

### 3 Consumption patterns

In this chapter, for tobacco, alcohol and selected illicit drugs and behaviours, prevalences in 2007 are presented and compared with earlier results. Statistically significant differences between 2004 and 2007 are highlighted. In some cases further analysis is provided.

Note that, for some drugs discussed below, caution should be used when interpreting the results as they are based on respondents' identification of the substance used and not on empirical testing.

#### Tobacco

Between 1991 and 2007, daily tobacco smoking rates declined by more than 30% to the lowest levels seen over the 16-year period (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, Australia, 1991 to 2007**

Smoking status	1991	1993	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)						
Daily	24.3	25.0	23.8	21.8	19.5	17.4	16.6
Weekly	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3 #
Less than weekly	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.5
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	21.4	21.7	20.2	25.9	26.2	26.4	25.1 #
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	49.0	49.1	52.6	49.2	50.6	52.9	55.4 #

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- In 2007, less than one in six (16.6%) of the population aged 14 years or older reported smoking daily, declining from 17.4% in 2004. The proportion of the population smoking weekly also declined over the 3-year period, from 1.6% in 2004 to 1.3% in 2007.
- More than half (55.4%) of Australians aged 14 years or older had never smoked, which statistic has increased since 1991.

#### Tobacco use by sex

Although the proportion of Australians aged 14 years or older that smoked daily fell between 2004 and 2007, for both males and females the significant improvement was in the increase between 2004 and 2007 in the proportion that had never smoked, which rose to 50.9% for males and to 59.8% for females (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.2: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by sex, Australia, 2004, 2007**

Smoking status	Males		Females		Persons	
	2004	2007	2004	2007	2004	2007
	(per cent)					
Daily	18.6	18.0	16.3	15.2	17.4	16.6
Weekly	2.0	1.4 #	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3 #
Less than weekly	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	29.2	27.9	23.6	22.4	26.4	25.1 #
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	48.2	50.9 #	57.5	59.8 #	52.9	55.4 #

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- The proportion of males who smoked daily, weekly or less than weekly declined between 2004 and 2007 – significantly from 2.0% to 1.4% for weekly smoking.
- As for 2004, in 2007 females were less likely than males to have smoked, at any frequency.

### Tobacco use by age

In 2007, age-specific smoking prevalence peaked for daily, weekly and less-than-weekly smokers in the 20–29 years age group (Table 3.3). Nevertheless, this age group also had one of the highest proportions that had never smoked (60.5%), second only to 14–19-year-olds (87.9%).

**Table 3.3: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Smoking status	Age group						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	14+
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Daily	6.0	23.7	22.7	21.8	20.1	10.8	18.0
Weekly	1.0	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.2	0.6	1.4
Less than weekly	1.6	3.1	2.5	2.0	0.5	0.5	1.7
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	1.7	12.0	23.0	29.7	38.3	48.3	27.9
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	89.7	58.6	49.9	45.0	40.0	39.8	50.9
	<b>Females</b>						
Daily	8.7	19.0	18.9	20.6	15.0	8.8	15.2
Weekly	1.7	2.4	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.2
Less than weekly	0.7	2.7	1.9	1.5	0.5	0.3	1.3
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	2.9	13.5	25.2	27.8	27.4	27.4	22.4
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	86.0	62.3	52.1	49.2	56.6	63.1	59.8
	<b>Persons</b>						
Daily	7.3	21.4	20.8	21.2	17.5	9.7	16.6
Weekly	1.3	2.4	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.3
Less than weekly	1.2	2.9	2.2	1.8	0.5	0.4	1.5
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	2.3	12.8	24.1	28.8	32.8	37.2	25.1
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	87.9	60.5	51.0	47.1	48.3	52.2	55.4

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- Less than one in ten teenagers (14–19-year-olds) smoked tobacco in 2007, with 7.3% smoking daily. A further 1.3% smoked weekly and 1.2% smoked less than weekly.
- Female teenagers (8.7%) were more likely than male teenagers (6.0%) to be daily smokers. For all other ages, males had higher smoking rates than females.
- By a slender margin, smoking rates were highest amongst 20–29-year-olds: 21.4% smoked daily, 2.4% smoked weekly and 2.9% smoked less than weekly.

### **Tobacco use of younger people**

Estimates of tobacco use by younger people (such as 12–19-year-olds) should be interpreted with caution due to the low smoking prevalence and smaller sample sizes of this population group. Nevertheless comparisons such as ‘younger females (89.1%) were less likely than younger males (92.1%) to have never smoked (at least 100 cigarettes)’ remain valid (Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of 12–19-year-olds and all ages, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Smoking status	Age group				
	12–15	16–17	18–19	12–19	12+
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Daily	1.5	4.1	11.6	4.7	17.5
Weekly	—	0.5	2.4	0.7	1.4
Less than weekly	0.3	1.4	2.8	1.2	1.6
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	—	0.9	4.3	1.3	27.0
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	98.2	93.2	78.9	92.1	52.5
	<b>Females</b>				
Daily	2.5	7.4	13.7	6.6	14.8
Weekly	—	1.4	3.6	1.3	1.2
Less than weekly	0.2	1.1	0.8	0.6	1.2
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	1.5	1.7	5.3	2.5	21.8
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	95.9	88.5	76.6	89.1	61.0
	<b>Persons</b>				
Daily	2.0	5.7	12.6	5.6	16.1
Weekly	—	0.9	3.0	1.0	1.3
Less than weekly	0.2	1.2	1.8	0.9	1.4
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	0.7	1.3	4.8	1.9	24.4
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	97.1	90.9	77.8	90.7	56.8

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- About one in twenty (5.6%) 12–19-year-olds reported smoking daily in 2007.
- In 2007, 2.0% of 12–15-year-olds, 5.7% of 16–17-year-olds, and 12.6% of 18–19-year-olds smoked daily.
- In 2007, 16–17-year-old females were nearly twice as likely as their male counterparts to smoke daily (7.4% versus 4.1%) or to have stopped smoking (1.7% versus 0.9%).

### Population estimates of the number of smokers

It is estimated that in 2007 approximately 2.9 million Australians aged 14 years or older were daily smokers (Table 3.5).

