

ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2015-16



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INTELLIGENCE
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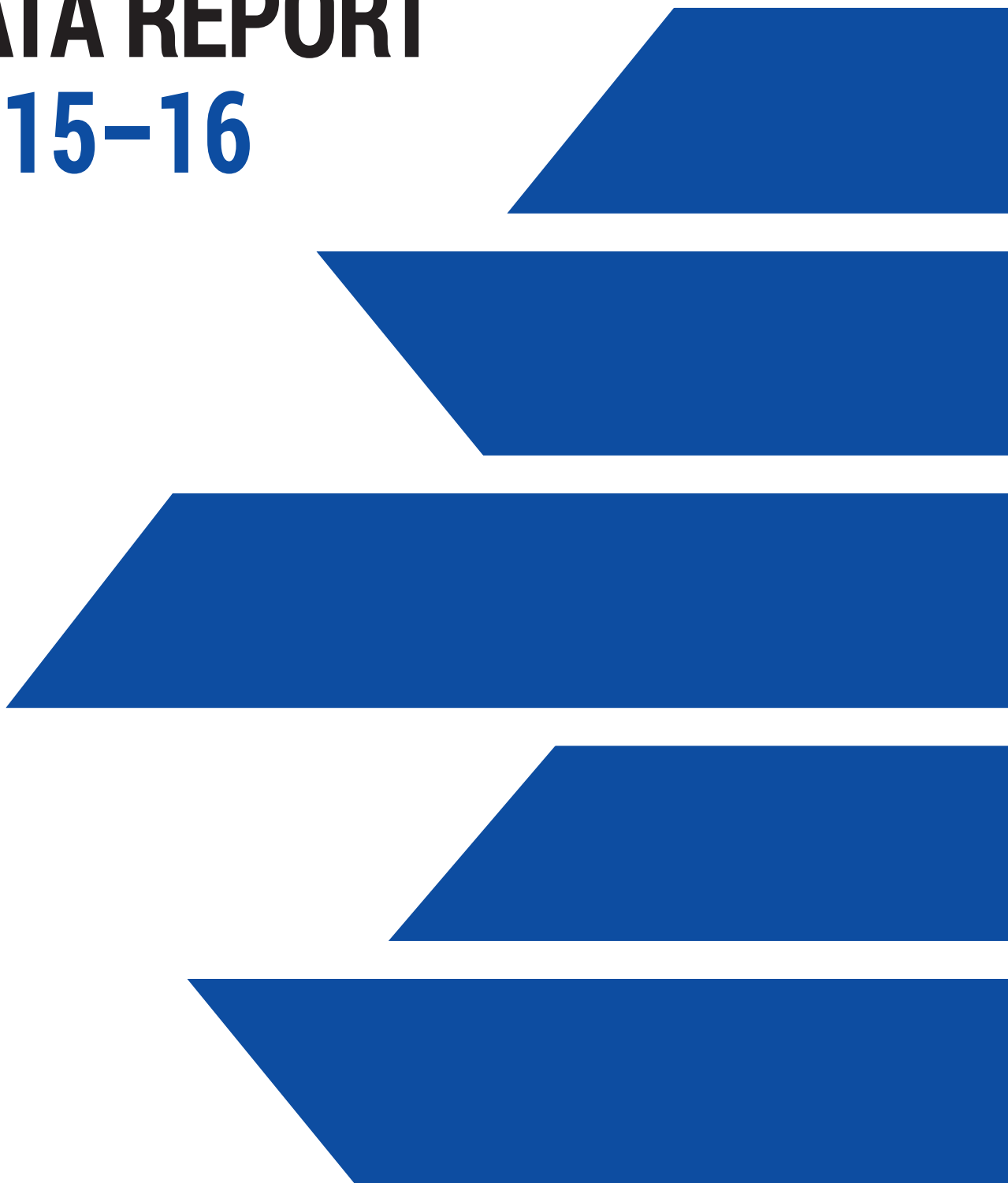
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ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2015-16



CEO FOREWORD

CHRIS DAWSON APM



The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's annual *Illicit Drug Data Report* is a flagship product which informs Australia's understanding of the illicit drug threat. In its 14th edition, the report contributes to our collective response efforts by providing an authoritative picture of the illicit drug environment in Australia.

The illicit drug market continues to evolve and diversify, presenting new and unique challenges for law enforcement, policymakers and the community. The threat and harm posed by illicit drugs to the Australian community is ever-growing and we need to continue to work collaboratively to combat both the supply and demand for illicit drugs in Australia.

Serious and organised criminals are at the centre of Australia's illicit drug market, motivated by greed, power and profit. We know that serious and organised crime groups continue to generate significant profits from the sale of illicit substances, with the price paid for illicit drugs in Australia among the highest in the world. As such, the importation, manufacture, cultivation and distribution of illicit drugs and related precursors in Australia remain a focal point of Government, law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Given the transnational nature of serious and organised crime, our relationships with national and international partners are more important than ever before, as we work together to target illicit drug importation, production and distribution.

Serious and organised criminals, as well as other motivated individuals, use various importation streams to circulate illicit drugs. As in previous reporting periods, the international mail stream accounts for the greatest proportion of the number of illicit drug detections at

the Australian border, while the importation stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs detected varies across drug type. The international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of MDMA and cocaine detected at the Australian border this reporting period, with the air cargo stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis and heroin detected and the sea cargo stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA) detected.

The online environment presents unique challenges for law enforcement. With the ever-expanding variety of goods for sale online, the internet has created a global market for illicit commodities that exploits anonymity and virtual currencies. These transactions can occur anywhere in the world and may be undertaken by serious and organised criminals or other individuals, changing the way illicit drug transactions take place. Drug transactions involving online suppliers in other countries invariably involve delivery through international mail streams, and this contributes to the large number of detections. The online environment has also enabled the creation of online criminal forums and marketplaces (often referred to as 'darknets'), which enable information sharing and the trade of illicit services and commodities, both domestically and internationally.

