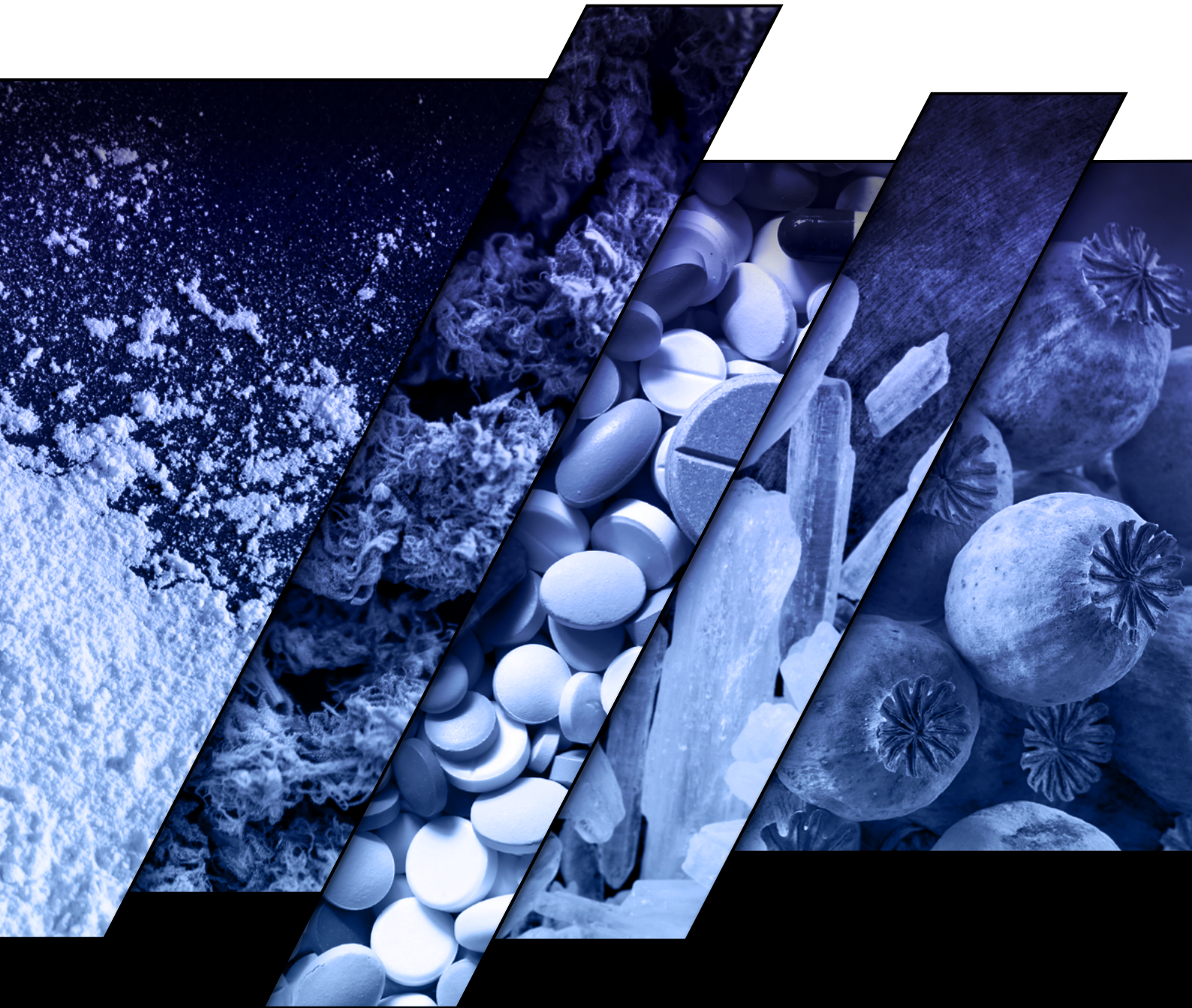




AUSTRALIAN  
**CRIMINAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
COMMISSION**



# ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2018-19

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**ILLICIT DRUG  
DATA REPORT  
2018-19**

# CEO FOREWORD



The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's annual *Illicit Drug Data Report*, now in its 17th edition, continues to provide an authoritative picture of illicit drugs in Australia. It informs policy and operational decisions across government, industry and the not-for-profit sector and focuses efforts to reduce the impact of illicit drugs on our communities.

Serious and organised criminals are at the centre of Australia's illicit drug market, motivated by greed, power and profit. We know 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. The estimated street value of the weight of amphetamines, MDMA, cocaine and heroin seized nationally in 2018–19 is around \$3.5 billion, underlining the size of the black economy that relates to illicit drugs alone. It would appear that Australian drug markets continue to grow. 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.

Illicit drug use cannot be addressed by law enforcement alone—a multi-faceted approach is needed. This report combines illicit drug data from a variety of sources including law enforcement, forensic services, health and academia, which inform our understanding and assist in focusing our collective efforts to respond to the issue of illicit drugs. The risk and harm posed by illicit drugs to the Australian community is ever-growing, which underscores the need for law enforcement and health agencies to work collaboratively to combat both the supply and demand for illicit drugs in Australia. In 2018–19, new records were set and include:

- 5.1 tonnes of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border
- 5,378 national cocaine seizures
- 5,016 national cocaine arrests
- 1,029 national hallucinogen arrests.

Over the last decade, during which time the Australian population increased around 13 per cent:

- the number of national illicit drug seizures increased 77 per cent (from 63,670 in 2009–10 to 112,474 in 2018–19)
- the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased 241 per cent (from 7.8 tonnes in 2009–10 to 26.6 tonnes in 2018–19)
- the number of national illicit drug arrests increased 80 per cent (from 85,252 in 2009–10 to 153,377 in 2018–19).

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.

The weight of ATS (including MDMA) detected this reporting period is more than double the combined weight of cannabis, heroin and cocaine detections. Methylamphetamine, which accounts for the majority of ATS, remains the most consumed illicit drug of those monitored by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program based on available dose data. It is estimated that 11,516 kilograms of methylamphetamine is consumed annually in Australia, with 4,418 kilograms of amphetamines—the majority of which is methylamphetamine—seized nationally in 2018–19.

It is also important that the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and law enforcement continue to look at emerging markets as well as the highest risk markets. Although the markets for other drugs remain relatively small, the anaesthetics market, particularly GHB/GBL and ketamine, appears to be expanding. The number of detections of anaesthetics (including GHB, GBL and ketamine) at the Australian border increased 1,934 per cent over the last decade, from 67 in 2009–10 to a record 1,363 in 2018–19. The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL has also increased to record levels in recent years, with 200 litres of the GHB precursor 1,4-butanediol also seized in a single jurisdiction this reporting period.

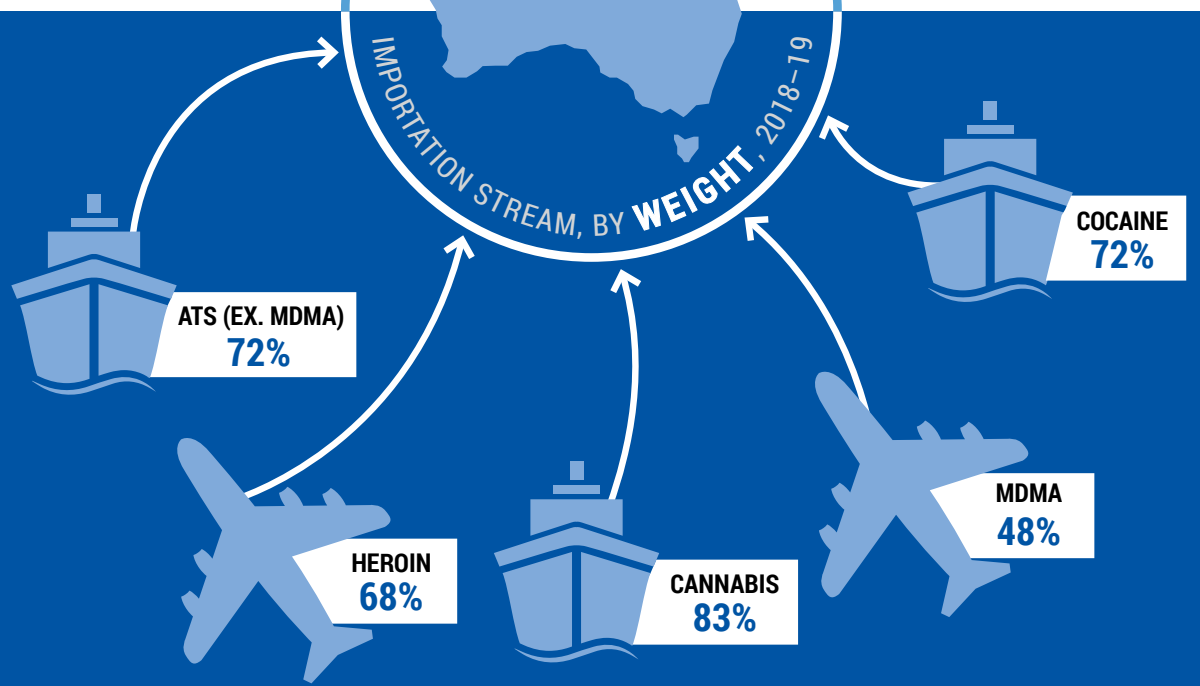
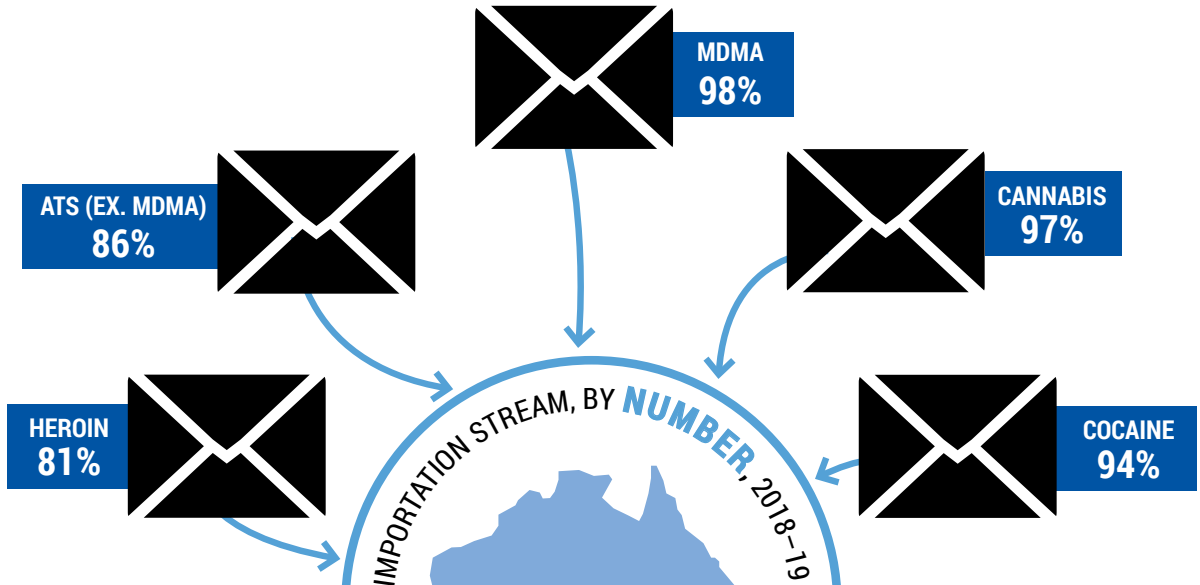
I commend the efforts of all who contributed to this report, from law enforcement, forensic services, academia and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. If not for your vital contributions and continued support, it would not be possible to understand the complex and evolving Australian drug market.



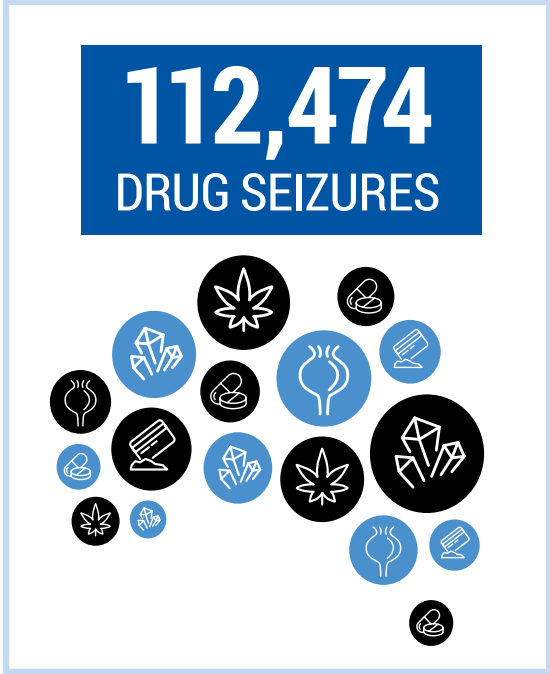
**Michael Phelan APM**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

# IMPORTATION METHODS

## INTERNATIONAL MAIL



# NATIONAL SEIZURES AND ARRESTS





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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report contains data and analysis provided by federal, state and territory police, as well as forensic laboratories and the Department of Home Affairs.<sup>1</sup> These agencies provide significant contributions to each report and their expertise and experience, along with their continued support, have been invaluable to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Key contributors are listed below:

- Australian Border Force
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence
- Australian Institute of Criminology, Drug Use Monitoring in Australia Program
- ChemCentre
- Department of Home Affairs
- 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 and Forensic Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police Force.

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



# INTRODUCTION

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) 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. The IDDR presents data from a variety of sources and provides an important evidence base to assess current and future illicit drug trends, offers a brief analysis of those trends, and assists decision-makers in the development of strategies to combat the threat posed by illicit drugs.

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission collects data annually from all state and territory police services, the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Home Affairs, state and territory forensic laboratories and research centres. Illicit drug data collected and presented in this report for the 2018–19 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 evidence-based illicit drug supply, demand and harm reduction strategies. The data also assist the Australian Government to meet national and international reporting obligations.

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission uses the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) system to standardise the arrest, seizure and purity data received from police services and contributing forensic organisations.

The current format and structure of the IDDR provides a more concise report, while still retaining key illicit drug market information and insights. Similar to previous reports, each chapter in the 2018–19 report provides an overview of changes since the previous reporting period and also includes some longer-term trends in key market indicators—including border detections, national seizures and arrests, price, purity, forensic analysis, wastewater analysis and drug user survey data—which inform and enhance our understanding of Australia's illicit drug markets and the ability to identify changes within them.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY<sup>2</sup>

Variations exist in drug markets, both internationally and domestically, within and between states and territories, and over time. No single dataset provides a national picture of Australian illicit drug markets and it is only through the layering of multiple data—both current and historical—that we are able to enhance our understanding of illicit drug markets.

Cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) remain the two primary illicit drug markets in Australia, and their predominance is reflected in most supply and demand indicators. By number, cannabis was the most commonly detected illicit drug at the Australian border in 2018–19, with the weight of ATS (including MDMA) detected this reporting period more than double the combined weight of cannabis, heroin and cocaine detections. Cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures and arrests this reporting period, with ATS accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally in 2018–19.

Overall, based on supply and demand indicators for the main illicit drug markets in Australia in 2018–19:

- The ATS market, which in Australia is primarily comprised of methylamphetamine, is large and expanding.
- The cannabis market remains large and relatively stable.
- The heroin market remains small but experienced growth in some areas.
- The cocaine market continues to expand.
- Although the markets for other drugs remain relatively small compared to the above drug markets, the anaesthetics market, particularly GHB/GBL, appears to be expanding, with some growth also seen in relation to hallucinogens.

In addition to domestic border detections and seizures, international operations and collaboration also impact Australian drug markets. A summary of some current international operations and initiatives is included in Appendix 1.

## PROFILE OF ILLICIT DRUG DETECTIONS AT THE AUSTRALIAN BORDER

### Number of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)		Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA			
↓ -18%	↑ 7%	↓ -36%	↓ -31%	↓ -2%
2,451 → 2,022	3,530 → 3,777	17,383 → 11,133	265 → 184	2,741 → 2,695

Cannabis accounted for the greatest number of border detections in 2018–19, followed by MDMA, cocaine, ATS<sup>3</sup> and heroin.

- The number of ATS, cannabis, heroin and cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19.
- The number of MDMA detections increased this reporting period.

<sup>2</sup> Key for tables in the Executive Summary:

↓ = Decrease   ↔ = Relatively stable   ↑ = Increase   ■ = Highest on record   □ = Highest in last decade

<sup>3</sup> ATS border detection data excludes MDMA, which is reported separately.

### Weight of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)		Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA			
<b>↑ 74%</b>	<b>↑ 50%</b>	<b>↑ 212%</b>	<b>↑ 49%</b>	<b>↑ 13%</b>
2,952kg → 5,148kg	1,420kg → 2,124kg	580kg → 1,811kg	190kg → 283kg	926kg → 1,049kg

ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of border detections in 2018–19, followed by MDMA, cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

- The weight of detected ATS, MDMA, cannabis, heroin and cocaine increased this reporting period, with the weight of ATS detected in 2018–19 the highest on record, the weight of MDMA and cannabis the highest recorded in the last decade, and the weight of cocaine the second highest on record.
- The weight of ATS detected in 2018–19 was almost as much as the combined weight of detected MDMA, cannabis, heroin and cocaine.

### Proportion of illicit drug detections, by importation stream in 2018–19

Drug Type	Importation stream, by number, 2018–19		Importation stream, by weight, 2018–19	
<b>ATS (excluding MDMA)</b>	<b>International mail</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>Sea cargo</b>	<b>72%</b>
	Air cargo	12%	Air cargo	17%
	Air passenger/crew	2%	International mail	10%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	1%
<b>MDMA</b>	<b>International mail</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>Air cargo</b>	<b>48%</b>
	Air cargo	2%	International mail	28%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Sea cargo	24%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>International mail</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>Sea cargo</b>	<b>83%</b>
	Air cargo	2%	International mail	11%
	Air passenger/crew	1%	Air cargo	6%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
<b>Heroin</b>	<b>International mail</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>Air cargo</b>	<b>68%</b>
	Air cargo	17%	International mail	21%
	Air passenger/crew	1%	Sea cargo	11%
	Sea cargo	1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>International mail</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>Sea cargo</b>	<b>72%</b>
	Air cargo	5%	International mail	12%
	Air passenger/crew	1%	Air cargo	12%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	4%

The international mail stream continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number of illicit drug detections at the Australian border, however the importation stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight detected varies by drug type.

## PROFILE OF NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURES

### Number of national illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↻ <1%	⬆ 3%	⬇ -5%	⬆ 5%	⬆ 6%	⬆ 8%
112,827 → 112,474	37,093 → 38,250	59,139 → 56,491	1,977 → 2,080	5,096 → 5,378	9,522 → 10,275

- The number of national illicit drug seizures remained relatively stable this reporting period.
- In 2018–19, cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures (50 per cent), followed by ATS (34 per cent), other and unknown drugs (9 per cent), cocaine (5 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (2 per cent).
- The number of national cannabis seizures decreased this reporting period.
- The number of national ATS, heroin, cocaine and other and unknown drug seizures increased this reporting period, with the record 5,096 cocaine seizures in 2017–18 further increasing in 2018–19 to a record 5,378 seizures, and the 2,080 heroin seizures this reporting period the second highest number reported in the last decade.

The number of national illicit drug seizures increased 77 per cent over the last decade, from 63,670 in 2009–10 to 112,474 in 2018–19.

### Weight of national illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
⬇ -13%	⬇ -22%	⬇ -11%	⬇ -14%	⬇ -17%	⬇ -2%
30.6t → 26.6t	11,205kg → 8,776kg	8,655kg → 7,740kg	229kg → 197kg	1,970kg → 1,638kg	8,540kg → 8,345kg

- The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally decreased this reporting period from a record 30.6 tonnes in 2017–18.
- The weight of ATS, cannabis, heroin, cocaine and other and unknown drugs seized nationally decreased this reporting period.
- In 2018–19, ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally (33 per cent), followed by other and unknown (31 per cent), cannabis (29 per cent), cocaine (6 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (1 per cent).

The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased 241 per cent over the last decade, from 7.8 tonnes in 2009–10 to 26.6 tonnes in 2018–19.

## Comparison of the weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine seized nationally in 2018–19 and estimated consumption

Drug	Estimated consumption <sup>a</sup> (kilograms per annum)	2018–19 national seizures (gross kilograms)	Percentage of total estimated consumption seized (%)
<b>Methylamphetamine</b>	11,516	4,418 <sup>b</sup>	38
<b>MDMA</b>	2,226	1,560	70
<b>Heroin</b>	941	197	21
<b>Cocaine</b>	4,636	1,638	35

a. Consumption estimates are based on data derived from Year 3 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

b. At this time it is not possible at a national level to provide a further breakdown of drugs within the amphetamines category. As such national seizure figures reflect the weight of amphetamines seized. Amphetamines include amphetamine, methylamphetamine, dexamphetamine and amphetamine not elsewhere classified. Based on available data, methylamphetamine accounts for the majority of amphetamines seized.

Wastewater analysis provides a measure of licit and illicit drug consumption within a given population. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has used wastewater data collected between August 2018 and August 2019 as part of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) to estimate the annual weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine consumed nationally.<sup>4</sup> Based on the reported gross weights seized nationally by Australian law enforcement in 2018–19 and consumption estimates from the NWDMP:

- The weight of amphetamines seized equated to 38 per cent of the total estimated weight of methylamphetamine needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of MDMA seized equated to 70 per cent of the total estimated weight of MDMA needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of heroin seized equated to 21 per cent of the total estimated weight of heroin needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of cocaine seized equated to 35 per cent of the total estimated weight of cocaine needed to meet national demand.

## PROFILE OF NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG ARRESTS

### National illicit drug arrests—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin & other opioids	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↑ 3%	↑ 4%	↓ -2%	↑ 3%	↑ 16%	↑ 16%
148,363 → 153,377	44,887 → 46,437	72,381 → 71,151	3,029 → 3,129	4,325 → 5,016	23,741 → 27,644

- The number of national illicit drug arrests increased this reporting period.
- In 2018–19, cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests (46 per cent), followed by ATS (30 per cent), other and unknown drugs (18 per cent), cocaine (3 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (2 per cent).
- The number of national cannabis arrests decreased this reporting period.
- The number of national ATS, heroin and other opioids, cocaine and other and unknown drug arrests increased this reporting period, with the number of cocaine arrests in 2018–19 the highest on record.

<sup>4</sup> The public NWDMP reports are available on the ACIC website. See <<https://www.acic.gov.au/publications/reports/national-wastewater-drug-monitoring-program-reports>>.

The number of national illicit drug arrests increased 80 per cent over the last decade, from 85,252 in 2009–10 to 153,377 in 2018–19.

Arrest data in the IDDR incorporate recorded law enforcement action against a person for suspected unlawful involvement in illicit drugs. It includes action by way of arrest and charge, summons, diversion, infringement and caution. The action taken by law enforcement is influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to which state or territory the incident occurs in, the drug type and quantity and related legislation/regulation. In 2018–19, summons accounted for the greatest proportion of national drug arrests (44 per cent), followed by charge (33 per cent) and caution/diversion/infringement (23 per cent). These proportions vary between drug type, with charge accounting for the greatest proportion of national heroin and other opioid arrests (60 per cent), summons accounting for the greatest proportion of national hallucinogen arrests (52 per cent) and caution/diversion/infringements accounting for the greatest proportion of national cannabis arrests (37 per cent).

Males accounted for the majority of national illicit drug arrests (76 per cent) in 2018–19, with females accounting for less than one quarter of arrests. While there was some variation in the proportion of arrests involving males across drug types, males consistently accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests across all drug types this reporting period, ranging from 72 per cent of national other and unknown drug arrests to 86 per cent of national cocaine and steroid arrests.

In 2018–19, consumer arrests accounted for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests (90 per cent). While consumer arrests account for the greatest proportion of arrests across all drug types, the proportion attributed to them varies, from 76 per cent of national cocaine arrests to 92 per cent of national cannabis arrests.

## PROFILE OF NATIONAL CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

### National clandestine laboratory detections—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19

No. of detections	Size and production capacity	Location
<p>↓ <b>-29%</b> 432 → 308</p>	<p>↓ Addict-based 53% → <b>47%</b></p> <p>↑ Other small 26% → <b>33%</b></p> <p>↓ Medium 19% → <b>18%</b></p> <p>↔ Industrial 2% → <b>2%</b></p>	<p>↓ Residential 71% → <b>69%</b></p> <p>↑ Commercial/industrial 4% → <b>10%</b></p> <p>↓ Vehicle 10% → <b>9%</b></p> <p>↓ Rural 7% → <b>5%</b></p> <p>↔ Other 5% → <b>5%</b></p> <p>↓ Public place 4% → <b>3%</b></p>

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased for the seventh consecutive reporting period in 2018–19.

- The majority of laboratories detected in Australia continue to be addict-based and situated in residential locations.
- The majority of laboratories detected in Australia this reporting period were producing methylamphetamine, with the hypophosphorous method of production the predominant process identified.



- Drug profiling data of both border and domestic seizures indicate ephedrine and pseudoephedrine remain key methylamphetamine precursors, with increases in the proportion of methylamphetamine seizures manufactured using P2P-based methods.

**Number of ATS precursor border detections—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19**

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
<p>↓ <b>-2%</b></p> <p>332 → 325</p>	<p>↑ <b>100%</b></p> <p>1 → 2</p>

The number of ATS precursor detections at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19, while the number of MDMA precursor detections increased.

**Weight of ATS precursor detections—comparison between 2017–18 and 2018–19**

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
<p>↓ <b>-47%</b></p> <p>4,912kg → 2,621kg</p>	<p>↑ <b>7,700%</b></p> <p>5g → 390g</p>

The weight of ATS precursors detected at the Australian border decreased in 2018–19, while the weight of MDMA precursors detected increased.

- While the weight of ATS precursors detected at the Australian border almost halved this reporting period, the weight detected in 2018–19 is the second highest on record.

## 2018–19 FEATURE—ONLINE MARKETS

**KEY POINTS**

- The ability to buy and sell illicit substances online is an established and resilient feature of global illicit drug markets. Among several platforms and avenues for purchasing illicit drugs online, darknet markets in particular are dynamic and show significant potential for expansion.
- In Australia, while there are limited supply and demand indicators directly linked to online illicit drug purchases, available data suggest that online markets are a relatively niche, but nonetheless established, source of illicit drugs.
- Factors making the online purchase of illicit drugs attractive—particularly from darknet markets—include the ability to undertake transactions remotely, avoidance of direct physical contact while purchasing and selling, the anonymity provided, the variety of substances available, their accessibility and pricing.
- International and domestic mail streams are critical to the importation and/or distribution of illicit drugs purchased online, with Europe a key source region.

## INTRODUCTION

Increasingly, as with many legitimate activities, criminal activities are committed with the assistance of technology either via the online environment or through advances in technological capabilities. The online environment has enabled crime to be committed remotely and with relative anonymity—characteristics that are attractive to serious and organised crime groups and other motivated individuals, making the identification and prosecution of offenders more difficult.

The Australian illicit drug market is best seen as a component of the global market. The internet has facilitated the expansion of the global drug market, with users able to access drugs, information about availability and purity of new drugs, and manufacturing manuals online. Virtual marketplaces are used to sell and traffic various commodities, including illicit drugs and precursor chemicals. The development of these online marketplaces is important as they have created new opportunities for illicit drug trafficking globally and present unique risks for end users and unique challenges for law enforcement.

Over the last decade, the establishment of internet-based markets that connect buyers and sellers of illicit commodities has been an important development in global illicit drug markets. These online markets include both surface websites, often referred to as the ‘clearnet’, which reflect the publicly accessible internet and includes social media platforms and networking applications or ‘apps’ (including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter) and dark websites, often referred to as the ‘darknet’, which is not accessible through standard browsers. The latter are typically encrypted and unindexed websites and communications that are accessed using specific software and may utilise cryptocurrencies to facilitate financial transactions.

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The size and global footprint of online illicit drug markets is exceedingly difficult to assess. Contributing to this is the relatively transient nature of darknet markets. However, there are indications that online drug markets are becoming more common.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime assessed that among a cohort of internet users who use illicit drugs, the proportion who reported purchasing drugs via the darknet more than doubled, from 5 per cent in 2014 to 11 per cent in 2019 (UNODC 2019).

Darknet markets offer a variety of goods and services. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in 2017 it was estimated that 62 per cent of the offers on darknet markets were drug-related. Of these, approximately 77 per cent were illicit drugs, 18 per cent were drug-related chemicals and 5 per cent were pharmaceuticals. New psychoactive substances (NPS) are less commonly sold on darknet markets and tend to represent a small proportion of trade (EMCDDA 2017).

Several studies of online marketplaces for illicit drugs suggest that these markets are expanding and largely mirror the types of illicit drugs bought and sold offline. For example, in an analysis of 63 cryptomarkets<sup>5</sup> over the period February 2014 to January 2020, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre noted the following trends:

<sup>5</sup> Defined as ‘anonymous online trading platforms that facilitate the purchasing of illicit goods and services via multiple sellers’.

- The number of drug listings (the total number of substances advertised for sale across the analysed markets) increased, from 11,308 across four markets to 41,880 across five markets.
- Over the period, cannabis accounted for the majority (29 per cent) of drug listings across all analysed markets, followed by MDMA (15 per cent), cocaine (9 per cent), benzodiazepines (8 per cent), NPS (7 per cent) and methyl/amphetamine (6 per cent).
- The greatest increases in the number of drug listings were reported for cannabis and MDMA. Cannabis listings increased from 2,970 in February 2014 to 14,965 in January 2020, with MDMA listings increasing from 1,605 in February 2014 to 7,887 in January 2020 (Mathur et al. 2020).

There does however remain some uncertainty in characterising online markets given that the number of illicit drugs available does not equate to what is sold. For example, while cannabis may be prevalent in drug listings, this may not mean that other illicit drugs are not bought and sold in similar quantities. Some studies suggest that cannabis, MDMA, amphetamines, cocaine, pharmaceutical opioids and performance and image enhancing drugs are equally available on darknet markets (Broadhurst et al. 2020; ADF 2018; Place 2018).

Several characteristics of online markets may explain their attractiveness to both sellers and buyers of illicit drugs. Available price data suggest that illicit drugs may be cheaper to purchase online than in-person. Other aspects may include the ability to avoid physical interactions with local dealers, the perceived anonymity and convenience in purchasing and the variety of substances available. There is also a perception of increased and consistent purity of drugs purchased online and the perceived certainty of receiving the substances, given assurances provided by the sellers (Décary-Héту & Giommoni 2016; Rhumorbarbe et al. 2016).

### DOMESTIC TRENDS

It is almost certain that a significant proportion of online purchases rely on the mail stream for delivery. As such, border detections and domestic seizures of illicit drugs trafficked using international and local mail streams may provide an indication of the extent of drug supply which occurs using online markets and networks.

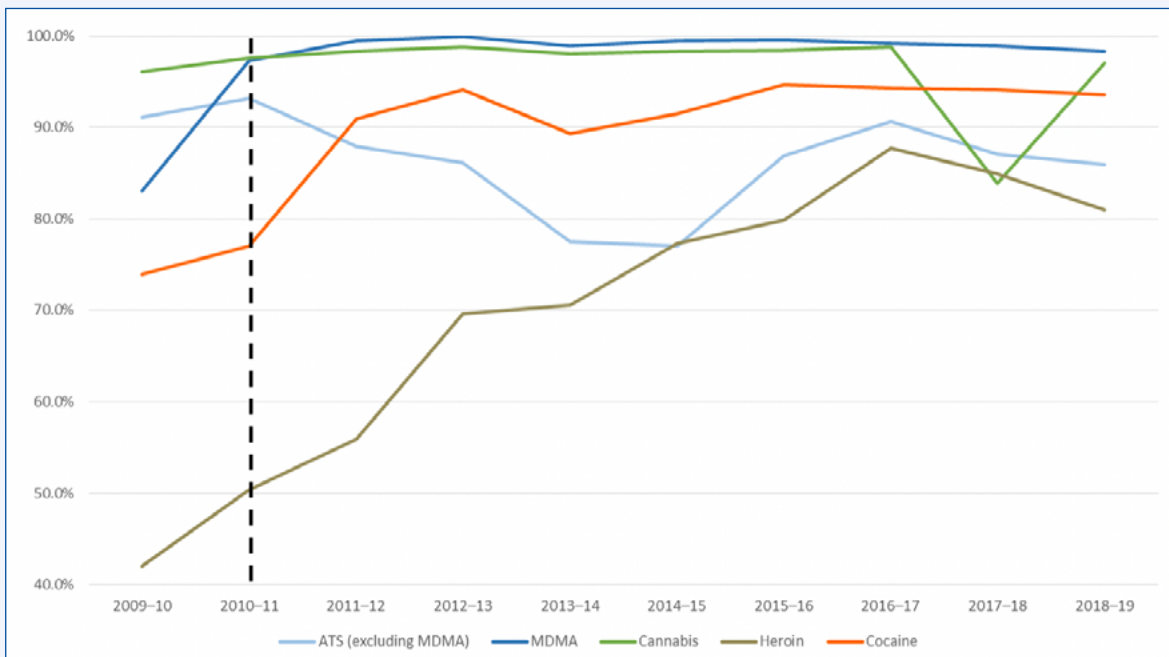
While the detection of illicit drugs in the mail stream does not directly correlate with online purchases, border detection data may provide some insight into the scale of online drug purchasing in Australia, although this would require further analysis. The international mail stream has consistently accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of border detections for key illicit drug types for over a decade, while the importation stream accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight detected varies across drug types and reporting periods. Over the last decade, border detection data for most drugs indicate an increase in the proportion of the number of detections in the international mail stream, while the weight detected decreased. The exceptions are a decrease in the proportion of the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections from 2009–10 to 2018–19 and an increase in the weight of cocaine detected (see table below).

### Trends in the proportion of border detections via the international mail stream, by drug type, 2009–10 to 2018–19

	ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
Proportion by number	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑
Proportion by weight	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑

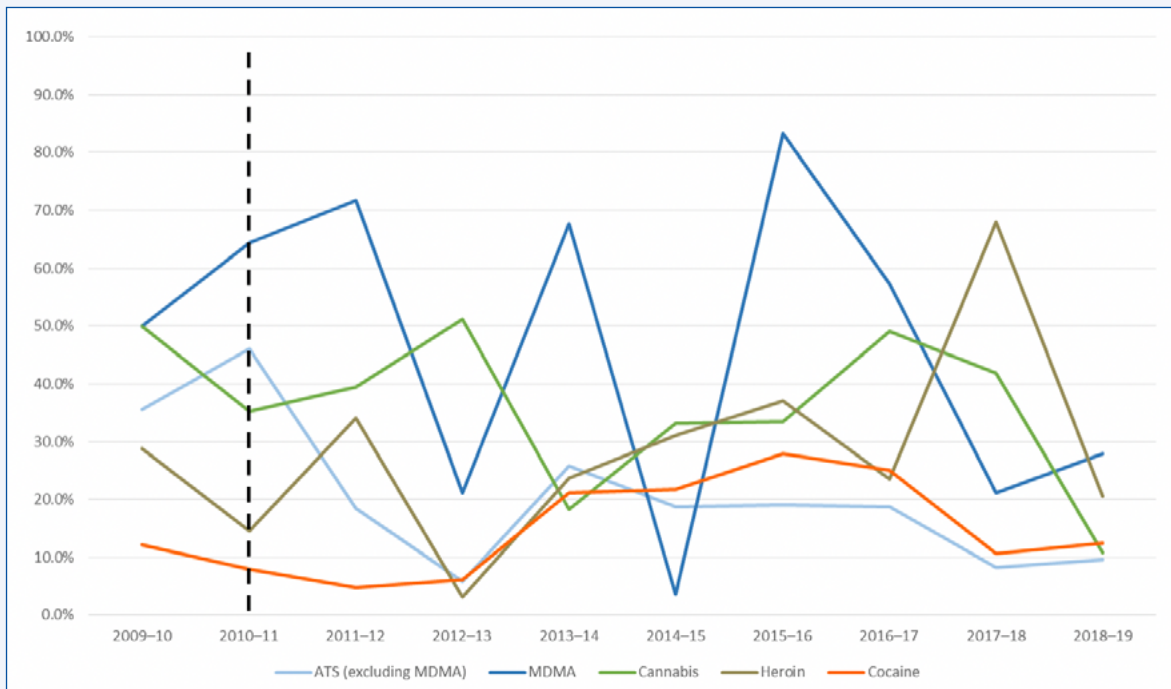
The proportion of detections identified in the international mail stream varies across drug types and reporting periods. For example, by number, heroin reported the greatest increase in the proportion of international mail stream detections over the last decade, which almost doubled from 2009–10 to 2018–19. By weight, the proportion of international mail stream detections of ATS (excluding MDMA), MDMA, heroin and cannabis fluctuated greatly over the last decade, though overall the proportions decreased. The proportion of cocaine detections (by weight) in the international mail stream also fluctuated, though to a lesser extent, and overall remained relatively stable between 2009–10 and 2018–19 (see figures below).

### Number of international mail detections at the Australian border, as a proportion of the total number of detections, by drug type, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Note: Silk Road, considered the first darknet market, was founded in February 2011.

**Weight of international mail detections at the Australian border, as a proportion of the total weight of detections, by drug type, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



Note: Silk Road, considered the first darknet market, was founded in February 2011.

National law enforcement data on embarkation points of illicit drugs purchased online are limited. In 2018–19, the Northern Territory reported that for drugs identified as being linked to darknet markets, the majority were sourced internationally, primarily from Europe.

**DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS**

Information on the domestic use of online markets is limited and in most cases does not include historical data. Examples of studies providing insights into the use of online markets in Australia to purchase illicit drugs include the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) and the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program.

The 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 in 2019, 73 per cent of respondents arranged the purchase of illicit or non-prescribed drugs via social networking applications in the past year, 10 per cent obtained drugs via the darknet and 5 per cent purchased drugs on the surface web. In the same year, 12 per cent of respondents reported purchasing drugs on the darknet at least once in their lifetime, while 26 per cent reported having accessed the darknet but never purchased from it. Within the EDRS population, 12 per cent of respondents reported receiving illicit drugs via post in the last 12 months (Peacock et al. 2019).

The DUMA program collects criminal justice and drug use information from police detainees. In 2014, the DUMA program interviewed police detainees to examine their access to the internet and frequency of engagement in online activities, including illicit drug purchasing. Thirty one per cent of respondents reported that they sourced information about illicit drugs online, with five per cent of respondents reporting they purchased illicit drugs online. The drugs<sup>6</sup> about which detainees most commonly reported accessing information were methylamphetamine (42 per cent), cannabis (27 per cent), MDMA (27 per cent), pharmaceuticals (20 per cent), heroin (14 per cent) and alcohol (7 per cent; Goldsmid & Patterson 2015).

In 2018, the DUMA program interviewed police detainees to examine the use of mobile phones to buy and sell illicit drugs. Excluding those who had never used a mobile phone, 59 per cent of respondents had used mobile phones to buy, deliver or supply drugs. Of these, 53 per cent used messaging apps for buying or supplying drugs. Findings of this study again illustrate that not all drug dealing using technology involves encrypted communications and how technology may be used to facilitate drug transactions (Sullivan & Voce 2020).

### PRICE

Analysis of available price data for illicit drugs suggests that online markets may offer lower prices than other sources of illicit drugs.

National law enforcement data on darknet drug prices are limited. Victoria was the only jurisdiction to provide darknet prices by Australian vendors in 2018–19.<sup>7</sup> Although prices vary among suppliers based on the drug's 'quality' and market demand, in general drug prices on the darknet—particularly for methylamphetamine and MDMA—are reportedly cheaper than local street prices. In 2018–19, the quoted price for one gram of methylamphetamine on the darknet was \$179 compared to a street price of \$200 in Victoria and a national median street price of \$385. The price for one gram of MDMA on the darknet was \$79 compared to between \$100 and \$200 in Victoria and a national median street price of \$200 in 2018–19. There was not as much variation in prices reported for one gram of heroin on the darknet (\$390) and the Victorian and national median street price (\$400). Similarly, the price for one gram of cocaine on the darknet (\$330) was close to the Victorian (between \$300 and \$400) and national median street price (\$350).

### DOMESTIC ONLINE VENDORS

Information on the location of providers, substances offered, delivery methods and the purchase process is limited. The collection of these data rely on monitoring specific darknet marketplaces, sometimes in combination with forensic analysis, with some studies and jurisdictional cases suggesting Australia-based vendors may have a significant presence in online markets.

6 Detainees could nominate more than one substance.

7 The provided price was converted from Bitcoin to Australian dollars on 21 October 2019.

In Australia, jurisdictional case studies identified several vendors selling a range of drugs using darknet markets. These included methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, cannabis, psilocybin, LSD, fentanyl and benzodiazepines. For example, since 2015, the Western Australia Police Force has conducted over 500 online investigations into illicit drug-related matters linked to online purchasing—the majority of which related to surface web purchases. Based on these investigations, the Western Australia Police Force assesses that the buying or selling of illicit drugs (as opposed to precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture) is more frequent on the surface web—predominantly on social media applications where anonymity is facilitated through temporary and closed groups.<sup>8</sup>

Studies that used data from two (now closed) darknet markets (Evolution and Silk Road 2) from December 2013 to March 2015 to examine the nature and extent of activities on these markets, as well as their links to Australia and Switzerland, found that:

- Of the 48,029 listings identified in Evolution market between January 2014 and March 2015, 3,047 (6 per cent) were listed as shipping from Australia, the fifth most mentioned country after the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.
- Australia's illicit drug trafficking on Evolution and Silk Road 2 was mainly domestic and only a small number of foreign vendors were able to ship to Australia. This is likely due to factors such as geographic isolation and the higher price range of illicit drugs when shipping to Australia.
- ATS (particularly MDMA and methylamphetamine) and cannabis were the predominant illicit drugs sold on these virtual markets. Although ATS were the drugs most commonly offered by vendors, according to these studies cannabis was the substance most frequently purchased (Rhumorbarbe et al. 2016; Broseus et al. 2017 and Morelato 2018).

