



COCAINE



KEY POINTS

- 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.

MAIN FORMS

Cocaine (benzoylecgonine) is a naturally occurring psychoactive alkaloid and stimulant found in specific varieties of the coca plant, in particular *Erythroxylum coca* (*E. coca*) and *Erythroxylum novogranatense* (*E. novogranatense*).

- *E. coca* and *E. novogranatense* are native to the Andes region of western South America.
 - *E. coca* is cultivated in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (Bolivia) and Peru.
 - *E. novogranatense* is cultivated in Colombia and Central America.
- The two most common forms of cocaine are hydrochloride salt and cocaine base.
 - Powdered hydrochloride is the most common form of cocaine available in Australia, which can be snorted, rubbed into the gums or dissolved in water and injected.
 - Cocaine base, often referred to as ‘crack’, has a rock crystal appearance and is readily converted into vapour with heat, making it suitable for inhalation. Crack cocaine is not commonly encountered in Australia (Baker et al. 2004; US DEA 1993).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The total area under coca bush cultivation and the quantity of cocaine produced globally continued to increase, reaching record levels in 2017. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the total global area under coca bush cultivation increased 15 per cent, from 213,000 hectares in 2016 to 245,000 hectares in 2017. This contributed to a 25 per cent increase in the estimated weight of potential cocaine production worldwide, which, according to UNODC estimates, reached 1,976 tonnes (at 100 per cent purity) in 2017 (UNODC 2019a).

Similar to 2016, the three primary cocaine producing countries in 2017 were Colombia (which accounted for 70 per cent of global coca bush cultivation), Peru (20 per cent) and Bolivia (10 per cent). All three countries recorded increases in the area under coca bush cultivation in 2017. There was a 31 per cent increase in the estimated quantity of cocaine manufactured in Colombia between 2016 and 2017 (reaching 1,379 tonnes in 2017). While the total area of coca bush cultivation in Colombia increased between 2016 and 2017, the annual growth rate of the area under cultivation decreased from 52 per cent in 2016 to 17 per cent in 2017. Between 2017 and 2018 the area under coca cultivation in both Bolivia and Colombia decreased (by 6 per cent and 1 per cent respectively). Information from 2018 relating to the area under cultivation in Peru was unavailable at the time of publication (UNODC 2019a; UNODC 2019b; UNODC–SIMCI 2019).

Based on UNODC data, cocaine is the second most seized drug worldwide by weight. According to the 2019 World Drug Report, the weight of cocaine seized globally continued to increase in 2017. The weight of cocaine seized globally increased 13 per cent, from 1,129 tonnes in 2016 to a record 1,275 tonnes in 2017, with increases in the weight of cocaine seized reported across all regions except Asia. Oceania (94 per cent) and Europe (53 per cent) reported considerable increases in the weight of cocaine seized in 2017 compared to 2016. Over the past decade, the weight of cocaine seized globally increased 74 per cent (UNODC 2018; UNODC 2019a).

In 2017, global cocaine seizures remained concentrated in the Americas and Europe. The Americas accounted for the majority (90 per cent) of the weight of cocaine seized globally in 2017, of which Colombia accounted for 38 per cent. In Colombia, the weight of cocaine seized increased 20 per cent, from 362 tonnes in 2016 to 435 tonnes in 2017 (UNODC 2019a).

The number of cocaine seizures reported by World Customs Organization (WCO) agencies increased 7 per cent, from 5,975 in 2017 to 8,236 in 2018. Powdered cocaine continued to account for the greatest proportion (96 per cent) of the number of global cocaine seizures in 2018, followed by coca leaves (2 per cent) and cocaine base (2 per cent). Compared to 2017 data, the total weight of cocaine seized globally in 2018 decreased 7 per cent to 191,751.8 kilograms (no data were available on the proportional weight of powdered cocaine, cocaine base and coca leaf seizures in 2018; WCO 2019).

