



In 2015, **alcohol** was the **sixth highest risk factor** contributing to the **burden of disease** in Australia (4.5% of total burden).^[1]



There were **1,366 alcohol-induced deaths** recorded in 2017.^[2]

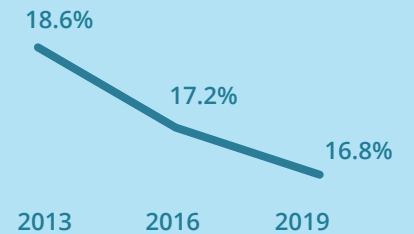


In 2017–18, nearly **4 in 5** Australians aged 18+ **drank alcohol** in the past 12 months.^[3]



14+ **lifetime risky drinking** (drinking on average more than 2 standard drinks per day) has **declined**.^[4]

Lifetime risky drinking



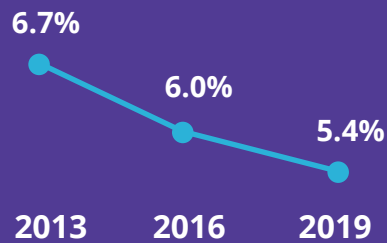
On average, Australian households spent **\$32 on alcoholic beverages per week** in 2015–16.^[6]



In 2017–18 over **2 in 5** adults 18+ consumed more than 4 standard drinks in one occasion, **exceeding single occasion risk guidelines**.^[3]



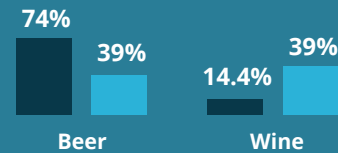
The proportion of people aged 14+ **drinking daily** continued to decline.^[4]



The apparent consumption of alcohol in 2017–18 is an **average of 2.72 standard drinks per day**, per consumer of alcohol aged 15+.^[5]



Between **1967–68** to **2017–18**, the proportion of apparent consumption of different alcoholic beverages has changed substantially.^[5]



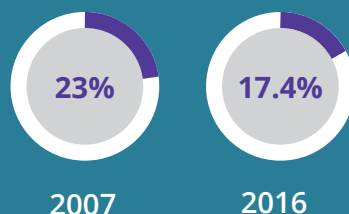
Wastewater data analysis indicates that **alcohol** was **one of the most commonly detected** substances with higher consumption in regional areas than capital cities in 2019.^[7]



People living in **Remote and very remote areas** were about **1.5x as likely** than those in Major cities to exceed lifetime and single occasion risk guidelines (at least monthly) in 2019.^[9]



Recent drinkers undertaking risky activities while under the influence of alcohol continued to decline ^[4]

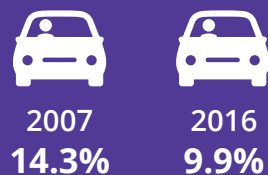


Alcohol was the most **common principal drug of concern** in **36%** of closed alcohol and other drug treatment episodes in 2018–19.^[8]

Alcohol was the only drug where **approval of regular use** by an adult was **higher than disapproval** (45% approved and 21% disapproved).^[9]



Driving a motor vehicle was the most likely risky activity undertaken while **under the influence of alcohol** in 2016.^[4]



In 2019, of **single occasion and lifetime risky drinkers**:



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

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. [Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2015](#). Australian Burden of Disease Study series no.19. BOD 22. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 13 June 2019.
2. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2018. [Causes of Death, Australia, 2017](#). ABS cat. no. 3303.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 12 October 2018.
3. ABS 2018. [National Health Survey, First Results, 2017–18](#). ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 21 December 2018.
4. AIHW analysis of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016.

5. ABS 2019. [Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2017–18](#). ABS cat. no. 4307.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 10 September 2019.
6. ABS 2017. [Household Expenditure survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2015–16](#). ABS cat. no. 6530.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 4 January 2018.
7. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2020. [National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program 10, 2020](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 30 June 2020.
8. AIHW 2020. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2018–19: key findings](#). Web Report. Viewed 26 June 2020.
9. AIHW 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 4 August 2020

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



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