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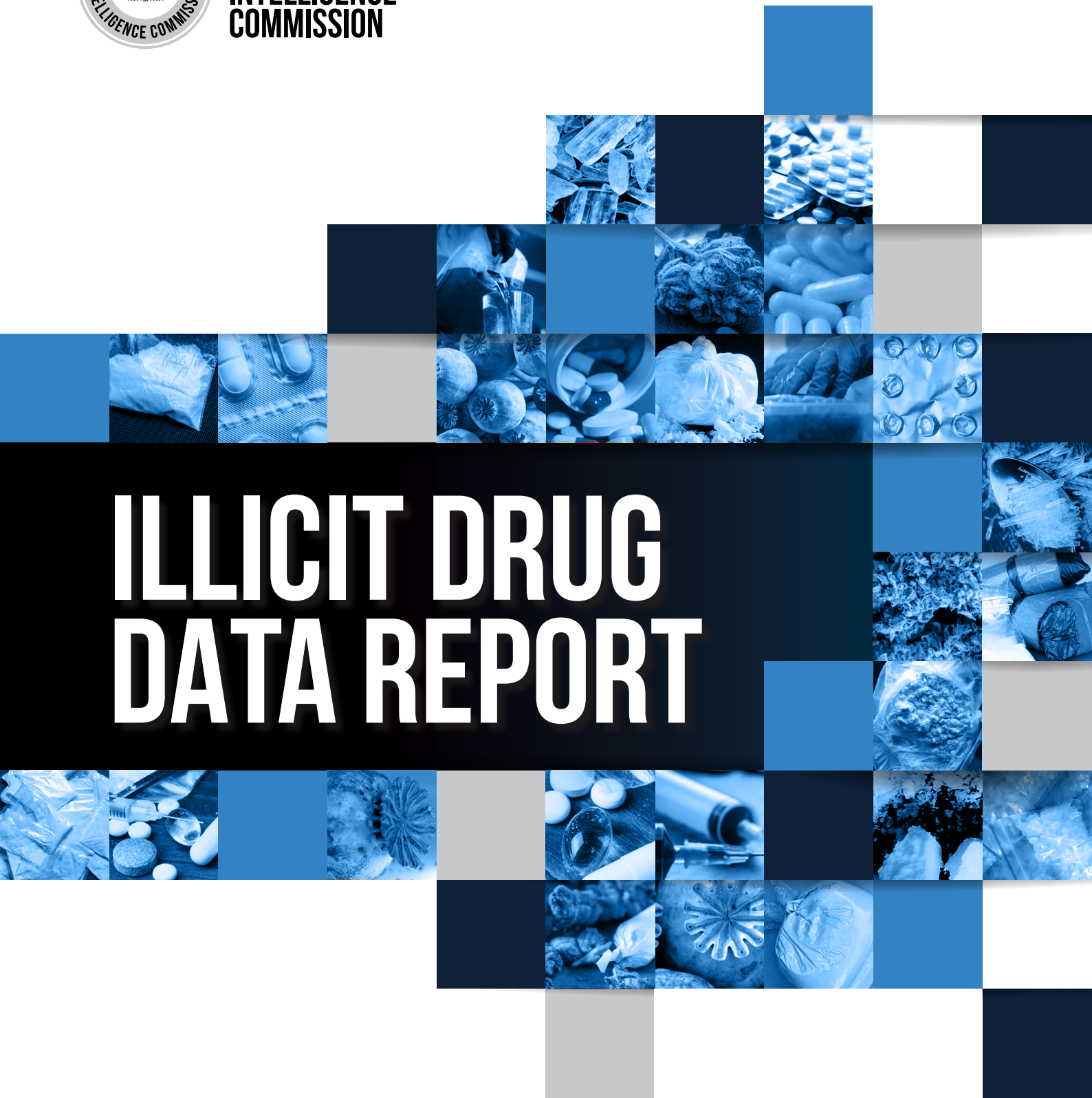

ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT

2020–21

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ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2020–21

CEO FOREWORD

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC)'s annual *Illicit Drug Data Report,* now in its 19th edition, continues to provide an authoritative picture of illicit drug data in Australia. Complementing the ACIC's regular national wastewater reporting, the *Illicit Drug Data Report* 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. 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, cannabis, cocaine and heroin seized nationally in 2020–21 was around $7.7 billion, of which amphetamines accounted for 70%. The value of the markets for these 5 drugs based on consumption during the relevant period was in excess of $10.3 billion. Together, these figures underline the size of the black economy that relates to illicit drug markets. In this reporting period, the combined weight of cannabis, heroin and cocaine detected at the Australian border was less than the weight of detected amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA). Methylamphetamine, which constitutes the majority of the amphetamine-type stimulants category of drugs, remains the most harmful illicit drug impacting Australia by some margin.

Illicit drug use, and the harms caused by illicit drugs, cannot be addressed by law enforcement alone. The threat and harm posed by illicit drugs to the Australian community underscores the need for intelligence, law enforcement and health agencies to work collaboratively to combat both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs in Australia. The importation, manufacture, cultivation, distribution and use of illicit drugs in Australia remain a focal point for law enforcement and health agencies. This report combines illicit drug data from a variety of sources, including law enforcement, forensic services, health and academia, which inform our understanding of drug markets and assist in focusing our collective efforts to respond to the issue of illicit drugs.

Over the last decade, during which time the Australian population increased by 14%:

- the number of national illicit drug seizures increased 39%
- the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased 74%
- the number of national illicit drug arrests increased 51%.

The data for this reporting period presents a mixed picture of Australia's drug markets, with the cocaine and heroin markets indicating expansion. A number of new records were set in this reporting period, and include:

- 6,452 national cocaine seizures
- 41.4 tonnes of illicit drugs seized nationally
- 18.6 tonnes of other and unknown drugs seized nationally, which included a single seizure of 1,4BD weighing over 4 tonnes in Victoria
- 10.7 tonnes of cannabis seized nationally
- 1.2 tonnes of heroin seized nationally
- 24,255 cannabis detections at the Australian border
- 622 heroin detections at the Australian border
- 5.2 tonnes of amphetamine type stimulants (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border
- 2.5 tonnes of cocaine detected at the Australia border
- 1.2 tonnes of heroin detected at the Australian border.

These upward trends not only highlight the continued vigilance of intelligence and law enforcement agencies in reducing the supply of illicit drugs, but also the resilience of these markets. Illicit drugs continue to be a concern for law enforcement and the wider community, and the data in this report illustrate the ongoing need to reduce demand.

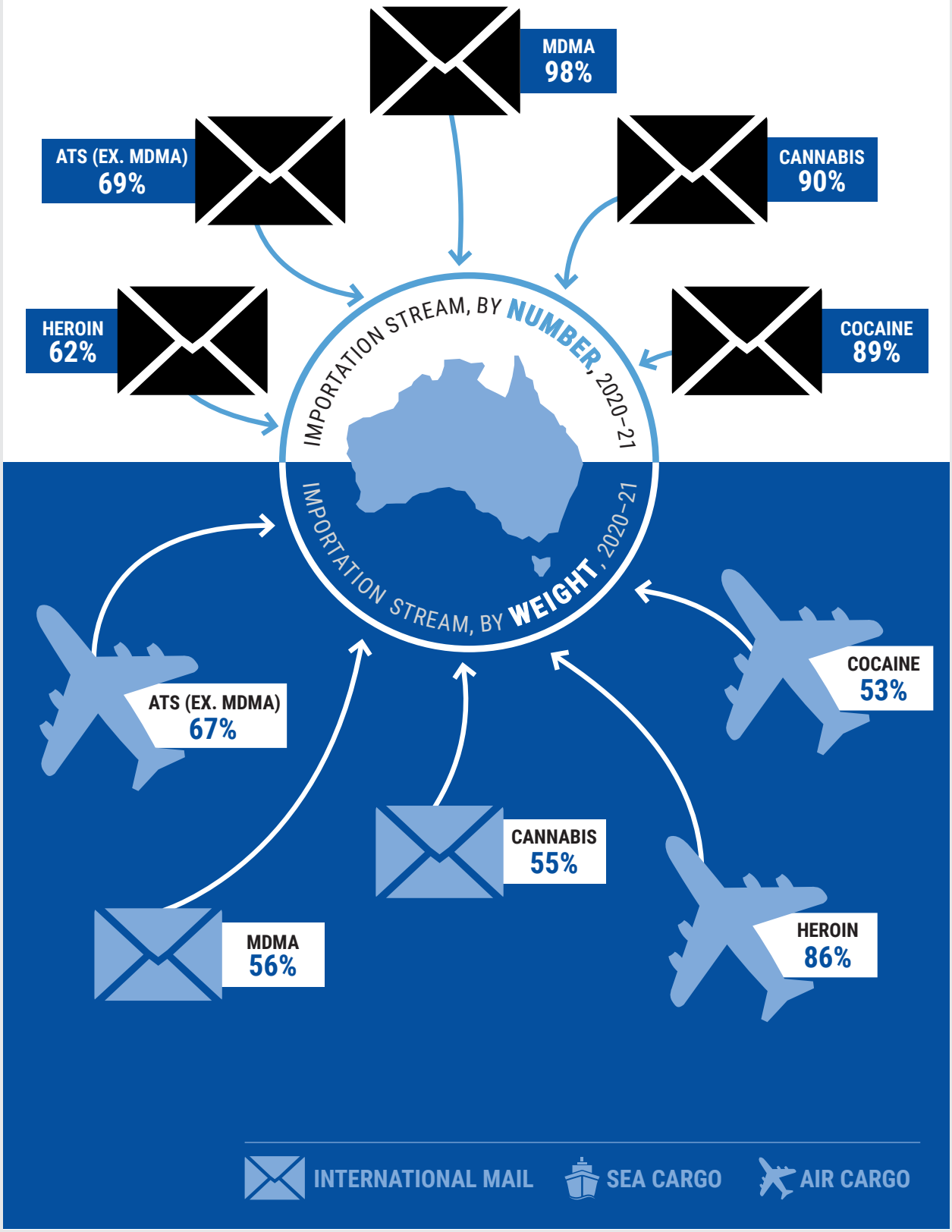
The ACIC regularly seeks out new drug-related data to better understand the nuances within Australian drug markets. For the first time, drug driving data is included in this report. The data covers both roadside and mandatory drug testing and is an innovative addition to the report.

Of the roadside tests conducted nationally in 2020–21, amphetamine/methylamphetamine was most commonly detected, followed by cannabis and MDMA. Males accounted for the greatest proportion of drug drivers, with those in the 30–39 age group accounting for the greatest proportion of positive drug driving tests. The number of drivers who tested positive to only one drug accounted for the majority of the total test results in most jurisdictions. We will continue to work with state and territory police services to build this data set to provide better insights into drug market dynamics.

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

Matthew Rippon
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

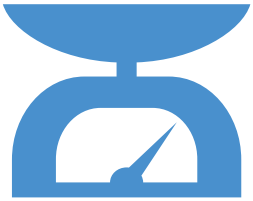
IMPORTATION METHODS



NATIONAL SEIZURES AND ARRESTS

105,694
DRUG SEIZURES

RECORD
41.4
TONNES



DRUGS SEIZED

140,624
DRUG ARRESTS

1 SEIZURE EVERY
5 MINS

1KG SEIZED EVERY
12 MINS

1 ARREST EVERY
4 MINS

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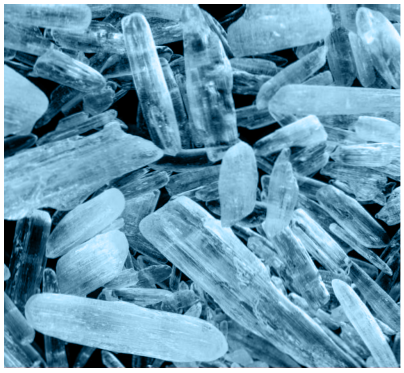
INTRODUCTION

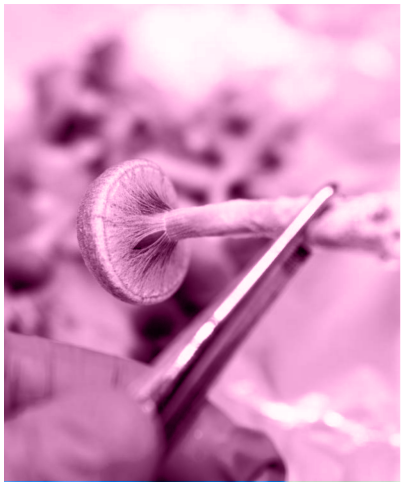


AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

CANNABIS

HEROIN

COCAINE



OTHER DRUGS

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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.[1] 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 (ACIC).

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 Police Force
- Northern Territory Police
- Queensland Health and Forensic Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police Force.

1 Further information about the data, jurisdictional commentary and explanatory notes is contained in the *Statistics* chapter.

INTRODUCTION

The ACIC's Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) is the only report of its type in Australia, providing a national picture of the illicit drug market. The IDDR incorporates 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 ACIC 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 2020–21 financial year include:

- arrest
- detection
- seizure
- purity
- profiling
- price.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistics and analysis to assist decision-makers develop evidence-based illicit drug supply, demand and harm reduction strategies. The data also assist the Australian Government meet national and international reporting obligations.

The ACIC 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.

Similar to previous reports, each chapter in the 2020–21 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

Variations exist in drug markets, both internationally and domestically, within and between states and territories, and over time. Singular datasets in isolation are unable to provide a national picture of the 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) continue to be the 2 main illicit drug markets in Australia. This is illustrated by supply indicators such as national arrests, with cannabis and ATS accounting for close to three quarters of the total number of national arrests in 2020–21 (47% for cannabis and 26% for ATS). In 2020–21, cannabis accounted for 52% of national seizures and 26% of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally. In the same reporting period, ATS accounted for 27% of national seizures and 15% of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally.

COVID-19 restrictions, both domestically and internationally, continued to impact drug market trends for this reporting period, but increases in the weight of detections of the major drugs except MDMA, and in the weight of seizures of the major drugs except ATS, indicate serious and organised crime groups found a way to supply illicit markets. Overall, based on supply and demand indicators for the main illicit drug markets in Australia in 2020–21:

- The ATS market, particularly the methylamphetamine market, remains large. At the same time, the MDMA market is small and showed signs of contracting.
- The cannabis market remains large and is amply supplied.
- The heroin market, which had increased seizures and detections during the review period, remains relatively small.
- The cocaine market continued to expand.
- While the market for other drugs remains small compared to the above markets, the anabolic steroids and other selected hormones, tryptamines and anaesthetics markets showed signs of potential expansion.

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.

Over the last decade, the methylamphetamine, MDMA, cannabis and cocaine markets have expanded, while the heroin market fluctuated but has largely remained unchanged at a macro level.