## SEIZURES

The figures below are seizures from Operation Vitreus and Operation Parthenon, and seizures through the domestic mail system that are highly likely to be sourced online.

In 2018–19<sup>9</sup>, 2,890 national seizures were linked to online purchases. Of these, 1,234 seizures (43 per cent) were cannabis, 741 seizures (26 per cent) were methylamphetamine, 410 seizures (14 per cent) were cocaine, 387 seizures (13 per cent) were MDMA and 118 seizures (4 per cent) were heroin.

In 2018–19, 52,956 grams of illicit drugs seized nationally was linked to online purchases. Of this, 41,031 grams (77 per cent) was cannabis, 4,851 grams (9 per cent) was MDMA, 4,704 grams (9 per cent) was cocaine, 2,118 grams (4 per cent) was methylamphetamine and 249 grams (<1 per cent) was heroin.

8 These closed groups are created and dissolved over time, moving clients from one group to another. The majority of these groups are invitation only and require admission via an established and credible online identity.

9 The number and weight of online market-related seizures were provided by ACT Policing, New South Wales Police Force, Northern Territory Police, Queensland Police Service and Western Australia Police Force and reflect seizures where a link to online markets was identified.

The National Forensic Rapid Laboratory (NFRL) is a multi-agency capability, coordinated by the Australian Federal Police, which targets high-frequency, low-volume importations typically through the mail stream. The NFRL aims to identify convergences in concealment methods, drug profiling, embarkation country and other relevant characteristics to assist investigations. Based on NFRL data collected from January 2014 to March 2015, up to 75 per cent of all seized mail items were suspected to contain substances purchased online. MDMA was the most seized illicit drug by the NFRL, followed by methylamphetamine, cocaine and NPS. Cannabis was rarely seized in parcel-post consignments (Morelato 2018).

### LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION

As a result of the increase in online sales and the use of postal services for illicit drug distribution, Australian law enforcement agencies have developed a range of responses to the threat posed by online markets.

Several law enforcement operations targeting online markets have resulted in the identification and prosecution of providers and consumers using online markets to distribute and purchase drugs. Specific operations aiming to investigate and disrupt the related criminal activity include:

- Operation Vitreus—while not specifically focused on darknet activity, work completed as part of semi-regular weeks of action includes a national mail screening operation to detect and disrupt the flow of illicit drugs through the Australian postal service. By focussing on drug detections in the mail stream, it is possible to disrupt some movement of drugs sourced from darknet markets. Specific operations conducted as part of Operation Vitreus include Operation Detect in Queensland and Operations Outpost and Viridian in Victoria.
- Strike Force Royden (New South Wales Police Force)—to investigate an online darknet vendor.
- Joint Task Force Icarus (Victoria Police in partnership with the AFP, the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Department of Home Affairs (DHA))—worked closely with Operation Vitreus to target illicit drug distribution through the domestic mail stream.
- Operation Salamanca (Victoria Police)—commenced in June 2018 to target vendors advertising on the darknet ‘Dream Market’.
- Operation Parthenon (Northern Territory in partnership with the AFP, ABF, DHA and ACIC)—established to investigate the use of cryptocurrency and darknet markets to order illicit drugs from international suppliers.
- Joint Agency Ice Strike Team (led by South Australia Police)—a multi-agency taskforce commencing in February 2019 targeting the importation and trafficking of methylamphetamine, its precursors and other high risk and emerging drugs into South Australia via air cargo, sea cargo and the domestic and international mail streams, and the identification of the international origins and supply chains of related significant domestic seizures.

Online drug markets are resilient and again highlight the need for a multi-dimensional approach that targets supply, demand and harm reduction. As it is a global issue, international collaboration is vital to disrupting and impacting these markets. This is best illustrated through the successful take downs of whole markets, such as AlphaBay and Hansa.



In July 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and several international law enforcement agencies collaborated to shut down AlphaBay, one of the largest darknet marketplaces that sold drugs and other contraband goods. Launched in 2014, AlphaBay operated as an online marketplace for drugs, data, computer programs, stolen passwords or user accounts, and other physical or digital goods and was reported to be ‘ten times the size of the Silk Road’, the first darknet black market that was taken down in October 2013.

Lessons learnt from the take down of Silk Road were applied to the take down of AlphaBay and Hansa, in particular the tendency of online users to switch almost immediately from one online market to another. In effect, the international collaboration meant that many AlphaBay users transitioned to Hansa, which was law enforcement controlled at the relevant time. This example demonstrates the scope of the issue and the necessity of close international collaboration to take down online marketplaces of this type. Law enforcement agencies worldwide benefit from such take downs through receipt of data on buyers and sellers, which may generate follow up investigations in Australia and elsewhere.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>1,4-BD</b>	1,4-butanediol
<b>4-MMC</b>	4-methylmethcathinone
<b>AAS</b>	Anabolic-androgenic steroids
<b>ACIC</b>	Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
<b>ACT</b>	Australian Capital Territory
<b>AFP</b>	Australian Federal Police
<b>ANSPS</b>	Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey
<b>ASSAD</b>	Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug Survey
<b>ATS</b>	Amphetamine-type stimulants
<b>CEN</b>	Cannabis Expiation Notice
<b>CIR</b>	Cannabis Intervention Requirement
<b>DIN</b>	Drug Infringement Notice
<b>DUMA</b>	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
<b>EDRS</b>	Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System
<b>ENIPID</b>	Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs
<b>Eph</b>	Ephedrine
<b>FDI</b>	Forensic Drug Intelligence
<b>GHB</b>	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
<b>GBL</b>	Gamma-butyrolactone
<b>IDDR</b>	Illicit Drug Data Report
<b>IDRS</b>	Illicit Drug Reporting System
<b>INCB</b>	International Narcotics Control Board
<b>LSD</b>	Lysergic acid diethylamide
<b>MDMA</b>	3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine
<b>NEC</b>	Not elsewhere classified
<b>NMI</b>	National Measurement Institute
<b>NPS</b>	New psychoactive substances
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory
<b>NWDMP</b>	National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program
<b>P2P</b>	Phenyl-2-propanone

<b>PIED</b>	Performance and image enhancing drug
<b>PSE</b>	Pseudoephedrine
<b>Qld</b>	Queensland
<b>SA</b>	South Australia
<b>SCON</b>	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice
<b>Tas</b>	Tasmania
<b>THC</b>	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>Vic</b>	Victoria
<b>WA</b>	Western Australia
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization



# AMPHETAMINE- TYPE STIMULANTS



## KEY POINTS

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- 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.



## MAIN FORMS

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are a group of central nervous system stimulants, which include amphetamine, methylamphetamine and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

- Owing to differences in chemical composition, methylamphetamine is more potent than amphetamine, resulting in a stronger nervous system reaction.
- Methylamphetamine has four common forms: tablet, crystalline (often referred to as 'ice' and considered the most potent form of the drug), base (also referred to as 'paste') and powder (also referred to as 'speed'). Methylamphetamine can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or injected.
- MDMA is a derivative of amphetamine, but has an important difference in chemical structure which provides MDMA's hallucinogenic (in addition to stimulant) properties.
- Amphetamine is most commonly found in powder and tablet form, which can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or (less commonly) injected.
- MDMA (also referred to as 'ecstasy'), is most commonly found in tablet form of varying colours and sizes, often imprinted with a picture or symbol. MDMA is also found in capsule, powder and crystal form. While MDMA is most commonly ingested, it can also be snorted, inhaled and injected (ADF 2019a; ADF 2019b; EMCDDA 2015; Degenhardt & Hall 2010).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the 2019 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report, the total weight of ATS seized globally has continued to increase over the last two decades—primarily due to increases in methylamphetamine seizures. Between 2016 and 2017, the total weight of global methylamphetamine seizures increased 16 per cent, from 158 tonnes to 184 tonnes. Over the same period the weight of amphetamine seizures decreased approximately 18 per cent, from 70 tonnes to 58 tonnes, while seizures of ecstasy remained stable at approximately 14 tonnes (UNODC 2019).

Similar to most years since 1998, the majority of ATS seizures in 2017 were methylamphetamine, seized predominantly in North America, particularly the United States (US) and in East and South-East Asia, particularly China. The UNODC has also noted a 40 per cent increase in methylamphetamine seizures in tablet and crystal form being seized annually in East and South-East Asia (UNODC 2018; UNODC 2019).

Europe continued to account for the greatest proportion of global ecstasy seizures in 2017. The weight of ecstasy seized in Europe increased from 2.2 tonnes in 2013 to 6.4 tonnes in 2017. The UNODC reports that increasing quantities of ecstasy have also been seized in Asia—particularly in East and South-East Asia—between 2013 and 2017. The weight of ecstasy seized in Asia increased from 0.6 tonnes in 2013 to 2.9 tonnes in 2017, with East and South-East Asia accounting for 96 per cent of ecstasy seizures in Asia over that period. Approximately 9 million ecstasy tablets were seized in East and South-East Asia in 2017, compared to approximately 3 million ecstasy tablets seized annually in East and South-East Asia between 2014 and 2016 (UNODC 2019).

According to the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the number and weight of methylamphetamine and amphetamine seizures reported by WCO agencies increased in 2018. Methylamphetamine was the most frequently seized substance within the ‘psychotropic substance’ category, followed by MDMA. The number and weight of MDMA seizures reported by WCO agencies continued to decrease in 2018, with the weight of MDMA seized decreasing by 847.3 kilograms in 2018. MDMA was the only substance within the ‘psychotropic substances’ category to record a decrease in the weight seized in 2018. Specific data for the number and weight of methylamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA seized in 2018 were not available (WCO 2019).

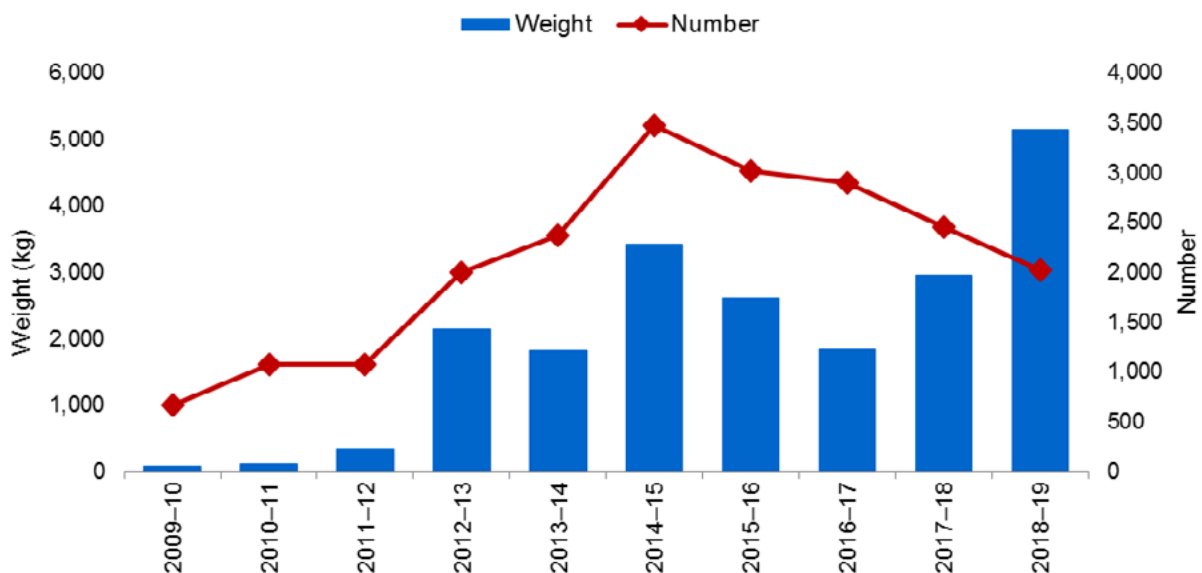
## DOMESTIC TRENDS AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

Overall, the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections increased 201 per cent over the last decade, from 672 in 2009–10 to 2,022 in 2018–19, although since 2014–15 has steadily decreased. The number of detections decreased 18 per cent this reporting period, from 2,451 in 2017–18.

The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections fluctuated greatly over the last decade, although there was an increase in the long-term trend—the weight increased 7,619 per cent from 66.7 kilograms in 2009–10 to 5,148.4 kilograms in 2018–19, the highest weight on record (see Figure 1). The weight detected this reporting period increased 74 per cent, from 2,952.5 kilograms in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, 277 of the 2,022 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (14 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 5,028.8 kilograms, these 277 detections accounted for 98 per cent of the weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2018–19.<sup>10</sup>

**FIGURE 1: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**



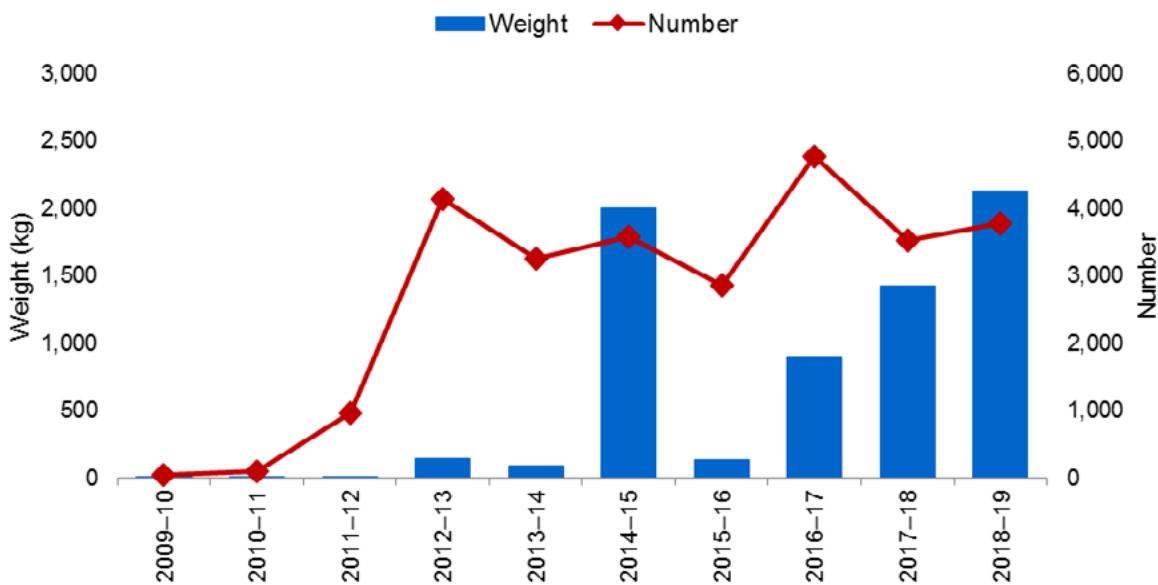
The number of MDMA detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, but the long-term trend indicates an overall increase—increasing 7,026 per cent from 53 detections in 2009–10 to 3,777 in 2018–19. The number of detections increased 7 per cent this reporting period, from 3,530 in 2017–18.

10 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2018–19.

The weight of MDMA detections also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 32,592 per cent from 6.5 kilograms in 2009–10 to 2,124.9 kilograms in 2018–19, the highest recorded weight in the last decade (see Figure 2). The weight detected increased 50 per cent this reporting period, from 1,420.8 kilograms in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, 173 of the 3,777 MDMA detections (5 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 1,988.3 kilograms, these 173 detections accounted for 94 per cent of the weight of MDMA detected in 2018–19.<sup>11</sup>

**FIGURE 2: Number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19**  
(Source: Department of Home Affairs)



## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) 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 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (86 per cent), followed by air cargo (12 per cent), air passenger/crew (2 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, sea cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (72 per cent), followed by air cargo (17 per cent), international mail (10 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent).

In 2018–19, detections of MDMA 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 MDMA detections (98 per cent), followed by air cargo (2 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, the air cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (48 per cent), followed by international mail (28 per cent), sea cargo (24 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of MDMA in 2018–19.





## EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2018–19, 63 countries were identified as embarkation points for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border, compared with 50 countries in 2017–18. By weight, Thailand was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Mexico, the US, Singapore, Canada, Malaysia, Laos, Germany, India and China (including Hong Kong).

In 2018–19, 33 countries were identified as embarkation points for MDMA detected at the Australian border, compared with 32 countries in 2017–18. By weight, Germany was the primary embarkation point for MDMA detected in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Turkey, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Austria, Spain, Italy and Poland.

## DRUG PROFILING METHYLAMPHETAMINE

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence (FDI) team operates a forensic drug profiling capability through the National Measurement Institute (NMI), which enables the identification of the synthetic route of synthesis for samples of methylamphetamine submitted from seizures made at the Australian border<sup>12</sup> and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purpose of chemical profiling.<sup>13</sup> 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 2010 and June 2019 from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.<sup>14</sup>

The proportion of methylamphetamine found to be manufactured from a P2P (1-phenyl-2-propanone) precursor increased this reporting period. The proportion of mixed/unclassified seizures also increased in 2018–19. This is largely due to seizures of methylamphetamine being found to have indications of more than one 'type' of methylamphetamine. These are split into their relevant sections by weight in Table 2, highlighting that the unclassified seizures make up a small proportion of the total weight.

- In 2018, 103 seizures of methylamphetamine were sent to NMI for analysis. A total of 78 seizures, representing a bulk weight of 3.2 tonnes, were found to be suitable for profiling. The remaining seizures (totalling 28.4 kilograms) were unsuitable for profiling.
- In 2018, the top four seizures by weight accounted for 79 per cent of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized (see Table 2).
- In 2018, a 993.6 kilogram seizure of methylamphetamine was found to be manufactured from a P2P precursor.
- In the first six months of 2019 there were 39 seizures, totalling a record 4.3 tonnes of methylamphetamine.

<sup>12</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

<sup>13</sup> Data from this samples/seizures have not been included in this summary.

<sup>14</sup> Profiling data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2010 to June 2019, and from which samples were submitted to the National Measurement Institute (NMI) for routine analysis and profiling. For all reporting years, the data represent 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.



- Similar to 2018, the top three seizures by weight in the first six months of 2019 accounted for 90 per cent of the total methylamphetamine seized.
- Operation HOTH accounted for 1.7 tonnes of the methylamphetamine seized in 2019, which was found to be synthesised from a P2P precursor.
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of both P2P and Eph/PSE samples are listed under the “Mixed/Unclassified” category in Table 1. However, when classifying by weight, the bulk weight of these seizures is separated and attributed to the relevant precursor. As such, the “Mixed/Unclassified” category in Table 2 only includes the weight of samples that could not be attributed to either P2P or Eph/PSE. As the 2017 reporting period was the first year FDI employed this method of classification, no conclusions should be drawn from the notable decrease between the 2017 and 2016 figures observed in Table 2.

**TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2010–June 2019 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)<sup>15</sup>**

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019	34.2	42.9	22.9
2018	48.7	35.9	15.4
2017	52.6	36.9	10.5
2016	81.9	7.0	11.1
2015	77.0	18.6	4.4
2014	77.9	13.8	8.3
2013	66.9	23.2	9.9
2012	71.8	19.1	9.1
2011	56.8	13.6	29.6
2010	80.4	5.9	13.7

<sup>15</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.



**TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2010–June 2019 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)<sup>16</sup>**

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019	51.1	48.8	0.1
2018 <sup>a</sup>	33.5	66.4	0.1
2017	70.2	28.4	1.4
2016	63.4	1.7	34.9
2015	65.7	29.4	4.9
2014	48.0	5.5	46.5
2013	76.4	14.7	8.9
2012	72.2	27.8	–
2011	35.6	62.8	1.6
2010	48.5	1.8	49.7

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

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 the identification of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.<sup>17</sup>

- Samples submitted to the ENIPID capability in 2018 and the first six months of 2019 (see Tables 1 and 2 of Appendix 3) show a comparable split between methylamphetamine manufactured from Eph/PSE and P2P. This is comparable to trends seen at the border over a similar period, highlighting the recent increase of methylamphetamine manufactured using P2P.
- The number of mixed/unclassified samples in this reporting period remained stable. It is likely these samples are a result of evolving routes of manufacture.

## MDMA

Due to changes in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NMI and the AFP, since November 2016 MDMA is no longer routinely chemically profiled. Historical forensic profiling data for MDMA are available in previous Illicit Drug Data Reports.

<sup>16</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

<sup>17</sup> 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.



## 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.

### AMPHETAMINES

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:

- Of the substances monitored by the program with available dose data, methylamphetamine remains the most consumed illicit drug by a considerable margin.
- Methylamphetamine consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in capital city sites increased.
- The population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in regional sites increased.
- The ACIC estimates that around 11.5 tonnes of methylamphetamine was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 9.8 tonnes of methylamphetamine 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 methylamphetamine as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 35 per cent.
- While heroin remains the reported drug of choice within this user group, over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month increased, from 19 per cent in 2010 to 42 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this figure was 44 per cent.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting weekly or more frequent crystal methylamphetamine use increased, from 11 per cent in 2010 to 48 per cent in 2019. Crystal methylamphetamine was reported as the second most used drug within this user group after cannabis for the second consecutive year.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use<sup>18</sup> of any form of methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, from 60 per cent in 2010 to 78 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 77 per cent. Crystal methylamphetamine is the most commonly reported form of methylamphetamine used within this user group.

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



- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview increased, from 14 days in 2010 to 48 days in 2018 and 2019 (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 the recent use of any form of methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, from 56 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 32 per cent.
- Powder methylamphetamine remains the most commonly reported form of methylamphetamine used within this user group.
- The reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 4 days in 2010 to 5 days in 2019. In 2018 the reported number of days was 4 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples<sup>19</sup> 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 methylamphetamine as the drug last injected increased over the last decade, from 24 per cent in 2009 to 48 per cent in 2018. In 2017 this proportion was 41 per cent.
- Between 1995 and 2014 heroin was the most commonly reported drug last injected; however since 2015, the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected has exceeded heroin (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.<sup>20</sup> According to data from the DUMA program:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive<sup>21</sup> to amphetamines<sup>22</sup> and methylamphetamine increased, reaching record levels in 2018–19.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to amphetamines increased over the last decade, from 15 per cent in 2009–10 to 57 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 48 per cent.
- Of the detainees testing positive to amphetamines, the majority tested positive to methylamphetamine.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, from 13 per cent in 2009–10 to 56 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 46 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use of methylamphetamine increased from 49 per cent in 2013–14 (the first period for which data are available) to 59 per cent in 2018–19. This proportion was 56 per cent in 2017–18 (see Figure 3).

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

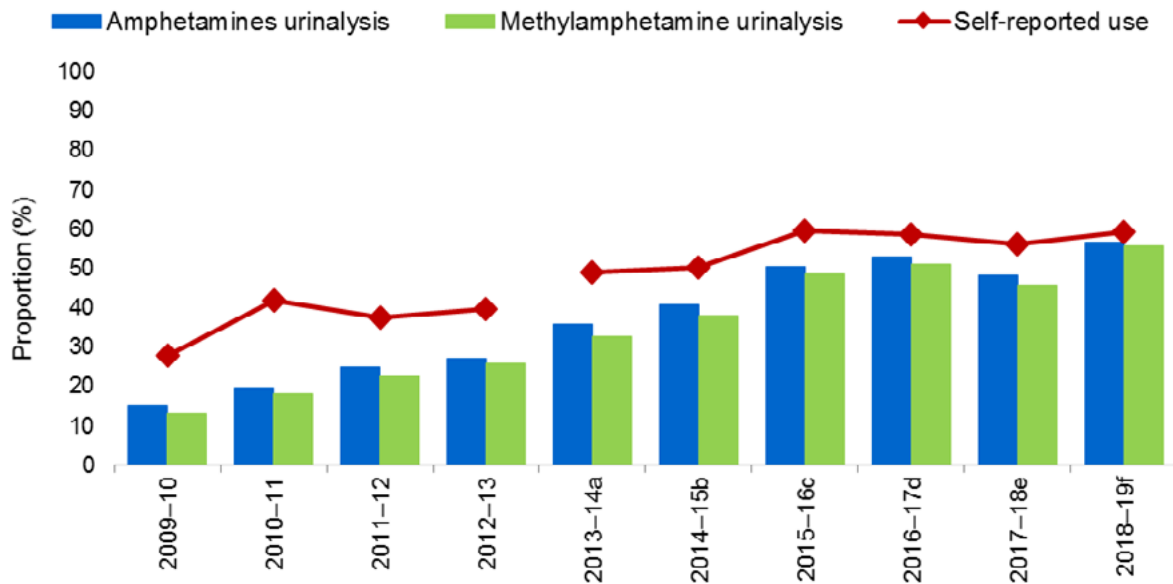
20 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.

21 Amphetamines and their metabolites can be detected in urine up to 2 to 4 days after administration.

22 Amphetamines in the DUMA program include results for methylamphetamine, MDMA and other amphetamines.



**FIGURE 3: National proportion of detainees testing positive for amphetamines/methylamphetamine compared with self-reported recent use, 2009–10 to 2018–19<sup>23</sup> (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:

- 2 per cent of respondents reported having used methylamphetamine at least once in their lifetime.
- 1 per cent of respondents reported having used methylamphetamine in the past month.<sup>24</sup>
- ASSAD data collected between 1996 and 2017 indicates that amphetamine use among secondary school students was low and declining (Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).

## MDMA

According to data from the NWDMP from August 2018 to August 2019:

- MDMA consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA in capital cities increased.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA in regional sites increased.
- The ACIC estimates that around 2.2 tonnes of MDMA was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 1.1 tonnes of MDMA consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2020).

<sup>23</sup> From 2013–14, the self-report question changed from including 'amphetamine/speed/methylamphetamine' to 'methylamphetamine/speed/ice'.

<sup>24</sup> Due to changes in the ASSAD questionnaire (which previously focused on amphetamines), data specific to methylamphetamine are not available prior to 2017. Data for reported amphetamines use for both recent use and use in lifetime in 2014 were 1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

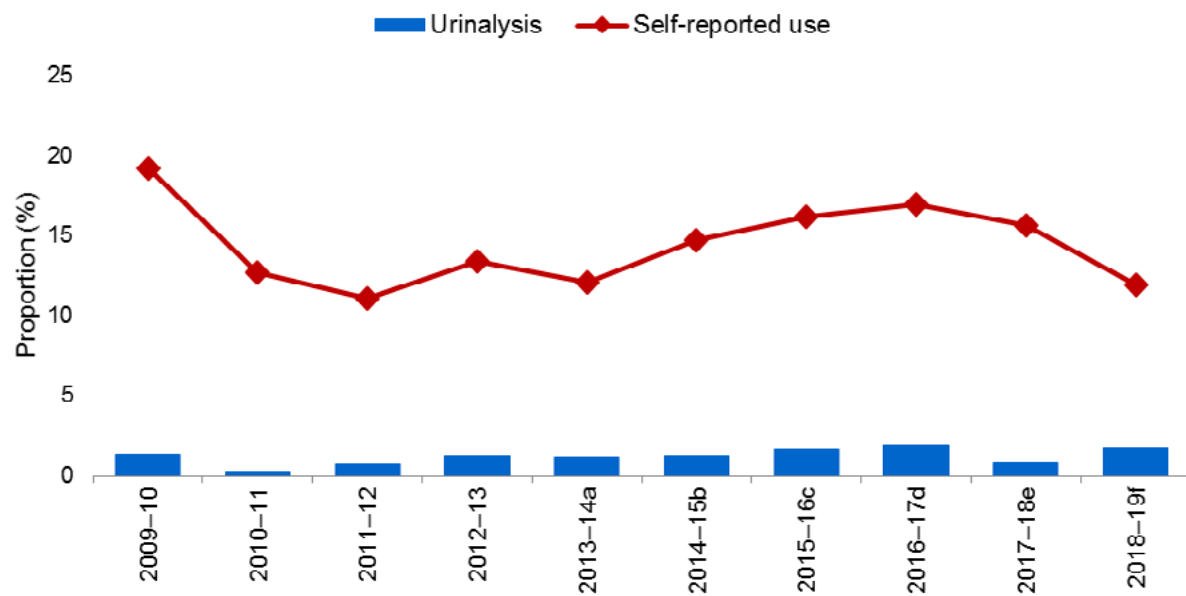
According to the EDRS study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 37 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 36 per cent in 2018.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills decreased over the last decade, from 98 per cent in 2010 to 67 per cent in 2019. Over the same period the proportion reporting the recent use of powder ecstasy (from 17 per cent to 29 per cent), capsules (from 47 per cent to 77 per cent) and crystal (from 28 per cent in 2013 to 63 per cent) increased.
- For the first time since the study commenced in 2003, capsules were the most common form of ecstasy recently used in 2019.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of any ecstasy use in the six months preceding interview remained relatively stable at 12 days in 2010, 2018 and 2019 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

According to data from the DUMA program:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA remained low and relatively stable, increasing from 1 per cent in 2009–10 to 2 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was less than 1 per cent.
- While the proportion of detainees self-reporting recent MDMA use fluctuated over the decade, it decreased from 19 per cent in 2009–10 to 12 per cent in 2018–19. This proportion was 16 per cent in 2017–18 (see Figure 4).

**FIGURE 4: National proportion of detainees testing positive for MDMA 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.



According to data from the 2017 ASSAD survey:

- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy use at least once in their lifetime increased, from 2 per cent in 2008 to 6 per cent in 2017.
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy use at least once in the past month remained relatively stable, increasing from 1 per cent in 2008 to 2 per cent in 2017.
- Data collected between 1996 and 2017 indicate that most secondary school students surveyed had never used ecstasy, with lifetime use increasing with age (Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).

## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased over the last decade, from 694 in 2009–10 to 308 in 2018–19. Methylamphetamine remains the main drug produced in clandestine laboratories detected nationally over the last decade.

The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratory detections decreased 72 per cent over the last decade, from 585 in 2009–10 to 164 in 2018–19. The number of MDMA laboratory detections fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing from 17 in 2009–10 to 6 in 2018–19 (see *Clandestine laboratories and precursors* chapter).

## PRICE

This section includes available price data for crystal methylamphetamine—the prevalent form of methylamphetamine available in Australia—and MDMA. Price data for amphetamine and non-crystal methylamphetamine are reported in the *Statistics* chapter.

At the street level, methylamphetamine is measured as a street deal (0.1 grams) or in grams.

According to price data provided by the jurisdictions:

- Nationally, the price for a street deal of crystal methylamphetamine remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$50 and \$200 in 2009–10 to between \$20 and \$200 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the price ranged from \$20 to \$100. The national median price for a street deal decreased over the last decade, from \$82.50 in 2009–10 to \$62.50 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the median price was \$75.
- Nationally, the price for 1 gram of crystal methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, ranging between \$300 and \$1,000 in 2009–10 to between \$140 and \$800 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the price ranged from \$150 to \$1,000. The national median price for a gram almost halved over the last decade, from \$750 in 2009–10 to \$385 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the median price was \$350.
- Nationally, the price for 1 kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, ranging between \$160,000 and \$325,000 in 2009–10 to between \$50,000 and \$140,000 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the price ranged from \$75,000 to \$300,000.

At the street level, the price for MDMA is measured as individual tablets or in grams. According to price data provided by the jurisdictions:

- Nationally, the price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$10 and \$50 in 2009–10 to between \$9 and \$50 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the price ranged from \$15 to \$45. The national median price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade from \$29.50 in 2009–10 to \$25 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the median price was \$27.50.

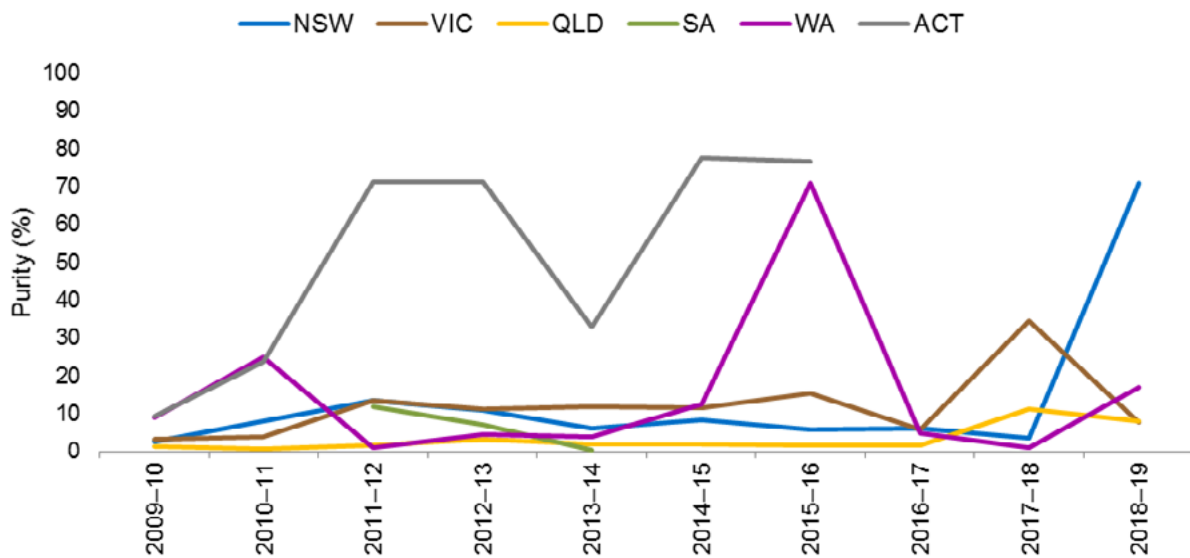


- No price data were available for 1 gram of MDMA in 2009–10. Nationally, the price for 1 gram of MDMA ranged between \$100 and \$300 in 2017–18 to between \$100 and \$350 in 2018–19. The national median price for a gram of MDMA was \$200 in 2017–18 and 2018–19.
- No price data were available for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2009–10. New South Wales and Queensland were the only jurisdictions to report the price for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2018–19, which ranged between \$35,000 and \$60,000, compared with a national price range of \$37,000 to \$80,000 in 2017–18.

## PURITY

Since 2009–10, with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, the annual median purity of analysed amphetamine<sup>25</sup> samples remained low and relatively stable for most jurisdictions, ranging between less than 1 per cent and 78 per cent. In 2018–19, the annual median purity ranged from 8 per cent in Victoria to 71 per cent in New South Wales. This reporting period New South Wales and Western Australia reported increases in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Victoria and Queensland reported decreases (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: Annual median purity of amphetamine samples, 2009–10 to 2018–19

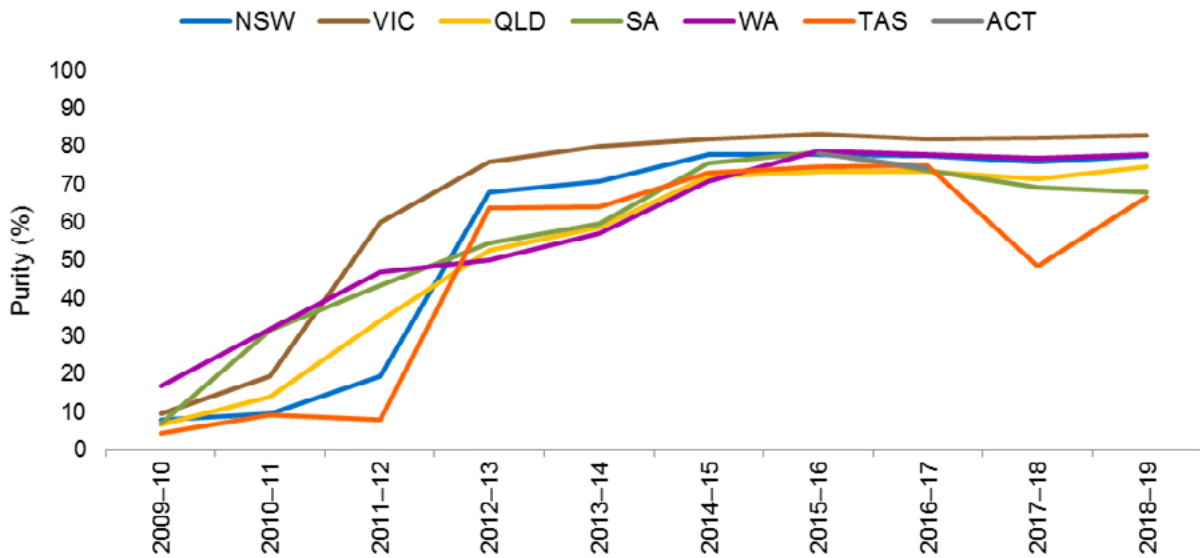


Since 2009–10, the annual median purity of analysed methylamphetamine samples ranged between 4 per cent and 83 per cent. The annual median purity increased over the last decade and since 2012–13, has remained high and relatively stable. In 2018–19, the annual median purity ranged from 67 per cent in Tasmania to 83 per cent in Victoria. With the exception of South Australia which decreased, all states reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine this reporting period (see Figure 6).

25 Amphetamine is a manufacturing by-product of some commonly used methods of methylamphetamine production. This can result in two separate purity figures for a single drug sample—one for methylamphetamine with considerable purity and another for amphetamine with low purity.

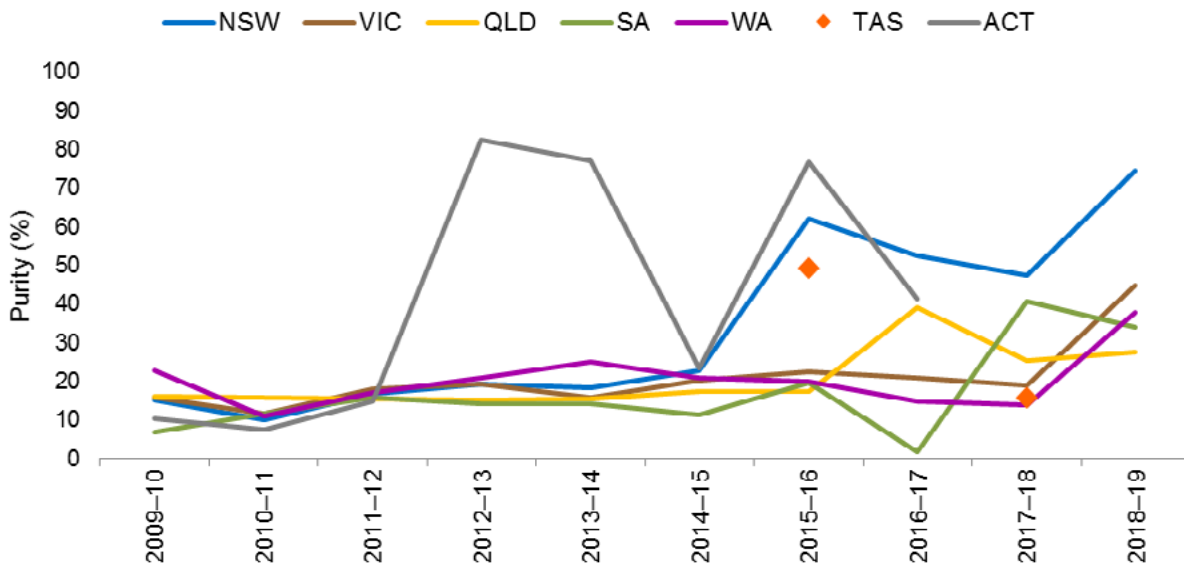


FIGURE 6: Annual median purity of methylamphetamine samples, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Since 2009–10, the annual median purity of analysed phenethylamine<sup>26</sup> samples ranged between 2 per cent and 83 per cent. While fluctuating, the annual median purity of phenethylamine increased over the last decade, particularly in New South Wales. In 2018–19, the annual median purity ranged from 28 per cent in Queensland to 75 per cent in New South Wales. With the exception of South Australia which reported a decrease, all states reported an increase in annual median phenethylamine purity this reporting period (see Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: Annual median purity of phenethylamine samples, 2009–10 to 2018–19



<sup>26</sup> Phenethylamines are synthetic drugs similar in composition to amphetamines. The most widely known phenethylamine is MDMA.



## AVAILABILITY

User surveys provide mixed results for the availability of methylamphetamine. The reported availability of crystal methylamphetamine remained relatively stable while the availability of powder methylamphetamine decreased. The same surveys indicate that the availability of ecstasy increased for all forms (powder, capsules and crystal) except pills.

In a 2019 national study of people who regularly inject drugs:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain increased, from 94 per cent in 2018 to 95 per cent in 2019. This is an increase from the 75 per cent reported 2010.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 80 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019. This figure is similar to the proportion reported in 2010 (79 per cent).
- The proportion of respondents reporting base methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 69 per cent in 2018 to 67 per cent in 2019. This is a decrease from 81 per cent in 2010 (Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock at al. 2019a).

In a 2019 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain remained stable at 94 per cent. This is an increase from the 78 per cent reported in 2010.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 65 per cent in 2018 to 68 per cent in 2019. This is a decrease from the 80 per cent reported in 2010.
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy in powder, capsule or crystal form as easy or very easy to obtain increased from 2018 to 2019—from 68 per cent to 76 per cent for powder; from 85 per cent to 92 per cent for capsules; and from 74 per cent to 81 per cent for crystal.
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy pills as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 83 per cent in 2018 to 81 per cent in 2019 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock at al. 2019b).

