



## AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

- The weight of ATS seized globally continued to increase in 2017—primarily due to increases in the weight of global methylamphetamine seizures.
  - While the weight of global amphetamine seizures decreased and the weight of ecstasy seizures remained stable in 2017, the weight of methylamphetamine seizures increased.
  - Methylamphetamine accounted for the majority of global ATS seizures in 2017.
- Drug profiling data of analysed border and domestic seizures indicate that ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain key methylamphetamine precursors, however the proportion of methylamphetamine seizures manufactured using P2P-based methods has increased in recent years.
- Several indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia suggest that the markets for both methylamphetamine and MDMA are expanding:
  - While the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19, the weight detected increased and is the highest weight on record.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border increased in 2018–19, with the weight detected the highest reported in the last decade.
  - Data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program indicate that the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in capital city and regional sites, and MDMA consumption in regional sites, increased from August 2018 to August 2019.



## CANNABIS

- Cannabis continues to be one of the largest illicit drug markets globally and remained the most seized drug in the world in 2017.
  - There was a small increase in the weight of cannabis herb seized in 2017, counterbalanced by a decrease in the weight of cannabis resin seized.
- Indicators of cannabis demand and supply in Australia provide a mixed picture, but overall point to a large and relatively stable market.
  - While the number of cannabis detections at the border decreased this reporting period, the weight of cannabis detected at the Australian border increased in 2018–19 and is the highest weight recorded in the last decade.
  - The number and weight of national cannabis seizures and the number of national cannabis arrests all decreased in 2018–19, but remain high.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis decreased in both capital city and regional sites from August 2018 to August 2019.



## HEROIN

- Global opium cultivation and heroin production decreased in 2018, with Afghanistan remaining the largest cultivator of illicit opium in the world.
  - Drug profiling of both border and domestic seizures indicates the vast majority of heroin seized in Australia originated in South-East Asia.
  - For the first time since 2013, forensic profiling in the first six months of 2019 identified heroin originating from South America, accounting for over 7 per cent of the bulk weight of analysed samples.
- The weight of opiates (including heroin and opium) seized globally reached record levels in 2017.
  - Opium accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of opiates seized globally, while heroin accounted for the greatest proportion of global opiate border seizures.
- Overall, indicators of heroin supply and demand in Australia suggest the heroin market remains small, but has experienced small growth in some areas.
  - The number of heroin detections at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19, while the weight detected increased.
  - While the weight of heroin seized nationally decreased this reporting period, the number of national heroin seizures increased in 2018–19 and is the second highest on record.
  - The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased in 2018–19 and is the second highest reported in the last decade.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin increased in both capital city and regional sites from August 2018 to August 2019, however consumption is low relative to methylamphetamine.



## COCAINE

- The total area under coca bush cultivation and the estimated weight of cocaine produced globally continued to increase in 2017, with the weight of cocaine seized worldwide in 2017 at record levels.
- Colombia produces the majority of the world's cocaine and drug profiling of both border and domestic seizures indicates that the majority of cocaine seized in Australia originates in Colombia.
- Indicators of supply and demand point to a continued expansion of the cocaine market in Australia.
  - While the number of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19, the weight detected increased and is the second highest on record.
  - There was a record number of national cocaine seizures and arrests in 2018–19. While the weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased this reporting period, it is the third highest weight on record.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites from August 2018 to August 2019.



## OTHER DRUGS

Compared to other illicit drug markets in Australia, the illicit markets for substances within the other drugs category are relatively small. However these markets are diverse and dynamic, and include a range of drugs which merit ongoing monitoring in order to identify new trends, as well as emerging areas of potential harm.

Indicators of demand and supply for other drugs in Australia in 2018–19 provide a mixed picture:

- The number of detections of performance and image enhancing drugs at the Australian border remained relatively stable, while the number and weight of national steroid seizures decreased.
- The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border increased and is the second highest on record. Both the number and weight of national hallucinogen seizures decreased, while there was a record number of national hallucinogen arrests.
- There was a record number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border.
- Forensic profiling indicates other NPS accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of analysed border seizures this reporting period, while amphetamine-type substances accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight.
- The weight of other and unknown NEC drugs seized remained relatively stable, while both the number of national other and unknown NEC drug seizures and arrests increased to record levels.



## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

- The trafficking of precursor chemicals used in illicit drug production is a global market in itself, with the range of chemicals used worldwide to produce illicit drugs—including amphetamine-type substances—increasing.
- Indicators of domestic illicit drug production provide a mixed picture.
  - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased for the seventh consecutive reporting period in 2018–19, with the 308 detections this reporting period the lowest number of detections reported in the last decade.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally in 2018–19 continue to be addict-based (small scale) and located in residential areas.
  - While the proportion of clandestine laboratories manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) decreased over the last decade, they continue to account for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced.
  - The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border continued to decrease in 2018–19. While the weight detected close to halved this reporting period from the record weight reported in 2017–18, the 2,621.3 kilograms detected this reporting period is the second highest weight on record.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border increased in 2018–19, but remain relatively low.