



# New and emerging psychoactive substances

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

The New (and emerging) Psychoactive Substance (NPS) market is highly dynamic with fluctuations in the types of NPS available.[6]



## Main types of NPS include:

- synthetic cannabinoids
- phenethylamines
- tryptamines
- piperazines
- synthetic cathinones
- novel benzodiazepines.[1]

2023 EDRS participants past 6 months use of NPS:

- **11%** had used any NPS, including plant-based
- **9%** had used any NPS, excluding plant-based. [3]

NPS **often mimic the effects** of existing illicit substances.[1]



**6.8%** of people aged 20–29 reported **recent use of hallucinogens** in 2022–2023, up from 5.0% in 2019.[2]

**4.3%** of people aged 14 and over in Australia reported using **ketamine in their lifetime** in 2022–2023, up from **3.1%** in 2019.[2]



The number of **NPS border detections doubled** from **609** in 2020–21 to **1,299** in 2021–22.[5]

**0.1%\*** of the Australian population reported the **recent use of synthetic cannabis** in 2022–2023.[2]



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National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older.[2]

\* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

### References

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6. Burns L, Roxburgh A, Matthews A, Bruno R, Lenton S & Buskirk JV 2014. The rise of new psychoactive substance use in Australia. *Drug Testing and Analysis* 6:846–849

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia  
(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).