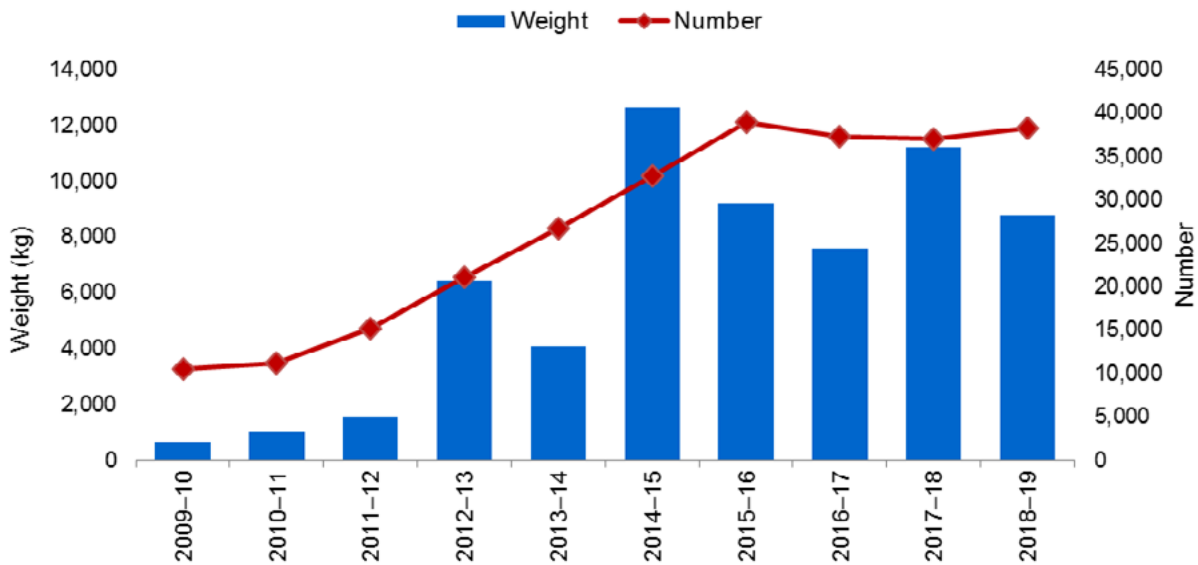
## SEIZURES

The number of national ATS seizures increased 263 per cent over the last decade, from 10,543 in 2009–10 to 38,250 in 2018–19. The number of national ATS seizures increased between 2009–10 and 2015–16 and has since remained high and relatively stable. This reporting period the number of national ATS seizures increased 3 per cent, from 37,093 in 2017–18 to 38,250 in 2018–19.

The weight of ATS seized nationally increased 1,206 per cent over the last decade from 671.7 kilograms in 2009–10 to 8,776.5 kilograms in 2018–19. This reporting period the weight of ATS seized nationally decreased 22 per cent, from 11,205.2 kilograms to 8,776.5 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 8).



FIGURE 8: National ATS seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS seizures in 2018–19, while Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of ATS seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (36 per cent) and weight of ATS seized nationally (51 per cent; see Table 3).

TABLE 3: Number, weight and percentage change of national ATS seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	12,582	13,865	10.2	8,315,935	4,448,119	-46.5
Victoria	2,364	2,360	-0.2	254,642	2,109,855	728.6
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	8,440	10,000	18.5	944,919	1,601,445	69.5
South Australia	912	1,007	10.4	31,513	242,411	669.2
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	11,295	9,439	-16.4	1,642,992	351,458	-78.6
Tasmania	613	743	21.2	3,913	7,722	97.3
Northern Territory	444	442	-0.5	7,014	4,815	-31.4
Australian Capital Territory	443	394	-11.1	4,337	10,724	147.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,093</b>	<b>38,250</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>11,205,265</b>	<b>8,776,549</b>	<b>-21.7</b>

a. Includes seizures by state/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.

Of the 263 per cent increase in the number of national ATS seizures over the last decade (from 10,543 in 2009–10 to 38,250 in 2018–19), the increase was most marked for amphetamines<sup>27</sup> (320 per cent), followed by MDMA (114 per cent) and other ATS (85 per cent).

27 Amphetamines include amphetamine, methylamphetamine, dexamphetamine and amphetamines not elsewhere classified.



Over the last decade amphetamines accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS seizures, increasing from 72 per cent in 2009–10 to 84 per cent in 2018–19. This was followed by MDMA seizures (27 per cent in 2009–10 to 16 per cent in 2018–19) and other ATS (1 per cent in 2009–10 and <1 per cent in 2018–19).

- This reporting period, the number of national amphetamines seizures increased 3 per cent, from 31,204 in 2017–18 to 32,021 in 2018–19. The number of national MDMA seizures increased 7 per cent, from 5,719 in 2017–18 to 6,103 in 2018–19, while the number of other ATS seizures decreased 26 per cent, from 170 in 2017–18 to 126 in 2018–19.

Of the 1,206 per cent increase in the weight of national ATS seizures over the last decade (from 671.7 kilograms in 2009–10 to 8,776.5 kilograms in 2018–19), the weight of amphetamines seized increased 1,387 per cent, with the weight of MDMA seized increasing 1,244 per cent and the weight of other ATS increasing 982 per cent.

Over the last decade amphetamines accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally, increasing from 44 per cent in 2009–10 to 50 per cent 2018–19, followed by other ATS (decreasing from 39 per cent in 2009–10 to 32 per cent in 2018–19) and MDMA (remaining relatively stable at 17 per cent in 2009–10 and 18 per cent in 2018–19).

- The weight of amphetamines seized decreased 13 per cent this reporting period, from 5,064.9 kilograms in 2017–18 to 4,418.0 kilograms in 2018–19. The weight of MDMA seized decreased 23 per cent this reporting period, from 2,033.0 kilograms in 2017–18 to 1,560.0 kilograms in 2018–19, with the weight of other ATS seized decreasing 32 per cent this reporting period, from 4,107.2 kilograms in 2017–18 to 2,798.4 kilograms in 2018–19.

The form of national ATS seizures (by number) changed markedly over the last decade, from a relatively equal number of seizures of all forms of ATS earlier in the decade to predominantly seizures of crystalline ATS from 2013–14 onwards.

- The number of national seizures of ATS in crystalline form increased 1,045 per cent from 2009–10 to 2018–19, with the weight seized increasing 3,100 per cent over the same period.

Proportionally, in 2009–10, national ATS seizures in crystalline, powder, tablet and other forms were broadly similar (ranging between 22 and 29 per cent). In 2018–19, seizures in crystalline form accounted for 69 per cent of the number of national ATS seizures, followed by other<sup>28</sup> (18 per cent), powder (10 per cent) and tablet (3 per cent).

By weight, the form of national ATS seizures fluctuated over the last decade, though the proportion of national seizures in crystalline form increased from 19 per cent in 2009–10 to 47 per cent in 2018–19.

- Seizures in crystalline form accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally in 2018–19 (47 per cent), followed by powder (41 per cent), other (11 per cent) and tablet (<1 per cent).

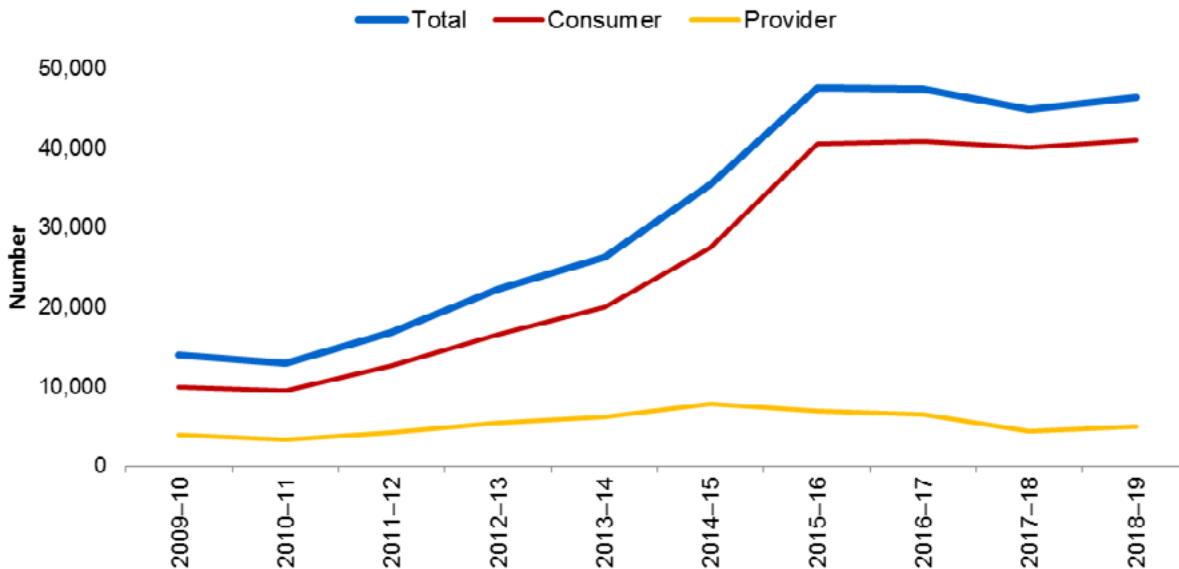
## ARRESTS

The number of national ATS arrests increased 232 per cent over the last decade, from 13,982 in 2009–10 to 46,437 in 2018–19—an increase of 4 per cent from the 44,887 arrests in 2017–18. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 88 per cent of national ATS arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 9).

28 In relation to ATS drug form, the category of 'other' reflects drug forms other than crystalline, powder or tablet and includes seizures for which the drug form was not known or inadequately described.

Amphetamines continue to account for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests, accounting for 87 per cent in 2018–19, followed by MDMA (13 per cent) and other ATS (<1 per cent). The number of national amphetamines arrests increased 4 per cent this reporting period, from 39,065 in 2017–18 to 40,487 in 2018–19. The number of MDMA arrests increased 3 per cent this reporting period, from 5,739 in 2017–18 to 5,890 in 2018–19. The number of other ATS arrests decreased 28 per cent, from 83 in 2017–18 to 60 in 2018–19.

FIGURE 9: Number of national ATS arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS arrests in 2018–19. This reporting period Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS (28 per cent; see Table 4).

TABLE 4: Number and percentage change of national ATS arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	9,784	10,355	5.8
Victoria	10,153	10,598	4.4
Queensland	11,511	12,926	12.3
South Australia	5,852	4,390	-25.0
Western Australia	6,631	7,031	6.0
Tasmania	551	718	30.3
Northern Territory	217	270	24.4
Australian Capital Territory	188	149	-20.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,887</b>	<b>46,437</b>	<b>3.5</b>

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



## NATIONAL IMPACT

The weight of global ATS seizures increased from 2016 to 2017, with methylamphetamine accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized. Over the same period, the weight of methylamphetamine seized globally increased, the weight of amphetamine seized decreased and the weight of ecstasy seized remained stable. The number and weight of methylamphetamine and amphetamine seized globally by WCO agencies increased in 2018, while number and weight of MDMA seized decreased.

Several indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia suggest that the markets for both methylamphetamine and MDMA are expanding.

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

- Data from surveys of people who regularly inject drugs point to an increase in methylamphetamine use in 2019. While heroin remains the drug of choice within this population, weekly or more frequent methylamphetamine use in the past six months in 2019 was higher than heroin for the second consecutive year.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the availability of crystal methylamphetamine increased in 2019.
- According to a national study of police detainees, both the proportion of detainees testing positive to amphetamines—the majority of which continues to be methylamphetamine—and the proportion of detainees self-reporting recent methylamphetamine use increased.
- According to historical national studies of secondary students, amphetamine use among secondary school students is low and declining.
- The NWDMP identified that, of the substances monitored by the program with available dose data, methylamphetamine remains the most consumed illicit drug, with regional consumption exceeding capital city consumption. The population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine increased in both capital city and regional sites.

Indicators of ATS (excluding MDMA) supply include border detection, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border decreased, while the weight detected increased to record levels.
- The number of national ATS seizures increased, while the weight of ATS seized nationally decreased.
- Amphetamines accounted for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of national ATS seizures in 2018–19.
- The number of national ATS arrests increased, with amphetamines accounting for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests in 2018–19.
- The national median price for a street deal of crystal methylamphetamine decreased.
- The annual median purity of analysed amphetamine samples fluctuated, while the annual median purity of analysed methylamphetamine samples increased in all states except South Australia.



- While methylamphetamine manufactured from ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (Eph/PSE) remains prominent in the Australian market, drug profiling data indicates the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using P2P has increased. The proportion of mixed/unclassified seizures has also increased, suggesting the use of new routes of methylamphetamine manufacture.
- Methylamphetamine remains the main drug produced in clandestine laboratories detected nationally.

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

- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, ecstasy remains the drug of choice within this user population, with the median days of use in the past six months remaining stable. For first time since the program began in 2003, recent use of capsules overtook recent use of ecstasy pills.
- The same survey reported that the availability of ecstasy increased for all forms of the drug (powder, capsules and crystal) except pills.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA increased, while the proportion of detainees self-reporting MDMA use decreased.
- According to a national study of secondary students, the majority of secondary students surveyed had never used ecstasy, with use increasing with age.
- The NWDMP indicates that average MDMA consumption is higher in regional sites than capital city sites. The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites over the life of the program.

Indicators of MDMA supply include border detections, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border increased. The weight of MDMA detected in 2018–19 is the highest recorded in the last decade.
- The number of national MDMA seizures increased this reporting period, while the weight of MDMA seized nationally decreased.
- The number of national MDMA arrests decreased.
- The national median price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased.
- The annual median purity of analysed phenethylamine samples—the majority of which related to MDMA—increased in all states except South Australia.
- The number of MDMA laboratory detections decreased.





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# CANNABIS



## KEY POINTS

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- 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.



## MAIN FORMS

Cannabis is derived from plants within the Cannabis genus, in particular the two species *Cannabis sativa* and *Cannabis indica*.

- Cannabis plants can grow in a range of climates, as well as indoors through the use of hydroponic cultivation.
- The primary cannabinoid and main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, commonly known as THC, which is concentrated in the leaves and flowering head of the plant.
- The three main forms of cannabis are herb, resin and oil.
  - Herbal cannabis comprises the dried flowers and leaves of the plant, is usually smoked, and is the least potent form.
  - Cannabis resin ('hashish') is produced from the compressed resin glands of the cannabis plant. Resin can be smoked or added to food.
  - Cannabis oil, the most potent form of cannabis, is obtained from the resin and generally applied to cannabis herb or tobacco and smoked (CIS 2015).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Cannabis continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide. While reported cannabis use stabilised in many countries with established cannabis markets, an increase in consumption was recorded for emerging markets in many countries in Asia and Africa. Available indicators point to an increase in both indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation between 2013 and 2017. Based on the number of countries reporting cannabis cultivation or related law enforcement activity, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assessed that while outdoor cannabis cultivation is estimated to be more widespread globally, the increase in indoor cannabis cultivation is estimated to be three times that of outdoor cannabis cultivation during the same period (UNODC 2019a).

Based on UNODC data, cannabis remains the most seized drug worldwide. The combined weight of cannabis resin and cannabis herb seized globally decreased 3 per cent, from 6,453 tonnes in 2016 to 6,272 tonnes in 2017. The weight of cannabis resin seized globally decreased 31 per cent, from 1,683 tonnes in 2016 to 1,161 tonnes in 2017—ending the upward trend in cannabis resin seizures over the period 2011–16. In contrast, the weight of cannabis herb seized globally increased 7 per cent, from 4,770 tonnes in 2016 to 5,111 tonnes in 2017. Forty-nine per cent of the combined weight of cannabis herb and resin seized globally in 2017 was in the Americas, followed by 18 per cent in Asia, 17 per cent in Africa, 15 per cent in Europe and less than 1 per cent in Oceania. Data for the number of seizures for both cannabis resin and cannabis herb were not available (UNODC 2019a; UNODC 2019b; UNODC 2019c).

Similar to previous years, the Americas continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis herb seized globally in 2017 (60 per cent). In contrast to previous years where the largest proportion of cannabis herb was seized in North America, South America accounted for the greatest proportion seized in 2017 (38 per cent). The Near and Middle East/South-West Asian region, and Western and Central Europe accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis resin seized in 2017 (UNODC 2019a).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of cannabis seizures and the weight of cannabis seized globally by WCO agencies continued to decrease in 2018. The number of cannabis seizures decreased 7 per cent to 10,521 in 2018 and the weight of cannabis seized decreased 19 per cent to 683,002.6 kilograms in 2018. Similar to 2017, herbal cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of cannabis seized. In contrast, the number of cannabis resin seizures and the weight of cannabis resin seized continued to increase. Compared to 2017, the number of cannabis resin seizures increased by 20 per cent in 2018 and the weight of cannabis resin seized increased by 25 per cent (WCO 2019).

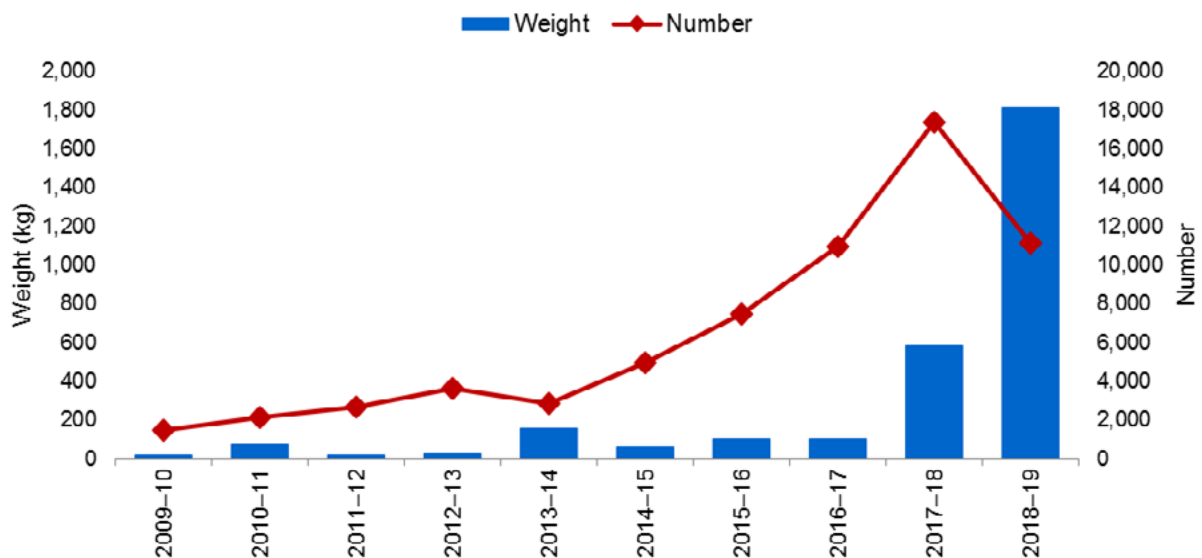
## DOMESTIC TRENDS AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased 666 per cent over the last decade, from 1,454 in 2009–10 to 11,133 in 2018–19. The number of cannabis detections decreased 36 per cent this reporting period from 17,383 in 2017–18.

The weight of cannabis detected increased 9,144 per cent over the last decade, from 19.6 kilograms in 2009–10 to 1,811.7 kilograms in 2018–19, the highest weight recorded in the last decade. The weight of cannabis detected increased 212 per cent this reporting period from 580.2 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 10).

The 2018–19 cannabis detections included a single detection of 1,500 kilograms (see Appendix 2). In 2018–19, 32 of the 11,133 cannabis detections (<1 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 1,618.7 kilograms, these 32 detections account for 89 per cent of the weight of cannabis detected in 2018–19.<sup>29</sup>

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



29 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of cannabis in 2018–19.



## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of cannabis 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 cannabis detections (97 per cent), followed by air cargo (2 per cent), air passenger/crew (1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, sea cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (83 per cent), followed by international mail (11 per cent), air cargo (6 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

## EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2018–19, 49 countries were identified as embarkation points for cannabis detected at the Australian border, compared to 50 countries in 2017–18. By weight, the United States continued to be the primary embarkation point for cannabis detected in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Spain, the United Kingdom, China (including Hong Kong), France, Laos, Canada, the Netherlands, Taiwan and the Philippines.

## 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. The NWDMP began measuring cannabis consumption in August 2018. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2018 to August 2019:

- Cannabis consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cannabis in capital city sites decreased.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cannabis in regional sites decreased (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:

- Over the last decade, the proportion of respondents reporting cannabis as their drug of choice remained relatively stable at 8 per cent as reported in 2010 and 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 7 per cent.

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use<sup>30</sup> of any form of cannabis remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 75 per cent in 2010 to 74 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 73 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis use in the six months preceding interview decreased over the last decade, from 180 days in 2010 to 130 days in 2019. In 2018 the median number of days was 100 (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 cannabis as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2010 to 26 per cent in 2019. This proportion remained unchanged from 2018.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cannabis increased over the last decade, from 80 per cent in 2010 to 85 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 90 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis use in the six months preceding interview increased over the last decade, from 24 days in 2010 to 60 days in 2019. In 2018 the median number of days was 48 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

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.<sup>31</sup> According to DUMA program data:

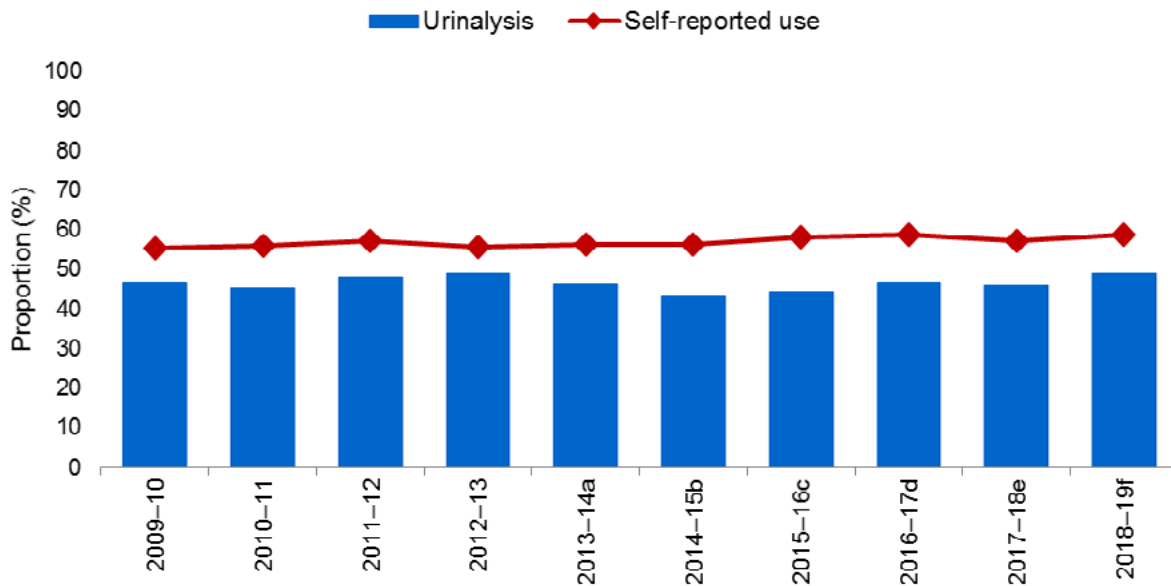
- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis and self-reporting cannabis use have remained relatively stable.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis over the last decade ranged from a low of 43 per cent in 2014–15 to a high of 49 per cent in 2012–13 and 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 46 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use<sup>32</sup> of cannabis among detainees over the last decade ranged from 55 per cent in 2009–10 to 59 per cent in 2016–17 and 2018–19. In 2017–18, this proportion was 57 per cent (see Figure 11).

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

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

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

**FIGURE 11: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cannabis 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 reporting cannabis use at least once in their lifetime increased over the last decade, from 14 per cent in 2008 to 17 per cent in 2017. In 2014 this proportion was 16 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting having used cannabis at least once in the past month also increased over the last decade, from 6 per cent in 2008 to 8 per cent in 2017. In 2014 this proportion was 7 per cent.
- Data collected between 1996 and 2017 indicates that cannabis is the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary students, with prevalence and frequency of use increasing in older students (Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).



## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of detections of cannabis oil extraction laboratories remained relatively stable this reporting period, increasing from 17 in 2017–18 to 18 in 2018–19. South Australia accounted for the majority of detections (12), followed by Victoria (5) and New South Wales (1) (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

## PRICE

At the street level, the price of cannabis is generally measured as a ‘deal’ (approximately 1 gram). Nationally, the price for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$20 and \$100 in 2009–10 to between \$10 and \$100 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the reported price ranged from \$20 to \$50. The national median price for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head also remained relatively stable over the last decade (\$25 in 2009–10 and \$23.70 in 2018–19). In 2017–18 the national median price was \$25.

Nationally, the price for 1 ounce (28 grams) of hydroponic cannabis head remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$250 and \$500 in 2009–10 to between \$200 and \$500 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the reported price ranged between \$200 and \$450. The national median price for 1 ounce of hydroponic cannabis head decreased over the last decade, from \$350 in 2009–10 to \$302.50 in 2018–19, an increase from \$280 in 2017–18.

Nationally, the price for a single mature hydroponic cannabis plant remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$2,000 and \$5,000 in 2009–10 to between \$3,000 and \$5,000 in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the reported price ranged between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

The price range for 1 gram of resin decreased over the last decade, from between \$40 and \$50 in 2009–10 (reported in New South Wales and Queensland) to between \$25 and \$50 in 2018–19 (reported in Queensland and Tasmania). The 2018–19 price remained unchanged from 2017–18.

## AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate that the availability of hydroponic cannabis remained relatively stable this reporting period, while the reported availability of bush cannabis<sup>33</sup> increased.

In a 2019 national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting hydroponic cannabis as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain decreased, from 89 per cent in 2018 to 88 per cent in 2019. In the same study the proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 77 per cent in 2018 to 78 per cent in 2019. While showing an overall decrease in availability over the last decade, these figures are similar to the proportions reported in 2010 for hydroponic cannabis (92 per cent) and bush cannabis (79 per cent; Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

33 Bush cannabis refers to cannabis grown outdoors.



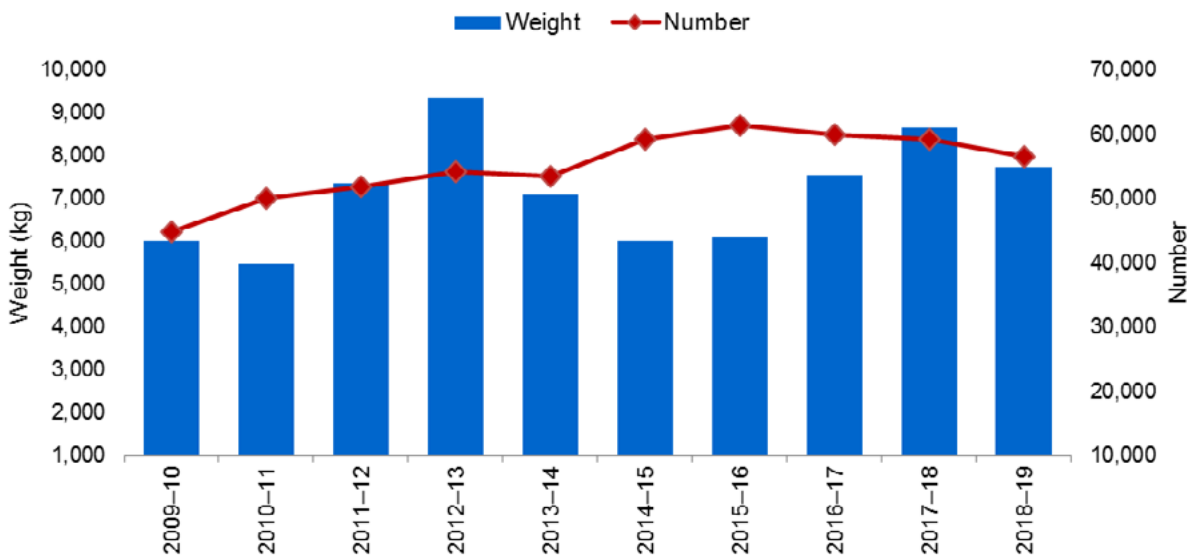
In a 2019 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting hydroponic cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 84 per cent in 2018 to 90 per cent in 2019. In the same study the proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 75 per cent in 2018 to 78 per cent in 2019. These figures are similar to the proportions reported in 2010, with small increases reported for the availability of hydroponic cannabis (87 per cent) and bush cannabis (73 per cent; Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

## SEIZURES

The number of national cannabis seizures increased 26 per cent over the last decade, from 44,736 in 2009–10 to 56,491 in 2018–19. The number of national cannabis seizures decreased 5 per cent this reporting period from 59,139 in 2017–18.

The weight of cannabis seized nationally increased 29 per cent over the last decade, from 5,989.8 kilograms in 2009–10 to 7,740.8 kilograms in 2018–19. The weight of cannabis seized nationally decreased 11 per cent this reporting period from 8,655.9 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 12).

**FIGURE 12: National cannabis seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



The Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in both the number and weight of cannabis seized in 2018–19. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number (31 per cent) of national cannabis seizures, while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized nationally (41 per cent; see Table 5).

**TABLE 5: Number, weight and percentage change of national cannabis seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

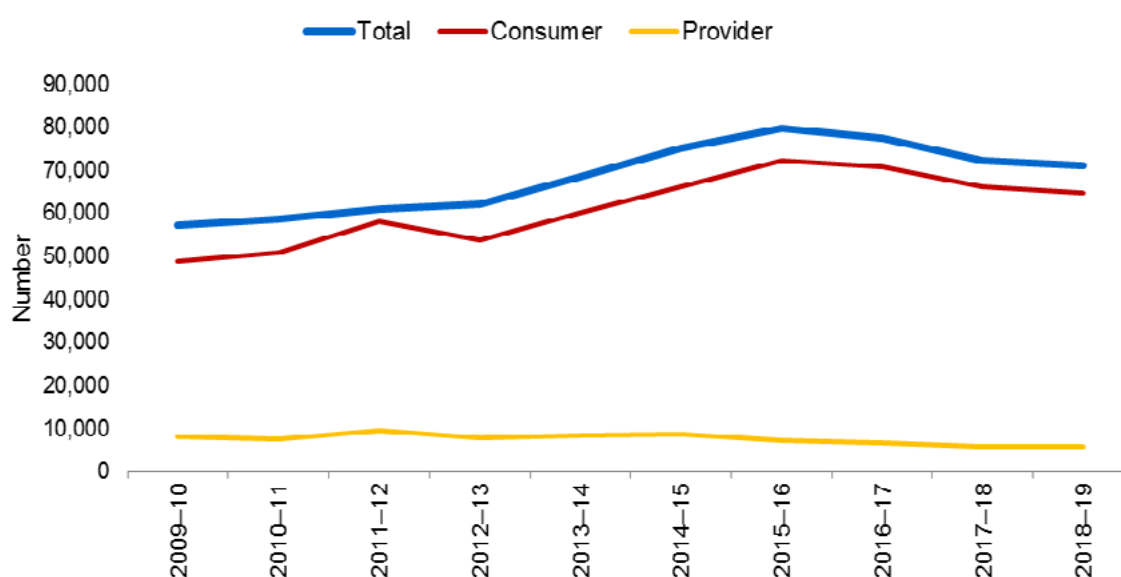
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	17,720	17,261	-2.6	2,373,144	2,197,338	-7.4
Victoria	3,312	3,524	6.4	1,434,393	3,184,656	122.0
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	16,543	16,955	2.5	2,558,050	1,105,706	-56.8
South Australia	366	116	-68.3	506,229	223,684	-55.8
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	16,771	14,240	-15.1	1,254,008	392,922	-68.7
Tasmania	1,897	1,799	-5.2	213,959	220,887	3.2
Northern Territory	1,922	1,941	1.0	163,708	71,331	-56.4
Australian Capital Territory	608	655	7.7	152,507	344,362	125.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,139</b>	<b>56,491</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>8,655,998</b>	<b>7,740,886</b>	<b>-10.6</b>

- a. Includes seizures by state/territory police and the 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

Overall, the number of national cannabis arrests increased 24 percent over the last decade, from 57,170 in 2009–10 to 71,151 in 2018–19, although since 2015–16 the number of arrests decreased. The number of national cannabis arrests decreased 2 per cent this reporting period from 72,381 in 2017–18. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 91 per cent of national cannabis arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 13).

**FIGURE 13: Number of national cannabis arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



The Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in cannabis arrests in 2018–19. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national cannabis arrests this reporting period (31 per cent; see Table 6).

**TABLE 6: Number and percentage change of national cannabis arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	16,679	16,224	-2.7
Victoria	9,675	10,485	8.4
Queensland	21,126	21,780	3.1
South Australia	1,672	1,141	-31.8
South Australia (CENs) <sup>b</sup>	8,961	8,093	-9.7
Western Australia	9,342	8,917	-4.5
Western Australia (CIRs) <sup>c</sup>	1,763	1,546	-12.3
Tasmania	1,591	1,435	-9.8
Northern Territory	507	555	9.5
Northern Territory (DINs) <sup>d</sup>	675	732	8.4
Australian Capital Territory	338	188	-44.4
Australian Capital Territory (SCONs) <sup>e</sup>	52	55	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,381</b>	<b>71,151</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

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

b. Cannabis Expiation Notices.

c. Cannabis Intervention Requirements.

d. Drug Infringement Notices.

e. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices.

## NATIONAL IMPACT

Cannabis continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide, with increases in consumption reported in many countries in Asia and Africa between 2016 and 2017. While there was a small decrease in the weight of cannabis seized worldwide in 2017, it remains the most seized drug globally, with cannabis herb continuing to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized. The number of cannabis seizures and the weight of cannabis seized globally by WCO agencies continued to decrease in 2018, with herbal cannabis continuing to account for the greatest proportion of both the number and weight of cannabis seized.

Indicators of cannabis demand and supply in Australia provide a mixed picture, but overall point to a large, relatively stable market.

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

- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, both the reported recent use of cannabis and median days of use increased from 2018 to 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the reported recent use of cannabis decreased from 2018 to 2019, while the median days of use increased.
- According to a national study of police detainees, both the proportion of detainees testing positive for cannabis and self-reported cannabis use increased in 2018–19.
- According to a national study of secondary students, cannabis was the most commonly reported drug used by secondary school students in 2017, with the prevalence and frequency of use increasing in older students.
- The NWDMP indicates that cannabis consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites. When comparing data for August 2018 to August 2019, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis decreased in both capital city and regional sites.

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

- The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border decreased, while the weight detected increased to the highest weight recorded in the last decade (noting that a single detection accounted for 83 per cent of the weight detected in 2018–19).
- While the number and weight of national cannabis seizures and the number of national cannabis arrests decreased, they remain high.
- The national median price for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head decreased slightly.
- The number of detections of cannabis oil extraction laboratories remained relatively stable, increasing from 17 in 2017–18 to 18 in 2018–19.

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# HEROIN



## KEY POINTS

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- 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.

## MAIN FORMS

Heroin (diacetylmorphine or diamorphine) is a derivative of morphine—an alkaloid contained in raw opium.

- Illicit cultivation of opium occurs on a large scale in three primary regions:
  - South-West Asia, known as the ‘Golden Crescent’, which encompasses large areas of Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan.
  - South-East Asia, known as the ‘Golden Triangle’, which encompasses the border regions of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.
  - Latin America, primarily Mexico and Colombia.
- Of the four main ‘grades’ of heroin, grades 1 and 2 refer to heroin base, not commonly found in Australia. Grade 3 heroin is more refined than heroin base and less granular. Unsuitable for injection, it is most commonly heated and the vapours inhaled. Grade 4 powdered heroin is the most common grade used in developed countries. It is the purest form and is suitable for injection.
- In Australia, heroin is most commonly found either as a powder or a hard granular material, usually white or off-white in colour (though colour is not a reliable indicator of origin or purity).
- The most common route of administration for heroin is injection, followed by snorting, inhalation (through smoking), swallowing or as an additive to cannabis or tobacco (ADF 2019; EMCDDA 2017; UNODC 2016).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The total area under opium cultivation worldwide decreased 17 per cent, from 418,000 hectares in 2017 to around 346,000 hectares in 2018. While global opium production decreased 25 per cent, from 10,500 tonnes in 2017 to 7,790 tonnes in 2018, it remains amongst the highest weights reported in the last two decades. Afghanistan remains the largest opium producing country in the world, accounting for 82 per cent of global illicit opium production in 2018. The decrease in global opium production in 2018 was primarily the result of decreases in Afghanistan<sup>34</sup>, where the area under opium poppy cultivation decreased by 20 per cent. Despite this decrease, the estimated area under cultivation in Afghanistan in 2018 is the second largest on record (UNODC 2018; UNODC 2019).

Opium production in Myanmar also decreased in 2018 and is at its lowest reported level since 2010—heroin originating from South East Asia, including Myanmar, dominates AFP border seizures. The area under opium cultivation in Myanmar has continued to decrease since 2014. The total area under opium cultivation decreased 11 per cent, from 37,300 hectares in 2018 to 33,100 hectares in 2019. Due to increases in average opium yield (11 per cent increase from 2018), the estimated production of opium in 2019 was 508 tonnes—a 2 per cent decrease from the 520 tonnes reported in 2018. Estimated global heroin production decreased 25 per cent, from between 692 and 1,042 tonnes in 2017 to between 487 and 737 tonnes of heroin in 2018 (UNODC 2019; UNODC 2020).

<sup>34</sup> A severe drought in Afghanistan impacted opium cultivation and production in 2018.



According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2019 World Drug Report, the weight of opiates (including heroin and opium) seized globally reached record levels in 2017. The weight of heroin seized globally increased 13 per cent, from 91 tonnes in 2016 to 103 tonnes in 2017, with the weight of opium seized globally increasing 5 per cent, from 658 tonnes in 2016 to 693 tonnes in 2017 (UNODC 2019).

The UNODC notes that most seizures of opiates occurred in, or close proximity to, the main opium production areas. In 2017, more than 90 per cent of global illicit opium production took place in Asia, which also accounted for 86 per cent of total weight of opiates (expressed in heroin equivalents) seized globally. Similar to 2016, in 2017 the Islamic Republic of Iran accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of opiates seized globally (39 per cent), followed by Afghanistan (26 per cent) and Pakistan (14 per cent; UNODC 2018; UNODC 2019).

In 2017, the weight of heroin seized globally continued to increase in all regions except Oceania. Pakistan accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of heroin seized globally in 2017 (24 per cent), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (23 per cent) and Turkey (17 per cent; UNODC 2019).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), heroin continues to account for the greatest proportion of global opiate seizures at the border. Heroin was the only drug within the 'opiates' category to report an increase in the number and weight of seizures in 2018, with other opiates reporting decreases. The number of heroin border seizures increased 12 per cent to 1,514 in 2018. While specific weights were not available, the weight of heroin seized increased 33 per cent in 2018 (WCO 2019).

## DOMESTIC TRENDS

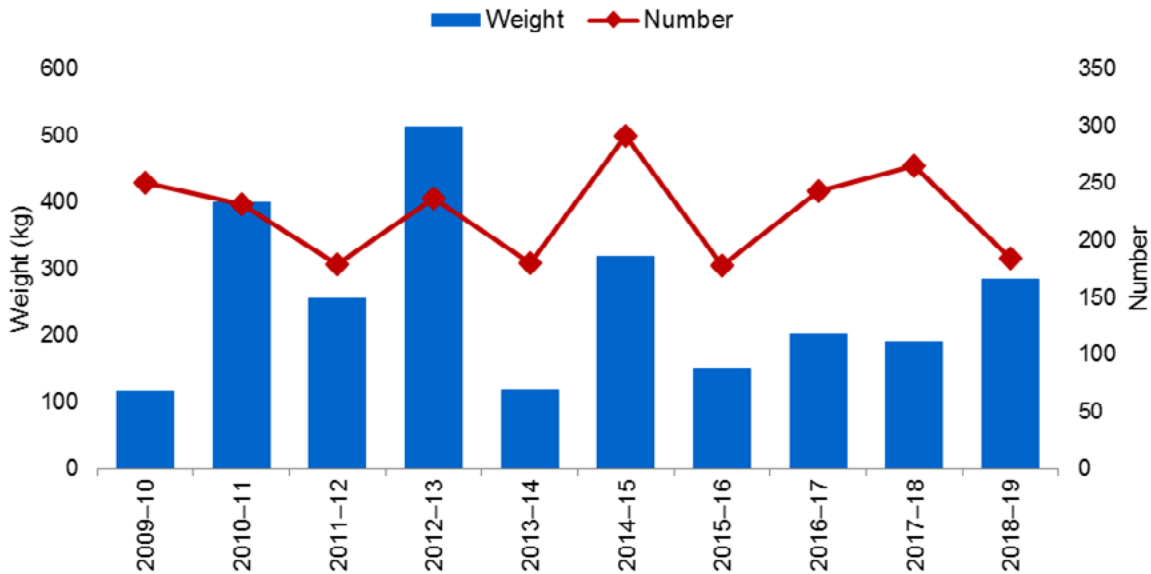
### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of heroin detections at the Australian border fluctuated greatly over the last decade, decreasing 26 per cent from 250 in 2009–10 to 184 in 2018–19 but the long-term trend was relatively stable. The number of heroin detections decreased 31 per cent this reporting period, from 265 in 2017–18.

The weight of heroin detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 141 per cent from 117.5 kilograms in 2009–10 to 283.4 kilograms in 2018–19. The weight of heroin detected increased 49 per cent this reporting period, from 190.1 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 14).

In 2018–19, 40 of the 184 heroin detections (22 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 269.6 kilograms, these 40 detections accounted for 95 per cent of the weight of heroin detected in 2018–19.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of heroin in 2018–19.

**FIGURE 14: Number and weight of heroin detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19**  
(Source: Department of Home Affairs)

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of heroin 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 heroin detections (81 per cent), followed by air cargo (17 per cent), air passenger/crew (1 per cent) and sea cargo (1 per cent). By weight, the air cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (68 per cent), followed by international mail (21 per cent), sea cargo (11 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

## EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2018–19, 21 countries were identified as embarkation points for heroin detected at the Australian border, compared to 24 countries in 2017–18. By weight, Malaysia was the primary embarkation point for heroin detected in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Thailand, Laos, Singapore, Iraq, South Africa, Pakistan, Mozambique, Indonesia and India.

## 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 enables the identification of the regions of origin and manufacturing trends for samples of heroin submitted from seizures made at the Australian border<sup>36</sup> and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purpose of chemical profiling.<sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

<sup>37</sup> Data from these samples/seizures have not been included in these summary.