KEY FOR TABLES IN THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Decrease
- Relatively stable
- Increase

Highest on record

Highest in last decade

National drug market 10-year trend: comparison between 2011–12 and 2020–21

Methylamphetamine	MDMA	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
Border detections				
Number				
↑ **63%** 1,077 → 1,753[a]	↑ **84%** 964 → 1,773	↑ **812%** 2,660 → 24,255	↑ **247%** 179 → 622	↑ **122%** 979 → 2,169
Weight				
↑ **1,423%** 347kg → 5,290kg[a]	↑ **786%** 12kg → 106kg	↑ **4,720%** 17kg → 819kg	↑ **387%** 256kg → 1,246kg	↑ **228%** 785kg → 2,575kg
National seizures				
Number				
↑ **97%** 13,050 → 25,745[b]	↑ **27%** 2,036 → 2,578	↑ **7%** 51,823 → 55,199	↑ **21%** 1,758 → 2,130	↑ **383%** 1,336 → 6,452
Weight				
↑ **575%** 872kg → 5,891kg[b]	↑ **117%** 115kg → 249kg	↑ **47%** 7,349kg → 10,787kg	↑ **229%** 388kg → 1,278kg	↑ **362%** 956kg → 4,420kg
National arrests				
↑ **133%** 14,186 → 33,090[b]	↑ **9%** 2,526 → 2,744	↑ **9%** 61,011 → 66,285	↑ **4%** 2,714 → 2,826[c]	↑ **499%** 995 → 5,958
Median price[d]				
↓ $100 → $92.50	↓ $35 → $25	→ $26.25 → $22.50	↑ $60 → $100	→ $60 → $65
Annual median purity range				
↑ 7.9% to 60.0% → 61.9% to 84.0%	↑ 14.9% to 18.1% → 31.3% to 63.6%[e]	—	↑ 14.6% to 46.0% → 29.1% to 64.5%	↑ 18.7% to 52.5% → 22.0% to 62.5%
NDSHS[f]				
Use in lifetime				
↓ 7% → 6%	↑ 10% → 13%	↑ 35% → 37%	→ 1% → 1%	↑ 7% → 11%
Recent use				
↓ 2% → 1%	→ 3% → 3%	↑ 10% → 12%	→ <1% → <1%	↑ 2% → 4%
DUMA[g]				
↑ 23% → 49%	→ <1% → <1%	↓ 48% → 44%	↓ 10% → 6%	↑ 1% → 3%

a. National border detection data reflect ATS (excluding MDMA). At this time, it is not possible at a national level to provide a further breakdown of drugs within the ATS (excluding MDMA) category.

b. National seizure and arrest data reflect amphetamines, which includes 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 amphetamines category. Based on available data, methylamphetamine accounts for the majority of amphetamines seizures and arrests.

c. Heroin arrests include arrests for heroin and other opioids.

d. National median prices for a street deal, equivalent to 0.1 gram of methylamphetamine, 1 MDMA tablet, 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis, 0.2 grams of cocaine or one taste/cap of heroin (0.1–0.3 grams). National median prices are calculated using price data reported by 4 or more jurisdictions, with the exception of the 2011–12 price data for cocaine which used data reported by 3 jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia).

e. Annual median purity reflects reported phenethylamine purity, the majority of which relates to MDMA.

f. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2011 and 2020 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine.

g. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program urinalysis data.

PROFILE OF ILLICIT DRUG DETECTIONS AT THE AUSTRALIAN BORDER

Number of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)				
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
↑ 27% 1,377 → 1,753	↓ -23% 2,308 → 1,773	↑ 89% 12,846 → 24,255	↑ 251% 177 → 622	↓ -18% 2,660 → 2,169

Cannabis continued to account for the greatest number of border detections in 2020–21, followed by cocaine, MDMA, ATS[2] and heroin.

Weight of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)				
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
→ <1% 5,271kg → 5,290kg	↓ -92% 1,291kg → 106kg	↑ 26% 648kg → 819kg	↑ 1,026% 110kg → 1,246kg	↑ 237% 763kg → 2,575kg

ATS continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of border detections in 2020–21, followed by cocaine, heroin, cannabis and MDMA.

Proportion of illicit drug detections, by importation stream, in 2020–21

Drug Type	Importation stream, by number, 2020–21		Importation stream, by weight, 2020–21	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	International mail	69%	Air cargo	67%
	Air cargo	30%	Sea cargo	28%
	Sea cargo	1%	International mail	5%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
MDMA	International mail	98%	International mail	56%
	Air cargo	2%	Air cargo	44%
Cannabis	International mail	90%	International mail	55%
	Air cargo	10%	Air cargo	39%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Sea cargo	6%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
Heroin	International mail	62%	Air cargo	86%
	Air cargo	38%	International mail	7%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Sea cargo	7%
Cocaine	International mail	89%	Air cargo	53%
	Air cargo	11%	Sea cargo	44%
	Sea cargo	<1%	International mail	3%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%

2 ATS border detection data excludes MDMA, which is reported separately.

The international mail stream continued 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 varied by drug type.

PROFILE OF NATIONAL DRUG SEIZURES

Number of national illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↓ -13%	↓ -27%	↓ -12%	↓ -4%	↑ 12%	↑ 19%
121,274 → 105,694	39,204 → 28,503	62,454 → 55,199	2,230 → 2,130	5,750 → 6,452	11,636 → 13,410

In 2020–21, cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug seizures (52%), followed by ATS (27%), other and unknown drugs (13%), cocaine (6%) and heroin (2%).

Although there was a decrease in national seizures this reporting period, the number of national illicit drug seizures increased 39% over the last decade, from 76,083 in 2011–12 to 105,694 in 2020–21.

Weight of illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↑ 8%	↓ -51%	↑ 1%	↑ 506%	↑ 181%	↑ 41%
38.5t → 41.4t	12,864kg → 6,287kg	10,662kg → 10,787kg	210kg → 1,278kg	1,573kg → 4,420kg	13,276kg → 18,694kg

In 2020–21, other and unknown drugs accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally (45%), followed by cannabis (26%), ATS (15%), cocaine (11%) and heroin (3%).

The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased during the current reporting period, and it also increased 74% over the last decade, from 23.8 tonnes in 2011–12 to a record 41.4 tonnes in 2020–21.

Comparison of the weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine seized nationally in 2020–21 and estimated consumption

Drug	Estimated consumption[a] (kilograms per annum)	2020–21 national seizures (gross kilograms)	Percentage of total estimated consumption seized (%)
Methylamphetamine	8,838	5,891[b]	67
MDMA	1,231	249	20
Heroin	984	1,278	130
Cocaine	4,711	4,420	94

a. Consumption estimates are based on data derived from Year 5 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 ACIC has used wastewater data collected between August 2020 and August 2021 as part of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) to estimate the annual weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine consumed nationally. For 3 of the 4 drugs, the weight of the drugs seized by law enforcement agencies was relatively high compared to the estimated quantity consumed.

PROFILE OF ILLICIT DRUG ARRESTS

National illicit drug arrests—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↓ -15%	↓ -28%	↓ -14%	↓ -20%	↑ 10%	↓ -5%
166,321 → 140,624	49,638 → 35,885	76,669 → 66,285	3,514 → 2,826	5,393 → 5,958	31,107 → 29,670

In 2020–21, cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests (47%), followed by ATS (26%), other and unknown drugs (21%), cocaine (4%) and heroin and other opioids (2%).

Although there was a decrease in national illicit drug arrests this reporting period, the number of national illicit drug arrests increased 51% over the last decade, from 93,148 in 2011–12 to 140,624 in 2020–21.

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, diversions, 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 2020–21, summons accounted for the greatest proportion of national drug arrests (43%), followed by arrest and charge (39%) and caution/diversion/infringement (18%). These proportions vary between drug type, with arrest and charge accounting for the greatest proportion of national ATS (48%), heroin and other opioids (59%), cocaine (46%), steroids (49%) and other and unknown (51%) arrests. Summons accounted for the greatest proportion of national cannabis (42%) and hallucinogens (45%) arrests in 2020–21.

PROFILE OF NATIONAL CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

National clandestine laboratory detections—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

No. of detections	Size and production capacity		Location	
↓ -9% 312 → 284	↓ Addict-based	44% → **40%**	↑ Residential	74% → **81%**
	↑ Other small	28% → **35%**	→ Commercial/industrial	8% → **8%**
	↓ Medium	24% → **20%**	↓ Vehicle	4% → **3%**
	↑ Industrial	4% → **6%**	↓ Public place	4% → **3%**
			↓ Rural	4% → **2%**
			↓ Other	4% → **2%**

In addition to the above, the majority of laboratories detected this reporting period were producing methylamphetamine, with the hypophosphorous method of production the predominant method identified.

Number of ATS precursor border detections—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↓ -28% 790 → 571	↑ 50% 4 → 6

Over the last decade, the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) and MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border decreased 39% and 33% respectively.

Weight of ATS precursor detections—comparison between 2019–20 and 2020–21

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↓ -51% 2,099kg → 1,031kg	↓ -92% 4.1kg → 320g

In addition, the weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) and MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border decreased 41% and close to 100% respectively over the last decade.

2020–21 FEATURE – DRUG DRIVING

KEY POINTS

- Drug driving data is included for the first time in this report. Drug driving poses harm to the user and other drivers. The data covers both roadside and mandatory drug testing. The ACIC is working with state and territory police services to build this dataset.
- Of the total tests conducted nationally in 2020–21, amphetamine/methylamphetamine was most commonly detected, followed by cannabis and MDMA.
- Based on the data provided for this collection period:
  - male drug drivers accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of positive drug driving tests
  - the 30–39 age group accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of positive drug driving tests
  - with the exception of Tasmania, the number of drivers who tested positive to only one drug accounted for the majority of the total test results in all jurisdictions.

INTRODUCTION

Due to the potential for harm to the drug user and other road users when a person drives under the influence of drugs, drug driving is an offence which is governed by state and territory legislation. As of January 2020, all Australian states and territories had Roadside Drug Testing (RDT) laws that required a driver to provide a saliva sample in roadside testing, and a blood or urine sample in other specified circumstances (mandatory testing), which is then tested for the presence of illicit substances. All state and territory jurisdictions follow a model which penalises the presence of drugs, and does not test for impairment.

Drug driving data provide another way of monitoring trends in drug markets across the states and territories of Australia, increasing visibility of changes in demand in Australia's illicit drug markets and providing an indication of one facet of the harm caused by illicit drug use.

The legislation governing each state and territory may vary. Most of the variation relates to the testing procedures and the substances tested, although all jurisdictions test for at least methylamphetamine, cannabis/THC and MDMA.

Data was not available for the Northern Territory in this period, and different reporting styles in different jurisdictions means that not all results are immediately comparable. To compensate for this, data is compared between jurisdictions which reported data for the same categories. Complete data was not available for all jurisdictions, and comparisons are made only between states where data for a particular category was available. The dataset covers the 2020–21 financial year. For the purposes of this analysis, positive results refer to results obtained following analysis at a forensic laboratory.

DRUG DRIVING IMPACTS

The impacts of drug driving on the community are well established. There is a variety of side effects associated with using drugs and they can have different effects on users' ability to drive, depending on the class of drug used. For example, cannabis use is associated with poor reaction times and lane swerving (Compton 2017). Combining different drugs could increase negative effects, increasing the risk of serious accidents. Research from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) shows that the likelihood of a driver who tests positive to a drug being involved in a crash is higher compared to a driver who has not consumed a drug (see Table 1; ADF 2022; Arkell et al 2021).

TABLE 1: Commonly detected drug classes and their Crash Risk Estimate[a] and associated side effects (Source: RACGP and ADF)

Drug classes	Crash Risk Estimate	Side effects
Depressants (e.g. benzodiazepines)	**Benzodiazepines** 1.17–2.30	■ Reduced reaction time ■ Reduced concentration ■ Drowsiness ■ Difficulty processing information ■ Difficulty multitasking
Opioids (e.g. heroin and oxycodone)	**Opiates** 1.68–2.29	
Cannabis	1.11–1.42	
Stimulants (e.g. amphetamines and cocaine)	na	■ Attention difficulties ■ Tendency to fidget ■ Aggressive and dangerous driving ■ Increased risk taking ■ Over-confidence in driving skills
Hallucinogens (e.g. LSD, psilocybin and mescaline)	na	■ Hallucinations ■ Confused thinking ■ Blurred vision ■ Reduced coordination

a. Crash Risk Estimate is presented as an odds ratio describing the likelihood of a driver who tests positive to a drug or alcohol being involved in a crash relative to a driver who has not consumed the substance.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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 who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months decreased over the last decade, from 35% in 2012 (77% of those who had driven recently[3]) to 25% in 2021 (70% of those who had driven recently).
- Among those who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months, the majority of respondents reported using crystal methylamphetamine (59%), followed by heroin (35%) and cannabis (35%) in 2021. In 2012, the majority of respondents reported using heroin (39%), followed by cannabis (28%) and any type of methylamphetamine (23%).
- In 2021, Queensland reported the highest proportion of respondents who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months (37%), followed by Western Australia (35%) and Tasmania (30%).
- In 2021, 9% of respondents reported being tested for drug driving by police roadside drug testing in the 6 months preceding interview (Stafford & Burns 2013; Sutherland et al. 2021a).

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 who had driven in the 6 months preceding interview increased, from 76% in 2012 to 84% in 2021. The proportion of respondents who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months decreased over the last decade, from 44% in 2012 to 39% in 2021.
- Among those who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months, a majority reported using cannabis (71%), followed by cocaine (21%) and pharmaceutical stimulants (12%) in 2021. Smaller numbers reported using crystal methylamphetamine (10%) compared to IDRS. In 2012, the majority of respondents reported using cannabis (72%), ecstasy (49%) and crystal methylamphetamine (17%).
- In 2021, Queensland reported the highest proportion of respondents who reported driving within 3 hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the last 6 months (49%), followed by Western Australia (44%) and the Australian Capital Territory (43%).
- In 2021, 10% of respondents reported being tested for drug driving by police roadside drug testing in the 6 months preceding interview (Sindicich & Burns 2013; Sutherland et al. 2021b).

3 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent refers to the 6 months preceding interview.

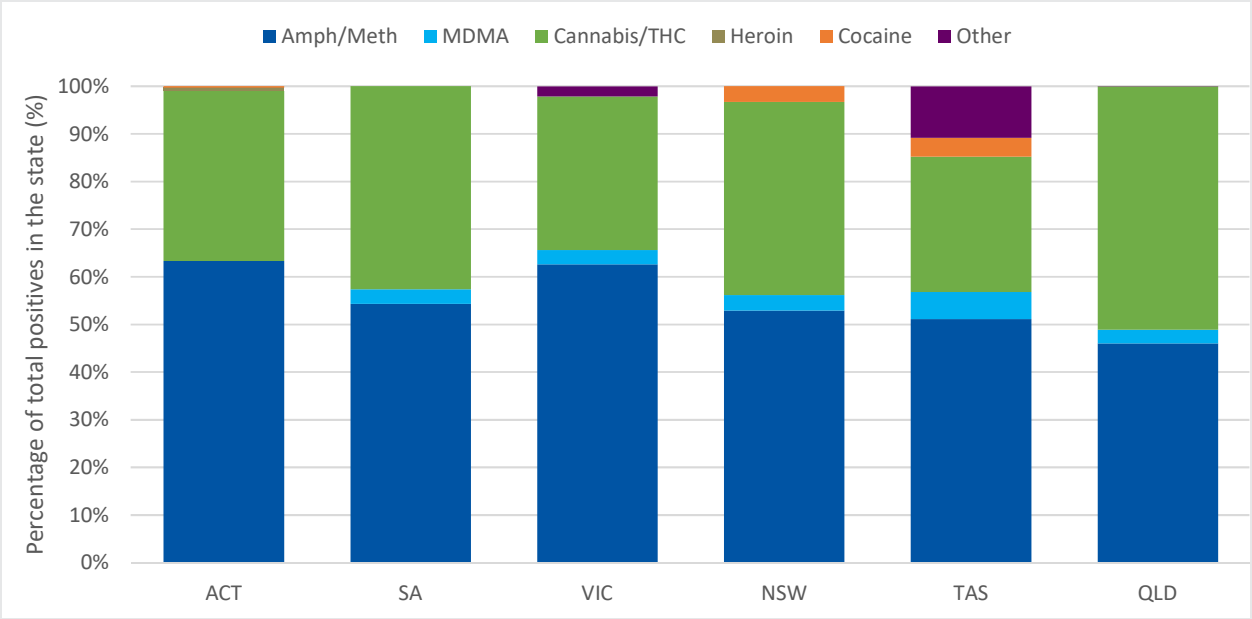
LAW ENFORCEMENT DRUG DRIVING DATA

In 2020–21, drug driving data was provided by all police services except the Northern Territory, which was unable to provide data for the relevant period.