**Table 3.5: Tobacco smoking status: number of smokers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Smoking status	Age group						14+
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
	(number)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Daily	52,800	350,700	339,300	328,900	265,600	196,400	1,533,900
Weekly	8,500	36,300	27,800	21,700	15,400	11,600	121,300
Less than weekly	13,900	46,400	37,700	30,900	6,400	9,200	144,400
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	15,300	177,300	343,200	448,500	506,400	880,800	2,371,000
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	786,700	866,100	745,000	677,800	529,000	725,400	4,330,200
	<b>Females</b>						
Daily	72,800	272,100	285,300	313,900	201,000	182,800	1,328,400
Weekly	14,100	34,600	27,700	13,700	7,600	8,800	106,500
Less than weekly	6,300	38,300	29,300	23,600	6,800	5,900	110,300
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	24,200	193,400	380,400	423,400	366,900	570,600	1,958,800
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	723,100	891,400	786,000	750,100	758,500	1,312,600	5,221,300
	<b>Persons</b>						
Daily	125,500	622,700	624,600	642,800	466,600	379,200	2,862,400
Weekly	22,500	70,900	55,500	35,400	23,000	20,400	227,800
Less than weekly	20,100	84,700	67,000	54,500	13,200	15,100	254,800
Ex-smokers <sup>(a)</sup>	39,500	370,800	723,600	871,900	873,400	1,451,700	4,329,900
Never smoked <sup>(b)</sup>	1,509,800	1,757,500	1,531,000	1,427,900	1,287,500	2,037,700	9,551,300

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life, and no longer smoke.

(b) Never smoked 100 cigarettes (manufactured and/or roll-your-own) or the equivalent amount of tobacco in their life.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- There were more male than female daily smokers in all tabulated age groups with the exception of 14–19-year-olds.
- The number of ex-smokers (4.3 million) and persons who had never smoked (9.6 million) far exceeded the number of smokers (3.3 million) in 2007.

### Number of cigarettes smoked

The mean number of cigarettes smoked per week was highest in the 50–59 years age group (124.9 cigarettes), and lowest among teenagers (59.8 cigarettes) (Table 3.6). The number of cigarettes smoked among recent tobacco smokers includes both manufactured and ‘roll-your-own’ cigarettes.

**Table 3.6: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> tobacco smokers: mean number of cigarettes smoked per week, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Males	Females (number)	Persons
14–19	53.3	65.0	59.8
20–29	84.0	72.2	78.8
30–39	100.0	86.6	93.8
40–49	106.8	104.7	105.8
50–59	135.9	110.2	124.9
60+	106.0	101.6	103.9
<b>Aged 14+</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>97.2</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- The mean number of cigarettes smoked per week increased with age until the 50–59 years age group (125 cigarettes). This trend applied to males and females.
- Only teenage female smokers smoked on average more cigarettes per week than their male counterparts (65.0 versus 53.3 cigarettes).

## Alcohol

Between 1991 and 2007, for Australians aged 14 years or older, alcohol consumption patterns remained largely unchanged (Table 3.7).

**Table 3.7: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, Australia, 1991 to 2007**

Drinking status	1991	1993	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)						
Daily	10.2	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.9	8.1 #
Weekly	41.0	39.9	35.2	40.1	39.5	41.2	41.3
Less than weekly	30.4	29.5	34.3	31.9	34.6	33.5	33.5
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	12.0	9.0	9.5	10.0	8.0	7.1	7.0
Never a full serve of alcohol	6.5	13.0	12.2	9.4	9.6	9.3	10.1 #

(a) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- The proportion of Australians aged 14 years or older that has never had a full serve of alcohol has generally increased since 1998 with a significant increase between 2004 and 2007, from 9.3% to 10.1%.
- The proportion of the population drinking daily has remained between 8 and 9 per cent since 1993, declining significantly between 2004 and 2007, from 8.9% to 8.1% of Australians aged 14 years or older.

## Alcohol use by sex

The alcohol drinking status of Australians aged 14 years or older varied considerably between males and females (Table 3.8).

**Table 3.8: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by sex, Australia, 2004, 2007**

Drinking status	Males		Females		Persons	
	2004	2007	2004	2007	2004	2007
	(per cent)					
Daily	12.0	10.8 #	5.8	5.5	8.9	8.1 #
Weekly	47.6	46.8	35.0	35.9	41.2	41.3
Less than weekly	27.5	28.3	39.4	38.5	33.5	33.5
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	6.0	5.8	8.2	8.1	7.1	7.0
Never a full glass of alcohol	6.9	8.2 #	11.6	12.1	9.3	10.1 #

(a) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- In 2007, males (10.8%) were almost twice as likely as females (5.5%) to drink daily.
- The proportion of the population who consumed alcohol daily declined significantly between 2004 (8.9%) and 2007 (8.1%).
- Between 2004 and 2007, weekly drinking increased marginally (from 41.2% to 41.3%) driven by an increase in weekly drinking by females (from 35.0% to 35.9%) contrary to a decline for males (from 47.6% to 46.8%).
- The proportions of Australians aged 14 years or older abstaining from alcohol (never had a full serve of alcohol) increased significantly between 2004 (9.3%) and 2007 (10.1%), with a greater change seen among males than females, proportionately and absolutely.

## Alcohol use by age

The proportion of daily drinkers increased with age; the peak for daily drinkers was for those aged 60 years or older, and the peak for less-than-weekly drinkers was among teenagers (Table 3.9).

**Table 3.9: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Drinking status	Age group						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	14+
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Daily	1.4	2.8	6.1	11.4	15.9	21.4	10.8
Weekly	23.0	55.7	54.8	51.0	49.6	39.2	46.8
Less than weekly	46.4	30.3	28.2	26.7	24.5	22.1	28.3
<i>Recent drinker</i> <sup>(a)</sup>	70.8	88.9	89.1	89.2	90.1	82.7	86.0
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	3.3	2.8	5.2	5.7	5.7	10.3	5.8
Never a full serve of alcohol	25.9	8.3	5.7	5.1	4.2	7.0	8.2
<b>Females</b>							
Daily	0.5	1.7	3.0	5.6	7.8	10.5	5.5
Weekly	18.8	39.6	40.4	42.7	38.0	30.6	35.9
Less than weekly	52.0	44.0	43.1	37.7	36.2	27.8	38.5
<i>Recent drinker</i> <sup>(a)</sup>	71.3	85.2	86.5	86.1	81.9	68.9	79.9
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	2.6	5.8	6.4	6.2	8.4	14.2	8.1
Never a full serve of alcohol	26.1	8.9	7.0	7.8	9.7	16.9	12.1
<b>Persons</b>							
Daily	1.0	2.3	4.6	8.5	11.8	15.6	8.1
Weekly	20.9	47.8	47.5	46.8	43.8	34.6	41.3
Less than weekly	49.1	37.0	35.7	32.3	30.4	25.1	33.5
<i>Recent drinker</i> <sup>(a)</sup>	71.0	87.1	87.8	87.6	86.0	75.3	82.9
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	3.0	4.3	5.8	5.9	7.1	12.4	7.0
Never a full serve of alcohol	26.0	8.6	6.3	6.5	7.0	12.3	10.1

(a) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol in the previous 12 months.