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.<sup>38</sup>

- Heroin originating from South-East Asia (SEA) continues to dominate AFP seizures (see Tables 7 and 8).
- For the first time since 2013, heroin originating from South America was seized during this reporting period (see Table 7). This seizure was made offshore (but destined for Australia) as part of Operation HOTH and accounted for 7 per cent of the total bulk weight analysed in the first six months of 2019.
- While there was an increase in the number of heroin seizures of South-West Asian (SWA) origin in the first six months of 2019, they were small seizures and accounted for less than one per cent of the total bulk weight for that period.
- Across the 2018 to June 2019 reporting period, there were a number of instances where geographical origin was unable to be determined. These are small seizures and account for less than one cent of the total bulk weight of samples analysed in that period.

**TABLE 7: Geographical origin of heroin samples as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures, 2009–June 2019<sup>39</sup> (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)**

Year	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	South America %	Unclassified %	South-East Asia & Unclassified %	South-West Asia & Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019	73.3	13.3	6.7	6.7	–	–
2018	92.3	–	–	7.7	–	–
2017	94.1	5.9	–	–	–	–
2016	95.2	4.8	–	–	–	–
2015	77.8	18.5	–	3.7	–	–
2014	52.2	37.0	–	2.2	4.3	–
2013	74.6	18.2	5.5	–	1.8	–
2012	70.7	25.9	–	3.4	–	–
2011	49.0	51.0	–	–	–	–
2010	63.8	27.5	–	5.8	–	2.9
2009	53.9	42.6	–	3.4	–	–

<sup>38</sup> Improvements in information technology have brought about changes to how the data is collated and presented, and for this reason, care should be taken in comparing figures before 2010 to more recent data. For all reporting years, the data represent 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.

<sup>39</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

**TABLE 8: Geographical origin of heroin samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2009–June 2019<sup>40</sup> (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)**

Year	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	South America %	Unclassified %	South-East Asia & Unclassified %	South-West Asia & Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019	92.5	0.3	7.1	<0.1	–	–
2018	99.9	–	–	<0.1	–	–
2017	99.9	0.1	–	–	–	–
2016	100.0	–	–	–	–	–
2015	97.4	1.8	–	0.8	–	–
2014	89.9	7.8	–	<0.01	0.2	–
2013	84.3	8.9	4.3	–	2.5	–
2012	98.4	1.3	–	0.3	–	–
2011	39.4	60.6	–	–	–	–
2010	47.9	50.6	–	1.5	–	–
2009	70.1	27.4	–	2.7	–	–

The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability extends forensic profiling to include state and territory seizures involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine. This enables the identification of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.<sup>41</sup>

Heroin samples submitted to the ENIPID capability in 2018 and the first six months of 2019 continue to reflect the situation at the border, highlighting the continued dominance of SEA heroin in the Australian market (see Appendix 3, Tables 3 and 4).<sup>42</sup>

- When compared to the AFP border data, an increase in the “Mixed/Unclassified” samples for the 2018 period was noted, however this remained consistent with trends observed in the ENIPID data reported in previous years.
- A slight increase in SWA heroin was observed when compared to AFP border data for the 2018 reporting period; however, when compared to 2017, there is a notable decrease in heroin ENIPID samples of SWA origin.

<sup>40</sup> This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

<sup>41</sup> 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 Forensic Drug Intelligence duties to ensure its continued delivery through AFP Forensics.

<sup>42</sup> Care should be taken when drawing any conclusions from this data due to the low number of heroin samples profiled during this period.

## 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, including heroin from August 2017. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2018 to August 2019:

- Heroin consumption fluctuated, but overall was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of heroin in both capital city and regional sites increased.
- Demand for heroin remains low compared to other illicit drugs, particularly methylamphetamine.
- The ACIC estimates that around 940 kilograms of heroin was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 750 kilograms of heroin 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 heroin as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 54 per cent in 2010 to 45 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 41 per cent.
- While heroin remains the most commonly reported drug of choice within this population, in 2019 methylamphetamine was reported as the drug injected most often in the past month (42 per cent for methylamphetamine compared to 40 per cent for heroin).
- The reported recent use<sup>43</sup> of heroin in this population decreased over the last decade, from 64 per cent in 2010 to 54 per cent in 2018. In 2019 this proportion was 55 per cent, the first increase in recent use reported in the last decade.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of heroin use in the six months preceding interview increased, ranging from 60 days in 2013 to 90 days in 2015 and 2019, respectively. In 2018, the reported number of days was 74 (Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

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

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 the recent use of heroin remained relatively stable over the last decade, with 4 per cent of this population reporting the recent use of heroin in 2010, compared to 3 per cent reported in both 2018 and 2019 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples<sup>44</sup> annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to the ANSPS National Data Reports:

- Methylamphetamine was the most commonly reported drug last injected since 2014. Notably, earlier in the decade heroin was the most commonly reported drug last injected (in 2009 heroin was 34 per cent and methylamphetamine was 24 per cent).
- The proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the drug last injected varied across the states and territories, but nationally decreased over the last decade, ranging from 34 per cent in 2009 to 26 per cent in 2018. The proportion reported in 2018 is a decrease from the 30 per cent reported in 2017 (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.<sup>45</sup> According to DUMA program data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin and self-reporting heroin use generally decreased.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive<sup>46</sup> to heroin over the last decade ranged from a low of 5 per cent in 2018–19 to a high of 11 per cent in 2009–10 and 2010–11. In 2017–18 this proportion was 6 per cent.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent heroin use<sup>47</sup> over the last decade ranged from 11 per cent in both 2014–15 and 2017–18 to 14 per cent in 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12. In 2018–19 this proportion was 13 per cent (see Figure 15).

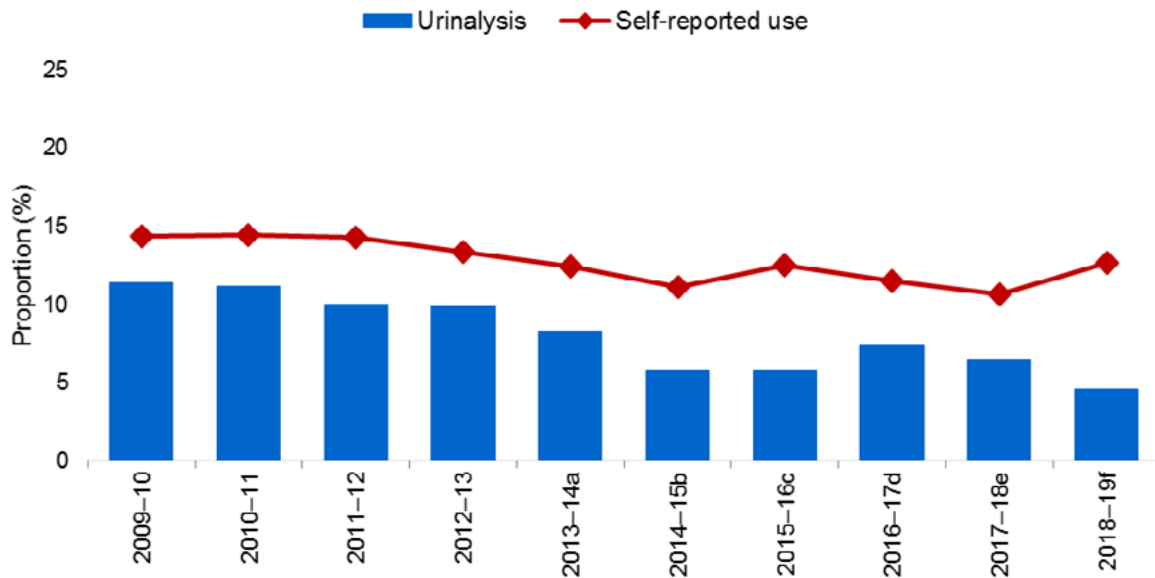
44 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.

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

46 Heroin and its metabolite can be detected in urine for six hours after administration.

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

**FIGURE 15: National proportion of detainees testing positive for heroin compared with self-reported recent use, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)**



- a. Urine was collected in the third and fourth quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.
- b. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2014 and the first and second quarter of 2015.
- c. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2015 and the first and second quarter of 2016.
- d. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2017.
- e. 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.
- f. 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:

- 1 per cent of respondents reported heroin use at least once in their lifetime.
- 1 per cent of respondents reported having used heroin at least once in the past month (Guerin & White 2018).<sup>48</sup>

## PRICE

At the street level the price of heroin is generally measured as a ‘taste/cap’ or in grams. Nationally, the price for one taste/cap of heroin (0.1 to 0.3 grams) increased over the last decade, ranging between \$40 and \$100 in 2009–10 to between \$30 and \$150 in 2018–19 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). The price range reported in 2018–19 remained unchanged from 2017–18. The national median price also increased over the last decade, from \$52.50 in 2009–10 to \$75 in 2018–19, a decrease from \$90 in 2017–18.

<sup>48</sup> Due to changes in the ASSAD questionnaire between 2014 and 2017, data specific to heroin consumption are not available for previous reporting periods, which previously focused on opiates. Reported opiate use in 2014 was 1.5 per cent for lifetime use and 0.6 per cent for past month use.

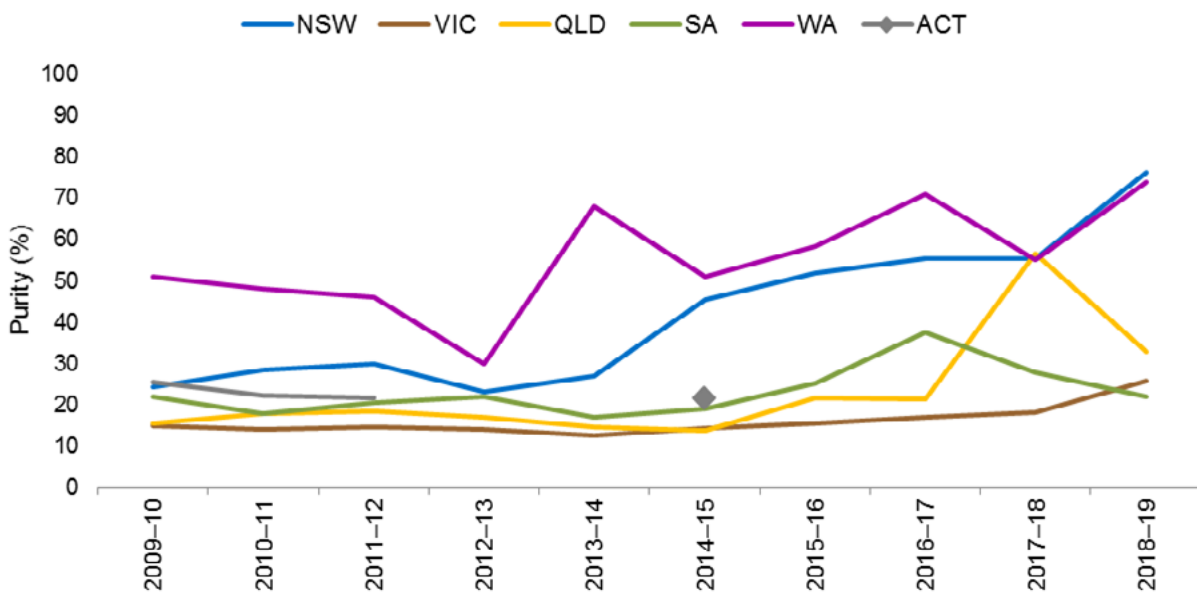
The price for one gram of heroin remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$200 and \$600 in 2009–10 to between \$200 and \$700 in 2018–19. The price range reported in 2018–19 remained unchanged from 2017–18. The national median price increased slightly over the last decade, from \$375 in 2009–10 to \$400 in 2018–19.

No price data were available for a kilogram of heroin in 2009–10. This reporting period New South Wales and Victoria were the only jurisdictions to report a price for one kilogram of heroin, which ranged between \$90,000 and \$170,000, compared with a price range of \$160,000 to \$195,000 (reported by New South Wales and Victoria) in 2017–18.

## PURITY

Since 2009–10, the annual median purity of analysed heroin samples ranged between 13 per cent and 76 per cent (see Figure 16) across the states and territories. In 2018–19, the annual median purity ranged from 22 per cent in South Australia to 76 per cent in New South Wales. While annual median heroin purity generally trended upwards over the last decade, this was most marked in New South Wales. Heroin purity in Victoria, which is Australia's primary heroin market, was low and relatively stable.

**FIGURE 16: Annual median purity of heroin samples, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



## AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate no change in the reported availability of heroin in 2019 compared to 2018. In a 2019 survey of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain remained unchanged at 89 per cent. This figure is similar to the proportion reported in 2010 (86 per cent; Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

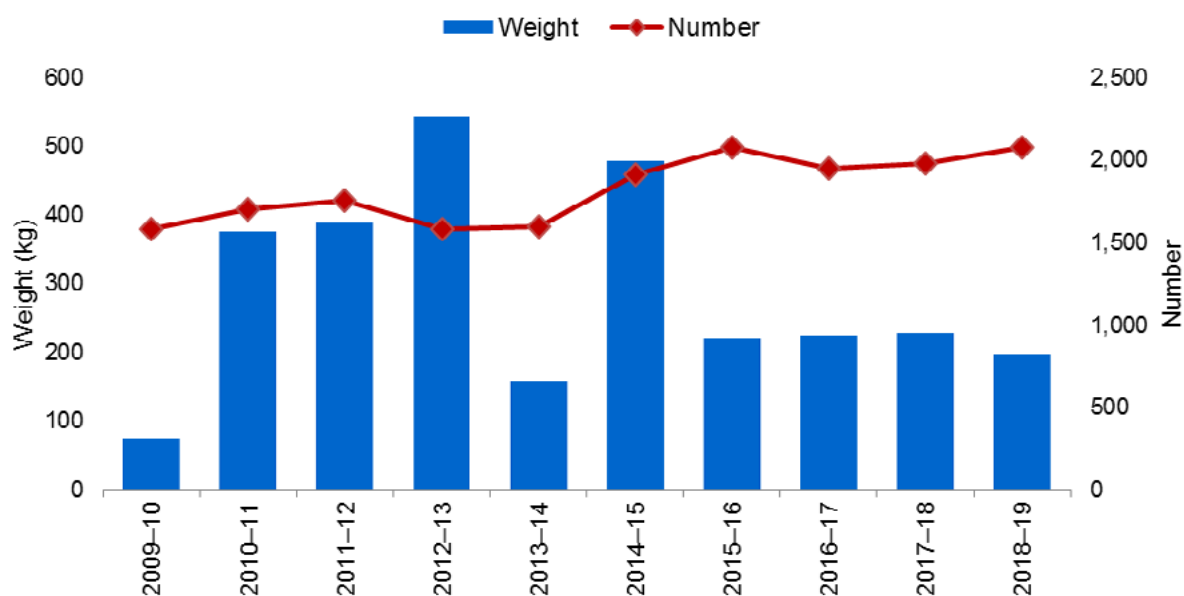
## SEIZURES

The number of national heroin seizures increased 32 per cent over the last decade, from 1,582 in 2009–10 to 2,080 in 2018–19. The number of national heroin seizures remained high and relatively stable over the last four reporting periods, increasing 5 per cent this reporting period from 1,977 in 2017–18, with the 2,080 seizures in 2018–19 the second highest number on record.



The weight of heroin seized nationally increased 165 per cent over the last decade, from 74.7 kilograms in 2009–10 to 197.7 kilograms in 2018–19. The weight seized nationally remained relatively stable over the last four reporting periods, decreasing 14 per cent this reporting period from 229.3 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 17).

**FIGURE 17: National heroin seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of heroin seizures in 2018–19, while South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of heroin seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (56 per cent) and weight (44 per cent) of heroin seized nationally (see Table 9).

**TABLE 9: Number, weight and percentage change of national heroin seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

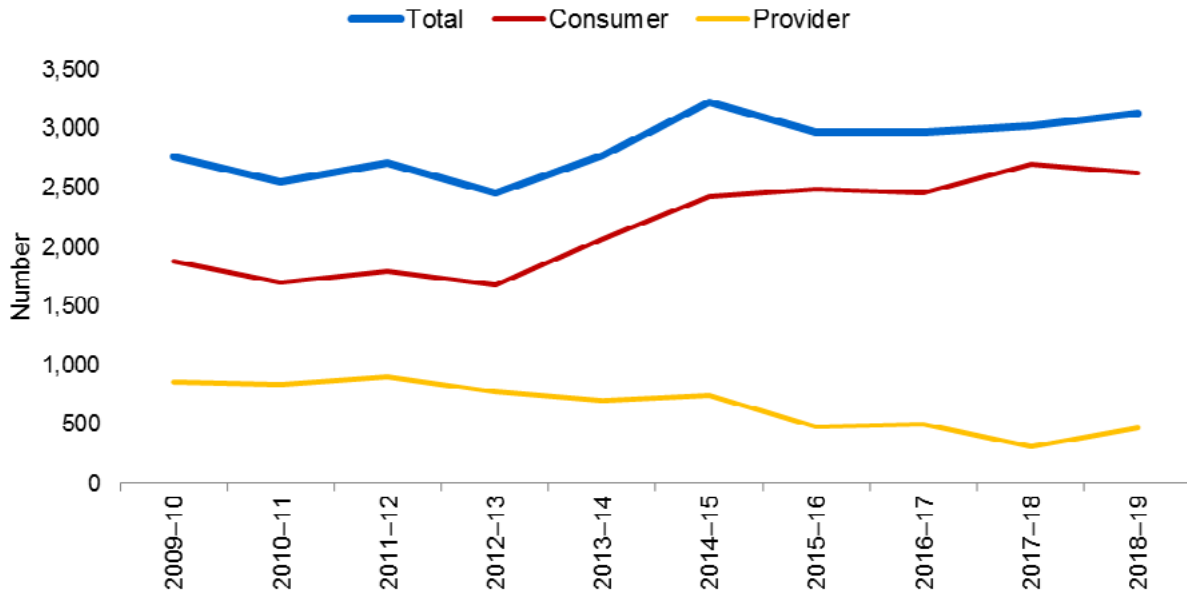
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% Change	2017–18	2018–19	% Change
New South Wales	1,015	1,170	15.3	160,692	86,633	-46.1
Victoria	329	310	-5.8	46,252	56,915	23.1
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	186	198	6.5	20,205	25,026	23.9
South Australia	22	20	-9.1	569	15,408	2,607.9
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	372	334	-10.2	1,432	13,656 <sup>d</sup>	853.6
Tasmania	9	13	44.4	114	99	-13.2
Northern Territory	2	2	0.0	1	7	600.0
Australian Capital Territory	42	33	-21.4	41	53	29.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>229,306</b>	<b>197,797</b>	<b>-13.7</b>

- a. Includes seizures by state/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.
- d. The majority of the weight of heroin seized in Western Australia in 2018–19 relates to a single seizure.

## ARRESTS

The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased 13 per cent over the last decade, from 2,767 in 2009–10 to 3,129 in 2018–19. The number of arrests remained relatively stable for the last four reporting periods, increasing 3 per cent this reporting period from 3,029 in 2017–18, with the 3,129 arrests in 2018–19 the second highest number reported in the last decade. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 84 per cent of national heroin and other opioid arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 18).

**FIGURE 18: Number of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of heroin and other opioid arrests in 2018–19. This reporting period Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national heroin and other opioid arrests (47 per cent; see Table 10).

**TABLE 10: Number and percentage change of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	887	907	2.3
Victoria	1,359	1,469	8.1
Queensland	325	330	1.5
South Australia	135	86	-36.3
Western Australia	265	285	7.5
Tasmania	32	33	3.1
Northern Territory	0	3	–
Australian Capital Territory	26	16	-38.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>3,129</b>	<b>3.3</b>

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

## NATIONAL IMPACT

In 2018, the total area under opium cultivation worldwide decreased 17 per cent and global opium production decreased 25 per cent—primarily due to declines in opium production in Afghanistan. Estimated global heroin production also decreased 25 per cent in 2018. The weight of heroin seized globally increased 13 per cent between 2016 and 2017, with Pakistan accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight of global seizures. The number and weight of heroin seized at the border by WCO agencies increased in 2018.

Indicators of heroin demand and supply in Australia provide a mixed picture. Overall, they suggest the heroin market remains small but has experienced small growth in some areas.

Indicators of heroin supply include surveys of drug users, police detainees and wastewater analysis.

- According to national study of regular injecting drug users in 2019, there was a notable increase in the reported median number of days of heroin use, with the reported recent use of heroin increasing for the first time in the last decade.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the last drug injected decreased in 2018.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin decreased in 2018–19, while self-reported heroin use increased.
- The NWDMP indicates that heroin consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites. When comparing data for August 2018 and August 2019, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin increased in both capital city and regional sites.

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

- The number of heroin detections at the Australian border decreased, while the weight detected increased.
- Forensic profiling indicates that South East Asia remains the predominant source of analysed heroin in Australia. Of note this reporting period is the identification of heroin originating from South America, which was last identified in 2013.
- The number of national heroin seizures increased to the second highest on record, while the weight of heroin seized nationally decreased.
- The number of national heroin and other opioids arrests increased.
- The national median price for one taste/cap of heroin decreased.
- The annual median purity of analysed heroin samples fluctuated.



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# COCAINE



## KEY POINTS

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- 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).

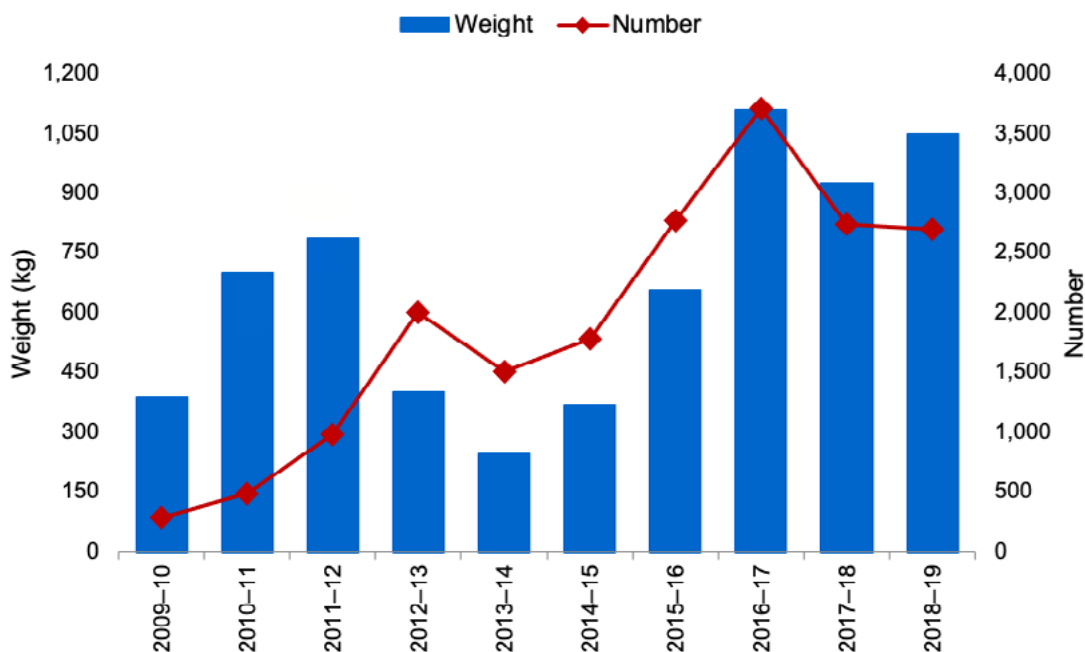
## DOMESTIC TRENDS AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

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).<sup>49</sup>

**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 border<sup>50</sup> 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.<sup>51</sup>

- 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.

<sup>50</sup> These data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

<sup>51</sup> 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 2019<sup>52</sup> (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 2019<sup>53</sup> (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)**

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2019 <sup>a</sup>	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.<sup>54</sup>

- ENIPID profiling data from 2018 and the first six months of 2019<sup>55</sup> 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.

<sup>54</sup> 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.

<sup>55</sup> 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 use<sup>56</sup> 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 samples<sup>57</sup> 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.<sup>58</sup> According to DUMA program data:

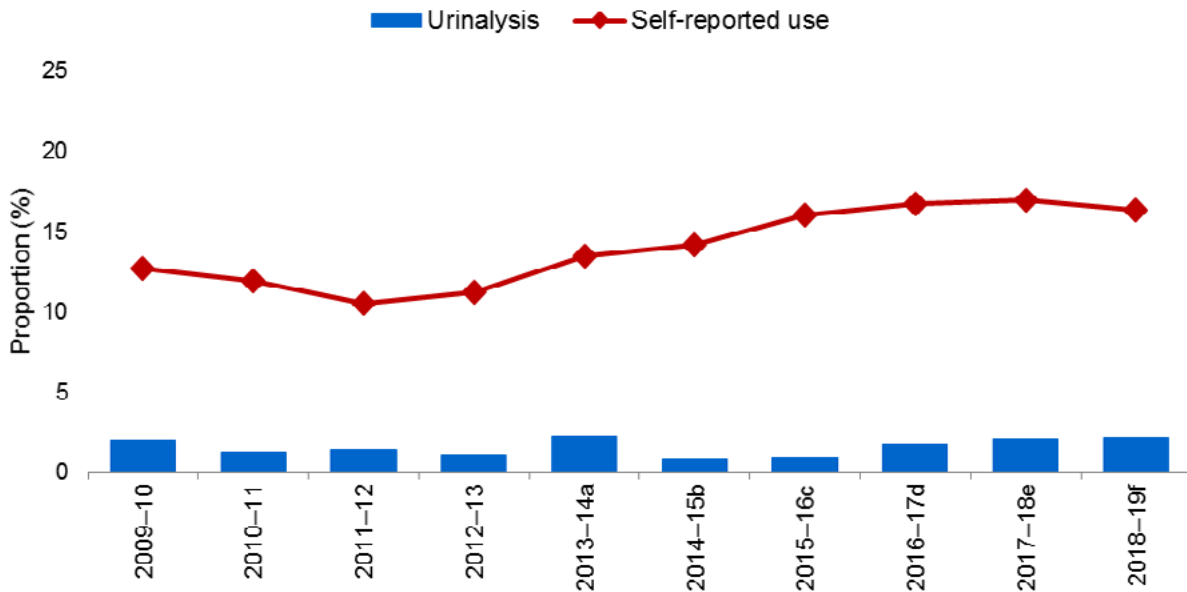
- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained relatively stable, while the proportion self-reporting cocaine use increased.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine over the last decade ranged from a low of 1 per cent in 2014–15 to a high of 2 per cent in 2013–14, 2017–18 and 2018–19.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent cocaine use<sup>59</sup> 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).

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

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

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

<sup>59</sup> 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.

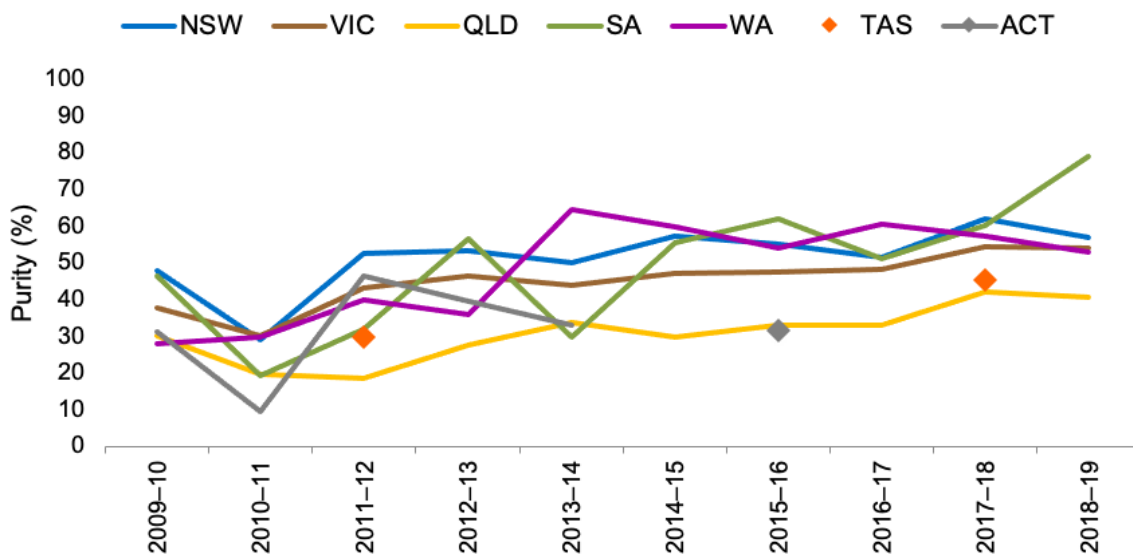
Nationally, the price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$250 and \$500 in 2009–10 to between \$200 and \$800 in 2018–19. The reported price range was between \$200 and \$600 in 2017–18. The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased slightly over the last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

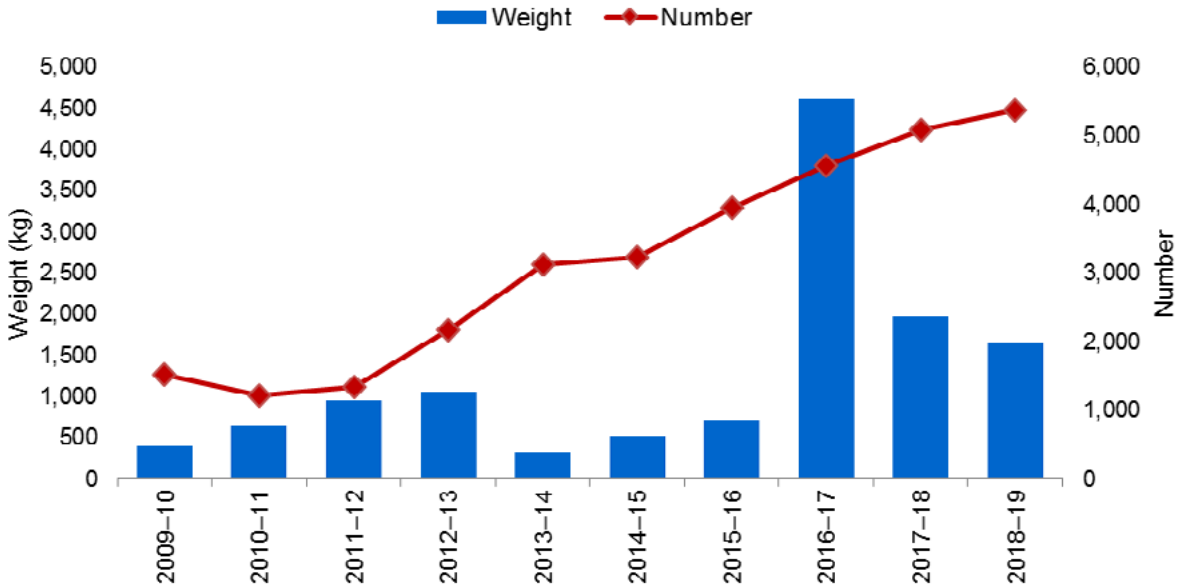
In a 2019 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 62 per cent in 2018 to 69 per cent in 2019. This is an increase from the 60 per cent reported in 2010 (Sindicich & Burns 2011;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

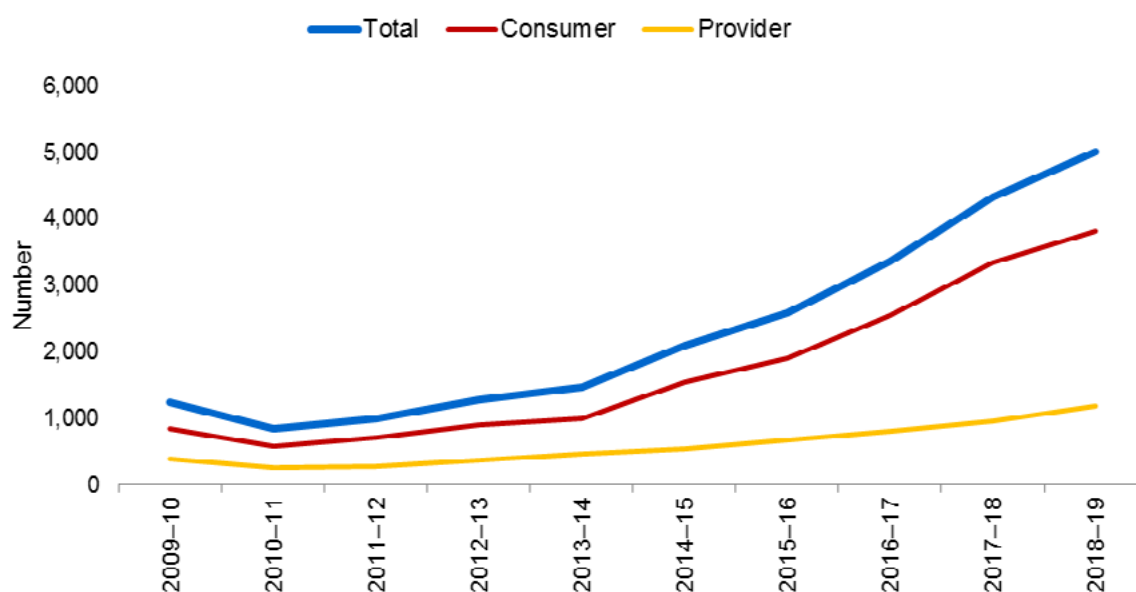
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	3,327	3,621	8.8	1,414,761	898,696	-36.5
Victoria	407	378	-7.1	343,080	63,929	-81.4
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	641	761	18.7	163,321	644,275	294.5
South Australia	38	20	-47.4	16,632	450	-97.3
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>5,378</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>1,970,747</b>	<b>1,638,572</b>	<b>-16.9</b>

- 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 <sup>a</sup>	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,325</b>	<b>5,016</b>	<b>16.0</b>

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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# OTHER DRUGS



## KEY POINTS

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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.



## OTHER DRUGS

Other drugs and substances—collectively referred to in this report as ‘other drugs’—are recognised as part of Australia’s illicit drug market. This chapter focuses on the main drugs and substances in this category:

- anabolic agents and selected hormones
- anaesthetics
- new psychoactive substances (NPS)<sup>60</sup>
- pharmaceuticals
- tryptamines
- other drugs not elsewhere classified (NEC).

## ANABOLIC AGENTS AND OTHER SELECTED HORMONES MAIN FORMS

The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern distinguishes four classes of substances as anabolic agents and selected hormones: anabolic-androgenic steroids (AAS); beta-2 agonists; peptide hormones, mimetics and analogues; and other anabolic agents and selected hormones. More generally, this group of substances is referred to as performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs; ABS 2011).

AAS, commonly referred to as steroids, are derivatives of testosterone—a naturally occurring male sex hormone.

- Anabolic refers to the muscle-building effects of the drug, while androgenic refers to their masculinising effects.
- AAS are most commonly administered orally (as liquid or tablets), injected intramuscularly, absorbed using suppositories or cream, gel or patches on the skin, or via nasal sprays (ADF 2019a).

Beta-2 agonists, induce both anabolic and catabolic (body fat reduction) effects.

- A common beta-2 agonist misused in Australia is clenbuterol.
- Beta-2 agonists are usually sold in tablet form (DEA 2017; Larance et al. 2005).

Although AAS remain the most prevalent substance in the PIEDs category, a number of other substances exist which manipulate or interfere with the body’s hormonal system. Key substances in this category include erythropoietin (EPO), human growth hormone (hGH) and human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG; ADF 2019b; Larance et al. 2005).

<sup>60</sup> NPS have been referred to as drug analogues and new psychoactive substances (DANPS) in previous Illicit Drug Data Reports.



## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

In response to the significant increase in the global trade in anabolic steroids over the last two decades and the risk their use may pose to human health, 'Operation Viribus' was established to counter the international trafficking of doping materials and counterfeit medicine. This international operation involves 33 countries, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Key outcomes of the operation include the detection and dismantling of nine clandestine laboratories in Europe; the seizure of almost 24 tonnes of raw steroid powder; the dismantling of 17 organised crime groups involved in illicit steroid (and other doping substances) production and trafficking; the seizure of 3.8 million illicit doping substances and counterfeit medicines (including doping substances, dietary supplements, medicines and sport and food supplements); and the arrest of 234 suspects (Europol 2019).

Operation Viribus identified a number of trends in international PIEDs trafficking, including the involvement of small-scale organised crime groups in establishing and operating clandestine laboratories which produce doping substances; the increased use of both social media and unregulated online pharmacies for the advertisement and sale of anabolic substances; the small-scale importation of steroids from Asia and eastern Europe by non-professional athletes, bikers and body-builders; and the continued large-scale (wholesale) importation of illicit steroids (Europol 2019).

According to the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the number of 'metabolic agents'<sup>61</sup> seizures decreased 57 per cent, from 3,341 in 2017 to 1,429 in 2018. While the specific weight seized is not available, WCO reported an increase in the weight of 'metabolic agents' seized in 2018 (WCO 2019).

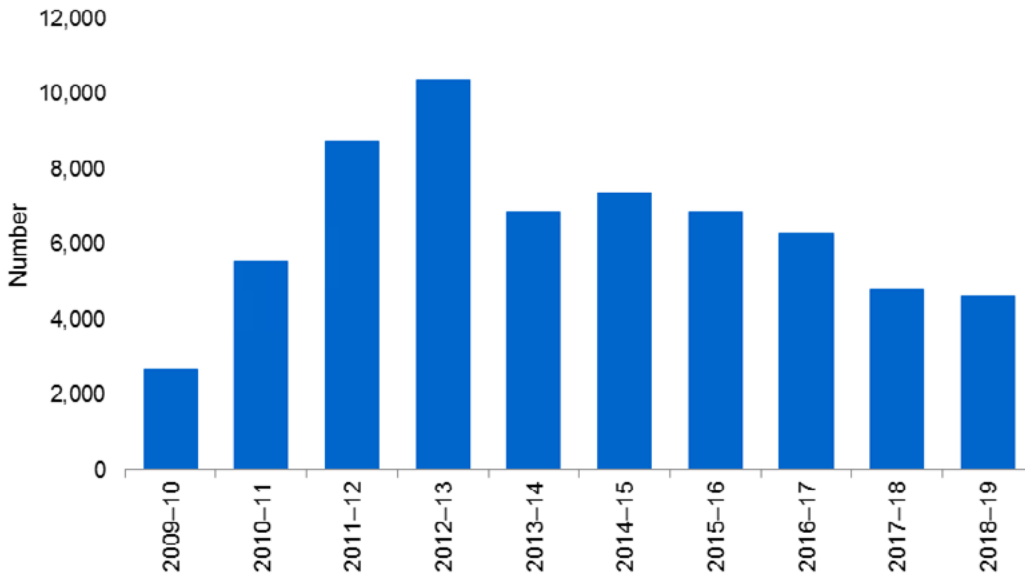
## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of PIED detections at the Australian border increased 72 per cent over the last decade, from 2,696 in 2009–10 to 4,643 in 2018–19. The number of detections decreased 3 per cent this reporting period, from 4,790 in 2017–18 (see Figure 24).<sup>62</sup>

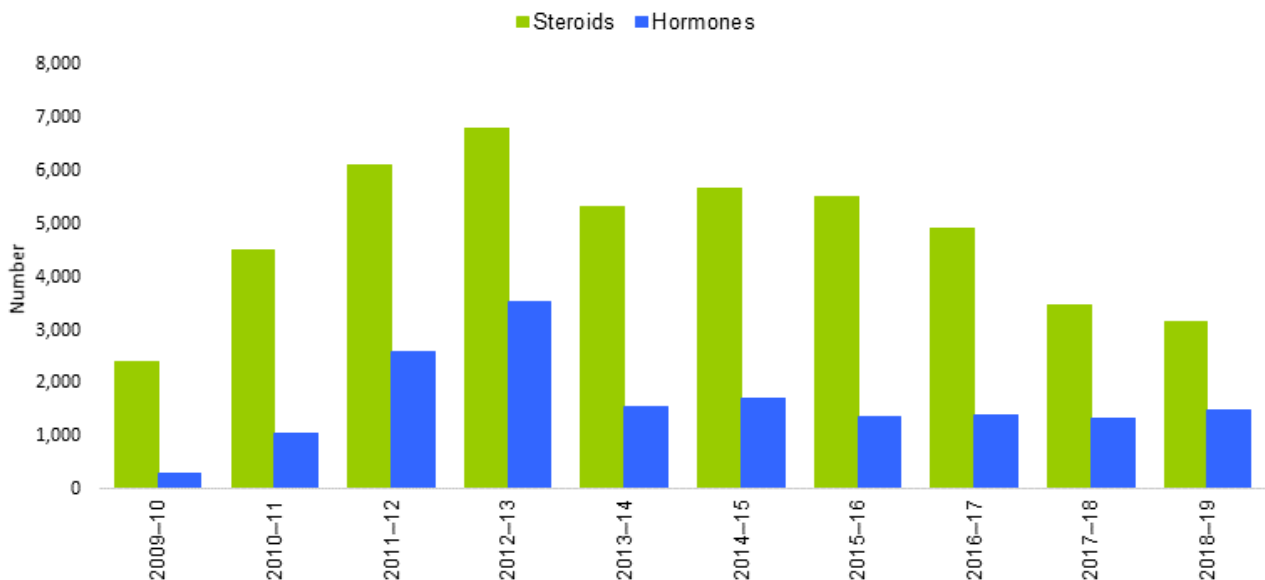
61 Metabolic agents includes medical products such as steroids and antidiabetic.

62 The Department of Home Affairs is unable to provide statistical data on the weight of drugs in this category due to differences in drug form and units of measurement, which include liquid, vials and tablets.

**FIGURE 24: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**

While steroid detections have accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of PIED detections over the last decade, the proportion decreased from 89 per cent in 2009–10 to 68 per cent in 2018–19 (see Figure 25).