In 2015–16, new records were set for the greatest number of national illicit drug seizures and arrests. Other records from this reporting period include:

- 39,014 national amphetamine-type stimulant seizures
- 47,625 national amphetamine-type stimulant arrests
- 7,504 cannabis detections at the Australian border
- 61,334 national cannabis seizures
- 79,643 national cannabis arrests
- 2,777 cocaine detections at the Australian border
- 3,951 national cocaine seizures
- 2,592 national cocaine arrests
- 586 GHB, GBL and ketamine detections at the Australian border
- 1,297 national steroid arrests
- the greatest ever weight of hallucinogens seized nationally
- the highest ever number of national hallucinogen arrests
- record numbers of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures and arrests.

These upward trends not only highlight the continued vigilance of law enforcement in reducing the supply of all illicit drugs; they also highlight why illicit drugs continue to be a concern for law enforcement and the wider community and the ongoing need to reduce demand.

Illicit drug use cannot be addressed by law enforcement alone—a multi-faceted approach is needed. Findings from the *Illicit Drug Data Report*, in conjunction with those of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, Drug Use Monitoring in

Australia and research, including the National Research Centres of Excellence, inform our understanding and assist in focusing our collective efforts to respond to the issue of illicit drugs.

This report brings together illicit drug data from a variety of sources including law enforcement, forensic services, health and academia. Data to inform the *Illicit Drug Data Report 2015–16* was provided by all Australian state and territory police agencies, the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Australian Border Force, the Australian Institute of Criminology, forensic laboratories and the Department of Health.

Understanding trends and emerging issues in the illicit drug market, both nationally and at a state and territory level, gives the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and our partners an opportunity to shape the response to both demand and supply, particularly in high-use areas. The statistics in the report will inform prioritisation and decision-making as we continue to collectively discover, understand and respond to the threat and harm caused by illicit drugs.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to this report. Without your valued contributions it would not be possible to understand the complex and evolving illicit drug market in Australia.



Chris Dawson APM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

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This report contains data and analysis provide by federal, state and territory police, as well as forensic laboratories and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.¹ Police and forensic data managers contributed significantly to improving this report’s data quality. Their expertise and experience, along with their continued support, have been invaluable to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Key contributors are listed below:

- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence
- Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing
- Australian Institute of Criminology, Drug Use Monitoring in Australia Program
- ChemCentre
- Department of Health
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania
- Forensic Science South Australia
- National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program
- New South Wales Ministry of Health, Health System Information and Performance Reporting
- New South Wales Police Force
- Northern Territory Police
- NSW Forensic & Analytical Science Service
- Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police.

¹ Further information about the data, jurisdictional issues and explanatory notes is contained in the *Statistics* chapter.

INTRODUCTION

The *Illicit Drug Data Report* is the only report of its type in Australia, providing governments, law enforcement agencies and interested stakeholders with a national picture of the illicit drug market. This report provides the data necessary to assess current and future illicit drug trends and offers a brief analysis of those trends.

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission collects data annually from all state and territory police services, the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, state and territory forensic laboratories and research centres. The illicit drug data collected and presented in this report for the 2015–16 financial year include:

- arrest
- detection
- seizure
- purity
- profiling
- price.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistics and analysis to assist decision-makers in developing illicit drug supply and harm reduction strategies. The data also assists the Australian Government to meet national and international reporting obligations.

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission applies the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) to standardise the arrest, seizure and purity data received from each law enforcement agency and other contributing organisations. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has recently undertaken an enhancement of the NIDRF system to further develop its capability, with the enhanced NIDRF system used to process data for the 2015–16 report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) *Illicit Drug Data Report 2015–16* provides a snapshot of the Australian illicit drug market. The report presents illicit drug data from a variety of sources including law enforcement, health and academia. The Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) is the only report of its type in Australia and provides an important evidence base to assist decision makers in the development of strategies to combat the threat posed by illicit drugs.

There were numerous instances of record detections at the Australian border this reporting period, with the number of cannabis, cocaine, gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and ketamine detections in 2015–16 the highest on record. The international mail stream continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number of illicit drug detections at the Australian border, while the importation stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs detected varies across drug type. The sea cargo importation stream accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS excluding MDMA) detected in 2015–16. The international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of MDMA and cocaine detected this reporting period, with the air cargo stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis and heroin detected in 2015–16.

The number of national illicit drug seizures has increased 84.7 per cent over the last decade, from 62 496 in 2006–07 to a record 115 421 in 2015–16. The number of illicit drug seizures increased 9.0 per cent this reporting period from the 105 862 reported in 2014–15. This reporting period cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures, followed by ATS, other and unknown drugs, cocaine and heroin and other opioids.

The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally has increased 78.6 per cent over the last decade, from 11.7 tonnes in 2006–07 to 21.0 tonnes in 2015–16, the fourth highest weight on record. The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally decreased 10.8 per cent this reporting period from the 23.5 tonnes reported in 2014–15. This reporting period ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally, followed by cannabis, other and unknown drugs, cocaine and heroin and other opioids.

The number of national illicit drug arrests has increased 87.6 per cent over the last decade, from 82 389 in 2006–07 to a record 154 538 in 2015–16. National illicit drug arrests increased 15.4 per cent this reporting period from the 133 926 arrests reported in 2014–15. This reporting period cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests, followed by ATS, other and unknown drugs, heroin and other opioids and cocaine.

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally has increased 61.5 per cent over the last decade, from 356 in 2006–07 to 575 in 2015–16. The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased 13.8 per cent this reporting period from the 667 laboratory detections in 2014–15. Methylamphetamine remains the main drug produced in laboratories detected nationally. The majority of clandestine laboratories detected in Australia continue to be addict-based and located in residential areas.

Wastewater analysis has become the standard for measuring population-scale consumption of a range of different chemical compounds. Following on from recommendations from the National Ice Taskforce and National Ice Action Strategy, the Commonwealth Minister for Justice approved \$3.6 million over three years from the Commonwealth Confiscated Assets Account for the ACIC to develop a national program to monitor drug consumption through wastewater analysis. This program of sampling and analysis is known as the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP).²

Wastewater analysis conducted in the latter half of 2016 as part of the NWDMP measured the presence of 13 substances across 51 sites nationally.³ Alcohol and tobacco consumption was the highest of all substances tested in all states and territories. Of the illicit substances, methylamphetamine consumption was highest by some margin. Regional, capital city and national average MDMA consumption levels were almost identical. Cocaine consumption was consistently higher in capital city sites compared to regional sites. Oxycodone consumption in numerous regional sites was well above capital city levels, with the national regional average almost double the national capital and national averages. Consumption of the four new psychoactive substances (JWH-018, JWH-073, mephedrone and methylone) remains small in comparison with traditional illicit drugs.

