



COCAINE

KEY POINTS

- Cocaine remains among the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide, with the weight of cocaine seized globally reaching a record level in 2018.
- While the total area under coca bush cultivation remained relatively stable in 2018, the estimated weight of cocaine produced globally increased to a record level.
- Colombia produces the majority of the world's cocaine, with drug profiling indicating that the majority of both border and domestic cocaine seizures in Australia originated in Colombia.
- Indicators of supply and demand point to a continued expansion of the cocaine market in Australia.
 - The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border remained relatively stable in 2019–20, while the weight detected decreased.
 - The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased in 2019–20, while the number of seizures increased and is the highest on record.
 - There was a record number of national cocaine arrests in 2019–20.
 - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine increased in both capital city and regional sites from August 2019 to August 2020.

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

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↑ 447%	↑ 9%	↑ 372%	↑ 138%	↑ 543%
486 → 2,660	701kg → 763kg	1,217 → 5,750	662kg → 1,573kg	839 → 5,393

Price ^a (\$)	Annual median purity range	DUMA ^b urinalysis	Use in lifetime	NDSHS ^c Recent use
↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
\$50.00 → \$80.00	9.5% to 30.2% → 40.5% to 67.0%	1% → 2%	7% → 11%	2% → 4%

a. National median prices for a street deal, equivalent to 0.2 grams of cocaine. National median price used data reported by New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania only in 2019–20.

b. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine.

c. 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 cocaine.

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 (powdered) 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

An estimated 19 million people globally reported cocaine use in the previous 12 months in 2018. The total area under coca bush cultivation globally remained relatively stable in 2018, while the weight of cocaine produced increased. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the total global area under coca bush cultivation decreased from 245,400 hectares in 2017 to 244,200 hectares in 2018. However, there was a 5 per cent increase in the estimated weight of potential cocaine production worldwide, which reached a record 1,723.0 tonnes (at 100 per cent purity) in 2018 (UNODC 2020a).

The three primary cocaine producing countries in 2018 were Colombia (which accounted for 70 per cent of global coca bush cultivation), Peru (20 per cent) and Bolivia (10 per cent). While there was a decrease in the area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia between 2017 and 2019, the estimated quantity of cocaine produced increased during the same period. The area under coca bush cultivation decreased by 1 per cent to 169,000 hectares in 2018, and by 9 per cent to 154,000 hectares in 2019. The estimated quantity of cocaine produced increased by 6 per cent between 2017 and 2018 (reaching 1,120.0 tonnes in 2018), and by 2 per cent in 2019 (reaching 1,137 tonnes). In Bolivia, the area under coca bush cultivation and cocaine production fluctuated between 2017 and 2019. The area under coca bush cultivation decreased by 6 per cent to 23,100 hectares in 2018, and increased by 10 per cent to 25,500 hectares in 2019. The estimated quantity of cocaine produced decreased by 6 per cent between 2017 and 2018 and increased by 11 per cent in 2019. Information relating to the area under cultivation and cocaine production in Peru in 2018 was unavailable at the time of publication (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020b; UNODC 2020c).

Based on UNODC data, cocaine continues to be 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 2018 to a record 1,311 tonnes. Between 2008 and 2018 the weight of cocaine seized globally increased by 71 per cent. While the weight seized continued to increase, the rate of increase was smaller compared to previous reporting periods, suggesting the market may be stabilising. In 2018, global cocaine seizures remained concentrated in the Americas and Europe. The Americas accounted for the majority (85 per cent) of the weight of cocaine seized globally in 2018, of which Colombia accounted for 35 per cent. The weight of cocaine seized in Colombia decreased 7 per cent, from 489.0 tonnes in 2017 to 457.0 tonnes in 2018 (UNODC 2020a).

The number of global cocaine border seizures reported by World Customs Organization (WCO) agencies decreased 18 per cent, from 7,280 in 2018 to 6,005 in 2019. While the number of powdered cocaine seizures decreased 21 per cent, from 6,926 in 2018 to 5,464 in 2019, it continued to account for the greatest proportion of the number of global cocaine border seizures in 2019 (91 per cent). This was followed by cocaine base (4 per cent), coca products (3 per cent) and coca leaves (2 per cent). The weight of cocaine seized globally increased 53 per cent, from 189,549.9 kilograms in 2018 to 289,331.3 kilograms in 2019. Powdered cocaine accounted for 96 per cent of the weight seized in 2019, followed by cocaine base (4 per cent). The average size of a powdered cocaine border seizure nearly doubled, increasing from 26.5 kilograms in 2018 to 50.7 kilograms in 2019 (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