- Of the 4,643 PIED detections in 2018–19, 68 per cent were steroids and 32 per cent were hormones.
- The number of steroid border detections decreased 9 per cent this reporting period, from 3,462 in 2017–18 to 3,155 in 2018–19.
- The number of hormone border detections increased 12 per cent this reporting period, from 1,328 in 2017–18 to 1,488 in 2018–19.
- The number of clenbuterol detections at the Australian border decreased 23 per cent this reporting period, from 262 in 2017–18 to 203 in 2018–19.

**FIGURE 25: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections, by category, at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of PIEDs at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. The international mail stream accounted for 76 per cent of the number of PIED detections in 2018–19, followed by air cargo (20 per cent), air passenger/crew (4 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent).

In 2018–19, detections of clenbuterol at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. The international mail stream accounted for 92 per cent of the number of clenbuterol detections in 2018–19, followed by air passenger/crew (6 per cent) and air cargo (2 per cent).

## EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2018–19, 56 countries were identified as embarkation points for PIEDs detected at the Australian border, compared with 59 countries in 2017–18. By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for PIED detections in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), India, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, the Philippines, Poland and Greece.

In 2018–19, 22 countries were identified as embarkation points for clenbuterol detected at the Australian border, compared with 31 countries in 2017–18.

## 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 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 recent use<sup>63</sup> of steroids have remained consistently low since the IDRS program began in 2010, ranging between 1 and 3 per cent. This reporting period the proportion of respondents reporting recent steroid use decreased from 3 per cent in 2018 to zero in 2019 (Peacock et al. 2019a).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples<sup>64</sup> annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting PIEDs as the drug last injected in the last decade fluctuated, from 2 per cent in 2009 to 7 per cent in 2012, 2013 and 2014. This proportion decreased from 5 per cent in 2017 to 4 per cent in 2018 (Iversen & Maher 2015; Heard et al. 2019).

63 In the IDRS study, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.

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

The Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) 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 non-prescribed PIEDs at least once in their lifetime increased, from 2 per cent in 2014 to 3 per cent in 2017.
- The proportion of respondents who reported having used non-prescribed PIEDs at least once in the past month remained stable at 1 per cent in 2017 (Guerin & White 2018).

## PRICE

National law enforcement data on the price of PIEDs are limited. Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia were the only jurisdictions to provide price data for PIEDs in 2018–19. The price for a single 10 millilitre vial of testosterone enanthate remained unchanged this reporting period and ranged between \$100 and \$230.

Queensland and Western Australia were the only jurisdictions to report a price for a single 10 millilitre vial of trenbolone acetate. The price ranged between \$150 and \$240 in 2018–19, compared with a price of \$240 (reported by Queensland) in 2017–18. Queensland and Western Australia reported a price range of between \$340 and \$1,400 for ten 10 millilitre vials of trenbolone acetate in 2018–19, compared with a price of \$1,400 (reported by Queensland) in 2017–18.

Queensland provided price data for several other types and quantities of PIEDs this reporting period—see *Statistics* chapter.

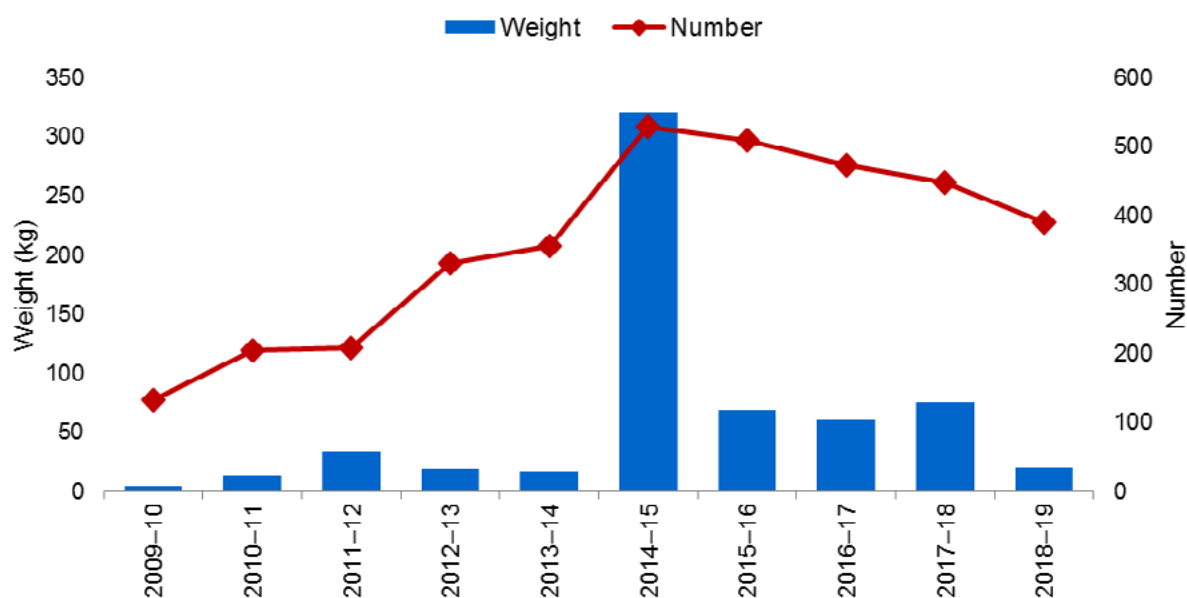
## SEIZURES

The number of national steroid seizures increased 192 per cent over the last decade, from 134 in 2009–10 to 391 in 2018–19. The number of steroid seizures increased in the first half of the decade, peaking in 2014–15 at 529, then decreased in subsequent years. This reporting period the number of seizures decreased 13 per cent, from 448 in 2017–18.

The weight of steroids seized nationally increased 282 per cent over the last decade, from 5.5 kilograms in 2009–10 to 21.2 kilograms in 2018–19. The weight of steroids seized fluctuated over the decade, peaking at 320.4 kilograms in 2014–15. The weight of steroids seized nationally decreased 72 per cent this reporting period, from 75.7 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 26).



FIGURE 26: National steroid seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19



The Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of steroid seizures in 2018–19, while Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of steroids seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (58 per cent) and weight (46 per cent) of steroids seized nationally (see Table 15).

TABLE 15: Number, weight and percentage change of national steroid seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19

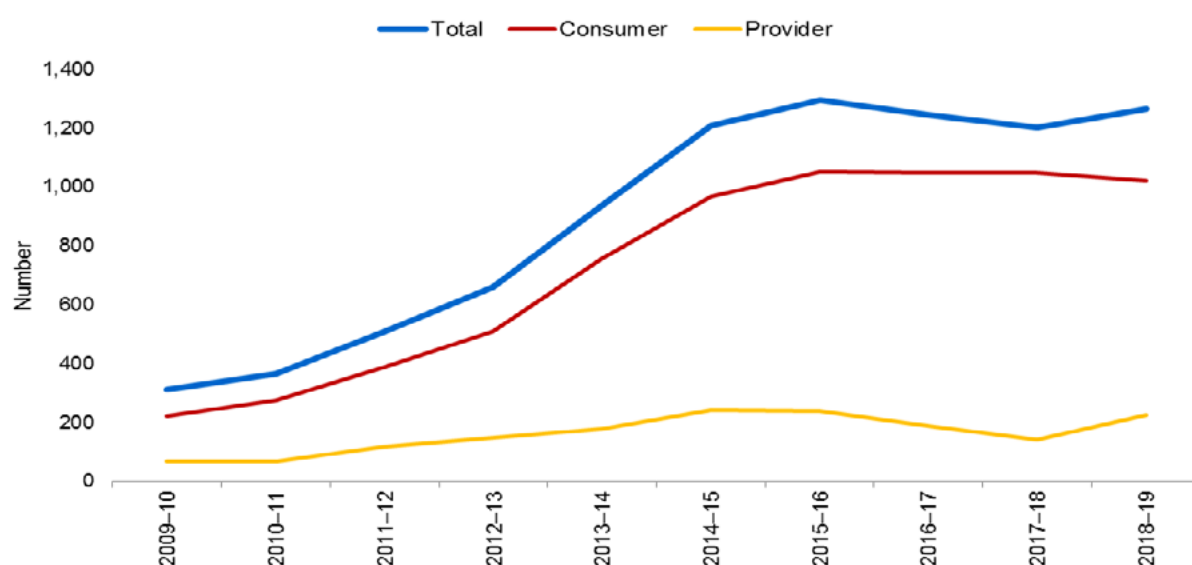
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	270	227	-15.9	58,857	9,876	-83.2
Victoria	9	5	-44.4	845	5,206	516.1
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	73	68	-6.8	10,557	3,505	-66.8
South Australia	0	0	—	0	0	—
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	49	29	-40.8	2,034	582	-71.4
Tasmania	0	0	—	0	0	—
Northern Territory	30	32	6.7	1,909	1,756	-8.0
Australian Capital Territory	17	30	76.5	1,527	367	-76.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>-12.7</b>	<b>75,729</b>	<b>21,292</b>	<b>-71.9</b>

- 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 steroid arrests increased 303 per cent over the last decade, from 314 in 2009–10 to 1,264 in 2018–19. The number of steroid arrests increased 5 per cent this reporting period, from 1,201 in 2017–18. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 81 per cent of national steroid arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 27).

**FIGURE 27: Number of national steroid arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



The Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of steroid arrests in 2018–19. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national steroid arrests this reporting period (51 per cent; see Table 16).

**TABLE 16: Number and percentage change of national steroid arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	178	181	1.7
Victoria	102	153	50.0
Queensland	670	641	-4.3
South Australia	7	3	-57.1
Western Australia	211	247	17.1
Tasmania	19	15	-21.1
Northern Territory	10	20	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	4	4	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>5.2</b>

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

# TRYPTAMINES

## MAIN FORMS

Tryptamines are hallucinogenic substances which act upon the central nervous system, producing altered states of perception, sensation, cognition and consciousness, often accompanied by visual or auditory hallucinations. Some are found naturally in a variety of flowering plants, leaves, seeds and some spore-forming plants, while others are synthetically produced. The following section covers lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and psilocybin-containing mushrooms, the two most common tryptamines used in Australia (ADF 2019c; EMCDDA 2018; UNODC 2016).

### LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD)

LSD, commonly referred to as 'acid', is a semi-synthetic hallucinogen derived from lysergic acid, a chemical found in a fungus which grows on certain types of grain.

- In pure form, LSD is a white, water-soluble and odourless powder.
- LSD is most commonly consumed orally, ingested on LSD-impregnated paper blotters (tabs<sup>65</sup>), miniature tablets (microdots) or gelatine sheets (window panes).
- In liquid form, LSD can be administered by intravenous or intramuscular injection, or through consumption of LSD-impregnated sugar cubes (ADF 2019c; UNODC 2016).

### PSILOCYBIN-CONTAINING MUSHROOMS

Psilocybin is the primary psychoactive and hallucinogenic chemical present in certain species of mushroom within the *Psilocybe* genus, commonly referred to as 'magic mushrooms'.

- Approximately 20 species of psilocybin-containing mushrooms are found in Australia. In addition to variation in the psilocybin content across species of mushroom, their potency is affected by their origin, growing conditions, harvest period and form.
- Hallucinogenic mushrooms are consumed as fresh fungi, preserved (dried, cooked and/or frozen) or as dry powders or capsules. These forms can be consumed orally (raw, cooked or brewed into a beverage), smoked or injected intravenously (EMCDDA 2018; UNODC 2016).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The weight of tryptamines seized globally fluctuates each year and the types of substances which comprise these seizures also varies. Between 2011 and 2015, LSD and phencyclidine (PCP) accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of hallucinogens seized globally. Since 2016, dimethyltryptamine (DMT) has dominated hallucinogen seizures. In 2016 and 2017, DMT was seized across multiple regions of the world and in 2017 it was the most commonly seized hallucinogen (by weight) in the Americas, Europe and Asia (UNODC 2019).

While WCO data for the specific number and weight of LSD seizures in 2018 were not reported, the WCO noted small increases in both the number and weight of LSD seized in 2018 (WCO 2019).

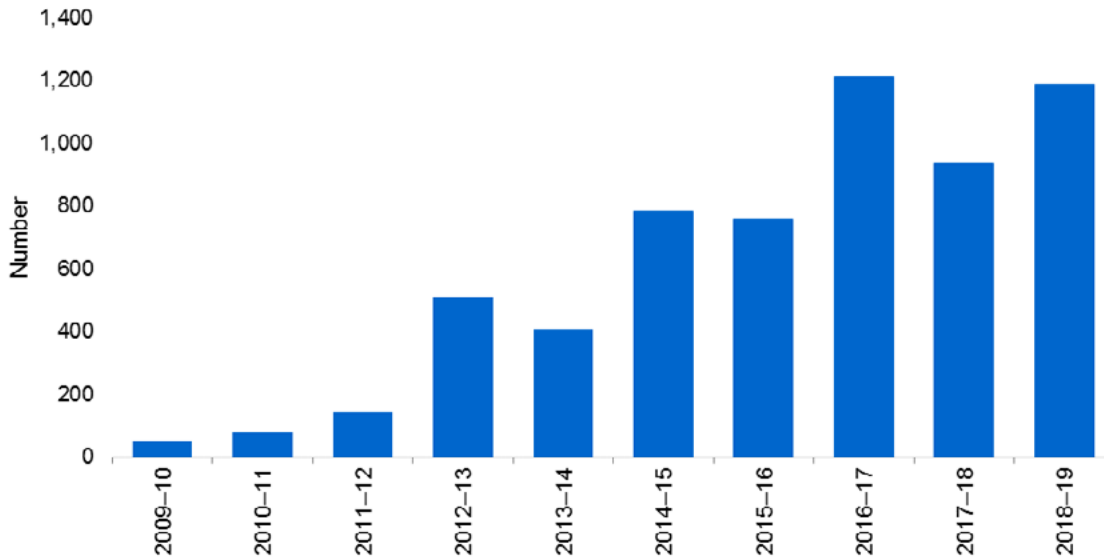
65 Small squares of absorbent paper generally decorated with artwork or designs and impregnated with LSD.

## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border increased 2,324 per cent over the last decade, from 49 in 2009–10 to 1,188 in 2018–19, the second highest number on record. The number of detections increased 27 per cent this reporting period, from 935 in 2017–18 (see Figure 28).

**FIGURE 28: Number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19**  
(Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2017–18, the majority of tryptamine detections in 2018–19 were LSD.

- LSD accounted for 4 per cent of the number of tryptamine detections in 2009–10, increasing to 82 per cent in 2018–19, while psilocybin accounted for 96 per cent of the number of tryptamine detections in 2009–10, decreasing to 10 per cent in 2018–19. Other tryptamines increased from zero detections in 2009–10 and accounted for 8 per cent of tryptamine detections in 2018–19.
- Of the 1,188 detections in 2018–19, 974 were LSD, a 30 per cent increase from the 749 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of LSD detections increased 48,600 per cent, from 2 detections in 2009–10.
- Of the 1,188 detections in 2018–19, 114 were psilocybin. The number of psilocybin detections increased 48 per cent this reporting period, from 77 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of psilocybin detections increased 143 per cent, from 47 detections in 2009–10.
- The remaining 100 detections in 2018–19 were reported as 'other'. The number of other tryptamine detections decreased 8 per cent, from 109 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of other tryptamine detections increased from zero in 2009–10.

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of tryptamines occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of tryptamine detections (99 per cent), followed by air passenger/crew (1 per cent) and air cargo (<1 per cent).

In 2018–19, detections of LSD occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of LSD detections (99 per cent), followed by air passenger/crew (1 per cent) and air cargo (<1 per cent).

In 2018–19, detections of psilocybin occurred in the international mail stream only.

## EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, the Netherlands remained the primary embarkation point for tryptamine detections at the Australian border in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include Poland, Canada, the UK, Germany, Spain, the US, Belgium, France and Russia.

By number, the Netherlands was the primary embarkation point for psilocybin detections at the Australian border in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include Canada, the US, the UK, Poland, Spain, Germany, France, Austria and the Philippines.

## DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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 recent LSD use<sup>66</sup> increased over the last decade, from 38 per cent in 2010 to 47 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 51 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of LSD use in the past six months remained stable at 3 days over the last decade, with the exception of 2014 and 2015 where the median number of days of use in the preceding six months was 2.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of hallucinogenic mushrooms increased over the last decade, from 18 per cent in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 26 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of DMT increased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 16 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 18 per cent in 2018.
- The reported median number of days of DMT use in the six months preceding interview remained stable at 2 days between 2018 and 2019 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2018; Peacock et al. 2019b).

According to the ASSAD survey, the proportion of respondents who reported having used any hallucinogen<sup>67</sup> at least once in their lifetime remained stable at 3 per cent from 2008 to 2011, increasing to 4 per cent in 2017. Over the decade, the reported use of any hallucinogen at least once in the past month remained stable at 1 per cent (Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).

<sup>66</sup> In the EDRS study, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.

<sup>67</sup> In the 2017 ASSAD survey, 'hallucinogen' refers to LSD or psilocybin-containing mushrooms ('magic mushrooms').

## PRICE

Nationally, the price range per tab of LSD increased over the last decade, ranging between \$20 and \$35 in 2009–10 to between \$15 and \$50 in 2018–19. The price reported in 2017–18 ranged from \$5 to \$50. The national median price per tab of LSD increased over the last decade, from \$25 in 2009–10 to \$30 in 2018–19, an increase from \$25 in 2017–18. Similar to 2017–18, Queensland was the only jurisdiction in 2018–19 to report price data for a single 20 millilitre vial of LSD, which remained unchanged at \$800.

South Australia was the only jurisdiction to report price data for 1 gram of psilocybin in 2018–19. The price for 1 gram of psilocybin was \$15 in 2018–19, compared with a price range of \$10 to \$15 (reported by South Australia) in 2017–18.

## AVAILABILITY

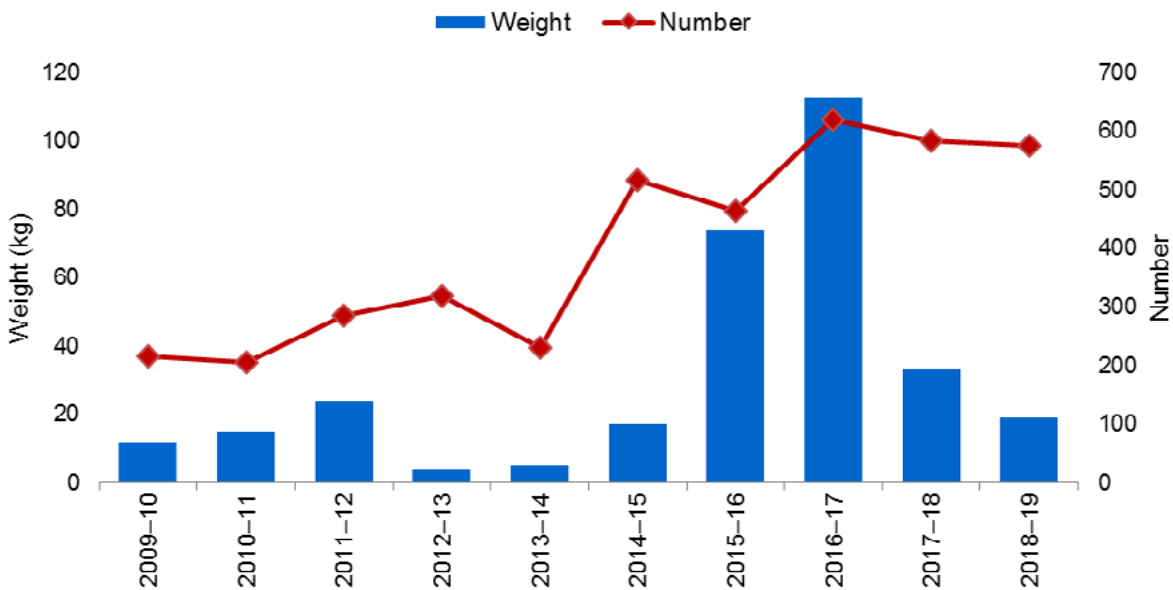
A national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants reported that over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting LSD as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain decreased, from 70 per cent in 2010 to 57 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 61 per cent in 2018 (Peacock et al. 2019b).

## SEIZURES

The number of national hallucinogen seizures increased 168 per cent over the last decade, from 215 in 2009–10 to 576 in 2018–19. This reporting period the number of national hallucinogen seizures remained relatively stable, decreasing 1 per cent from 584 in 2017–18.

Over the last decade, the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased 63 per cent, from 11.7 kilograms in 2009–10 to 19.1 kilograms in 2018–19. This reporting period the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally decreased 43 per cent, from 33.5 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 29).

**FIGURE 29: National hallucinogen seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



New South Wales reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of hallucinogen seizures in 2018–19, while all jurisdictions reported decreases in the weight of hallucinogens seized. New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national hallucinogen seizures this reporting period (63 per cent), while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally (42 per cent; see Table 17).

**TABLE 17: Number, weight and percentage change of national hallucinogen seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

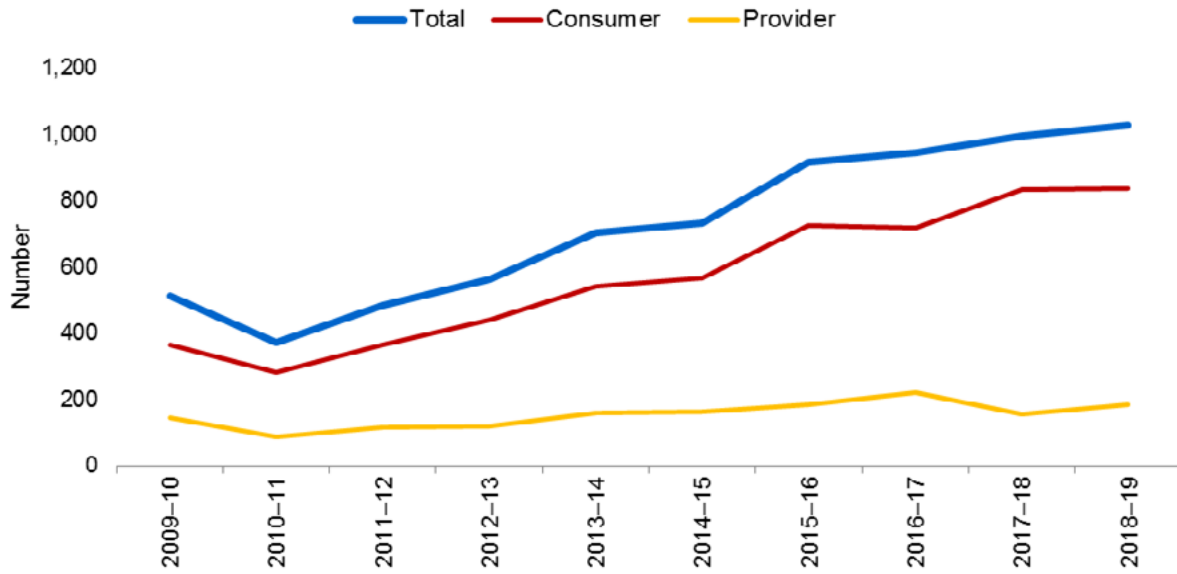
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	328	364	11.0	6,365	5,755	-9.6
Victoria	92	77	-16.3	15,832	7,959	-49.7
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	33	34	3.0	3,763	3,316	-11.9
South Australia	6	3	-50.0	2,340	23	-99.0
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	74	60	-18.9	3,328	870	-73.9
Tasmania	14	8	-42.9	190	96	-49.5
Northern Territory	17	8	-52.9	17	8	-52.9
Australian Capital Territory	20	22	10.0	1,711	1,088	-36.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>33,546</b>	<b>19,115</b>	<b>-43.0</b>

- 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 hallucinogen arrests increased 101 per cent over the last decade, from 512 in 2009–10 to a record 1,029 in 2018–19. The number of national hallucinogen arrests increased 3 per cent this reporting period, from 995 in 2017–18. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 81 per cent of national hallucinogen arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 30).

FIGURE 30: Number of national hallucinogen arrests, 2009–10 to 2018–19



Queensland reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of hallucinogen arrests this reporting period and accounted for the greatest proportion of national hallucinogen arrests in 2018–19 (38 per cent; see Table 18).

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

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	237	237	0.0
Victoria	139	158	13.7
Queensland	333	389	16.8
South Australia	56	21	-62.5
Western Australia	183	193	5.5
Tasmania	25	16	-36.0
Northern Territory	9	6	-33.3
Australian Capital Territory	13	9	-30.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>3.4</b>

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



# ANAESTHETICS

## MAIN FORMS

While anaesthetics and their precursors have many legitimate uses in the medical, veterinary, plastics and chemical industries, they are also diverted for illicit use. This section covers ketamine, gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and related substances, the most prevalent anaesthetics used illicitly in Australia (ADF 2019d; WHO 2014).

### KETAMINE

Ketamine is a central nervous system depressant used as an anaesthetic and analgesic in medical and veterinary settings.

- Ketamine is commonly found in three forms—liquid, powder and tablet.
- It is most commonly snorted, swallowed or injected. It can also be combined with other substances, such as cannabis or tobacco, and smoked (ADF 2019d; DrugWise 2017; UNODC 2017a; UNODC 2016).

### GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRATE (GHB) AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

GHB is a naturally occurring substance found in the central nervous system and may also be synthetically produced.

- GHB is commonly consumed as a water soluble salt and appears as a colourless and odourless liquid solution usually sold in small bottles or vials.
- Gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol (1,4-BD) are analogues and precursors of GHB which, upon ingestion, metabolise into GHB in the body, producing identical effects (ADF 2019d; DrugWise 2017; UNODC 2016; WHO 2014).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Based on seizure data and other information reported by member states, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assesses that ketamine trafficking appears to be spreading to regions outside of Asia, a primary region associated with illicit ketamine. While 89 per cent of the weight of ketamine seized globally between 2013 and 2017 occurred in Asia, the amount seized outside of Asia tripled between 2015 and 2017. Over the period 2015–17, the weight of ketamine seizures in Africa, the Americas and Oceania in particular increased. Nonetheless, the weight of ketamine seized globally continued to decrease since 2015 (when it peaked at 23 tonnes), totalling 12 tonnes in 2017. The UNODC also notes that global seizures of GHB increased over the past 15 years, particularly since 2015, and reached record levels (over 3 tonnes) in 2017. Over the period 2013–17, the Americas, Oceania and Europe accounted for the majority (98 per cent) of the weight of global GHB seizures and the largest quantities (by weight and by region) were seized in the US, Australia and Norway respectively (UNODC 2019).

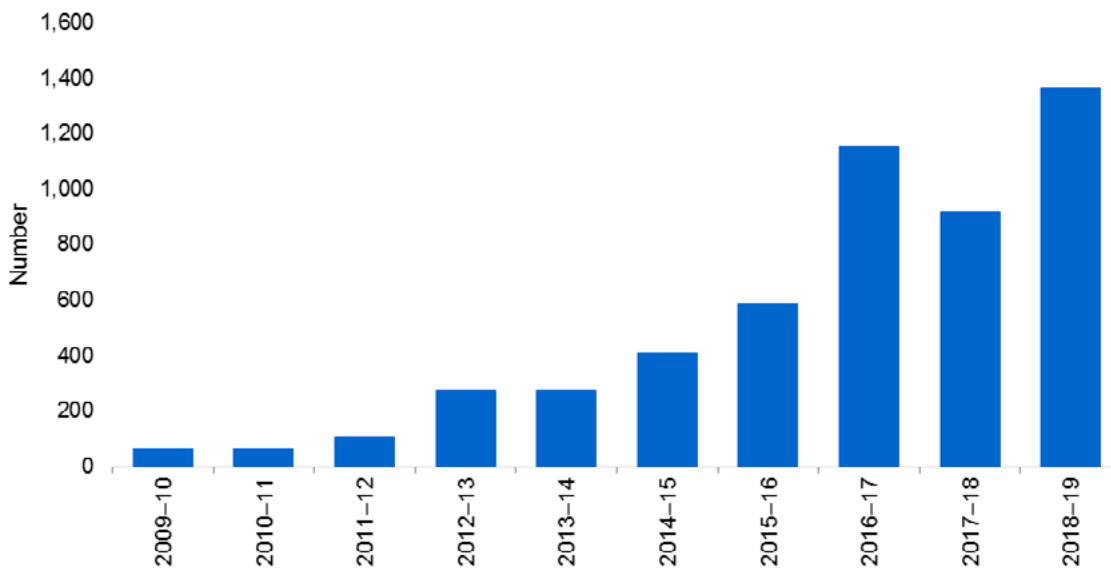
According to the WCO, the number of seizures of ‘ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances’ within the NPS category increased in 2018, while the weight of seizures decreased. WCO data for GHB seizures were not available in 2018. While the specific number and weight of GBL seizures were not available, WCO agencies reported a decrease in number of GBL seizures and an increase in the weight of GBL seized in 2018 (WCO 2019).

## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of detections of anaesthetics (including GHB, GBL and ketamine) at the Australian border increased 1,934 per cent over the last decade, from 67 in 2009–10 to a record 1,363 in 2018–19. The number of anaesthetic detections increased 48 per cent this reporting period, from 919 in 2017–18 (see Figure 31).

**FIGURE 31: Number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19**  
(Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2017–18, the majority of anaesthetic detections in 2018–19 were ketamine.

- Ketamine accounted for 33 per cent of the number of anaesthetic detections in 2009–10, increasing to 61 per cent in 2018–19, while GBL accounted for 66 per cent in 2009–10, decreasing to 33 per cent in 2018–19. The number of GHB detections increased from 1 per cent in 2009–10 to 7 per cent in 2018–19.
- Of the 1,363 anaesthetics detections in 2018–19, 828 were ketamine, a 37 per cent increase from the 606 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of ketamine detections increased 3,664 per cent, from 22 in 2009–10.
- Of the 1,363 anaesthetic detections in 2018–19, a record 445 were GBL, representing a 154 per cent increase from the 175 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of GBL detections increased 911 per cent, from 44 in 2009–10.
- The remaining 90 detections in 2018–19 were GHB, the highest number on record and a 73 per cent increase from the 52 detections in 2017–18. Over the last decade the number of GHB detections increased 8,900 per cent, from 1 in 2009–10.

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of anaesthetics 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 anaesthetic detections (84 per cent), followed by air cargo (16 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent).

- In 2018–19, detections of ketamine occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of ketamine detections (94 per cent), followed by air cargo (5 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).
- In 2018–19, detections of GHB occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for 99 per cent of GHB detections at the Australian border, followed by air cargo (1 per cent).
- In 2018–19, detections of GBL occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for 62 per cent of GBL detections at the Australian border, followed by air cargo (38 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent).

## EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, the Netherlands remained the primary embarkation point for ketamine detections at the Australian border in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points this reporting period included the UK, Italy, Germany, India, France, Belgium, China (including Hong Kong), Malaysia and Canada.

By number, China (including Hong Kong) remained the primary embarkation point for GHB and GBL detections at the Australian border in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points this reporting period included the Netherlands, the UK, Lithuania, Germany, the US, the Republic of Korea, Poland, Belgium and Singapore.

## DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to the EDRS study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent ketamine use fluctuated over the last decade, increasing from 12 per cent in 2010 to 41 per cent in 2019. In 2018, this proportion was 35 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent GHB/GBL use decreased over the last decade, from 6 per cent in 2010 to 5 per cent in 2019. In 2018, this proportion was 6 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of ketamine use in the past six months remained relatively stable at 2 days in the first half of the decade (2009 to 2015), increasing to 3 in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and to 4 in 2019 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019b).

## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

Over the last decade, the proportion of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased from zero in 2009–10 to 5 per cent in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL decreased 18 per cent this reporting period, from 22 in 2017–18 to 18 in 2018–19 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

## PRICE

The price for 1 gram of ketamine powder increased over the last decade, ranging between \$50 and \$180 in 2009–10 (reported by New South Wales and South Australia) to between \$120 and \$320 in 2018–19. The price reported in 2017–18 ranged from \$100 to \$250. The national median price for 1 gram of ketamine powder increased from \$170 in 2017–18 to \$190 in 2018–19.

Nationally, the price for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL increased over the last decade, ranging between \$3 and \$6 in 2009–10 to between \$2 and \$15 in 2018–19. The price reported in 2017–18 ranged from \$3 to \$10. The national median price for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL increased from \$5.75 in 2017–18 to \$7 in 2018–19.

Nationally, the price for 1 litre of GHB/GBL remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in 2009–10 to between \$1,500 and \$3,000 in 2018–19. The price reported in 2017–18 ranged from \$600 to \$3,500. The national median price for 1 litre of GHB/GBL increased from \$2,025 in 2017–18 to \$2,625 in 2018–19.

## AVAILABILITY

In a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting ketamine as easy or very easy to obtain increased over the last decade, from 33 per cent in 2010 to 53 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 65 per cent. Data relating to the availability of GHB/GBL were unavailable for 2019 (Peacock et al. 2019b).

# PHARMACEUTICALS

## MAIN FORMS

In Australia, the importation, manufacture, distribution and supply of pharmaceuticals is controlled under various pieces of legislation and regulations. Despite these controls, many pharmaceutical drugs continue to be diverted for non-medical use, including dependence, self-medication, improved performance, substitution or withdrawal from other drugs and to enhance or counter the effects of illicit drugs. Pharmaceutical drugs are obtained for non-medical purposes through a range of means, including:

- family and friends with legitimate prescriptions
- forged prescriptions
- over prescribing by health-care professionals
- online pharmacies
- theft from hospitals or pharmacies
- doctor shopping
- healthcare professionals self-prescribing or misappropriating medication (UNODC 2011).

This section focuses on benzodiazepines and opioids, the pharmaceutical drugs most commonly used for non-medical reasons in Australia (AIHW 2017).

## BENZODIAZEPINES

The term benzodiazepine covers a range of synthetic substances which act as central nervous system depressants. Benzodiazepines are most commonly found in tablet or capsule form, stamped with a brand name for oral ingestion and may also be injected (ADF 2019e; EMCDDA 2015; UNODC 2016).

## OPIOIDS

Opioid is a generic term which covers both naturally occurring opiates extracted from the opium poppy, as well as semi or fully synthetic analogues. Most pharmaceutical opioids are produced and prescribed for pain relief (analgesics), as anaesthetics during surgery, or as therapeutic drugs to treat heroin and other opioid addictions. Common opioid-based medications in Australia include codeine, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, buprenorphine and tramadol, sold variously as tablets, capsules, liquid, lozenges, powder or skin patches (ADF 2019f; UNODC 2016).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The weight of benzodiazepines seized globally decreased over 90 per cent, from 8 tonnes in 2016 to 0.7 tonnes in 2017. The illicit trade in pharmaceutical opioids is supplied through diversion and illicit production—particularly for fentanyl-type substances. According to UNODC data, an average of 0.1 tonnes of pharmaceutical opioids was seized annually between 1998 and 2008. Between 2009 and 2013, this increased to 6.3 tonnes per annum. Global pharmaceutical opioid seizures peaked in 2014, reaching 203 tonnes. The weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized globally increased 72 per cent, from 87 tonnes in 2016 to 150 tonnes in 2017. While tramadol and codeine comprised the majority of the weight seized between 2013 and 2017, increases were reported in the weight of fentanyl seized in 2017 (a sixfold increase on 2016 seizures) and methadone (a fivefold increase) (UNODC 2018; UNODC 2019).

According to the WCO, the number of illicit medical products<sup>68</sup> seized globally decreased 26 per cent, from 7,811 in 2017 to 5,799 in 2018. The weight of illicit medical products seized globally increased 5 per cent to 562,219 kilograms in 2018. While specific figures are not available, both the number and weight of ‘nervous system agents’ within the medical products category (including sedative pharmaceuticals such as benzodiazepines) decreased in 2018 (WCO 2019).

A proportion of illicit medical products seizures were made during Operation Mirage from 10 to 19 September 2018. Coordinated by the WCO, Operation Mirage was established to target and interdict counterfeit and illicit medicines, as well as other goods that could jeopardise human health and safety, entering the African continent. The operation resulted in the seizure of 232 cases of pharmaceutical goods and 9.5 kilograms of all types of goods (including both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceuticals; WCO 2018; WCO 2019).

68 Medical products includes urogenital agents, metabolic agents, health supplements, nervous system agents, anti-infective agents, psychotherapeutic agents, respiratory system agents, musculoskeletal agents, dermatological agents and others.

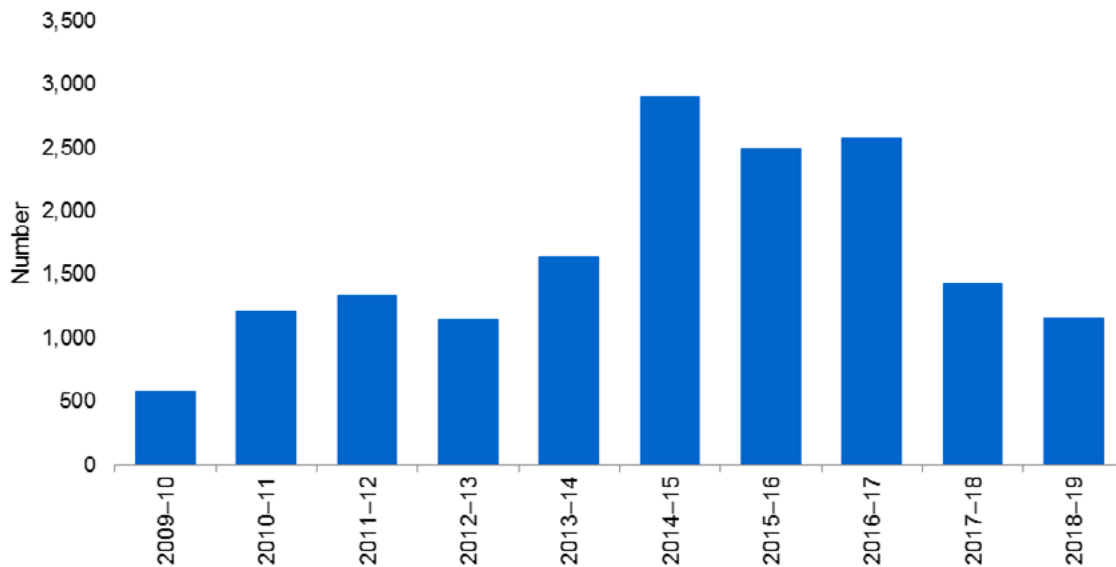
## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The importation of prescription pharmaceuticals by individuals is primarily done for personal use and without criminal intent. Pharmaceuticals continue to be purchased over the internet for a variety of reasons, including the anonymity afforded to purchasers, the ability to purchase without a prescription and lower costs. However, the importation of prescription pharmaceuticals can result in a greater risk of purchasing counterfeit drugs, which either have negative or no effects, or contain a different active ingredient than expected.

Pharmaceutical detections reported by the Department of Home Affairs only reflect detections of benzodiazepines and opioids (including morphine, buprenorphine, methadone and oxycodone).<sup>69</sup> Over the last decade the number of benzodiazepine and opioid pharmaceuticals detected at the Australian border fluctuated, increasing 98 per cent from 585 in 2009–10 to 1,156 in 2018–19, a 19 per cent decrease from 1,425 in 2017–18 (see Figure 32).

**FIGURE 32: Number of pharmaceutical detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**



Similar to 2017–18, the majority (79 per cent) of pharmaceutical detections in 2018–19 were benzodiazepines.

- The number of benzodiazepine detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 57 per cent from 582 in 2009–10 to 912 in 2018–19. Benzodiazepine detections peaked at 2,772 in 2014–15. This reporting period the number of detections decreased 28 per cent, from 1,260 in 2017–18.
- The number of opioid detections at the Australian border increased 8,033 per cent over the last decade, from 3 in 2009–10 to a record 244 in 2018–19. This reporting period the number of detections increased 48 per cent, from 165 in 2017–18.

<sup>69</sup> Benzodiazepines and opioids statistics only represent a component of the larger pharmaceutical category. As such, caution must be used when comparing data.

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, detections of benzodiazepines 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 benzodiazepine detections (64 per cent), followed by air passenger/crew (30 per cent), air cargo (5 per cent), and sea cargo (1 per cent).

In 2018–19, detections of opioids 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 opioid detections (73 per cent), followed by air cargo (12 per cent), air passenger/crew (11 per cent) and sea cargo (5 per cent).

## DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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:

- Fentanyl consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of fentanyl in both capital city and regional sites decreased.
- Oxycodone consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone in capital city sites remained relatively stable and increased in regional sites (ACIC 2020).

According to the IDRS study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of methadone decreased over the last decade, from 25 per cent in 2010 to 15 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 16 per cent.
- The median number of days of any methadone use remained relatively stable at 180 days over the last decade.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of buprenorphine decreased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2010 to 5 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 7 per cent.
- The median number of days of any buprenorphine use decreased over the last decade from 38 days in 2010 to 22 in 2019. This figure was 24 days in 2018.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of morphine decreased over the last decade, from 42 per cent in 2010 to 18 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 22 per cent.
- The median number of days of any morphine use decreased over the last decade, from 20 days in 2010 to 15 in 2019. In 2018 the median number of days was 24.

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of oxycodone decreased over the last decade, from 28 per cent in 2010 to 15 per cent in 2019, an increase from 14 per cent in 2018.
- The median number of days of any oxycodone use fluctuated but overall decreased over the last decade, from 10 days in 2010 to 7 in 2019, an increase from 6 days in 2018.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of fentanyl increased, from 7 per cent in 2018 to 9 per cent in 2019.
- The median number of days of any fentanyl use increased from 3 days in 2018 to 5 days in 2019.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed benzodiazepines decreased over the last decade, from 40 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2019, an increase from 30 per cent in 2018.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed benzodiazepine use decreased over the last decade, from 12 days in 2010 to 7 days in 2019.<sup>70</sup>
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants<sup>71</sup> decreased over the last decade, from 13 per cent in 2010 to 7 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 9 per cent.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulant use remained relatively stable, increasing from 4 days in 2010 to 5 days in 2018 and 2019 (Stafford & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2019a).

