



Alcohol

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

In 2018, **alcohol** was the **fifth highest risk factor** contributing to the burden of disease in Australia (4.5% of total burden).[1]



There were **1,559 alcohol induced deaths** recorded in 2021. [2]



In 2020–21, **1 in 4** Australian adults **exceeded the alcohol guideline**. [3]

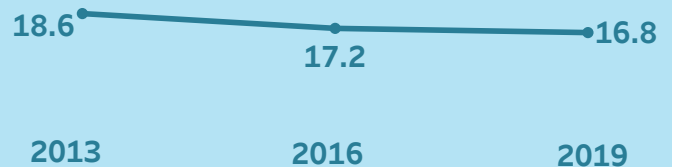


In 2020–21, **men were more likely than women to exceed alcohol consumption guidelines** (34% compared to 19%). [3]

The **proportion (%)** of Australians aged 14+ **drinking daily** continues to **decline**. [4]

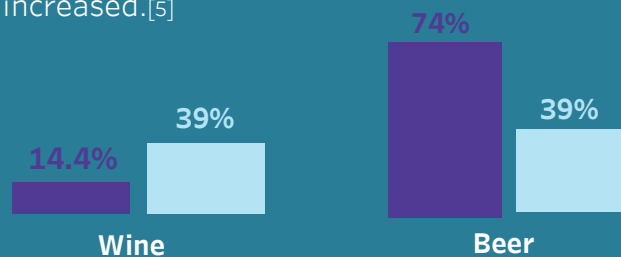


Lifetime risky drinking (drinking on average more than 2 standard drinks per day) has **declined (%)** in Australians aged 14 and over. [4]



In 2017–18, there was an average of **2.72 standard drinks** per day, available for consumption per alcohol consumer aged 15 and over. [5]

Between **1967–68** and **2017–18**, apparent consumption of beer decreased while that of wine increased. [5]





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



2007
14.3%

2016
9.9%

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

In 2020–21, **alcohol** was the **most common principal drug of concern** for which clients sought alcohol and other drug treatment services (37% of treatment episodes).^[8]



Wastewater data analysis

indicates that **alcohol** was one of the most **commonly detected** substances, with higher consumption in regional areas than capital cities in 2021.^[7]



In 2019, of single occasion and lifetime risky drinkers:



1 in 4 reported recent cannabis use



1 in 5 reported daily smoking ^[9]

Between 2015 and 2021, the highest rates of alcohol and other drug related **ambulance attendances** were related to **alcohol intoxication**. ^[10]

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

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

Alcohol accounted for nearly **3 in 5 drug-related hospitalisations** in 2020–21 (57% or 86,400 hospitalisations), up from 53% (74,500) in 2019–20. ^[11]





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References

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. New Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol were released in December 2020. Data for alcohol risk in this fact sheet are measured against the 2009 guidelines, reflecting the time period in which the data were collected and is no comparable to the 2020 guidelines. [4]

Ambulance attendance data are for those aged over 15 years, data includes NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS and ACT. [10]

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