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]


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

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 \(^4\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Risky Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.