According to the EDRS study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed codeine decreased over the last decade, from 33 per cent in 2010 to 6 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 11 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical opioids decreased, from 13 per cent in 2018 to 12 per cent in 2019.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed benzodiazepines increased over the last decade, from 26 per cent in 2010 to 41 per cent in 2018 and 2019.
- The recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants increased over the last decade, from 23 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent in 2019, a decrease from 34 per cent in 2018 (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2018; Peacock et al. 2019b).

According to the ANSPS:

- The proportion of respondents reporting pharmaceutical opioids as the drug last injected decreased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2009 to 9 per cent in 2017 and 7 per cent in 2018 (Iversen & Maher 2015; Heard et al. 2019).

<sup>70</sup> The median number of days of non-prescribed benzodiazepine use in 2018 was not reported.

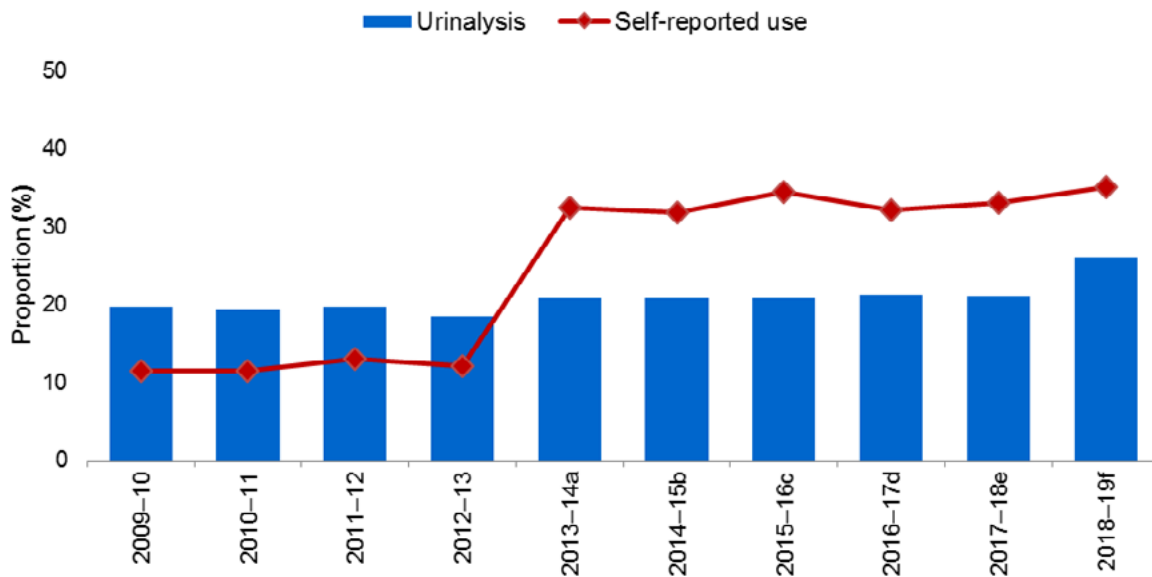
<sup>71</sup> In both IDRS and EDRS studies, pharmaceutical stimulants include dexamphetamine, methylphenidate and modafinil.



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.<sup>72</sup> According to DUMA program data:

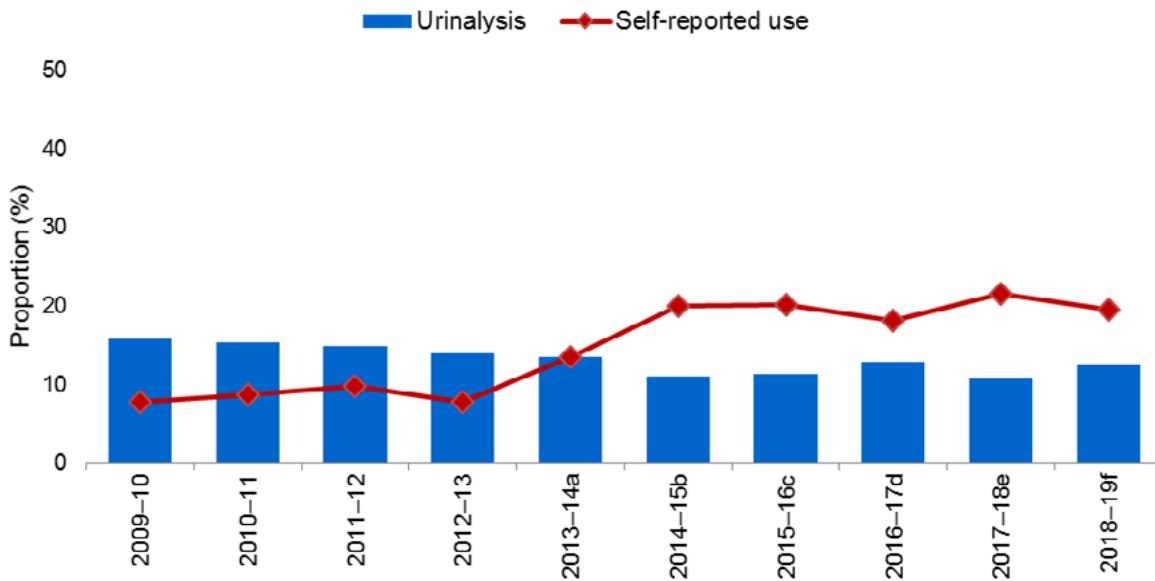
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to benzodiazepines over the last decade ranged from a low of 18 per cent in 2012–13 to a record 26 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 21 per cent.<sup>73</sup>
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting the recent use of benzodiazepines<sup>74</sup> over the last decade ranged from 11 per cent in 2010–11 to a record 35 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 33 per cent (see Figure 33).
- The proportion of detainees testing positive for any opiates<sup>75</sup> over the last decade ranged from 11 per cent in 2014–15, 2015–16 and 2017–18 to 16 per cent in 2009–10. In 2018–19 the proportion was 13 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use of any opiates over the last decade ranged from 8 per cent in 2009–10 and 2012–13 to a record 22 per cent in 2017–18. In 2018–19 the proportion was 19 per cent (see Figure 34).

**FIGURE 33: National proportion of detainees testing positive for benzodiazepines, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)**



- a. Urine was collected in the third and fourth quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.
- b. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2014 and the first and second quarter of 2015.
- c. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2015 and the first and second quarter of 2016.
- d. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2017.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.

72 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.  
 73 Recent use in DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.  
 74 Benzodiazepines and their metabolites can be detected in urine for 2 to 14 days after administration.  
 75 Opiates and their metabolites can be detected in urine on average 2 to 3 days after administration.

**FIGURE 34: National proportion of detainees testing positive for any opiate compared with self-reported use of opiates other than heroin, 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.

According to the 2017 ASSAD survey:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the non-medicinal<sup>76</sup> use of tranquilisers<sup>77</sup> at least once in their lifetime increased over the last decade, from 17 per cent in 2008 to 20 per cent in 2017.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the non-medicinal use of tranquilisers in the past month also increased over the last decade, from 4 per cent in 2008 to 6 per cent in 2017.
- In 2017, 6 per cent of respondents reported the non-medicinal use of other opiates<sup>78</sup> at least once in their lifetime.
- In 2017, 2 per cent of respondents reported the non-medicinal use of other opiates in the past month (White & Williams 2016; Guerin & White 2018; Guerin & White 2019).

## PRICE

Nationally, the price range for a single 100 milligram tablet of MS Contin increased over the last decade, ranging between \$30 and \$40 in 2009–10 (reported in New South Wales) to between \$30 and \$100 in 2017–18 and 2018–19 (reported by Queensland and Tasmania in both periods).

76 In the 2017 ASSAD survey, 'non-medicinal' refers to use 'without a doctor's prescription' or 'other than for medical reasons'.

77 In the 2017 ASSAD survey, 'tranquilisers' includes sleeping tablets, tranquillisers, sedatives or benzodiazepines.

78 In the 2017 ASSAD survey, 'other opiates' includes methadone, morphine, oxycodone or pethidine.

Nationally, the price range for a single OxyContin tablet increased over the last decade, ranging between \$25 and \$60 in 2009–10 (reported in New South Wales and South Australia) to between \$10 and \$100 in 2017–18 and 2018–19.

Nationally, the price for a single 100 microgram patch of fentanyl ranged between \$25 and \$250 in 2018–19, compared with a price range of between \$75 and \$450 in 2017–18. Historical price data for fentanyl is unavailable.

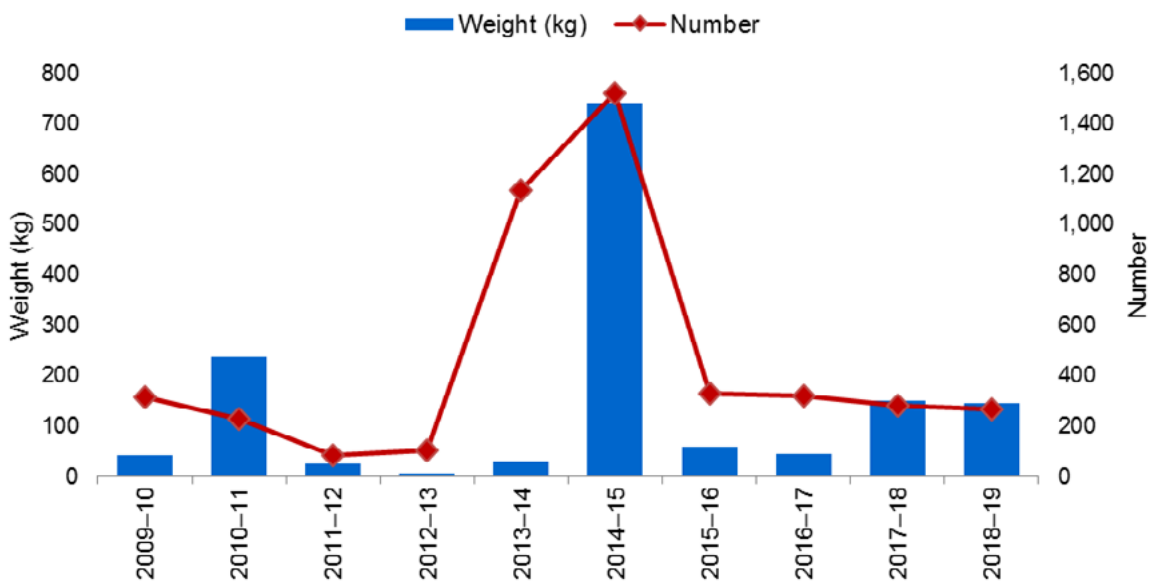
National law enforcement price data for a single benzodiazepine tablet are limited. Queensland reported a price of \$25 per tablet in 2009–10, compared with a price range of between \$8 and \$25 in 2018–19 (reported in New South Wales and Queensland). In 2017–18, the reported price ranged between \$5 and \$25 (reported by New South Wales and Queensland).

## SEIZURES

The number of national other opioid seizures fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing 15 per cent from 315 in 2009–10 to 269 in 2018–19, a 5 per cent decrease from 284 in 2017–18.

The weight of other opioids seized nationally fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 253 per cent from 41.4 kilograms in 2009–10 to 146.2 kilograms in 2018–19, a 3 per cent decrease from the 150.1 kilograms seized in 2017–18 (see Figure 35).

**FIGURE 35: National other opioid seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



The Australia Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other opioid seizures in 2018–19, while Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of other opioids seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (66 per cent) and weight (64 per cent) of other opioids seized nationally (see Table 19).

**TABLE 19: Number, weight and percentage change of national other opioid seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	178	177	-0.6	101,283	92,962	-8.2
Victoria	46	22	-52.2	44,120	13,456	-69.5
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	19	22	15.8	2,393	20,694	764.8
South Australia	2	2	0.0	11	1	-90.9
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	18	13	-27.8	2,285	18,962	729.8
Tasmania	5	7	40.0	3	31	933.3
Northern Territory	0	0	—	0	0	—
Australian Capital Territory	16	26	62.5	27	123	355.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>150,122</b>	<b>146,229</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

a. Includes seizures by state/territory police and AFP 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.

## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES<sup>79</sup>

### MAIN FORMS

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are substances that may be structurally or functionally similar to a parent compound which is a prohibited or scheduled drug and are referred to as analogues.

- There are three categories of analogue drugs: direct, structural and functional.
- NPS are often marketed and sold under a range of terms including 'legal highs'<sup>80</sup>, 'herbal highs', 'bath salts', 'designer drugs' and 'research chemicals' (UNODC 2017a; UNODC 2017b; UNODC 2017c; Wermuth 2006).

Among the wide range of NPS available, this section covers three groups of NPS in more detail: synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, in particular 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC) and NBOMe compounds. These substances are controlled and border controlled drugs for the purposes of the serious drug offences in the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Criminal Code).

### SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

Synthetic cannabinoids are a large and diverse group of substances which mimic the effect of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)—the primary psychoactive component in cannabis.

- Commonly sold as smokable herbal mixtures which have been soaked in or sprayed with the synthetic compound, synthetic cannabinoids may also come in powder, crystal or tablet form (ADF 2019g; EMCDDA 2017; UNODC 2016).

<sup>79</sup> The term 'new' does not necessarily refer to a new invention, as many NPS may have been synthesized years or decades ago, rather it reflects their recent emergence on the market.

<sup>80</sup> Use of the term legal high may not reflect the true legal status of these substances under Australian legislation.

## 4-MMC (4-METHYLMETHCATHINONE)

4-MMC, also known as mephedrone, is one of the most common cathinone-type substances available globally.

- Often sold as a white or brown powder, it is also available in crystal, capsule or tablet form and can be injected, smoked or swallowed (ADF 2019h).

## NBOME COMPOUNDS

There are a number of different NBOMe compounds available, with differing effects. NBOMes are potent hallucinogenic drugs, with 25I, 25B and 25C the most commonly encountered NBOMe compounds.

- NBOMes are available in various forms including blotter paper (similar to LSD), liquid, powder or tablet and can be consumed orally (buccal or sublingual), snorted or injected (ADF 2019j; UNODC 2016; EMCDDA 2014; ACMD 2013).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The illicit global trade in NPS—which the UNODC classifies as substances which are not under international control whose pharmacological effects mimic substances which are internationally controlled—is relatively small, but includes substances that are of global concern, particularly synthetic opioid NPS such as fentanyl analogues. The UNODC distinguishes between plant-based NPS and synthetic NPS. In 2017, kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*), accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of plant-based NPS seized globally, followed by khat (*Catha edulis*) and small quantities of the hallucinogen *Datura stramonium*. Synthetic cannabinoids, followed by ketamine, synthetic cathinones, tryptamines and phenethylamines accounted for greatest proportion of the weight of synthetic NPS seized globally in 2017. Of the 78 NPS which were reported to the UNODC early warning advisory for the first time (at the global level) in 2017, 29 per cent were synthetic opioid receptors agonists, 33 per cent were stimulants and 19 per cent were synthetic cannabinoids (ADF 2020; UNODC 2019).

According to the WCO, the number of NPS<sup>81</sup> seizures globally reported by WCO agencies increased 12 per cent in 2018 (the specific number of seizures was not reported). The number of seizures increased or remained relatively unchanged for all subcategories of NPS except for the subcategory ‘other substances’. Other substances continued to account for the greatest proportion of the number of NPS seizures, followed by the subcategory ‘synthetic cathinones’ and ‘synthetic cannabinoids’. The total weight of NPS seized globally in 2018 decreased 53 per cent, from 19,280 kilograms in 2017 to 8,980 kilograms in 2018—largely attributable to the 82 per cent decrease in the weight of synthetic cannabinoids seized in 2018 (WCO 2019).

81 NPS includes synthetic cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids, Lyrica (pregabalin), fentanyl, ketamine and phencyclidine-type substance and other substances.

## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of NPS border detections decreased 16 per cent this reporting period, from 687 in 2017–18 to 575 in 2018–19.

In 2018–19, detections of NPS occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of NPS detections (82 per cent), followed by air cargo (18 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

### DRUG PROFILING

There is a large number of NPS appearing on the Australian illicit drug market, with some only appearing sporadically. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence team, in consultation with the National Measurement Institute (NMI), has identified the following categories of NPS:

- amphetamine-type substances
- cathinone-type substances
- synthetic cannabinoids
- tryptamine-type substances
- other.<sup>82</sup>

Among the many substances detected and reported since NPS profiling began in 2007–08, some have been more common than others in terms of the overall number of seizures and/or the weight of material seized (see Figure 36). The data below refer only to seizures made and examined by the AFP.

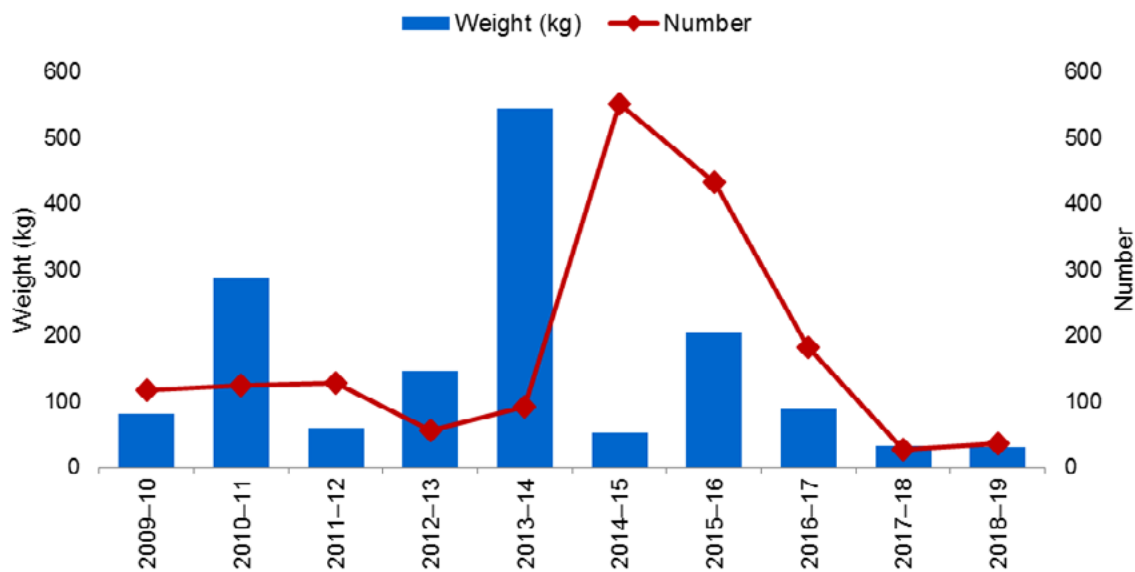
- In 2018–19, other NPS accounted for 39 per cent of the total number of analysed seizures, followed by amphetamine-type substances (28 per cent), tryptamine-type substances (28 per cent) and cathinone-type substances (6 per cent).
- There were no analysed seizures of synthetic cannabinoids in 2018–19.

Consistent with previous reporting periods, amphetamine-type substances continue to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of analysed seizures.

- In 2018–19, amphetamine-type substances accounted for 99 per cent of the weight of analysed seizures.
  - The majority of the weight of amphetamine-type substances analysed this reporting period comprised two seizures of t-boc-MDMA (26.3 kilograms) and p-tosyl-methylamphetamine (3.7 kilograms).
- Cathinone-type substances, tryptamine-type substances and other NPS accounted for 1 per cent of the weight of analysed seizures.
  - Of the tryptamine-type substances, N,N-dimethyltryptamine was the most commonly seized substance by weight in 2018–19, with psilocin/psilocybin found in one seizure.

<sup>82</sup> Other NPS include 2C-group substances, synthetic opiates and ketamine analogues.

**FIGURE 36: Number and weight of seizures selected for further analysis and found to contain novel substances and drug analogues, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)**



## DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to data from the NWDMP:

- The NPS mephedrone and methylone were the least consumed substances monitored by the program. Both drugs were detected at a small number of sites, below the levels at which they could be reliably quantified.
- The number of mephedrone detections increased, from 30 in August 2018 to 38 in August 2019.
- The number of sites where mephedrone was detected increased, from 8 in August 2018 to 12 in August 2019.
- The number of methylone detections increased, from 21 in August 2018 to 24 in August 2019.
- The number of sites where methylone was detected increased, from 6 in August 2018 to 8 in August 2019 (ACIC 2020).

According to the IDRS study:

- The recent use of NPS remained stable between 2018 and 2019 at 11 per cent. Substances mimicking the effects of cannabis were the most commonly reported NPS used (6 per cent) in 2019. Historical data for recent use of NPS are unavailable (Peacock et al. 2019a).

According to the EDRS study:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of NPS remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 32 per cent in 2010 to 31 per cent in 2018 and 30 per cent in 2019.

- The median number of days of reported NPS use remained low (2 days or less) for different NPS forms used over the last decade.
- The following trends were observed in the proportions of respondents reporting recent use of other substances within the NPS group:
  - Recent use of any 2C substance<sup>83</sup> remained stable at 6 per cent in 2010 and 2019. In 2013, this increased to 20 per cent. The recent use of any 2C substance decreased this reporting period, from 8 per cent in 2018.
  - Recent use of NBOMes remained stable at 2 per cent this reporting period. Historical data for NBOMes were unavailable.
  - Recent use of mephedrone decreased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2010 to 1 per cent in 2019. The recent use of mephedrone increased this reporting period, from less than 1 per cent in 2018.
  - Recent use of synthetic cannabinoids remained stable at 3 per cent this reporting period. Historical data for synthetic cannabinoids were unavailable (Peacock et al. 2019b).

According to the 2017 ASSAD survey, the proportion of respondents reporting the use of synthetic cannabis at least once in their lifetime remained relatively stable at 2 per cent in 2017 (White & Williams 2016; Guerin & White 2018).

## PRICE

National law enforcement price data for NPS are limited. Queensland was the only jurisdiction to report price data for 3 grams of synthetic cannabinoids in 2018–19, which ranged between \$100 and \$250 in 2018–19 compared to a price range of between \$50 and \$95 (reported by Queensland and South Australia) in 2017–18.

## OTHER AND UNKNOWN NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED DRUGS

Data for national other and unknown not elsewhere classified (NEC) drug seizures and arrests capture those drugs and substances outside the specific drug categories contained in the *Illicit Drug Data Report*. This category contains a range of substances including precursors, anaesthetics, NPS, pharmaceuticals and drugs not elsewhere classified. Substances in this category are likely to change between reporting periods. Data limitations are further discussed in the *Statistics* chapter of this report.

## SEIZURES

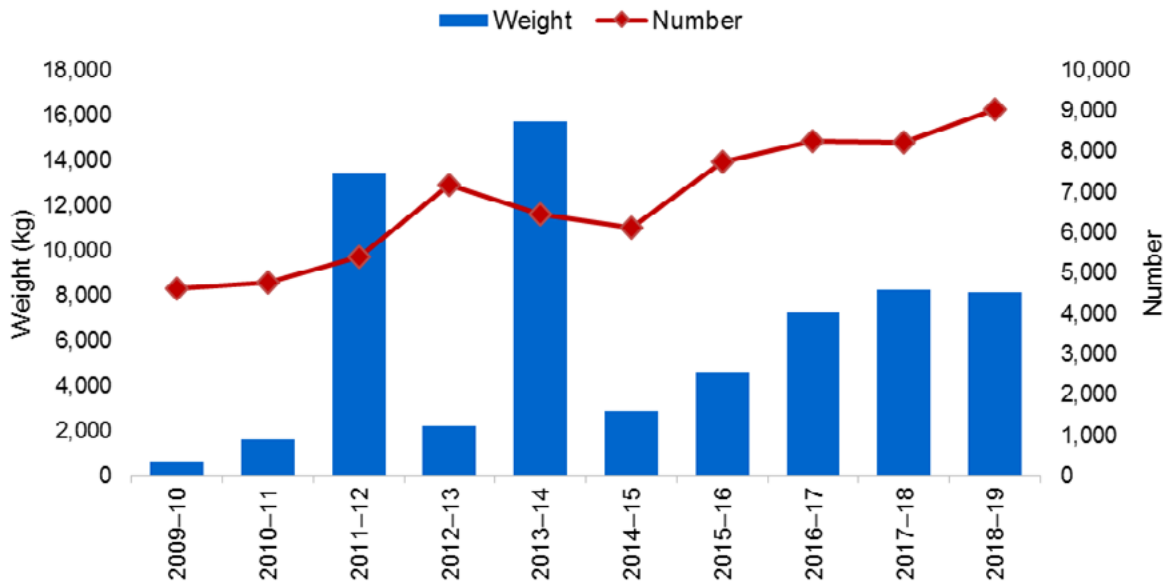
The number of national other and unknown NEC drug seizures increased 95 per cent over the last decade, from 4,628 in 2009–10 to a record 9,039 in 2018–19, a 10 per cent increase from 8,206 in 2017–18.

The weight of national other and unknown NEC drug seizures increased 1,134 per cent over the last decade, from 661 kilograms in 2009–10 to 8,158.6 kilograms in 2018–19, a 2 per cent decrease from 8,281.0 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 37).

<sup>83</sup> 2C substances are synthetic phenethylamines with psychedelic effects.



**FIGURE 37: National other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in both the number and weight of other and unknown NEC drugs seized in 2018–19. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (53 per cent) and weight (64 per cent) of other and unknown NEC drugs seized nationally (see Table 20).

**TABLE 20: Number, weight and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

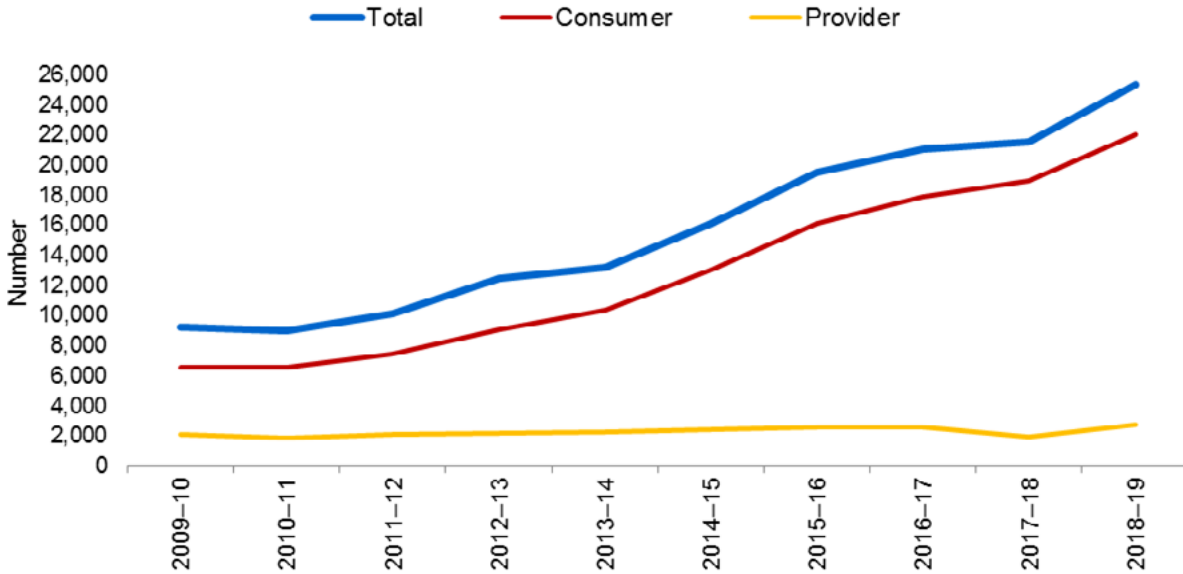
State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	4,115	4,760	15.7	5,443,178	5,185,287	-4.7
Victoria	519	789	52.0	901,134	2,629,915	191.8
Queensland <sup>b</sup>	960	1,042	8.5	1,552,100	145,104	-90.7
South Australia	34	23	-32.4	61,659	11,216	-81.8
Western Australia <sup>c</sup>	2,009	1,812	-9.8	232,139	109,560	-52.8
Tasmania	187	186	-0.5	2,544	3,666	44.1
Northern Territory	211	225	6.6	86,240	69,583	-19.3
Australian Capital Territory	171	202	18.1	2,006	4,276	113.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,206</b>	<b>9,039</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,281,000</b>	<b>8,158,607</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

- 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 other and unknown NEC drug arrests increased 174 per cent over the last decade, from 9,263 in 2009–10 to a record 25,351 in 2018–19, an 18 per cent increase from 21,545 in 2017–18. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 87 per cent of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2018–19 (see Figure 38).

**FIGURE 38: Number of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, by number and weight, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2018–19. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests this reporting period (29 per cent), followed by Victoria (28 per cent; see Table 21).

**TABLE 21: Number and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, 2017–18 and 2018–19**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2017–18	2018–19	% change
New South Wales	2,806	3,123	11.3
Victoria	6,085	7,078	16.3
Queensland	5,962	7,319	22.8
South Australia	620	1,781	187.3
Western Australia	5,489	5,432	-1.0
Tasmania	472	510	8.1
Northern Territory	87	102	17.2
Australian Capital Territory	24	6	-75.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,545</b>	<b>25,351</b>	<b>17.7</b>

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



## NATIONAL IMPACT

The illicit markets in Australia for substances within the other drugs category are comparatively small, however they include a range of drugs which merit ongoing monitoring in order to identify new trends as well as emerging areas of potential harm.

### ANABOLIC AGENTS AND OTHER SELECTED HORMONES

Demand and supply indicators for anabolic agents and other selected hormones in Australia provide a mixed picture. Overall, they suggest the market remained small and relatively stable in 2018–19.

Indicators of demand for anabolic agents and other selected hormones include surveys of secondary school students and of people who regularly inject drugs.

- According to the 2017 ASSAD survey, the proportion of respondents who reported having used non-prescribed PIEDs at least once in their lifetime increased, while reported non-prescribed PIED use at least once in the past month remained stable.
- Data from the ANSPS indicate that reported PIED use decreased in 2018.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of people reporting recent use of steroids decreased in 2019.

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

- The number of PIEDs detected at the Australian border decreased, with steroids continuing to account for the greatest proportion of PIED detections.
  - The number of steroid border detections decreased this reporting period, while hormone border detections increased. The number of clenbuterol border detections also decreased.
- The number and weight of national steroids seizures decreased, while the number of national steroid arrests increased.

### TRYPTAMINES

Despite fluctuations, supply and demand indicators for tryptamines in Australia suggest the market for these substances remains relatively stable.

Indicators of demand for tryptamines include surveys people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants.

- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, LSD use and availability decreased in 2019, with the median number of days of use remaining stable. The same study reported an increase in the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms.

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

- The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border increased and is the second highest number on record. LSD continued to account for the greatest proportion of tryptamine detections.
- The national median price for a single tab of LSD increased.
- The number and weight of national hallucinogen seizures decreased.
- The number of national hallucinogen arrests increased to the highest number on record.

## ANAESTHETICS

Available indicators of supply and demand for the illicit use of anaesthetics in Australia suggest the market remains relatively stable.

According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the recent use of ketamine increased between 2018 and 2019 whereas the reported recent use of GHB and GBL both decreased.

Indicators of supply of anaesthetics include border detections, national clandestine laboratory detections and price data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- The number of border detections of GHB, GBL and ketamine increased to record high levels, with ketamine continuing to account for the greatest proportion of detections.
- The number of laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL decreased this reporting period.
- The national median price for 1 gram of ketamine powder increased and the national median price for 1–1.5 millimetres and 1 litre of GHB/GBL also increased.

## PHARMACEUTICALS

Indicators of pharmaceutical demand and supply in Australia provide a mixed picture, with marked variation across drug types.

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

- For benzodiazepines:
  - According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to benzodiazepines and self-reporting recent use of benzodiazepines increased in 2018–19.
  - According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of people reporting recent use of non-prescribed benzodiazepines increased in 2019.
  - According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of people reporting recent use of non-prescribed benzodiazepines remained stable in 2019.
- For opiates:
  - According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive for any opiates increased in 2018–19, while the self-reported recent use of any opiates decreased.
  - The NWDMP reported higher consumption of the pharmaceutical opioids fentanyl and oxycodone in regional areas than in capital city sites.
  - When comparing data for August 2018 and August 2019, the population-weighted average consumption of fentanyl decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Over the same period, average consumption of oxycodone remained relatively stable in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
  - According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of people reporting recent use of pharmaceutical opioids decreased in 2019 for most drugs monitored, with the exception of fentanyl and oxycodone.

- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of people reporting recent use of pharmaceutical opioids decreased in 2019.
- Data from the ANSPS indicate that pharmaceutical opioid use among this population decreased in 2018.
- For pharmaceutical stimulants:
  - According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of people reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants decreased in 2019.
  - According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of people reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants decreased in 2019.

Indicators of the supply of illicit pharmaceuticals include border detections, seizure and arrest data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- The number of pharmaceuticals detected at the Australian border decreased.
- Benzodiazepines continued to account for the greatest proportion of pharmaceutical detections.
  - The number of benzodiazepine border detections decreased this reporting period, while opioid border detections increased to record levels.
  - The number and weight of national other opioid seizures decreased.

## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Indicators of NPS demand and supply in Australia provide a mixed picture. Overall, they suggest the NPS market remained small and relatively stable.

Indicators of demand for NPS include surveys of people who regularly use drugs and wastewater analysis.

- The NWDMP reports that the NPS mephedrone and methylone are the least consumed illicit drugs of those measured by the program. Both substances were detected in quantities below quantification levels.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of people reporting recent use of NPS remained stable in 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of people reporting recent use of NPS decreased for most related drugs in 2019.

Indicators of NPS supply include border detection data. Compared to 2017–18, in 2018–19:

- The number of NPS detected at the Australian border decreased.
- Forensic profiling of NPS seized at the Australian border and selected for further analysis indicates other NPS accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of NPS detected this reporting period, while amphetamine-type substances accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of analysed samples.

## OTHER AND UNKNOWN NEC

In 2018–19, the number of national other and unknown NEC drug seizures increased to the highest number on record, while the weight seized decreased.

There was a record number of other and unknown NEC national drug arrests in 2018–19.

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## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS



### KEY POINTS

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- 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.



## MAIN FORMS

Clandestine laboratories—commonly referred to as clan labs—are used to covertly manufacture illicit drugs or their precursors. Clandestine laboratories range from crude, makeshift operations using simple processes, to highly sophisticated operations using technically advanced processes, equipment and facilities. Irrespective of their size or level of sophistication, the corrosive or hazardous nature of many of the chemicals used in clandestine laboratories pose significant risks to the community. Many of the chemicals are extremely volatile and in addition to contaminating the laboratory premises, also contaminate the surrounding environment, including soil, water and air (EMCDDA & Europol 2016; UNODC 2016).

Drug manufacture carried out in clandestine laboratories may involve any or all of the following processes:

- **Extraction**—the active chemical ingredients are extracted from a chemical preparation or plant, using a chemical solvent to produce a finished drug or a precursor chemical. Examples of extraction include the extraction of precursor chemicals from pharmaceutical preparations, or the extraction of morphine from opium.
- **Conversion**—a raw or unrefined drug product is changed into a more sought-after product by altering the chemical form. Examples include converting cocaine base into cocaine hydrochloride or methylamphetamine base into crystalline methylamphetamine hydrochloride.
- **Synthesis**—raw materials are combined and reacted under specific conditions to create the finished product through chemical reactions. Synthetic drugs such as methylamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA) and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) are created through this process.
- **Tableting**—the final product is converted into dosage units. An example is pressing MDMA powder into tablets.

There are three types of substances used in illicit drug manufacture:

- **Precursors**—considered the starting materials for illicit drug manufacture. Through chemical reactions, the precursor’s molecular structure is modified to produce a specific illicit drug. For example, precursors such as ephedrine (Eph) and pseudoephedrine (PSE) are converted to methylamphetamine.
- **Reagents**—substances used to cause a chemical reaction that modify the precursor’s molecular structure. For example, when the reagent acetic anhydride is mixed with the precursor phenyl-2-propanone (P2P), the resulting compound is methylamphetamine.
- **Solvents**—added to the chemical mixture to ensure effective mixing by dissolving precursors and reagents, diluting the reaction mixtures, and separating and purifying other chemicals. For example, acetone and hydrochloric acid are used in heroin production (UNODC 2014).

The method of illicit drug manufacture employed is influenced by a number of factors, including the skill of the person and the availability of precursors. In Australia, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), specifically methylamphetamine, is the predominant drug manufactured in detected clandestine laboratories. The manufacturing methods and precursors used to manufacture ATS vary.

- The predominant processes used in Australia for manufacturing methylamphetamine are comparatively simple, using readily available basic equipment and precursor chemicals, with pseudoephedrine and ephedrine the most common precursors used.



- By comparison, MDMA manufacture is considered more complicated, requiring a greater knowledge of chemistry and use of precursor chemicals that are more difficult to obtain.

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Preventing the diversion of precursors, reagents and solvents for use in illicit drug manufacture is an effective and efficient way of limiting the supply of illicit drugs. As many of these substances have legitimate application within various branches of industry, controls must balance legitimate access with efforts to reduce diversion to the illicit market.

The trafficking of precursors, reagents and solvents used to produce illicit drugs is a global illicit market in itself and may involve diversion from licit channels and/or illicit manufacture. The illicit production of plant-based substances (primarily cocaine and heroin) rely on a number of known precursors, solvents and reagents used in common and well understood methods of production. In contrast, the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs—in particular ATS—and the precursor chemicals used in its manufacture, is increasingly using a combination of old and newly developed techniques. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) identified two main developments in ATS manufacture and related global ATS precursor trafficking in 2018 and 2019:

- The increasing use and development of ‘designer’ precursors, namely substances that are close chemical relatives of controlled precursors. These can be converted into a precursor chemical and purposely developed to evade international controls. The INCB notes that while the trafficking of non-scheduled chemicals is not new, the sophistication, diversification and scale of illicit drug manufacturing (particularly of synthetic drugs) have outpaced international precursor control frameworks.
- The increasing use of P2P-based methods in the manufacture of ATS in regions where this method was not commonly used (for example in East and South East Asia where PSE/Eph-based methods have been more common historically; INCB 2019; INCB 2020).

This section will focus on ephedrine, potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride seizures reported by the INCB. These chemicals are under international control and are used in the manufacture of ATS, cocaine and heroin.

- Eph and PSE: 35 countries reported seizures in 2018, with the combined weight seized close to 40 tonnes. Seizures occurred in all regions of the globe. East and South East Asia accounted for the majority of reported seizures in 2018, including China (26 tonnes of raw Eph and Eph preparations and 908 kilograms of PSE) and the Philippines (more than 11 tonnes of Eph).
- Potassium permanganate: 17 countries reported seizures in 2018, totalling over 80 tonnes. While seizures of over one tonne (per country) were reported in 2018 by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, China, Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the INCB reports that over 27 tonnes of potassium permanganate was seized in Colombia during the first six months of 2019.
- Acetic anhydride: 21 countries reported seizures in 2018, totalling 188,000 litres. China, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Turkey each reported seizures of more than 10,000 litres in 2018. The Islamic Republic of Iran alone reported seizures of 27,680 litres of acetic anhydride in 2018 (INCB 2020).



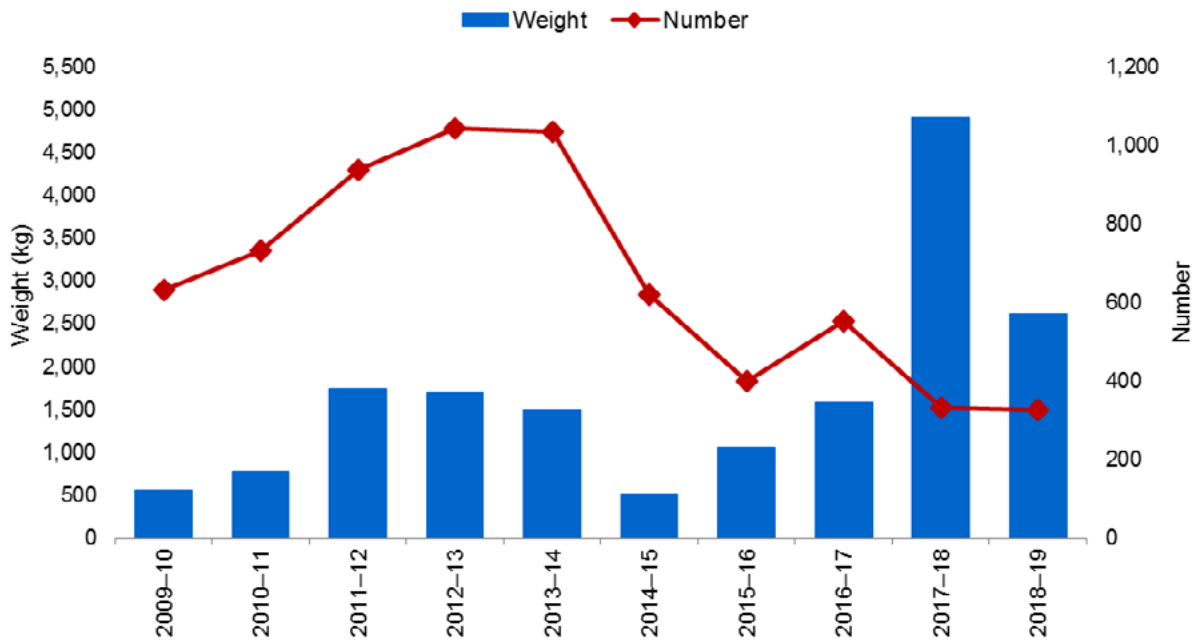
## DOMESTIC TRENDS

### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

As ATS are the most common illicit drugs manufactured in domestic clandestine laboratories in Australia, this chapter focuses on ATS (excluding MDMA) and MDMA precursor detection data.