Within an Australian police detainee population, both the proportion of detainees testing positive for methylamphetamine and the self-reported use of methylamphetamine in the 12 months preceding interview overtook cannabis to become the most commonly detected and reported illicit drug used by police detainees in 2015–16. Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive for MDMA has remained low, with the proportion of detainees self-reporting MDMA use increasing for the second consecutive reporting period in 2015–16. The proportion of detainees testing positive for cannabis and the self-reported use of cannabis in the 12 months preceding interview has remained relatively stable over the last decade. The proportion of detainees testing positive for heroin has almost halved since 2006–07, with the 5.7 per cent reported in 2015–16 the lowest proportion reported in the last decade. The proportion of detainees self-reporting heroin use this reporting period also remains low. While cocaine continues to be one of the least commonly detected drugs among detainees, the proportion of detainees self-reporting cocaine use in the last 12 months increased for the fourth consecutive reporting period in 2015–16.

2 The public NWDMP reports are available on the ACIC website. See <https://www.acic.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1491/f/national_wastewater_drug_monitoring_program_report_1_0.pdf?v=1490333695>.

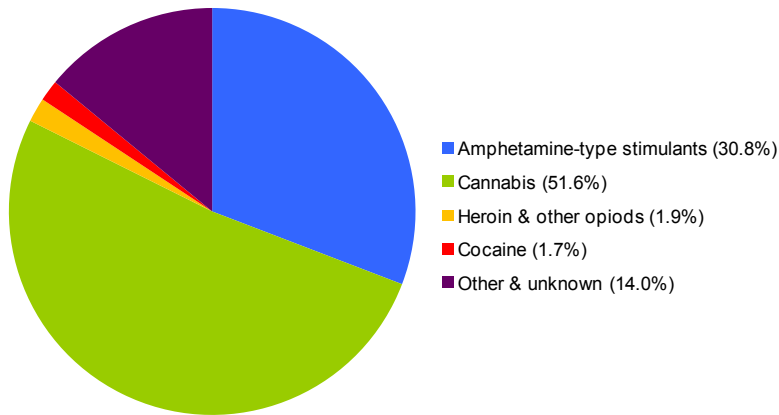
3 Threshold levels are substance dependent and will vary accordingly. Refer to the NWDMP report for further information on detection levels and whether it was possible to measure all substances. The 13 substances are methylamphetamine, amphetamine, cocaine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), JWH-018, JWH-073, mephedrone, methylone, oxycodone, fentanyl, tobacco and alcohol.

KEY FINDINGS 2015–16

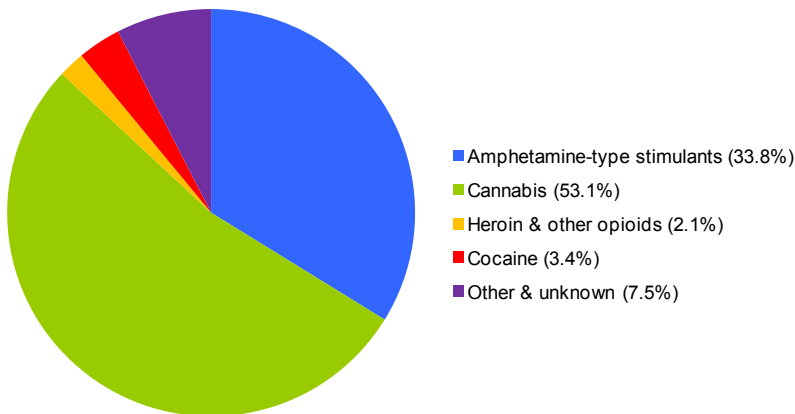
- The number of detections of cannabis, cocaine, GBL, GHB and ketamine at the Australian border are the highest on record.
- Drug profiling of border and national methylamphetamine seizures indicates the continued prominence of methylamphetamine manufactured from ephedrine/pseudoephedrine.
- Drug profiling of border and national heroin seizures indicates the continued prominence of South-East Asia as a source region for heroin in Australia, with South-East Asia the sole region identified for analysed heroin border seizures in the first six months of 2016.
- Drug profiling of border and national cocaine seizures indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine in Australia.
- According to findings from the March 2017 NWDMP Report, methylamphetamine consumption was the highest across all regions of Australia amongst the illicit drugs measured.
- Methylamphetamine overtook cannabis to become the most commonly detected and reported illicit drug used by police detainees in 2015–16.
- The number of national illicit drug seizures and arrests are the highest on record.
- The number of national ATS, cannabis, cocaine and other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures are the highest on record.
- The number of national heroin seizures is the highest reported in the last decade.
- The weight of hallucinogens seized nationally is the highest on record.
- The number of national ATS, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogen and other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests are the highest on record.
- The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased for the fourth consecutive reporting period. Of those able to be classified, the majority of detected laboratories continue to be addict-based using basic equipment and simple procedures, predominately located in residential areas and producing methylamphetamine.

The following charts provide an overview of the Australian illicit drug market in 2015–16.

