



# AMPHETAMINE- TYPE STIMULANTS



## KEY POINTS

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- The weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) seized globally between 2008 and 2018 increased, primarily due to methylamphetamine seizures.
  - Methylamphetamine accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized globally in 2018.
  - The weight of ecstasy seized globally increased in 2018, while the weight of amphetamine seized decreased.
- Drug profiling data of analysed border and domestic seizures indicate the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using P2P-based methods has increased in recent years.
- Following a prolonged period of growth, indicators of supply and demand for ATS (especially methylamphetamine) remains large and showed some signs of further expansion in 2019–20:
  - While the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20, the weight detected increased and is the highest weight on record.
  - The number and weight of national ATS seizures increased to record levels in 2019–20. The number of national ATS arrests also increased to a record level this reporting period.
  - Data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) indicate the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine decreased in capital city and regional sites from August 2019 to record low levels in August 2020.
- Despite some decreases, indicators of supply and demand for MDMA point to a relatively stable market:
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20.
  - Data from the NWDMP indicate the population-weighted average consumption of MDMA increased in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites from August 2019 to August 2020.
  - The number of MDMA laboratory detections nearly doubled in 2019–20.
  - The number of national MDMA seizures decreased in 2019–20, while the weight of MDMA seized increased.



### National methylamphetamine market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections <sup>a</sup>		National seizures <sup>b</sup>		National arrests <sup>b</sup>
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
⬆️ 28%	⬆️ 4,920%	⬆️ 274%	⬆️ 1,415%	⬆️ 322%
1,075 → 1,377	105kg → 5,271kg	9,133 → 34,133	621kg → 9,408kg	10,633 → 44,847

Price <sup>c</sup> (\$)	Annual median purity range	DUMA <sup>d</sup> urinalysis	Use in lifetime	NDSHS <sup>e</sup> Recent use
⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬇️	⬇️
\$75.00 → \$90.00	9.3% to 32.0% → 13.4% to 82.9%	18% → 51%	7% → 6%	2% → 1%

- a. National border detection data reflect ATS (excluding MDMA).
- b. National seizure and arrest data reflect amphetamines which include amphetamine, methylamphetamine, dexamphetamine and amphetamines not elsewhere classified. At this time it is not possible at a national level to provide a further breakdown of drugs within the amphetamine category. Based on available data, methylamphetamine accounts for the majority of amphetamines seizures and arrests.
- c. National median price for a street deal (0.1 grams) of methylamphetamine.
- d. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine.
- e. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used meth/amphetamine.

### National MDMA market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
⬆️ 1,961%	⬆️ 16,038%	⬆️ 171%	⬆️ 4,845%	⬆️ 120%
112 → 2,308	8kg → 1,291kg	1,840 → 4,981	65kg → 3,214kg	2,161 → 4,746

Price <sup>a</sup> (\$)	Annual median purity range <sup>b</sup>	DUMA <sup>c</sup> urinalysis	Use in lifetime	NDSHS <sup>d</sup> Recent use
⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	↔️
33.25 → 22.50	7.7% to 16.0% → 39.9% to 76.0%	<1% → 1%	10% → 13%	3% → 3%

- a. National median price for a street deal (1 tablet) of MDMA.
- b. Annual median purity reflects reported phenethylamine purity, the majority of which relates to MDMA.
- c. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA.
- d. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ecstasy.



## 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 2020a; ADF 2020b; EMCDDA 2015; Degenhardt & Hall 2010).

## INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the 2020 World Drug Report, the weight of ATS seized globally continued to increase over the period 2008 to 2018—primarily due to increases in the weight of methylamphetamine seized. Similar to most years since 1998, the majority of ATS seizures in 2018 were methylamphetamine. In the period 2014–18, methylamphetamine accounted for 71 per cent of the weight of ATS seized globally. Over the period 2008 to 2018, the weight of ATS seized globally increased 444 per cent, from 51.3 tonnes in 2008 to 279.0 tonnes in 2018, a 10 per cent increase from 2017 figures. Of the ATS seized globally:

- The weight of methylamphetamine seized increased 1,081 per cent over the decade, from 19.3 tonnes in 2008 to 228.0 tonnes in 2018, a 23 per cent increase from 184.0 tonnes seized in 2017.
- The weight of ecstasy seized increased 208 per cent, from 3.9 tonnes in 2008 to 12.0 tonnes in 2018, a 14 per cent decrease from 14.0 tonnes in 2017.
- The weight of amphetamine seized decreased 14 per cent, from 24.3 tonnes in 2008 to 21.0 tonnes in 2018, a 59 per cent decrease from 2017<sup>9</sup> (UNODC 2010, UNODC 2020).

The number of countries reporting methylamphetamine seizures increased more than 50 per cent between 2004 and 2018, increasing from 69 countries in 2004–08 to 105 countries in 2014–18. Methylamphetamine seizures are concentrated predominantly in North America and in East and South-East Asia, with the United States (US), Thailand and Mexico accounting for 80 per cent of the global weight of methylamphetamine seized in 2018 (UNODC 2019; UNODC 2020).

While the number of countries reporting ecstasy seizures slightly decreased from 109 in 2004–08 to 100 in 2014–18, the weight of ecstasy seized doubled over the period 2009 to 2018. The three countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of ecstasy seized in 2018 were Turkey, the US and Australia, with the combined weight accounting for 50 per cent of the weight of ecstasy seized globally.

9 The weight of amphetamine seized in 2017 is unavailable.



The three countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of amphetamine seized in 2018 were Turkey, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic, with the combined weight accounting for 50 per cent of the weight of amphetamine seized globally (UNODC 2020).

According to the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the number and weight of amphetamine and MDMA seizures increased in 2019. The number of amphetamine and MDMA seizures increased to 1,947 (13 per cent of the total number of psychotropic substances seizures) and 2,709 (18 per cent) respectively in 2019. The number of methylamphetamine seizures increased to 3,833 in 2019 (25 per cent of the total number of psychotropic substances seizures). While the weight of methylamphetamine seized decreased in 2019, it continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of psychotropic substances seized (58 per cent). Specific data for the weight of methylamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA seized in 2019 were not available (WCO 2020).