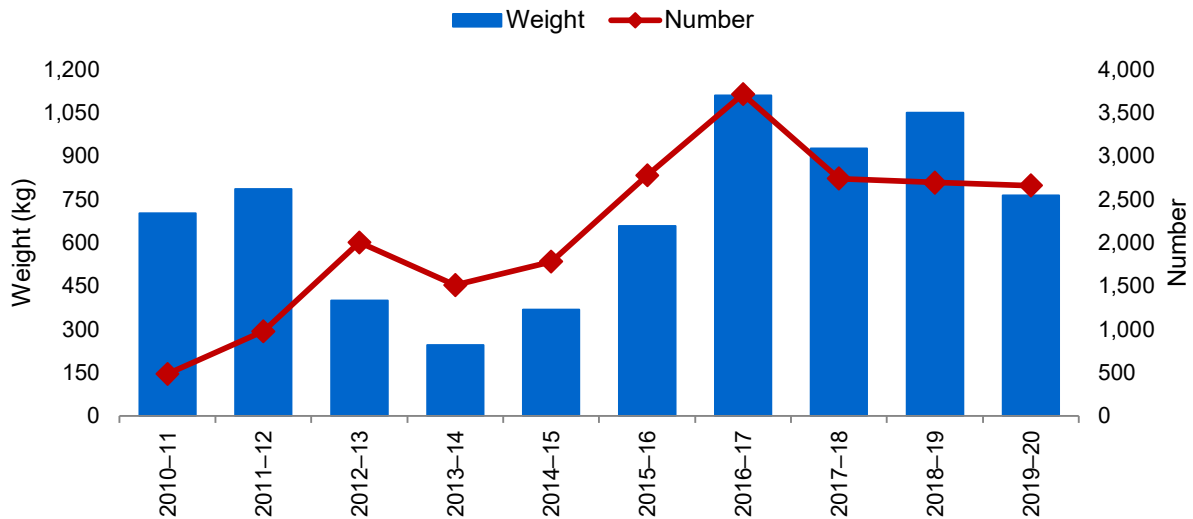
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased 447 per cent over the last decade, from 486 in 2010–11 to 2,660 in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the number of cocaine detected displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The number of cocaine detections decreased 1 per cent this reporting period, from 2,695 in 2018–19.

While fluctuating, the weight of cocaine detected increased 9 per cent over the last decade, from 701.8 kilograms in 2010–11 to 763.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight of cocaine detected also displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The weight of cocaine detected decreased 27 per cent this reporting period, from 1,049.7 kilograms in 2018–19.

In 2019–20, 62 of the 2,660 cocaine detections (2 per cent) weighted 1 kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 683.6 kilograms, these 62 detections account for 90 per cent of the weight of cocaine detected in 2019–20 (Figure 19).⁵⁰

FIGURE 19: Number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, detections of cocaine at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (96 per cent), followed by air cargo (3 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, the sea cargo and air cargo streams accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (40 per cent each), followed by international mail (18 per cent) and air passenger/crew (2 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 42 countries were identified as embarkation points for cocaine detected at the Australian border, compared to 49 countries in 2018–19. By weight, Mexico was the primary embarkation point for cocaine detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include the United States, Germany, Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Canada.

⁵⁰ See Appendix 1 for significant border detections of cocaine in 2019–20

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 border⁵¹. 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.⁵²

- Figures continue to highlight the dominance of Colombian cocaine in the Australian market.
- The trend of cocaine seizures of mixed origin has continued.
- The AFP has not examined any seizures of Bolivian origin since 2015.⁵³
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of Colombian, Peruvian, Bolivian and unknown samples are listed under the “Mixed” category in Table 11. However, when classifying by weight, the bulk weight of these seizures is separated and attributed to the relevant country of origin. As such, the “Mixed” category in Table 12 only includes the weight of samples that could not be attributed to a specific country of origin.

TABLE 11: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures, 2011–June 2020⁵⁴ (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	74.1	7.4	–	11.1	7.4
2019	66.7	8.8	–	7.0	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

51 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

52 Profiling data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP and from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling. 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) project.

53 A number of seizures (4 in 2019) returned chemical profiling results with a geographical origin of Peru or Bolivia. In these instances the seizures were attributed to the unclassified category.