(b) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- In 2007, a greater proportion of males than of females (aged 14 years or older) drank daily, for all age groups tabulated. The proportion of males was twice or more than that for females for all age groups tabulated except 20–29-year-olds.
- In 2007, for all age groups, drinking alcohol (daily, weekly or less than weekly) was more prevalent than not drinking alcohol. Only for teenagers (71.0%) and those aged 60 years or older (75.3%) was the prevalence of drinking alcohol less than the population average of 82.9%
- For all age groups a greater proportion of females than of males consumed alcohol less than weekly. The difference was least for teenagers and those aged 60 years or older.

### Use of alcohol by younger people

Estimates of alcohol use by younger people should be interpreted with caution due to the low prevalence and smaller sample sizes for these age groups. Nevertheless, in 2007, over two in three 12–15-year-olds (67.5%) had never consumed a full serve of alcohol (Table 3.10).



**Table 3.10: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 12 years or older, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Drinking status	Age group				
	12–15	16–17	18–19	20–24	25+
	(per cent)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Daily	—	1.7	2.6	1.1	10.5
Weekly	1.0	20.0	46.7	17.3	45.3
Less than weekly	28.8	50.9	40.9	37.4	27.7
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.7	5.2	1.5	3.1	5.7
Never a full serve of alcohol	67.5	22.1	8.3	41.2	10.8
	<b>Females</b>				
Daily	0.5	—	0.7	0.4	5.4
Weekly	3.2	15.4	35.3	14.4	34.8
Less than weekly	26.8	63.2	51.9	42.3	37.7
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.1	3.0	1.9	2.3	7.9
Never a full serve of alcohol	67.4	18.4	10.2	40.6	14.3
	<b>Persons</b>				
Daily	0.2	0.8	1.6	0.7	7.9
Weekly	2.1	17.8	41.1	15.9	40.0
Less than weekly	27.8	57.0	46.3	39.8	32.8
Ex-drinker <sup>(a)</sup>	2.4	4.2	1.7	2.7	6.8
Never a full serve of alcohol	67.5	20.3	9.2	40.9	12.5

(a) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- Rates of abstinence from drinking alcohol (never had a full serve of alcohol) fell sharply from two thirds (67.5%) for 12–15-year-olds to a rate for 18–19-year-olds (9.2%) closer to the rate of abstinence for all Australians aged 12 years or older (12.5%).
- By contrast, rates of daily alcohol consumption increased with age (to 1.6% for 18–19-year-olds) but did not reach the ‘population’ rate (7.9% for Australians aged 12 years or older).
- In the age group 12–15 years, higher proportions of females than males consumed alcohol daily and weekly. In the age groups 16–17 and 18–19 years, higher proportions of females than males consumed alcohol less than weekly. For all other combinations of age group and rate of alcohol consumption, the proportion of males was higher than that for females.

### Population estimates of the number of alcohol drinkers

In 2007 over 14.2 million Australians aged 14 years or older consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months (Table 3.11).

**Table 3.11: Alcohol drinking status: number of recent<sup>(a)</sup> and non- drinkers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Drinking status	Age group						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	14+
	(number)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Daily	12,300	42,000	91,200	172,500	210,700	390,200	919,100
Weekly	201,500	823,200	817,900	768,900	656,100	714,200	3,982,400
Less than weekly	407,000	447,600	421,500	403,100	324,700	403,500	2,407,100
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	29,100	40,700	77,800	85,700	75,800	187,600	496,700
Never a full glass of alcohol	227,300	123,200	84,500	77,600	55,400	127,800	695,500
	<b>Females</b>						
Daily	4,500	24,500	45,600	85,200	104,200	218,700	482,200
Weekly	157,800	565,800	609,100	651,600	509,700	636,100	3,130,500
Less than weekly	436,900	628,400	651,000	575,500	484,900	578,200	3,355,700
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	21,900	83,400	97,300	94,300	112,400	295,700	704,600
Never a full glass of alcohol	219,300	127,700	105,900	118,200	129,800	351,900	1,052,400
	<b>Persons</b>						
Daily	16,900	66,500	136,800	257,700	314,900	609,200	1,401,400
Weekly	359,300	1,388,900	1,427,100	1,420,400	1,165,800	1,350,700	7,113,200
Less than weekly	843,900	1,076,200	1,072,400	978,500	809,500	981,600	5,762,500
Ex-drinker <sup>(b)</sup>	51,000	124,100	175,100	180,000	188,200	483,300	1,201,200
Never a full glass of alcohol	446,600	251,000	190,400	195,800	185,200	479,400	1,747,800

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

(b) Has consumed at least a full serve of alcohol, but not in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- In 2007, about 1.4 million Australians consumed alcohol daily, 7.1 million weekly and a further 5.8 million less than weekly.
- Of 14–19-year-old Australians, 220,000 females and 230,000 males had not consumed a full serve of alcohol.

### Risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term

In the 12 months prior to (responding to) the survey, 72.6% of Australians aged 14 years or older consumed alcohol in quantities that were considered a low risk to health in the long term by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC 2001) (Table 3.12). A further 17.1% did not consume alcohol in the previous 12 months. The remaining 10.3% consumed alcohol in a way considered risky or a high risk to their health, in the long term.

**Table 3.12: Alcohol consumption, risk of harm in the long term: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Abstainers <sup>(a)</sup>	Level of risk <sup>(b)</sup>		
		Low risk	Risky	High risk
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
14–19	29.2	63.7	4.4	2.6
20–29	11.1	73.4	9.3	6.2
30–39	10.9	79.2	6.2	3.7
40–49	10.8	79.6	6.0	3.5
50–59	9.9	78.9	6.1	5.1
60+	17.3	75.3	4.9	2.5
<b>14+</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Females</b>				
14–19	28.7	60.7	6.7	3.9
20–29	14.8	68.8	11.0	5.4
30–39	13.5	75.8	7.7	3.0
40–49	13.9	74.1	9.3	2.6
50–59	18.1	72.3	6.9	2.7
60+	31.1	63.4	4.7	0.8
<b>14+</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Persons</b>				
14–19	29.0	62.2	5.6	3.2
20–29	12.9	71.1	10.2	5.8
30–39	12.2	77.5	7.0	3.3
40–49	12.4	76.8	7.7	3.1
50–59	14.0	75.6	6.5	3.9
60+	24.7	68.9	4.8	1.6
<b>14+</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>

(a) Not consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months.

