6	20.7	16.1	23.0	23.2	(c)	(c)	(c)	21.4
Barbiturates ^(a)	21.0	19.7	18.8	19.5	17.9	17.3	17.1	17.1	19.8
Glue/petrol/solvents/rush	16.5	16.9	18.1	21.7	16.6	16.2	18.3	18.1	17.5
Heroin	20.4	23.6	20.2	24.2	20.6	20.2	20.6	22.8	21.7
Methadone ^(b)	(c)	24.3	24.8	21.4	(c)	(c)	19.2	(c)	22.0
Amphetamines (speed/uppers)	19.3	20.2	20.4	20.7	20.1	20.5	20.9	21.4	20.0
Cocaine/crack	21.3	23.1	22.4	24.5	22.2	21.2	24.2	20.8	22.2
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	19.2	20.0	19.5	19.4	19.3	18.8	19.3	19.0	19.5
Ecstasy/designer drugs	23.1	22.4	22.7	21.7	23.0	25.6	22.7	23.1	22.7
Injected illegal drugs	20.9	23.6	18.4	20.4	19.4	19.2	20.5	19.3	20.7

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

(c) Cell value withheld due to extreme sampling variability.

Notes

1. Tobacco reflects the mean age of respondents who had ever smoked a full cigarette.

2. Alcohol reflects the mean age of respondents who had ever consumed a full glass of alcohol.

Population estimates of drug use

An estimate of the number of recent drug users can be extrapolated from the proportions provided in Table 2.2, except for alcohol, where conservative estimates are from Table 4.3. The estimates in Table 2.4 were based on the weighting of the 10,030 respondents across Australia and applied to ABS population estimates for June 1998. This analysis gives magnitude and perspective to the Australian drug and alcohol problem. All States and Territories showed large populations of current smokers, hazardous/harmful drinkers and marijuana/cannabis users that vastly outnumber other recent illicit drug use.

Table 2.4: Recent drug user estimates:^(a) selected substances/behaviours, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance/behaviour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	('000)								
Tobacco	1,296	1,028	794	401	266	107	65	51	4,012
Alcohol	260	193	187	93	70	19	14	15	850
Marijuana/cannabis	851	669	484	325	213	60	50	52	2,702
Heroin	32	37	18	22	6	2	<1	<1	118
Injected illegal drugs	17	33	28	27	5	2	<1	1	114
Recent use of any illicit drug	1,047	885	621	393	286	85	61	57	3,437

(a) Estimates were based on 10,030 respondents in the 1998 National Drug Survey. The number of tobacco users reflects the sum of daily and occasional smokers. The estimate of alcohol relates to the 'conservative' analysis of the number of people that reported hazardous or harmful alcohol use and is discussed later in this report.

Source: ABS Population estimates June 1998 and 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

3 Tobacco

Tobacco use was the major cause of drug-related deaths in Australia in 1997. Around 18,200 deaths and almost 150,000 hospital episodes were attributed to the use of tobacco, which accounted for 80% of all drug-related deaths (AIHW: Higgins et al. 2000). The Australian Burden of Disease Study by the Institute estimated that almost 10% of the total burden of disease in Australia during 1996 could be attributed to tobacco smoking (AIHW: Mathers et al. 1999).

Smoking status

The smoking status of respondents from the 1998 NDSHS is reported in Table 3.1. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of the respondents indicated that they were regular smokers of tobacco with a range of 19% in South Australia to 31% in the Northern Territory. Notably, South Australia is the only State or Territory of recent times to report a regular smoking rate less than 20%. However, putting this in perspective, it is unlikely based on these smoking rates across the country that the burden of disease attributable to tobacco smoking will reduce greatly in the future. Occasional smokers made up about 4% of the population with little difference in proportions across jurisdictions. There are large survey differences in the proportion of ex-smokers between States and Territories, with the Northern Territory having the lowest proportion of ex-smokers at 33% when compared to South Australia at 50%. However, South Australia has the highest proportions (72% from Table 2.1) of people who have tried smoking in their lifetime. Proportions in the 'Never smoked' category ranged from 28% in South Australia to 33% in Victoria, except for New South Wales where it was higher at 38%.

Table 3.1: Smoking status summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Smoking status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Regular ^(a)	21.2	23.4	24.4	22.6	19.3	24.4	22.5	30.9	22.5
Occasional ^(b)	4.2	3.8	4.4	4.8	2.9	3.8	4.0	4.9	4.1
Ex-smokers	36.8	39.6	39.3	41.5	49.8	41.4	42.5	33.0	39.6
Never smoked	37.8	33.1	32.0	31.0	28.0	30.4	31.0	31.3	33.8

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

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

Age daily smoking commenced

There was little difference between States and Territories in the average age of commencing daily smoking with a range of 17 years to 19 years (Table 3.2). Around 75% of all smokers commenced daily smoking before they turned 20 years and only 1 in 20 smokers commenced daily smoking after age 25 years with the exception of South Australia at 36 years.

Table 3.2: Age daily smoking commenced: mean age and selected percentile ages of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Age measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(years)								
Mean age	18.2	18.0	17.6	17.0	19.3	17.9	18.0	17.1	18.0
75th percentile age	20.0	20.0	19.0	18.0	20.0	18.0	20.0	18.0	19.0
95th percentile age	25.0	26.0	26.0	22.0	36.0	26.0	25.0	24.0	25.0

Smoking status—age and sex analysis

An age/sex analysis highlights the different rates of tobacco use in the States and Territories (see Table 3.3). The table shows variation in smoking status by four age groups. Some features are that:

- the regular smoking rate was 32% among the 20–29 years age group, with a range of 29% in Western Australia to 40% in the Northern Territory;
- the regular smoking rate for the 14–19 years age group was highest in Victoria at 24% and lowest in Western Australia at 10%;
- occasional smokers were most likely to be in the 14–19 years age group;
- all States and Territories demonstrated a consistent trend to lower usage rates as age increased beyond the 20–29 years age group;
- all States and Territories showed a trend to higher proportions of ex-smokers as age increased, although in Western Australia and Tasmania, slightly higher rates were seen in the 14–19 years age group compared with the 20–29 years group;
- among those in the 14–19 years age group, 47% had never smoked in the past; and
- some consistency is noted in the never smoked category as the proportion was around 30% in the older age groups across all States and Territories.

The table also shows variation in smoking status by sex and some important features were that:

- the regular smoking rate was higher among males than females in all jurisdictions except the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory;
- among all regular smokers, the highest proportion was among females in the Northern Territory at 35%;
- the occasional smoking rate was lowest among South Australia males (1%) in combination with the lowest male proportions for regular smoking (South Australia at 22%) and the highest proportion of ex-smokers (South Australia at 53%) across all States and Territories; and
- the never smoked category was higher among females in all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory.

Table 3.3: Smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Tobacco smoking status	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Regular ^(a)	14–19	11.5	23.9	17.5	9.9	14.3	19.1	16.7	10.7	16.1
	20–29	30.8	31.2	32.5	29.1	34.6	33.5	31.9	40.1	31.6
	30–39	23.9	27.5	30.3	27.6	21.9	30.1	27.0	35.8	26.5
	40+	18.7	18.8	20.3	20.7	14.1	20.7	17.5	27.8	18.9
	Males	24.1	27.2	25.4	24.7	22.0	27.7	22.3	27.0	25.1
	Females	18.5	19.8	23.3	20.5	16.7	21.4	22.7	35.4	20.0
Occasional ^(b)	14–19	10.4	8.4	7.9	5.5	15.8	6.5	8.1	11.9	9.2
	20–29	5.6	7.9	7.9	12.5	5.0	6.7	6.3	6.1*	7.3
	30–39	3.9	3.2	5.7	2.7	1.7*	4.5	5.1	4.2*	3.8
	40+	2.5	1.6	1.7	2.3*	0.3*	2.1*	1.2*	2.3*	1.9
	Males	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.6	1.3*	3.4	4.3	5.8	4.3
	Females	3.8	3.3	3.9	5.1	4.5	4.2	3.6	3.9	3.9
Ex-smokers	14–19	27.6	26.9	29.4	31.8	28.5	31.1	25.3	15.8	28.2
	20–29	30.4	31.8	29.8	23.8	31.6	30.5	33.0	18.2	29.9
	30–39	41.2	38.1	40.7	41.9	43.4	40.8	42.0	35.3	40.5
	40+	39.2	45.8	44.6	51.2	62.4	47.2	52.0	46.9	45.3
	Males	39.8	43.7	42.9	43.3	52.7	43.3	45.4	35.1	42.8
	Females	33.9	35.6	35.7	39.7	47.1	39.3	39.6	30.5	36.5
Never smoked	14–19	50.5	40.8	45.1	52.8	41.4	43.4	49.9	61.5	46.5
	20–29	33.2	29.1	29.8	34.6	28.8	29.4	28.7	35.6	31.2
	30–39	31.0	31.3	23.3	27.7	33.1	24.6	26.0	24.7	29.2
	40+	39.6	33.8	33.4	25.8	23.2	30.0	29.3	23.0	33.9
	Males	31.6	24.7	26.8	27.4	24.0	25.5	28.0	32.2	27.8
	Females	43.8	41.2	37.1	34.7	31.7	35.1	34.1	30.2	39.6

(a) Regular: smokes daily/most days.