54 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

TABLE 12: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2011–June 2020⁵⁵ (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020 ^a	92.0	5.7	–	–	2.4
2019	47.0	1.6	–	49.5	1.9
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

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 variations in 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 detection of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.⁵⁶

- ENIPID profiling data for the first six months of 2020 shows an increase in mixed/unclassified cocaine cases in South Australia and the Northern Territory, where there were approximately double the amount of mixed/unclassified cocaine cases to Colombian cocaine cases.
- 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 were identified as originating in Bolivia. Samples with a geographic origin classification of Peruvian or Bolivian, or Colombian or Peruvian were attributed to the unclassified/mixed 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 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:

⁵⁵ This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

⁵⁶ The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 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.

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine at least once in their lifetime increased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 11 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 9 per cent.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently⁵⁷ used cocaine increased over the last decade, from 2 per cent in 2010 to 4 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 3 per cent (AIHW 2020).

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 cocaine in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption increased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- Cocaine consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cocaine in both capital city and regional sites increased.
- The ACIC estimates that around 5.6 tonnes of cocaine was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 4.6 tonnes of cocaine 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:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 2 per cent in 2011 to 1 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 2 per cent.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting the recent use⁵⁸ of cocaine remained relatively stable, decreasing from 18 per cent in 2010 to 17 per cent in 2020. In 2019 the proportion was 13 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 2011 to 3 days in 2020. The median number of days remain 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:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 14 per cent in 2011 to 12 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 11 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cocaine increased over the last decade, from 46 per cent in 2011 to 68 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 67 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview increased over the last decade, from 2 days in 2011 to 4 days in 2020. The median number of days remained unchanged from 2019 (Peacock et al 2020).

57 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.

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

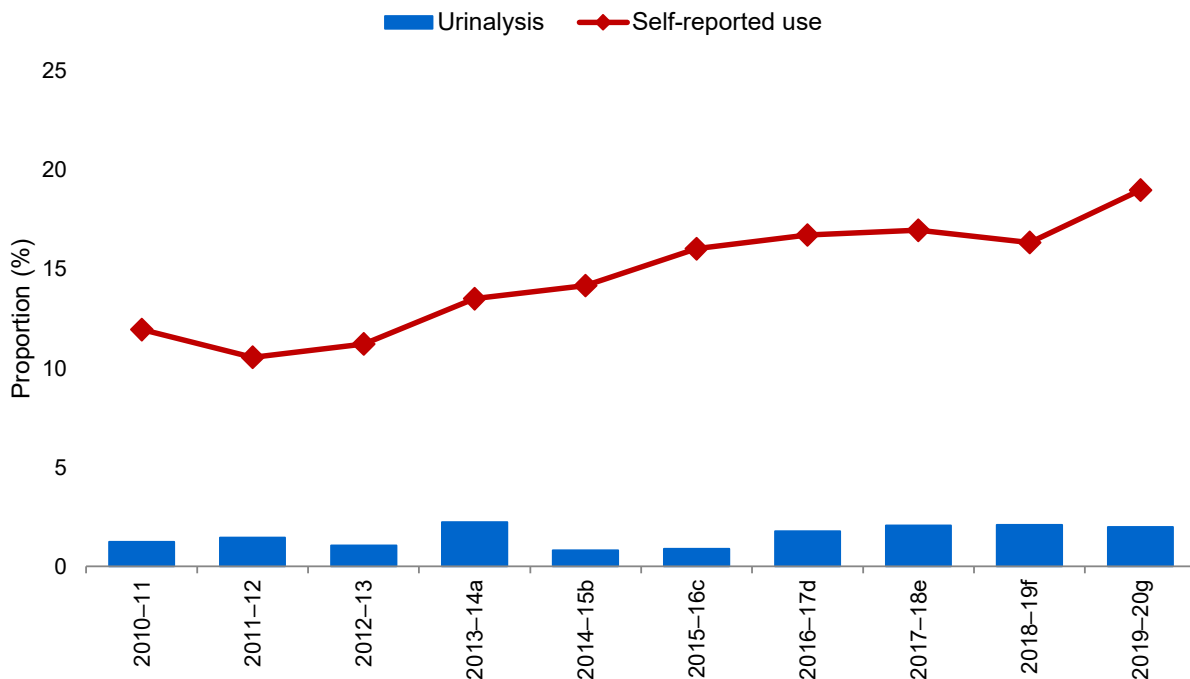
The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples⁵⁹ annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to ANSPS data:

- In both 2010 and 2019, 1 per cent of respondents reported cocaine as the drug last injected (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.⁶⁰ According to DUMA 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 2018–19 and 2019–20.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent cocaine use⁶¹ increased over the last decade, from 12 per cent in 2010–11 to a record 19 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19, this proportion was 16 per cent (see Figure 20).