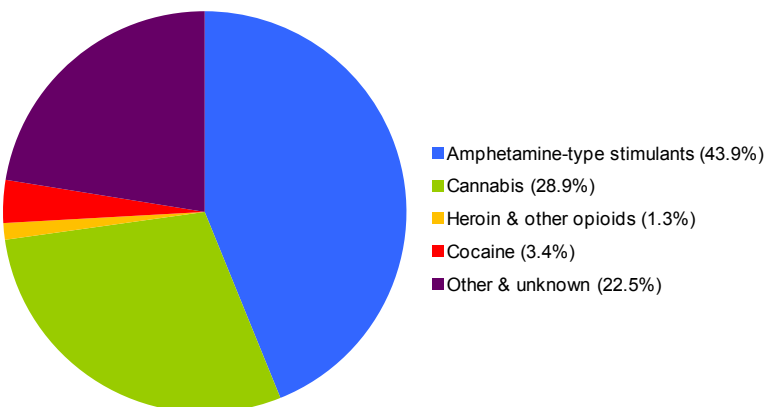
Arrests, 2015–16



Seizures by number, 2015–16

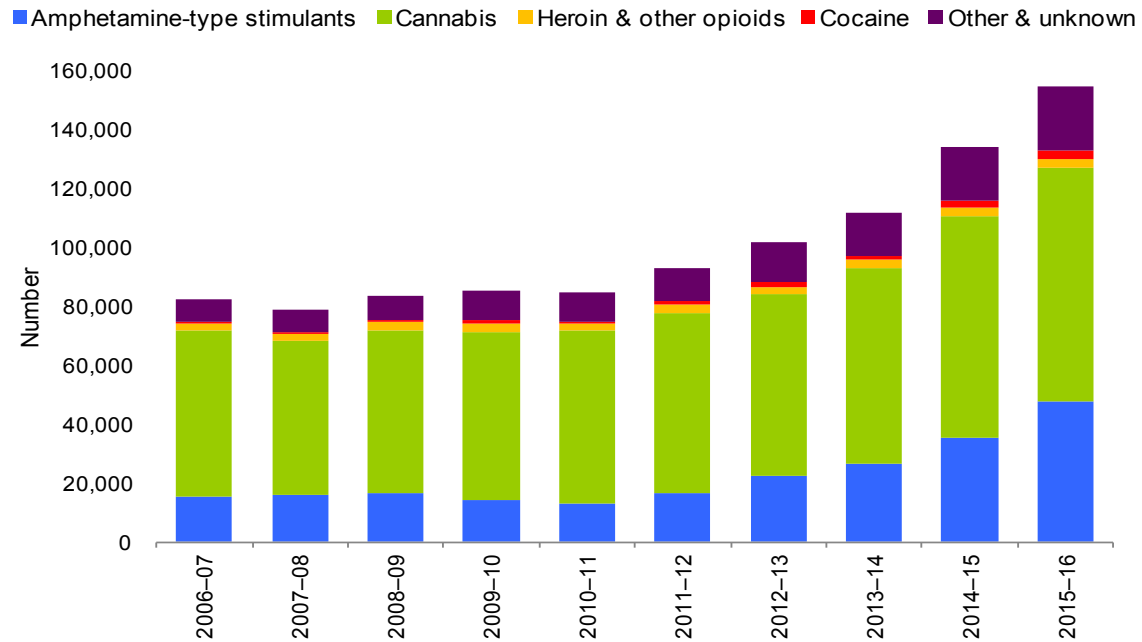


Seizures by weight, 2015–16



The following charts provide an overview of changes in the national illicit drug market in the last decade.

National illicit drug arrests, 2006–07 to 2015–16⁴



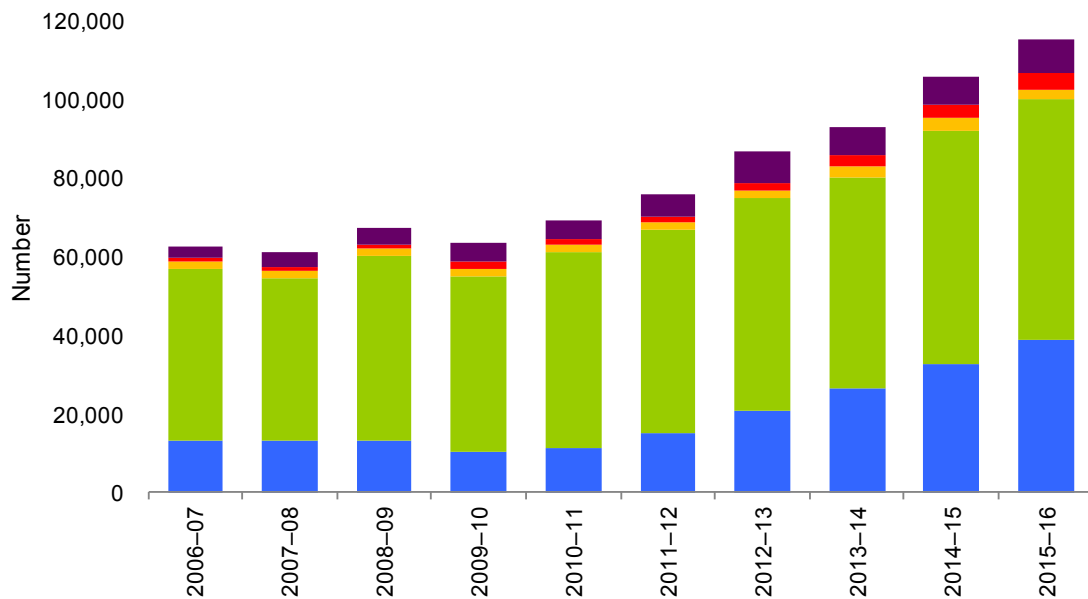
- The number of national illicit drug arrests has increased 87.6 per cent over the last decade, from 82 389 in 2006–07 to a record 154 538 in 2015–16.⁵
- The number of national ATS arrests has increased 213.0 per cent over the last decade, from 15 216 in 2006–07 to a record 47 625 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of national illicit drug arrests related to ATS has increased over the last decade, from 18.5 per cent in 2006–07 to 30.8 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national cannabis arrests has increased 40.1 per cent over the last decade, from 56 862 in 2006–07 to a record 79 643 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of national illicit drug arrests related to cannabis has decreased over the last decade, from 69.0 per cent in 2006–07 to 51.6 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests has increased 37.5 per cent over the last decade, from 2 164 in 2006–07 to 2 975 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of national illicit drug arrests related to heroin and other opioids has decreased over the last decade, from 2.6 per cent in 2006–07 to 1.9 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national cocaine arrests has increased 270.8 per cent over the last decade, from 699 in 2006–07 to a record 2 592 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of national illicit drug arrests related to cocaine has increased over the last decade, from 0.8 per cent in 2006–07 to 1.7 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national other and unknown drug arrests has increased 191.4 per cent over the last decade, from 7 448 in 2006–07 to a record 21 703 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of national illicit drug arrests related to other and unknown drugs has increased over the last decade, from 9.0 per cent in 2006–07 to 14.0 per cent in 2015–16.