DRUG DETECTED

Of the total tests conducted nationally in 2020–21, amphetamine/methylamphetamine (Amph/Meth) was most commonly detected, accounting for 54% of positive results. This was followed by cannabis (39%) and MDMA (3%). Amph/Meth accounted for the greatest proportion of positive tests in all jurisdictions except Queensland, where cannabis was more prevalent. New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of total positive amph/meth results in 2020–21 (30%; see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: Proportion of total positive tests by drug type and jurisdiction, 2020–21[a, b]

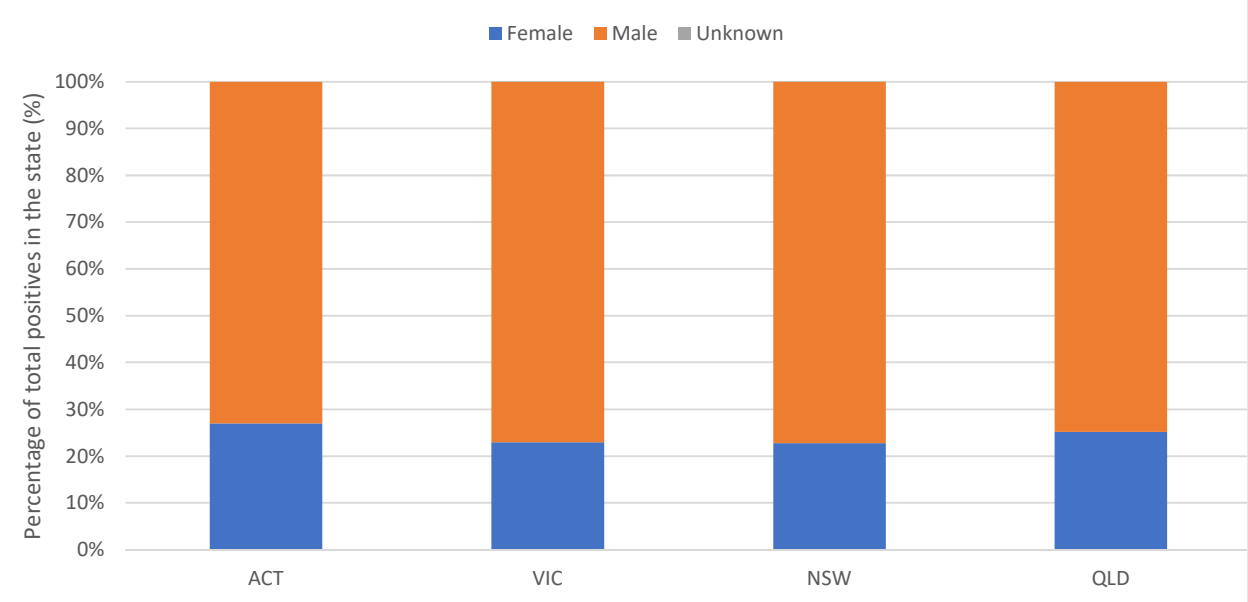


a. New South Wales and Tasmania are the only states which use roadside testing to determine the presence of cocaine. Note that data supplied by New South Wales in relation to roadside testing did not identify the drug types.
b. Where multiple drugs are detected within a single sample, each drug is included in Figure 1.

GENDER

Data from 2020–21 identifies that the largest proportion of individuals testing positive for drug driving were male (76%), with females accounting for 24%. The 'unknown' group constituted <1% of positive results (see Table 2). The proportion of females testing positive for drug driving ranged between 23% and 27% in the reporting jurisdictions (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: Gender distribution of total positive drug driving cases per jurisdiction, 2020–21



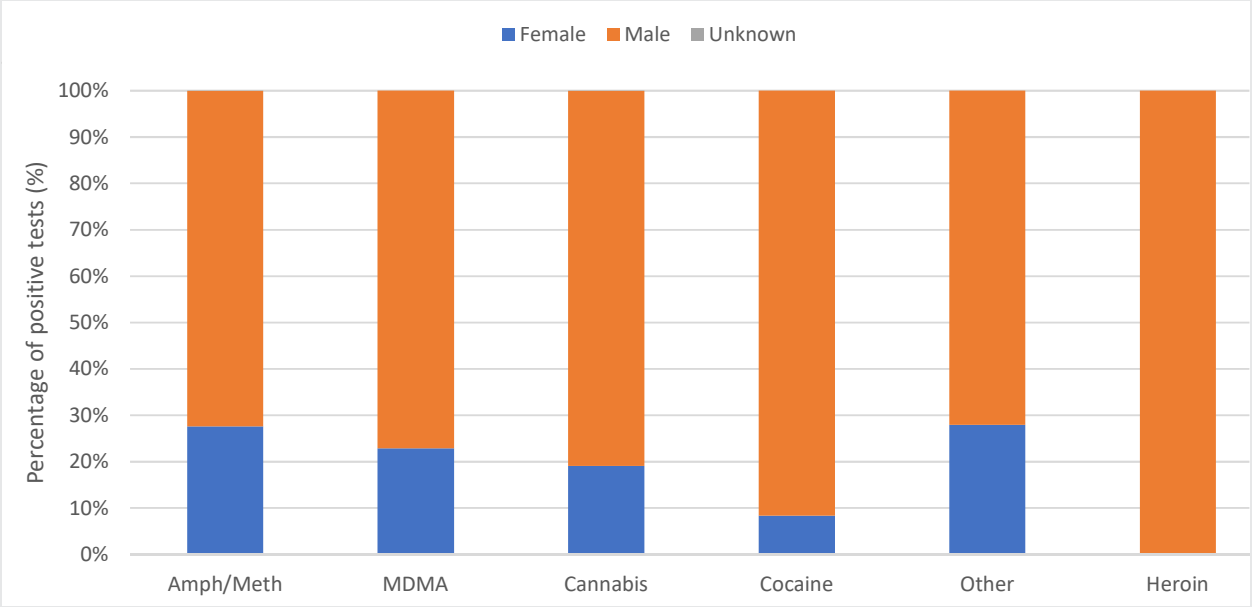
The Amph/Meth category accounted for the largest proportion of positive drug driving tests for females (63%) and males (50%; see Table 2 and Figure 3).

TABLE 2: Total drug driving positive tests by drug and gender, 2020–21

Drug	Gender			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Amph/Meth	6,303	16,313	5	**22,621**
MDMA	287	967	0	**1,254**
Cannabis	3,229	13,680	2	**16,911**
Cocaine	131	1,428	0	**1,559**
Heroin	0	5	0	**5**
Other	72	186	0	**258**
Total	**10,022**	**32,579**	**7**	**42,608**

The above data emphasises the considerable gap nationally between drivers who returned positive tests for Amph/Meth (53%) and those who returned positive tests for cannabis (40%) or other drugs (7%).

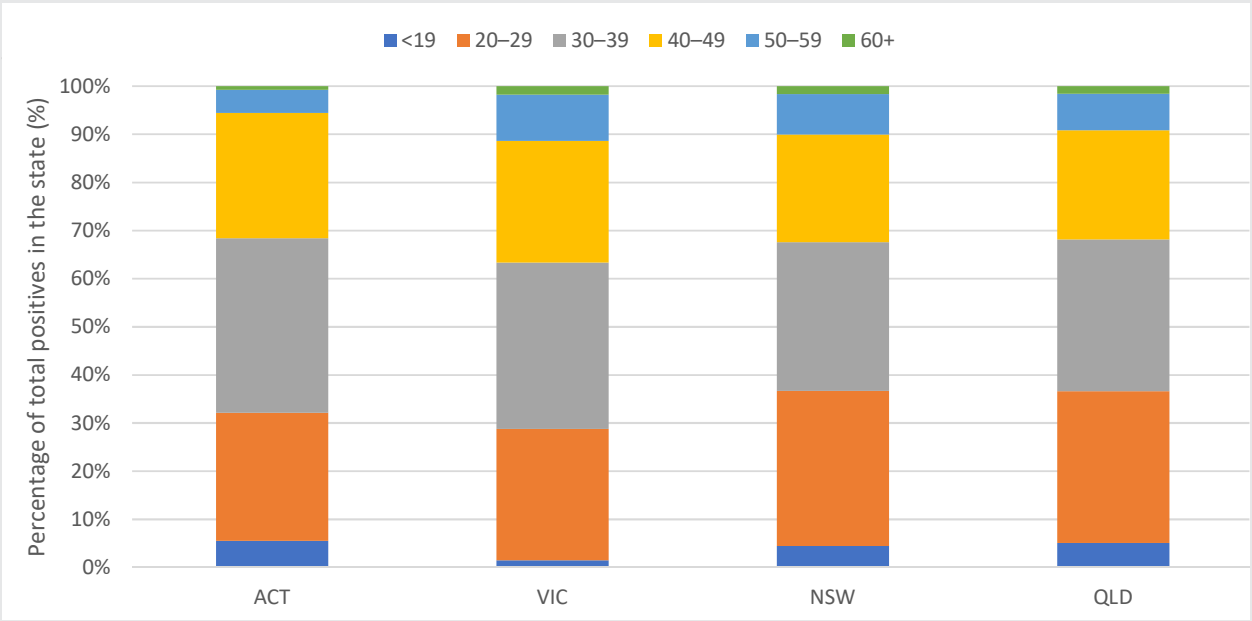
FIGURE 3: Total drug driving positive tests by drug and gender, 2020–21



AGE GROUPS

An individual's age is recorded when they are tested for illicit substances while on the road. Of those who tested positive, 32% were aged between 30 and 39. Of the jurisdictions which had comparable data, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Queensland all reported individuals aged 30–39 years as accounting for the greatest proportion of positive drug driving results. In New South Wales this varied, with the 20–29 age group accounting for the greatest proportion of positive drug driving results (32%, see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: Age distribution of positive drug driving cases per jurisdiction, 2020–21

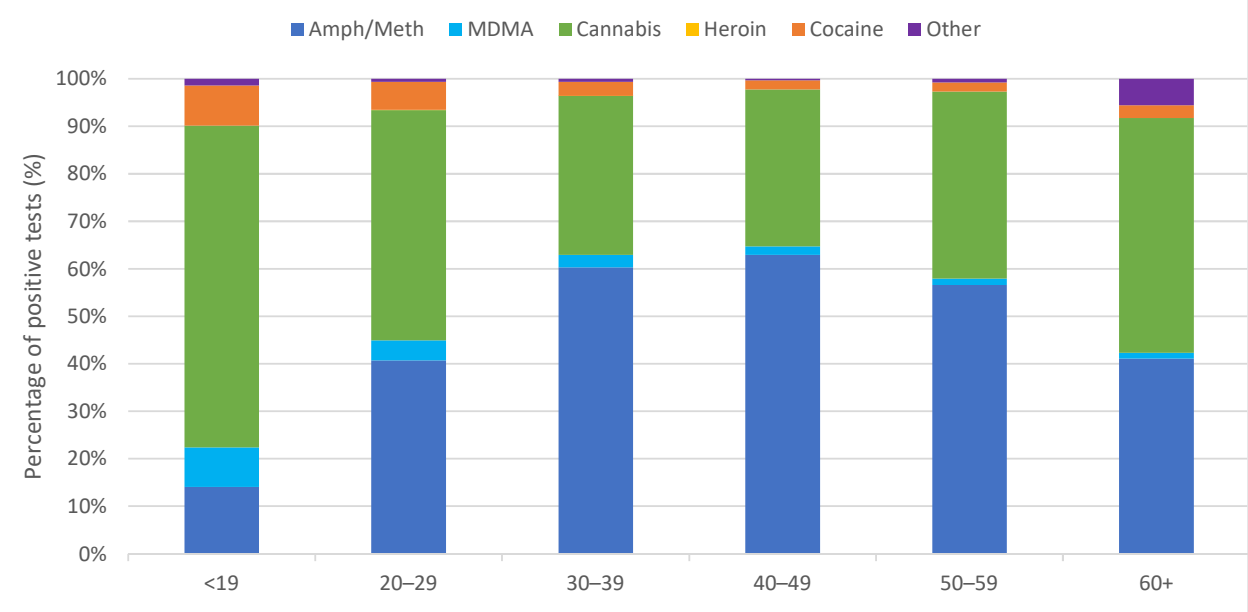


Amph/Meth was the most common category of drug detected for the 30–39, 40–49 and 50–59 age groups in 2020–21, accounting for between 57% and 63% of the total positive drug driving tests within those age groups. In contrast, cannabis was the most common category of drug detected for the <19, 20–29 and 60+ category, accounting for between 49% and 68% of the total positive drug driving tests within those age groups (see Table 3 and Figure 5).

TABLE 3: Positive drug driving tests by drug and age group, 2020–21

Drug	Age Group (years)						Total
	<19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60+	
Amph/Meth	202	5,091	8,464	6,489	2,103	268	22,617
MDMA	120	532	357	188	51	8	1,256
Cannabis	971	6,067	4,701	3,402	1,462	322	16,925
Heroin	0	2	3	0	0	0	5
Cocaine	122	739	411	198	71	18	1,559
Other	20	79	88	35	29	36	287
Total	**1,435**	**12,510**	**14,024**	**10,312**	**3,716**	**652**	**42,649**

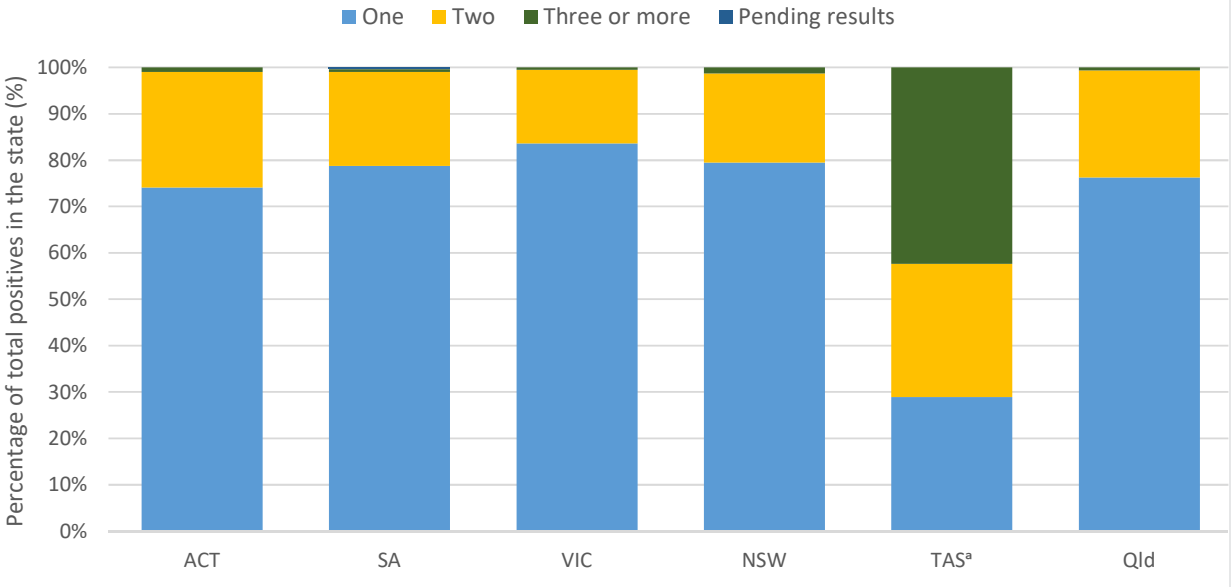
FIGURE 5: Percentage of total positive tests by drug type and age group, 2020–21



POLYDRUG USE

Polydrug use refers to instances where individuals have more than one substance in their system at the time of testing. Polydrug use when driving increases the risk of accident and serious injury when compared to the use of a single substance. A positive test for a single drug accounted for between 59% and 84% of total cases in all jurisdictions except Tasmania (32%; see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: Number of drugs detected per positive test by jurisdiction, 2020–21[a, b]

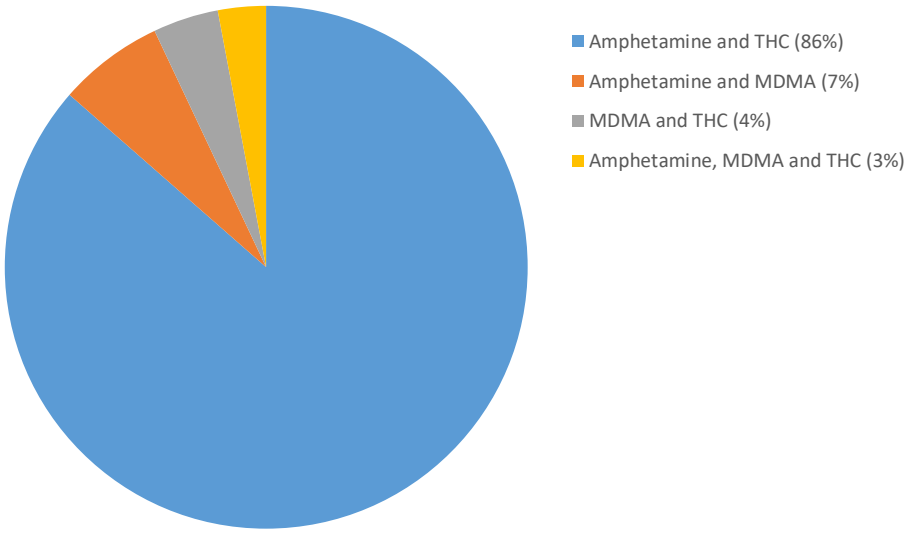


a. It should be noted that Tasmania uses hospital-based sample analysis which tests for a far greater range of substances, which accounts for some of their over-representation in polydrug positive results.
b. All jurisdictions shown, with the exception of Queensland, provided both blood and oral fluid test results.