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

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

4 Alcohol

Alcohol is second only to tobacco as a major cause of drug-related mortality in Australia. During 1997, the Institute estimates that there were approximately 3,700 deaths (16% of all drug-related deaths) attributed to alcohol and 96,000 hospital episodes in 1996–97 (AIHW: Higgins et al. 2000).

The Australian Burden of Disease study estimated that the harm associated with alcohol consumption accounted for 4.9% of the total burden of disease in Australia during 1996. However, low to moderate alcohol consumption can protect against certain diseases, such as hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, stroke and gallstones. The net harm associated with alcohol consumption, after taking into account these benefits, was around 2.2% of the total burden of disease (AIHW: Mathers et al. 1999).

More people report that they have tried (91%) and were recent drinkers (81%) of alcohol than any other drug.

Drinking status

Alcohol drinking status results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey are reported in Table 4.1 and show regular drinkers as accounting for around 49% of the population. The prevalence of regular drinking was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (57%) and lowest in Tasmania (46%). Occasional drinkers amounted to about 32% of the population with little difference in proportions across the States and Territories except for South Australia at 37%. The proportion of ex-drinkers among surveyed Australians was 10% with the States and Territories ranging from 6% in the Australian Capital Territory to 12% in Tasmania. A wide range was reported in the 'Never a full glass of alcohol' category across the States and Territories from 5% in the Australian Capital Territory to 12% in New South Wales.

Table 4.1: Alcohol drinking status summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, State and Territory, Australia, 1998

Drinking status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Regular ^(a)	47.8	48.9	47.4	52.9	47.9	46.1	57.0	49.6	48.6
Occasional ^(b)	30.5	31.2	32.5	33.0	36.8	34.1	32.6	33.4	31.9
Ex-drinker	9.3	11.0	12.5	6.9	8.6	11.5	5.8	11.0	10.0
Never a full glass of alcohol	12.4	8.9	7.6	7.2	6.7	8.4	4.6	6.1	9.4

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

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

Drinking status—age and sex analysis

Alcohol drinking status results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey showed 59% of males and 38% of females aged 14 years and over as regular drinkers (at least weekly alcohol consumption). Males reported consistently higher proportions of regular drinking behaviour than females across each State and Territory (Table 4.2). The sex difference for regular drinking showed that there were greater male proportions in all States and Territories with the gap ranging from 17 percentage points in South Australia to

34 points in the Northern Territory. The 14–19 years age group had the lowest prevalence of regular drinking for all States and Territories and ranged from 19% in the Northern Territory to 34% in Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Occasional drinkers were more common in the younger age groups with decreasing proportions predominantly seen as age increased across all States and Territories. More females than males identified themselves as occasional drinkers across all States.

Table 4.2: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Drinking status	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Regular ^(a)	14–19	31.7	31.4	25.1	33.9	28.8	28.7	33.6	18.7	30.2
	20–29	48.5	55.1	50.6	57.8	51.3	45.3	61.3	44.9	51.8
	30–39	56.9	54.4	55.5	54.0	47.6	40.7	58.9	59.0	54.7
	40+	47.2	48.1	47.8	54.7	50.3	51.7	60.4	56.4	48.8
	Males	59.7	58.6	59.0	62.2	56.4	55.5	68.2	65.4	59.4
	Females	36.4	39.5	35.7	43.6	39.7	36.3	45.8	31.6	38.1
Occasional ^(b)	14–19	38.0	43.2	39.9	39.5	46.6	34.4	39.2	61.2	40.6
	20–29	34.0	34.1	39.4	29.9	34.1	45.8	31.6	34.7	34.8
	30–39	28.2	32.0	33.0	34.8	40.4	44.1	33.1	34.6	32.1
	40+	28.7	27.3	28.0	32.1	34.5	26.9	31.0	22.8	28.9
	Males	23.9	22.9	25.4	28.0	33.7	28.0	23.2	23.0	25.2
	Females	36.8	39.2	39.7	38.1	39.7	40.5	42.0	45.2	38.5
Ex-drinker	14–19	3.5	3.4	14.0	6.8	8.3	8.2	8.1	5.5*	6.4
	20–29	8.3	6.6	7.9	9.5	7.8	6.6	4.0	12.3	7.8
	30–39	8.1	8.4	10.2	7.5	8.5	12.7	4.6	3.2*	8.5
	40+	11.3	15.3	14.9	5.6	9.0	13.2	6.6	17.0	12.2
	Males	6.5	12.4	10.8	4.8	6.0	10.0	4.2	8.4	8.6
	Females	12.0	9.7	14.1	9.1	11.2	12.9	7.3	13.8	11.4
Never a full glass of alcohol	14–19	26.8	22.0	21.0	19.8	16.3	28.8	19.1	14.7	22.8
	20–29	9.3	4.2	2.1	2.8*	6.9	2.3*	3.0	8.1	5.6
	30–39	6.8	5.2	1.3	3.6	3.5*	2.6*	3.4	3.2*	4.6
	40+	12.9	9.3	9.4	7.7	6.1	8.2	2.0*	3.8*	10.0
	Males	9.8	6.1	4.8	5.0	3.9	6.5	4.4	3.2*	6.8
	Females	14.8	11.6	10.4	9.3	9.5	10.3	4.8	9.3	11.9

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

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

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Hazardous/harmful use of alcohol

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends low-risk drinking to be not more than four standard drinks per day for males and not more than two standard drinks for females, complemented by two alcohol-free days each week and abstinence during pregnancy (NHMRC 1992). Consumption patterns are shown (Table 4.3) in terms of hazardous or harmful alcohol drinking calculated using two different methods (see footnote to table).

Using the survey data it was difficult to relate reported drinking patterns with the guidelines, mainly because the combination of quantity and frequency can only be inferred. The guidelines themselves are unclear as to whether, for example, 28 drinks one day per week represents the same risk as four drinks every day of each week. Despite the qualification above and with both views presented in the table below, the conservative estimate of hazardous or harmful alcohol drinking shows that at least 7% of males and 4% of females nationally (aged 14 years or more) were drinking at hazardous or harmful levels. The sex difference in the hazardous/harmful use of alcohol showed that there were greater male proportions in all States and Territories by between 1 percentage point in Victoria to 8 points in the Northern Territory. This finding is in contrast to the analysis of previous surveys that had not identified sex differences in the proportions reporting hazardous/harmful consumption of alcohol (Makkai & McAllister 1998).

The Northern Territory showed the highest proportions of its population drinking at hazardous or harmful levels for males (15%) and females (6%). The Northern Territory also had the highest proportions in each age group except 20–29 years, for which the highest proportion was from Western Australia (14%).

Table 4.3: Hazardous/harmful consumption of alcohol (conservative versus non-conservative)^(a): proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Method/age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Hazardous or harmful alcohol use (conservative) ^(a)									
	(per cent)								
14–19	5.6	3.5	5.4	3.2	5.4	2.8*	6.0	10.6	4.8
20–29	7.8	7.7	8.6	14.4	5.9	8.0	3.3	11.1	8.4
30–39	5.4	3.1	6.0	1.6*	4.5	4.6	7.1	8.9	4.6
40+	3.9	5.3	6.6	5.8	6.2	4.5	5.9	11.8	5.2
Males	6.5	5.5	8.4	9.4	6.8	5.6	6.4	14.6	7.0
Females	3.7	4.8	5.2	3.3	4.8	4.3	4.8	6.4	4.3
Persons	5.1	5.1	6.8	6.3	5.8	4.9	5.6	10.8	5.6
Hazardous or harmful alcohol use (non-conservative) ^(a)									
14–19	5.9	5.3	6.4	4.9	7.2	3.2*	6.5	11.2	5.9
20–29	13.1	11.7	13.1	18.8	9.7	10.1	5.9	14.9	12.9
30–39	10.5	8.1	10.1	7.6	9.6	6.3	10.5	14.0	9.4
40+	8.9	12.0	13.2	10.3	13.4	7.4	11.0	17.5	11.0
Males	12.7	13.0	15.5	15.2	13.8	8.8	11.0	20.7	13.6
Females	6.7	8.2	8.2	6.5	9.2	5.7	7.5	9.0	7.5
Persons	9.6	10.5	11.8	10.9	11.5	7.2	9.3	15.2	10.5

(a) This table attempts to relate reported drinking patterns with the NHMRC guidelines. The analysis is based on the product of responses to two questions from the survey, one that sought detail on drinking frequency and the other sought detail on the usual consumption (quantity) of standard drinks. Both questions included response ranges like 2–3 days a week or 3–4 drinks per day. The conservative estimate used the lower range of both questions to estimate number of drinks per week. The non-conservative method used the upper range of both questions.

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

5 Illicit drugs

The Institute estimates that illicit drug use in Australia was associated with around 1,000 deaths in 1997 (4% of all drug-related deaths) and 11,000 hospital episodes in 1996–97 (AIHW: Higgins et al. 2000). This mortality and associated morbidity typically occurred among young people resulting in a large number of years of life lost due to premature mortality and years lived with a disability. Illicit drug use was estimated to have accounted for almost 2% of the total burden of disease in Australia in 1996 (AIHW: Mathers et al. 1999).

