



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]

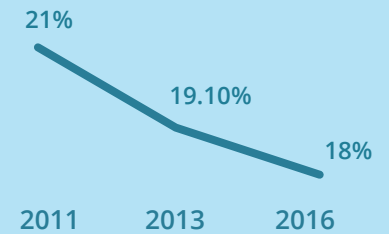


In 2017–18, nearly **4 in 5** Australians aged 18+ **drank alcohol** in the past 12 months.^[3]



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

Lifetime risky drinking



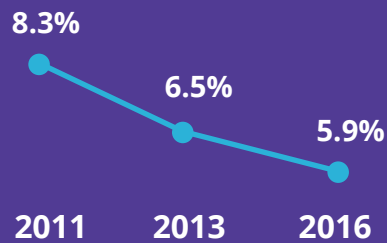
On average, Australian households spent **\$32 on alcoholic beverages per week** in 2015–16.^[6]



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



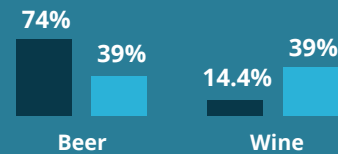
The proportion of adults aged 14+ **drinking daily** continued to decline.^[4]



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]



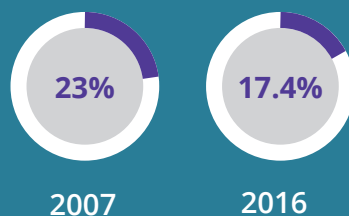
Wastewater data analysis indicates that **alcohol was one of the most commonly detected** substances with similar consumption in capital cities and regional areas in 2019.^[7]



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]

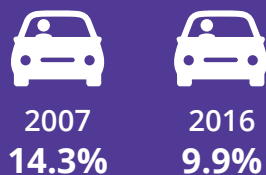


Alcohol was the most **common principal drug of concern** in **35%** of closed alcohol and other drug treatment episodes in 2017–18.^[8]

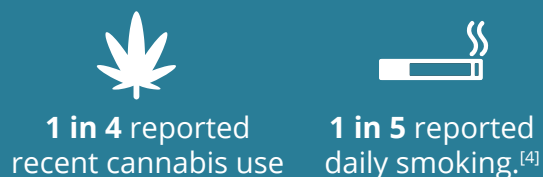
Alcohol was the only drug where **approval of regular use by an adult was higher than disapproval** (46% approved compared with 22% disapproved).^[4]



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**:



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 2017. [National Drug Strategy Household survey 2016: detailed findings](#). Drug statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PHE 214. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 14 December 2017.
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) 2019. [National wastewater drug monitoring program, report 8](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 28 October 2019.
8. AIHW 2019. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2017–18: key findings](#). Web Report. Viewed 17 April 2019.

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019

Any enquiries about copyright and/or this fact sheet should be directed to: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, Tel: (02) 6244 1000, Email: <info@aihw.gov.au>.

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



Stronger evidence,
better decisions,
improved health and welfare