

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

- The weight of ATS seized globally increased around 20 per cent from 2015 to 2016.
 - While methylamphetamine comprised the majority of global ATS seizures, increases were also recorded in the weight of amphetamine and MDMA seized.
- Indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia provide a mixed picture. While there is variation within different types of ATS, the indicators point to a large, relatively stable market.
 - While the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border continued to decrease in 2017–18, the weight detected increased to the second highest reported in the last decade.
 - While the number of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased this reporting period, the weight detected in 2017–18 increased and is the second highest reported in the last decade.
 - Drug profiling data of analysed border and domestic seizures indicate ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain the predominant methylamphetamine precursors.
 - The number of national ATS seizures remained high and relatively stable this reporting period, with the 11.2 tonnes of ATS seized in 2017–18 the second highest weight on record.
 - While the number of national ATS arrests decreased this reporting period, the 44,887 ATS arrests in 2017–18 is the third highest on record.
 - Amphetamines continue to account for the greatest proportion of national ATS seizures and arrests.
 - Of the substances tested by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, methylamphetamine was the most consumed illicit drug in regional and capital city sites, with MDMA one of the least consumed drugs.

- Using data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the ACIC estimates more than 9.8 tonnes of methylamphetamine and more than 1.1 tonnes of MDMA is consumed in Australia each year, with the estimated weight of methylamphetamine consumed nationally increasing from the first to the second year of the program, while the estimated weight of MDMA consumed nationally decreased.

COCAINE

- Colombia continues to be the main producer of cocaine in the world, with production expanding in 2015–16. Domestic profiling indicates that while there has been an increase in cocaine samples from Peru, Colombia continues to be the main source of cocaine detected in Australia.
- Indicators of cocaine supply and demand point to an expansion of the market in Australia.
 - While the number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased this reporting period, they remain comparatively high.
 - There was a record number of national cocaine seizures in 2017–18. While the weight of cocaine seized nationally more than halved this reporting period, it is the second highest weight recorded in the last decade.
 - There was a record number of national cocaine arrests in 2017–18.
 - Using data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the ACIC estimates more than 4.1 tonnes of cocaine is consumed in Australia each year, with the estimated weight of cocaine consumed nationally increasing from the first to the second year of the program.

CANNABIS

- Although the weight of cannabis seized globally decreased from 2015 to 2016, it remained the most seized drug in the world in 2016.
 - While cannabis herb continues to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized globally, the weight of cannabis herb seized in 2016 decreased, whereas the weight of resin seized increased.
- Indicators of cannabis supply and demand in Australia provide a mixed picture, but overall point to a large, relatively stable market.
 - The number and weight of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased this reporting period, with the number of cannabis detections in 2017–18 the highest on record and the weight detected the highest recorded in the last decade.
 - Cannabis oil accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis detected at the Australian border this reporting period, with a single cannabis oil detection accounting for around one fifth of the weight of cannabis detected in 2017–18.
 - While the number of national cannabis seizures continued to decrease in 2017–18, the weight of cannabis seized nationally increased for the third consecutive reporting period and is the second highest weight recorded in the last decade.
 - The number of national cannabis arrests decreased for the second consecutive reporting period in 2017–18.

HEROIN

- Global opium cultivation and heroin production increased between 2016 and 2017, with increases in the number and weight of heroin seized globally. Afghanistan remains the largest cultivator of opium in the world.
 - Drug profiling of both border and domestic seizures indicates that the vast majority of heroin seized in Australia originated in South-East Asia; however, there is an increase in the proportion of domestic seizures originating from South-West Asia.
- Overall, indicators of heroin supply and demand in Australia suggest the market remains small and relatively stable.
 - The number of heroin detections at the Australian border increased in 2017–18, while the weight detected decreased.
 - Both the number and weight of heroin seized nationally increased in 2017–18, with the number of seizures the second highest on record.
 - The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased in 2017–18 and is the second highest recorded in the last decade.
 - Using data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the ACIC estimates that 750 kilograms of heroin is consumed in Australia each year, with the estimated weight of heroin consumed nationally decreasing from the first to the second year of the program.

OTHER DRUGS

- While substances which comprise the other drugs category have smaller supply and demand trends than other traditional illicit drugs, they represent diverse and dynamic markets, and include substances with very high harm potential.
- Indicators of demand and supply for other drugs in Australia in 2017–18 provide a mixed picture.
 - The number of detections of PIEDs at the Australian border decreased. The number of national steroid seizures and arrests also decreased, with the weight of steroids seized nationally increasing this reporting period.
 - The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border decreased—the majority of which were LSD. The number and weight of national hallucinogen seizures also decreased this reporting period, while the number of national hallucinogen arrests increased.
 - The number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border decreased. While the majority of border detections this reporting period related to ketamine, other indicators—including the number of clandestine laboratories—point to a potential expansion of the GBL/GHB market.
 - The weight of other opioids seized nationally increased.
 - Forensic profiling of NPS indicate that while cathinone-type substances have traditionally accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of analysed border seizures, amphetamine-type substances accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number and weight this reporting period.
 - There was a record number of national other and unknown drug arrests. The number of national other and unknown drug seizures remained relatively stable this reporting period, while the related weight seized increased.

CLAN LABS AND PRECURSORS

- Many countries produce and trade chemicals that can be diverted for use in illicit drug manufacture.
 - While there are ongoing global efforts to prevent the diversion of precursors, reagents and solvents for use in illicit drug manufacture, trends point to an increase in the quantity of precursors seized globally in 2016.
- Indicators of domestic drug production provide a mixed picture.
 - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased for the sixth consecutive reporting period in 2017–18.
 - The majority of clandestine laboratories detected nationally continue to be addict-based and located in residential areas.
 - While the majority of detected laboratories relate to methylamphetamine production, the number of laboratories producing MDMA more than doubled in 2017–18, with the 20 detections this reporting period the highest number reported in the last decade.
 - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL doubled this reporting period, reaching a record 22 laboratories in 2017–18.
 - Although the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border decreased this reporting period, the weight detected increased to record levels in 2017–18 and is more than double the previous record weight detected in 2008–09.
 - The number and weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border decreased for the third consecutive reporting period in 2017–18.