Lifetime illicit drug use (ever used illicit drugs)

Marijuana/cannabis was the most common illicit drug used, at some time, by respondents in all States and Territories at 39% (range of 35% in Victoria to 59% in the Northern Territory). Amphetamines (7% in Tasmania to 18% in the Northern Territory) and ecstasy (2% in Tasmania to 7% in Western Australia) were the next most frequently reported drugs used by respondents during their lifetime. The Northern Territory recorded the highest proportion of lifetime users for all drugs except ecstasy, which was shown to be highest in Western Australia. Injecting drugs and heroin were used, at some time, by about 2% of Australians with reasonably consistent results reported across all States and Territories (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Lifetime use of illicit drugs summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Heroin	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	4.5	2.2
Marijuana/cannabis	38.9	35.3	40.2	44.8	39.3	37.6	46.1	59.1	39.1
Injecting drugs	1.4	2.2	3.0	3.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	4.3	2.1
Amphetamines	8.8	8.7	8.0	10.6	8.2	6.5	8.9	17.6	8.8
Ecstasy	5.3	4.8	3.8	6.9	2.8	2.4	5.6	5.9	4.8

Lifetime use of illicit drugs—age and sex analysis

Across all States and Territories, the 20–29 years age group consistently reported the highest lifetime usage of illicit drugs and the sex distribution remained constant with males proportionally higher than females (Table 5.2). Young people in the 20–29 years age group from Western Australia reported the highest proportions of lifetime heroin use (7%) compared to the other States and Territories and age groups. Around two of every five respondents had, at some time, used marijuana/cannabis with the lowest proportion of 17% occurring in the over 40 years age group from Victoria in contrast to 81% of the 30–39 years age group from the Northern Territory.

Both the 14–19 years age group (8%) and the over 40 years age group (3%) showed the lowest proportions of amphetamines use with a low of 2% in the 14–19 years age group from Tasmania. Conversely, the highest prevalence of lifetime use of amphetamines occurred in the 20–29 years age group in Western Australia (30%) and the Northern Territory (31%).

Lifetime use of ecstasy was most frequently reported in the 20–29 years age group. The Western Australia result of 22% in the 20–29 years age group was nearly double that of all

other States and Territories. This contrasted with the over 40 years age group where only 1% of respondents indicated use of ecstasy.

Table 5.2: Lifetime use of illicit drugs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, State and Territory, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug type	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Heroin	14–19	1.9*	1.8*	1.4*	2.6*	0.5*	0.2*	1.8*	0.8*	1.7
	20–29	5.0	4.1	5.7	7.1	2.2*	4.9	2.4	4.8*	4.9
	30–39	3.1	4.1	2.3	3.5	2.4*	1.2*	2.2*	5.9*	3.2
	40+	0.5*	0.9*	1.1	1.5*	1.6*	1.3*	1.4*	4.6*	0.9
	Males	2.7	3.2	2.9	5.2	1.5*	3.3	2.6	5.9	3.0
	Females	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.2*	2.1	0.3*	1.0*	3.0*	1.4
Marijuana/cannabis	14–19	44.1	46.9	42.6	42.9	54.5	43.4	45.1	45.0	45.2
	20–29	60.0	60.7	67.5	72.7	66.9	71.8	64.7	69.8	63.9
	30–39	58.4	51.1	59.0	61.0	53.1	53.1	63.4	80.6	56.8
	40+	22.6	17.2	21.4	26.2	21.6	19.6	29.5	41.3	21.4
	Males	43.5	41.2	44.2	47.5	42.5	44.1	51.6	66.5	43.8
	Females	34.4	29.7	36.2	42.2	36.2	31.2	40.6	50.9	34.6
Injecting drugs	14–19	1.3*	0.7*	3.1	2.7*	2.0*	0.4*	0.6*	0.8*	1.6
	20–29	2.2*	4.7	8.1	7.9	3.3*	5.8	4.0	9.4	4.8
	30–39	2.5	3.6	2.1	4.4	3.3*	3.1*	1.7*	4.5*	3.0
	40+	0.7*	0.9*	1.3	0.4*	0.5*	—	0.2*	1.5*	0.8
	Males	1.9	3.4	3.4	4.4	2.6	2.8	1.6	6.8	2.9
	Females	0.9*	1.0*	2.5	1.8	0.8*	0.5*	1.3	1.6*	1.3
Amphetamines	14–19	11.9	3.0	6.9	6.9	10.6	2.1*	5.7	3.7*	7.7
	20–29	19.5	22.0	17.5	29.7	22.1	13.4	16.6	31.0	20.9
	30–39	12.0	14.4	10.2	11.7	10.1	12.2	14.7	17.7	12.2
	40+	3.0	2.6	3.6	2.8*	2.2	3.0*	3.4	12.3	3.0
	Males	10.5	10.6	9.3	15.9	9.7	8.5	11.5	25.7	10.9
	Females	7.1	7.0	6.7	5.4	6.7	4.4	6.4	8.6	6.7
Ecstasy	14–19	7.4	3.3	3.3	3.7	1.3*	0.7*	4.5	2.0*	4.5
	20–29	13.8	14.0	11.8	22.0	10.0	7.4	14.6	13.1	13.9
	30–39	6.0	6.1	3.7	6.7	3.1*	2.0*	8.1	5.4*	5.4
	40+	1.5*	1.2*	0.7	1.1*	0.5*	1.2*	0.5*	2.0*	1.1
	Males	6.7	6.2	3.8	10.5	3.0	3.6	7.9	7.5	6.1
	Females	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.6	1.2*	3.4	4.1	3.6

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Lifetime use of any illicit drug—with and without marijuana/cannabis

Almost half of the population of each State and Territory had used an illicit drug during their lifetime (Table 5.3). Victoria recorded the lowest proportion at 44%, with the Northern Territory the highest at 62%. When marijuana/cannabis use was excluded, lifetime use of illicit drugs dropped to one in three persons in the Northern Territory and one in four for the remaining States and Territories. In the Northern Territory, the 30–39 years age group represented the greatest proportion of the population who had, at some time, used illicit

drugs, whereas for all other States and Territories lifetime use was highest for the 20–29 years age group. Males were more likely than females to have used an illicit drug, a pattern that was consistent for all States and Territories.

Table 5.3: Lifetime use of any illicit drug and any illicit drug excluding marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug group	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Any illicit drug	14–19	50.3	54.2	49.9	50.7	59.1	49.9	51.1	46.2	51.8
	20–29	63.8	66.4	71.5	75.6	71.1	74.5	67.4	70.9	68.0
	30–39	61.8	58.4	64.2	65.0	57.6	60.1	66.8	83.5	61.7
	40+	30.8	26.4	30.9	36.3	35.1	31.0	37.0	45.6	30.8
	Males	49.1	47.5	50.6	55.4	52.5	52.0	55.2	68.1	50.2
	Females	41.3	39.7	44.8	48.7	44.7	40.6	47.8	55.3	42.7
	Persons	45.1	43.5	47.6	52.0	48.5	46.2	51.5	62.0	46.4
Any illicit drug excluding marijuana/cannabis	14–19	28.8	24.3	26.5	24.3	27.3	20.1	27.8	21.0	26.3
	20–29	37.4	43.5	36.6	51.0	41.3	34.7	34.0	42.9	40.4
	30–39	28.3	31.5	29.5	27.5	26.9	24.8	28.8	44.2	29.2
	40+	16.7	14.8	17.8	15.6	19.2	19.8	21.4	23.7	16.7
	Males	27.8	25.7	25.8	32.3	28.9	27.5	27.1	38.3	27.5
	Females	20.6	23.9	23.7	20.5	22.3	19.4	25.8	28.7	22.2
	Persons	24.1	24.7	24.8	26.3	25.5	23.4	26.5	33.7	24.8

First illicit drug injected

The type of drug first injected by respondents that had indicated they had, at some time, used injecting drugs is reported in Table 5.4. These proportions relate only to the number of people that indicated they had ‘ever’ injected an illicit drug. Amphetamines were most commonly selected as the first drug injected by these respondents in all States and Territories except New South Wales, which reported heroin as the most commonly injected first drug.

Table 5.4: First illicit drug injected: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over who had ever injected illicit drugs, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Heroin	48.1	46.1	34.2	16.6*	17.6*	—	13.1*	33.6*	35.9
Amphetamines	40.2*	49.9	50.7	74.1	50.2*	79.7	51.2	52.3	52.0
Other	11.7*	4.0*	15.1	9.3*	32.2*	20.3*	35.7*	14.1*	12.2

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Recent use of illicit drugs

Recent use was defined as any illicit drug use within the previous 12 months and acts as a proxy for current drug use information. Marijuana/cannabis was the most common recently-used illicit drug in all States and Territories, however, there was great disparity as the proportion in the Northern Territory (37%) was double that of Tasmania (16%) (Table 5.5). Amphetamines were the second most common recently-used drug with the

highest proportion in the Northern Territory (7%). In 1998 less than 1% of survey respondents were regular users of heroin.