## DOMESTIC TRENDS

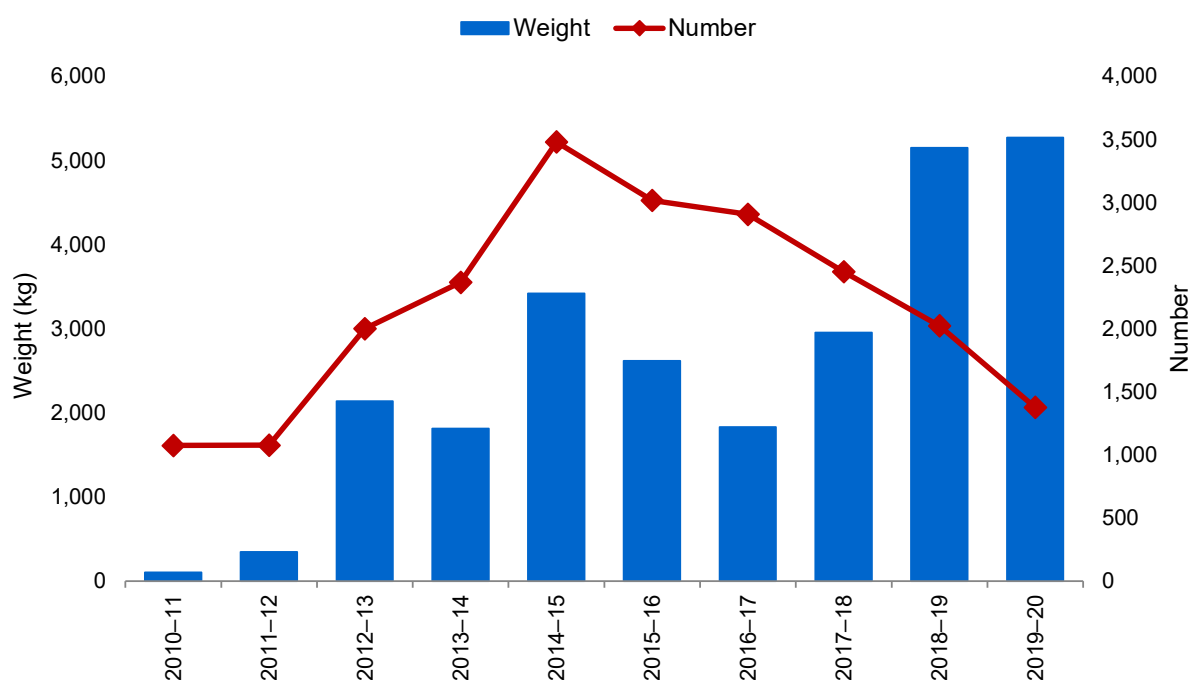
### AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections increased 28 per cent over the last decade, from 1,075 in 2010–11 to 1,377 in 2019–20. The number of detections displays a curved trend over the decade—increasing to a record high in 2014–15 before decreasing in the subsequent reporting periods. The number of detections decreased 32 per cent this reporting period, from 2,022 in 2018–19.

The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected fluctuated greatly over the last decade, increasing 4,911 per cent from 105.2 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 5,271.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight detected displays an increasing trend over the decade. The weight detected this reporting period increased 2 per cent, from 5,148.4 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 1).

In 2019–20, 237 of the 1,377 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (17 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 5,169.3 kilograms, these 237 detections account for 98 per cent of the weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2019–20.<sup>10</sup>

**FIGURE 1: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)**



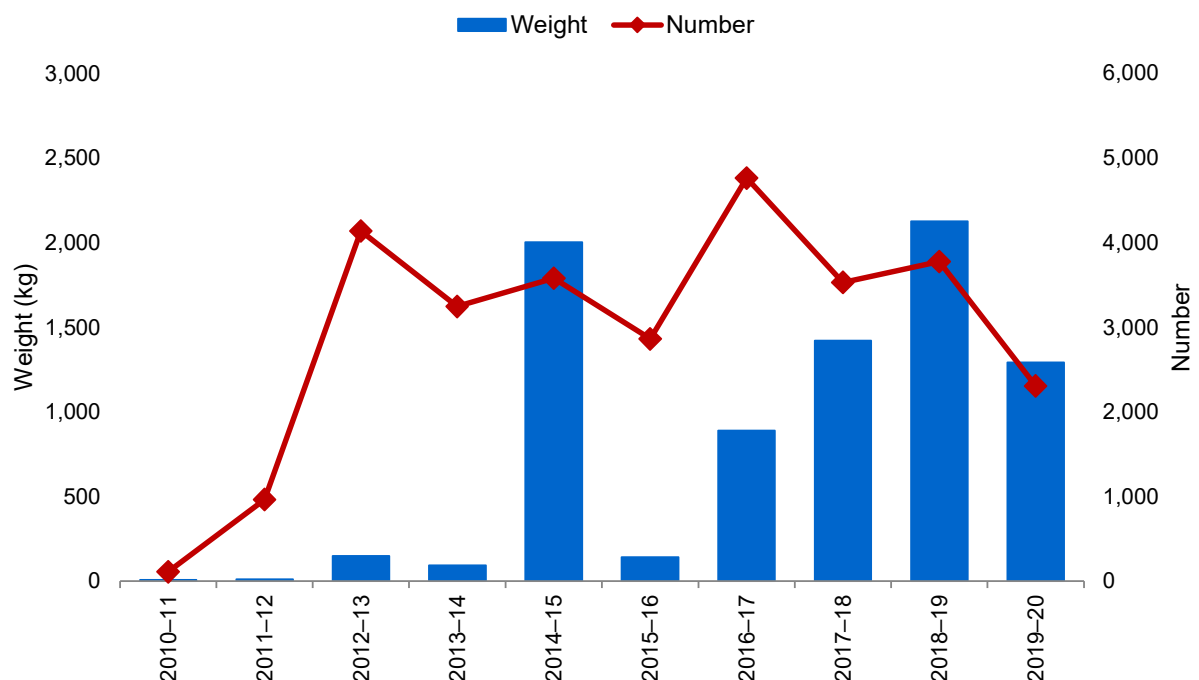
<sup>10</sup> See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2019–20.

The number of MDMA detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 1,961 per cent from 112 detections in 2010–11 to 2,308 in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the number of detections displays an increasing trend over the decade. The number of detections decreased 39 per cent this reporting period, from 3,777 in 2018–19.

The weight of MDMA detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 14,581 per cent from 8.8 kilograms in 2010–11 to 1,291.9 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight detected displays an increasing trend over the decade. The weight detected decreased 39 per cent this reporting period, from 2,124.9 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 2).

In 2019–20, 41 of the 2,308 MDMA detections (2 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 1,200.0 kilograms, these 41 detections account for 93 per cent of the weight of MDMA detected in 2019–20.<sup>11</sup>

**FIGURE 2: Number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20**  
(Source: Department of Home Affairs)



## IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, 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 continued to account for the greatest proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (80 per cent), followed by air cargo (18 per cent), sea cargo (1 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent). By weight, sea cargo continued to account for the greatest proportion of detections (53 per cent), followed by air cargo (39 per cent), international mail (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent).

In 2019–20, 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 continued to account 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 sea cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (82 per cent), followed by international mail (11 per cent), air cargo (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of MDMA in 2019–20.





## EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 42 countries were identified as embarkation points for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border, compared with 63 countries in 2018–19. By weight, Malaysia was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Mexico, the US, Germany, Canada, Cambodia, the United Arab Emirates, China (including Hong Kong), Thailand and Laos.

In 2019–20, 32 countries were identified as embarkation points for MDMA detected at the Australian border, compared with 33 countries in 2018–19. By weight, the Republic of Korea was the primary embarkation point for MDMA detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Estonia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Slovenia.

## 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 2011 and June 2020 from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.<sup>14</sup>

In this reporting period, there has again been an increase in the proportion of methylamphetamine found to be manufactured from a 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) precursor. The proportion of mixed/unclassified seizures also continues to rise. This is due, in large part, to large seizures being profiled as containing methylamphetamine produced from multiple production methods.

- In 2019, 69 seizures of methylamphetamine were sent to the NMI for analysis. Of these, 61 seizures representing a bulk weight of 5.6 tonnes were found to be suitable for profiling, while the remaining seizures totalling 13.7 kilograms were found to be unsuitable for profiling.
- In 2019, the top nine seizures by weight accounted for 97 per cent of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized (see Table 1).
- In the first six months of 2020, there were 37 seizures, totalling 3.6 tonnes of methylamphetamine.
- In 2020, the top five seizures by weight accounted for 86 per cent of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized (see Table 2).
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of both P2P and ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (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.

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

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

<sup>14</sup> Profiling data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP 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.

**TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)<sup>15</sup>**

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	18.9	70.3	10.8
2019	38.6	36.8	24.8
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

**TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)<sup>16</sup>**

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	56.0	43.8	0.2
2019	7.9	53.7	38.4
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

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.

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

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





The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability extends 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 of methylamphetamine submitted to the ENIPID capability for 2019 and the first six months of 2020 show a comparable split between Eph/PSE and P2P as the precursor of choice for methylamphetamine within the Australian market.
- P2P-based methylamphetamine has seen an increase in Australia. FDI data identified that P2P manufactured methylamphetamine has also been found in seizures from Asia.
- The number of mixed/unclassified samples remains steady when compared to previous reporting periods. 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 is available in previous Illicit Drug Data Reports.

## 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 Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) collects self-report information on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use among the general population and also surveys people's attitudes and perceptions in relation to these. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used meth/amphetamine at least once in their lifetime decreased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 6 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently<sup>18</sup> used meth/amphetamine decreased over the last decade, from 2 per cent in 2010 to 1 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of meth/amphetamine increased over the last decade, from 9 per cent in 2010 to 17 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20 per cent.

<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.

<sup>18</sup> In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.



- In 2010, powder was the main form of methylamphetamine reportedly used in the last 12 months (51 per cent). Crystal/ice replaced powder as the main form used in 2013 and was the main form used in 2016 and 2019. The proportion of respondents who reported crystal/ice as the main form of meth/amphetamine used in the last 12 months more than doubled over the last decade, increasing from 22 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 57 per cent.
  - The proportion of respondents reporting powder/speed as the main form used more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 51 per cent in 2010 to 20 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20 per cent (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).

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. Since the Program began measuring methylamphetamine in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- 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 decreased in capital city sites and regional sites to the lowest levels recorded by the Program in August 2020.
- The ACIC estimates that around 11.1 tonnes of methylamphetamine was consumed annually in Australia, a decrease from the estimated 11.5 tonnes of methylamphetamine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

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 IDRS data:

- In 2020, crystal methylamphetamine was reported as the third most used drug within this user group after cannabis and heroin, a change from 2018 and 2019 where methylamphetamine overtook heroin as the second most consumed drug within this user group.
- In 2020, heroin replaced methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month.
- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 20 per cent in 2011 to 33 per cent in 2020. This proportion remained unchanged from 2019.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month increased, from 26 per cent in 2011 to 41 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 45 per cent.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting weekly or more frequent crystal methylamphetamine use in the past six months more than tripled, from 15 per cent in 2011 to 47 per cent in 2020. This proportion was 48 per cent in 2019.



- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use<sup>19</sup> of any form of methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, from 66 per cent in 2011 to 72 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 78 per cent.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview more than doubled, from 19 days in 2011 to 48 days in 2020. The reported median number of days remained unchanged from 2019 (Peacock et al. 2021).

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 EDRS data:

- Powder methylamphetamine remains the most commonly reported form of methylamphetamine used within this user group.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of any form of methylamphetamine more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 60 per cent in 2011 to 24 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 33 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview decreased over the last decade, from 6 days in 2011 to 4 days in 2020. In 2019 the reported number of days was 5 (Peacock et al. 2020).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples<sup>20</sup> annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to ANSPS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected nearly doubled over the last decade, increasing from 26 per cent in 2010 to 49 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 48 per cent.
- Methylamphetamine continued to exceed heroin (27 per cent) as the most commonly reported drug last injected in 2019 (Heard et al. 2020).

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>21</sup> According to DUMA data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive<sup>22</sup> to amphetamines<sup>23</sup> more than doubled over the last decade, increasing from 20 per cent in 2010–11 to 52 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 57 per cent.
- Of the detainees testing positive to any amphetamines, the majority tested positive to methylamphetamine.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine almost tripled over the last decade, from 18 per cent in 2010–11 to 51 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 56 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use<sup>24</sup> 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 and 2019–20 (see Figure 3).

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

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

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

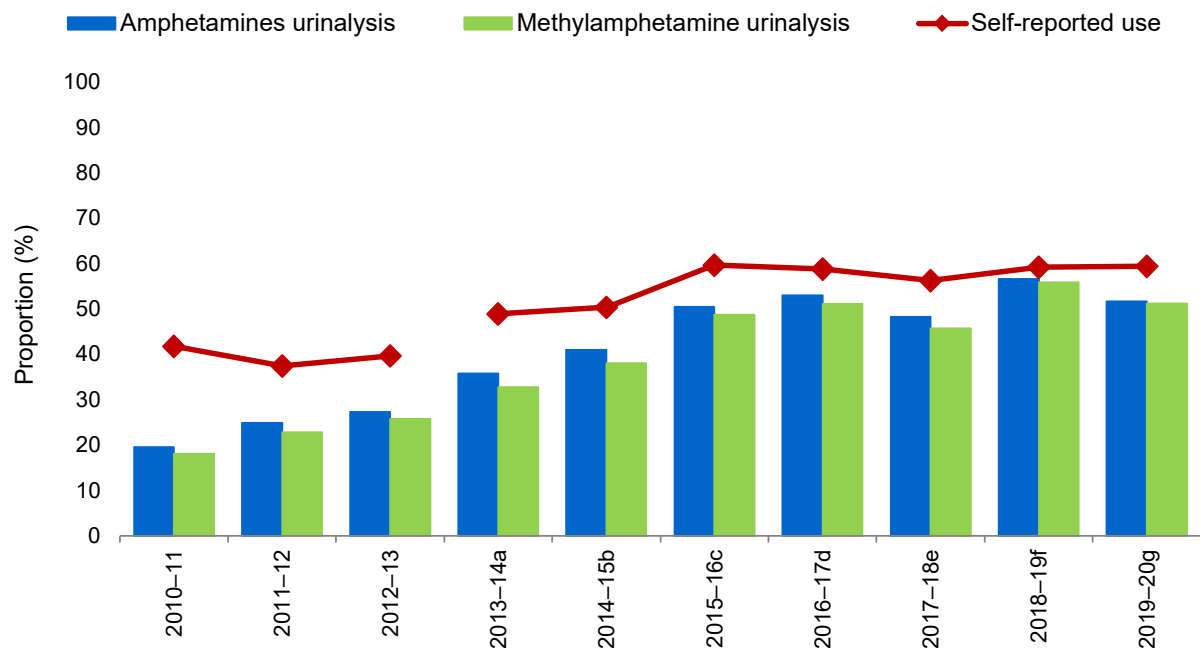
22 Amphetamines and their metabolites can be detected in urine up to 2 to 4 days after administration.