FIGURE 20: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cocaine 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.

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

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

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

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 \$50 and \$70 in 2010–11 to between \$50 and \$200 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the reported price ranged from \$40 to \$200. The median price for 1 cap of cocaine increased over the last decade, from a national median of \$50 in 2010–11 to \$80 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania). The median price was \$50 in 2018–19 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania).

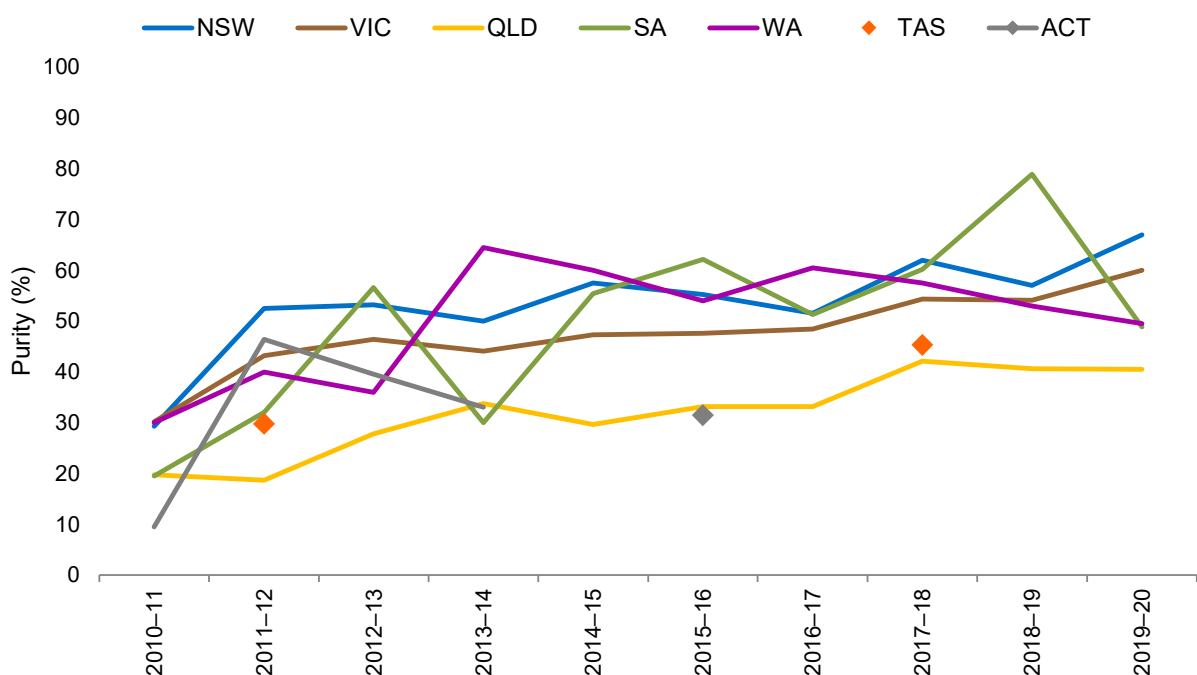
Nationally, the price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$250 and \$500 in 2010–11 to between \$300 and \$600 in 2019–20 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). The reported price range was between \$200 and \$800 in 2018–19. The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, from \$350 in 2010–11 to \$412.50 in 2019–20. The national median price in 2018–19 was \$350.

Nationally, the price for 1 kilogram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between \$190,000 and \$250,000 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales and Victoria) to between \$150,000 and \$330,000 in 2019–20 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). In 2018–19, the reported price ranged from \$90,000 to \$300,000.

PURITY

Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples ranged between 10 per cent and 79 per cent. Annual median cocaine purity fluctuated over the last decade, but overall all states reported an increase. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 41 per cent in Queensland to 67 per cent in New South Wales. In 2019–20, New South Wales and Victoria reported increases in the annual median purity of cocaine, while South Australia and Western Australia reported decreases and Queensland remained relatively stable (see Figure 21).