(b) For males, the consumption of up to 28 standard drinks per week is considered 'Low risk', 29 to 42 per week 'Risky', and 43 or more per week 'High risk'. For females, the consumption of up to 14 standard drinks per week is considered 'Low risk', 15 to 28 per week 'Risky', and 29 or more per week 'High risk'.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- Persons in the 20–29 years age group were most likely to consume alcohol in a way that put them at risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term.
- Females in the age groups 14–19 to 40–49 years were more likely than their male counterparts to consume alcohol at risky or high-risk levels for long-term harm. The gap between males and females was widest for teenagers.

### Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term

There are also risks to health in the short term from alcohol consumption. In 2007, 48.3% of Australians aged 14 years or older drank in a pattern that is considered low risk for alcohol-related harm in the short term (Table 3.13). Similarly, 7.8% drank at risky or high-risk levels for harm in the short term at least once a week. A further 12.6% drank at risky or high-risk levels for harm in the short term at least once a month (but not as often as once a week) and a final 14.2% did so once or more a year, but not monthly.

**Table 3.13: Alcohol consumption, risk of harm in the short term: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Abstainers <sup>(a)</sup>	Low risk	Risky and high risk <sup>(b)</sup>		
			At least yearly	At least monthly	At least weekly
(per cent)					
<b>Males</b>					
14–19	29.2	33.4	12.9	15.7	8.8
20–29	11.1	26.1	19.0	26.6	17.2
30–39	10.9	40.6	21.1	17.5	10.0
40–49	10.8	47.0	18.9	14.5	8.7
50–59	9.9	59.4	12.9	9.5	8.2
60+	17.3	67.8	6.4	4.5	4.0
<b>14+</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>Females</b>					
14–19	28.7	30.1	12.9	18.8	9.5
20–29	14.8	29.2	20.7	23.1	12.2
30–39	13.5	46.9	19.5	13.3	6.8
40–49	13.9	53.4	16.2	10.2	6.3
50–59	18.1	62.5	10.2	4.8	4.4
60+	31.1	61.3	3.9	2.1	1.5
<b>14+</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Persons</b>					
14–19	29.0	31.8	12.9	17.2	9.1
20–29	12.9	27.6	19.8	24.9	14.7
30–39	12.2	43.8	20.3	15.3	8.4
40–49	12.4	50.2	17.6	12.3	7.5
50–59	14.0	61.0	11.6	7.1	6.3
60+	24.7	64.3	5.1	3.2	2.7
<b>14+</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>

(a) Not consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months.

(b) For males, the consumption of 7 or more standard drinks on any one day. For females, the consumption of 5 or more standard drinks on any one day.

*Notes*

1. Respondents that have been coded 'Can't say/No answer' to all relevant alcohol questions are assumed to be low-risk drinkers for this alcohol risk analysis.
2. Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- At all ages, greater proportions of the population drank at risky or high-risk levels for short-term harm compared with risk for long-term harm.
- Overall, about one third (34.6% = 14.2% + 12.6% + 7.8%) of persons aged 14 years or older put themselves at risk or high risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term on at least one drinking occasion during the previous 12 months.
- Males aged 20–29 years (17.2%) were the most likely group to consume alcohol at risky or high-risk levels for short-term harm at least weekly.
- More than a quarter (26.3% = 17.2% + 9.1%) of 14–19-year-olds put themselves at risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term at least once a month during the previous 12 months; higher among females of this age (28.3%) than males (24.5%).

## Illicit drugs

In 2007, over one-third (38.1%) of the population aged 14 years or older had ever used an illicit drug (Table 3.14).

As defined elsewhere in this report, illicit drugs include illegal drugs (such as marijuana/cannabis), prescription or over-the-counter pharmaceuticals (such as tranquilisers/sleeping pills) used for illicit purposes, and other substances used inappropriately (such as naturally occurring hallucinogens and inhalants).

### Any illicit drug

**Table 3.14: Use of any illicit drug: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	21.1	26.5	23.8	15.6	17.7	16.6
20–29	55.8	52.1	54.0	32.4	22.9	27.7
30–39	60.2	55.5	57.9	20.3	13.0	16.7
40–49	53.0	42.3	47.6	14.9	8.5	11.6
50–59	39.3	25.7	32.5	8.7	5.4	7.0
60+	14.8	10.7	12.6	4.6	4.0	4.3
<b>14+</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>13.4</b>
	(number)					
14–19	185,400	222,900	408,300	137,000	148,500	285,400
20–29	824,600	744,800	1,569,100	479,100	328,000	806,400
30–39	899,500	837,900	1,737,400	303,200	196,900	499,800
40–49	799,300	645,100	1,443,300	224,600	129,200	352,900
50–59	520,000	344,200	864,800	114,900	72,100	187,000
60+	270,200	222,700	492,600	83,100	84,200	167,200
<b>14+</b>	<b>3,519,100</b>	<b>3,037,000</b>	<b>6,554,900</b>	<b>1,346,400</b>	<b>961,200</b>	<b>2,306,200</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

### Ever used illicit drugs

- Three in five (60.2%) of male 30–39-year-olds had used an illicit drug in their lifetime – this age group had the greatest proportion of persons who had ever used an illicit drug.
- Less than one quarter (23.8%) of teenagers had ever used an illicit drug.
- Female teenagers were more likely than male teenagers to have ever used an illicit drug (26.5% versus 21.1%). However, for all other age groups, males were more likely than females to have ever used an illicit drug.

### Recent use of illicit drugs

- In 2007, there were 2.3 million people aged 14 years or older who had recently used an illicit drug. Of these 1.3 million were male, and 1.0 million were female.

- For all age groups, males were more likely than females to have recently used an illicit drug, with the exception of 14–19-year-olds (females 17.7% versus male 15.6%).
- There were approximately 200,000 fewer recent illicit drug users in 2007 than 2004.
- The group with the highest proportion of recent illicit drug users was 20–29-year-old males (32.4%, 479,100 users).
- One in six (16.6%, 285,400) teenagers had used illicit drugs in the past 12 months.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used illicit drugs, 65% had not used illicit drugs in the last 12 months – males: 62%, females: 68%.

### Recent use of any illicit drug 1995 to 2007

For both males and females, the proportion of the population who had used any illicit drug in the previous 12 months generally fell over the period 1995 to 2007 (Table 3.15). For males the fall from 18.2% in 2004 to 15.8% in 2007 was significant, as was the fall for females from 12.5% to 11.0%.