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

24 Recent use in the DUMA program reflects self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.



**FIGURE 3: National proportion of detainees testing positive for amphetamines/methylamphetamine compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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.
- Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2019 in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth; the fourth quarter of 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

## MDMA

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ecstasy at least once in their life increased over the last decade, from 10 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 11 per cent in 2016.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used ecstasy remained stable at 3 per cent in 2010 and 2019. This proportion was 2 per cent in 2016.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of ecstasy increased over the last decade, from 3 per cent in 2010 to 7 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 2 per cent in 2016.
- While historical data is not available, in 2016 pills/tablets were the most common form of ecstasy reportedly used in the past 12 months (51 per cent). Capsules replaced pills/tablets as the main form used in 2019, accounting for 49 per cent of the main forms used (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).





Since the NWDMP began measuring MDMA in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption remained relatively stable in capital city sites and increased in regional sites. According to data from the Program for August 2019 to August 2020:

- MDMA consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA increased in capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA decreased in regional sites.
- The ACIC estimates that around 2.6 tonnes of MDMA was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from 2.2 tonnes of MDMA consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

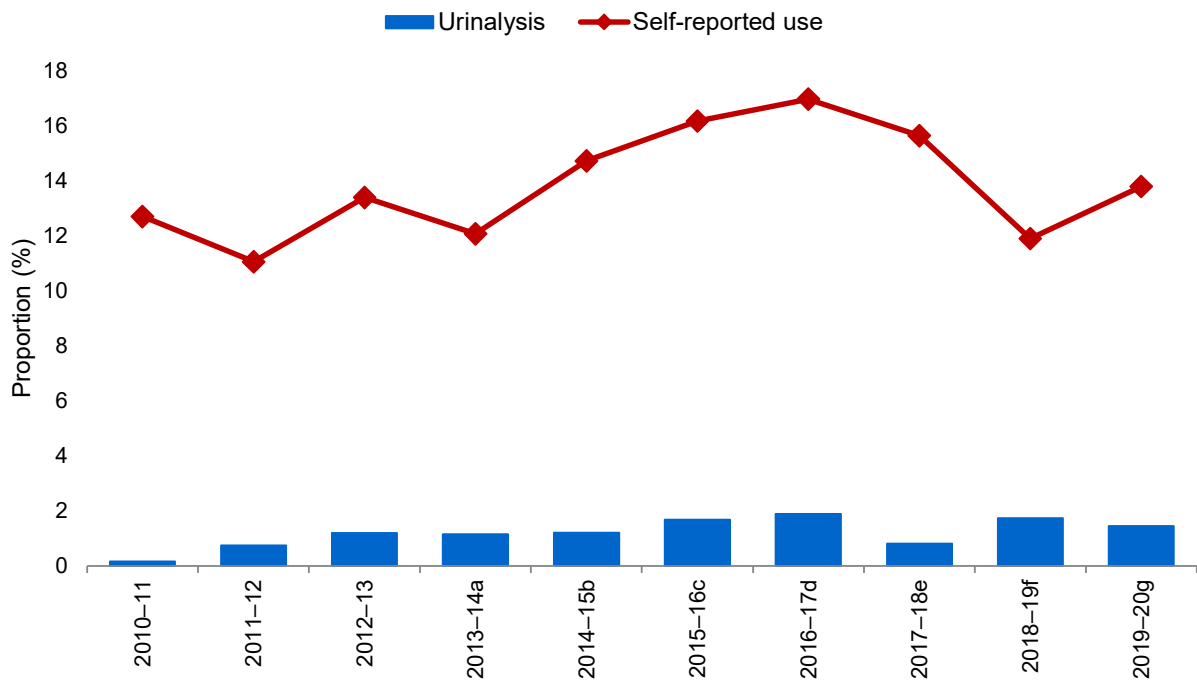
According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 27 per cent in 2011 to 29 per cent in 2020. This proportion was 32 per cent in 2019.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills almost halved over the last decade, decreasing from 97 per cent in 2011 to 53 per cent in 2020. Over the same period, respondents reported the increased recent use of powder ecstasy (from 26 per cent to 35 per cent), capsules (from 53 per cent to 83 per cent) and crystal (from 28 per cent in 2013 to 57 per cent in 2020).
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills (from 67 per cent to 53 per cent) and crystal ecstasy (from 63 per cent to 57 per cent) decreased in 2020 when compared with 2019 figures. Over the same period, the proportion reporting the recent use of powder ecstasy (from 29 per cent to 35 per cent) and capsules (from 77 per cent to 83 per cent) increased.
- Capsules continued to be the most common recently used form of ecstasy in 2020.
- 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 2011, 2019 and 2020 (Peacock et al. 2020; Sindicich & Burns 2011).

According to DUMA data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA remained low and relatively stable, increasing from <1 per cent in 2010–11 to 1 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 2 per cent.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent MDMA use remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 13 per cent in 2010–11 to 14 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19, this proportion was 12 per cent (see Figure 4).

**FIGURE 4: National proportion of detainees testing positive for MDMA compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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.
- g. Urine was collected in the third quarter of 2019 in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth; the fourth quarter of 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

## CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 703 in 2010–11 to 312 in 2019–20. Laboratories producing ATS (excluding MDMA) are the most commonly detected laboratories, accounting for 79 per cent of detections in 2010–11 and 48 per cent in 2019–20. 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 71 per cent over the last decade, from 556 in 2010–11 to 162 in 2019–20. This number remained relatively stable this reporting period, decreasing from 164 in 2018–19.