FIGURE 21: Annual median purity of cocaine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20





AVAILABILITY

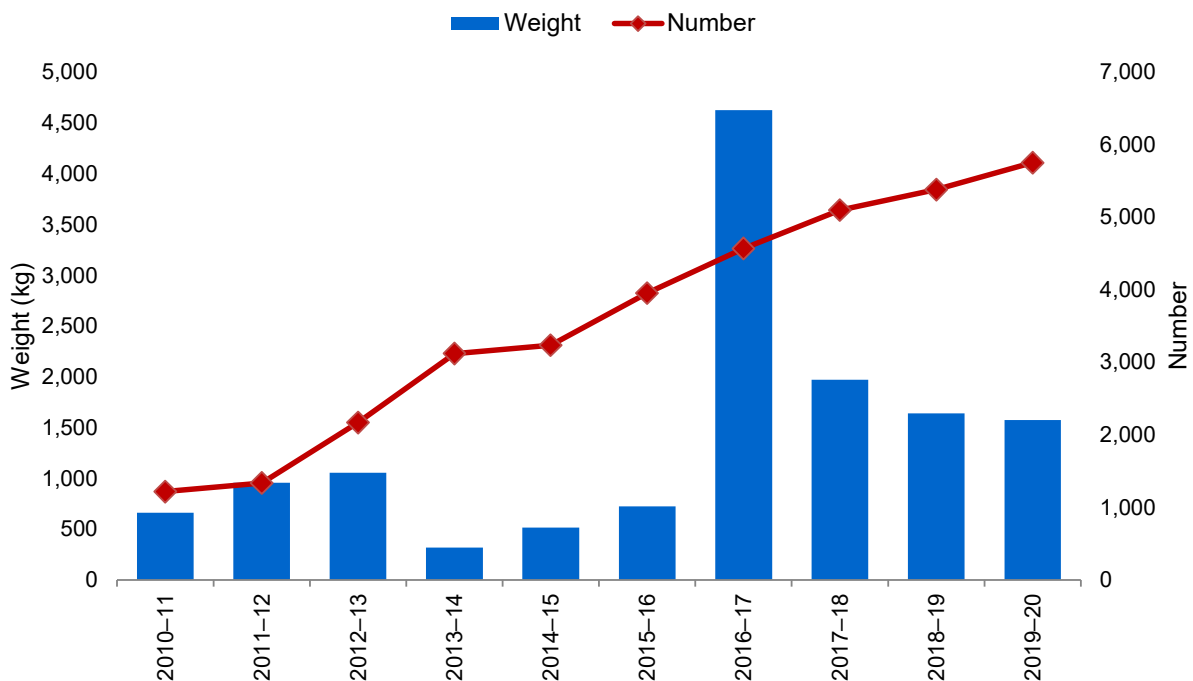
In a 2020 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain remained relatively stable, decreasing from 69 per cent in 2019 to 68 per cent in 2020. This is an increase from the 42 per cent reported in 2011 (Peacock et al. 2020).

SEIZURES

The number of national cocaine seizures increased 372 per cent over the last decade, from 1,217 in 2010–11 to a record 5,750 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures displaying an increasing trend over the decade. The number of cocaine seizures increased 7 per cent this reporting period from 5,378 in 2018–19 (the second highest number on record).

The weight of cocaine seized nationally increased over the last decade, increasing 138 per cent from 662.0 kilograms in 2010–11 to 1,573.8 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight seized nationally continued to decrease for the third consecutive reporting period following the record high (4,623.3 kilograms) reported in 2016–17. Despite some fluctuations, the overall weight of cocaine seized also displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased 4 per cent this reporting period from 1,638.5 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22: National cocaine seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine seizures in 2019–20, while Western Australia 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 65 per cent of the number and 68 per cent of the weight of cocaine seized nationally in 2019–20 (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: Number, weight and percentage change of national cocaine seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

