



**Cannabis** was the **most commonly used illicit drug** in Australia in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>



**Cannabis** was the **second most common drug** type identified at toxicology for **transport accident deaths** in 2016.<sup>[5]</sup>



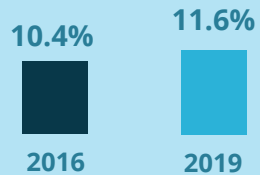
In 2019, recent users reported their **primary source of cannabis** as friends (65%), or dealers (17.9%).<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2019–20, **cannabis** was the **principal drug of concern** in 18% of closed treatment episodes provided for clients' own alcohol and other drug use.<sup>[6]</sup>



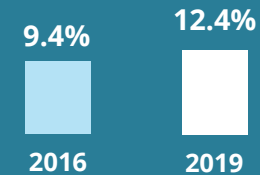
**Cannabis use** among the Australian general population in the past 12 months **increased** in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>



**Average age** of cannabis users **increased**.<sup>[1]</sup>



Recent cannabis use **increased** among people living in areas of **highest socioeconomic advantage** in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2019, **37%** of recent cannabis users report at **least weekly use**.<sup>[1]</sup>

Among the Australian general population, **approval of regular cannabis use** **increased** from 14.5% in 2016 to 19.6% in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2016, people identifying as **homosexual/bisexual** were **2.8 times as likely to report use of cannabis** in the past 12 months, compared with people identifying as heterosexual.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2018, **40% of prison entrants reported using cannabis** in the previous 12 months, second only to methamphetamines (43%).<sup>[2]</sup>

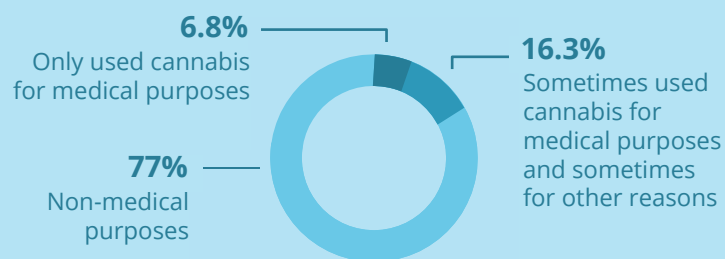
In 2018–19, 50% of **national illicit drug seizures** and 46% of **arrests** were for cannabis.<sup>[4]</sup>



Wastewater data analysis indicates average **cannabis consumption in regional areas continued to exceed that of capital cities** in 2020.<sup>[3]</sup>



### Use of cannabis for medical purposes.<sup>[1]</sup>



The **estimated social cost** for cannabis use in 2015–16 was **\$4.5 billion**.<sup>[7]</sup>



People with self-reported **mental health conditions** were **1.8 times as likely** as people without mental health conditions to report **recent use of cannabis** in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. Findings for homosexual/bisexual people compared with heterosexual people are age-standardised.<sup>[1]</sup>

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 3 August 2020.
2. AIHW 2019. [The health of Australia's prisoners 2018](#). Cat. no. PHE 207. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 30 May 2019.
3. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2021. [National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 12](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 1 March 2021.

4. ACIC 2020. [Illicit drug data report 2018–19](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 12 November 2020.
5. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2017. [Causes of death, Australia, 2016](#). ABS cat. no. 3303.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 4 January 2018.
6. AIHW 2021. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2019–20](#). Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 16 July 2021.
7. Whetton S, Tait R, Chrzanowska A, Donnelly N, McEntee, Mukhtar A et al. 2020. [Quantifying the social costs of pharmaceutical opioid misuse & illicit opioid use to Australia in 2015/16](#). National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. Viewed 14 May 2020.

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For more detail, see the full report, [Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia](#), which is available from the AIHW website.



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