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]

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

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

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

The proportion of adults 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 similar consumption in capital cities and regional areas in 2019.[7]
People living in remote and very remote areas were 1.5x more likely than those in major cities to exceed lifetime and single occasion risk guidelines (at least monthly) in 2016.\(^4\)

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 35% of closed alcohol and other drug treatment episodes in 2017–18.\(^8\)

Driving a motor vehicle was the most likely risky activity undertaken while under the influence of alcohol in 2016.\(^4\)

In 2016, of single occasion and lifetime risky drinkers:

- 1 in 4 reported recent cannabis use
- 1 in 5 reported daily smoking.\(^6\)

Alcohol was the only drug where approval of regular use by an adult was higher than disapproval (46% approved compared with 22% disapproved).\(^4\)

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