



In 2015, **alcohol** was the **sixth highest risk factor** contributing to the **burden of disease** in Australia (4.5% of total burden).<sup>[1]</sup>



There were **1,317 alcohol-induced deaths** recorded in 2019.<sup>[2]</sup>

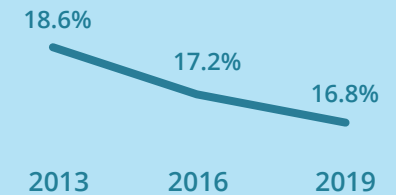


In 2017–18, nearly **4 in 5** Australians aged 18+ **drank alcohol** in the past 12 months.<sup>[3]</sup>



14+ **lifetime risky drinking** (drinking on average more than 2 standard drinks per day) has **declined**.<sup>[4]</sup>

Lifetime risky drinking



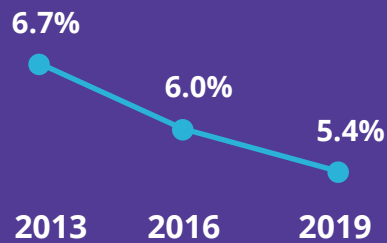
On average, Australian households spent **\$32 on alcoholic beverages per week** in 2015–16.<sup>[6]</sup>



In 2017–18 over **2 in 5** adults 18+ consumed more than 4 standard drinks in one occasion, **exceeding single occasion risk guidelines**.<sup>[3]</sup>



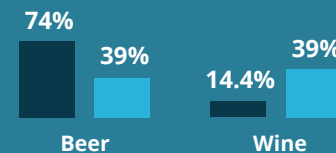
The proportion of adults aged 14+ **drinking daily** continued to decline.<sup>[4]</sup>



In 2017–18, there was an average of **2.72 standard drinks per day**, available for consumption per alcohol consumer aged 15 and over.<sup>[5]</sup>



Between **1967–68** and **2017–18**, apparent consumption of beer decreased while apparent consumption of wine increased.<sup>[5]</sup>



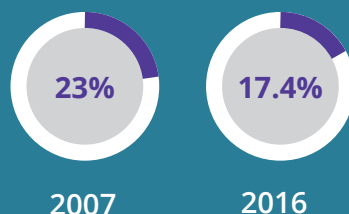
Wastewater data analysis indicates that **alcohol was one of the most commonly detected** substances, with higher consumption in regional areas than capital cities in 2020.<sup>[7]</sup>



People living in **Remote and very remote areas** were about **1.5x as likely** than those in Major cities to exceed lifetime and single occasion risk guidelines (at least monthly) in 2019.<sup>[9]</sup>



Recent drinkers undertaking risky activities while under the influence of alcohol continued to decline.<sup>[4]</sup>

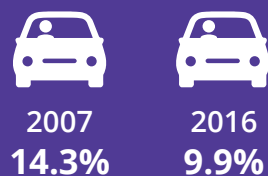


In 2019–20, alcohol was the most **common principal drug of concern** for which clients sought alcohol and other drug treatment services (34% of closed treatment episodes).<sup>[8]</sup>

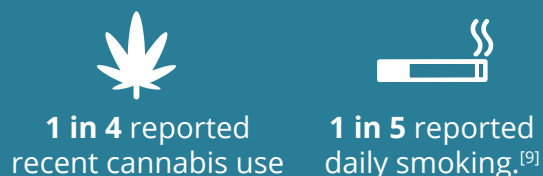
Alcohol was the only drug where **approval of regular use** by an adult was **higher than disapproval** (45% approved and 21% disapproved).<sup>[9]</sup>



**Driving a motor vehicle** was the most likely risky activity undertaken while **under the influence of alcohol** in 2016.<sup>[4]</sup>



In 2019, of **single occasion and lifetime risky drinkers**:



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. New [Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol](#) were released in December 2020. Data for alcohol risk in this fact sheet are measured against the 2009 guidelines, reflecting the time period in which the data were collected.<sup>[4]</sup>

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. [Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2015](#). Australian Burden of Disease Study series no.19. BOD 22. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 13 June 2019.
2. AIHW analysis of the National Mortality Database 2019.
3. ABS 2018. [National Health survey, first results, 2017–18](#). ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 21 December 2018.
4. AIHW analysis of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016.

5. ABS 2019. [Apparent consumption of alcohol, Australia, 2017–18](#). ABS cat. no. 4307.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 10 September 2019.
6. ABS 2017. [Household Expenditure survey, Australia: summary of results, 2015–16](#). ABS cat. no. 6530.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 4 January 2018.
7. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2021. [National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 12](#). Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 1 March 2021.
8. AIHW 2021. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2019–20](#). Cat. no. HSE 250. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 25 June 2021.
9. AIHW 2020. [National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019](#). Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 4 August 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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better decisions,  
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