⁴ For the first time, offender data provided by South Australia Police in 2015–16 included data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

⁵ While the number of national illicit drug arrests reported in 2015–16 has increased as a consequence of the inclusion of South Australia Police Drug Diversion Program data, arrest numbers would still be at a record high if these records were excluded.

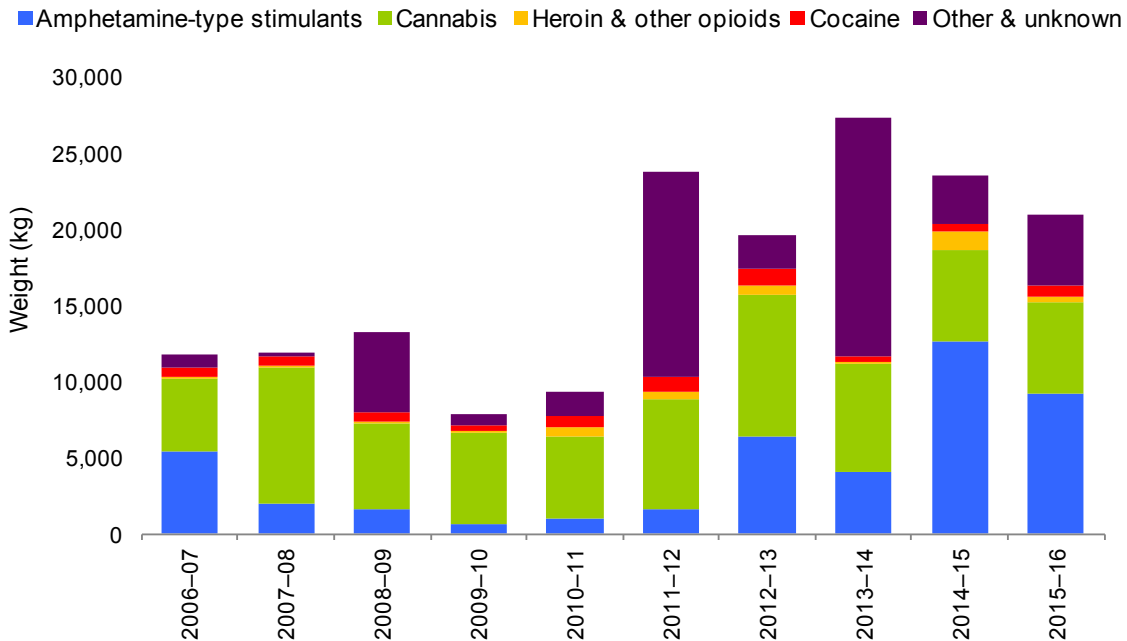
Number of national illicit drug seizures, 2006–07 to 2015–16

■ Amphetamine-type stimulants ■ Cannabis ■ Heroin & other opioids ■ Cocaine ■ Other & unknown



- The number of national illicit drug seizures has increased 84.7 per cent over the last decade, from 62 496 in 2006–07 to a record 115 421 in 2015–16.
- The number of national ATS seizures has increased 194.6 per cent over the last decade, from 13 243 in 2006–07 to a record 39 014 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures related to ATS has increased over the last decade, from 21.2 per cent in 2006–07 to 33.8 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national cannabis seizures has increased 39.9 per cent over the last decade, from 43 842 in 2006–07 to a record 61 334 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures related to cannabis has decreased over the last decade, from 70.2 per cent in 2006–07 to 53.1 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national heroin and other opioid seizures has increased 48.3 per cent over the last decade, from 1 624 in 2006–07 to 2 409 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures related to heroin and other opioids has decreased over the last decade, from 2.6 per cent in 2006–07 to 2.1 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national cocaine seizures has increased 234.0 per cent over the last decade, from 1 183 in 2006–07 to a record 3 951 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures related to cocaine has increased over the last decade, from 1.9 per cent in 2006–07 to 3.4 per cent in 2015–16.
- The number of national other and unknown drug seizures has increased 234.6 per cent over the last decade, from 2 604 in 2006–07 to 8 713 in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures related to other and unknown drugs has increased over the last decade, from 4.2 per cent in 2006–07 to 7.5 per cent in 2015–16.

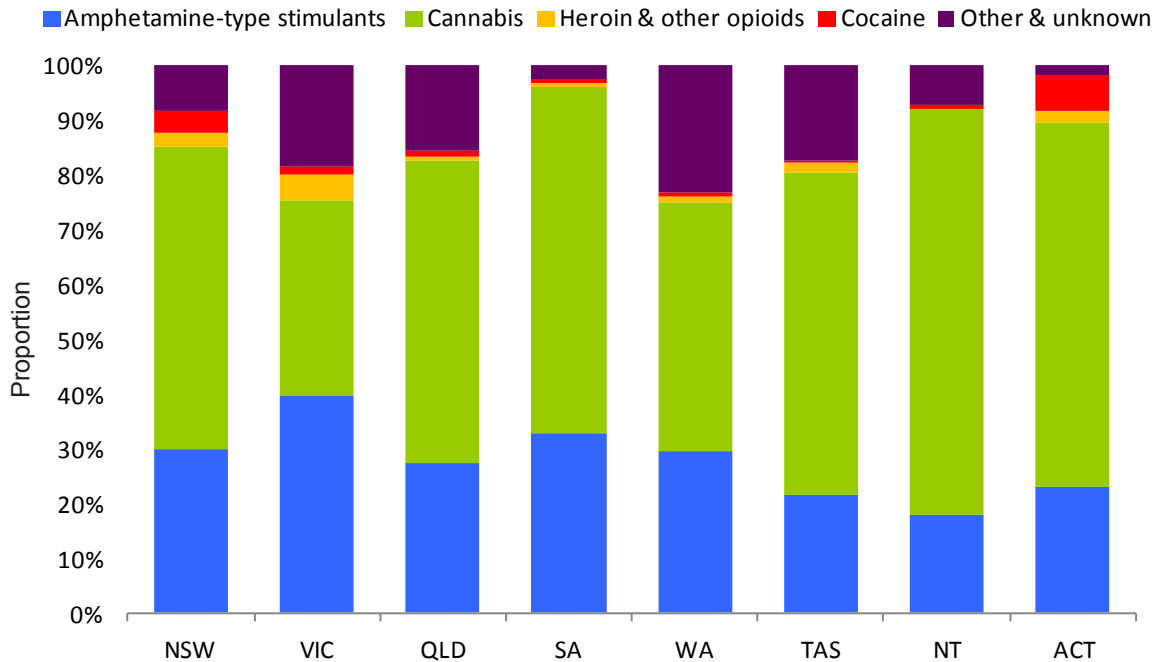
Weight of national illicit drug seizures, 2006–07 to 2015–16