Table 5.5: Recent (last 12 months) use of illicit drugs summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Heroin	0.6*	1.0	0.6	1.5	0.5*	0.5*	0.4*	0.5*	0.8
Marijuana/cannabis	16.7	17.8	17.5	22.3	17.6	15.9	20.3	36.5	17.9
Injecting drugs	0.3*	0.9	1.0	1.8	0.4*	0.6*	0.2*	0.9*	0.8
Amphetamines	3.8	3.4	3.0	6.0	3.5	1.6	3.1	7.2	3.7
Ecstasy	2.1	3.1	1.4	5.1	1.0*	0.7*	2.8	3.1	2.4

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Recent use of illicit drugs—age and sex analysis

Results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey in Table 5.6 show that recent use of injecting drugs, amphetamines and ecstasy was concentrated in the 20–29 years age group for all States and Territories. Recent marijuana/cannabis use could be attributed to about one-third of surveyed Australians aged between 14 and 29 years with a range of 29% in the 14–19 years age group in Queensland to 50% of the 20–29 years age group in Western Australia. In addition, the South Australia proportion for lifetime (55%) and recent (46%) use of marijuana/cannabis in the 14–19 years age group were higher compared to other States and Territories. This may be due to differences in availability, legislative framework, population and social characteristics, past patterns of use or a combination of these factors (ABCI 2000, McKetin et al. 2000)

The over 40 years age group (0.5%) showed the lowest proportions of recent amphetamines use while the highest proportions were reported in the 20–29 years age group at 12% with a range of 4% in Tasmania to 21% in Western Australia. Both Western Australia and the Northern Territory consistently reported large proportions of lifetime and recent users of amphetamines.

Recent use of ecstasy was most frequently reported in the 20–29 years age group, the result in Western Australia (19%) high compared to all other States and Territories. As was found with lifetime use across all States and Territories, the 20–29 years age group consistently reported the highest recent usage of illicit drugs and males were more likely than females to have recently used them.

Table 5.6: Recent (last 12 months) use of illicit drugs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug type	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Heroin	14–19	1.0*	0.7*	1.1*	1.9*	—	0.2*	1.6*	0.4*	0.9
	20–29	2.3*	2.7	0.8*	4.7	1.3*	2.8*	0.4*	1.5*	2.2
	30–39	—	1.4*	0.5*	1.5*	—	—	0.5*	0.3*	0.6
	40+	0.2*	0.2*	0.6*	—	0.5*	—	—	—	0.3
	Males	0.9*	1.4	0.7	2.3	0.1*	0.9*	0.6*	1.0*	1.1
	Females	0.3*	0.6*	0.6	0.7*	0.8*	0.1*	0.1*	—	0.5
Marijuana/cannabis	14–19	35.5	36.7	29.3	34.1	45.9	30.6	32.1	38.4	35.1
	20–29	31.9	36.4	38.3	50.2	37.5	40.6	36.1	47.4	36.9
	30–39	20.3	21.4	16.7	20.3	20.1	16.6	24.8	53.5	20.3
	40+	6.0	5.5	7.1	8.6	4.3	4.6	7.5	16.6	6.2
	Males	19.3	22.2	20.6	27.3	20.1	19.0	23.0	47.5	21.4
	Females	14.2	13.5	14.5	17.2	15.1	12.9	17.6	24.6	14.5
Injecting drugs	14–19	0.3*	0.3*	2.0	1.3*	0.5*	0.4*	—	0.4*	0.7
	20–29	1.0*	2.2*	2.0	7.1	1.5*	2.7*	0.4*	3.0*	2.2
	30–39	—	1.5*	0.7*	1.1*	0.5*	0.5*	0.5*	0.3*	0.7
	40+	0.2*	0.2*	0.6*	—	—	—	—	—	0.2
	Males	0.5*	1.5	1.1	3.0	0.6*	0.9*	0.3*	1.5*	1.1
	Females	0.2*	0.2*	1.0	0.7*	0.3*	0.3*	0.1*	0.4*	0.4
Amphetamines	14–19	9.2	2.1*	5.1	6.2	8.8	1.9*	3.0	2.6*	5.9
	20–29	11.9	10.9	9.7	21.4	11.2	4.2	9.9	18.1	12.0
	30–39	2.2*	4.1	2.0	1.8*	2.8*	0.8*	1.6*	5.0	2.6
	40+	0.4*	0.5*	0.4*	1.1*	—	1.0*	0.4*	2.0*	0.5
	Males	5.5	4.0	3.3	10.1	4.0	2.4	4.8	10.3	5.0
	Females	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.9	0.8*	1.3	3.8*	2.5
Ecstasy	14–19	4.2	2.9	2.6	3.7	0.9*	—	4.0	1.6*	3.1
	20–29	7.0	10.3	5.2	18.9	3.2*	2.1*	9.7	10.0	8.4
	30–39	1.6*	1.6*	0.5*	1.4*	1.5*	0.6*	0.9*	0.9*	1.3
	40+	0.1*	1.0*	—	1.1*	—	0.5*	—	—	0.4
	Males	2.6	4.1	1.6	8.3	1.5*	0.9*	4.4	3.7	3.3
	Females	1.7	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.5*	0.5*	1.3	2.5*	1.6

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Recent use of illicit drugs—with and without marijuana/cannabis

Results for recent use (last 12 months) of any illicit drug and any illicit drug excluding marijuana/cannabis are presented in Table 5.7. Approximately one in five Australians reported recent use of an illicit drug. The Northern Territory (40%) followed by Western Australia (27%) and the Australian Capital Territory (25%) recorded the highest proportions of recent users. The exclusion of marijuana/cannabis use resulted in a drop in recent use of illicit drugs to approximately one in nine Australians and a change in ranking of third place to South Australia (13%).

Table 5.7: Recent use (last 12 months) of any illicit drug and any illicit drug excluding marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Illicit drug group	Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Any illicit drug	14–19	39.4	41.1	33.2	35.8	47.8	39.2	36.9	41.1	38.9
	20–29	37.5	42.3	43.7	52.9	43.1	43.9	40.0	49.4	42.1
	30–39	22.8	27.8	23.0	26.7	23.9	21.9	29.2	59.2	25.1
	40+	9.5	10.8	11.5	13.5	12.3	12.3	11.8	19.1	11.0
	Males	23.5	28.0	24.7	31.3	26.4	26.9	26.8	51.9	26.2
	Females	17.6	19.2	20.4	22.7	21.5	18.4	22.6	27.1	19.5
	Persons	20.5	23.5	22.5	26.9	23.9	22.6	24.7	39.9	22.8
Any illicit drug excluding marijuana/cannabis	14–19	17.0	15.5	15.2	17.3	18.9	15.1	17.0	16.5	16.4
	20–29	20.9	25.0	19.6	32.5	24.0	13.8	21.0	23.0	23.0
	30–39	7.4	11.4	9.9	10.3	8.3	6.5	7.8	16.3	9.3
	40+	4.1	7.6	5.0	5.7	9.4	9.1	5.8	5.8*	5.9
	Males	11.2	14.3	9.8	17.6	14.1	12.1	12.7	21.1	12.7
	Females	7.4	10.9	10.2	9.7	11.6	8.2	9.3	7.7	9.4
	Persons	9.3	12.5	10.0	13.6	12.8	10.1	11.0	14.6	11.0

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

6 Perceptions and acceptability of drug use

Perceptions of drug effects on health

The 1998 NDSHS asked respondents to choose the drug they thought directly or indirectly caused the most deaths in Australia. All States and Territories had about two of every five respondents correctly select tobacco as the greatest cause of drug-related deaths, with a range of 34% in the Northern Territory to 47% in South Australia (Table 6.1). However, in the Northern Territory, alcohol was perceived to be the greatest cause and the second cited cause in all other jurisdictions except Victoria. Narcotics (including heroin) were the third most cited cause in all States except Victoria (ranging from 14% in the Northern Territory to 24% in New South Wales and Western Australia).

Table 6.1: Perception of drugs that directly or indirectly causes the most deaths in Australia: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance/group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Narcotics (e.g. heroin)	23.7	23.3	18.8	23.7	17.3	18.8	18.6	13.9	21.9
Alcohol	26.8	22.9	30.3	34.0	21.8	23.9	30.9	44.2	26.9
Prescribed drugs (e.g. pain relievers, Valium, Serapax, sleeping pills)	2.0	1.3	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.2	0.5*	0.6*	1.8
Amphetamines (e.g. speed, 'uppers')	3.0	4.7	3.9	3.9	6.6	5.0	3.2	5.1	4.0
Tobacco	37.2	40.3	38.3	31.7	47.2	41.8	43.4	34.1	38.6
Cocaine	5.6	4.5	4.7	3.5	4.3	5.8	2.7	1.5*	4.8
Marijuana/cannabis	1.8	3.1	1.7	1.6	0.8*	2.4	0.8	0.7*	2.0

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Acceptability of drug use

In the 1998 NDSHS respondents were asked for their opinion as to whether regular use of drugs by adults was acceptable. Regular use was defined as every day for tobacco and alcohol, and at least once a month for other drugs. Adults considered alcohol and tobacco the most acceptable drugs for regular use. The acceptability of tobacco for regular use ranged from 38% in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory to 48% in the Northern Territory while alcohol ranged from 60% in New South Wales to 65% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory (Table 6.2). With the exception of marijuana/cannabis, there was low acceptability for the use of all other illicit drugs. Regular use of all other illicit drugs (with the exception of painkillers/analgesics) was reported as more acceptable in the Northern Territory compared to all other States and Territories.