CASE STUDY 1: POLYDRUG USE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian data identified the combinations of drugs which were most commonly seen in their drug driving sample analysis. Of the combinations recorded, 'cannabis and amphetamines' was the most prevalent positive result in 2020–21, recorded 874 times and accounting for 86% of polydrug detections in South Australia. This was followed by the combinations 'amphetamines and MDMA' (7%) and 'MDMA and cannabis' (4%).

FIGURE 7: Proportion of drug combinations in South Australia in 2020–21



SAMPLE TYPE

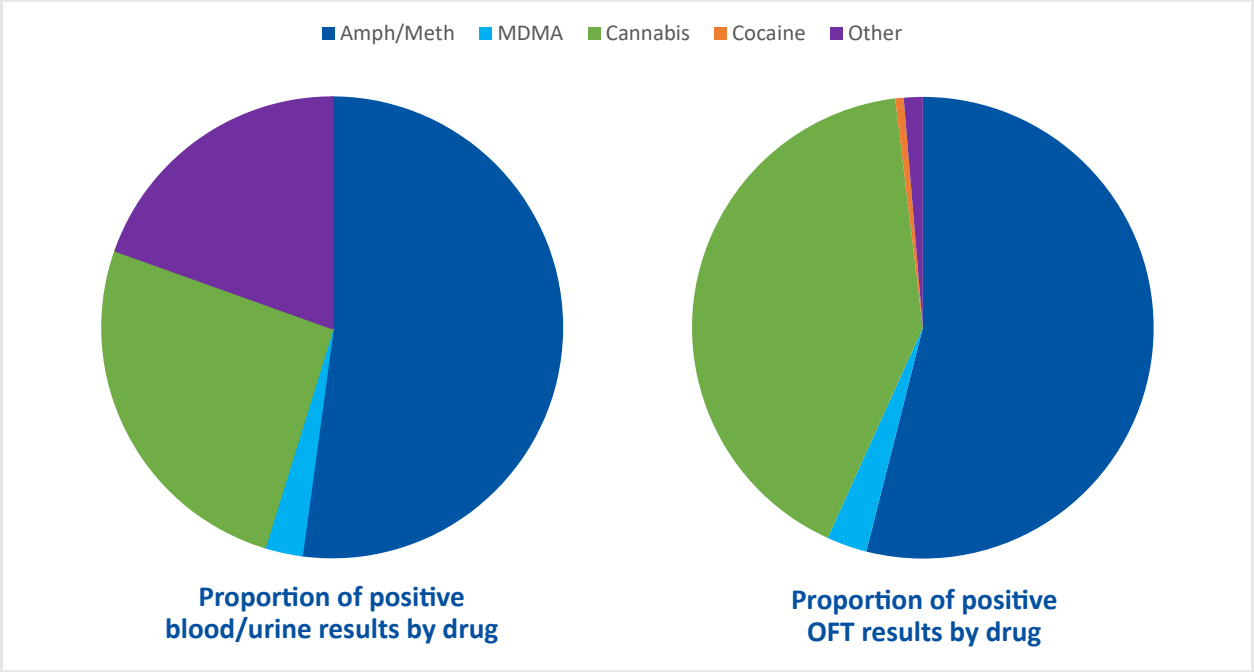
The 2 main sample types collected for drug driving testing are saliva and blood/urine. Blood and urine sample results are not able to be separated and so they are combined for the purposes of this analysis.

According to saliva and blood/urine tests, most positive results were for Amph/Meth, while cannabis accounted for the next largest proportion of positive results (see Table 4 and Figure 8).

TABLE 4: Proportion of positive results by sample type for the period 2020–21

Drug	Blood/Urine (%)	Saliva Test (%)
Amph/Meth	52.2	53.9
MDMA	2.6	2.8
Cannabis	25.7	41.3
Cocaine	0.0	0.6
Heroin	0.0	0.0
Other	19.5	1.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

FIGURE 8: Proportion of positive saliva tests by drug and positive blood/urine results by drug, 2020–21[a, b]



a. This graph reflects positive samples from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. OFT refers to oral fluid test.
b. New South Wales data contained multiple test outcomes for the same individuals at the same incident. These have been combined to only be deemed positive where there were 2 positive tests of the same substance, for the same individual at the same incident.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

In response to the increasing threat posed by drug driving to the Australian community, Australian law enforcement agencies have implemented a range of initiatives and operations.

Specific operations targeting drug driving include:

- Operation Fume—a road policing operation targeting alcohol and drug-affected drivers and road-related offences. This operation was conducted by officers from the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command North West Sector within the New South Wales Police Force, with assistance from The Hills, Parramatta and Ryde Police Area Commands on 5 and 6 March 2021 in Sydney.
- Operation Tango Anaconda—a state-wide enforcement operation conducted by the Queensland Police Service between 1 March and 30 June 2021 which focused on high visibility random drug testing to deter drug driving offences and prevent serious and fatal crashes.
- Enough is Enough Road Safety Campaign—began in May 2022 as part of Tasmania Police's commitment to making Tasmanian roads as safe as possible.

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ABBREVIATIONS

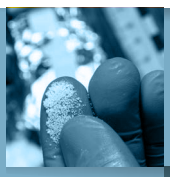
1,4-BD	1,4-butanediol
4-MMC	4-methylmethcathinone
AAS	Anabolic-androgenic steroids
ACIC	Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANSPS	Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
CEN	Cannabis Expiation Notice
CIR	Cannabis Intervention Requirement
DIN	Drug Infringement Notice
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
EDRS	Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System
ENIPID	Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs
Eph	Ephedrine
FDI	Forensic Drug Intelligence
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
GBL	Gamma-butyrolactone
IDDR	Illicit Drug Data Report
IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
LIDS	Large illicit drug seizures
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide

MDMA	3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NEC	Not elsewhere classified
NMI	National Measurement Institute
NPS	New psychoactive substances
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NWDMP	National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program
P2P	Phenyl-2-propanone
PIED	Performance and image enhancing drug
PSE	Pseudoephedrine
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCON	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice
SEA	South-East Asia
SWA	South-West Asia
Tas	Tasmania
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WCO	World Customs Organization
WWA	Wastewater analysis

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

KEY POINTS

- The weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) seized globally between 2009 and 2019 increased. This was primarily due to the almost tenfold increase in the weight of methylamphetamine seized, although the weight of seized ecstasy and amphetamine also doubled.
- For Australia, chemical profiling of methylamphetamine seized at both the border and domestically indicates the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using P2P-based methods has increased in recent years.
- Indicators of the supply and demand trend for ATS (excluding MDMA) point to a market that was impacted by COVID-19 but remains large.
  - The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border increased in 2020–21, while the weight increased slightly to reach a record level.
  - The number and weight of national ATS seizures decreased in 2020–21.
  - Data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) indicate the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in both capital city and regional sites decreased from August 2020 to record low levels in August 2021.
- Indicators of the supply and demand trend for MDMA point to a small market that is contracting.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased in 2020–21.
  - Both the number and weight of national MDMA seizures decreased in 2020–21.
  - The number of MDMA laboratory detections, already relatively low, nearly halved in 2020–21.
  - Data from the NWDMP indicate the population-weighted average consumption of MDMA in both capital city and regional sites decreased from August 2020 to August 2021, with capital city sites decreasing to record low levels.



National methylamphetamine market point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 to 2020–21	2011–12 to 2020–21
Border detections[a]	Number	↑ 27% 1,377 → 1,753	↑ 63% 1,077 → 1,753
	Weight	→ <1% 5,271kg → 5,290kg[b]	↑ 1,423% 347kg → 5,290kg[b]
National seizures[c]	Number	↓ -25% 34,113 → 25,745	↑ 97% 13,050 → 25,745
	Weight	↓ -37% 9,408kg → 5,891kg	↑ 575% 872kg → 5,891kg
National arrests		↓ -26% 44,847 → 33,090	↑ 133% 14,186 → 33,090
Price[d] ($)		→ $90.00 → $92.50	↓ $100 → $92.50
Annual median purity range		↑ 13.4% to 82.9% → 61.9% to 84.0%	↑ 7.9% to 60.0% → 61.9% to 84.0%
DUMA[e]	Urinalysis	↓ 51% → 49%	↑ 23% → 49%
NDSHS[f]	Use in lifetime	→ 6% → 6%	↓ 7% → 6%
	Recent use	→ 1% → 1%	↓ 2% → 1%

a. National border detection data reflect ATS (excluding MDMA).
b. Highest on record.
c. National seizure and arrest data reflect amphetamines, which includes 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 amphetamines category. Based on available data, methylamphetamine accounts for the majority of amphetamines seizures and arrests.
d. National median price for a street deal (0.1 grams) of methylamphetamine.
e. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine.
f. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used meth/amphetamine in 2010 and 2019 (decade trend) and 2016 and 2019 (annual trend).

National MDMA market point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 to 2020–21	2011–12 to 2020–21
Border detections	**Number**	↓ -23% 2,308 → 1,773	↑ 84% 964 → 1,773
	Weight	↓ -92% 1,291kg → 106kg	↑ 785% 12kg → 106kg
National seizures	**Number**	↓ -48% 4,981→ 2,578	↑ 27% 2,036 → 2,578
	Weight	↓ -92% 3,214kg → 249kg	↑ 117% 115kg → 249kg
National arrests		↓ -42% 4,746 → 2,744	↑ 9% 2,526 → 2,744
Price[a] ($)		→ $22.50 → $25	↓ $35 → $25
Annual median purity range[b]		↓ 39.9% to 76.0% → 31.3% to 63.6%	↑ 14.9% to 18.1% → 31.3% to 63.6%
DUMA[c]	**Urinalysis**	↓ 1% → <1%	↓ 1% → <1%
NDSHS[d]	**Use in lifetime**	↑ 11% → 13%	↑ 10% → 13%
	Recent use	↑ 2% → 3%	→ 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 reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ecstasy in 2010 and 2019 (decade trend) and 2016 and 2019 (annual trend).

MAIN FORMS

- Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) is a group of central nervous system stimulants, which include amphetamine, methylamphetamine and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).
- Amphetamine is most commonly found in powder and tablet form, which can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or (less commonly) injected.
- Owing to differences in chemical composition, methylamphetamine is more potent than amphetamine, resulting in a stronger and quicker central nervous system reaction.
- Methylamphetamine presents in four 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.
- MDMA (also referred to as 'ecstasy'), is most commonly found in tablet form of varying colours, shapes 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 2021a; ADF 2021b; EMCDDA 2015; Degenhardt & Hall 2010).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the 2021 World Drug Report, the weight of ATS seized globally increased substantially over the period 2009 to 2019—primarily due to the almost tenfold increase in the weight of methylamphetamine seized over the decade—while the weight of seized ecstasy and amphetamine also doubled. Similar to most years since 1998, the majority of ATS seizures in 2019 was methylamphetamine. In the period between 2015 and 2019, methylamphetamine accounted for 72% of the weight of ATS seized globally, followed by amphetamine (19%) and ecstasy (4%). Over the last decade, the weight of ATS seized globally increased 557%, from 69.4 tonnes in 2009 to a record 456 tonnes in 2019, a 64% increase from 2018 figures (the highest annual growth rate since 2001).

Of the ATS seized globally:

- The weight of methylamphetamine seized increased 948% over the last decade, from 31 tonnes in 2009 to a record 325 tonnes in 2019, a 43% increase from 228 tonnes in 2018.
- The weight of amphetamine seized increased 139% over the last decade, from 33 tonnes in 2009 to a record 79 tonnes in 2019, a 276% increase from 21 tonnes in 2018.
- The weight of ecstasy seized increased 196% over the last decade, from 5.4 tonnes in 2009 to 16 tonnes in 2019 (the second highest on record), a 33% increase from 12 tonnes in 2018 (UNODC 2011; UNODC 2020; UNODC 2021).