**Table 3.15: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of any illicit drug: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	37.9	38.3	28.8	20.9	15.6 #	25.0	37.1	26.6	21.8	17.7
20–29	46.1	47.1	40.4	37.5	32.4	27.4	33.5	30.5	25.6	22.9
30–39	24.7	27.5	25.2	25.5	20.3 #	13.6	20.4	15.6	15.1	13.0
40–49	12.0	22.1	14.4	15.0	14.9	7.9	10.1	9.5	9.5	8.5
50–59	3.5	7.2	8.2	7.6	8.7	3.9	13.4	5.2	4.8	5.4
60+	1.8	5.2	4.0	4.1	4.6	3.7	6.3	3.8	4.0	4.0
<b>14+</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>15.8 #</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>11.0 #</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- The general decreases, between 2004 and 2007, in the proportions of males and females who had used illicit drugs in the previous 12 months was even more marked for 14–30-year-olds. For example, the decreases for teenagers were from 20.9% to 15.6% for males and from 21.8% to 17.7% for females.
- Contrary to the decline noted above, recent use by 50–59-year-old males and females, rose between 2004 and 2007 (7.6% to 8.7% for males, 4.8% to 5.4% for females).

### Recent illicit drug use of younger people

Estimates of illicit drug use by younger people should be interpreted with caution due to the low prevalence and smaller sample sizes for these age groups – notwithstanding this, recent use amongst teenagers, increased with age (Table 3.16). For any illicit drug, recent use rose from 4.9% of 12–14-year-olds to 23.4% of 18–19-year-olds.

**Table 3.16: Recent use of illicit drugs: proportion of the population aged 12 years or older, by selected age, Australia, 2007**

Drug type	Age group				
	12–15	16–17	18–19	12–19	12+
	(per cent)				
Marijuana/cannabis	2.7	15.0	19.0	9.9	8.8
Pain-killers/analgesics <sup>(a)</sup>	1.1	2.5	2.4	1.8	2.5
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills <sup>(a)</sup>	—	1.1	2.2	0.8	1.3
Steroids <sup>(a)</sup>	—	—	0.4	0.2	0.1
Barbiturates <sup>(a)</sup>	—	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.1
Inhalants	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.4
Heroin	—	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.2
Methadone <sup>(b)</sup>	—	—	—	—	0.1
Other opiates/opioids <sup>(b)</sup>	—	—	0.6	0.2	0.2
Meth/amphetamine <sup>(a)</sup>	0.4	1.0	2.9	1.2	2.2
Cocaine	0.2	1.0	2.0	0.8	1.6
Hallucinogens	0.1	0.7	2.8	0.9	0.6
Ecstasy	0.5	4.9	9.1	3.8	3.4
Ketamine	—	—	0.7	0.3	0.2
GHB	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.1
Injected drugs	—	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.5
<i>Any illicit</i>	4.6	18.9	23.4	13.0	13.0
None of the above	95.4	81.1	76.6	87.0	87.0

(a) For non-medical purposes.

(b) Non-maintenance.

#### Notes

1. 'Any illicit' does not include 'other opiates', ketamine, GHB or injecting drug use for 12–13-year-olds. Statistics reported for these substances are based on those people aged 14 years or older only.
2. Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- In 2007, approximately one in forty (2.7%) of 12–15-year-olds used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months compared with six in forty (15.0%) of 16–17-year-olds and one in five (19.0%) of 18–19-year-olds.
- For 12–19-year-olds, the frequency of recent use of painkillers/analgesics for non-medical purposes (1.8%), meth/amphetamine for non-medical purposes (1.2%) and ecstasy (3.8%) were the only frequencies greater than 1%.
- The prevalence among 18–19-year-olds of recent ecstasy use (9.1%) is the highest prevalence for any age group and illicit drug, with the exception of marijuana/cannabis.

## Marijuana/cannabis use

In 2007, one in three (33.5%, about 5.8 million) of Australians aged 14 years or older had used marijuana/cannabis at some time in their lives (Table 3.17). Of the same Australians, almost one in ten (9.1%, 1.6 million) had used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months.

**Table 3.17: Use of marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	18.0	22.1	20.0	13.1	12.7	12.9
20–29	52.2	46.8	49.5	25.7	15.9	20.8
30–39	57.1	52.1	54.6	15.9	8.4	12.1
40–49	49.6	38.8	44.1	11.6	5.1	8.3
50–59	35.2	20.9	28.0	5.4	2.2	3.8
60+	8.8	5.0	6.8	0.6	0.4	0.5
<b>14+</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>
	(number)					
14–19	157,500	185,600	343,000	114,900	106,800	221,700
20–29	771,300	669,400	1,440,200	380,000	226,700	605,700
30–39	852,400	786,100	1,638,600	237,500	126,600	364,200
40–49	747,900	591,300	1,338,300	174,900	77,500	251,800
50–59	465,000	280,200	745,200	71,500	29,300	100,800
60+	160,800	103,600	264,300	11,500	8,200	19,600
<b>14+</b>	<b>3,154,800</b>	<b>2,616,100</b>	<b>5,769,600</b>	<b>990,200</b>	<b>575,000</b>	<b>1,563,700</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

### Ever used marijuana/cannabis

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have ever used marijuana/cannabis (37.1%, 3.2 million versus 30.0%, 2.6 million).
- One in five (20.0%, 0.3 million) teenagers (14–19-year-olds) had ever used marijuana/cannabis.
- Australians aged 30–39 years were more likely (54.6%, 1.6 million) than those in the other age groups to have used marijuana/cannabis at some time in their lives.

### Recent use of marijuana/cannabis

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely than the corresponding females to have used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months (11.6%, 1.0 million versus 6.6%, 0.6 million).
- Almost one in eight (12.9%, 0.2 million) teenagers had used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months.
- Australians aged 20–29 years were most likely to have used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months – one in five (20.8%, 0.6 million) had done so. One quarter (25.7%, 0.4 million) of males in this group had used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used marijuana/cannabis, 68.7% of males and 78.0% of females had not used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months.



## Recent use of marijuana/cannabis 1995 to 2007

After peaking in 1998, the proportion of both males and females aged 14 years or older that had used marijuana/cannabis in the previous 12 months declined steadily (Table 3.18). Between 2004 and 2007, the decline was significant.