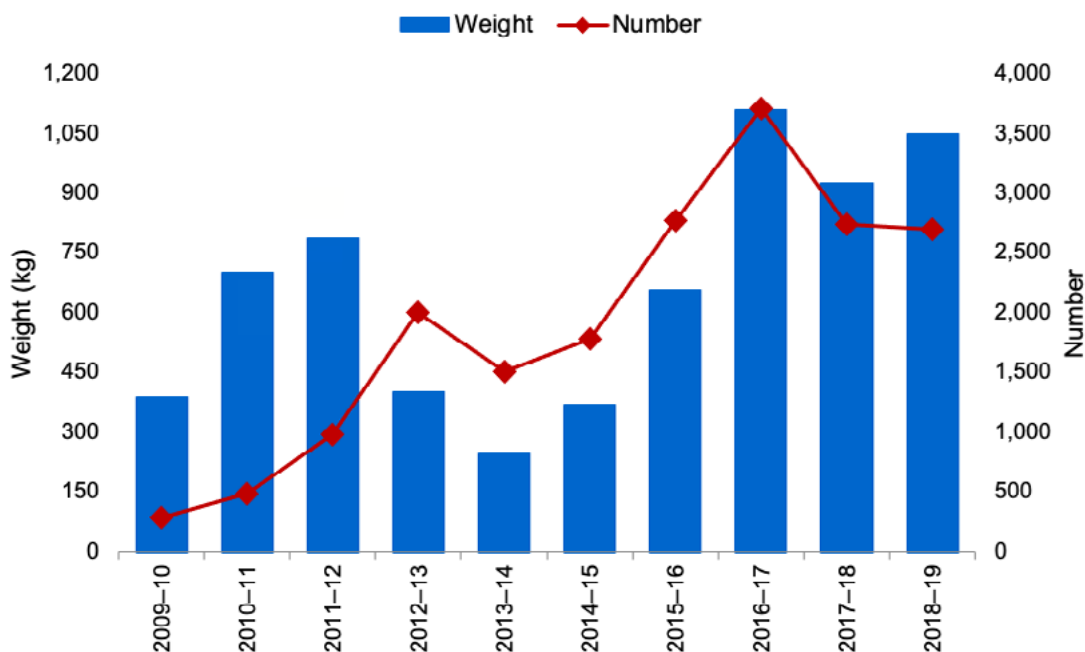
DOMESTIC TRENDS AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased 826 per cent over the last decade, from 291 in 2009–10 to 2,695 in 2018–19. The number of cocaine detections decreased 2 per cent this reporting period, from 2,741 in 2017–18.

The weight of cocaine detected fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 171 per cent from 386.8 kilograms in 2009–10 to 1,049.6 kilograms in 2018–19, the second highest weight on record. The weight of cocaine detected increased 13 per cent this reporting period, from 926.5 kilograms in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, 89 of the 2,695 cocaine detections (3 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 962.5 kilograms, these 89 detections account for 92 per cent of the weight of cocaine detected in 2018–19 (see Figure 19).⁴⁹

FIGURE 19: Number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



49 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of cocaine in 2018–19.



COCAINE

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of cocaine at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (94 per cent), followed by air cargo (5 per cent), air passenger/crew (1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, the sea cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (72 per cent), followed by international mail (12 per cent), air cargo (12 per cent) and air passenger/crew (4 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

Similar to 2017–18, 49 countries were identified as embarkation points for cocaine detected at the Australian border in 2018–19. By weight, South Africa remained the primary embarkation point for cocaine detected in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Mexico, the United States, Fiji, France, Canada, the Netherlands, Brazil, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

DRUG PROFILING

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence (FDI) team operates a forensic drug profiling capability through the National Measurement Institute (NMI), which is used to identify regions of origin and manufacturing trends for samples of cocaine submitted from seizures made at the Australian border⁵⁰ and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purpose of chemical profiling. The capability also allows for comparisons within and between seizures to identify distinct batches of drugs, the origin of drugs, or to demonstrate links between groups involved in illicit drug manufacture or trafficking. The following data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2009 and June 2019, from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.⁵¹

- Based on data from 2018 and the first six months of 2019, cocaine of Colombian origin continues to dominate the Australian market (see Tables 11 and 12).
- Though it decreased between 2017 and 2018, the proportion of samples comprising cocaine from more than one geographical location (mixed origin) increased in the first six months of 2019. These samples were predominantly of Colombian and unclassified origin.
- The proportion of cocaine samples with unclassified geographical origin continued to increase this reporting period—potentially as a result of cocaine manufacturing methodologies using coca leaf from more than one geographical region.
- For the third consecutive year, none of the cocaine samples analysed by the AFP between 2018 and June 2019 originated exclusively from Bolivia. However, 13 cocaine samples analysed between 2018 and June 2019 returned chemical profiling results with a geographical origin of Peru or Bolivia and were attributed to the unclassified category.