The proportion of MDMA laboratories remained relative stable over the last decade, accounting for 2 per cent of all detections in 2010–11 and 3 per cent in 2019–20. The number of MDMA laboratory detections fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing from 16 in 2010–11 to 11 in 2019–20. This number almost doubled this reporting period, increasing from 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 generally measured as a ‘street deal’ (0.1 grams) or in grams. Nationally, the price range for a street deal of crystal methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, from between \$50 and \$400 in 2010–11 to between \$30 and \$300 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from \$20 to \$200. The national median price for a street deal increased over the last decade, from \$75 in 2010–11 to \$90 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was \$62.50.

Nationally, the price range for 1 gram of crystal methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$300 and \$1,000 in 2010–11 to between \$200 and \$1,775 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from \$140 to \$800. The national median price for a gram decreased over the last decade, from \$650 in 2010–11 to \$450 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was \$385.

Nationally, the price range for 1 kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$120,000 and \$350,000 in 2010–11 to between \$80,000 and \$372,500 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from \$50,000 to \$140,000. The national median price for a kilogram decreased over the last decade, from \$270,000 in 2010–11 to \$235,000 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was \$100,500.

At the street level, the price for MDMA is generally measured in relation to individual tablets or in grams. Nationally, the price range for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade, from between \$18 and \$60 in 2010–11 to between \$10 and \$30 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from \$9 to \$50. The national median price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade, from \$33.25 in 2010–11 to \$22.50 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was \$25.

No price data were available for 1 gram of MDMA in 2010–11. Nationally, the price for 1 gram of MDMA ranged between \$100 and \$350 in 2018–19 to between \$100 and \$1,000 in 2019–20. The national median price for a gram of MDMA was \$200 in 2018–19 and \$175 in 2019–20.

No price data were available for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2010–11. Nationally, the price range for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2019–20 increased, from between \$35,000 to \$60,000 in 2018–19 (reported by New South Wales and Queensland) to between \$18,000 and \$60,000 in 2019–20. In 2019–20, the median price for 1 kilogram of MDMA was \$40,000.

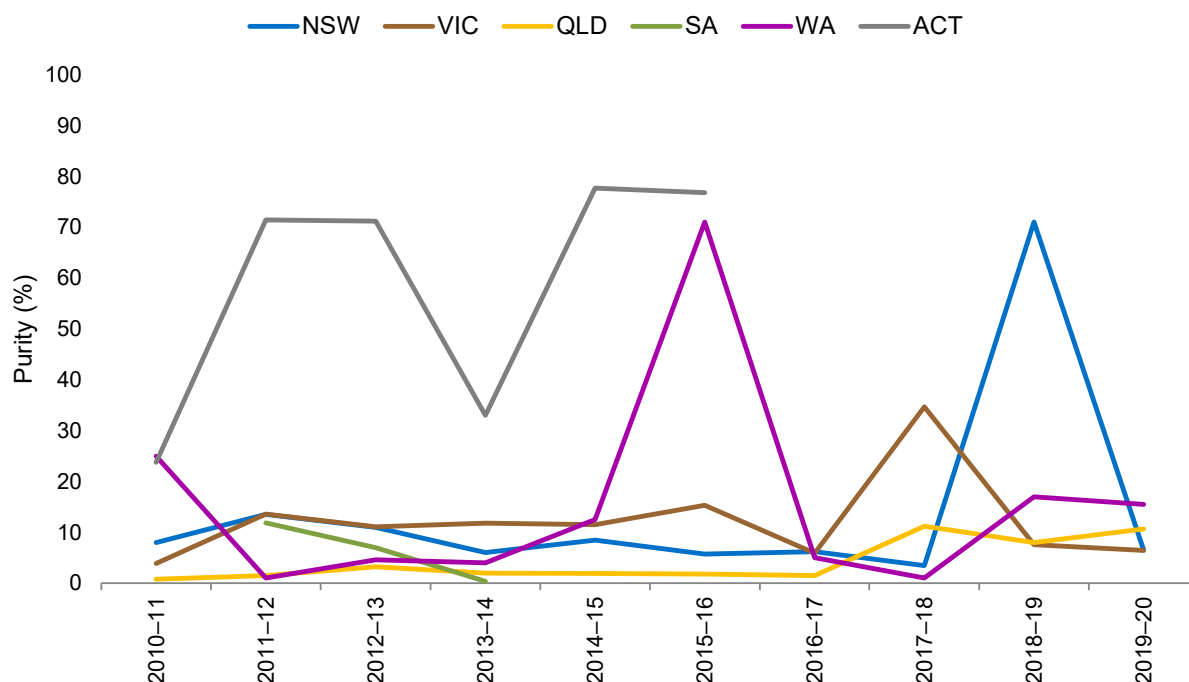
## PURITY

Since 2010–11, 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 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 6 per cent in Victoria to 16 per cent in Western Australia. This reporting period New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia reported a decrease in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Queensland reported an increase (see Figure 5).

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.