- The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally has fluctuated over the last decade, from a low of 7 851 kilograms in 2009–10 to a record 27 364 kilograms in 2013–14.
- The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally has increased 78.6 per cent over the last decade, from 11 768 kilograms in 2006–07 to 21 020 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The weight of ATS seized nationally has increased 70.2 per cent over the last decade, from 5 415 kilograms in 2006–07 to 9 218 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally related to ATS has decreased over the last decade, from 46.0 per cent in 2006–07 to 43.9 per cent in 2015–16.
- The weight of cannabis seized nationally has increased 27.2 per cent over the last decade, from 4 781 kilograms in 2006–07 to 6 081 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally related to cannabis has decreased over the last decade, from 40.6 per cent in 2006–07 to 28.9 per cent in 2015–16.
- The weight of heroin and other opioids seized nationally has increased 203.3 per cent over the last decade, from 92 kilograms in 2006–07 to 279 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally related to heroin and other opioids has increased over the last decade, from 0.8 per cent in 2006–07 to 1.3 per cent in 2015–16.
- The weight of cocaine seized nationally has increased 13.7 per cent over the last decade, from 634 kilograms in 2006–07 to 721 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally related to cocaine has decreased over the last decade, from 5.4 per cent in 2006–07 to 3.4 per cent in 2015–16.
- The weight of other and unknown drugs seized nationally has increased 459.1 per cent over the last decade, from 844 kilograms in 2006–07 to 4 719 kilograms in 2015–16.
- The proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally related to other and unknown drugs has increased over the last decade, from 7.2 per cent in 2006–07 to 22.5 per cent in 2015–16.

The following charts present national illicit drug arrests and seizures reported in 2015–16 by state and territory and drug type.

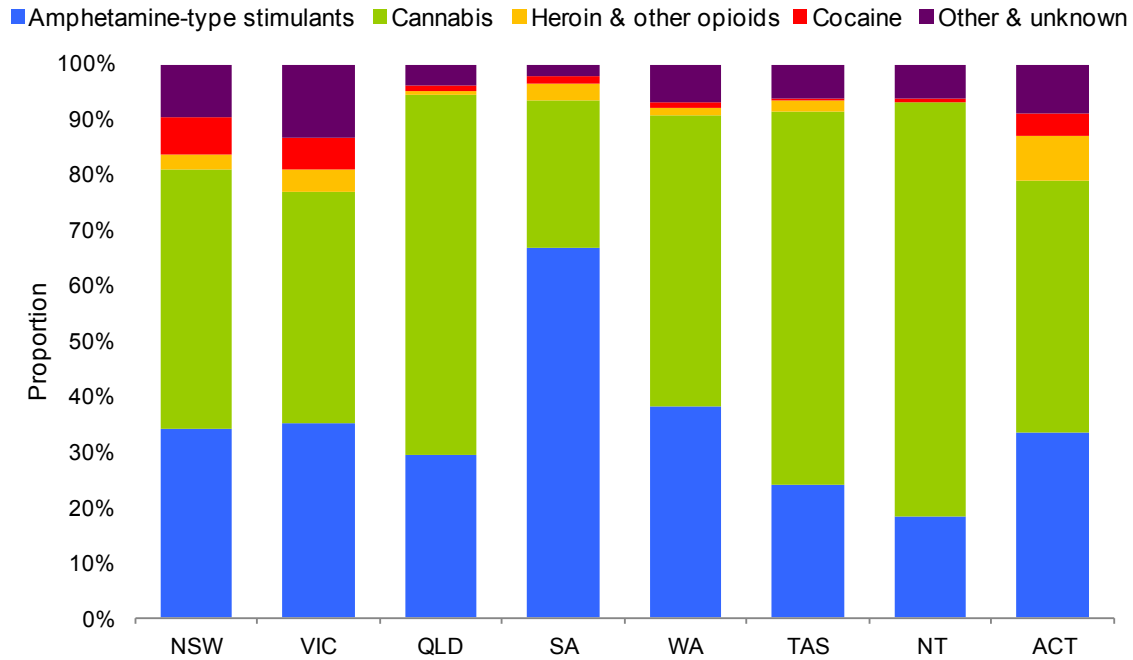
Number of illicit drug arrests as a proportion of total arrests, by state and territory, 2015–16⁶



- With the exception of Victoria where ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of illicit drug arrests this reporting period, cannabis accounted for the majority of illicit drug arrests in all states and territories in 2015–16.
- In Victoria, 39.8 per cent of illicit drug arrests related to ATS, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In the Northern Territory, 74.0 per cent of illicit drug arrests related to cannabis, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In Victoria, 4.7 per cent of illicit drug arrests related to heroin and other opioids, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, 6.9 per cent of illicit drug arrests related to cocaine, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In Western Australia, 23.2 per cent of illicit drug arrests related to other and unknown drugs, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.