- The number of countries reporting methylamphetamine seizures increased between 2005 and 2019, from 79 countries in 2005 and 2009 to 111 countries in 2015 and 2019. Between 2015 and 2019, methylamphetamine seizures were concentrated predominantly in North America (49% of methylamphetamine seized globally) and in East and South-East Asia (43%). Seizures occurred primarily in the United States, followed by Thailand and Mexico; accounting for 47% of the global weight of methylamphetamine seized. Although the total weight of methylamphetamine seized in Europe is comparatively lower than in North America and East and South-East Asia, there was a record fourfold increase in the weight of methylamphetamine seized in Europe in 2019 (and a more than sevenfold increase between 2009 and 2019; UNODC 2021).
- While the number of countries reporting amphetamine seizures remained relatively stable at 92 between 2015 and 2019, the weight of amphetamine seized doubled between 2009 and 2019. Amphetamine seizures are concentrated predominantly in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and Europe, accounting for 49% and 26% respectively of the weight of amphetamine seized globally. The 3 countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of amphetamine seized between 2015 and 2019 were Saudi Arabia, followed by Guatemala and Turkiye, with the combined weight accounting for 45% of the weight of amphetamine seized globally during that period (UNODC 2021).
- Similar to amphetamine, while the number of countries reporting ecstasy seizures remained relatively stable at 101 between 2015 and 2019, the weight of ecstasy seized doubled between 2009 and 2019. Although European countries continue to account for most of the ecstasy seizures, the region and country with the greatest total weight of seized ecstasy changed quite frequently between 2014 and 2019. Overall, the 3 countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of ecstasy seized between 2015 and 2019 were the United States, followed by Australia and Turkiye, with the combined weight accounting for 54% of the weight of ecstasy seized globally during that period. (UNODC 2021).
- According to the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the weight of methylamphetamine seized increased in 2021, while the weight of amphetamine and MDMA seized decreased. Methylamphetamine accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of psychotropic substances seized in 2021 (56%), followed by captagon (26%) and amphetamine (12%). The United States accounted for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of psychotropic substances seized. Specific data for the number and weight of methylamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA seized in 2021 were not available (WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

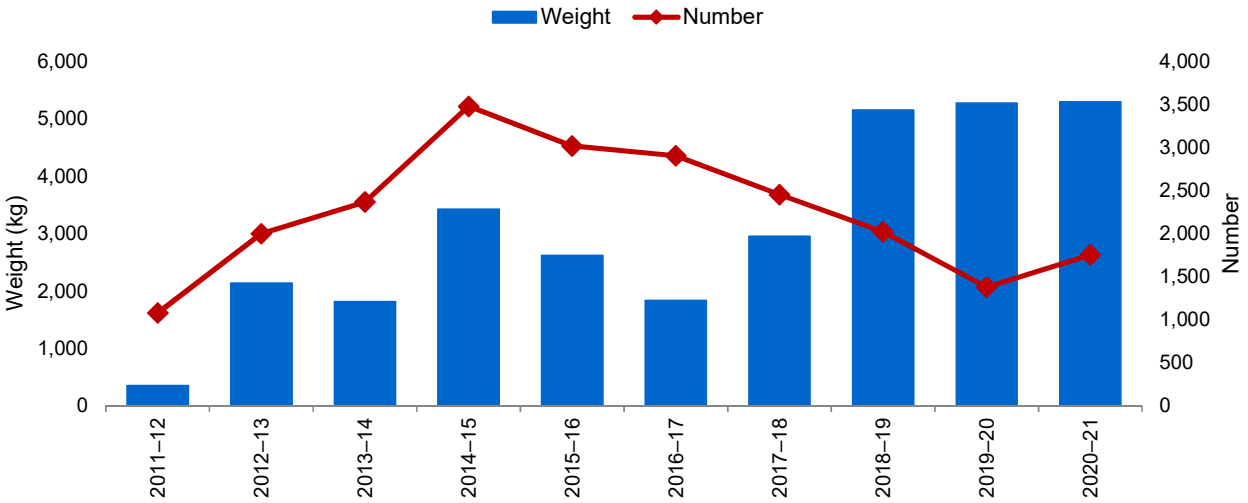
AUSTRALIA BORDER SITUATION

Overall, the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections increased 63% over the last decade, from 1,077 in 2011–12 to 1,753 in 2020–21. The number of detections displays a mixed trend over the decade—increasing to a record high in 2014–15 before decreasing for 5 years then increasing again in 2020–21 from 1,377 to 1,753.

The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections fluctuated over the first 7 years of the last decade, before increasing significantly in 2018–19 and then becoming more stable at a high level—the weight detected increased 1,423% from 347.3 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 5,290.5 kilograms in 2020–21 (see Figure 1).

In 2020–21, 302 of the 1,753 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (17%) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 5,131.6 kilograms, these 302 detections accounted for 97% of the total ATS (excluding MDMA) weight detected in 2020–21.[4]

FIGURE 1: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



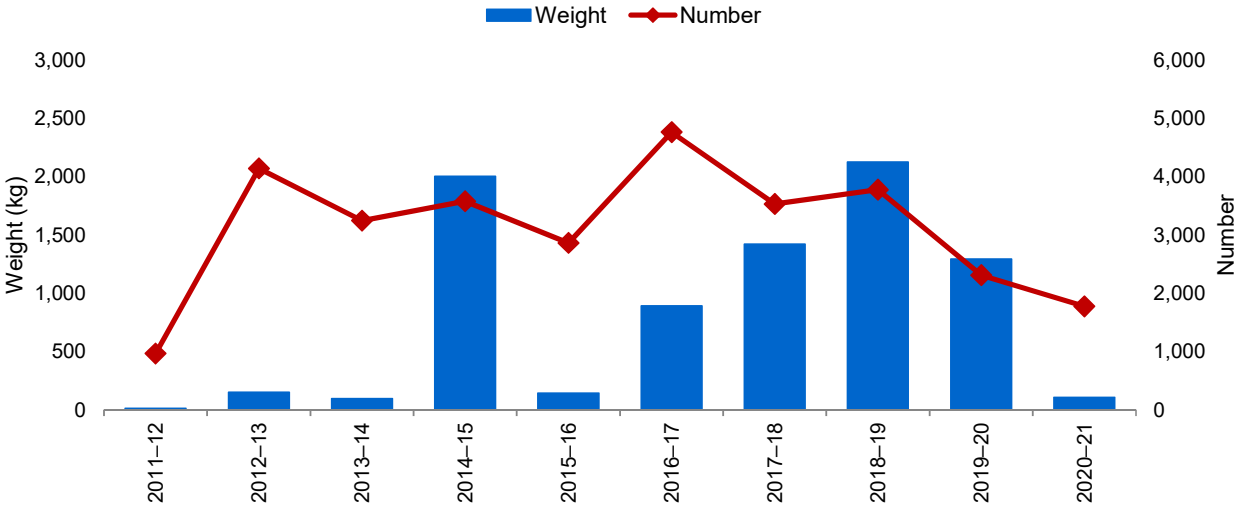
The number of MDMA detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 84% from 964 detections in 2011–12 to 1,773 in 2020–21, although the latter figure is the second lowest over the decade. The number of detections has been decreasing for the past 2 years and decreased 23% this reporting period.

The weight of MDMA detections also fluctuated significantly over the last decade, and has decreased sharply since the high point in 2018–19, including decreasing 92% this reporting period, from 1,291.9 kilograms to 106 kilograms (see Figure 2).

In 2020–21, 26 of the 1,773 MDMA detections (1%) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 64.1 kilograms, these 26 detections accounted for 60% of the total MDMA weight detected in 2020–21.[5]

4 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2020–21.
5 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of MDMA in 2020–21.

FIGURE 2: Number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, 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 detections (69%), followed by air cargo (30%), sea cargo (1%) and air passenger/crew (<1%). By weight, air cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (67%), followed by sea cargo (28%), international mail (5%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

In 2020–21, detections of MDMA at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream continued to account for the greatest proportion of MDMA detections (98%), followed by air cargo (2%). By weight, the international mail stream continued to account for the greatest proportion of detections (56%), followed by air cargo (44%).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2020–21, 43 countries were identified as embarkation points for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border, compared with 42 countries in 2019–20. By weight, Thailand was the primary embarkation point for detections by weight in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Malaysia, the United States, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Korea, China (including Hong Kong), South Africa, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In 2020–21, 21 countries were identified as embarkation points for MDMA detected at the Australian border, compared with 32 countries in 2019–20. By weight, the Netherlands was the primary embarkation point for MDMA detected in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Italy, South Africa, Luxembourg and the United States.

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[6] and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purposes of chemical profiling [7][8].

Between 2020 and June 2021, there continued to be subtle shifts in the precursors used to manufacture methylamphetamine seized in Australia. Throughout 2020, a slightly higher proportion of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized was manufactured via ephedrine/ pseudoephedrine (Eph/PSE) processes. However, a far greater number of seizures contained methylamphetamine manufactured from the 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) precursor (see Tables 1 and 2).

In 2021, there has again been an increase in the proportion of methylamphetamine found to be manufactured from the P2P precursor, with 85% of the total weight seized attributed to P2P based manufacture. In comparison, methylamphetamine manufactured from Eph/PSE represented 59.3 kilograms (4.7%).

- In 2020, the AFP seized and examined a total of 5.5 tonnes of methylamphetamine, across 140 seizures. Of this, samples from 4.2 tonnes of methylamphetamine were sent to NMI for profiling, representing 90 seizures.
- In 2020, the top 11 seizures (all of which were greater than 100 kilograms) by weight contribute to 91% of the overall weight of methylamphetamine seized.
- An increase in liquid concealments was observed throughout 2020, with approximately 1.2 tonnes seized. These shipments were almost certainly destined for use in extraction and recrystallisation laboratories.
- During 2020, an increasing number of methylamphetamine seizures impregnated in resin and plastics originating from Turkiye and the United Arab Emirates were noted. This trend continued into the first 6 months of 2021. These seizures could not be chemically profiled due to interference by the matrix in the profiling analysis.
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of both P2P and Eph/PSE or P2P and Unclassified or Eph/PSE and Unclassified samples are all listed under the “Mixed/Unclassified” category in Tables 1 and 2.

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

7 Data from these samples/seizures have not been included in this summary.

8 Profiling data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2012 and June 2021, 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. 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. 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, 2012–June 2021 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[9]

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2021[a]	11.8	68.6	19.6
2020[a]	27.2	59.8	13.0
2019[a]	38.6	36.8	24.8
2018[a]	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

a. There are a number of seizures for which results are outstanding or did not undergo chemical profiling, and these are not included.

TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2012–June 2021 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[10]

Year	Synthetic Route		
	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2021[a]	4.7	85.0	10.3
2020[a]	58.2	41.4	0.4
2019[a]	34.2	42.9	22.9
2018[a]	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

a. Due to a change in the sampling methodology for large illicit drug seizures (LIDS) made by the AFP, seizure weights cannot be accurately attributed for LIDS with mixed profiling. There are a number of seizures for which results are outstanding or did not undergo chemical profiling, these are not included.

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

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

The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) project extends this profiling capability to include seizures made by state and territory law enforcement agencies involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine.[11]

- Across the methylamphetamine ENIPID dataset (see Appendix 3, Table 1), P2P based methylamphetamine represents a higher proportion of samples compared to Eph/PSE. The slightly higher proportion of P2P based samples submitted in 2020 may be a result of a delay in supplying samples from jurisdictional seizures occurring in 2019, where the prevalence of P2P based methylamphetamine was observed as high at the Australian border.
- The number of mixed/unclassified samples remains steady for ENIPID samples when compared to previous reporting periods. This also remains steady when compared to AFP seizures for the same period.

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[12]

AMPHETAMINES

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) collects self-report information on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use among the general population and surveys people's attitudes and perceptions in relation to these. Conducted approximately every 3 years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of respondents who reported having used meth/amphetamine at least once in their lifetime decreased, from 7% in 2010 to 6% in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of respondents who reported having recently[13] used meth/amphetamine decreased, from 2% in 2010 to 1% in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of meth/amphetamine increased, from 9% in 2010 to 17% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20%.

11 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. ENIPID enables the identification of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, and comparison of trends between jurisdictions.

12 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.

13 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%). 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, increasing from 22% in 2010 to 50% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 57%.
  - The proportion of respondents reporting powder/speed as the main form used more than halved, decreasing from 51% in 2010 to 20% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20% (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every 2 months in capital city sites and every 4 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 12 illicit and licit drugs. Compared to when the Program began measuring methylamphetamine in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in August 2021 was lower in both capital city and regional sites, although this was likely impacted by COVID restrictions. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2020 to August 2021:

- Of the substances with available dose data, methylamphetamine remained the most consumed illicit drug by a considerable margin.
- Methylamphetamine consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than in capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine in both capital city and regional sites decreased to a record low in August 2021.
- The ACIC estimates that around 8.8 tonnes of methylamphetamine was consumed during the year ended 31 August 2021 in Australia, a decrease from the estimated 11.1 tonnes of methylamphetamine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2022).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel[14] 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 2021, methylamphetamine replaced heroin—which briefly overtook methylamphetamine in 2020—as the drug most injected in the past month.
- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as their drug of choice increased, from 21% in 2012 to 45% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 33%. For the first time since monitoring began in 2000, methylamphetamine replaced heroin (40%) as the drug of choice in 2021.
- The proportion of respondents reporting weekly or more frequent crystal methylamphetamine use increased, from 20% in 2012 to a record 57% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 47%.

14 In this context, sentinel means a sample which is indicative of behaviour by a particular group.

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[15] of any form of methylamphetamine increased, from 68% in 2012 to 80% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 72%.
- The reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the 6 months preceding interview increased, from 22 days in 2012 to a record 72 days in 2021. In 2020 the reported number of days was 48 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

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 the recent use of any form of methylamphetamine decreased, from 61% in 2012 to 26% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 24%.
- For the first time since 2003, crystal methylamphetamine replaced powder methylamphetamine as 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 6 months preceding interview increased, from 4 days in 2012 to 5 days in 2021. In 2020 the reported number of days was 4 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples[16] annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to ANSPS data:

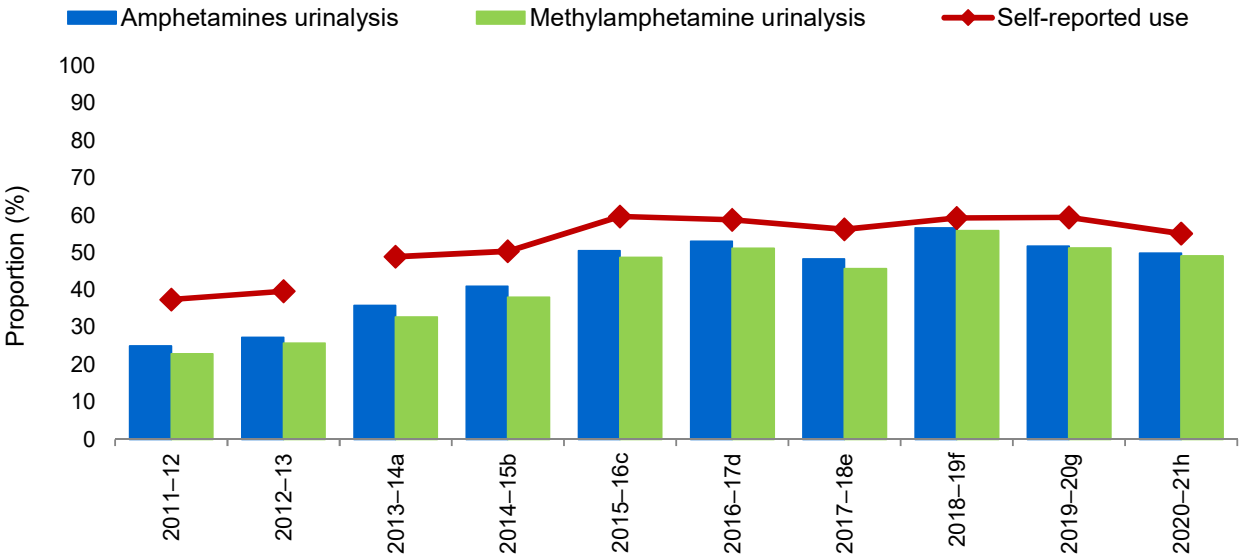
- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected increased, from 27% in 2011 to 47% in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 49%.
- Methylamphetamine continued to exceed heroin (22%) as the most commonly reported drug last injected in 2020, a trend consistently observed since 2014 (Heard et al. 2020; Heard et al. 2021).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collected criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, derived from an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which was tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.[17] According to DUMA data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive[18] to amphetamines[19] doubled, increasing from 25% in 2011–12 to 50% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 52%.
- Of the detainees testing positive to amphetamines, the majority tested positive to methylamphetamine.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine more than doubled, increasing from 23% in 2011–12 to 49% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 51%.
- The self-reported recent use of methylamphetamine increased from 49% in 2013–14 (the first period for which data are available) to 55% in 2020–21. This proportion was 59% in 2019–20 (see Figure 3).