Table 6.2: Acceptability of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by drug, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Tobacco	39.0	40.0	41.5	37.8	43.4	42.6	38.2	47.9	40.2
Alcohol	60.1	61.0	61.7	60.8	64.6	60.5	63.4	64.5	61.2
Marijuana/cannabis	22.3	24.3	25.7	29.7	32.6	27.3	32.9	43.1	25.5
Painkillers/analgesics ^(a)	8.2	10.2	9.6	11.8	11.9	9.7	8.5	9.7	9.6
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills ^(a)	5.0	7.0	5.1	4.8	4.9	5.9	4.5	7.7	5.5
Steroids ^(a)	1.9	2.7	2.2	3.4	2.5	1.3	1.9	5.6	2.4
Barbiturates ^(a)	0.8	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	5.2	1.7
Glue/petrol/solvents/rush	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.7*	1.0	1.0	3.6	1.0
Heroin	1.4	2.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	4.2	1.8
Methadone ^(b)	1.6	2.1	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.7	4.1	1.8
Amphetamines (speed/uppers)	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.6	3.7	7.0	3.1
Cocaine/crack	2.3	2.9	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.1	4.6	2.4
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.9	6.8	9.6	4.3
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.8	2.3	3.4	4.4	7.6	2.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs	3.5	3.4	2.7	3.0	2.6	3.0	4.6	7.0	3.3

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) For non-maintenance.

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

7 Policy support

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they would support or oppose specific policies, using a five-point scale (strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, and strongly oppose). However, there was no opportunity for individuals to respond 'Don't know enough about this'. For the purposes of the following tables, responses of 'support' or 'strongly support' were taken as support. For tobacco and alcohol, the questions were in the context of reducing the problems associated with their use; for heroin there was no reference to the reduction of problems associated with its use.

Support for tobacco measures

The 1998 NDSHS asked respondents to indicate their support for a range of policy measures to reduce the problems associated with tobacco smoking. Nearly all policy options presented in Table 7.1 were supported by a majority of Australians. The measure with the greatest support was stricter enforcement of the law against supplying cigarettes to persons under age (with a range of support from 82% in the Northern Territory to 91% in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory). The measure with the least support was banning smoking in pubs/clubs (range of 44% in Queensland to 56% in the Australian Capital Territory). All States and Territories demonstrated a greater than 50% support for tobacco measures such as:

- stricter enforcement of law against supplying to minors;
- banning tobacco advertising at sporting events;
- banning smoking in the workplace, in shopping centres, and restaurants; and
- increasing the tax on tobacco products to pay for health messages, for contribution to treatment costs and to discourage smoking.

Table 7.1: Support for tobacco measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over by sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Tobacco measure	Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	W A	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Stricter enforcement of law against supplying to minors	Males	89.0	87.2	87.7	87.7	89.4	85.5	91.3	85.2	88.1
	Females	92.3	91.5	92.1	92.6	91.0	92.0	91.0	78.4	91.8
	Persons	90.7	89.4	89.9	90.1	90.2	88.8	91.2	81.9	90.0
Banning tobacco advertising at sporting events	Males	61.2	52.2	50.4	60.7	65.0	58.2	64.9	56.1	57.1
	Females	65.5	67.7	61.1	68.4	66.6	65.3	65.7	54.9	65.5
	Persons	63.4	60.1	55.7	64.5	65.8	61.8	65.3	55.5	61.4
Banning smoking in the workplace	Males	79.4	74.6	72.1	73.3	80.0	77.3	84.8	72.6	76.3
	Females	83.6	84.4	80.2	83.8	87.7	84.7	87.8	76.9	83.6
	Persons	81.6	79.6	76.2	78.5	83.9	81.1	86.3	74.6	80.0
Banning smoking in shopping centres	Males	84.2	78.6	75.6	79.7	82.1	83.9	85.7	78.6	80.5
	Females	81.8	87.2	82.5	87.5	90.4	83.7	87.7	76.3	84.6
	Persons	83.0	82.9	79.1	83.7	86.3	83.8	86.7	77.5	82.6
Banning smoking in restaurants	Males	81.1	74.8	73.4	74.1	82.5	76.6	81.5	73.6	77.4
	Females	78.2	74.3	76.2	78.4	77.7	82.6	81.6	70.0	76.9
	Persons	79.7	74.6	74.8	76.3	80.0	79.7	81.6	71.9	77.1
Banning smoking in pubs/clubs	Males	51.7	47.6	40.7	45.2	49.0	48.7	54.4	46.6	47.7
	Females	56.2	50.9	47.4	47.8	54.5	52.2	56.8	44.2	52.1
	Persons	54.0	49.3	44.1	46.5	51.8	50.5	55.6	45.5	49.9
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to pay for health messages	Males	60.0	54.9	57.0	57.5	61.5	57.8	65.0	57.1	58.0
	Females	68.0	64.2	65.2	62.4	60.3	61.7	65.2	59.7	65.1
	Persons	64.1	59.7	61.1	59.9	60.9	59.8	65.1	58.3	61.6
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to contribute to treatment costs	Males	65.3	63.3	60.6	62.2	68.3	65.7	67.2	59.7	63.8
	Females	70.6	66.8	67.0	67.6	65.2	64.9	67.7	60.6	68.0
	Persons	68.0	65.1	63.9	64.9	66.7	65.3	67.5	60.1	65.9
Increasing the tax on tobacco products to discourage smoking	Males	60.0	54.4	54.2	53.2	59.5	56.2	58.4	54.3	56.6
	Females	68.0	63.0	62.1	60.0	61.4	61.6	60.7	55.2	64.0
	Persons	64.0	58.8	58.2	56.6	60.5	58.9	59.5	54.7	60.4

Support for alcohol measures

The 1998 NDSHS asked respondents to indicate their support for a range of policy measures to reduce the problems associated with excessive alcohol consumption, with results presented in Table 7.2. Only some measures to reduce drinking received support from at least 50% of the Australian population and they were consistently those that did not directly affect the availability of alcohol. The measure with the greatest support was for more severe legal penalties for drunk drivers (89%, with a range of 82% in the Northern Territory to 91% in New South Wales). Similar support levels were shown for stricter enforcement of the law against serving drunk customers (86%, with a range of 82% in the Northern Territory to 88% in New South Wales and Tasmania). The measure with the least support was increasing the price of alcohol, with a range of support from 23% in Tasmania to 32% in the Northern Territory.

All States and Territories showed more than 50% support for other alcohol measures such as:

- increasing the number of alcohol-free public events;
- increasing the number of alcohol-free zones or dry areas;
- serving only low-alcohol drinks at sporting events or venues; and
- limiting TV advertising until after 9:30 p.m.

Table 7.2: Support for alcohol measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over by sex, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Alcohol measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Increasing the price of alcohol	28.0	26.9	27.2	23.6	24.8	23.0	24.4	32.4	26.7
Reducing the number of outlets that sell alcohol	36.2	35.8	33.6	29.0	29.9	31.4	31.9	46.1	34.3
Reducing trading hours for all pubs and clubs	40.3	32.1	34.5	27.9	31.8	35.7	35.3	35.5	35.0
Raising the legal drinking age	41.2	36.8	47.0	43.3	44.4	48.2	29.9	33.3	41.5
Increasing the number of alcohol-free public events	67.7	67.5	64.9	63.4	68.8	63.8	63.5	63.5	66.6
Increasing the number of alcohol-free zones or dry areas	73.4	64.5	65.6	62.9	74.7	64.2	67.5	70.4	68.5
Stricter enforcement of the law against serving customers who are drunk	87.5	86.8	86.2	82.9	83.3	87.8	85.8	82.4	86.3
Serving only low-alcohol drinks at sporting events or venues	74.0	70.4	69.8	71.6	67.2	71.9	63.0	65.4	71.2
Limiting TV advertising until after 9:30 p.m.	74.8	71.4	70.3	69.8	74.7	74.0	74.0	73.6	72.6
Banning alcohol sponsorship of sporting events	48.1	44.8	39.1	43.4	47.0	42.4	43.6	47.1	44.9
More severe legal penalties for drunk drivers	91.3	87.6	89.3	85.3	87.0	85.9	87.1	81.7	88.8

Support for illicit drugs measures

Support for legislation

Some States and Territories (South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory) have decriminalised cannabis offences (including some cannabis possession) (ABCI 2000) and these different laws were likely to be reflected in the results of support for illicit drug measures. Survey respondents were asked if they support the personal use of marijuana/cannabis, heroin, amphetamines/speed and cocaine being made legal. The results for the question are shown in Table 7.3.

Support for the legalisation of illicit drugs for personal use mirrors results on the acceptability of regular use by adults in Table 6.2. Higher proportions of people from the Northern Territory found regular drug use by adults acceptable and supported legalisation for personal use. The States and Territories with decriminalisation for some cannabis offences as well as Western Australia had the highest proportions supporting the legalisation of marijuana/cannabis for personal use. Less than one in 10 surveyed Australians supported the personal use of the following drugs being made legal:

- heroin (with a range of 6% in Tasmania to 9% in the Northern Territory);
- amphetamines/speed (with a range of 4% in Tasmania to 7% in Victoria and the Northern Territory); and
- cocaine (with a range of 5% in Tasmania to 8% in the Northern Territory).

