



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

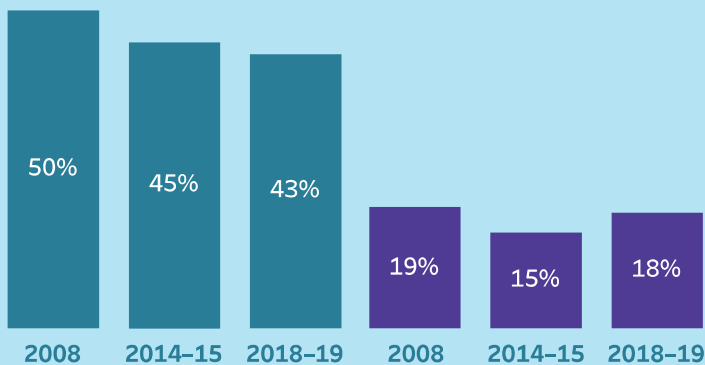
In 2018, tobacco use accounted for **11.9%** of the burden of disease for Indigenous Australians. [1]

Smoking rates for Indigenous Australians aged 18 and over:

- **Non-remote areas declined** from 55% in 1994 to 40% in 2018–19.
- **Remote areas rose slightly** from 54% in 1994 to 59% in 2018–19. [6,7]



Indigenous smoking and lifetime risky drinking: [5,7]



In the last 12 months in 2019:

- **1 in 10** Indigenous Australians **consumed 11 or more standard drinks** at least once a month
- Almost **1 in 4** used any **illicit drug**
- **16%** used **cannabis**
- **7%** used a **pharmaceutical for non-medical use**
- **2.9%** used **meth/amphetamines**. [2]

In 2021–22, **18%** of clients of **alcohol and other drug treatment services** aged 10 and over were Indigenous Australians. [3]

In 2014–15, of Indigenous Australians with a **mental health condition**:

- Almost **1 in 2** were **daily smokers**
- About **2 in 5** have **used substances**. [5]



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Indigenous Australians aged 14+ were **slightly more likely to abstain from drinking alcohol** than non-Indigenous in 2019.^[2]

43% of Indigenous mothers **reported smoking** at some time during **pregnancy** in 2020, down from 49% in 2010.^[4]



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. ^[2]

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2021) Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2018, AIHW, Australian Government. doi:10.25816/5ps1-j259
2. AIHW 2020. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 16 July 2020.
3. AIHW 2023. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia early insights report 2021–22. Cat. No. HSE 242. AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 14 April 2023.
4. AIHW 2022b. Australia's mothers and babies, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 25 July 2022.
5. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2016. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014–15. ABS cat. no. 4714.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 14 December 2017.
6. ABS 2017. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Smoking Trends, Australia, 1994 to 2014–15. ABS cat. no. 4737.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 25 October 2017.
7. ABS 2019. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19. ABS cat. no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 8 January 2020.

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