⁵⁰ These data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

⁵¹ Profiling data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2009 to June 2019, and from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling. Improvements in information technology have brought changes to how the data is collected and presented, and for this reason, care should be taken when comparing figures before 2010 to more recent data. For all reporting years, the data represents a snapshot across the applicable reporting period. These figures cannot reflect seizures that have not been submitted for forensic examination due to prioritisation of law enforcement resources or those that have passed through the border undetected. Certain seizures/samples, such as those containing swabs or trace material, have been omitted from the analysis as they are not amenable to chemical profiling. It is difficult to extrapolate the impact of any observed border trends on drugs reaching consumers i.e. street level seizures in Australia. Samples from selected state and territory jurisdictions are submitted for chemical profiling as part of the Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability.

TABLE 11: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures, 2009–June 2019⁵² (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019	65.0	2.5	–	15.0	17.5
2018	55.2	11.9	–	9.0	23.9
2017	59.6	11.9	–	13.8	14.7
2016	75.9	0.9	–	9.3	13.9
2015	53.6	13.1	2.4	5.9	25.0
2014	47.9	43.8	1.4	6.9	–
2013	64.1	28.2	–	5.1	2.6
2012	55.3	29.1	–	5.9	9.7
2011	55.9	35.3	–	5.9	2.9
2010	55.2	30.2	1.0	6.3	7.3
2009	44.9	32.7	2.0	10.2	10.2

TABLE 12: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2009–June 2019⁵³ (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019 ^a	69.6	2.2	–	–	28.3
2018	56.0	13.3	–	–	30.7
2017	63.6	3.6	–	<0.1	32.8
2016	84.1	1.8	–	–	14.1
2015	49.9	8.9	0.1	34.7	6.4
2014	67.2	31.8	0.9	0.1	–
2013	9.9	90.0	–	–	0.1
2012	23.7	74.3	–	1.3	0.7
2011	51.3	44.2	–	4.4	0.1
2010	96.3	3.2	<0.1	–	0.4
2009	91.3	6.8	<0.1	–	1.9

a. Due to a change in sampling methodology for large illicit drug seizures made by the AFP, the geographical origin of seizures by weight cannot accurately be attributed for seizures with mixed profiling. The geographical origin of these seizures by weight has been assigned to the most prevalent chemical profiling determination.

52 These data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

53 Ibid.



The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) project extends this profiling to include state and territory seizures involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine. This enables detection of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.⁵⁴

- ENIPID profiling data from 2018 and the first six months of 2019⁵⁵ show a considerable increase in mixed/unclassified cocaine samples, with a comparable split between Colombian and mixed/unclassified samples in 2018 (see Appendix 3, Tables 5 and 6).
- Colombia remains the dominant source of cocaine in Australia.
- Cocaine samples of Peruvian origin have decreased and no cocaine samples submitted to the ENIPID project for this reporting period returned an exclusively Bolivian geographic origin. However, samples with a geographic origin of Peru or Bolivia were attributed to the mixed/unclassified category.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

No single dataset provides a comprehensive picture of illicit drugs or the Australian illicit drug market. Each has benefits and limitations, and it is only through the layering of multiple data that we are able to enhance our understanding of the extent of the supply and demand trends in Australia's illicit drug markets.

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four months in regional sites. Aimed at acquiring data on the population-scale use of substances causing potential harm, the program provides a measure of the consumption of 13 illicit and licit drugs. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2018 to August 2019:

- Cocaine consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cocaine in capital city sites decreased.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cocaine in regional sites increased.
- The ACIC estimates that around 4.6 tonnes of cocaine was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 4.1 tonnes of cocaine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2020).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel groups. As such, they are not representative of all people who use drugs, or drug use in the general population. However, they provide valuable insight into patterns of drug use and market trends and can assist in the identification of emerging issues that require further monitoring.

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) collects self-report information on drug use and related harms annually from individuals in Australian capital cities who regularly inject drugs. According to this national study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 3 per cent in 2010 to 2 per cent in 2019. This proportion remained unchanged from 2018.

⁵⁴ The Proceeds of Crime Act-funded ENIPID project officially concluded on 30 June 2016. Since then, the ENIPID capability has been integrated into core AFP FDI duties to ensure its continued delivery through AFP Forensics.