15 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.
16 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.
17 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
18 Amphetamines and their metabolites can be detected in urine up to 2 to 4 days after administration.
19 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, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

MDMA

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of respondents who reported having used ecstasy at least once in their life increased, from 10% in 2010 to 13% in 2019. This proportion was 11% in 2016.
- The proportion of respondents who reported having recently used ecstasy remained stable at 3% in 2010 and 2019. This proportion was 2% in 2016.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of ecstasy increased, from 3% in 2010 to 7% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 2%.
- 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%). Capsules replaced pills/tablets as the main form used in 2019, accounting for 49% of the main forms used (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).

Compared to when the NWDMP began measuring MDMA in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption of MDMA in August 2021 was lower in both capital city and regional sites.

According to data from the Program for August 2020 to August 2021:

- MDMA consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than in capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA in capital city sites decreased to a record low in August 2021.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA decreased in regional sites.
- The ACIC estimates that around 1.2 tonnes of MDMA was consumed annually in Australia, a decrease from 2.6 tonnes of MDMA consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2022).

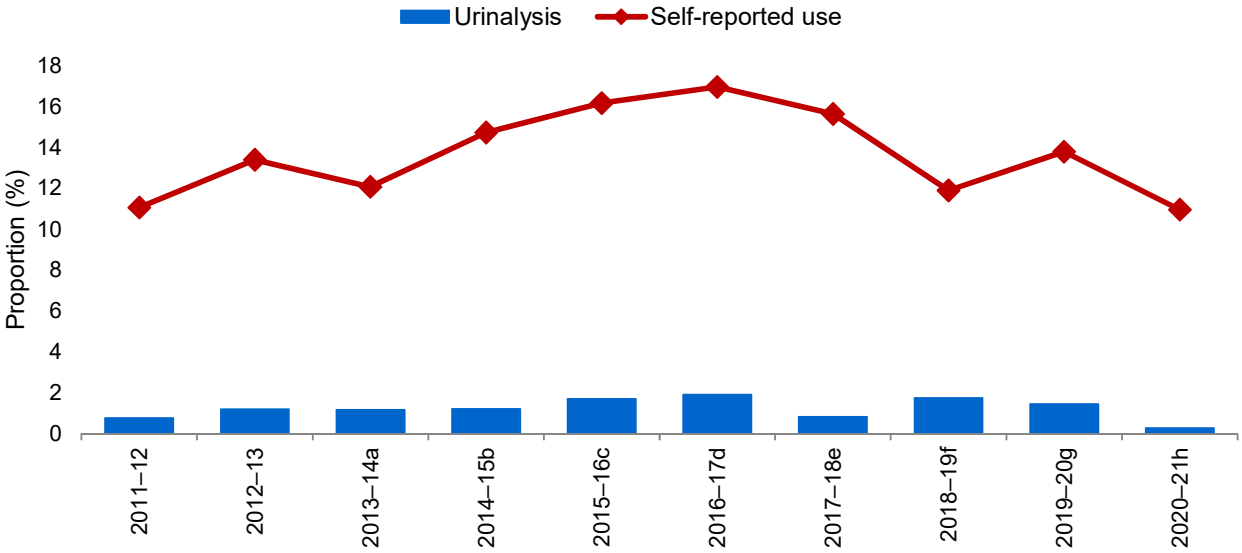
According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy as their drug of choice decreased, from 32% in 2012 to 24% in 2021. This proportion was 29% in 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills decreased, from 95% in 2012 to 42% in 2021. Over the same period the proportion reporting the recent use of powder ecstasy (from 25% to 26%), capsules (from 53% to 70%) and crystal (from 39% in 2013 to 53%) increased.
- The reported median number of days of any ecstasy use in the 6 months preceding interview decreased, from 13 days in 2012 to 7 days in 2021. In 2020, the median number of days was 12 (Sutherland 2021b).

According to DUMA data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA remained low and relatively stable, decreasing from 1% in 2011–12 to <1% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 1%.
- While the proportion of detainees self-reporting recent MDMA use fluctuated over the decade, peaking at 17% in 2016–17, it remained relatively stable at 11% in 2011–12 and 2020–21. This proportion was 14% in 2019–20 (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: National proportion of detainees testing positive for MDMA compared with self-reported recent use, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased 65% over the last decade, from 809 in 2011–12 to 284 in 2020–21. Of these, laboratories producing ATS (excluding MDMA) are the most commonly detected laboratories, accounting for 66% of detections in 2011–12 and 51% in 2020–21. This proportion was 48% in 2019–20. Methylamphetamine remains the most commonly produced drug in clandestine laboratories detected nationally over the last decade. The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratory detections decreased 73% over the last decade, from 552 in 2011–12 to 149 in 2020–21. This number decreased 8% in this reporting period, from 162 in 2019–20.

The proportion of MDMA laboratories increased over the last decade, accounting for <1% of all detections in 2011–12 and 2% in 2020–21. This proportion was 3% in 2019–20. The number of MDMA laboratory detections fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 200% from 2 in 2011–12 to 6 in 2020–21. This number almost halved this reporting period, decreasing 45% from 11 in 2019–20 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

PRICE

This section includes available price data for crystal methylamphetamine—the most prevalent form 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. Nationally, the price range for a street deal of crystal methylamphetamine remained stable over the last decade, ranging between $50 and $200 in 2011–12 and 2020–21. In 2019–20 the price ranged between $30 and $300. The national median price for a street deal decreased over the last decade, from $100 in 2011–12 to $92.50 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $90.

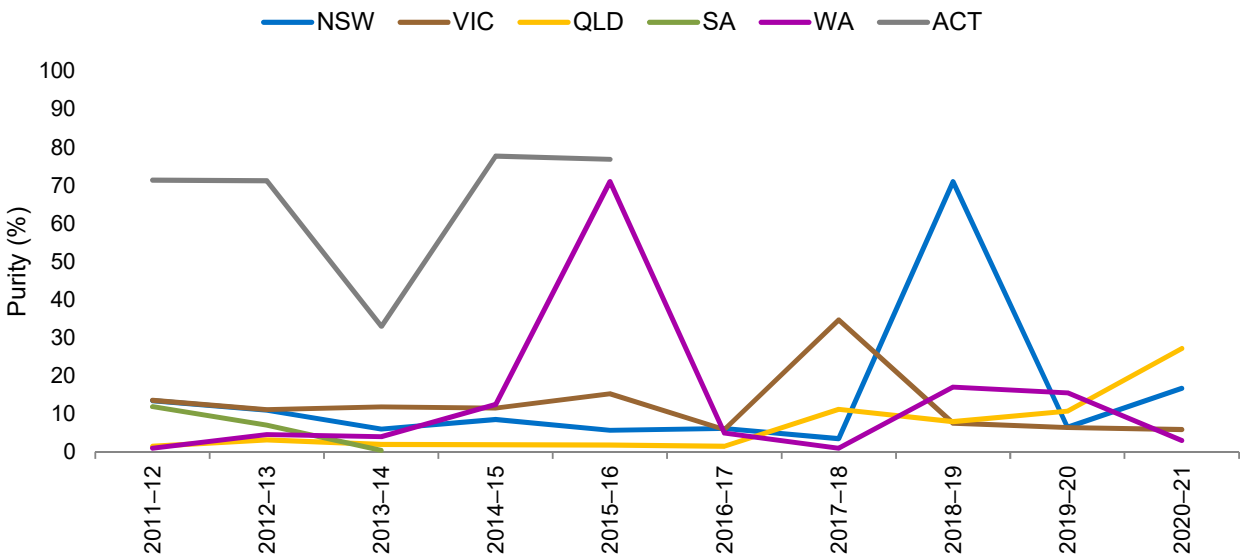
- Nationally, the price range for one gram of crystal methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, ranging between $300 and $2,000 in 2011–12 to between $100 and $1000 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the price ranged from $200 to $1,775. The national median price for a gram decreased over the last decade, from $675 in 2011–12 to $525 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $450.
- Nationally, the price range for one kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, ranging between $200,000 and $330,000 in 2011–12 to between $70,000 and $533,333 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the price ranged from $80,000 to $372,500. The national median price for a kilogram decreased over the last decade, from $265,000 in 2011–12 (reported by New South Wales and Victoria) to $176,250 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $235,000.
- At the street level, the price for MDMA is measured for individual tablets or in grams.
- Nationally, the price range for a single MDMA tablet/capsule remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between $20 and $60 in 2011–12 to between $10 and $60 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the price ranged from $10 to $30. The national median price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade from $35 in 2011–12 to $25 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $22.50.
- No price data were available for one gram of MDMA in 2011–12. Nationally, the price range for one gram of MDMA ranged between $100 and $1,000 in 2019–20 to between $80 and $800 in 2020–21. The national median price for a gram of MDMA was $175 in 2019–20 and $165 in 2020–21.
- No price data were available for one kilogram of MDMA in 2011–12. Nationally, the price range for one kilogram of MDMA ranged between $18,000 and $60,000 in 2019–20 to between $18,000 and $70,000 in 2020–21. The national median price for one kilogram of MDMA was $40,000 in 2019–20 and $55,000 in 2020–21.

PURITY

Since 2011–12, the annual median purity of analysed amphetamine[20] samples remained low and relatively stable for most jurisdictions, ranging between less than 1% (reported in 2013–14) and 78% (reported in 2014–15). In 2020–21, the annual median purity ranged from 3% in Western Australia to 27% in Queensland. This reporting period, New South Wales and Queensland reported an increase in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Western Australia reported a decrease and Victoria remained relatively stable (see Figure 5).

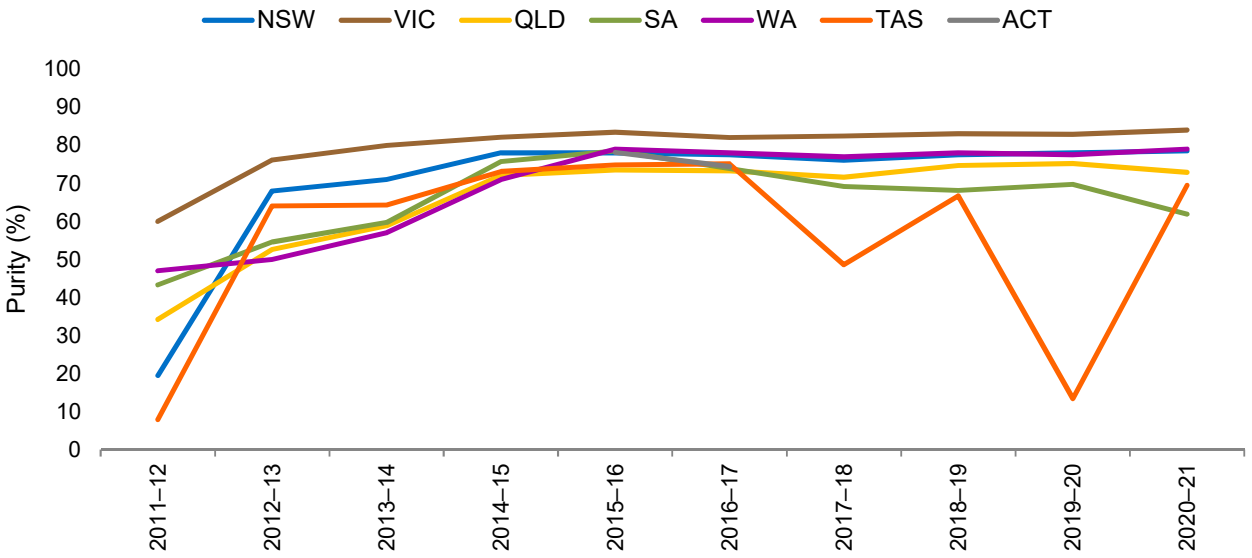
20 Amphetamine is a manufacturing by-product of some commonly used methods of methylamphetamine production. This can result in 2 separate purity figures for a single drug sample—one for methylamphetamine with considerable purity and another for amphetamine with low purity.

FIGURE 5: Annual median purity of amphetamine samples, 2011–12 to 2020–21



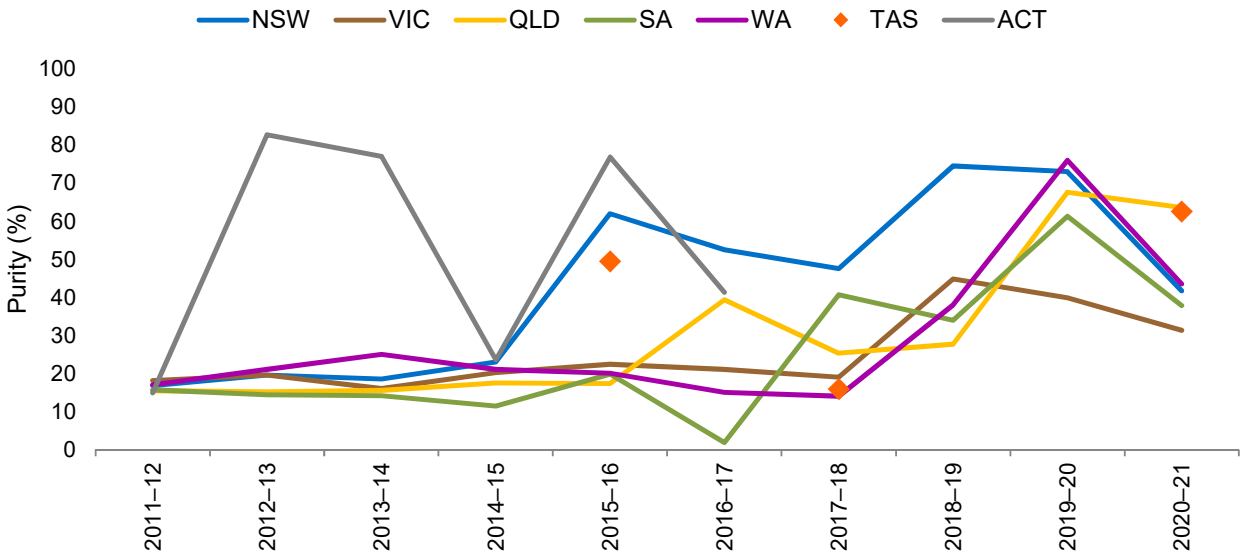
Since 2011–12, the annual median purity of analysed methylamphetamine samples has ranged between 8% (reported in 2011–12) and 84% (reported in 2020–21). The annual median purity increased in 2011–12 and has remained high and relatively stable since 2012–13 (with the exception of Tasmania). In 2020–21, the annual median purity ranged from 62% in South Australia to 84% in Victoria. In this reporting period, Tasmania reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine, while South Australia reported a decrease and New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia remained relatively stable (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: Annual median purity of methylamphetamine samples, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Since 2011–12, the annual median purity of analysed phenethylamine[21] samples ranged between 2% (reported in 2016–17) and 83% (reported in 2012–13). While fluctuating, the annual median purity of phenethylamine increased over the last decade. In 2020–21, the annual median purity ranged from 31% in Victoria to 64% in Queensland. This reporting period New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia all reported a decrease in the annual median purity of phenethylamine (see Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: Annual median purity of phenethylamine samples, 2011–12 to 2020–21



AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate an increase in the reported availability of crystal methylamphetamine in 2020–21. The same surveys indicate that the availability of ecstasy decreased for all forms (powder, capsules, crystal and pills).