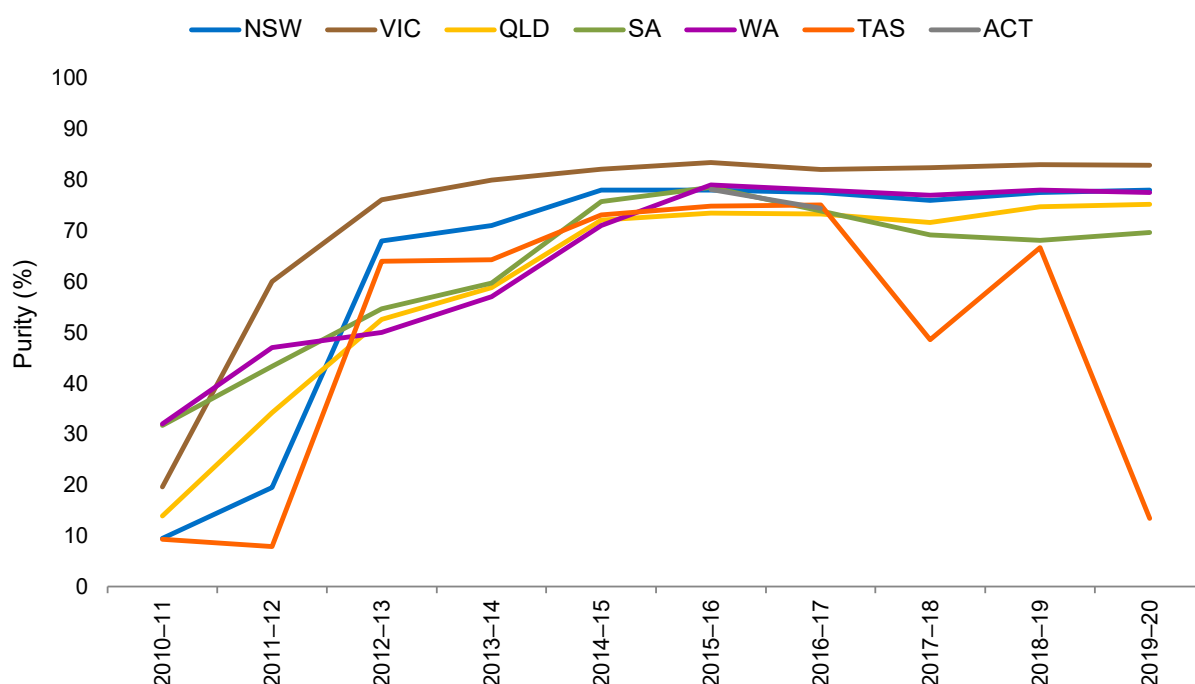


FIGURE 5: Annual median purity of amphetamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed methylamphetamine samples ranged between 8 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 (with the exception of Tasmania). In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 13 per cent in Tasmania to 83 per cent in Victoria. This reporting period South Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine, while Tasmania reported a decrease and New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia remained relatively stable (see Figure 6).

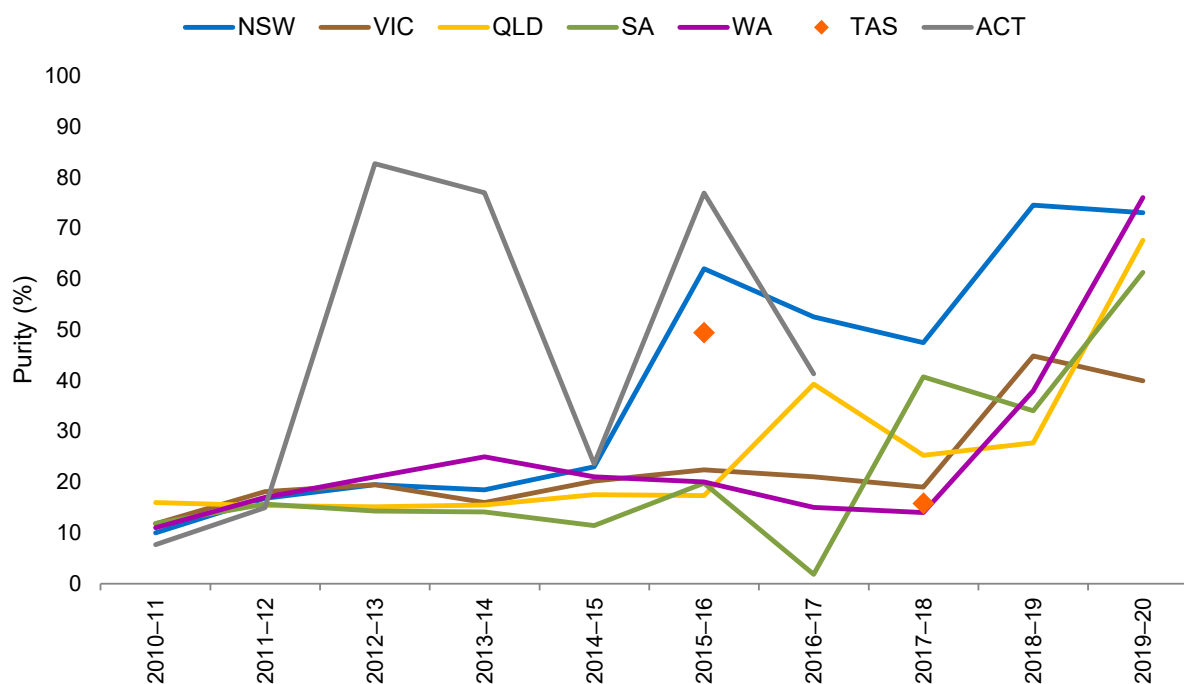
FIGURE 6: Annual median purity of methylamphetamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20





Since 2010–11, 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. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 40 per cent in Victoria to 76 per cent in Western Australia. This reporting period Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of phenethylamine, while New South Wales and Victoria reported a decrease (see Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: Annual median purity of phenethylamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



## AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate a decrease in the reported availability of crystal methylamphetamine in 2019–20. The same surveys indicate that the availability of ecstasy decreased for all forms (powder, capsules and crystal) except pills.

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain nearly halved, decreasing from 94 per cent in 2019 to 48 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade. This is a decrease from 83 per cent reported in 2011.
- Data on the availability of other forms of methylamphetamine was not published for this reporting period (Peacock et al. 2021).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 94 per cent in 2019 to 71 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease from 86 per cent reported in 2011.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 68 per cent in 2019 to 66 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease from 87 per cent reported in 2011.

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





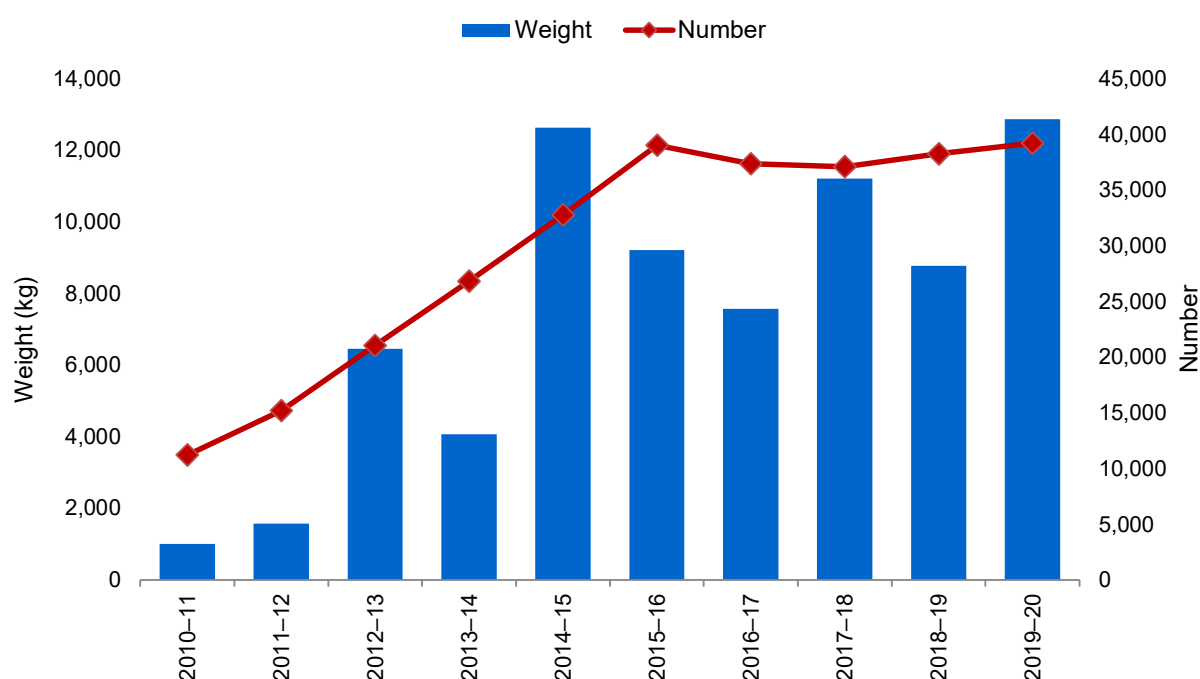
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy in all forms as easy or very easy to obtain decreased from 2019 to 2020—from 76 per cent to 69 per cent for powder; from 92 per cent to 84 per cent for capsules; from 81 per cent to 80 per cent for crystal; and from 81 per cent to 70 per cent for pills. Historical data for ecstasy availability in all forms is only available from 2017, with perceived availability decreasing for all forms with the exception of crystal ecstasy during this period (Peacock et al. 2020; Sindicich & Burns 2011).