Table 7.3: Support for the personal use of selected drugs being made legal: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Marijuana/cannabis	28.1	29.6	28.1	32.2	31.6	29.1	34.3	43.6	29.4
Heroin	7.9	8.2	5.7	6.8	6.9	5.5	7.4	8.5	7.3
Amphetamines/speed	6.2	6.6	4.7	5.4	5.2	4.4	5.3	6.7	5.8
Cocaine	6.4	6.8	4.8	6.1	5.3	4.5	5.4	7.5	6.0

Support for measures relating to heroin use

Respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they would support or oppose specific policies relating to heroin. High proportions in each jurisdiction supported rapid detoxification therapy, ranging from 54% in the Northern Territory to 64% in New South Wales (Table 7.4). The majority of respondents in all States and Territories supported the methadone maintenance program. However, only about one-third of the population in each State and Territory supported regulated injecting rooms, with the greatest support in the Australian Capital Territory (36%) and the lowest in Western Australia (29%). New South Wales registered the lowest support for free needle/syringe exchanges and methadone maintenance programs.

Table 7.4: Support for heroin measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Heroin measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Free needle/syringe exchanges	46.0	54.3	48.5	48.1	55.2	54.1	59.8	55.1	50.0
Methadone maintenance programs	50.2	64.1	58.4	60.8	61.9	62.0	61.5	61.8	57.8
Treatment with drugs other than methadone	54.8	58.0	52.9	48.3	53.9	47.1	53.5	54.3	54.3
Regulated injecting rooms	32.7	34.1	33.3	29.3	35.1	31.8	36.0	35.0	33.1
Rapid detoxification therapy	63.7	58.1	57.6	60.6	60.3	55.7	59.2	53.5	60.3

Support for increased penalties for supplying illicit drugs

Respondents were asked if they supported increased penalties for the sale or supply of marijuana/cannabis, heroin, amphetamines/speed and cocaine. The majority of respondents supported increased penalties for the supply of illicit drugs (Table 7.5). Support was highest in New South Wales (for marijuana/cannabis at 62% and heroin at 87%) and Western Australia (for amphetamines and cocaine at 86%), while support was the lowest for all drugs in the Northern Territory.

Table 7.5: Support for increased penalties for the sale or supply of selected illicit drugs: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Marijuana/cannabis	61.9	58.5	58.8	59.9	58.5	54.0	50.1	44.3	59.4
Heroin	87.1	82.8	84.8	87.0	85.6	77.8	84.6	70.8	85.1
Amphetamines	83.6	81.2	83.0	85.7	83.8	77.2	82.2	67.4	82.7
Cocaine	85.1	82.1	83.9	85.9	84.5	77.4	83.7	70.3	83.8

Knowledge of legality of activities

Respondents were asked about their knowledge of whether the following activities were legal or illegal in their State or Territory. More than 96% of surveyed Australians were aware that the sale, as well as the possession of and growing of marijuana/cannabis for supply to others, was illegal (Table 7.6). Knowledge of the law regarding the legal growth and possession of small quantities for personal use and the possession of implements (for personal use) was high in the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and the Northern Territory. However, these States and Territories also recorded the highest proportions of respondents who were uncertain of the laws regarding marijuana/cannabis. This uncertainty was greatest for the possession of implements for smoking or using marijuana/cannabis.

Table 7.6: Knowledge of legality of activities: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Activity		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
		(per cent)								
Grow marijuana/cannabis for supply to others	Legal	0.5*	0.6	0.7	0.8*	1.8	1.1	2.8	1.2*	0.8
	Illegal	97.9	97.4	97.9	98.0	96.1	96.7	94.6	96.1	97.5
	Unsure	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.2	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.7	1.7
Possess marijuana/cannabis for supply to others	Legal	0.7	0.4*	0.7	1.3	1.8	0.5*	1.6	0.9*	0.8
	Illegal	97.6	97.7	98.0	97.7	96.0	97.2	95.5	97.5	97.5
	Unsure	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.1	2.2	2.3	3.0	1.7*	1.7
Sell marijuana/cannabis to someone else for money	Legal	0.4*	0.3*	0.6	0.8*	—	0.3*	—	0.5*	0.4
	Illegal	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.3	98.9	98.1	97.7	98.5	98.5
	Unsure	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.9*	1.1	1.6	2.2	1.0*	1.1
Sell a small quantity of marijuana/cannabis to someone	Legal	2.5	1.5	1.3	0.7*	3.3	0.8*	3.1	1.1*	1.9
	Illegal	92.9	94.9	96.1	97.0	88.9	95.5	90.3	96.0	94.1
	Unsure	4.6	3.6	2.6	2.4	7.8	3.7	6.6	2.9	4.0
Actually use small quantities of marijuana/cannabis	Legal	14.8	19.8	5.9	9.9	46.1	12.8	52.4	26.5	17.1
	Illegal	73.6	67.8	87.5	82.5	37.3	77.5	33.5	59.4	72.0
	Unsure	11.6	12.4	6.6	7.6	16.6	9.7	14.0	14.1	10.9
Grow small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use	Legal	12.4	15.4	5.1	7.5	47.2	8.1	48.0	23.9	14.7
	Illegal	77.1	74.3	89.0	84.0	42.2	83.1	39.9	58.1	75.8
	Unsure	10.5	10.3	5.9	8.5	10.7	8.8	12.1	18.0	9.5
Possess small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use	Legal	15.4	18.0	5.1	7.9	51.0	11.6	54.8	27.5	17.0
	Illegal	74.4	69.7	89.1	83.6	35.3	79.4	33.1	59.9	73.0
	Unsure	10.2	12.3	5.8	8.5	13.6	9.1	12.2	12.6	10.0
Possess implements for smoking or using marijuana/cannabis	Legal	18.6	34.6	7.9	20.1	38.0	10.0	55.6	34.0	22.9
	Illegal	66.5	52.2	83.9	68.9	41.8	79.2	26.1	46.3	63.8
	Unsure	14.9	13.2	8.2	11.0	20.2	10.7	18.3	19.7	13.3
Drive a vehicle after smoking marijuana/cannabis	Legal	7.6	16.2	5.1	9.3	13.7	6.9	18.6	18.5	10.2
	Illegal	80.8	69.5	84.2	78.5	67.8	79.9	63.7	64.8	76.9
	Unsure	11.6	14.3	10.7	12.2	18.5	13.3	17.7	16.7	12.9

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Penalties for possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use

Respondents to the 1998 NDSHS were asked what should happen to anyone found in possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis for personal use. Compulsory drug

education was the preferred penalty in all States and Territories (except the Northern Territory), followed by a minor fine similar to a parking fine, up to \$200 (Table 7.7). Support for compulsory drug education ranged from 30% in Tasmania up to 43% in Victoria. In the Northern Territory a minor fine was the preferred penalty (34%) followed by drug education (31%).

Table 7.7: Opinion of respondents on what should happen to anyone found in possession of small quantities of marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Penalty response	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
A caution or warning only	12.0	11.6	13.4	10.4	15.5	16.2	13.7	11.2	12.3
Similar to a parking fine, up to \$200	21.0	18.4	22.1	21.2	20.2	21.2	21.0	34.1	20.6
A compulsory drug education program	34.3	42.6	32.9	32.0	33.7	30.2	37.6	31.1	35.9
A substantial fine, around \$1,000	18.1	12.2	18.5	19.0	14.7	18.7	13.5	13.5	16.4
A community service order	4.1	6.4	6.4	5.8	6.8	5.3	7.4	3.4	5.5
Weekend detention	2.1	0.7	0.6	0.3*	0.2*	1.6	1.2	0.5*	1.1
A gaol sentence	5.9	3.2	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.2	2.3	2.1	4.2
Some other arrangement	2.5	4.9	2.7	7.9	4.9	3.7	3.2	4.0	3.9

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

The effect of legalisation on marijuana/cannabis use

Respondents of the 1998 NDSHS were asked to estimate, if legalised, their usage of marijuana/cannabis. Approximately 80% of the Australian population indicated that they would not use (or use again) marijuana/cannabis even if it were legal and available (the proportion was highest in New South Wales and South Australia at 82%), whereas only 5% stated that they would try it (Table 7.8). The remaining proportion (15%) almost equates to the proportion that reported actual recent use of 18% (Table 2.2).

Table 7.8: Opinion of respondents on whether they would use marijuana/cannabis if it were legal: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Behaviour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Not use it, even if it were legal and available	82.2	80.4	79.2	76.3	82.2	78.3	77.5	67.4	80.3
Try it	5.2	4.8	6.0	6.0	3.7	6.9	4.1	5.0	5.2
Use it about as often as I do now	8.1	11.0	9.7	12.4	10.7	9.5	12.9	22.9	10.0
Use it more often than I do now	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.9*	0.3*	0.4*	1.7	1.2*	0.9
Use it less often than I do now	0.5*	0.7	0.6	0.4*	0.9*	1.9	1.1	1.1*	0.6
Don't know	3.0	2.6	3.4	4.0	2.2	2.9	2.7	2.5	3.0

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Interpretation of decriminalisation

As part of the 1998 NDSHS respondents were asked to choose the statement that corresponded most closely to their understanding of the term 'decriminalised'. In the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, the highest proportion of respondents

identified 'Illegal, caution, small fine' as their understanding of the term 'decriminalisation' (Table 7.9). The reverse pattern was true for all other States and Territories where the highest proportions understood decriminalisation as 'Legal with no penalties'.