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain increased, from 48% in 2020 to 86% in 2021. This is an increase from the 84% reported in 2012.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain was 64% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 89% reported in 2012. Data on availability of methylamphetamine powder in 2020 was not published (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

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

According to EDRS data:

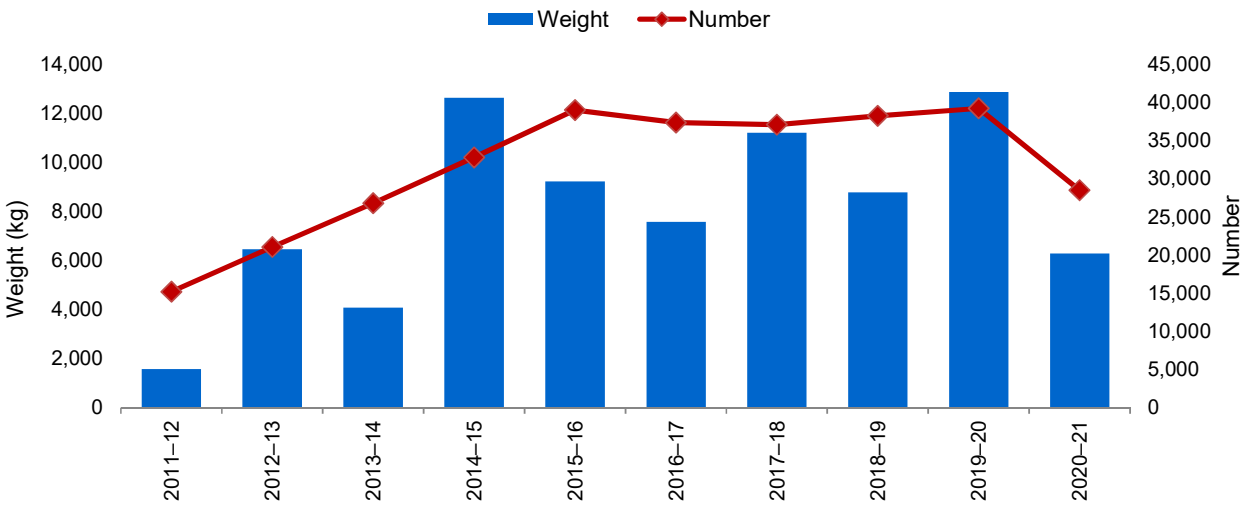
- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 71% in 2020 to 82% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 90% reported in 2012.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 66% in 2020 to 59% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 75% in 2012.
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy in all forms as easy or very easy to obtain decreased from 2020 to 2021—from 69% to 68% for powder; from 84% to 75% for capsules; from 80% to 66% for crystal; and from 70% to 64% for pills. Historical data for ecstasy availability in all forms is only available from 2017, with perceived availability decreasing for all forms during this period (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

SEIZURES

The number of national ATS seizures increased 88% from 15,191 in 2011–12 to 28,503 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of national ATS seizures decreased 27%, from a record 39,204 in 2019–20.

The weight of ATS seized nationally increased 300% from 1,572.6 kilograms in 2011–12 to 6,287.1 kilograms in 2020–21. This reporting period the weight of ATS seized nationally decreased 51%, from a record 12,864.5 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 8: National ATS seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of ATS seized in 2020–21 and was the only jurisdiction to report an increase in the number of ATS seizures. This reporting period New South Wales continued to account for the greatest proportion of both the number (36%) and weight of ATS seized nationally (65%; see Table 3).

TABLE 3: Number, weight and percentage change of national ATS seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	14,326	10,270	-28.3	9,796,979	4,063,805	-58.5
Victoria	2,258	2,036	-9.8	1,675,125	1,384,962	-17.3
Queensland	11,673	7,110	-39.1	631,292	86,355	-86.3
South Australia	534	573	7.3	49,935	302,526	505.8
Western Australia	8,378	6,997	-16.5	698,721	435,257	-37.7
Tasmania	1,168	1,000	-14.4	8,149	8,735	7.2
Northern Territory	335	200	-40.3	2,482	3,330	34.2
Australian Capital Territory	532	317	-40.4	1,823	2,146	17.7
Total	**39,204**	**28,503**	**-27.3**	**12,864,506**	**6,287,116**	**-51.1**

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

Amphetamines[22] have accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS seizures, increasing from 86% in 2011–12 to 90% in 2020–21. This is followed by MDMA (decreasing from 13% in 2011–12 to 9% in 2020–21) and other ATS (remained relatively stable at 1%).

- This reporting period, the number of national amphetamine seizures decreased 25%, from the record 34,113 in 2019–20 to 25,745 2020–21. The number of national MDMA seizures decreased 48%, from 4,981 in 2019–20 to 2,578 in 2020–21, while the number of other ATS seizures increased 64%, from 110 in 2019–20 to 180 in 2020–21.
- Amphetamines have accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally, increasing from 55% in 2011–12 to 94% in 2020–21. This is followed by MDMA (decreasing from 7% in 2011–12 to 4% in 2020–21) and other ATS (decreasing from 37% in 2011–12 to 2% in 2020–21).
- This reporting period, the weight of national amphetamines seizures decreased 37%, from the record 9,408.1 kilograms in 2019–20 to 5,891.5 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of MDMA seized decreased 92%, from 3,214.9 kilograms in 2019–20 to 249.5 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of other ATS seized decreased 39%, from 241.1 kilograms in 2019–20 to 146.0 kilograms in 2020–21.
- 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 predominately crystalline seizures. In 2011–12, seizures in other forms accounted for 52% of national ATS seizures, followed by crystalline (19%), powder (16%) and tablet (13%). In 2020–21, seizures in crystalline form accounted for 71% of national ATS seizures, followed by other forms (15%), powder (11%) and tablet (3%). These proportions were broadly similar to 2019–20.
- This reporting period, with the exception of the tablet form, all forms reported a decrease in the number of seizures. The number of crystalline seizures decreased 29%, from the record 28,289 in 2019–20 to 20,182 in 2020–21. The number of powder seizures decreased 14%, from 3,749 in 2019–20 to 3,240 in 2020–21. The number of other forms decreased 36%, from 6,560 in 2019–20 to 4,216 in 2020–21, while tablet forms increased 43%, from 606 in 2019–20 to 865 in 2020–21.

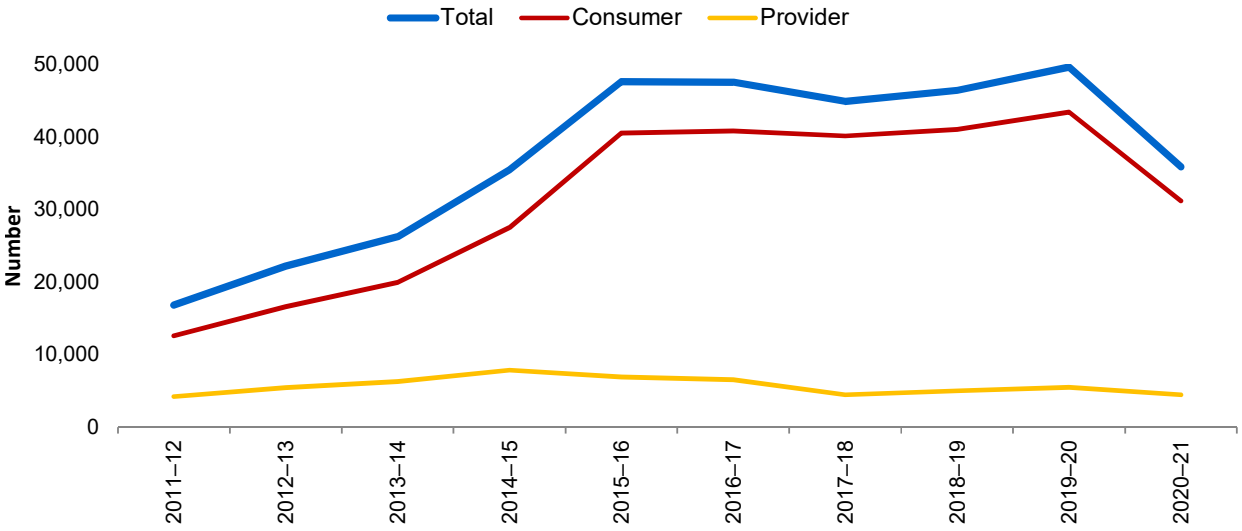
22 Amphetamines include amphetamine, methylamphetamine, dexamphetamine and amphetamines not elsewhere classified.

- The form of national ATS seizures (by weight) changed over the last decade, from seizures of other forms to predominately crystalline seizures. Seizures in crystalline form accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally in 2020–21, increasing considerably from 4% in 2011–12 to 54% in 2020–21. This is followed by other (34%), powder (11%) and tablet forms (1%).
- This reporting period, with the exception of the tablet form, all forms reported a decrease in the weight seized. The weight of crystalline seized decreased 62%, from the record 8,988.1 kilograms in 2019–20 to 3,403.9 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of powder decreased 58%, from 1,693.5 kilograms in 2019–20 to 704.7 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of other forms decreased 1%, from 2,152.8 kilograms in 2019–20 to 2,131.6 kilograms in 2020–21, while tablet forms increased 56%, from 30.0 kilograms in 2019–20 to 46.8 kilograms in 2020–21.

ARRESTS

The number of national ATS arrests increased 113% over the last decade, from 16,828 in 2011–12 to 35,885 in 2020–21. The number of national ATS arrests decreased 28% from the record 49,638 arrests in 2019–20. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 87% of national ATS arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 9: Number of national ATS arrests, 2011–12 and 2020–21



Amphetamines continue to account for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests, accounting for 92% in 2020–21, followed by MDMA (8%) and other ATS (>1%). The number of national amphetamines arrests decreased 26% this reporting period, from a record 44,847 in 2019–20 to 33,090 in 2020–21. The number of MDMA arrests decreased 42% this reporting period, from 4,746 in 2019–20 to 2,744 in 2020–21. The number of other ATS arrests increased 13%, from 45 in 2019–20 to 51 in 2020–21.

The Northern Territory was the only jurisdiction to report an increase in the number of ATS arrests in 2020–21. This reporting period Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests (29%; see Table 4).

TABLE 4: Number and percentage change of national ATS arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	11,160	7,348	-34.2
Victoria	11,055	10,188	-7.8
Queensland	14,975	10,512	-29.8
South Australia	5,446	2,775	-49.0
Western Australia	5,977	4,506	-24.6
Tasmania	753	367	-51.3
Northern Territory	108	125	15.7
Australian Capital Territory	164	64	-61.0
Total	**49,638**	**35,885**	**-27.7**

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

SUMMARY

The weight of ATS seized globally reached record levels in 2019, with methylamphetamine accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight seized, and the weight of methylamphetamine seized being a record high. Key indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia show that the methylamphetamine market remains large and showed some signs of further expansion in 2020–21, but the MDMA market is relatively small and potentially retracting.

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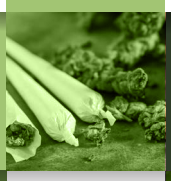
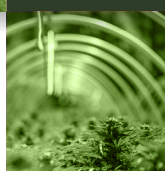
CANNABIS

KEY POINTS

- Cannabis remains one of the largest illicit drug markets globally and remained the most consumed and seized drug in 2019.
  - While cannabis herb accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized globally in 2019, the weight seized decreased, whereas the weight of resin seized increased.
- Indicators of cannabis demand and supply in Australia point to a large market that is well supplied.
  - The number of border detections increased by both number and weight in 2020–21. While detections by weight increased only moderately, the detections by number almost doubled from the previous year's figures.
  - The number of national cannabis seizures decreased moderately in 2020–21, while the weight of cannabis seized nationally increased slightly to a record level for the second consecutive reporting period.
  - The number of national cannabis arrests decreased in 2020–21.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis increased to the highest levels recorded by the Program in both capital cities and regional areas in August 2021.

National cannabis market point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 and 2020–21	2011–12 and 2020–21
Border detections	**Number**	↑ 89% 12,846 → 24,255[a]	↑ 812% 2,660 → 24,255[a]
	Weight	↑ 26% 648kg → 819kg	↑ 4,719% 17kg → 819kg
National seizures	**Number**	↓ -12% 62,454 → 55,199	↑ 7% 51,823 → 55,199
	Weight	↑ 1% 10,662kg → 10,787kg[a]	↑ 47% 7,349 → 10,787kg[a]
National arrests		↓ -14% 76,669 → 66,285	↑ 9% 61,011 → 66,285
Price[b] ($)		↓ $27.50 → $22.50	↓ $26.25→ $22.50
DUMA[c]	**Urinalysis**	→ 44% → 44%	↓ 48% → 44%
NDSHS[d]	**Use in lifetime**	↑ 35% → 37%	↑ 35% → 37%
	Recent use	↑ 10% → 12%	↑ 10% → 12%

a. Highest on record.
b. National median price for a street deal (one gram) of hydroponic cannabis head.
c. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis.
d. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used marijuana/cannabis in 2010 and 2019 (decade trend) and 2016 and 2019 (annual trend).

MAIN FORMS

Cannabis is derived from plants within the Cannabis genus, in particular the 2 species *Cannabis sativa* and *Cannabis indica.*

- Cannabis plants can grow in a range of climates, as well as indoors using 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 3 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 (ADF 2021; CIS 2019).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Cannabis is the most used illicit drug worldwide, with the estimated number of cannabis users increasing from 192 million in 2018 to 200 million in 2019. There was a moderate increase in global cannabis cultivation in 2019 compared to 2018, however the number and weight of cannabis (herb and resin) seizures decreased in the same reporting period (UNODC 2020; UNODC 2021).

Based on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data, over the last decade (2009 to 2019) the number of cannabis (herb and resin) seizures generally increased. However, the weight of cannabis (herb and resin) seized decreased over the last decade, largely due to a 56% decrease in the Americas. In 2019, the weight of cannabis (herb and resin) seized continued to decrease for the fifth consecutive year, decreasing 8% from 5,610 tonnes in 2018 to 5,174 tonnes in 2019. The weight of cannabis herb seized globally decreased 12%, from 4,303 tonnes in 2018 to 3,779 tonnes in 2019—the lowest figure since 1998. In contrast, the weight of cannabis resin seized globally increased 7%, from 1,307 tonnes in 2018 to 1,395 tonnes in 2019 (actual figures and percentage unknown; UNODC 2020; UNODC 2021).

The Americas accounted for the largest proportion (60%) of the weight of cannabis herb seized globally in 2019, followed by Africa (21%), Asia (13%) and Europe (6%). The United States accounted for the greatest proportion in 2019, followed by Paraguay and Colombia (UNODC 2021).

Spain continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis resin seized globally in 2019, followed by Morocco and Afghanistan. Western and Central Europe accounted for the largest proportion of resin seized globally in 2019 (34%), followed by Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (33%) and North Africa (30%; UNODC 2021).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of cannabis seizures increased to 13,483 in 2021 and accounted for 18% of the total number of reported drug seizures. The weight of cannabis seized decreased 37%, from 722,672 kilograms in 2020 to 453,942 kilograms in 2021.