The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing 49 per cent from 632 in 2009–10 to 325 in 2018–19. This reporting period the number of detections decreased 2 per cent, from 332 in 2017–18. The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 371 per cent from 556.3 kilograms in 2009–10 to 2,621.3 kilograms in 2018–19—the second highest weight on record. The weight detected this reporting period decreased 47 per cent, from a record 4,912.4 kilograms in 2017–18 (see Figure 39).<sup>84</sup>

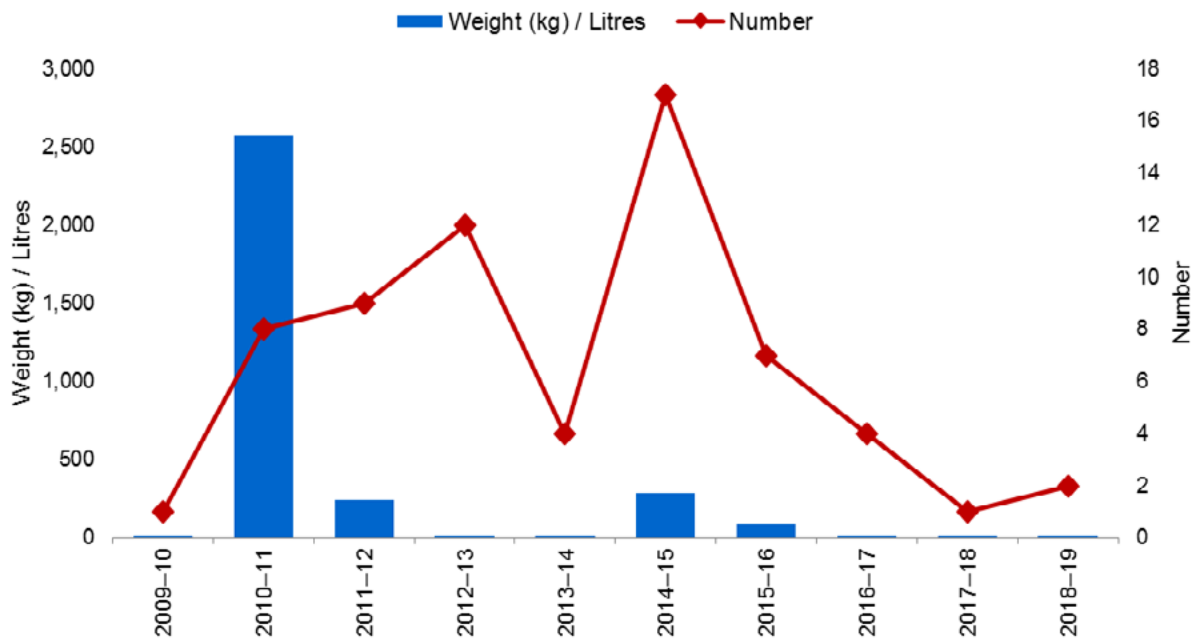
**FIGURE 39: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**



The number of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, but remain relatively low. A single detection of MDMA precursors was reported in both 2009–10 and 2017–18, which increased to 2 detections in 2018–19. The weight of MDMA precursors detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 290 per cent from 100 grams in 2009–10 to 390 grams in 2018–19. This reporting period the weight detected increased 7,700 per cent, from 5.0 grams in 2017–18 (see Figure 40).

<sup>84</sup> See Appendix 2 for significant ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections in 2018–19.

**FIGURE 40: Number and weight/litres<sup>a</sup> of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border, 2009–10 to 2018–19 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**



a. Significant detections of MDMA precursors occur in both kilograms and litres. As this figure reflects two units of measurement, it is necessary to refer to ‘Significant Border Detections’ for individual reporting periods to determine the related unit of measurement.

## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2018–19, ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for 41 per cent of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections, followed by air passenger/crew (28 per cent), air cargo (28 per cent) and sea cargo (3 per cent). By weight, sea cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections (79 per cent), followed by air cargo (18 per cent), international mail (3 per cent), and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

In 2018–19, the two MDMA precursor border detections occurred in the air cargo and air passenger/crew streams.

## EMBARKATION POINTS

By weight, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border in 2018–19. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Malaysia, India, Taiwan, the United States (US), the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Indonesia and Singapore.

Vietnam was the primary embarkation point by weight for MDMA precursor detections in 2018–19, followed by the US.



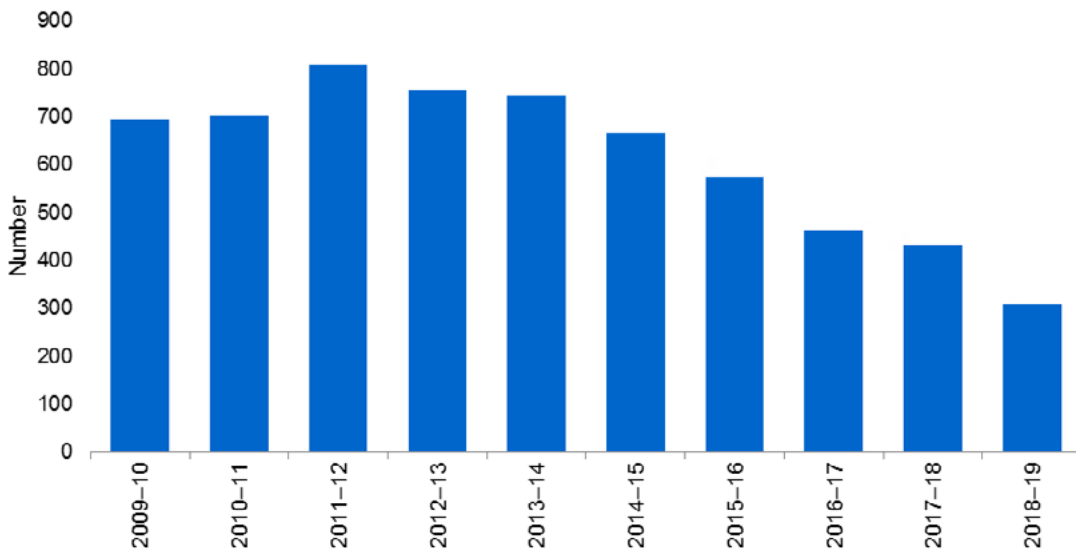
## DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

The number of clandestine laboratory detections is not indicative of production output, which is calculated using a number of variables including the size of reaction vessels, amount and type of precursors used, the skill of people involved and the method of manufacture.

### CLANDESTINE LABORATORY DETECTIONS

The number of national clandestine laboratory detections in Australia decreased 56 per cent over the last decade, from 694 in 2009–10 to 308 in 2018–19—the lowest number of detections reported in the last decade. While the number of detections increased between 2009–10 and 2011–12, it decreased in every subsequent reporting period. This reporting period the number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased 29 per cent, from 432 in 2017–18 (see Figure 41).

**FIGURE 41: National clandestine laboratory detections, 2009–10 to 2018–19**



All states and territories reported a decrease in the number of clandestine laboratories detected in 2018–19, with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, which reported an increase in the number of detections and the Northern Territory, which remained stable (see Table 22). Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2018–19 (30 per cent), followed by Queensland (26 per cent).



**TABLE 22: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2009–10 to 2018–19**

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
2009–10	82	113	297	71	118	1	12	0	<b>694</b>
2010–11	87	63	293	75	171	11	2	1	<b>703</b>
2011–12	90	99	379	58	160	15	7	1	<b>809</b>
2012–13	105	113	330	56	136	9	8	0	<b>757</b>
2013–14	98	114	340	80	96	5	11	0	<b>744</b>
2014–15	99	161	236	71	84	5	10	1	<b>667</b>
2015–16	83	144	234	69	40	1	3	1	<b>575</b>
2016–17	56	135	150	81	33	3	5	0	<b>463</b>
2017–18	86	98	141	78	25	2	2	0	<b>432</b>
2018–19	59	91	81	58	14	1	2	2	<b>308</b>

## SIZE AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY

State and territory police services are asked to provide an indication of the size and production capacity of detected laboratories using categories provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in their data collection for the World Drug Report. Full definitions for the four categories—addict-based, other small scale, medium scale and industrial scale—are found in the *Statistics* chapter.

In 2018–19, clandestine laboratories detected in Australia ranged from addict-based laboratories, which typically use basic equipment and simple procedures, through to industrial scale laboratories, using oversized equipment. For those able to be categorised, the majority of detected laboratories in Australia continue to be addict-based, though the proportion of laboratories attributed to this category decreased, from 53 per cent in 2017–18 to 47 per cent in 2018–19. The proportion of laboratories categorised as other small scale increased this reporting period, from 26 per cent in 2017–18 to 33 per cent in 2018–19, with the proportion of medium sized laboratories decreasing from 19 per cent in 2017–18 to 18 per cent in 2018–19. The proportion of industrial-scale laboratories remained relatively stable at 2 per cent this reporting period.

## DRUG TYPES AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION

Over the last decade and of those able to be identified, clandestine laboratories manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) accounted for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced. The proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections fluctuated over the decade, decreasing from 82 per cent in 2009–10 to 49 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 the proportion was 46 per cent.

- The number of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections decreased 30 per cent this reporting period, from 233 in 2017–18 to 164 in 2018–19. Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratories (26 per cent), followed by Queensland (25 per cent) and New South Wales (24 per cent). With the exception of Tasmania, all state and territories reporting clandestine laboratory detections in 2018–19 reported ATS (excluding MDMA) production (see Table 23).

While fluctuating over the last decade, the proportion of MDMA laboratory detections remained stable at 2 per cent in 2009–10 and 2018–19. In 2017–18 the proportion was 4 per cent, the highest reported in the decade.

- The number of MDMA laboratory detections decreased 70 per cent this reporting period, from 20 in 2017–18 to 6 in 2018–19. This reporting period MDMA laboratories were detected in New South Wales (4), Queensland (1) and Victoria (1).

Over the last decade the proportion of cannabis oil extraction laboratories increased, from less than 1 per cent of national laboratory detections in 2009–10 to 5 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18, the proportion was 3 per cent.

- The number of cannabis oil extraction laboratory detections increased 6 per cent this reporting period, from 17 in 2017–18 to 18 detections 2018–19, the third highest number of detections since related reporting began in 2007–08. This reporting period cannabis oil extraction laboratories were detected in South Australia (12), Victoria (5) and New South Wales (1). The number of cannabis oil extraction laboratories detected in South Australia doubled this reporting period, from 6 in 2017–18 to 12 in 2018–19.

**TABLE 23: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by drug production type and state and territory, 2018–19**

State/ Territory	ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA	Homebake heroin	Cannabis oil extraction	PSE extraction	GHB/ GBL	Other <sup>a</sup>	Unknown <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>
NSW	40	4	0	1	0	1	10	3	59
Vic	42	1	0	5	3	10	53	0	114
Qld	41	1	0	0	0	1	2	36	81
SA	31	0	0	12	1	6	1	11	62
WA	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	15
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
NT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ACT	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>335</b>

a. 'Other' refers to the detection of other illicit manufacture.

b. 'Unknown' includes seized substances which were unable to be identified or are awaiting analysis.

c. Total may exceed the number of clandestine laboratory detections due to multiple drug production types being identified in a single laboratory.

Over the last decade the proportion of gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)/gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) laboratories increased, from zero detections in 2009–10 to 5 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was 4 per cent.

- The number of GHB/GBL laboratories decreased 18 per cent this reporting period, from a record 22 detections in 2017–18 to 18 in 2018–19, the second highest number of GHB/GBL laboratory detections on record. This reporting period GHB/GBL laboratories were detected in Victoria (10), South Australia (6), New South Wales (1) and Queensland (1).





While it fluctuated, over the last decade the proportion of clandestine laboratories extracting pseudoephedrine decreased, from 6 per cent of national laboratory detections in 2009–10 to 1 per cent in 2018–19. In 2017–18 this proportion was less than 1 per cent.

- The number of pseudoephedrine laboratories doubled this reporting period, from 2 detections in 2017–18 to 4 in 2018–19. This reporting period pseudoephedrine extraction laboratories were detected in Victoria (3) and South Australia (1).

Over the last decade the proportion of homebake heroin laboratories decreased, accounting for less than one percent of national laboratory detections in 2009–10 to no detections reported in both 2017–18 and 2018–19. There was a spike in detections in 2014–15, with homebake heroin laboratories accounting for 2 per cent of national laboratory detections in that reporting period.

Clandestine laboratories detected in Australia also manufacture a range of other illicit drugs, precursors and pre-precursors, as well as being used in extraction and recrystallization processes. The number of laboratories detected manufacturing other drugs increased 63 per cent this reporting period, from 46 in 2017–18 to 75 in 2018–19.

- In 2018–19, this included laboratories manufacturing P2P, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), steroids, psilocybin and methylamine. Ephedrine, hypophosphorous acid, iodine, piperonal, mescaline, cocaine and heroin extraction laboratories were also detected in 2018–19.

The hypophosphorous method of production continues to be the predominant method of ATS (excluding MDMA) manufacture in Australia (see Table 24). Over the last decade, the proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratories detected nationally using the hypophosphorous method of production increased, from 52 per cent in 2009–10 to 59 per cent in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected using this method of production decreased 7 per cent this reporting period, from 103 in 2017–18 to 96 in 2018–19. Other trends observed in ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections nationally over the last decade include:

- The proportion of detections identified as using the red phosphorous method decreased, from 11 per cent in 2009–10 to 7 per cent of detections in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected decreased 42 per cent this reporting period, from 19 in 2017–18 to 11 in 2018–19.
- The proportion of detections identified as using the Nazi/Birch method decreased, from 23 per cent in 2009–10 to 6 per cent in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected decreased 38 per cent this reporting period, from 16 in 2017–18 to 10 in 2018–19.
- The proportion of detections identified as using the P2P method remained relatively stable at 2 per cent in 2009–10 and 3 per cent in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected decreased 73 per cent this reporting period, from 11 in 2017–18 to 3 in 2018–19.
- The proportion of detections identified as using other methods of ATS (excluding MDMA) production increased, from 11 per cent in 2009–10 to 27 per cent in 2018–19. The number of laboratories detected decreased 17 per cent this reporting period, from 53 in 2017–18 to 44 in 2018–19.

In 2018–19, New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of hypophosphorous laboratories detected nationally (40 per cent). Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of red phosphorous laboratory detections (36 per cent), while Victoria accounted for all P2P laboratory detections this reporting period. Western Australia accounted for the greatest proportion of Nazi/Birch laboratory detections in 2018–19 (60 per cent).

**TABLE 24: Method of ATS (excluding MDMA) production in clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2018–19**

State/ Territory	Hypophosphorous	Red-phosphorus	Nazi/Birch	Phenyl-2- propanone (P2P)	Other <sup>a</sup>	Total <sup>b</sup>
NSW	38	2	0	0	0	40
Vic	30	3	4	3	2	42
Qld	13	4	0	0	24	41
SA	14	1	0	0	16	31
WA	1	0	6	0	1	8
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	1	0	0	0	1
ACT	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>164</b>

a. 'Other' includes the detection of other ATS (excluding MDMA) production methods.

b. Total may not equal the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratory detections as the method of production may not be identified or the detection is awaiting analysis.

## SIGNIFICANT PRECURSOR SEIZURES

This section provides a snapshot of the identification and/or seizure of some significant quantities of precursors, reagents and solvents (by weight) this reporting period:

### Ephedrine

- 207.50 kilograms in South Australia
- 5.50 kilograms in Victoria
- 1.05 kilograms in New South Wales.

### Hypophosphorous acid

- 0.21 kilograms in Queensland
- 0.16 kilograms in Queensland.

### Iodine

- 287.00 kilograms in South Australia
- 250.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 250.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 25.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 7.30 kilograms in South Australia
- 0.49 kilograms in Queensland
- 0.40 kilograms in Queensland
- 0.33 kilograms in Queensland



- 0.24 kilograms in Queensland
- 0.19 kilograms in Queensland
- 0.10 kilograms in Queensland.

#### **Pseudoephedrine**

- 5.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 9,360 tablets in New South Wales.

#### **Red phosphorous**

- 0.01 kilograms in the Northern Territory.

#### **Other**

- 138.69 kilograms of MDP2P/PMK in New South Wales
- 108.00 kilograms of methyl-2-phenyl-aceto-acetate in Victoria
- 100.00 kilograms of methylamine in Victoria
- 89.94 kilograms of safrole in New South Wales
- 13.00 kilograms of MDP2P/PMK in New South Wales
- 10.00 kilograms of GABA in South Australia
- 6.00 kilograms of GABA in South Australia
- 5.00 kilograms of sodium 2-methyl-3-phenyl glycidate in Victoria
- 3.00 kilograms of GABA in South Australia.

This section provides a snapshot of the identification and/or seizure of some significant quantities of precursors, reagents and solvents (by volume) this reporting period:

#### **Benzaldehyde**

- 2.00 litres in Victoria.

#### **Hypophosphorous acid**

- 220.00 litres in South Australia
- 27.00 litres in Victoria
- 23.00 litres in New South Wales
- 3.05 litres in South Australia.

#### **Piperonal**

- 0.20 litres in the Australian Capital Territory.

#### **1,4-butanediol**

- 200.00 litres in Western Australia.<sup>85</sup>

#### **Other**

- 1,000.00 litres of tetrahydrofuran in Victoria
- 8.00 litres of benzaldehyde in South Australia.

<sup>85</sup> This 200.0 litre seizure of 1,4 butanediol (1,4-BD) was the largest of several seizures of 1,4-BD in Western Australia this reporting period, which totalled 375.0 litres.



## LOCATION AND CATEGORY

The majority of clandestine laboratories detected in Australia continue to be located in residential areas—though the proportion of clandestine laboratories detected in residential areas decreased this reporting period, from 71 per cent in 2017–18 to 69 per cent in 2018–19. Clandestine laboratories located in commercial and industrial areas accounted for the second largest proportion of national detections this reporting period (10 per cent, an increase from 4 per cent in 2017–18), followed by laboratories detected in vehicles (9 per cent, a decrease from 10 per cent in 2017–18), rural areas (5 per cent, a decrease from 7 per cent in 2017–18) and other locations (remained relatively stable at 5 per cent).

- Several jurisdictions (Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia) reported detections of laboratories in hotels/motels or other short-term rental accommodation in 2018–19.

Based on their operating status, there are four distinct categories of clandestine laboratories:

- Category A—active (chemicals and equipment in use)
- Category B—stored/used (equipment and chemicals)<sup>86</sup>
- Category C—stored/unused (equipment and chemicals)
- Category D—historical site.

Consistent with previous reporting periods, for those able to be categorised, Category C was the most common category for clandestine laboratories detected nationally, accounting for 44 per cent of laboratories in 2018–19, a decrease from 47 per cent in 2017–18. This was followed by Category B, which remained relatively stable at 33 per cent this reporting period (32 per cent in 2017–18), Category D which accounted for 12 per cent (a decrease from 13 per cent in 2017–18) and Category A, which accounted for 12 per cent (an increase from 8 per cent in 2017–18).

## NATIONAL TABLET PRESS SEIZURES

The number of tablet presses seized nationally decreased 42 per cent this reporting period, from 31 in 2017–18 to 18 in 2018–19. The 18 national tablet press seizures this reporting period comprised 16 single station/simple presses and 2 rotary presses. In 2018–19, seizures were made in New South Wales (6), Victoria (6), South Australia (2), Queensland (1), Tasmania (1), the Northern Territory (1) and the Australian Capital Territory (1).

The number of encapsulators seized nationally doubled this reporting period, from 5 in 2017–18 to 10 in 2018–19 and is the highest number reported since 2011–12 (13). The 10 encapsulators were seized in New South Wales (4), South Australia (3), Victoria (1), Western Australia (1) and the Northern Territory (1).

<sup>86</sup> Laboratories which are fully assembled, but not active at the time of detection.



## NATIONAL IMPACT

The trafficking of precursor chemicals used to produce illicit drugs is a global market in itself, and the range of chemicals used worldwide in illicit drug production is increasing.

Indicators of domestic drug production provide a mixed picture. These include border detection, seizure, clandestine laboratory, tablet press and encapsulator data.

- In 2018–19, the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border decreased slightly. While the weight detected close to halved this reporting period, it is the second highest weight on record.
- In 2018–19, both the number and weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border increased—though the number and weight of detections are comparatively small.
- The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally in 2018–19 decreased for the seventh consecutive reporting period. The 308 laboratories detected this reporting period is the lowest number of detections reported in the last decade.
- Clandestine laboratories in Australia manufacture and process a range of illicit drugs, precursors and pre-precursors.
  - In 2018–19, this included ATS (excluding MDMA), MDMA, GHB/GBL, DMT, P2P, steroids, psilocybin and methylamine, as well as ephedrine, hypophosphorous acid, iodine, piperonal, mescaline, cocaine and heroin extraction laboratories.
  - While decreasing over the last decade, clandestine laboratories manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) continue to account for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced in 2018–19.
- The hypophosphorous method of production remains the predominant method of ATS (excluding MDMA) production in Australia.
- Clandestine laboratories detected in Australia range from addict-based through to industrial scale laboratories.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally in 2018–19 continue to be addict-based and located in residential areas—though the proportion of other small scale and industrial-scale laboratories increased from 2017–18.
  - The majority of laboratories continue to relate to the detection of stored/unused equipment or chemicals (Category C). While active laboratories (Category A) were the least detected category this reporting period, the proportion of active laboratories detected increased in 2018–19.
- In 2018–19, 18 tablet presses and 10 encapsulators were seized nationally.



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# STATISTICS



## INTRODUCTION

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The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) uses the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) system to process seizure, arrest and purity data for the Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR). This allows for more accurate analysis of law enforcement data and assists in moving towards nationally standardised data holdings. The ACIC acknowledges the assistance of police statisticians and information managers in this process.



## COUNTING METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was used to develop a count of arrests by drug type:

- where a person has been charged with multiple consumer or provider offences for a particular type of drug, that person is counted once only as a consumer or provider of that drug
- where consumer or provider charges for a particular drug type have been laid, the provider charge takes precedence and the person is counted only as a provider of that drug
- a person who has been charged in relation to multiple drug types is counted as a consumer or provider for each drug type
- a person is counted on each separate occasion that they are charged.

## DATA SOURCES

### ARREST AND SEIZURE DATA

The following agencies provided arrest and seizure data:

- Australian Federal Police (AFP)
- Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing
- New South Wales Police Force
- Northern Territory Police
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police Force.

### DRUG PURITY DATA

The following agencies and organisations provided drug purity data:

- Australian Federal Police
- ChemCentre Western Australia
- Forensic Science SA
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania
- Health System Information and Performance Reporting, New South Wales Ministry of Health. Sample analysis conducted by NSW Forensic & Analytical Science Service (FASS)
- New South Wales Police Force
- Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services
- Victoria Police.

The purity tables only represent purity figures for seizures of that drug type that have been analysed at a forensic laboratory. The number of 'cases' in the purity tables reflects the number of individual samples analysed (items), as distinct from the number of seizures/cases (which may have multiple items).



The time between the date of seizure by police and the date of receipt at laboratories can vary from a few days to several months and, in isolated cases, years. The purity table represents those seizures analysed during 2018–19, not necessarily all seizures made during that period.

From 2017, the NSW FASS only tests for purity levels on samples submitted from seizures of a commercial quantity or greater.

South Australia tests for purity levels on cases when the total weight of drug-containing material within a case is >5 grams. All samples with total weight >2 grams are sent for quantitation (if none are >2 grams, then the largest sample is sent for quantitation). When the total weight of drug-containing material within a case is >100 grams, all samples regardless of their total weight are sent for quantitation.

Tasmania Police do not conduct purity determinations on exhibits unless it is specifically requested by the investigator and he/she has a good reason for doing so. Tasmania Police also do not conduct purity determinations on less than 0.5 grams. Legislation in Tasmania does not take into account the purity of the exhibit, so there are very few instances where purity determinations are of great value and hence not worth the significant effort required to determine the purity.

Drug seizures are not routinely tested for purity in the Northern Territory, unless specifically requested. The Misuse of Drugs Act (NT) provides for all of the preparation or mixture to be deemed as if all of the substance (preparation or mixture) is comprised of the dangerous drug found, irrespective of purity.

Due to legislative changes in the Australian Capital Territory, drug seizures are no longer routinely tested for purity.

## DRUG PRICE DATA

Data on prices for illicit drugs were collected from each of the police jurisdictions and are based on information supplied by covert police units and police informants. Unless otherwise stated, police price information has been used.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA OVERVIEW

Despite limitations in the current dataset, the ACIC's IDDR provides the best collection of arrest and seizure statistics available in Australia. The NIDRF data processing system has enabled the ACIC to improve statistical quality and reliability.

## DATASETS

Since the development and implementation of the NIDRF processing system, limitations with the administrative datasets used to compile the statistics have decreased. However, the following factors should be considered when using the data to develop assessments or conclusions:

- a lack of uniformity across all states and territories in the recording and storing of data on illicit drug arrests and seizures
- ongoing problems with quality control, resulting in the absence of essential information from some records
- differences in applying a uniform counting and data extraction methodology across all jurisdictions
- differences in definitions of consumer and provider offences across and within jurisdictions over time

- differences in the way drugs and offences may be coded
- insufficient drug identification
- an inability to identify seizures resulting from joint operations, for example, those involving the AFP and a state or territory agency.

## DRUG IDENTIFICATION AND CODING

Not all illicit drugs seized by law enforcement are scientifically analysed to establish the precise nature of the drug. In some cases, only seizures of a predetermined weight or those that are the subject of a 'not guilty' plea are analysed. In some instances, an initial field test may be carried out to provide an indication as to the seized drug, but all other seizures are recorded at the discretion of the investigating officer and without further qualification.

Historically, a number of jurisdictional data systems did not differentiate between amphetamines and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). This has restricted the ACIC's ability to monitor and report on national trends in regards to seizures and arrests of specific ATS drug types. Similar problems continue to exist with the range of drugs recorded as 'other drugs'. Monitoring and reporting on national trends of these drugs is therefore limited.

## RECORDING AND STORAGE METHODS

The lack of consistency between law enforcement agencies in recording illicit drug arrests and seizures presents difficulties when data are aggregated and compared. Disparities exist in the level of detail recorded for each offence, the methods used to quantify the seizures, the way offence and seizure data are extracted, and the way counting rules and extraction programs are applied.

## QUALITY CONTROL

Missing, incomplete and non-specific information relating to drug seizures makes it impossible to precisely calculate the total quantity of each drug type seized. Since 2001–02, the NIDRF system has allowed for increased scrutiny of large seizures that may not have been queried in the past.

## CONSUMERS AND PROVIDERS

Offenders are classified as consumers or providers in order to differentiate between people who have been apprehended for trading in, as opposed to using, illicit drugs. Those charged with supply-type offences (importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation and manufacture) are classified as providers. Those charged with user-type offences (processing or administering drugs for their own use) are classified as consumers.

In some cases, the jurisdictions allocate consumer and provider codes, and in others, the ACIC applies the codes based on the information on the type of offence committed. Further, there are some differences in the methodologies jurisdictions use for applying consumer and provider codes. In some states and territories, the quantity of the drug involved determines whether an offence is regarded as a consumer or a provider offence. Additionally, the threshold quantity that determines whether a person is to be charged as a provider varies over time, both within and between states and territories.

Offender data supplied may exclude law enforcement actions that are the subject of ongoing investigations.

## DETECTION DATA

Border detection data supplied may exclude detections that are the subject of ongoing investigations.

## SEIZURE DATA

The seizure data presented in Table 35 include only those seizures for which a valid drug weight was recorded. Consequently, it undercounts both the number of seizures and the amount of drug seized for all drug types. Seizure data for ATS, cannabis and other drugs are most likely to be affected by the variety of measurement methods and these figures should be treated with caution when making comparisons between jurisdictions or over time. This table includes seizures by the AFP and state and territory police.

Seizure data supplied may exclude seizures that are the subject of ongoing investigations.

## DRUG USE MONITORING IN AUSTRALIA (DUMA) PROGRAM

The DUMA program is an ongoing illicit drug use monitoring program that captures information on approximately 2,200 police detainees per year, across five locations throughout Australia. There are two core components: a self-report survey and voluntary provision of a urine sample which is subjected to urinalysis at an independent laboratory to detect the presence of licit and illicit drugs. The self-report survey captures a range of criminal justice, demographic, drug use, drug market participation and offending information. Urinalysis serves as an important objective method for corroborating self-reported drug use. Not all detainees who respond to the self-report survey agree to provide a urine sample when requested, although the urine compliance rate is high.

## NATIONAL WASTEWATER DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

Wastewater analysis is a technique for measuring population-scale consumption of substances. Following the recommendations of the National Ice Taskforce and National Ice Action Strategy, in 2016 the ACIC received funding under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to deliver the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) over three years. Since then, additional funding in the ACIC's annual budgetary appropriation has allowed for the extension of the program.

The University of Queensland and University of South Australia have been commissioned to provide drug consumption data to the ACIC. A total of approximately fifty wastewater treatment sites nationally are assessed, bimonthly in the case of capital city sites and every four months for regional sites. The aim is to acquire data on the population-scale use of substances causing potential harm, either through addiction, health risks, or criminal and anti-social behaviour. Drugs monitored by the program include nicotine, alcohol, amphetamine, methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, cannabis, mephedrone and methylone.

The ACIC provides data from the NWDMP in the form of public reports three times per year. The reports present patterns of substance use across Australia, showing differences in levels between capital cities and regional centres within states and territories, and nationally. The collective national data are placed in an international context by comparing findings with European and other studies which conduct similar wastewater analyses. The public reports are accessible on the ACIC website <<https://www.acic.gov.au/publications/reports/national-wastewater-drug-monitoring-program-reports>>.



## JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES

Comparing law enforcement data across states and territories is problematic. Figures reported in the IDDR may differ from those reported in other publications. Reasons for this include the date of extraction and the counting rules applied. For the information of agencies and individuals wishing to interpret the data, specific issues regarding jurisdictional data have been identified by the ACIC and the relevant jurisdiction. These issues have been summarised and are presented below.

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT Policing provided the ACIC with seizure and offender data. Data are comparable with figures in the IDDR from 2002–03 onwards.

As reported by ACT Policing, Simple Cannabis Offence Notices (SCONs) data may not be a true representation of the number of SCONs issued for the period as offenders may be subsequently summonsed for non-payment and will therefore be included in consumer and provider arrests data.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

### AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

The AFP provided national offender, seizure and purity data. This data was compiled in conjunction with the AFP's Forensic Drug Intelligence team. Seizures resulting from joint operations with the Department of Home Affairs are represented within AFP figures. Totals may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications, due to the data extraction being based on more recent data and on the AFP using different drug-grouping categories to the ACIC.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

Detections of illicit drugs by the Department of Home Affairs are handed to the AFP for investigation purposes, safe storage and destruction. Border detections are recorded on 'DrugLab', which is updated with confirmed seizure weight data from the AFP. At present, there is no provision for an automatic update of accurate weights to DrugLab. Data relating to the same border detections held by the AFP and DrugLab will differ slightly. This is because only unconfirmed seizure weights are initially recorded. The Department of Home Affairs detection figures are subject to change and reflect available data at time of extraction. As such, figures published in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including Department of Home Affairs Annual Reports.

For operational reasons, the format of data presented in the IDDR may vary from year to year.

From 2010–11, the Department of Home Affairs was unable to provide importation data to populate country of embarkation charts for inclusion in the report. From 2011–12, dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) and steroid border detection data are reported as a combined figure.

The Department of Home Affairs advised that statistics relating to cannabis in 2014–15 were impacted by a number of food products containing hemp and cannabis seeds, such as 'Hemp Force Powder' and tea.

From 2012–13, the Department of Home Affairs have provided benzodiazepine and opiate statistics which only represent a component of the larger pharmaceuticals category.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The New South Wales Police Force provided the ACIC with offender, seizure and purity data, with the purity sample analysis conducted by NSW FASS.

From 2017, New South Wales FASS have made changes to their processes in response to legislative changes to the Drugs Misuse and Trafficking Act—amendment 2016. New South Wales Police Force is now able to take a subsample of a seizure and therefore not all seizures are sent to FASS for analysis. Around 50 per cent of samples are sent to FASS and they may or may not be weighted by New South Wales Police Force. The subsamples analysed by FASS are weighted, but purity tests will only be carried out on samples related to a commercial quantity or greater. This will impact the data provided for the IDDR and caution should be exercised in comparing data.

Prior to 2005–06, New South Wales Police Force data was extracted directly from the mainframe recording system (COPS). Since 2005–06, data has been extracted from COPS using a data warehousing application 'Enterprise Data Warehouse'. Tests to verify the process of data extraction have been undertaken and the New South Wales Police Force is confident that the retrieval process is comparable with previous extracts from COPS.

To improve data quality, in 2015–16 the New South Wales Police Force changed the way in which pharmaceutical drugs are coded. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data across the reporting periods.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory Police provided the ACIC with seizure and offender data.

Data collection methods in the Northern Territory have been audited since the 2010–11 report. The change in data collection methodology has resulted in the provision of more detailed and accurate data.

Seizure data for the Northern Territory relate to suspected drug type only. The number of Drug Infringement Notices (DINs) may differ to those extracted from the Integrated Justice Information System.

Kava seizures in the Northern Territory may constitute a significant proportion of the number and weight of other and unknown NEC seizures within a given reporting period.

In the Northern Territory, it is often difficult to obtain accurate date of birth and address details from offenders; however, this lack of detail does not invalidate the data.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

## QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Police Service provided the ACIC with offender and seizure data. Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services provided purity data.

The 2018–19 data reflects further improvements made to the quality of the Queensland Police Service drug seizure and offender dataset. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.

Since 2001, a legislated minor drugs offence diversion program requires police to offer an eligible person the opportunity to participate in a drug diversion assessment program with an approved Queensland Health program provider, as an alternative to prosecution. Arrest data provided by the Queensland Police Service includes data for offenders participating in this diversion program.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia Police provided the ACIC with offender and seizure data. Forensic Science South Australia provided the purity data.

South Australia Police implemented a new system for recording criminal statistics and other business data in November 2018.

From 2015–16, offender data provided by South Australia Police includes data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure). As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.

The Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative implemented changes which took effect on 1 April 2019. An adult can only be referred to the Drug Diversion Program no more than twice in a four year period and on a third detection, the adult is referred directly to court. This action has resulted in a reduction in drug diversions.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

## TASMANIA

Tasmania Police provided the ACIC with offender and seizure data. Forensic Science Service Tasmania provided the purity data.

It is important to note that the reported figures may differ from those reported in the Tasmania Police Annual Report and other publications due to the differing counting rules applied.

## VICTORIA

Victoria Police provided the ACIC with offender, seizure and drug quantities data from Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). Drug purity data was provided by Victoria Police Forensics Department. Drug quantities and weights reported are estimates only and are not validated by forensic analysis.

Victorian clandestine laboratory detection figures are taken from the record of attendances by forensic analysts at suspected laboratories and validated by the Clandestine Laboratory Squad.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including annual reports and other publications.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Western Australia Police Force provided the ACIC with seizure and offender data. ChemCentre provided the purity data.

The 2018–19 data reflects further improvements made to the quality of the Western Australia Police Force drug seizure and offender dataset. A counting rule was developed to overcome a limitation of current recording practices, which would otherwise lead to double-counting of some drug seizures. This has generally resulted in a decrease in the number and weight of seizures compared with previous reporting periods. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.

Data are subject to change and reflect the available data at time of extraction. Totals reported in the IDDR may differ from those published in other reports, including the Western Australia Police Force Annual Report and other publications.

Legislation changes for cannabis offences in Western Australia took effect from 1 August 2011 following amendments to the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981*. The Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) was replaced by a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) which changes the way police should respond when dealing with a person in possession of cannabis. From 1 August 2011, any person who does not have a criminal history and is found to have 10 grams or less of cannabis will be offered 28 days to complete a Cannabis Intervention Session after which no charges will follow. People with previous cannabis-related convictions are ineligible for this option. Participation in a Cannabis Intervention Session is offered once to adult offenders, but twice to juveniles aged between 14 and 17 years, so that subsequent offending would result in charges being brought directly.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following explanatory notes relate to terms used in this report.

### AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)

Unless otherwise specified, ‘amphetamine-type stimulants’ (ATS) include amphetamine, methylamphetamine and phenethylamines.

### ARRESTS

‘Arrest’ incorporates recorded law enforcement action against a person for suspected unlawful involvement in illicit drugs. It incorporates enforcement action by way of arrest and charge, summons, diversion program, cannabis expiation notice (South Australia), simple cannabis offence notice (Australian Capital Territory), drug infringement notice (Northern Territory), notice to appear (Queensland) and cannabis intervention requirement (Western Australia). Some charges may have been subsequently dropped or the defendant may have been found not guilty.

### CANNABIS

‘Cannabis’ includes cannabis plant, leaf, resin, oil, seed and all other forms.

### CATEGORIES FOR CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

Since 2011–12, jurisdictions have been asked to distinguish detected clandestine laboratories into the following four categories, taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Annual Report Questionnaire that is used to inform the World Drug Report.

**Addict-based labs (kitchen labs).** Only basic equipment and simple procedures are used. Typically, those operating in such laboratories have a limited or non-existent knowledge of chemistry and simply follow instructions. Usually, there are no significant stores of precursors and the amount of drugs or other substances manufactured is for personal use. A typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield less than 50 grams of the substance.

**Other small scale labs.** People operating in these laboratories have advanced chemical knowledge. More complex amphetamine-type stimulants may be manufactured. Laboratories may be of similar size to ‘addict-based labs’ but frequently employ non-improvised equipment. They may also include experimental laboratories. The amount manufactured is typically for personal use or for a limited number of close associates. Typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield less than 500 grams of the substance.

**Medium sized labs.** Use commercially available standard equipment and glassware (in some cases, custom-made equipment). They are not very mobile, making it possible to recover precursor chemicals and equipment in many cases (production estimates are the most viable and reliable). The amount manufactured at such sites is primarily for illicit economic gain. A typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield between 0.5 to 50 kilograms.

**Industrial scale labs.** Laboratories use oversized equipment and glassware that is either custom-made or purchased from industrial processing sources. Such industrial operations produce significant amounts of ATS in very short periods of time, only limited by access to precursors, reagents and consumables in adequate quantities and the logistics and manpower to handle large amounts of drugs or chemicals and process them into the next step. A typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield 50 kilograms or more.

## COCAINE

‘Cocaine’ includes cocaine, coca leaf and coca paste.

## DETECTION

In the context of the border environment, the term ‘detection’ refers to the identification of illicit drugs by the Department of Home Affairs.

## EMBARKATION POINT

‘Embarkation point’ describes the origin of the transport stage of importations. Embarkation is affected by air and sea transport connection patterns and the location of transport hubs, and may not necessarily reflect the true origin of drugs.

Australia may appear as an embarkation country due to an export-detection. In some instances, it may relate to detections on air passengers travelling domestically on an international flight.

## HALLUCINOGENS

‘Hallucinogens’ includes tryptamines such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and psilocybin-containing mushrooms.

## HEROIN AND OTHER OPIOIDS

‘Heroin and other opioids’ include opioid analgesics such as heroin, methadone and pethidine and opiate analgesics including codeine, morphine and opium.



## NATIONAL MEDIAN DRUG PRICES

Unless otherwise stated, national median drug prices are calculated using price data reported by four or more jurisdictions.

## OTHER DRUGS

‘Other drugs’ include anabolic agents and selected hormones, tryptamines, anaesthetics, pharmaceuticals and drugs not elsewhere classified. Current reporting processes do not enable detailed identification of these drugs.

## PERCENTAGES

Percentages reported in the text of this report have been rounded to whole numbers. As a consequence, they may differ slightly from figures reported in the tables of the report and figures reported in other publications.

## PHENETHYLAMINES

Phenethylamines include 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as ‘ecstasy’), 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA), 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), dimethoxyamphetamine (DMA) and paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA).

## SEIZURE

‘Seizure’ is the confiscation by a law enforcement agency of a quantity of an illicit drug or a regulated drug being used or possessed unlawfully, whether or not an arrest is made in conjunction with that confiscation.

The amount of drug seized may be recorded by weight, volume or as a unit count—for example, number of tablets, plants or bags. The method of estimating the amount of drug seized varies between and within jurisdictions. For example, seizures of ATS in tablet form may be weighed or counted.

## STEROIDS

‘Steroids’ include anabolic and androgenic steroids such as testosterone, nandrolone and stanozolol.

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in the tables:

<b>gms</b>	grams
<b>na</b>	not available
<b>NEC</b>	not elsewhere classified
<b>no.</b>	number
<b>r</b>	revised figure
<b>%</b>	per cent

## ARREST TABLES

TABLE 25: All drugs—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19

State/territory	Consumer				Provider				Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	22,066	5,688	62	27,816	3,950	816	11	4,777	26,756	6,760	73	33,591
Vic	22,347	6,391	1	28,739	1,793	407	0	2,200	24,140	6,798	1	30,939
Qld	28,781	11,351	0	40,132	3,160	1,000	0	4,160	31,941	12,351	0	44,292
SA	5,179	1,758	2	6,939	496	149	0	645	5,675	1,908	2	7,585
SA CENS <sup>b</sup>	6,148	1,915	30	8,093	—	—	—	—	6,148	1,915	30	8,093
WA	13,722	5,254	62	19,038	2,476	787	18	3,281	16,236	6,073	80	22,389
WA CIRS <sup>c</sup>	1,075	458	13	1,546	—	—	—	—	1,075	458	13	1,546
Tas	1,882	509	0	2,391	283	64	0	347	2,165	573	0	2,738
NT	324	103	0	427	163	63	0	226	702	274	0	976
NT DINS <sup>d</sup>	508	224	0	732	—	—	—	—	508	224	0	732
ACT	277	57	0	334	93	14	0	107	370	71	0	441
ACT SCONS <sup>e</sup>	43	12	0	55	—	—	—	—	43	12	0	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,352</b>	<b>33,720</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>136,242</b>	<b>12,414</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15,743</b>	<b>115,759</b>	<b>37,417</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>153,377</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status and gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

b. Cannabis Expiation Notices.

c. Cannabis Intervention Requirements.

d. Drug Infringement Notices.

e. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices.