**Table 3.18: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of marijuana/cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	35.9	35.0	26.6	18.4	13.1 #	20.1	34.2	22.6	17.4	12.7 #
20–29	43.7	43.7	35.1	32.4	25.7 #	23.4	29.3	23.2	19.5	15.9 #
30–39	19.0	24.1	20.8	21.4	15.9 #	8.2	16.3	11.7	10.6	8.4 #
40–49	8.0	16.6	10.7	11.9	11.6	2.2	6.3	6.6	5.7	5.1
50–59	1.9	5.6	4.5	4.3	5.4	1.2	7.6	2.0	2.1	2.2
60+	—	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
<b>14+</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>11.6 #</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.6 #</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

## Heroin

In 2007, of Australians aged 14 years or older, 1.6% (0.3 million) had used heroin in their lifetime (Table 3.19). Less than 1.0% of the same Australians had used heroin in the previous 12 months.

**Table 3.19: Use of heroin: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3
20–29	2.5	1.4	2.0	0.7	0.2	0.5
30–39	3.2	2.1	2.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
40+	1.9	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>14+</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
	(number)					
14–19	5,100	900	5,900	4,400	900	5,300
20–29	37,600	20,100	57,600	10,700	2,700	13,400
30–39	47,300	32,300	79,600	6,200	5,000	11,200
40+	88,900	36,200	125,000	4,600	1,700	6,400
<b>14+</b>	<b>178,800</b>	<b>89,500</b>	<b>268,100</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>36,200</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

## Ever used heroin

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have ever used heroin (2.1%, 0.2 million versus 1.0%, 0.1 million). This was the case for all other age groups as well.
- Less than 1.0% of teenagers had ever used heroin.
- In, 2007, Australians aged 30–39 years were more likely than those in the other age groups to have ever used heroin—2.7% of this age group (0.1 million) had ever used heroin.

## Recent use of heroin

- Australian males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have used heroin in the previous 12 months (0.3%, 25,900 versus 0.1%, 10,300).
- Australian males aged 20–29 years had the highest proportion and number of all age groups of recent heroin users (0.7%, 10,700).
- There were more than twice as many male as female recent heroin users—25,900 versus 10,300.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used heroin, about 90% had not used heroin in the last 12 months.

## Recent use of heroin 1995 to 2007

The proportion of both males and females who had used heroin in the previous 12 months has fluctuated over the period 1995 to 2007, but was generally lower in 2007 (Table 3.20).

**Table 3.20: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of heroin: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.1
20–29	2.2	2.9	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.5	0.2	0.2
30–39	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
40+	—	0.4	0.2	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	—
<b>14+</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- No age-group-specific or population changes in recent heroin use between 2004 and 2007 were statistically significant, including 14–15-year-old males, increasing from 0.1% in 2004 to 0.5% in 2007.

## Meth/amphetamine

In 2007, of Australians aged 14 years or older, 6.3% (1.1 million) had ever used meth/amphetamine and 2.3% (0.4 million) had recently used meth/amphetamine (Table 3.21).

**Table 3.21: Use of meth/amphetamine: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	1.4	2.9	2.1	1.0	2.2	1.6
20–29	18.2	13.7	16.0	9.8	4.8	7.3
30–39	13.4	9.5	11.4	4.9	2.9	3.9
40+	3.8	1.3	2.5	0.7	0.2	0.4
<b>14+</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>
	(number)					
14–19	12,100	24,700	36,800	8,500	18,300	26,800
20–29	269,400	196,400	465,500	144,300	68,400	212,400
30–39	199,400	142,600	342,100	72,600	44,200	116,900
40+	175,900	63,900	239,400	31,700	8,600	40,200
<b>14+</b>	<b>655,600</b>	<b>426,300</b>	<b>1,081,200</b>	<b>256,200</b>	<b>138,900</b>	<b>394,800</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

### Ever used meth/amphetamine

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have ever used meth/amphetamine (7.7%, 0.7 million versus 4.9%, 0.4 million).
- Of teenagers, 2.1% (36,800) had ever used meth/amphetamine.
- The age group most likely to have ever used meth/amphetamine was the 20–29-year-olds (16.0%, 0.5 million).

### Recent use of meth/amphetamine

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months (3.0%, 0.3 million versus 1.6%, 0.1 million).
- Of teenagers (Australians aged 14–19 years old) 1.6% (26,800) were recent users of meth/amphetamine; female teenagers were twice as likely as male teenagers to have used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months – 2.2% versus 1.0%.
- The age group most likely to have used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months was the 20–29-year-olds, of whom 7.3% (0.2 million) were recent users.
- Males aged 20–29 years, of whom 9.8% (0.1 million) used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months, were the group most likely to have done so in 2007.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used meth/amphetamine, about 60% had not used meth/amphetamine in the last 12 months.

### Recent use of meth/amphetamine 1995 to 2007

The proportion of males who had used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months declined between 1998 and 2007, but such a clear trend is not evident for females (Table 3.22).

**Table 3.22: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of meth/amphetamine: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	2.9	5.5	5.7	4.0	1.0 #	1.9	6.3	6.8	4.9	2.2 #
20–29	10.5	16.4	14.1	12.4	9.8	6.3	7.6	8.2	9.0	4.8 #
30–39	2.1	4.1	4.0	5.7	4.9	0.5	1.2	2.2	2.5	2.9
40+	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
<b>14+</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.0 #</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.6 #</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- For both males and females, there were significant falls between 2004 and 2007 in recent use of meth/amphetamine, for teenagers and overall.

### Form of meth/amphetamine used

Australians aged 14 years or older who had used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months were asked to nominate the main form of meth/amphetamine they had used in that time. Powder (51.2%) and 'crystal, ice' (26.7%) were the two most common main forms of meth/amphetamine used in the previous 12 months (Table 3.23).

**Table 3.23: Main form of meth/amphetamine used: proportion of recent<sup>(a)</sup> users aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Form of drug	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)		
Powder	53.6	46.6	51.2
Liquid	1.1	1.7	1.3
Crystal,ice	25.8	28.5	26.7
Base/Paste/Pure	10.8	15.4	12.4
Tablet	6.1	3.3	5.1
Prescription amphetamines	2.6	4.3	3.2
Other	—	0.2	0.1

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

- A higher proportion of male, than of female, users of meth/amphetamine (53.6% versus 46.6%) nominated powder as the main form used in the previous 12 months.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of females than of males (28.5% versus 25.8%) nominated the 'crystal, ice' form.

### Ecstasy

In 2007, 8.9% (1.5 million) of Australians aged 14 years or older had ever used ecstasy and 3.5% (0.6 million) were recent users (Table 3.24).