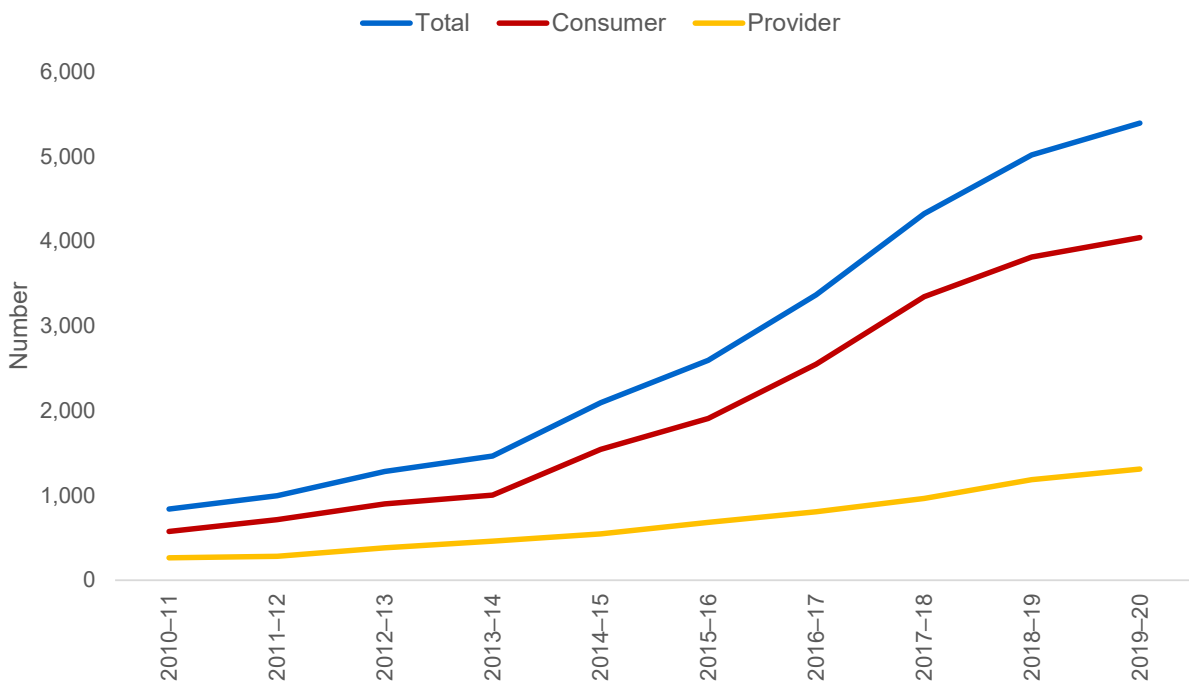
State/Territory ^a	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	3,621	3,725	2.9	898,696	1,068,733	18.9
Victoria	378	394	4.2	63,929	69,240	8.3
Queensland	761	877	15.2	644,275	33,742	-94.8
South Australia	20	38	90.0	450	2,158	379.6
Western Australia	415	541	30.4	24,958	397,460	1,492.5
Tasmania	29	30	3.4	332	97	-70.8
Northern Territory	27	27	0.0	134	262	95.5
Australian Capital Territory	127	118	-7.1	5,798	2,161	-62.7
Total	5,378	5,750	6.9	1,638,572	1,573,853	-3.9

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

ARRESTS

The number of national cocaine arrests increased 543 per cent over the last decade, from 839 in 2010–11 to a record 5,393 in 2019–20, with the number of arrests showing an increasing trend during the period. The number of national cocaine arrests increased 8 per cent this reporting period from 5,016 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 75 per cent of national cocaine arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 23).

FIGURE 23: Number of national cocaine arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Queensland reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine arrests in 2019–20. New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of national cocaine arrests, accounting for 48 per cent this reporting period (see Table 14).

TABLE 14: Number and percentage change of national cocaine arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

State/Territory ^a	Arrests		
	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	2,564	2,590	1.0
Victoria	998	1,124	12.6
Queensland	907	1,088	20.0
South Australia	163	166	1.8
Western Australia	284	326	14.8
Tasmania	11	13	18.2
Northern Territory	20	5	-75.0
Australian Capital Territory	69	81	17.4
Total	5,016	5,393	7.5

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

Cocaine remains among the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide. While the total area under coca bush cultivation remained relatively stable in 2018, cocaine production increased. Colombia continues to account for the greatest proportion of global coca bush cultivation. In 2018, the weight of cocaine seized globally reached record levels, with the majority of cocaine seized in the Americas and Europe. WCO agencies reported a decrease in the number of global cocaine seizures in 2019, but an increase in the cocaine weight seized.

Indicators of supply and demand point to a continued expansion of the Australian cocaine market, with demand indicators pointing to increases in consumption.

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

- According to the NDSHS, the reported recent use of cocaine and use in lifetime increased in 2019.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as the drug last injected remained stable in 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the reported recent use of cocaine increased while the median days of cocaine use remained stable in 2020.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained relatively stable in 2019–20, while self-reported cocaine use increased to a record level.

- The NWDMP indicates that average cocaine consumption in capital city sites exceeds regional consumption. When comparing data for August 2019 to August 2020, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine increased in both capital city and regional sites.

Indicators of cocaine supply include border detection, forensic profiling, seizure, arrest, price and purity data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Both the number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased.
- 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.
- There was a record number of national cocaine arrests.
- The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased.
- The annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples fluctuated.

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