



Meth/amphetamines and other stimulants

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

In 2019, 49% of Australians **associated** the use of **meth/ amphetamine** with a **drug problem**.^[4]



50% of people who used meth/ amphetamine in 2019 reported **crystal/ice as the main form used**.^[4]

In 2022, **among people who use ecstasy**, the main approaches for arranging to **purchase illicit or non prescribed stimulants** were ^[7]:

Face to Face (69%)



Social Networking Applications (73%)



Reported cocaine use is increasing in Australia and is **particularly prevalent** among people living in **Major cities** and areas with the **highest socioeconomic advantage**.^[4]



Lifetime use of ecstasy ^[4]

	2016	2019
Age 14+	11.2%	12.5%
Age 40-49	14.8%	19.4%
Age 50+	2.4%	3.2%

In 2020–21, **amphetamines** were the **principal drug of concern** in **24%** of treatment episodes for clients own alcohol and other drug use.^[2]

In 2019–20, around **a third of national illicit drug seizures (32%)** and **arrests (30%)** were for **amphetamine-type substances** (including MDMA).^[6]



Meth/amphetamines and other stimulants

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Recent use of meth/ amphetamine among people aged 14+ **was stable** between 2016 (1.4%) and 2019 (1.3%), **but has declined** since 2013 (2.1%).^[4]



Recent use of crystal/ice among the general population was stable between 2016 (0.8%) and 2019 (0.7%) **but has increased** since 2010 (0.4%).^[4]

April 2022 national wastewater data analysis indicates that **methylamphetamine** consumption in **regional areas** was **higher** than in **capital cities**.^[3]

The estimated weight of **methylamphetamine** consumed was **8,838 kilograms** in 2020-21.^[9]



The **death rate** involving meth/amphetamines and other stimulants was **4 times higher** in 2020 than 2000.^[1]



In 2020, **56%** of police detainees **tested positive to methamphetamine**.^[5]

Methamphetamine accounted for **8.2%** of all **drug-related hospitalisations** in 2020-21 (12,400 hospitalisations), down from 10% (14,100) in 2019-20. ^[9]



The highest rates of **amphetamine(any) related ambulance attendances** in 2021 were for people aged **25-34**.^[8]



Meth/amphetamines and other stimulants

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

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.[4]

Ambulance attendance data are for those aged over 15 years, data includes NSW, VIC and QLD. [8]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2022. AIHW analysis of the National Mortality Database 2020.
2. AIHW 2022. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report. Cat. No. HSE 250. AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 27 July 2022.
3. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2022. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 17. Canberra: ACIC, accessed 7 November 2022.
4. AIHW 2020. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 4 August 2020.
5. Voce A & Sullivan T 2021. Drug use monitoring in Australia: Drug use among police detainees, 2020. Statistical Report 35. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. Viewed 23 June 2021.
6. ACIC 2021. Illicit Drug Data Report 2019–20. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 12 November 2021.
7. Sutherland R, Uporova J, Chandrasena U, Price O, Karlsson A, Gibbs D, Swanton R, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Salom C, Daly C, Thomas N, Juckel J, Agramunt S, Wilson Y, Woods E, Moon C, Degenhardt L, Farrell M and Peacock A. 2022. Australian Drug Trends 2022: Key Findings from the National Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Interviews. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, accessed 13 October 2022.
8. AIHW analysis of the National Ambulance Surveillance System, Monash University, Turning Point.
9. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2022. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 15. Canberra: ACIC, accessed 21 March 2022.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).