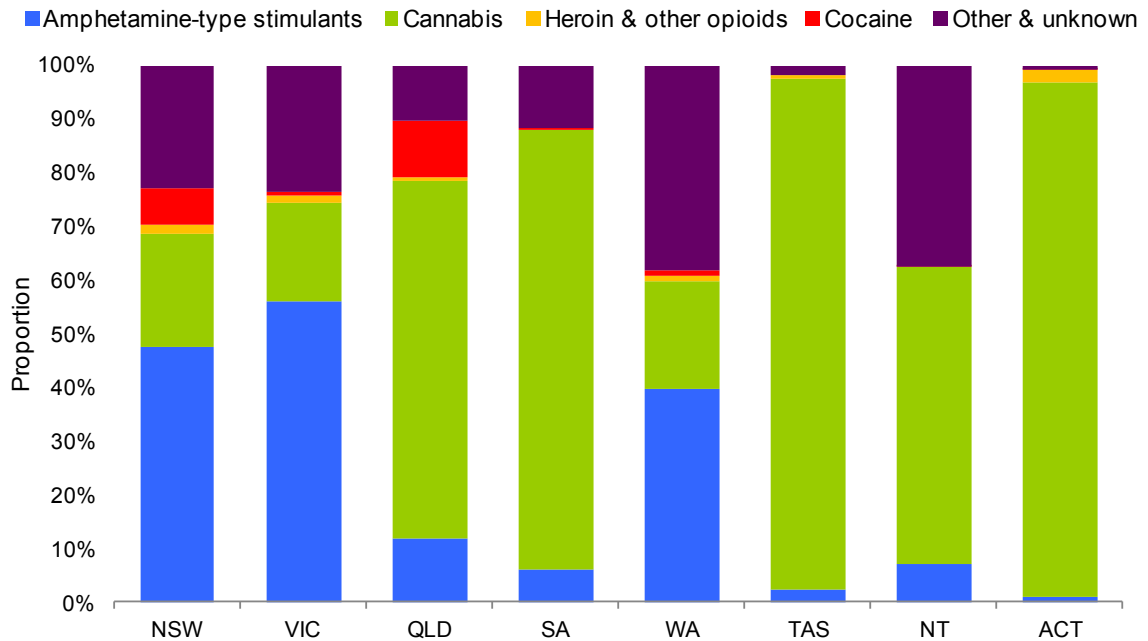
⁶ For the first time, offender data provided by South Australia Police in 2015–16 included data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

Number of illicit drug seizures as a proportion of total seizures, by state and territory, 2015–16



- With the exception of South Australia where ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of illicit drug seizures, cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of illicit drugs seized in all states and territories 2015–16.
- In South Australia, 66.9 per cent of the number of illicit drug seizures related to ATS, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In the Northern Territory, 74.8 per cent of the number of illicit drug seizures related to cannabis, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, 7.9 per cent of the number of illicit drug seizures related to heroin and other opioids, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In New South Wales, 6.7 per cent of the number of illicit drug seizures related to cocaine, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In Victoria, 13.3 per cent of the number of illicit drug seizures related to other and unknown drugs, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.

Weight of illicit drug seizures as a proportion of total weight, by state and territory, 2015–16

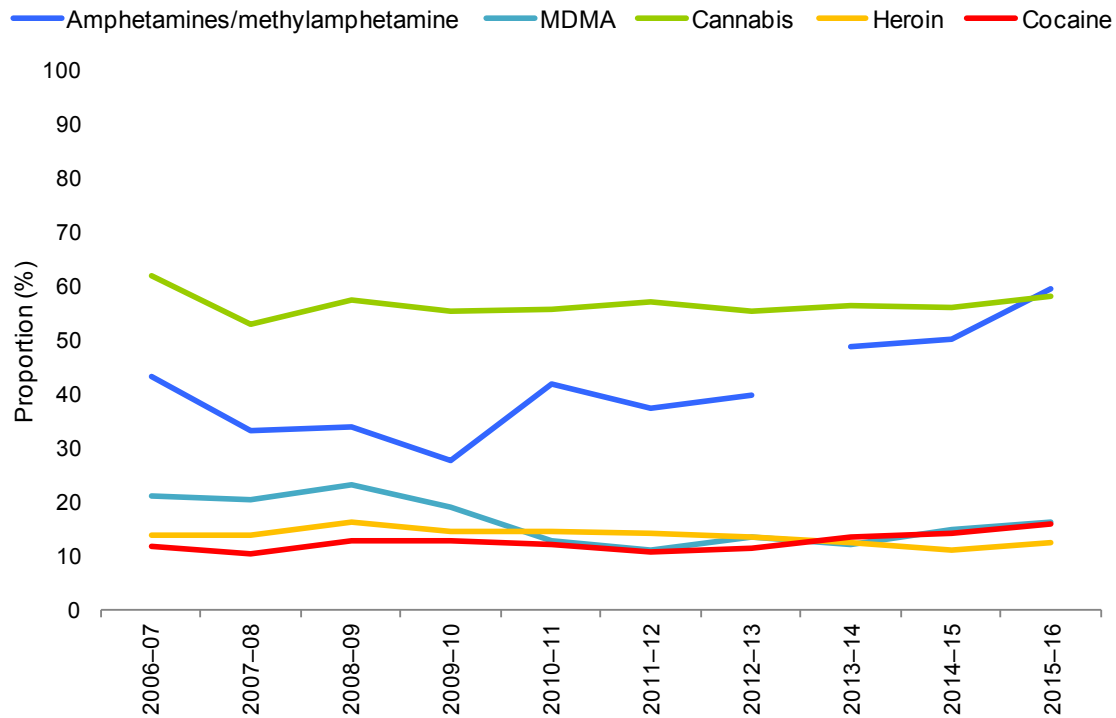


- In 2015–16, ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, with cannabis accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of drugs seized in all other states and territories.
- In Victoria, 56.1 per cent of the weight of illicit drugs seized related to ATS, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.⁷
- In the Australian Capital Territory, 96.0 per cent of the weight of illicit drugs seized related to cannabis, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, 2.3 per cent of the weight of illicit drugs seized related to heroin and other opioids, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In Queensland, 10.8 per cent of the weight of illicit drugs seized related to cocaine, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.
- In Western Australia, 38.3 per cent of the weight of illicit drugs seized related to other and unknown drugs, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2015–16.

⁷ The majority of the weight of ATS seized in Victoria in 2015–16 relates to a small number of significant MDMA seizures.

The following chart provides an overview of self-reported illicit drug use in the 12 months preceding interview in an Australian police detainee population, 2006–07 to 2015–16.

Proportion of detainees who self-reported illicit drug use in the 12 months preceding interview, 2006–07 to 2015–16⁸ (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)



- For the first time the self-reported use of methylamphetamine overtook cannabis to become the most commonly reported illicit drug used by police detainees in the 12 months preceding interview in 2015–16.
- The self-reported use of methylamphetamine by detainees increased this reporting period, from 50.4 per cent in 2014–15 to 59.7 per cent in 2015–16.
- The self-reported use of MDMA by detainees increased this reporting period, from 14.7 per cent in 2014–15 to 16.2 per cent in 2015–16.
- The self-reported use of cannabis by detainees increased this reporting period, from 56.2 per cent in 2014–15 to 58.3 per cent in 2015–16.
- The self-reported use of heroin by detainees increased this reporting period, from 11.1 per cent in 2014–15 to 12.5 per cent in 2015–16.
- The self-reported use of cocaine by detainees increased this reporting period, from 14.2 per cent in 2014–15 to 16.0 per cent in 2015–16, with the reported use of cocaine exceeding that of heroin for the third consecutive reporting period.