**Table 3.24: Use of ecstasy by Australians aged 14 years or older: population proportions and numbers, by age and sex, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	4.8	7.2	6.0	4.0	6.0	5.0
20–29	25.7	22.1	23.9	13.8	8.7	11.2
30–39	19.8	14.2	17.0	6.3	3.2	4.7
40+	3.2	1.5	2.4	0.9	0.2	0.6
<b>14+</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
	(number)					
14–19	42,100	60,200	102,200	34,900	50,600	85,500
20–29	379,000	315,900	694,500	203,500	123,800	326,800
30–39	295,000	214,500	509,600	94,500	47,700	142,200
40+	151,100	75,200	226,200	43,400	12,000	55,300
<b>14+</b>	<b>865,400</b>	<b>665,700</b>	<b>1,530,700</b>	<b>374,900</b>	<b>233,800</b>	<b>608,400</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

### Ever used ecstasy

- Males aged 14 years or older were more likely to have ever used ecstasy than their female counterparts (10.2%, 0.9 million versus 7.6%, 0.7 million).
- In 2007, 6.0% of teenagers had ever used ecstasy with females more likely than males to have ever used ecstasy (7.2% versus 4.8%).
- With the exception of 14–19-year-olds, males were more likely than females to have ever used ecstasy.
- The group most likely to have ever used ecstasy was 20–29-year-old males (25.7%, 0.4 million).

### Recent use of ecstasy

- Of males aged 14 years or older, 4.4% (0.4 million) had used ecstasy in the previous 12 months, which was a higher prevalence than that for females (2.7%, 0.2 million).
- One in twenty (5.0%, 0.1 million) of teenagers had used ecstasy in the previous 12 months.
- Of 20–29-year-olds, 11.2% (0.3 million) were recent users of ecstasy, which was the highest prevalence for any age group.
- Of 20–29-year-old males, 13.8% (0.2 million) were recent users of ecstasy, which was the highest rate for any group.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used ecstasy, about 60% had not used ecstasy in the last 12 months.

### Recent use of ecstasy 1995 to 2007

The proportion of the population that had used ecstasy in the previous 12 months increased sharply between 1995 and 1998 but the rate of change slowed between 1998 and 2007.

(Table 3.25). Nevertheless, the increase between 1998 and 2007 is notable: 1.1 percentage points for males and the same for females.

**Table 3.25: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of ecstasy: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	0.9	3.3	5.7	3.9	4.0	0.1	3.0	4.3	4.7	6.0
20–29	5.1	11.9	12.5	15.1	13.8	2.9	4.9	8.3	8.8	8.7
30–39	0.6	1.9	3.1	5.8	6.3	0.4	0.8	1.7	2.3	3.2
40+	—	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.9	—	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
<b>14+</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- The proportions of both male and female 20–29-year-olds using ecstasy in each year between 2004 and 2007 exceeded those of any other age group.

## Inhalants

In 2007, 3.1% (0.5 million) of Australians aged 14 years or older had ever used inhalants and 0.4% had used inhalants in the previous 12 months (Table 3.26).

**Table 3.26: Use of inhalants: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	1.6	2.4	2.0	0.9	1.3	1.1
20–29	6.3	4.0	5.2	1.1	0.2	0.7
30–39	7.9	4.3	6.1	0.8	0.1	0.4
40+	2.4	1.2	1.8	0.3	0.0	0.2
<b>14+</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
	(number)					
14–19	13,800	20,300	34,100	8,100	11,100	19,200
20–29	93,000	57,900	150,600	16,500	3,500	19,900
30–39	117,700	65,500	183,200	11,400	1,400	12,700
40+	110,200	58,500	168,700	16,000	1,800	17,800
<b>14+</b>	<b>334,700</b>	<b>202,200</b>	<b>536,700</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>69,600</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

## Ever used inhalants

- Males were more likely than females to have ever used inhalants, with the exception of teenagers.

- The 30–39 years age group had the highest proportion and number of persons ever using inhalants (6.1%, 0.2 million) compared with all other age groups.

### Recent use of inhalants

- Males were about three times as likely as females to have used inhalants in the preceding 12 months.
- With the exception of teenage females and 20–29-year-old males, fewer than one in a 100 in any age/sex group had used inhalants in the previous 12 months.

### Recent use of inhalants 1995 to 2007

The proportion of the population who had used inhalants in the previous 12 months barely changed over the period 1995 to 2007 (Table 3.27).

**Table 3.27: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of inhalants: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	0.8	1.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	3.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
20–29	2.1	2.4	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.9	0.5	0.6	0.2
30–39	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	—	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
40+	—	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	—	0.1	0.1	—	—
<b>14+</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- Between 2004 and 2007, the proportion of persons using inhalants remained (statistically) unchanged across all age groups.

## Cocaine

In 2007, 5.9% (1.0 million) of Australians aged 14 years or older had ever used cocaine and 1.6% had used cocaine in the previous 12 months (Table 3.28).

**Table 3.28: Use of cocaine: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(a)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(b)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	1.4	2.5	2.0	0.8	1.4	1.1
20–29	14.2	9.5	11.9	7.0	3.1	5.1
30–39	13.0	9.8	11.4	3.8	1.9	2.9
40+	4.3	1.9	3.1	0.5	0.1	0.3
<b>14+</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
	(number)					
14–19	12,600	21,300	33,900	7,300	11,600	18,900
20–29	209,100	136,200	344,800	103,700	44,000	147,300
30–39	194,400	147,400	341,800	56,600	29,100	85,700
40+	202,200	92,200	294,100	23,900	5,900	29,700
<b>14+</b>	<b>617,300</b>	<b>397,500</b>	<b>1,014,400</b>	<b>190,700</b>	<b>90,700</b>	<b>281,100</b>

(a) Used at least once in lifetime.

(b) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

### Ever used cocaine

- In 2007, males aged 14 years or older were more likely than their female counterparts to have ever used cocaine (7.3%, 0.6 million versus 4.6%, 0.4 million).
- One in 50 (2.0%, 33,900) teenagers had ever used cocaine.
- Australian 20–29-year-old males (14.2%, 0.2 million) were more likely than any other age/sex group to have ever used cocaine.

### Recent use of cocaine

- Males were more than twice as likely to have used cocaine in the preceding 12 months than females (2.2%, 0.2 million versus 1.0%, 0.1 million)
- In 2007, 1.1% (18,900) teenagers used cocaine at least once in the previous 12 months.
- Males aged 20–29 years (7.0%, 0.1 million) were more likely to have used cocaine in the previous 12 months than any other age/sex group.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever used cocaine, about 70% had not used cocaine in the last 12 months.

