

## AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

- Internationally, after cannabis ATS are the second most consumed drug worldwide. In 2015, methylamphetamine accounted for around two-thirds of the weight of ATS seized globally.
- Indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia provide a mixed picture, but overall point to a large, relatively stable market in 2016–17.
  - While figures remain high, both the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border decreased for the second consecutive reporting period in 2016–17.
  - Of the drugs tested in the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, methylamphetamine was the most consumed illicit drug in regional and capital city sites.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border increased this reporting period, with the 4 763 detections in 2016–17 the highest on record.
  - Of the substances tested by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, MDMA is one of the least consumed drugs.
  - Consistent with previous reporting periods, drug profiling data of both border and domestic seizures indicates ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain the dominant methylamphetamine precursors.
  - Forensic profiling saw the re-emergence of the Leuckart route of manufacture in 2016. Last recorded in border samples in 2005, the method more commonly identified in methylamphetamine manufacture was identified in MDMA ENIPID samples for the first time.
  - While the number and weight of national ATS seizures decreased this reporting period, they remain high.
  - National ATS arrests remained relatively stable in 2016–17 following five consecutive increases to a record 47 625 reported in 2015–16.

## CANNABIS

- Cannabis is cultivated globally and remains the most frequently used and seized illicit drug worldwide.
- Indicators of cannabis supply and demand in Australia provide a mixed picture, but overall point to a large, relatively stable market in 2016–17. Specifically:
  - There was a record 10 987 cannabis detections at the Australian border in 2016–17.
  - The number of national cannabis seizures decreased this reporting period from a record high in 2015–16, while the weight of cannabis seized in 2016–17 increased.
  - While national cannabis arrests decreased this reporting period, the 77 549 arrests reported in 2016–17 is the second highest on record.

## HEROIN

- The number of global heroin seizures decreased in 2016, while the weight of heroin seized increased. Afghanistan remains the largest cultivator of opium in the world.
  - Drug profiling of both border and domestic seizures indicates the vast majority of heroin in Australia originates from South-East Asia.
- Overall, indicators of heroin supply and demand in Australia point to a small, relatively stable market in 2016–17.
  - Both the number and weight of heroin detected at the Australian border increased in 2016–17.
  - In August 2017 heroin was included in the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program for the first time, with consumption identified in all capital city sites.
  - The number of national heroin seizures decreased in 2016–17, with the weight of heroin seized nationally remaining relatively stable.
  - National heroin and other opioid arrests remained stable in 2016–17.

## COCAINE

- Colombia remains the largest cultivator of coca in the world. The weight of cocaine seized globally has continued to increase and is at record levels.
  - Drug profiling data of both border and domestic seizures indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine in Australia.
- Indicators of cocaine supply and demand in Australia point to a potential expansion of the market in 2016–17.
  - Both the number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased to record levels in 2016–17.
  - The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program identified cocaine consumption in capital city and regional sites in all states and territories, with average consumption increasing between August 2016 and August 2017.
  - Both the number and weight of cocaine seized nationally in 2016–17 are the highest on record, with a six-fold increase in the weight of cocaine seized this reporting period.
  - National cocaine arrests increased for the sixth consecutive reporting period to a record 3 366 in 2016–17.

## CLAN LABS AND PRECURSORS

- Many countries produce and trade chemicals that can be diverted for use in illicit drug manufacture. Preventing the diversion of precursors, reagents and solvents used in illicit drug manufacture is an effective and efficient way of limiting the supply of illicit drugs.
- Indicators of domestic drug production provide a mixed picture.
  - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased for the fifth consecutive reporting period in 2016–17.
  - Around half of the clandestine laboratories detected nationally in 2016–17 were addict-based, with other small scale and medium seized laboratories accounting for an increasing proportion of detections this reporting period.
  - Both the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border increased in 2016–17.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border decreased in 2016–17.

## OTHER DRUGS

- Many of the drugs and substances categorised as other drugs have both licit and illicit uses and may be lawfully or illegally produced. They reflect diverse and complex markets, both domestically and internationally.
- Globally the non-medical use of prescription drugs, particularly opioids, is a growing issue, with fentanyl use a significant concern.
  - Statistics in the United States indicate fatalities caused by fentanyl and other synthetic opioids exceeded heroin overdose fatalities in 2016.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, estimated average consumption of fentanyl and oxycodone remained relatively stable between August 2016 and August 2017, with consumption of both drugs higher in regional sites than capital city sites.
- Indicators of demand and supply for other drugs in Australia provide a mixed picture.
  - In 2016–17 the number of detections of PIEDs at the Australian border decreased, although the overall number of PIED detections has remained relatively stable since 2013–14. Decreases were also reported for national steroid seizures and arrests in 2016–17.
  - There was a record number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border in 2016–17, the majority of which relate to LSD.
  - The number of national hallucinogen seizures and arrests and the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased to record levels in 2016–17.
  - The number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border almost doubled this reporting period to a record 1 151 detections in 2016–17, the majority of which relate to ketamine.
  - Forensic profiling of NPS indicate cathinone-type substances accounted for the greatest proportion of the number, with amphetamine-type substances accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of analysed samples in 2016–17.
  - There was a record number of national seizures and arrests of other and unknown drugs in 2016–17.