⁵⁵ Care should be taken when drawing any conclusions from the ENIPID data for the first six months of 2019 due to the low number of cocaine samples profiled during this period.

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use⁵⁶ of cocaine decreased over the last decade, from 18 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 14 per cent.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview decreased, from 5 days in 2010 to 3 days in 2019. The median number of days remained unchanged from 2018 (Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) collects self-report information on drug use and related harms annually from individuals in Australian capital cities who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants. According to this national study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 13 per cent in 2010 to 11 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 8 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cocaine increased over the last decade, from 48 per cent in 2010 to 67 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 59 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 3 days in 2010 to 4 days in 2019. In 2018, the median number of days was 3 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples⁵⁷ annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to the ANSPS National Data Report, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as the drug last injected remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 2 per cent in 2009 to 1 per cent in 2018 (Iversen & Maher 2015; Heard et al. 2019).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, comprising an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which is tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.⁵⁸ According to DUMA program data:

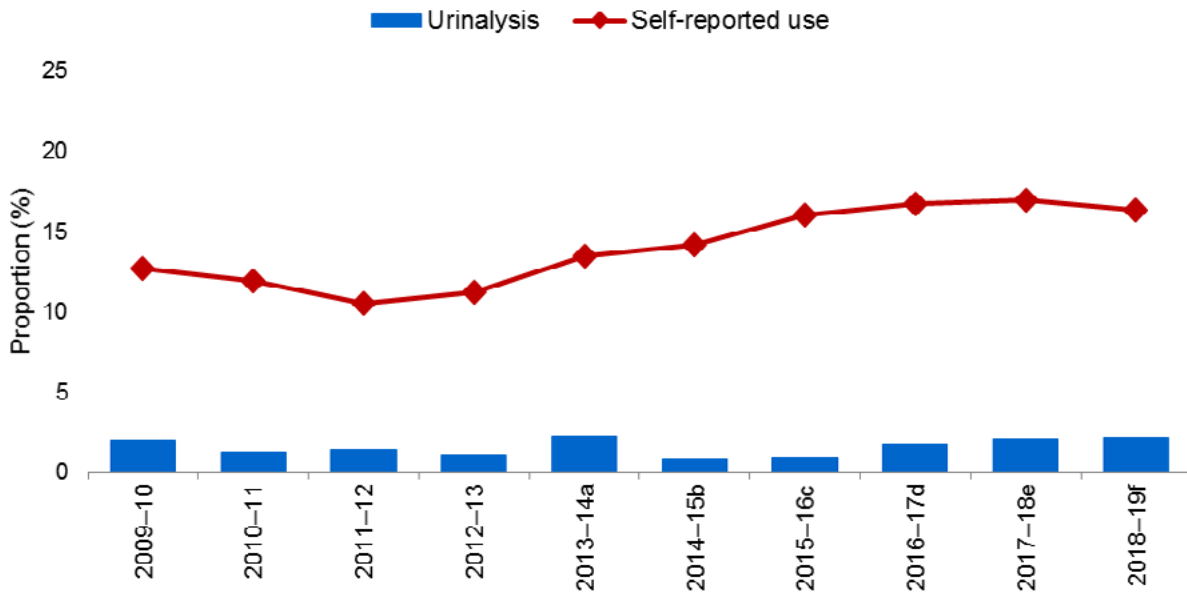
- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained relatively stable, while the proportion self-reporting cocaine use increased.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine over the last decade ranged from a low of 1 per cent in 2014–15 to a high of 2 per cent in 2013–14, 2017–18 and 2018–19.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent cocaine use⁵⁹ over the last decade ranged from 11 per cent in 2011–12 to 17 per cent in 2016–17 and 2017–18. In 2018–19, this proportion was 16 per cent (see Figure 20).

56 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.

57 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.

58 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.

59 Recent use in the DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.

FIGURE 20: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cocaine compared with self-reported recent use, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)

- Urine was collected in the third and fourth quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2014 and the first and second quarter of 2015.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2015 and the first and second quarter of 2016.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2017.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2017 in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth; the fourth quarter of 2017 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2018 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2018 in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth; the fourth quarter of 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2019 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

The Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey collects self-report information on alcohol, tobacco, over-the-counter drugs and illicit substance use among Australian secondary school students (aged 12 to 17) and is conducted every three years. According to the 2017 ASSAD survey:

- The proportion of respondents who reported having used cocaine at least once in their lifetime remained stable over the last decade at 2 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents who reported having used cocaine at least once in the past month remained stable over the last decade at 1 per cent.
- Data collected between 1996 and 2017 indicate that most secondary students surveyed had never used cocaine. From 2011, the proportion of older students reporting cocaine use within their lifetime increased slightly, however, with the exception of opiates, use remains lower than that reported for other drugs measured by the survey (Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).

