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15 March 2022

KEY FINDINGS— NEW SOUTH WALES

National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program—Report 15

The Program found that, compared to April 2021, of the substances tested in August 2021 New South Wales:

- There were 13 sites monitored in New South Wales in August 2021—5 capital city sites and 8 regional sites.
- Average alcohol consumption decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
- Average nicotine consumption decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
- Average methylamphetamine consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites.
- Average cocaine consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city consumption in August 2021 was the lowest on record.
- Average MDMA consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city consumption in October 2021 and regional consumption in August 2021 were the lowest on record.
- Average MDA excretion decreased in capital city and regional sites. Average capital city and regional excretion in August 2021 were the lowest on record.
- Average heroin consumption decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
- Average oxycodone consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites.
- Average fentanyl consumption decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.
- Average cannabis consumption increased in both capital city and regional sites. Average capital city and regional consumption in August 2021 were the highest on record.
- Average ketamine excretion decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites.

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National comparison—August 2021:

- New South Wales had the second highest average regional consumption of alcohol and nicotine.
- New South Wales had the highest average regional consumption of methylamphetamine and second highest capital city consumption.
- New South Wales had the highest average capital city and regional consumption of cocaine.
- New South Wales had the highest average regional consumption of heroin and the second highest average capital city consumption.
- New South Wales had the highest average regional consumption of fentanyl.

Note to editors

In accordance with current wastewater analysis conventions, the terms of the contract, and to protect the integrity of the program, the exact locations are not able to be publicly released by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. To maintain the confidentiality of the participating site, each site was allocated a unique code to de-identify their results, however trends in particular states and territories are still able to be identified.

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