## SEIZURES

The number of national ATS seizures increased 250 per cent over the last decade, from 11,212 in 2010–11 to a record 39,204 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures showing an overall increasing trend during the period. The number of national ATS seizures increased between 2010–11 and 2015–16 and has since remained high and relatively stable. This reporting period the number of national ATS seizures increased 2 per cent, from 38,250 in 2018–19.

The weight of ATS seized nationally increased 1,175 per cent over the last decade from 1,008.7 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 12,864.5 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the weight of ATS seized shows an increasing trend over the last decade. This reporting period the weight of ATS seized nationally increased 47 per cent, from 8,776.5 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 8: National ATS seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS seizures in 2019–20, while New South Wales 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 (37 per cent) and weight of ATS seized nationally (76 per cent; see Table 3).

**TABLE 3: Number, weight and percentage change of national ATS seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	13,865	14,326	3.3	4,448,119	9,796,979	120.2
Victoria	2,360	2,258	-4.3	2,109,855	1,675,125	-20.6
Queensland	10,000	11,673	16.7	1,601,445	631,292	-60.6
South Australia	1,007	534	-47.0	242,411	49,935	-79.4
Western Australia	9,439	8,378	-11.2	351,458	698,721	98.8
Tasmania	743	1,168	57.2	7,722	8,149	5.5
Northern Territory	442	335	-24.2	4,815	2,482	-48.5
Australian Capital Territory	394	532	35.0	10,724	1,823	-83.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,250</b>	<b>39,204</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8,776,549</b>	<b>12,864,506</b>	<b>46.6</b>

a. Includes seizures by state/territory police and Australian Federal Police for which a valid seizure weight was recorded.

Over the last decade amphetamines<sup>27</sup> have accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS seizures, increasing from 81 per cent in 2010–11 to 87 per cent in 2019–20. This is followed by MDMA (decreasing from 16 per cent in 2010–11 to 13 per cent in 2019–20) and other ATS (decreasing from 2 per cent in 2010–11 to <1 per cent in 2019–20).

- This reporting period the number of national amphetamines seizures increased 7 per cent, from 32,021 in 2018–19 to a record 34,113 in 2019–20. The number of national MDMA seizures decreased 18 per cent, from 6,103 in 2018–19 to 4,981 in 2019–20, while the number of national other ATS seizures decreased 13 per cent, from 126 in 2018–19 to 110 in 2019–20.

Over the last decade amphetamines have accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally, increasing from 62 per cent in 2010–11 to 73 per cent in 2019–20. This is followed by MDMA (increasing from 7 per cent in 2010–11 to 25 per cent in 2019–20) and other ATS (decreasing from 32 per cent in 2010–11 to 2 per cent in 2019–20).

- The weight of amphetamines seized increased 113 per cent this reporting period, from 4,418.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to a record 9,408.1 kilograms in 2019–20.
- The weight of MDMA seized increased 106 per cent, from 1,560.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to 3,214.9 kilograms in 2019–20, while the weight of other ATS seized decreased 91 per cent, from 2,798.4 kilograms (second highest weight on record) in 2018–19 to 241.4 kilograms in 2019–20.

The form of national ATS seizures (by number) has changed markedly over the last decade, from a relatively equal number of seizures of all forms of ATS earlier in the decade to predominantly crystalline seizures. In 2010–11, seizures in crystalline and powder form each accounted for 26 per cent of national ATS seizures, with other<sup>28</sup> and tablet forms accounting for 33 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. In 2019–20, seizures in crystalline form accounted for 72 per cent of the number of national ATS seizures, followed by other forms (17 per cent), powder (10 per cent) and tablet (2 per cent). These proportions were broadly similar to 2018–19.

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

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

- This reporting period the number of crystalline seizures increased 7 per cent, from 26,463 in 2018–19 to a record 28,289 in 2019–20. The number of powder seizures increased 2 per cent, from 3,675 in 2018–19 to 3,749 in 2019–20, while the number of tablet seizures decreased 49 per cent, from 1,181 in 2018–19 to 606 in 2019–20. The number of other seizures decreased 5 per cent this reporting period, from 6,931 in 2018–19 to 6,560 in 2019–20.