### Recent use of cocaine 1995 to 2007

The proportions of males and females who had used cocaine in the previous 12 months fluctuated over the period 1995 to 2007 but was at a high in 2007 (Table 3.29).



**Table 3.29: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of cocaine: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	—	0.6	1.7	0.6	0.8	2.0	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4
20–29	5.6	5.0	5.2	3.7	7.0 #	2.4	2.9	3.4	2.3	3.1
30–39	0.7	2.7	1.8	2.4	3.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.9
40+	—	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5 #	—	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>14+</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.2 #</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- Between 2004 and 2007, the proportion of both males and females recently using cocaine increased to 2.2% for males and 1.0% for females.
- Throughout the period 1995 to 2007, 20–29-year-old males were the most likely group to have used cocaine in the previous 12 months.
- Significant increases in recent use between 2004 and 2007 were seen for males aged 20–29 years (from 3.7% to 7.0%), 40 years or older (from 0.2 % to 0.5%) and for all males (from 1.3% to 2.2%).

## Injecting drug use

In 2007, it is estimated that a low proportion of the population aged 14 years or older had ever (1.9%, 0.3 million) or recently (0.5%, 0.1 million) injected drugs (Table 3.30).

**Table 3.30: Use of injecting drugs<sup>(a)</sup>: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older and numbers, by age and sex, Australia, 2007**

Age group	Ever used <sup>(b)</sup>			Recent use <sup>(c)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
14–19	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.4
20–29	3.3	2.0	2.6	1.4	0.6	1.0
30–39	4.9	3.1	4.0	1.3	0.6	1.0
40+	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
<b>14+</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
	(number)					
14–19	5,800	6,600	12,400	3,900	2,100	6,000
20–29	48,400	28,100	76,400	21,300	8,500	29,700
30–39	73,200	46,700	119,800	19,000	9,800	28,800
40+	84,200	35,300	119,400	14,600	3,400	18,000
<b>14+</b>	<b>211,500</b>	<b>116,700</b>	<b>328,100</b>	<b>58,700</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>82,400</b>

(a) Any illicit drug injected.

(b) Used at least once in lifetime.

(c) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

## Ever used injecting drugs

- Of Australians aged 14 years or older, more males (2.5%, 0.2 million) than females (1.3%, 0.1 million) had ever injected drugs.
- Of teenagers, 0.7% (12,400) had ever injected drugs.
- Australians aged 30–39 years were the age group most likely to have ever injected drugs.

## Recent use of injecting drugs

- Of Australians aged 14 years or older, more males (0.7%, 0.1 million) than females (0.3%, 23,800) had injected drugs in the previous 12 months.
- Of teenagers, 0.4% (6,000) had injected drugs in the previous 12 months.
- Australians aged 40 years or older were the least likely (0.2%, 18,000) age group to have injected drugs in the previous 12 months.

Of Australians aged 14 years or older who had ever injected illicit drugs, about 75% had not injected illicit drugs in the last 12 months.

## Recent use of injecting drugs 1995 to 2007

The proportion of the population who had injected drugs in the previous 12 months was low over the period 1995 to 2007 (1.0% or less throughout for males, 0.4% or 0.3% throughout for females) (Table 3.31).

**Table 3.31: Recent<sup>(a)</sup> use of injecting drugs<sup>(b)</sup>: proportion of the population aged 14 years or older by age and sex, Australia, 1995 to 2007**

Age group	Males					Females				
	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
	(per cent)									
14–19	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.2
20–29	2.8	3.0	2.8	1.5	1.4	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.6
30–39	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	1.3	—	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6
40+	—	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>14+</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

(b) Any illicit drug injected.

# Difference between 2004 result and 2007 result is statistically significantly (2-tailed  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

- In absolute terms, between 1995 and 2007, the changes in the proportion of males or females who had injected drugs in the previous 12 months were small.
- For males, the age groups most likely to have injected drugs in the previous 12 months were 20–29-year-olds (1.4%) and 30–39-year-olds (1.3%). For females, the age groups most likely to have injected drugs in the previous 12 months were the same, 20–29-year-olds and 30–39-year-olds (both 0.6%).

## Illicit drugs injected

In 2007, respondents who had ever injected an illicit drug were asked to name the *single* drug they had first injected. Also, respondents who had injected one or more illicit drugs in the previous 12 months (recent injectors) were asked to name those drugs.

**Table 3.32: Injecting drug use: first and recent<sup>(a)</sup> illicit drugs injected, proportion of ever or recent injecting drug users aged 14 years or older, by sex, Australia, 2007**

Drug	First injected <sup>(b)</sup>			Recently injected <sup>(c)</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	(per cent)					
Heroin	28.8	32.1	30.0	41.8	34.8	39.7
Methadone	0.3	1.7	0.8	14.2	4.0	11.2
Other opiates	3.3	1.9	2.8	13.0	18.7	14.6
Meth/amphetamine	49.6	51.8	50.4	67.2	68.7	67.7
Cocaine	1.8	3.5	2.4	6.8	1.2	5.2
Hallucinogens	1.7	2.2	1.8	2.6	1.5	2.3
Ecstasy	0.6	1.7	1.0	11.5	3.3	9.1
Benzodiazepines	—	—	—	7.8	8.6	8.0
Steroids	11.1	—	7.2	6.9	0.4	5.0
Other drugs	2.8	5.1	3.6	7.0	12.9	8.7

(a) Used in the previous 12 months.

(b) Answered by respondents who have ever injected.

(c) Answered by respondents who have injected in the previous 12 months.

Note: Statistical significance testing was not undertaken for this table.

## First drug injected

- Meth/amphetamine was the most common (50.4%) first drug injected by injecting drug users (Table 3.32). Females (51.8%) were more likely than males (49.6%) to have injected meth/amphetamine as their first injected drug.
- Heroin (30.0%) was the next most prevalent first illicit drug injected by injecting drug users. Again, females (32.1%) were more likely than males (28.8%) to have first injected heroin.

## Drugs injected recently

- The most common drug among recent injecting drug users was meth/amphetamine (67.7%). Similar proportions of male (67.2%) and female (68.7%) recent injecting drug users injected meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months.
- The second most common drug among injecting drug users was heroin, with 39.7% of recent injecting drug users injecting this drug in the previous 12 months. Males (41.8%) were more likely than females (34.8%) to have injected heroin in the previous 12 months.

## Source of supply

In 2007, illicit drugs were most likely sourced from friends or acquaintances, with the exceptions of heroin, which was mostly sourced from dealers, and analgesics and inhalants, which were mostly bought at shops (Table 3.33).