PRICE

At the street level, the price of cocaine is generally measured as a ‘cap’ or in grams. Nationally, the price for 1 cap (0.2 grams) of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$40 and \$70 in 2009–10 to between \$40 and \$200 in 2018–19. In 2017–18, the reported price ranged from \$50 to \$250.

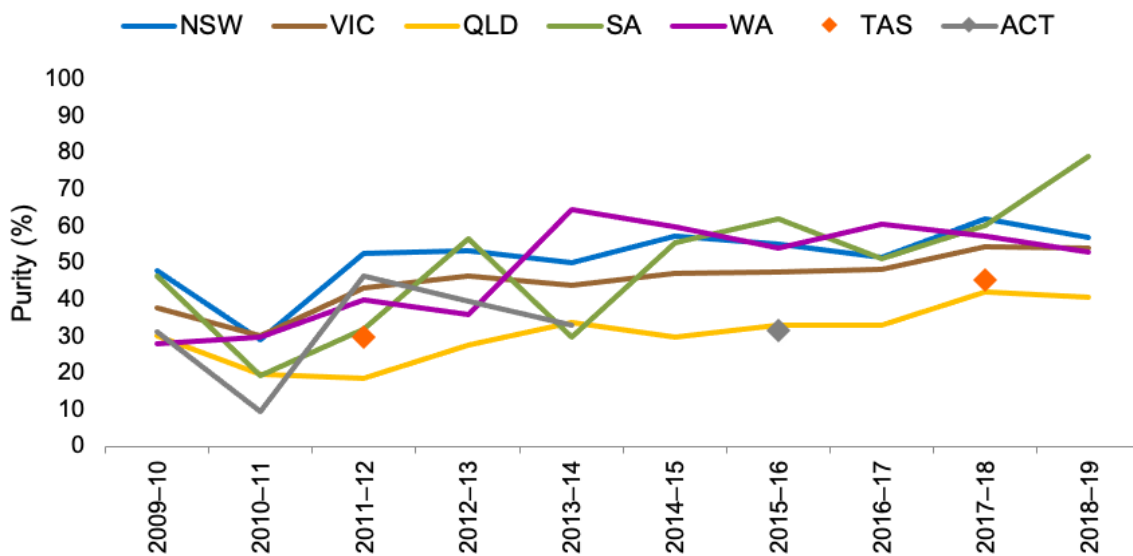
Nationally, the price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$250 and \$500 in 2009–10 to between \$200 and \$800 in 2018–19. The reported price range was between \$200 and \$600 in 2017–18. The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased slightly over the last decade, from \$325 in 2009–10 to \$350 in 2018–19, a decrease from \$375 in 2017–18.

Nationally, the price for 1 kilogram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$135,000 and \$260,000 in 2009–10 to between \$90,000 and \$300,000 in 2018–19 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). In 2017–18, the reported price ranged from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

PURITY

Since 2009–10, the annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples ranged between 10 per cent and 79 per cent (see Figure 21). In 2018–19, the annual median purity ranged from 41 per cent in Queensland to 79 per cent in South Australia. Annual median cocaine purity fluctuated over the last decade, but overall, all states reported an increase. In 2018–19, with the exception of South Australia which reported an increase from 2017–18, all states reported a decrease in the annual median purity of cocaine.

FIGURE 21: Annual median purity of cocaine samples, 2009–10 to 2018–19



AVAILABILITY

User surveys provide a mixed picture of the reported availability of cocaine in 2018–19.