Table 7.9: Understanding of the term decriminalised: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Meaning of decriminalised	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(per cent)								
Legal, no penalty applies	52.1	55.5	51.6	55.3	49.9	50.0	41.9	40.9	52.7
Illegal, caution, small fine up to \$200 applies	37.0	33.1	38.3	34.4	36.4	40.3	49.1	50.0	36.4
Don't know	10.9	11.4	10.1	10.2	13.7	9.7	8.9	9.1	11.0

Hypothetical spending on education, treatment and law enforcement

Respondents were asked how they would distribute a hypothetical \$100 across education, law enforcement and treatment for each of a selected list of drugs. For alcohol, tobacco and marijuana/cannabis all States and Territories followed the same expenditure patterns, with education attracting the most money (Table 7.10). For amphetamines, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania allocated two-fifths of the resource to law enforcement while the remaining States and Territories favoured education. For heroin/cocaine, law enforcement attracted the largest component of the \$100 budget for all States and Territories.

Table 7.10: Preferred distribution of a hypothetical \$100 for reducing drug use, selected drugs, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Substance and area of expenditure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(\$)								
Alcohol									
Education	43.33	45.21	43.00	43.60	42.51	43.40	44.13	49.54	43.78
Treatment	30.07	31.81	30.36	28.93	33.43	30.68	29.18	25.44	30.68
Law enforcement	26.60	22.98	26.64	27.47	24.06	25.92	26.69	25.02	25.54
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Tobacco									
Education	49.69	51.25	48.81	51.10	51.00	49.86	50.63	53.96	50.23
Treatment	30.79	30.38	31.04	28.92	30.52	29.12	29.07	26.41	30.42
Law enforcement	19.52	18.38	20.15	19.98	18.48	21.02	20.30	19.63	19.36
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Marijuana/cannabis									
Education	45.64	47.40	43.82	45.43	44.32	43.41	47.74	52.60	45.67
Treatment	24.53	26.06	25.03	24.09	26.41	24.25	25.05	21.06	25.09
Law enforcement	29.83	26.55	31.15	30.48	29.28	32.34	27.21	26.33	29.24
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Amphetamines									
Education	40.04	39.62	36.14	37.14	37.53	35.41	39.68	42.35	38.63
Treatment	23.78	26.24	23.51	22.13	26.84	22.86	24.15	20.60	24.39
Law enforcement	36.18	34.14	40.35	40.72	35.62	41.73	36.16	37.05	36.97
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heroin/Cocaine									
Education	36.78	36.65	33.20	33.82	34.83	33.06	35.76	39.70	35.56
Treatment	24.70	26.38	23.84	23.47	27.20	23.73	25.35	20.28	24.99
Law enforcement	38.53	36.97	42.96	42.70	37.97	43.22	38.89	40.02	39.44
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

8 Social effects of drug use

Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

Survey respondents were asked if they undertook specific activities while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in the past 12 months. Queensland respondents were least likely to drive under the influence of alcohol (and among the least likely under the influence of other drugs), while Northern Territory respondents were the most likely (Table 8.1). The Northern Territory recorded the highest or second highest proportions for undertaking all activities while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The survey showed that while under the influence of alcohol (of the portion of respondents that consumed alcohol in the past 12 months):

- 18% drove a motor vehicle with a range of 14% in Queensland to 28% in the Northern Territory;
- 10% verbally abused someone with a range of 7% in South Australia to 14% in Western Australia; and
- 5% created a public disturbance with a range of 3% in Western Australia to 6% in New South Wales.

The survey also showed that 6% of recent users of other drugs drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of other drugs, with a range of 5% in New South Wales and Queensland to 13% in the Northern Territory.

Table 8.1: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs in the past 12 months: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Influence and activity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
(per cent)									
Alcohol									
Drove a motor vehicle	15.1	19.2	14.3	24.1	19.6	17.8	21.7	28.2	17.5
Operated hazardous machinery	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.7*	0.7*	1.2	1.2	1.1*	0.9
Verbally abused someone	9.0	9.2	9.4	14.0	7.3	9.1	10.2	13.4	9.5
Physically abused someone	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.7	2.1	1.2	2.1	2.4	2.1
Caused damage to property	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	3.8	3.3	2.6
Stole property	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.8*	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.0
Created public disturbance/nuisance	5.9	4.2	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.3	4.3	5.1	4.6
Other drugs									
Drove a motor vehicle	5.4	6.3	5.3	8.0	7.3	5.5	6.1	12.9	6.1
Operated hazardous machinery	0.5*	0.5*	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.8*	0.5*	2.3	0.7
Verbally abused someone	1.8	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.5	1.5	3.8	1.8
Physically abused someone	0.5*	0.1*	0.5	1.1	0.7*	0.3*	0.8	1.2*	0.5
Caused damage to property	0.5*	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.5*	1.1	1.9	0.7
Stole property	0.4*	0.2*	0.2*	0.6*	0.5*	0.4*	0.7	1.3*	0.4
Created public disturbance/nuisance	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0*	0.9*	0.8*	1.7	2.9	1.0

* Result unreliable as relative standard error greater than 50%.

Victims of drug-related harm

Survey respondents were asked if, in the past 12 months, they had been victims of drug-related abuse and crime. Far greater proportions of the population reported being victims of drug-related abuse and crime (in the last 12 months) than proportions admitted being perpetrators.

The survey showed the type of abuse that respondents alleged was committed by people under the influence of alcohol:

- 29% verbally abused the victim, with a range of 27% in Victoria and Tasmania to 57% in the Northern Territory;
- 16% put the victim in fear, with a range of 14% in South Australia to 29% in the Northern Territory; and
- 8% damaged the victim's property, with a range of 7% in New South Wales to 12% in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

The survey also showed the type of abuse most frequently reported by victims of people alleged to be under the influence of other drugs was verbal abuse (10%, with a range of 8% in Tasmania to 16% in the Northern Territory).

Table 8.2: Victims of people influenced by alcohol or other drugs in the past 12 months: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Influence and activity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Alcohol									
	(per cent)								
Verbal abuse	29.9	27.2	27.6	30.1	31.8	27.2	35.0	56.9	29.2
Physical abuse	6.5	5.5	6.4	6.8	7.0	8.3	6.8	12.3	6.4
Put in fear	15.3	17.0	15.2	15.4	14.1	16.0	19.3	28.8	15.8
Damaged your property	7.4	8.1	9.3	8.7	8.0	10.2	11.8	11.7	8.3
Stolen your property	3.9	3.1	4.0	3.5	3.4	5.2	3.7	9.2	3.8
Other drugs									
Verbal abuse	9.5	10.2	10.4	12.0	11.5	8.1	11.4	16.2	10.3
Physical abuse	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	1.8	2.8	2.0	4.8	2.4
Put in fear	7.5	8.1	5.8	10.4	4.8	6.6	7.5	6.8	7.4
Damaged your property	3.2	2.7	3.5	4.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.5	3.1
Stolen your property	4.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	1.9	1.3	2.8	4.1	3.4

9 Methodology

Some notes on the survey methodology and definitions are provided in this chapter. More detail can be found in the 'Explanatory notes' section of the *1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results* report (AIHW 1999), and in the technical report accompanying the confidentialised unit record file (available from the Institute on request).

Sampling approach

A multistage, stratified area, random-quota sample was used to select households. Minimum sample sizes sufficient to return reliable strata estimates were allocated to States and Territories and the remainder of the available quota was distributed proportional to population. At the invitation of the Survey Technical Advisory Committee, the health authorities in the jurisdictions of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory funded additional interviews supplementary to those allocated. The age and sex structure of the survey is presented in Table 9.1.

Table 9.1: Number of unweighted respondents from the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Age group/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
	(number)								
14-19	224	235	343	130	144	164	245	95	1,580
20-29	345	434	655	207	223	263	269	212	2,608
30-39	435	450	667	256	288	304	338	262	3,000
40+	464	364	921	171	175	301	312	134	2,842
Males	680	652	1,111	338	387	434	558	310	4,470
Females	788	831	1,475	426	443	598	606	393	5,560
Persons	1,468	1,483	2,586	764	830	1,032	1,164	703	10,030

Survey design

The survey employed a split sample design that incorporated random household selection from a national sample of 8,357 private dwellings and a mixture of random and targeted respondent selection.

Sample 1. National random selection of households, where a person aged 14 years or over was randomly selected by next birthdate. Data were collected from personal interviews and self-completion booklets for the more sensitive issues. The number of respondents who completed the survey from the national sample was 4,012.

Sample 2. Used the same household as in Sample 1. The youngest person aged 14 years or older other than the Sample 1 respondent was selected. Self-completion booklets collected data. Where a questionnaire was completed subsequent to the Sample 1 interview, one attempt was made to personally collect the questionnaire. If it was still incomplete, the respondent was provided with a reply-paid pre-addressed envelope. The number of respondents who completed the national survey from this sample was 1,983.