⁸ From 2013–14, the self-report question changed from including amphetamine/speed/methylamphetamine to methylamphetamine/speed/ice.

KEY POINTS 2015–16

- The number of national illicit drug seizures has increased 84.7 per cent over the last decade, from 62 496 in 2006–07 to a record 115 421 in 2015–16. The number of national illicit drug seizures increased 9.0 per cent this reporting period from the 105 862 seizures reported in 2014–15.
- The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally has increased over 75.0 per cent over the last decade, from 11.7 tonnes in 2006–07 to 21.0 tonnes in 2015–16. The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally decreased 10.8 per cent this reporting period from the 23.5 tonnes reported in 2014–15 and is the fourth highest weight on record.
- The number of national illicit drug arrests has increased 87.6 per cent over the last decade, from 82 389 in 2006–07 to a record 154 538 in 2015–16. The number of national illicit drug arrests increased 15.4 per cent this reporting period from the 133 926 arrests reported in 2014–15.

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

- While the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border decreased in 2015–16, they are the second highest on record.
- The weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border decreased significantly this reporting period, largely due to a single detection in 2014–15 that weighed 1 917.4 kilograms, accounting for 95.8 per cent of the weight of MDMA detected in 2014–15.
- Drug profiling data of both border and domestic seizures indicates the continued prominence of methylamphetamine manufactured from ephedrine/pseudoephedrine.
- The number of national ATS seizures increased to a record 39 014 in 2015–16. While the weight of ATS seized nationally decreased this reporting period, it is the second highest weight on record.
- There was a record 47 625 national ATS arrests in 2015–16.

CANNABIS

- There was a record 7 504 cannabis detections at the Australian border in 2015–16, the majority of which related to cannabis seeds.
- There was a record 61 334 national cannabis seizures in 2015–16, with the weight of cannabis seized nationally this reporting period remaining relatively stable.
- There was a record 79 643 national cannabis arrests in 2015–16.

HEROIN

- Both the number and weight of heroin detected at the Australian border decreased in 2015–16.
- In the first six months of 2016, heroin profiling data identified South-East Asia as the sole source region of analysed border seizures.
- The weight of heroin seized nationally this reporting period decreased, while the 2 081 national heroin seizures in 2015–16 is the highest reported in the last decade.
- While the number of national heroin arrests decreased in 2015–16, it is the second highest number reported in the last decade.

KEY POINTS 2015–16 (continued)

COCAINE

- There was a record 2 777 cocaine detections at the Australian border in 2015–16.
- Drug profiling data of both border and domestic seizures indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine in Australia.
- There was a record 3 951 national cocaine seizures in 2015–16, with the weight of cocaine seized nationally increasing for the second consecutive reporting period.
- There was a record 2 592 national cocaine arrests in 2015–16.

OTHER DRUGS

- There was a record 586 GHB, GBL and ketamine detections at the Australian border in 2015–16.
- There was a record 1 297 national steroid arrests in 2015–16.
- The weight of hallucinogens seized nationally and the number of national hallucinogen arrests increased to record highs in 2015–16.
- There were record numbers of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures and arrests in 2015–16.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

- The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally continued to decrease this reporting period, with 575 detections in 2015–16.
- Around two-thirds of clandestine laboratory detections in 2015–16 were in residential locations.
- While the majority of detected laboratories continue to be addict-based, the proportion of industrial scale laboratories increased in 2015–16.
- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border decreased in 2015–16, while the weight detected increased.
- Both the number and weight of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border decreased in 2015–16.

INITIATIVES

- The Australian Government Health portfolio continues to work in close partnership with Commonwealth, state and territory health and law enforcement agencies to reduce drug related harms and improve health and social outcomes for people affected by illicit drug use.
- National Research Centres of Excellence continue to enhance law enforcement, health and regulatory agencies' understanding of the nature of Australia's illicit drug markets.
- The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was released on 25 November 2014 and is a comprehensive population-based survey focusing on substance use and related issues.

ABBREVIATIONS

1,4-BD	1,4-butanediol
4-MMC	4-methylmethcathinone
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
AAS	Anabolic-androgenic steroids
ACIC	Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANSPS	Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey
CBD	Cannabidiol
CEN	Cannabis Expiation Notice
CIR	Cannabis Intervention Requirement
COAG	Council of Australian Government
DoH	Department of Health
DIBP	Department of Immigration and Border Protection
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DIN	Drug Infringement Notice
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
EDRS	Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System
EUD	End User Declaration
ENIPID	Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs
Eph	Ephedrine
EPO	Erythropoietin
EU	European Union
FDI	Forensic Drug Intelligence
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
GBL	Gamma-butyrolactone
hCG	Human chorionic gonadotrophin
hGH	Human growth hormone
IDDR	Illicit Drug Data Report
IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
LCCSC	Law, Crime and Community Safety Council
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MDMA	3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine

ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

MEAP	Meth Enforcement Action Plan
NCETA	National Centre on Education and Training on Addiction
NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NDRI	National Drug Research Institute
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NEC	Not elsewhere classified
NIDIP	National Illicit Drug Indicators Project
NIDRF	National Illicit Drug Reporting Format
NMI	National Measurement Institute
NPS	New psychoactive substance
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NWDMP	National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program
PIED	Performance and image enhancing drug
PBS	Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme
P2P	Phenyl-2-propanone
PDDI	Police Drug Diversion Initiative
PICS	Precursors Incident Communication System
PSE	Pseudoephedrine
QLD	Queensland
SOGOC	Senior Officers Group on Organised Crime
SCON	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
UK	United Kingdom
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	United States
USADA	United States Anti-Doping Agency
VIC	Victoria
WWA	Wastewater analysis
WA	Western Australia
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
WCO	World Customs Organization