In a 2019 national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain decreased, from 64 per cent in 2018 to 62 per cent in 2019. This is similar to the proportion reported in 2010 (63 per cent; Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

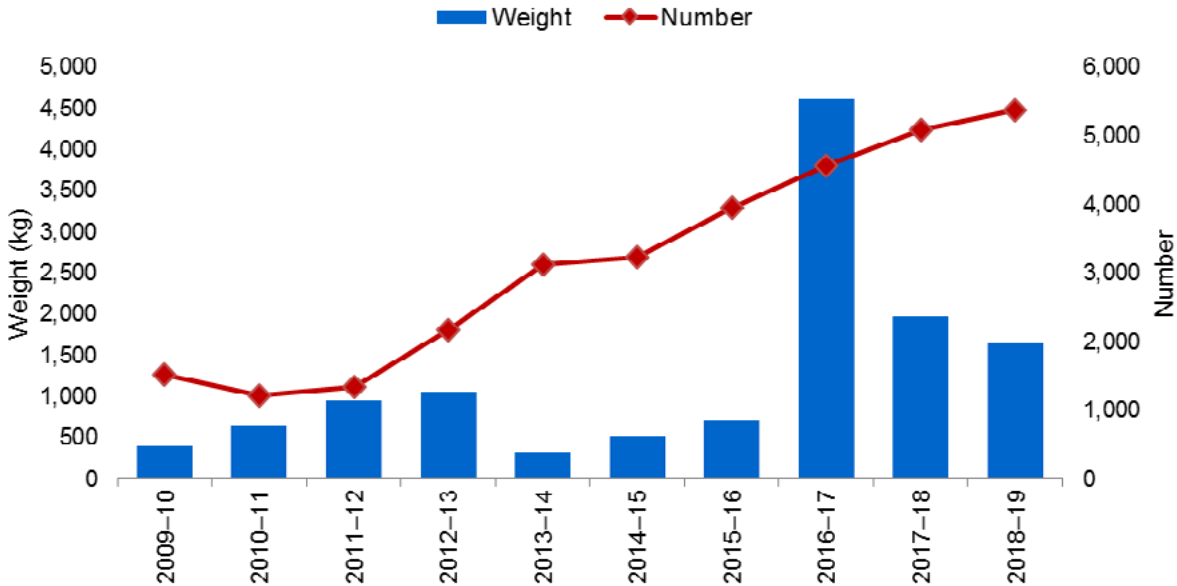
In a 2019 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 62 per cent in 2018 to 69 per cent in 2019. This is an increase from the 60 per cent reported in 2010 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

SEIZURES

The number of national cocaine seizures increased 255 per cent over the last decade, from 1,517 in 2009–10 to a record 5,378 in 2018–19, a 6 per cent increase from 5,096 in 2017–18 (the second highest number on record).

The weight of cocaine seized nationally fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 315 per cent from 394.8 kilograms in 2009–10 to 1,638.5 kilograms in 2018–19—the third highest weight on record. The weight seized nationally decreased in the last three reporting periods from a record 4,623.3 kilograms in 2016–17. The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased 17 per cent this reporting period from 1,970.7 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22: National cocaine seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Queensland reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine seizures in 2018–19, while the Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of cocaine seized. New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of national cocaine seizures, accounting for 67 per cent of the number and 55 per cent of the weight of cocaine seized nationally in 2018–19 (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: Number, weight and percentage change of national cocaine seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19

