

# 21 Special populations—summary tables of drug use

Table 21.1: Summary tables of drug use for special populations, persons aged 14 years and over, Australia, 2001

	Sex		Socioeconomic status (quintile)				
	Male	Female	1	2	3	4	5
	(per cent)						
<b>Tobacco smoking status</b>							
Smoker	25.7	20.8	25.8	25.1	23.7	23.6	18.4
Not recent or never smoker	74.3	79.2	74.2	74.9	76.3	76.4	81.6
<b>Risk of long-term alcohol-related harm</b>							
Abstainer	14.1	20.8	21.1	19.5	17.2	16.2	13.6
Low risk	75.6	69.8	68.9	70.6	72.9	73.6	77.2
Risky/high risk	10.2	9.4	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.2	9.2
<b>Risk of short-term alcohol-related harm<sup>(a)</sup></b>							
Abstainer	14.1	20.8	21.1	19.5	17.2	16.2	13.6
Low risk	46.5	49.6	47.1	48.2	47.3	47.4	49.6
Risky/high risk	39.3	29.6	31.9	32.2	35.5	36.3	36.8
<b>Use of any illicit drug</b>							
Recent use	19.8	14.2	16.0	16.3	18.1	17.7	17.0
Not used recently/ever	80.2	85.8	84.0	83.7	81.9	82.3	83.0
<b>Use of any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis</b>							
Recent use	9.4	7.4	7.2	8.1	9.2	9.1	8.7
Not used recently/ever	90.6	92.6	92.8	91.9	90.8	90.9	91.3
<b>Use of marijuana/cannabis</b>							
Recent use	15.8	10.0	12.4	12.1	13.6	13.4	13.4
Not used recently/ever	84.2	90.0	87.6	87.9	86.4	86.6	86.6
<b>Perceptions and attitudes towards drugs</b>							
<i>Drugs associated with a 'drug problem'</i>							
Alcohol	7.9	7.7	6.7	8.2	7.8	7.6	8.4
Tobacco	2.8	2.6	3.1	3.1	2.2	2.5	2.4
Marijuana	23.8	23.5	28.7	27.4	23.9	22.2	16.8
Heroin	50.6	49.6	44.9	44.9	50.8	51.8	58.1
Other	14.1	16.0	16.0	15.7	14.6	15.4	13.9
None/can't think of any	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5
<i>Most serious concern for the community</i>							
Excess drinking of alcohol	20.0	24.6	18.7	21.8	22.7	22.8	24.7
Tobacco smoking	20.3	17.6	17.6	18.7	17.9	19.9	20.6
Marijuana/cannabis use	5.1	5.6	7.0	6.4	5.1	4.5	3.7
Heroin use	36.6	33.0	35.2	32.9	36.3	35.1	35.1
Other	17.8	18.9	21.2	19.8	17.7	17.5	15.7
None of these	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
<i>Approval of regular use by an adult</i>							
Alcohol	81.4	68.0	73.1	72.0	74.9	75.4	78.4
Tobacco	42.5	36.8	44.7	41.6	40.8	39.6	33.0
Marijuana	27.4	20.1	23.0	23.1	24.9	23.2	24.5
Heroin	1.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4
Other	14.1	9.8	11.8	12.0	12.9	11.2	11.7

(continued)

**Table 21.1: Summary tables of drug use for special populations, persons aged 14 years and over, Australia, 2001**

	Geography		Main language spoken at home		Indigenous status	
	Urban	Rural/ remote	English	Other	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	(per cent)					
<b>Tobacco smoking status</b>						
Smoker	22.5	25.0	23.6	17.8	49.9	22.8
Not recent or never smoker	77.5	75.0	76.4	82.2	50.1	77.2
<b>Risk of long-term alcohol-related harm</b>						
Abstainer	17.6	17.4	15.7	40.8	20.6	17.3
Low risk	73.2	71.3	74.0	55.9	59.5	73.0
Risky/high risk	9.3	11.3	10.3	3.3	19.9	9.7
<b>Risk of short-term alcohol-related harm<sup>(a)</sup></b>						
Abstainer	17.6	17.4	15.7	40.8	20.6	17.3
Low risk	48.5	46.8	48.3	44.9	30.7	48.4
Risky/high risk	33.9	35.8	36.0	14.3	48.7	34.3
<b>Use of any illicit drug</b>						
Recent use	17.3	16.1	17.4	10.5	31.8	16.7
Not used recently/ever	82.7	83.9	82.6	89.5	68.2	83.3
<b>Use of any illicit drug except marijuana/cannabis</b>						
Recent use	9.0	6.8	8.5	7.4	12.7	8.3
Not used recently/ever	91.0	93.2	91.5	92.6	87.3	91.7
<b>Use of marijuana/cannabis</b>						
Recent use	13.1	12.3	13.5	5.0	27.3	12.7
Not used recently/ever	86.9	87.7	86.5	95.0	72.7	87.3
<b>Perceptions and attitudes towards drugs</b>						
<i>Drugs associated with a 'drug problem'</i>						
Alcohol	7.6	8.5	7.8	7.1	8.0	7.8
Tobacco	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.9	3.0	2.6
Marijuana	21.0	30.8	23.8	21.8	36.0	23.5
Heroin	52.4	43.9	50.7	42.5	38.1	50.4
Other	15.5	13.8	14.6	21.6	14.2	15.0
None/can't think of any	0.8	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.6	0.6
<i>Most serious concern for the community</i>						
Excess drinking of alcohol	21.3	25.0	22.9	14.9	17.3	22.4
Tobacco smoking	19.4	17.8	19.1	16.3	10.4	19.0
Marijuana/cannabis use	4.6	7.4	5.3	6.2	15.5	5.2
Heroin use	36.0	31.5	34.4	40.0	29.8	34.9
Other	18.5	18.0	18.0	22.2	25.5	18.2
None of these	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.5	0.3
<i>Approval of regular use by an adult</i>						
Alcohol	74.6	75.1	76.2	56.3	72.9	74.8
Tobacco	38.7	42.1	39.9	36.5	65.7	39.3
Marijuana	23.9	23.5	24.8	9.8	38.9	23.6
Heroin	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.3	1.1
Other	12.5	10.5	11.8	14.1	18.5	11.9

(a) On at least one occasion in the last 12 months.