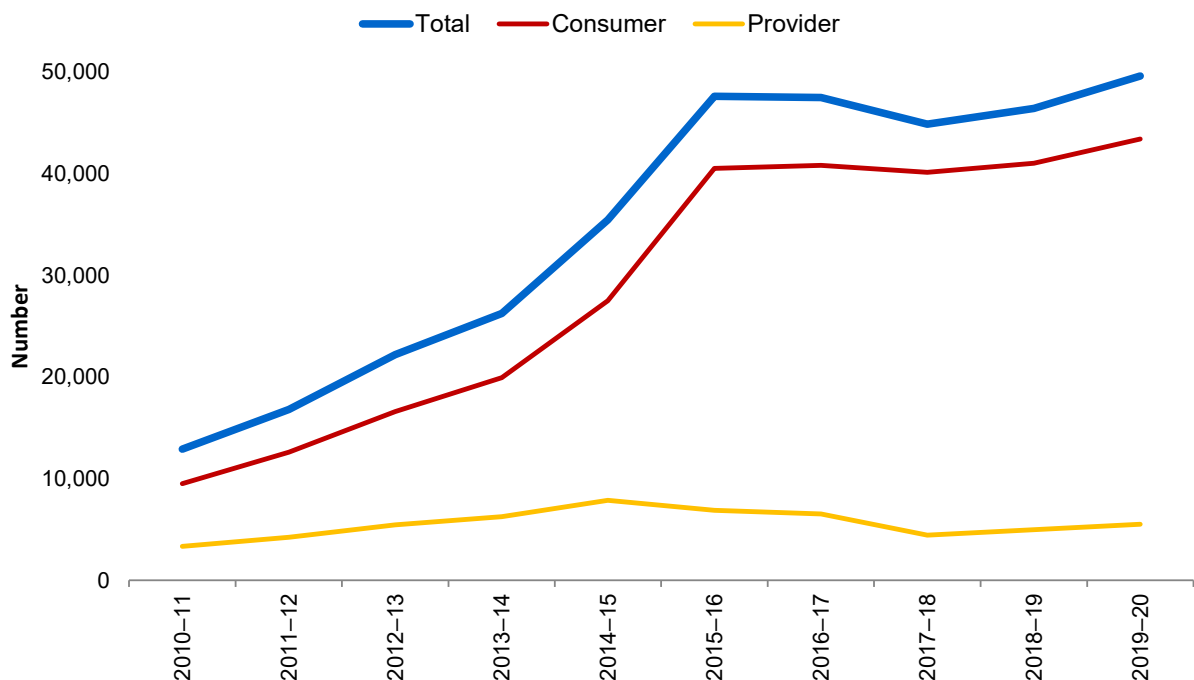
The form of national ATS seizures (by weight) changed over the last decade, from seizures of other forms to predominantly crystalline seizures. Seizures in crystalline form accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally in 2019–20 (70 per cent), increasing considerably from 2 per cent in 2010–11. This is followed by other (decreasing from 78 per cent in 2010–11 to 17 per cent in 2019–20), powder (decreasing from 15 per cent in 2010–11 to 13 per cent in 2019–20) and tablet form (decreasing from 5 per cent in 2010–11 to <1 per cent in 2019–20).

- This reporting period the weight of crystalline seized increased 116 per cent, from 4,416.9 kilograms in 2018–19 to a record 8,988.1 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight of powder seized decreased 53 per cent, from 3,571.1 kilograms in 2018–19 to 1,693.5 kilograms in 2019–20, while the weight of tablet seized decreased 54 per cent, from 65.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to 30.0 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight of other forms of ATS seized increased 120 per cent this reporting period, from 979.4 kilograms in 2018–19 to 2,152.8 kilograms in 2019–20.

## ARRESTS

The number of national ATS arrests increased 285 per cent over the last decade, from 12,897 in 2010–11 to a record 49,638 in 2019–20, with the number of arrests showing an overall increasing trend during the period. The number of national ATS arrests increased 7 per cent from the 46,437 arrests in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 87 per cent of national ATS arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 9: Number of national ATS arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20







Amphetamines continue to account for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests, accounting for 90 per cent in 2019–20, followed by MDMA (10 per cent) and other ATS (<1 per cent). The number of national amphetamines arrests increased 11 per cent this reporting period, from 40,487 in 2018–19 to a record 44,847 in 2019–20. The number of MDMA arrests decreased 19 per cent this reporting period, from 5,890 in 2018–19 to 4,746 in 2019–20, while the number of other ATS arrests decreased 25 per cent, from 60 in 2018–19 to 45 in 2019–20.

South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS arrests in 2019–20. This reporting period Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests (30 per cent; see Table 4).

**TABLE 4: Number and percentage change of national ATS arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20**

State/Territory <sup>a</sup>	Arrests		
	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	10,355	11,160	7.8
Victoria	10,598	11,055	4.3
Queensland	12,926	14,975	15.9
South Australia	4,390	5,446	24.1
Western Australia	7,031	5,977	-15.0
Tasmania	718	753	4.9
Northern Territory	270	108	-60.0
Australian Capital Territory	149	164	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,437</b>	<b>49,638</b>	<b>6.9</b>

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

## NATIONAL IMPACT

The weight of ATS seized globally continued to increase in 2018, with methylamphetamine accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight seized. In 2018 the weight of ecstasy seized globally also increased, while the weight of amphetamine seized decreased. In 2019, the number of methylamphetamine seizures reported by WCO agencies increased, while the weight seized decreased. The number and weight of amphetamine and MDMA seizures reported by WCO agencies increased in 2019.

Several indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia indicate that following a long period of growth, the ATS market (especially for methylamphetamine) remains large and showed some signs of further expansion in 2019–20.

Indicators of demand for amphetamines include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Data from surveys of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants point to a decrease in methylamphetamine use.



- According to national studies of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the availability of all forms of methylamphetamine decreased in 2020.
- According to NDSHS data, the reported recent use of meth/amphetamine and use in lifetime remained relatively stable in 2019 compared to 2016, however, the frequency of reported use decreased, with crystal remaining the most common form of the drug used.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected increased in 2019 and it remains the most commonly reported drug last injected.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine decreased, while the proportion of detainees self-reporting recent methylamphetamine use remained stable.
- 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 for methylamphetamine decreased in both capital city and regional sites in August 2020 to the lowest levels recorded by the Program.

Indicators of ATS (excluding MDMA) supply include border detection, forensic profiling, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border continued to decrease, while the weight detected increased to a record level.
- Forensic profiling identified an increase in the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using the P2P method.
- The number and weight of national ATS seizures increased to record levels.
  - Amphetamines continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of national ATS seizures, both of which increased to record levels.
- The number of ATS arrests increased to a record level, with amphetamines accounting for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS arrests.
- The national median price for a street deal, 1 gram and 1 kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine increased.
- New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia reported a decrease in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Queensland reported an increase.
- South Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine, while Tasmania reported a decrease and New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia remained relatively stable.
- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratories detected nationally remained relatively stable, with methylamphetamine remaining the main drug produced.



Indicators of supply and demand for MDMA point to a relatively stable market despite some decreases suggested by the available indicators.

Indicators of MDMA demand include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- According to NDSHS data, the reported recent use of ecstasy, use in lifetime and frequency of reported use increased in 2019 compared to 2016, with capsules replacing pills/tables as the main form of the drug used.
- Data from surveys of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants provided mixed results, with a decrease in ecstasy use in pill and crystal form and an increase in use of powder and capsule form.
- Surveys of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants reported availability decreased for all forms (powder, capsules, crystal and pills) of the drug.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA decreased, while the proportion self-reporting recent MDMA use increased.
- The NWDMP indicates that average MDMA consumption is higher in regional sites than capital city sites. The population-weighted average consumption increased in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites.

Indicators of MDMA supply include border detection, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased.
- The number of national MDMA seizures decreased, while the weight of MDMA seized nationally doubled.
- The national median price for a single MDMA tablet decreased.
- Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of phenethylamine, while New South Wales and Victoria reported a decrease.
- While remaining low, the number of MDMA clandestine laboratory detections almost doubled.



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