Sample 3. Capital cities only. From a random selection of households, a person aged between 14 and 39 years was randomly selected by next birthdate. Self-completion booklets

collected data. Questionnaires were left for completion and interviewers returned 2 days later for their collection. Where a questionnaire was not completed by this time, the respondent was provided with a reply-paid pre-addressed envelope. The number of respondents who completed the survey from this sample was 4,035.

Persons aged 14 and 15 years completed the survey with the consent of a parent or guardian.

The combination of split sampling, oversampling of the lesser-populated States and Territories and the interviews supplementary to quota resulted in a sample that was not proportional to the State/Territory distribution of the Australian population aged 14 years and over. Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory were oversampled and New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia were undersampled relative to the estimated population aged 14 years and over. Targeting younger persons to obtain more reliable estimates for the illicit drugs in particular also resulted in a sample, which was disproportionate to the estimated age distribution of persons aged 14 years, and over.

To counteract the imbalance, survey respondents were weighted to approximate the age and sex distribution of the geographical area from which they were selected. All results in the report use the weighted data.

Reliability of estimates

As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability (that is, the extent to which the sample varies from all persons, had a complete census been conducted). Estimates in this publication are assumed to be reliable if the relative standard error (the ratio of the sampling error to the population estimate) is less than 25%. Estimates with a RSE between 25% and 50% should be interpreted with caution. Estimates with a RSE greater than 50% should be considered unreliable for most practical purposes. A table of standard errors and relative standard errors can be found in Appendix 1, and further details on their calculation are available in the Technical Report accompanying the confidentialised unit record file available from the Institute on request.

The standard error is also the basis for calculating confidence intervals for estimates. For the results presented in Figure 2.1, standard errors were calculated for each substance for each jurisdiction. The 95% confidence interval is determined as $1.96 \times$ the standard error, either side of the point estimate.

Definitions

Definitions used in previous waves of the survey were retained for 1998, with one exception. In the present survey, greater assistance was provided to respondents on what was meant by 'non-medical use'.

Recent smoker

A recent smoker was a person who smoked tobacco daily (Question G8) or who smoked tobacco at least occasionally in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent regular smoker

A recent regular smoker was a recent smoker who consumed cigarettes at least daily (Question G8) or most days in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent occasional smoker

A recent occasional smoker was a recent smoker who consumed cigarettes less than daily or most days in the past 12 months (Question G15).

Recent drinker

A recent drinker was a person who consumed alcohol in the last 12 months.

Recent regular drinker

A recent regular drinker was a recent drinker who consumed alcohol at least weekly in the past 12 months (Question H7).

Recent occasional drinker

A recent occasional drinker was a recent drinker who consumed alcohol less than weekly in the past 12 months.

Non-medical drug use

The definition used in the survey questionnaire and for this publication is:

1. either alone or with other drugs in order to induce or enhance a drug experience;
2. for performance (e.g. athletic) enhancement; or
3. for cosmetic (e.g. body shaping) purposes.

In 1995, 'non-medical use' was undefined in the questionnaire.

Non-maintenance

Methadone that was not prescribed for the recipient as part of maintenance program.

Illicit drugs

Illegal drugs, drugs and volatile substances used illicitly, and pharmaceuticals used for non-medical purposes. For the purposes of the survey include:

Painkillers/analgesics*
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills*
Steroids*
Barbiturates*
Amphetamines*
Marijuana/Cannabis
Heroin
Methadone**
Cocaine
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens
Ecstasy and other designer drugs
(Any) injected drug*

* for non-medical purposes

** non-maintenance program

Recent illicit drug use (all and any substances)

Use within the previous 12 months.

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Appendix 1: Standard errors

Table A1.1: Prevalence, population estimates, standard errors and relative standard errors, States and Territories, Australia, 1998

Prevalence	NSW			Vic			Qld			WA		
	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE
(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)
90	4,602	59	1	3,397	44	1	2,487	25	1	1,316	26	2
75	3,835	85	2	2,831	64	2	2,072	36	2	1,097	37	3
60	3,068	96	3	2,265	73	3	1,658	41	2	877	42	5
50	2,556	98	4	1,887	74	4	1,381	42	3	731	43	6
40	2,045	96	5	1,510	73	5	1,105	41	4	585	42	7
30	1,534	90	6	1,132	68	6	829	38	5	439	40	9
20	1,023	79	8	755	59	8	553	33	6	292	35	12
10	511	59	12	377	44	12	276	25	9	146	26	18
9.0	460	56	12	340	42	12	249	24	10	132	25	19
8.0	409	53	13	302	40	13	221	23	10	117	23	20
7.0	358	50	14	264	38	14	193	21	11	102	22	22
6.0	307	47	15	226	35	16	166	20	12	88	20	23
5.0	256	43	17	189	32	17	138	18	13	73	19	26
4.0	205	39	19	151	29	19	111	16	15	58	17	29
3.0	153	34	22	113	25	22	83	14	17	44	15	34
2.5	128	31	24	94	23	24	69	13	19	37	13	37
2.0	102	28	27	75	21	27	55	12	21	29	12	41
1.5	77	24	31	57	18	32	41	10	25	22	10	48
1.0	51	20	38	38	15	39	28	8	30	15	9	59
0.8	41	18	43	30	13	44	22	7	34	12	8	66
0.5	26	14	54	19	10	55	14	6	43	7	6	83

Prevalence	SA			Tas			ACT			NT		
	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE	Persons	SE	RSE
(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)	('000s)	('000s)	(%)
90	1,091	18	2	339	5.3	2	223	2.7	1	128	2.9	2
75	909	26	3	283	7.7	3	186	3.9	2	107	4.2	4
60	727	30	4	226	8.7	4	148	4.5	3	86	4.7	6
50	606	31	5	189	8.9	5	124	4.6	4	71	4.8	7
40	485	30	6	151	8.7	6	99	4.5	5	57	4.7	8
30	364	28	8	113	8.2	7	74	4.2	6	43	4.4	10
20	242	24	10	75	7.1	9	49	3.6	7	29	3.9	14
10	121	18	15	38	5.3	14	25	2.7	11	14	2.9	20
9.0	109	18	16	34	5.1	15	22	2.6	12	13	2.8	21
8.0	97	17	17	30	4.8	16	20	2.5	13	11	2.6	23
7.0	85	16	18	26	4.5	17	17	2.3	13	10	2.5	25
6.0	73	15	20	23	4.2	19	15	2.2	15	9	2.3	27
5.0	61	13	22	19	3.9	21	12	2.0	16	7	2.1	29
4.0	48	12	25	15	3.5	23	10	1.8	18	6	1.9	33
3.0	36	10	29	11	3.0	27	7	1.6	21	4	1.6	38
2.5	30	10	32	9	2.8	29	6	1.4	23	4	1.5	42
2.0	24	9	35	8	2.5	33	5	1.3	26	3	1.3	47
1.5	18	7	41	6	2.2	38	4	1.1	30	2	1.2	55
1.0	12	6	50	4	1.8	47	2	0.9	37	1	1.0	67
0.8	10	5	56	3	1.6	53	2	0.8	41	1	0.9	75
0.5	6	4	71	2	1.3	67	1	0.6	52	1	0.7	95

Appendix 2: Population estimates

Table A2.1: Population estimates of persons aged 14 years and over, by age group and sex, States and Territories, Australia, June 1998

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number)									
Males									
14–19	268,101	195,871	156,381	82,675	61,333	21,200	15,106	9,047	809,846
20–29	471,150	359,162	267,312	145,486	106,953	31,506	27,360	19,386	1,428,586
30–39	491,402	359,678	263,666	145,160	112,500	33,849	24,185	18,105	1,448,862
40+	1,286,442	932,582	686,062	357,672	312,892	97,508	55,603	29,265	3,758,566
Total 14+	2,517,095	1,847,293	1,373,424	730,993	593,676	184,063	122,254	75,803	7,445,861
Females									
14–19	254,478	187,024	147,848	78,175	58,487	20,388	13,896	8,330	768,736
20–29	465,882	353,818	262,325	138,324	102,795	31,503	26,515	17,471	1,398,836
30–39	490,934	365,865	265,735	143,459	112,605	35,525	25,046	16,359	1,455,838
40+	1,377,175	1,015,794	710,985	369,196	343,450	105,401	59,260	24,655	4,006,306
Total 14+	2,588,469	1,922,501	1,386,893	729,154	617,337	192,817	124,716	66,815	7,629,716
Persons									
14–19	522,579	382,895	304,229	160,850	119,820	41,588	29,004	17,377	1,578,582
20–29	937,032	712,980	529,637	283,810	209,748	63,009	53,875	36,857	2,827,421
30–39	982,336	725,543	529,404	288,619	225,105	69,374	49,231	34,464	2,904,700
40+	2,663,617	1,948,376	1,397,047	726,868	656,342	202,909	114,863	53,920	7,764,874
Total 14+	5,105,564	3,769,794	2,760,317	1,460,147	1,211,015	376,880	246,973	142,618	15,075,577

Source: ABS. Australian Demographic Statistics. Catalogue No. 3101.0.