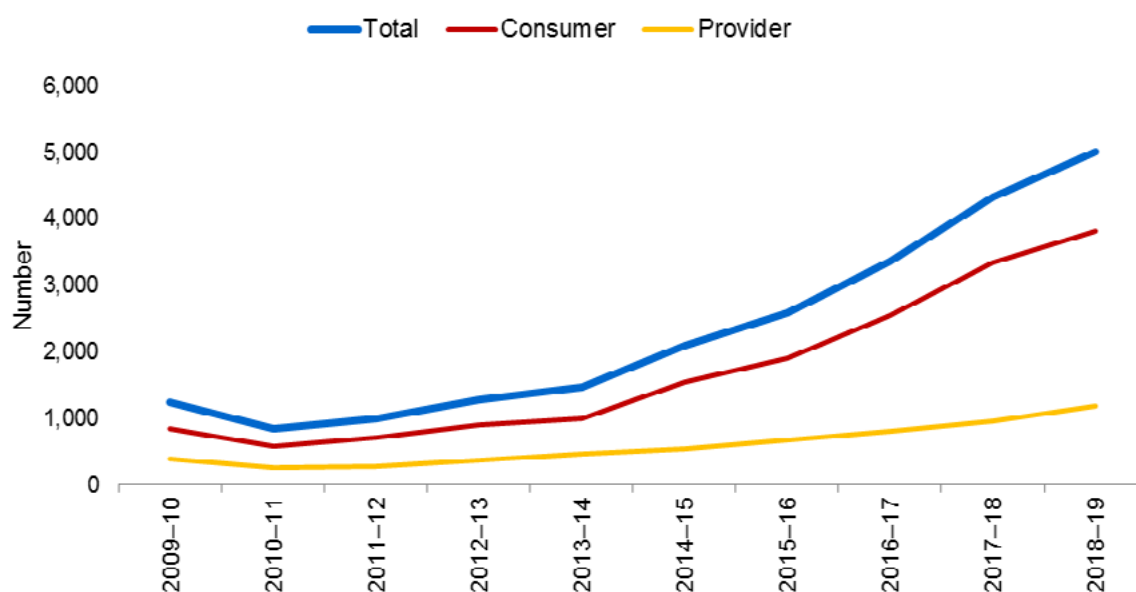
State/Territory ^a	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	3,327	3,621	8.8	1,414,761	898,696	-36.5
Victoria	407	378	-7.1	343,080	63,929	-81.4
Queensland ^b	641	761	18.7	163,321	644,275	294.5
South Australia	38	20	-47.4	16,632	450	-97.3
Western Australia ^c	461	415	-10.0	31,197	24,958	-20.0
Tasmania	25	29	16.0	135	332	145.9
Northern Territory	45	27	-40.0	969	134	-86.2
Australian Capital Territory	152	127	-16.4	652	5,798	789.3
Total	5,096	5,378	5.5	1,970,747	1,638,572	-16.9

- a. Includes seizures by state and territory police and Australian Federal Police for which a valid seizure weight was recorded.
- b. The 2018–19 data provided by the Queensland Police Service reflects improvements made to the quality of the drug seizure dataset. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.
- c. The 2018–19 data provided by the Western Australia Police Force reflects improvements made to the quality of the drug seizure dataset. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.

ARRESTS

The number of national cocaine arrests increased 303 per cent over the last decade, from 1,244 in 2009–10 to a record 5,016 in 2018–19, a 16 per cent increase from 4,325 in 2017–18 (the second highest number on record). Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 76 per cent of national cocaine arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 23). The exception was the Northern Territory, where provider arrests (8) exceeded the number of consumer arrests (4) this reporting period.

FIGURE 23: Number of national cocaine arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine arrests in 2018–19, although it started from a low base. New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of national cocaine arrests, accounting for 51 per cent in 2018–19 (see Table 14).

TABLE 14: Number and percentage change of national cocaine arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19

State/Territory ^a	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	2,316	2,564	10.7
Victoria	765	998	30.5
Queensland	737	907	23.1
South Australia	164	163	-0.6
Western Australia	208	284	36.5
Tasmania	5	11	120.0
Northern Territory	26	20	-23.1
Australian Capital Territory	104	69	-33.7
Total	4,325	5,016	16.0

a. The arrest data for each state and territory include Australian Federal Police data.



NATIONAL IMPACT

Cocaine remains among the most commonly consumed drugs worldwide. Globally, both the total area under coca bush cultivation and estimated cocaine production continued to increase in 2017. The weight of cocaine seized globally increased to record levels in 2017, with seizures concentrated in the Americas (particularly Colombia) and Europe.

Indicators of supply and demand suggest that the Australian cocaine market continues to expand.

Indicators of cocaine demand include surveys of people who regularly use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis.

- The NWDMP indicates that average cocaine consumption in capital city sites exceeds regional consumption. When comparing data for August 2018 to August 2019, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, cocaine use remained low and relatively stable.
- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, both the reported recent use of cocaine and median days of use increased from 2018 to 2019.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained stable in 2018–19, while self-reported cocaine use decreased.
- According to a national study of secondary students, reported cocaine use remained stable in 2017 and is low compared to other drugs.

Indicators of cocaine supply include border detection, seizure, arrest, price and purity data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased, while the weight of cocaine detected increased and is the second highest weight on record.
- Forensic profiling indicates that Colombia remains the predominant source of analysed cocaine in Australia.
- There was a record number of national cocaine seizures. While the weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased this reporting period, it remains high.
- The number of national cocaine arrests increased to record levels.
- The national median price for one gram of cocaine decreased slightly.
- With the exception of South Australia, all states reported a decrease in the annual median purity of cocaine.

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