**TABLE 26: Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19**

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	6,138	2,163	25	1,430	343	4	7,748	2,578	29	10,355
Vic	7,601	2,364	0	494	139	0	8,095	2,503	0	10,598
Qld	8,475	3,590	0	631	230	0	9,106	3,820	0	12,926
SA	3,183	1,056	0	113	38	0	3,296	1,094	0	4,390
WA	3,990	1,668	17	1,009	332	7	5,003	2,004	24	7,031
Tas	430	141	0	119	28	0	549	169	0	718
NT	64	29	0	32	15	0	196	74	0	270
ACT	98	23	0	25	3	0	123	26	0	149
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,979</b>	<b>11,034</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34,116</b>	<b>12,268</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46,437</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

**TABLE 27: Cannabis—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19**

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	11,862	2,584	23	1,315	218	2	13,344	2,853	25	16,224
Vic	7,930	1,936	1	502	116	0	8,432	2,052	1	10,485
Qld	14,307	5,254	0	1,709	510	0	16,016	5,764	0	21,780
SA	634	197	0	254	56	0	888	253	0	1,141
SA CENS <sup>b</sup>	6,148	1,915	30	—	—	—	6,148	1,915	30	8,093
WA	5,954	2,006	26	677	232	4	6,638	2,249	30	8,917
WA CIRs <sup>c</sup>	1,075	458	13	—	—	—	1,075	458	13	1,546
Tas	1,043	253	0	110	29	0	1,153	282	0	1,435
NT	222	64	0	104	45	0	379	176	0	555
NT DINS <sup>d</sup>	508	224	0	—	—	—	508	224	0	732
ACT	102	24	0	56	6	0	158	30	0	188
ACT SCONS <sup>e</sup>	43	12	0	—	—	—	43	12	0	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,828</b>	<b>14,927</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>4,727</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54,782</b>	<b>16,268</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>71,151</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

b. Cannabis Expiation Notices.

c. Cannabis Intervention Requirements.

d. Drug Infringement Notices.

e. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices.

TABLE 28: Heroin and other opioids—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	529	149	1	153	52	0	699	207	1	907
Vic	1,021	299	0	106	43	0	1,127	342	0	1,469
Qld	213	74	0	33	10	0	246	84	0	330
SA	55	25	0	4	2	0	59	27	0	86
WA	153	71	1	41	19	0	194	90	1	285
Tas	21	6	0	3	3	0	24	9	0	33
NT	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3
ACT	11	2	0	1	2	0	12	4	0	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,129</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

TABLE 29: Cocaine—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	1,541	220	5	677	107	2	2,229	328	7	2,564
Vic	744	134	0	114	6	0	858	140	0	998
Qld	635	146	0	107	19	0	742	165	0	907
SA	137	18	0	5	3	0	142	21	0	163
WA	134	22	1	106	20	1	240	42	2	284
Tas	7	0	0	4	0	0	11	0	0	11
NT	3	1	0	7	1	0	17	3	0	20
ACT	57	6	0	3	3	0	60	9	0	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5,016</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

**TABLE 30: Steroids—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19**

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	157	1	0	19	1	0	179	2	0	181
Vic	118	16	0	18	1	0	136	17	0	153
Qld	440	101	0	77	23	0	517	124	0	641
SA	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	3
WA	148	25	1	61	11	0	210	36	1	247
Tas	8	0	0	7	0	0	15	0	0	15
NT	7	0	0	2	0	0	19	1	0	20
ACT	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,264</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

**TABLE 31: Hallucinogens—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19**

State/territory	Consumer			Provider			Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	144	39	2	43	7	0	188	47	2	237
Vic	117	32	0	8	1	0	125	33	0	158
Qld	245	84	0	45	15	0	290	99	0	389
SA	17	4	0	0	0	0	17	4	0	21
WA	106	29	1	47	7	2	154	36	3	193
Tas	10	1	0	5	0	0	15	1	0	16
NT	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	1	0	6
ACT	7	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,029</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

TABLE 32: Other and unknown—not elsewhere classified (nec)—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2018–19

State/territory	Consumer				Provider				Total <sup>a</sup>			
	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
	NSW	1,695	532	6	2,233	313	88	3	404	2,369	745	9
Vic	4,816	1,610	0	6,426	551	101	0	652	5,367	1,711	0	7,078
Qld	4,466	2,102	0	6,568	558	193	0	751	5,024	2,295	0	7,319
SA	1,151	458	2	1,611	119	50	0	169	1,270	509	2	1,781
WA	3,237	1,433	15	4,685	535	166	4	705	3,797	1,616	19	5,432
Tas	363	108	0	471	35	4	0	39	398	112	0	510
NT	28	9	0	37	15	2	0	17	85	17	0	102
ACT	2	2	0	4	2	0	0	2	4	2	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,758</b>	<b>6,254</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22,035</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>18,314</b>	<b>7,007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25,351</b>

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

a. Includes those offenders for whom consumer/provider status or gender was not stated. Total may exceed the sum of the table components.

TABLE 33: All arrests—consumer and provider arrests, by drug type, 2014–15 to 2018–19

Drug type	Consumer					Provider				
	2014–15	2015–16 <sup>a</sup>	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2014–15	2015–16 <sup>a</sup>	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Amphetamine-type stimulants	27,502	40,527	40,837	40,144	41,055	7,862	6,885	6,553	4,441	4,992
Cannabis	66,309	72,198	70,747	66,296	64,848	8,716	7,317	6,679	5,732	5,945
Heroin and other opioids	2,427	2,487	2,458	2,699	2,631	774	480	502	315	473
Cocaine	1,542	1,906	2,546	3,343	3,811	544	683	809	962	1,185
Steroids	967	1,051	1,049	1,047	1,024	242	238	190	143	225
Hallucinogens	566	725	718	832	838	164	186	220	156	184
Other and unknown nec	13,027	16,143	17,872	18,985	22,035	2,453	2,593	2,566	1,948	2,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,340</b>	<b>135,037</b>	<b>136,227</b>	<b>133,346</b>	<b>136,242</b>	<b>20,755</b>	<b>18,382</b>	<b>17,519</b>	<b>13,697</b>	<b>15,743</b>

Note: Excludes arrests where consumer/provider information was not recorded.

a. From 2015–16, offender data provided by South Australia Police includes data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

**TABLE 34: All arrests: number and proportion, by drug type, 2014–15 to 2018–19**

Drug Type	2014–15		2015–16 <sup>a</sup>		2016–17		2017–18		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amphetamine-type stimulants	35,468	26.5	47,625	30.8	47,531	30.7	44,887	30.3	46,437	30.3
Cannabis	75,105	56.1	79,643	51.6	77,549	50.1	72,381	48.8	71,151	46.4
Heroin and other opioids	3,227	2.4	2,975	1.9	2,970	1.9	3,029	2.0	3,129	2.0
Cocaine	2,092	1.6	2,592	1.7	3,366	2.2	4,325	2.9	5,016	3.3
Steroids	1,210	0.9	1,297	0.8	1,244	0.8	1,201	0.8	1,264	0.8
Hallucinogens	734	0.5	915	0.6	945	0.6	995	0.7	1,029	0.7
Other and unknown nec	16,090	12.0	19,491	12.6	21,045	13.6	21,545	14.5	25,351	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,926</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>154,538</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>154,650</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148,363</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>153,377</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Includes arrests where consumer/provider information was not recorded.

a. Offender data provided by South Australia Police from 2015–16 includes data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

## SEIZURE TABLES

TABLE 35: Seizures—drug type, by state and territory, 2018–19

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
<b>Amphetamine-type stimulants</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	12,237	2,044	9,919	997	9,386	743	442	377	36,145
Weight (gms)	418,529	331,617	134,743	223,792	322,482	7,722	4,815	2,843	1,446,543
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	1,628	316	81	10	53	0	0	17	2,105
Weight (gms)	4,029,590	1,778,238	1,466,702	18,619	28,976	0	0	7,881	7,330,006
<b>Cannabis</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	16,844	3,389	16,860	111	14,166	1,799	1,937	648	55,754
Weight (gms)	1,971,586	3,047,774	1,090,071	223,673	369,341	220,887	71,323	342,580	7,337,235
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	417	135	95	5	74	0	4	7	737
Weight (gms)	225,752	136,882	15,635	11	23,581	0	8	1,782	403,651
<b>Heroin</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	1,072	254	194	19	326	13	2	33	1,913
Weight (gms)	7,630	17,543	8,436	15,383	13,642	99	7	53	62,793
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	98	56	4	1	8	0	0	0	167
Weight (gms)	79,003	39,372	16,590	25	14	0	0	0	135,004
<b>Other opioids</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	75	3	7	2	3	7	0	25	122
Weight (gms)	2,258	2	2,302	1	16	31	0	23	4,633
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	102	19	15	0	10	0	0	1	147
Weight (gms)	90,704	13,454	18,392	0	18,946	0	0	100	141,596

Note: Includes only those seizures for which a drug weight was recorded. No adjustment has been made to account for double counting data from joint operations between the Australian Federal Police and state/territory police. Totals may differ from those reported in jurisdictional annual reports due to the different counting rules applied.



**TABLE 35 (continued): Seizures—drug type, by state and territory, 2018–19**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
<b>Cocaine</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	3,110	277	730	18	395	29	27	123	4,709
Weight (gms)	247,278	11,847	11,363	377	8,281	332	134	5,300	284,912
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	511	101	31	2	20	0	0	4	669
Weight (gms)	651,418	52,082	632,912	73	16,677	0	0	498	1,353,660
<b>Steroids</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	217	0	67	0	29	0	32	30	375
Weight (gms)	9,409	0	3,415	0	582	0	1,756	367	15,529
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	10	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
Weight (gms)	467	5,206	90	0	0	0	0	0	5,763
<b>Hallucinogens</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	209	17	32	3	45	8	8	19	341
Weight (gms)	480	85	3,015	23	829	96	8	924	5,460
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	155	60	2	0	15	0	0	3	235
Weight (gms)	5,275	7,874	301	0	41	0	0	164	13,655
<b>Other and unknown drugs nec</b>									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	3,780	348	949	17	1,770	186	219	196	7,465
Weight (gms)	2,322,604	10,474	40,838	9,623	60,223	3,666	64,978	2,176	2,514,582
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	980	441	93	6	42	0	6	6	1,574
Weight (gms)	2,862,683	2,619,441	104,266	1,593	49,337	0	4,605	2,100	5,644,025

Note: Includes only those seizures for which a drug weight was recorded. No adjustment has been made to account for double counting data from joint operations between the Australian Federal Police and state/territory police. Totals may differ from those reported in jurisdictional annual reports due to the different counting rules applied.



TABLE 36 (continued): Amphetamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2018–19

State/territory	July–September 2018					October–December 2018					January–March 2019					April–June 2019					Total July 2018–June 2019				
	Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)		Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)		Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)		Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)		Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)	
<b>WA</b>																									
State police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<=2 gms	2	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4	32.5	4.0	43.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	17.0	4.0	43.0
>2 gms	2	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4	32.5	4.0	43.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	17.0	4.0	43.0
<b>AFP</b>																									
<=2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Tas</b>																									
State police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<=2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>AFP</b>																									
<=2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NT</b>																									
State police	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<=2 gms	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
>2 gms	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>AFP</b>																									
<=2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ACT</b>																									
State police	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<=2 gms	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
>2 gms	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>AFP</b>																									
<=2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
>2 gms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all amphetamine seizures—only those that have been analysed at a forensic laboratory. The period between the date of seizure by police and the date of receipt at the laboratory and subsequent analysis can vary greatly. No adjustment has been made to account for double counting data from joint operations between the Australian Federal Police and state/territory police.



















## PRICE TABLES

TABLE 41: Amphetamine prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA <sup>a</sup>	WA	Tas	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	na	na	50–100	na	na	40–50	na	na
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	na	300	na	na
1 weight gram	na	200	250–550	na	na	300–600	na	na
2 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
3 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	na	na	550–2,500	na	na	600–1,200	na	na
1/4 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	na	na	na	3,500	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	na	4,100–10,000	na	na	7,000	na	na
1 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	45,000–90,000	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	70,000–120,000	na	na	na	na	na

a. South Australia Police has not provided prices for amphetamine as this is believed to no longer have a market in South Australia.

b. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.

TABLE 42: MDMA prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT <sup>a</sup>	ACT
1 tablet/capsule	20–30	na	9–25	20–30	25–50	20–30	30–50	10–40
2–24 tablets/capsules (per tab)	20–30	na	20–36	15–20	15–50	18–25	na	na
25–99 tablets/capsules (per tab)	10–18	na	15–20	na	na	10–20	20–40	na
100–999 tablets/capsules (per tab)	9–12	7 <sup>b</sup>	13–20	na	9–15	10–18	na	na
1 000+ tablets/capsules (per tab)	6–7	na	8–18	na	na	8–9	na	na
1 gram	130–280	100–200	150–300	150–250	200–350	200	150–200	na
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	na	300–400	800	na	1,200	na	700	na
1/2 ounce	na	na	na	900–1,000	1,800	na	na	1,000
1 kilogram	35,000–40,000	na	60,000	na	na	na	na	na

a. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.

b. This price is based on the reported price for 500 MDMA tablets, valued at \$3,625.

TABLE 43: Methylamphetamine prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT <sup>a</sup>	ACT
<b>Crystal form ('ice')</b>								
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	50	50	20–150	50	50–200	50–100	100	50
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	200–500	na	na	na
1 weight gram	200–400	200	140–800	250–350	300–650	500	800	250–350
Half 8 ball (1.75 grams)	na	300	na	350–450	350–1,000	750	1,000	200
2 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
3 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
8 ball (3.5 gram; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	600–900	500–700	570–1,350	600–800	700–2,400	1,000–1,800	1,800	600–1,400
1/4 ounce	na	na	na	1,400	na	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	na	2,200	2,500–6,000	na	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	3,200–3,700	3,000–8,000	3,000–5,000	1,200–12,000	5,000–8,000	6,000–8,000	3,500–7,000
1 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 pound	40,000–55,000	na	70,000–120,000	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	80,000–100,000	96,000–105,000	115,000–132,000	105,000	50,000–140,000	na	na	na
<b>Non-crystal form</b>								
<b>Powder/paste/base</b>								
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	na	na	na	na	na	30	na	na
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 weight gram	na	na	na	na	na	200	na	na
2 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
3 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
8 ball (3.5 gram; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	na	na	na	na	na	600	na	na
1/4 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	na	na	na	na	3,000	na	na
1 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Meth oil</b>								
1 litre	na	na	100,000–200,000	na	na	na	na	na

a. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.



TABLE 44: Cannabis prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA <sup>a</sup>	WA	Tas	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT
<b>Bush</b>								
<b>Leaf</b>								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	15–30	na	25	na	20	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	175	na	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	na	na	250–400	na	200–440	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	1,500–4,480	na	2,500–4,500	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Head</b>								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	20–25	na	na	na	na	20–25	25–100	20
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	130–150	200	140
Ounce bag (28 grams)	200–350	na	na	na	na	250	400–500	250
1 pound	3,000–4,000	na	na	na	na	2,500–3,500	4,500–5,000	2,800–3,500
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	4,000–6,500	12,000	na
1 mature plant	2,000	na	2,200–4,000	na	na	na	100–150	na
<b>Hydroponic</b>								
<b>Leaf</b>								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	10–30	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	na	na	250–400	na	400	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	1,500–4,480	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Head</b>								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	20–25	20	10–30	25	na	25–35	25–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	150	na	110–130	na	150–170	200	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	200–350	280	250–400	200–250	na	300–350	400–500	na
1 pound	3,000–4,000	2,300–2,700	1,500–4,480	2,500–3,000	na	3,000–4,000	5,000	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	5,000	12,000	na
1 mature plant	5,000	3,000	3,200–5,000	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Resin</b>								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	25–50	na	na	50	na	na
<b>Oil</b>								
Cap/vial	na	na	50	na	na	50	na	na

a. South Australia Police has not provided prices for cannabis 'leaf' as this is believed to no longer have a market in South Australia—only 'head' is sold. A 'deal of hydroponic head' quantity is 2–3 grams in South Australia.  
b. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.

**TABLE 45: Heroin prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)**

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Half point (0.05 gram)	50	na	na	na	na	30	na	150
1 taste/cap (0.1–0.3 gram)	50–100	30–50	40–100	50–100	50–100	60–150	na	na
1/4 gram	na	na	100–250	na	na	na	na	80
1/2 weight (0.4–0.6 gram)	100–200	240	na	na	300–400	200–250	na	150
1 street weight (0.6–0.8 gram)	na	na	na	na	500	250–350	na	na
1 gram	400–700	400	250–500	200–500	na	400	na	na
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	850–1,100	800–1,300	750–1,100	na	na	1,000	na	1,000
10 gram bag	na	2,400	na	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 ounce	na	1,800–4,000	na	na	na	4,500	na	na
1 ounce	6,500–8,000	5,000–6,000	5,000–6,000	5,000	4,500–16,000	na	na	5,000
1/2 Asian catti (350 grams)	na	na	70,000–120,000	na	na	na	na	na
12.5 ounce block	45,000–70,000	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 pound	na	65,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
Asian catti (700 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	160,000–170,000	90,000	na	na	na	na	na	na

**TABLE 46: Cocaine prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)**

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT <sup>a</sup>	ACT
1 cap	100–200	na	40–60	na	na	50	na	na
1 gram	300–550	300–400	200–500	300–350	250–430	300–500	600–800	300–350
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	1,000–1,300	1,050	900–1,300	1,100–1,300	1,400–1,500	1,000–1,200	na	na
1/4 ounce	na	2,450	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 ounce	6,000–8,000	6,500	8,000–9,500	6,500	6,000–9,000	8,000	na	6,000
1 pound	na	80,000–100,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	165,000–210,000	160,000–200,000	90,000–300,000	na	150,000–220,000	na	na	na

a. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.

TABLE 47: Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$) <sup>a</sup>

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT
<b>LSD</b>								
1–9 tabs (ddu <sup>a</sup> )	15–30	na	20–50	15–25	50	20–30	30–40	na
10–100 tabs (ddu)	8–20	na	na	na	na	20	30–40	na
101–999 tabs (ddu)	na	na	800	na	na	na	na	na
1000+ tabs (ddu)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 x 20 millilitre vial	na	na	800	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Psilocybin</b>								
1 gram	na	na	na	15	na	na	na	na
<b>Ketamine</b>								
Tablet	na	100	25–50	na	na	na	na	na
Powder (1 gram)	120–220	180	200	na	320	na	na	na
Vial (5–10 millilitres)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol</b>								
1–1.5 millilitres	6–8	7–15	2–7	3–8	7–10	na	na	na
4–5 millilitres (fish)	na	na	20	na	na	na	na	na
10–15 millilitres	na	na	na	50	na	na	na	na
50 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100 millilitres	650–700	na	100–200	na	na	na	na	na
Bulk	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 litre	2,000–3,000	2,500–3,000	3,000	1,500–2,500	na	na	na	na
25 litres	na	200,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>GHB</b>								
Serve/4 milligrams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
8 serves/32 milligrams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>OPIOID PHARMACEUTICALS</b>								
Per milligram	na	na	na	1	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	na	na	na	15	na	na
OxyContin (per tablet)	40–100	na	10–20	20	60	na	80	na
OxyContin (60 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	60	na	na
OxyContin (80 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (100 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	100	80	na
OxyContin (200 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (1 box)	na	na	2,800	200	na	na	200	na
<b>MS Contin</b>								
1 milligram	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	30	na	na	na	80–100	na
60 milligram tablet	na	na	20–60	na	na	60	na	na
100 milligram tablet	na	na	30–100	na	na	100	na	na
Kapanol (per tablet)	na	na	15	na	na	na	na	na
Buprenorphine (2 milligram tablet)	na	na	10–30	na	na	na	na	na
Buprenorphine (8 milligram tablet)	na	na	20–50	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (1 microgram tablet)	na	na	4–5	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (1 x 100 microgram patch)	90–250	na	200	25–30	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (per gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	18
Fentanyl (nasal spray)	na	300	na	na	na	na	na	na

a. Discrete dosage units (ddu).

b. Prices reported for the Northern Territory reflect urban pricing. It is not uncommon for prices in remote communities to be considerably higher than those reported in urban locations.





TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2018–19 (\$)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT <sup>b</sup>	ACT
<b>Synthetic cannabinoids</b>								
1.5 grams	na	na	50–100	na	30	na	30–50	na
3 grams	na	na	100–250	na	na	na	na	na
7 grams	na	na	200–400	na	na	na	na	na
14 grams	na	na	300–700	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce	na	na	750–1,100	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Other</b>								
Methadone 30 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Sildenafil (per tablet)	na	na	na	20	na	na	na	na
Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) per milligram	na	na	na	30–50	133	na	na	na
<b>PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS</b>								
<b>Testosterone enanthate 200 milligrams</b>								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	100–200	130–230	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	1,900	na	na	na	na	na
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	3,600	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	8,000	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Deca-durabolin 200 milligrams</b>								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	230	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Stanozolol 25 milligram/millilitre</b>								
40 millilitre vial	na	na	180	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Sustanon 250 (blend of 4 testosterone compounds)</b>								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	200	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	1,800	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Testosterone propionate 100mg</b>								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	200	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	1,400	na	na	na	na	na
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	2,600	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	5,500	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Primoteston 300 milligrams/millilitres</b>								
1 x 10 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Trenbolone Acetate 100mg</b>								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	240	na	150	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	1,400	na	340	na	na	na
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	3,600	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	8,000	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Clenbuterol</b>								
0.04 milligram tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
30 millilitres	na	na	160	na	na	na	na	na



# APPENDIX



# APPENDIX 1

## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

This appendix provides an overview of some of the international initiatives that are having an impact on Australian illicit drug markets. Contributions to this section were provided by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

The AFP increased international engagement and intelligence sharing with law enforcement agencies (LEAs) from regions where large scale drug manufacture and subsequent importation into Australia is occurring. Specifically, with the continued increase in seizures of methylamphetamine and cocaine in Australia, the AFP has developed strategies to assist targeting and disruption efforts within these regions. In 2018–19, international collaboration resulted in the seizure of more than 40 tonnes of illicit drugs by overseas police services with AFP assistance.

Examples of international collaboration include the continuation of existing successful international taskforces including Taskforce Blaze, Taskforce Storm and Strikeforce Dragon, as well as new initiatives such as the International Methamphetamine and Precursor Profiling Capability and the establishment of the Transnational Serious and Organised Crime Pacific Taskforce.

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### TASKFORCE BLAZE

Taskforce Blaze is a partnership between the AFP and the Chinese National Narcotics Control Commission. The taskforce focuses on coordinating and eradicating the sources of drugs, new psychoactive substances and precursor chemicals; obstructing trafficking channels; dismantling multinational drug smuggling organisations; and confiscating associated drug funds. Since commencing in November 2015, cooperation has resulted in the seizure of more than 26 tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals and \$2,000,000 (AUD) in proceeds of crime.

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### TASKFORCE STORM

Taskforce Storm is a joint Australian-Thai taskforce with a focus on drugs and transnational serious and organised crime. Established in May 2016, the taskforce includes the AFP, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Special Investigations and the Anti-Money Laundering Office. Initially focussed on the trafficking of illicit drugs between Thailand and Australia, it has evolved to include investigations relating to firearms trafficking and money laundering.





## STRIKEFORCE DRAGON

Strikeforce Dragon is a joint Australian-Cambodian strikeforce arrangement involving the AFP, the Cambodian National Police and the Cambodian General Department of Immigration. Established in June 2016, this strikeforce focusses on illicit drug trafficking and money laundering between Cambodia and Australia.

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## INTERNATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AND PRECURSOR PROFILING CAPABILITY

The International Methamphetamine and Precursor Profiling Capability aims to increase international collaboration and the sharing of forensic drug intelligence in support of international LEAs' investigations. The capability collects and chemically profiles samples from international seizures of illicit drugs against Australian seizures. A key outcome from this capability is the enhancement of collaborative relationships between the AFP and international LEAs, and has led to the progression of a number of areas of mutual priority with regards to the disruption of illicit drug manufacture and supply. It has also enabled the AFP to provide assistance in strengthening and developing drug analysis and profiling capabilities in key production regions.

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## TRANSNATIONAL SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME PACIFIC TASKFORCE

The Transnational Serious and Organised Crime Pacific Taskforce is an international taskforce involving Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. It was established in February 2019 to enhance cooperation, operations and intelligence sharing across the Pacific—specifically between the AFP, New Zealand Police, Fiji Police Force and Tonga Police. One of the primary objectives of this taskforce is to target organised crime entities or syndicates that use small craft for illicit drug movements.

# APPENDIX 2

## 2018–19 SIGNIFICANT BORDER DETECTIONS<sup>87</sup> (SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS)

### ATS

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2018–19 include:

- 1,500.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine detected on 5 April 2019 via sea cargo from Thailand
- 650.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 4 October 2018 via sea cargo from Mexico
- 560.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 30 March 2019 via sea cargo from Singapore
- 490.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 29 November 2018 via sea cargo
- 480.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 14 June 2019 via sea cargo from Mexico.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 3,680.0 kilograms and account for 71 per cent of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.

Significant border detections of MDMA in 2018–19 include:

- 800.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 28 March 2019 via air cargo from Germany
- 500.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 25 September 2018 via sea cargo from Turkey
- 80.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 11 February 2019 via air cargo from Austria
- 33.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 23 December 2018 via air cargo from the Netherlands
- 10.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 25 October 2018 via international mail from Poland.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 1,423.0 kilograms and account for 67 per cent of the total weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.

<sup>87</sup> Country of embarkation information was not available for every significant detection at the Australian border in 2018–19.



## CANNABIS

Significant border detections of cannabis in 2018–19 include:

- 1,500.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 9 November 2018 via sea cargo
- 11.3 kilograms of cannabis detected on 6 May 2019 via air cargo from Spain
- 10.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 31 March 2019 via air cargo from the United States (US)
- 10.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 15 May 2019 via air cargo from the US
- 8.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 31 March 2019 via air cargo from the US.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 1,539.3 kilograms and account for 85 per cent of the total weight of cannabis detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.

## HEROIN

Significant border detections of heroin in 2018–19 include:

- 140.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 6 January 2019 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 30.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 5 April 2019 via sea cargo from Thailand
- 14.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 1 November 2018 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 13.5 kilograms of heroin detected on 2 November 2018 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 5.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 7 October 2018 via international mail from Thailand.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 202.5 kilograms and account for 71 per cent of the total weight of heroin detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.

## COCAINE

Significant border detections of cocaine in 2018–19 include:

- 384.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 20 June 2019 via sea cargo from South Africa
- 188.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 5 February 2019 via sea cargo from Mexico
- 68.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 5 April 2019 via sea cargo
- 55.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 12 June 2019 via sea cargo
- 50.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 10 August 2018 via sea cargo from Fiji.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 745.0 kilograms and account for 71 per cent of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.



## PRECURSORS

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors in 2018–19 include:

- 1,495.0 kilograms of ephedrine detected on 17 February 2019 via sea cargo from China
- 504.0 kilograms of methylamine detected on 3 June 2019 via sea cargo from China
- 200.0 kilograms of 3,4-MDP2P methyl glycidate detected on 15 January 2019 via air cargo from China
- 100.0 kilograms of methylamine detected on 30 May 2019 via air cargo from China
- 65.0 kilograms of ephedrine detected on 28 September 2019 via sea cargo from Malaysia.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 2,364.0 kilograms and account for 90 per cent of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border in 2018–19.

No significant border detections of MDMA precursors were identified in 2018–19.





# APPENDIX 3

## ENIPID FORENSIC PROFILING DATA

(SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE, FORENSIC DRUG INTELLIGENCE)

**TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2019<sup>88</sup>**

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	
2019	ACT	0.5	3.7	2.6	6.8
	NSW	11.0	16.3	7.4	34.7
	NT	1.6	4.2	3.7	9.5
	WA	23.7	14.2	11.1	49.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>36.8</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	0.8	1.2	0.2	2.2
	NSW	6.8	11.5	3.4	21.7
	NT	4.3	4.2	1.6	10.1
	SA	1.9	6.0	2.7	10.6
	VIC	7.2	4.1	2.0	13.3
	WA	20.4	15.4	6.3	42.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>41.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	2.2	0.3	0.3	2.8
	NSW	29.7	6.3	9.1	45.1
	NT	6.6	0.7	1.4	8.7
	SA	14.3	2.5	10.9	27.7
	VIC	11.9	1.4	2.1	15.4
	WA	0.3	–	–	0.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>65.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	2.8	–	0.1	2.9
	NSW	25.2	1.7	3.5	30.4
	NT	7.4	0.2	0.4	8.0
	SA	10.4	0.8	3.2	14.4
	TAS	0.2	–	–	0.2
	VIC	11.8	0.9	1.1	13.8
	WA	28.2	1.1	1.0	30.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>86.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>88</sup> Consideration should be given when drawing conclusions on national trends from Table 1 and Table 2 as a significant quantity (approximately 50 per cent) of the samples analysed were collected from Western Australia, and the samples collected from South Australia and Victoria in 2019 are yet to be profiled.

**TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2019 (continued)**

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2015	ACT	1.1	–	–	<b>1.1</b>
	NSW	30.5	2.3	2.0	<b>34.8</b>
	NT	5.1	0.5	–	<b>5.6</b>
	SA	6.8	0.6	1.0	<b>8.4</b>
	TAS	0.1	–	–	<b>0.1</b>
	VIC	10.2	0.1	0.4	<b>10.7</b>
	WA	34.9	1.9	2.5	<b>39.3</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>88.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>100</b>
2014	NSW	31.4	3.9	3.1	<b>38.4</b>
	NT	3.7	0.9	0.4	<b>5.0</b>
	QLD	–	–	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
	SA	2.4	1.6	1.2	<b>5.2</b>
	TAS	0.8	–	0.5	<b>1.3</b>
	VIC	1.2	–	0.3	<b>1.5</b>
	WA	38.9	4.8	4.8	<b>48.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>78.4</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>100</b>
2013	NSW	28.4	4.5	0.9	<b>33.8</b>
	NT	3.3	0.2	0.9	<b>4.5</b>
	TAS	2.4	0.2	–	<b>2.6</b>
	VIC	–	0.2	–	<b>0.2</b>
	WA	40.7	10.9	7.3	<b>58.9</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>74.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2012	ACT	4.7	–	–	<b>4.7</b>
	NSW	38.2	0.6	6.2	<b>45.0</b>
	NT	7.9	–	0.3	<b>8.2</b>
	TAS	0.6	–	–	<b>0.6</b>
	WA	34.4	4.4	2.7	<b>41.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>85.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2011	NSW	13.7	0.9	2.4	<b>17.0</b>
	NT	5.7	0.5	–	<b>6.2</b>
	TAS	2.4	–	–	<b>2.4</b>
	WA	46.0	1.9	26.5	<b>74.4</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>67.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date. This dataset represents a total of 1,076 methylamphetamine samples (811 cases). Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.



**TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2019<sup>89</sup>**

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2019	ACT	–	1.4	2.8	<b>4.2</b>
	NSW	6.3	11.2	9.1	<b>26.6</b>
	NT	1.4	4.9	4.2	<b>10.5</b>
	WA	28.0	18.2	12.5	<b>58.7</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>35.7</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	1.1	1.5	0.3	<b>2.9</b>
	NSW	4.8	7.3	4.2	<b>16.3</b>
	NT	1.4	2.8	1.4	<b>5.6</b>
	SA	2.5	7.9	3.4	<b>13.8</b>
	VIC	3.9	1.8	1.7	<b>7.4</b>
	WA	26.2	19.3	8.5	<b>54.0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	1.7	0.5	0.6	<b>2.8</b>
	NSW	21.2	5.0	12.8	<b>39.0</b>
	NT	5.6	0.6	0.6	<b>6.8</b>
	SA	14.5	3.4	12.8	<b>30.7</b>
	VIC	15.1	1.1	3.9	<b>20.1</b>
	WA	0.6	–	–	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>58.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	2.7	–	0.1	<b>2.8</b>
	NSW	25.6	2.1	3.8	<b>31.5</b>
	NT	4.9	–	–	<b>4.9</b>
	SA	13.5	0.8	3.3	<b>17.6</b>
	TAS	0.3	–	–	<b>0.3</b>
	VIC	12.8	0.8	1.1	<b>14.7</b>
	WA	26.4	0.8	1.0	<b>28.2</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>86.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>100</b>
2015	ACT	1.8	–	–	<b>1.8</b>
	NSW	31.2	2.2	3.4	<b>36.8</b>
	NT	4.8	0.4	–	<b>5.2</b>
	SA	8.9	0.7	1.1	<b>10.7</b>
	VIC	11.3	–	0.6	<b>11.9</b>
	WA	29.1	0.7	3.8	<b>33.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>87.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>89</sup> Consideration should be given when drawing conclusions on national trends from Table 1 and Table 2 as a significant quantity (approximately 50 per cent) of the samples analysed were collected from Western Australia, and the samples collected from South Australia and Victoria in 2019 are yet to be profiled.

**TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2019 (continued)**

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2014	NSW	31.0	3.6	4.6	<b>39.2</b>
	NT	4.6	0.6	0.8	<b>6.0</b>
	QLD	–	–	0.2	<b>0.2</b>
	SA	2.3	1.9	1.7	<b>5.9</b>
	TAS	1.3	–	0.6	<b>1.9</b>
	VIC	1.9	–	0.4	<b>2.3</b>
	WA	35.9	4.4	4.2	<b>44.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>77.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>100</b>
2013	NSW	33.9	4.6	1.7	<b>40.2</b>
	NT	4.6	0.4	1.7	<b>6.7</b>
	TAS	2.9	–	0.4	<b>3.3</b>
	VIC	–	0.4	–	<b>0.4</b>
	WA	33.5	6.7	9.2	<b>49.4</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>74.9</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>100</b>
2012	ACT	3.5	–	–	<b>3.5</b>
	NSW	41.3	0.5	5.5	<b>47.3</b>
	NT	11.4	–	0.5	<b>11.9</b>
	TAS	1.0	–	–	<b>1.0</b>
	WA	26.8	5.0	4.5	<b>36.3</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>84.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>100</b>
2011	NSW	13.5	1.8	4.5	<b>19.8</b>
	NT	8.1	1.0	–	<b>9.1</b>
	TAS	4.5	–	–	<b>4.5</b>
	WA	32.4	2.7	31.5	<b>66.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>58.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date. This dataset represents a total of 1,076 methamphetamine samples (811 cases). Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.



**TABLE 3: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011–June 2019**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2019	ACT	6.7	–	–	6.7
	NSW	60.0	–	–	60.0
	NT	13.3	–	–	13.3
	WA	20.0	–	–	20.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	3.5	–	–	3.5
	NSW	14.0	5.3	1.8	21.1
	SA	24.6	3.5	7.0	35.1
	VIC	14.0	–	10.5	24.5
	WA	14.0	1.8	–	15.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>70.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	2.8	–	–	2.8
	NSW	13.9	33.3	–	47.2
	SA	2.8	–	–	2.8
	VIC	22.2	–	8.3	30.5
	WA	8.3	5.6	2.8	16.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>50.0</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	4.9	2.5	–	7.4
	NSW	24.7	1.2	–	25.9
	NT	1.2	–	–	1.2
	SA	6.2	–	–	6.2
	VIC	37.1	1.2	1.2	39.5
	WA	19.8	–	–	19.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>93.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2015	ACT	7.2	–	–	7.2
	NSW	36.1	4.1	5.2	45.4
	TAS	1.0	–	–	1.0
	VIC	38.1	2.1	–	40.2
	WA	6.2	–	–	6.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>88.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2014	NSW	47.6	7.2	–	54.8
	SA	–	2.4	–	2.4
	VIC	–	7.1	–	7.1
	WA	35.7	–	–	35.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>80.3</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>100</b>
2013	NSW	45.7	–	2.9	48.6
	WA	34.3	17.1	–	51.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>80.0</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 3: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011–June 2019 (continued)**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2012	ACT	8.5	–	–	<b>8.5</b>
	NSW	55.3	12.8	12.8	<b>80.9</b>
	WA	2.1	8.5	–	<b>10.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>65.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>100</b>
2011	NSW	9.8	2.0	3.9	<b>15.7</b>
	WA	82.3	–	2.0	<b>84.3</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>92.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date. This dataset represents a total of 72 heroin samples. Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.



**TABLE 4: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2011–June 2019**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2019	ACT	7.2	–	–	7.2
	NSW	57.1	–	–	57.1
	NT	14.3	–	–	14.3
	WA	21.4	–	–	21.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	5.3	–	–	5.3
	NSW	13.2	2.6	5.3	21.1
	SA	18.3	–	13.2	31.5
	VIC	13.2	–	5.3	18.5
	WA	21.0	–	2.6	23.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>71.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	3.8	–	–	3.8
	NSW	15.4	15.4	3.8	34.6
	SA	3.8	–	–	3.8
	VIC	26.9	–	11.6	38.5
	WA	11.7	3.8	3.8	19.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>61.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	4.9	1.6	–	6.6
	NSW	31.1	1.6	–	32.8
	NT	1.6	–	–	1.6
	SA	6.6	–	–	6.6
	VIC	36.1	–	3.3	39.3
	WA	13.1	–	–	13.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>93.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>100</b>
2015	ACT	3.1	–	–	3.1
	NSW	35.4	6.1	6.2	47.7
	TAS	1.5	–	–	1.5
	VIC	35.4	3.1	–	38.5
	WA	9.2	–	–	9.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>84.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2014	NSW	51.7	10.3	–	62.0
	SA	–	3.5	–	3.5
	VIC	–	3.5	–	3.5
	WA	31.0	–	–	31.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>82.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>100</b>
2013	NSW	50.0	–	5.6	55.6
	WA	33.3	11.1	–	44.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>83.3</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 4: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2011–June 2019 (continued)**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2012	ACT	9.4	–	–	<b>9.4</b>
	NSW	46.9	12.5	18.7	<b>78.1</b>
	WA	3.1	9.4	–	<b>12.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>59.4</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>100</b>
2011	NSW	18.8	6.2	12.5	<b>37.5</b>
	WA	56.3	–	6.2	<b>62.5</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

This dataset represents a total of 72 heroin samples. Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.





**TABLE 5: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2014–June 2019**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin				Total
		Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2019	ACT	1.7	–	–	1.7	3.4
	NSW	45.6	1.8	–	24.6	72.0
	WA	15.8	–	–	8.8	24.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>63.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	5.1	–	–	4.0	9.1
	NSW	19.9	8.0	–	23.3	51.2
	NT	2.8	–	–	2.3	5.1
	SA	7.4	–	–	1.7	9.1
	VIC	8.5	2.8	–	–	11.3
	WA	4.5	0.6	–	9.1	14.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>48.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	4.6	–	–	–	4.6
	NSW	40.7	13.9	–	20.4	75.0
	NT	0.9	–	–	–	0.9
	SA	8.3	–	–	1.9	10.2
	VIC	6.5	0.9	–	1.9	9.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>61.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	3.5	–	–	0.6	4.1
	NSW	47.4	0.6	–	21.4	69.4
	NT	2.3	–	–	–	2.3
	SA	4.0	–	–	–	4.0
	VIC	2.9	–	–	0.6	3.5
	WA	6.9	0.6	–	9.2	16.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>67.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>100</b>
2015	ACT	1.1	–	–	–	1.1
	NSW	38.1	16.5	–	15.9	70.5
	NT	0.6	–	–	–	0.6
	SA	2.8	–	–	–	2.8
	VIC	2.8	–	–	3.4	6.2
	WA	5.1	8.0	–	5.7	18.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>50.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>100</b>
2014	NSW	10.0	26.7	–	3.3	40.0
	NT	1.7	1.7	–	–	3.3
	QLD	1.7	3.3	–	–	5.0
	VIC	10.0	–	–	–	10.0
	WA	30.0	6.7	–	5.0	41.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>53.3</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

This data represents a total of 233 cocaine samples. Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.

**TABLE 6: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2014–June 2019**

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin				Total
		Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
Jan–Jun 2019	ACT	2.4	–	–	2.4	<b>4.8</b>
	NSW	42.8	2.4	–	16.7	<b>61.9</b>
	WA	21.4	–	–	11.9	<b>33.3</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>66.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>100</b>
2018	ACT	3.2	–	–	3.2	<b>6.4</b>
	NSW	16.9	7.3	–	25.0	<b>49.2</b>
	NT	2.4	–	–	0.8	<b>3.2</b>
	SA	10.5	–	–	2.4	<b>12.9</b>
	VIC	6.5	0.8	–	1.6	<b>8.9</b>
	WA	5.7	0.8	–	12.9	<b>19.4</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>45.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>100</b>
2017	ACT	5.9	–	–	–	<b>5.9</b>
	NSW	44.1	13.2	–	19.1	<b>76.4</b>
	NT	1.5	–	–	–	<b>1.5</b>
	SA	5.9	–	–	1.5	<b>7.4</b>
	VIC	5.9	–	–	2.9	<b>8.8</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>63.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	ACT	3.5	–	–	0.9	<b>4.4</b>
	NSW	46.5	–	–	26.3	<b>72.8</b>
	NT	0.9	–	–	–	<b>0.9</b>
	SA	5.2	–	–	–	<b>5.2</b>
	VIC	3.5	–	–	0.9	<b>4.4</b>
	WA	7.0	0.9	–	4.4	<b>12.3</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>66.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>100</b>
2015	ACT	1.9	–	–	–	<b>1.9</b>
	NSW	38.0	14.8	–	20.4	<b>73.2</b>
	NT	0.9	–	–	–	<b>0.9</b>
	SA	2.8	–	–	–	<b>2.8</b>
	VIC	4.6	–	–	4.6	<b>9.2</b>
	WA	2.8	0.9	–	8.3	<b>12.0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>51.0</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>100</b>
2014	NSW	13.5	13.5	–	5.4	<b>32.4</b>
	NT	2.7	2.7	–	–	<b>5.4</b>
	QLD	2.7	5.4	–	–	<b>8.1</b>
	VIC	16.2	–	–	–	<b>16.2</b>
	WA	24.3	2.7	–	10.8	<b>37.8</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>59.4</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

This cocaine dataset represents a total of 166 cases. Due to lack of available data, some samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date.



