



Cannabis

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Cannabis was the **most commonly used illicit drug** in Australia in 2019.^[1]



In 2019, **37%** of recent cannabis users report **at least weekly use**.^[1]



Average age of cannabis users **increased**.^[1]

2001

2019



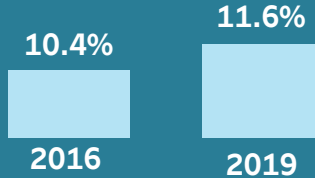
29 years



35 years

Recent cannabis use **increased** among people living in areas of **highest socioeconomic advantage** in 2019.^[1]

Cannabis use among the Australian general population in the past 12 months **increased** in 2019.^[1]



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

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.^[1]



In 2016, people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual were **2.8 times as likely** to report use of cannabis in the past 12 months, compared with people identifying as heterosexual.^[1]

In 2019-20, **51% of national illicit drug seizures** and **46% of arrests** were for cannabis.^[4]

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





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



Cannabis is perceived as **'easy'** or **'very easy'** to obtain by most participants in the 2022 EDRS and IDRS reports.[5][6]

In 2020–21, **cannabis** was the **principal drug of concern** in 19% of treatment episodes provided for clients' own drug use.[7]

Of people who had used cannabis recently:

77% Non-medical purposes

16.3% Sometimes used cannabis for medical purposes and sometimes for other reasons

6.8% Only used cannabis for medical purposes [1]

3 in 5 ambulance attendances for cannabis use in 2021 were **for males**. [8]

Wastewater data analysis indicates average **cannabis consumption** in **regional areas** continued to **exceed** that of **capital cities** in April 2022.[3]



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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.

Findings for gay, lesbian and bisexual people compared with heterosexual people are age-standardised.[1]
Ambulance attendance data are for those aged over 15 years, data includes NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS and ACT. [7]

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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) 2022. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 17. Canberra: ACIC, accessed 7 November 2022.
4. ACIC 2021. Illicit drug data report 2019–20. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 12 November 2021.
5. Sutherland R, Karlsson A, King C, Jones F, Uporova J, Price O, Gibbs D, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Salom C, Grigg J, Wilson Y, Wilson J, Daly C, Thomas N, Juckel J, Degenhardt L, Farrell M and Peacock A. 2022a. [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 Sydney. Viewed 13 October 2022.
6. Sutherland R, Uporova J, King C, Jones F, Karlsson A, Gibbs D, Price O, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Salom C, Daly C, Thomas N, Juckel J, Agramunt S, Wilson Y, Que Noy W, Wilson J, Degenhardt L, Farrell M and Peacock A. 2022. [Australian Drug Trends 2022: Key Findings from the National Illicit Drug Reporting System \(IDRS\) Interviews](#). Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney. Viewed 13 October 2022.
7. AIHW 2022. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report. Cat. No. HSE 250. AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 27 July 2022.
8. AIHW analysis of the National Ambulance Surveillance System, Monash University, Turning Point.

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