All types of cannabis reported a decrease in weight in 2021, with the sum of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin accounting for 98% of the total weight of cannabis seized. Herbal cannabis replaced cannabis resin as the most seized cannabis type by weight in 2021 (WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

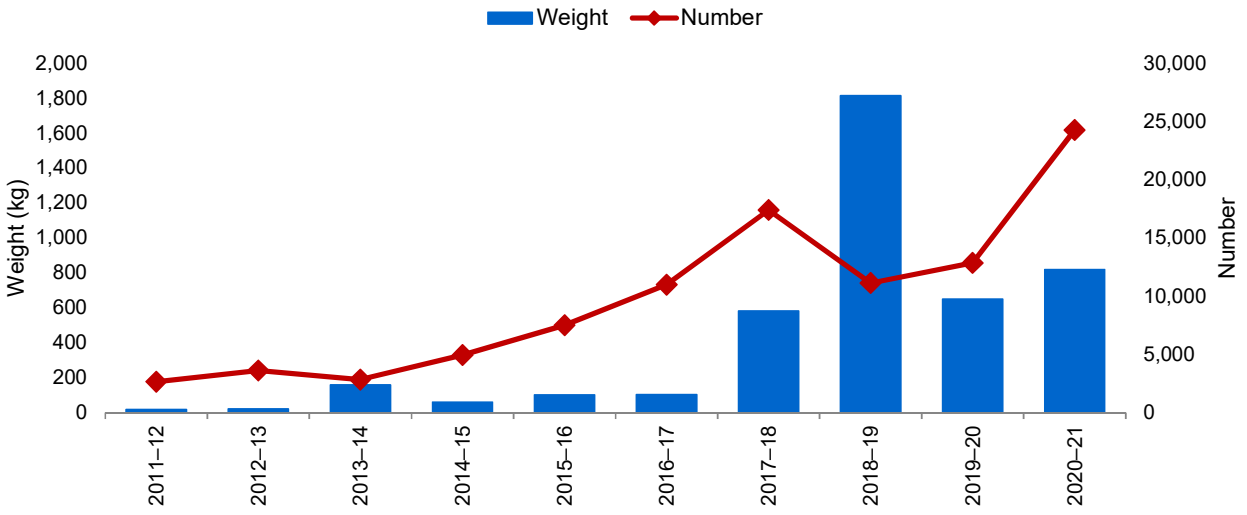
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased 812% over the last decade, from 2,660 in 2011–12 to a record 24,255 in 2020–21. The number of cannabis detections increased 89% this reporting period from 12,846 in 2019–20.

Despite some fluctuations, the weight of cannabis detected increased 4,719% over the last decade, from 17.0 kilograms in 2011–12 to 819.3 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of cannabis detected increased 26% this reporting period from 648.6 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 10).

In 2020–21, 103 of the 24,255 cannabis detections (<1%) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 402.0 kilograms, these 103 detections account for 49% of the weight of cannabis detected in 2020–21.[23]

FIGURE 10: Number and weight of cannabis detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of cannabis at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, international mail continued to account for the greatest proportion of cannabis detections (90%), followed by air cargo (10%), air passenger/crew (<1%) and sea cargo (<1%). By weight, international mail continued to account for the greatest proportion of detections (55%), followed by air cargo (39%), sea cargo (6%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

23 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of cannabis in 2020–21.

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2020–21, 45 countries were identified as embarkation points for cannabis detected at the Australian border, compared to 50 countries in 2019–20. By weight, the United States continued to be the primary embarkation point for cannabis detected in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight included China (including Hong Kong), the United Kingdom, Thailand, the Netherlands, Canada, France, Spain, Lithuania and Portugal.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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. According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of respondents who reported using cannabis at least once in their lifetime increased, from 35% in 2010 to 37% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 35%.
- The proportion of respondents who reported having recently[24] used cannabis increased, from 10% in 2010 to 12% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 10% (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every 2 months in capital city sites and every 4 months in regional sites. The NWDMP began measuring cannabis consumption in August 2018. Since then, the population-weighted average consumption increased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2020 to August 2021:

- Cannabis consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cannabis in both capital city and regional sites increased to a record high in August 2021 (ACIC 2022).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel groups, 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 from individuals in Australian capital cities who regularly inject drugs. According to IDRS data:

- Over the last decade, the proportion of respondents reporting cannabis as their drug of choice remained stable at 5% in 2012 and 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 6%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[25] of any form of cannabis decreased, from 76% in 2012 to 67% in 2021, the lowest proportion recorded in the last 2 decades. This proportion remained unchanged from 2020.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis use in the 6 months preceding interview increased, from 160 days in 2012 to 180 days in 2021. In 2020 the median number of days was 160 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) collects self-report information from individuals in Australian capital cities who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants. According to EDRS data:

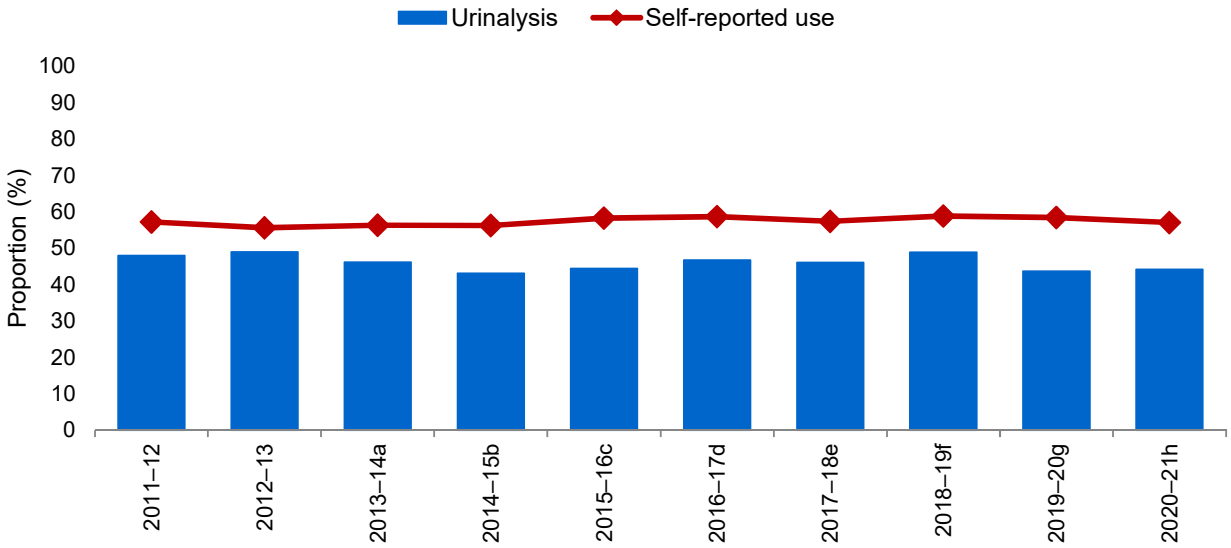
24 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.
25 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.

- The proportion of respondents reporting cannabis as their drug of choice increased, from 19% in 2012 to 23% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 26%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cannabis increased, from 82% in 2012 to 84% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 88%.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis use in the 6 months preceding interview decreased, from 60 days in 2012 to 48 days in 2021. The median number of days remained unchanged from 2020 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees.[26] According to DUMA data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis decreased slightly, while self-reported cannabis use remained relatively stable.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis ranged from 43% in 2014–15 to 49% in 2012–13 and 2018–19. In 2019–20 and 2020–21 this proportion remained stable at 44%.
- The self-reported recent use[27] of cannabis among detainees ranged from 56% in 2012–13 to 59% in 2016–17 and 2018–19. In 2020–21 this proportion was 57%, a slight decrease from 58% in 2019–20 (see Figure 11).

FIGURE 11: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cannabis compared with self-reported recent use, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

26 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
27 Recent use in the DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of cannabis oil extraction laboratories detected nationally increased 533%, from 3 in 2011–12 to 19 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number decreased 34% from the record 29 in 2019–20 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors chapter).*

PRICE

At the street level, the price of cannabis is generally measured as a 'deal' (approximately one gram). Nationally, the price range for one gram of hydroponic cannabis head remained relatively stable, ranging between $20 and $100 in 2011–12 to between $15 and $100 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the reported price ranged between $20 and $100. The national median price for one gram of hydroponic cannabis head decreased slightly, from $26.25 in 2011–12 to $22.50 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $27.50.

Nationally, the price range for one ounce (28 grams) of hydroponic cannabis head decreased, ranging between $200 and $700 in 2011–12 and between $220 and $600 in 2020–21. In 2019–2020 the reported price ranged between $200 and $600. The national median price for one ounce of hydroponic cannabis head decreased, from $362.5 in 2011–12 to $300 in 2020–21, a decrease from $325 in 2019–20.

Nationally, the price range for a single mature hydroponic cannabis plant increased, ranging between $2,000 and $5,000 in 2011–12, and between $300 and $5,000 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the reported price ranged between $2,000 and $5,000 (reported in New South Wales). The national median price for a single mature hydroponic cannabis plant remained stable at $3,800, when comparing data from 2011–12 and 2020–21.

The price range for one gram of resin decreased, from between $25 and $100 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory) to $25 (reported in Tasmania) in 2020–21. The 2020–21 price decreased from $50 (reported in Tasmania) in 2019–20.

AVAILABILITY

User surveys provide mixed results for the availability of hydroponic cannabis and bush cannabis[28] this reporting period.

In a 2021 national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting hydroponic cannabis as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain increased, from 81% in 2020 to 88% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 92% reported in 2012. The proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 68% in 2020 to 78% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 81% reported in 2012 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

In a 2021 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 remained stable at 89% in 2020 and 2021. This is a decrease from the 95% reported in 2012. The proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 81% in 2020 to 79% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 80% reported in 2012 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

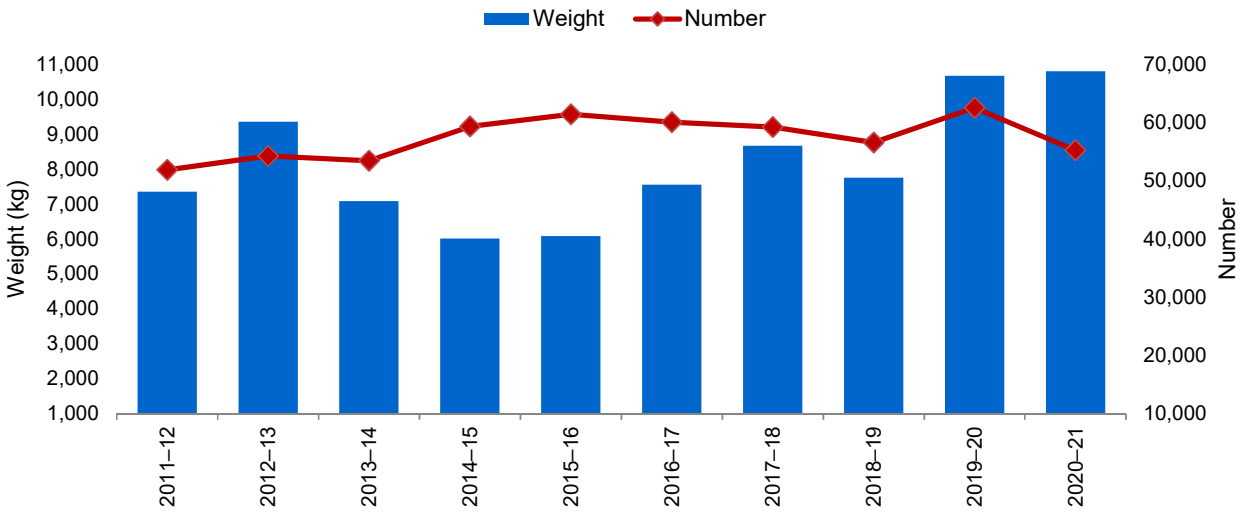
28 Bush cannabis refers to cannabis grown outdoors.

SEIZURES

The number of national cannabis seizures increased 7% over the last decade, from 51,823 in 2011–12 to 55,199 in 2020–21. The number of national cannabis seizures decreased 12% this reporting period from a record 62,454 in 2019–20.

The weight of cannabis seized nationally increased 47% over the last decade, from 7,349.2 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 10,787.3 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of cannabis seized nationally remained relatively stable this reporting period, increasing 1% from 10,662.6 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 12).

FIGURE 12: National cannabis seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cannabis seizures in 2020–21, while Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of cannabis seized. This reporting period New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number of national cannabis seizures (31%), while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized nationally (38%; see Table 5).

TABLE 5: Number, weight and percentage change of national cannabis seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

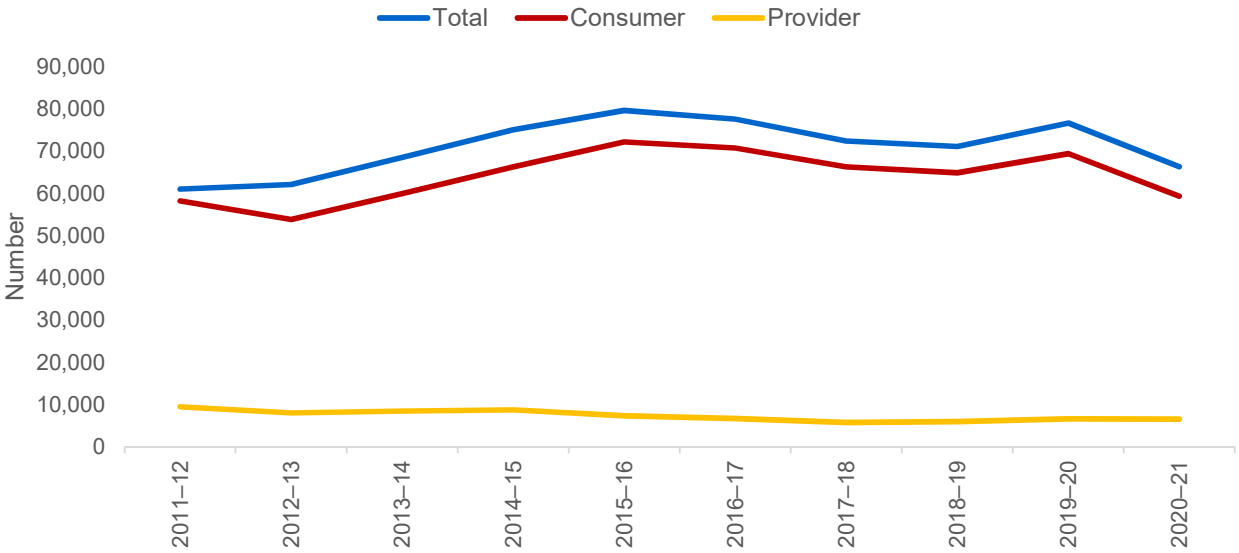
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	18,814	17,278	-8.2	4,072,121	2,993,153	-26.5
Victoria	4,067	3,681	-9.5	1,681,821	4,101,061	143.8
Queensland	18,689	15,344	-17.9	2,733,103	1,175,778	-57.0
South Australia	278	463	66.5	871,732	899,800	3.2
Western Australia	15,601	13,481	-13.6	654,936	976,327	49.1
Tasmania	2,331	2,811	20.6	173,543	223,544	28.8
Northern Territory	2,036	1,754	-13.9	90,742	172,472	90.1
Australian Capital Territory	638	387	-39.3	384,689	245,215	-36.3
Total	**62,454**	**55,199**	**-11.6**	**10,662,687**	**10,787,350**	**1.2**

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

ARRESTS

Overall, the number of national cannabis arrests increased 9% over the last decade, from 61,011 in 2011–12 to 66,285 in 2020–21. The number of national cannabis arrests decreased 14% this reporting period from 76,669 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 90% of national cannabis arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 13).

FIGURE 13: Number of national cannabis arrests, 2011–12 to 2020–21



The Northern Territory was the only jurisdiction that reported an increase in cannabis arrests in 2020–21. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of cannabis arrests this reporting period (31%; see Table 6).

TABLE 6: Number and percentage change of national cannabis arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	17,474	15,101	-13.6
Victoria	11,860	11,855	0.0
Queensland	23,697	20,437	-13.8
South Australia	3,482	2,439	-30.0
South Australia (CENs)[b]	6,850	4,920	-28.2
Western Australia	8,921	7,577	-15.1
Western Australia (CIRs)[c]	1,538	1,395	-9.3
Tasmania	1,598	1,439	-9.9
Northern Territory	412	426	3.4
Northern Territory (DINs)[d]	691	622	-10.0
Australian Capital Territory	117	74	-36.8
Australian Capital Territory (SCONs)[e]	29	0	-100.0
Total	**76,669**	**66,285**	**-13.5**

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.

SUMMARY

Despite decreases in the weight of cannabis seized globally, cannabis continued to be the most consumed and seized illicit drug in 2019, with cannabis herb continuing to account for the greatest proportion of cannabis seized. In 2021, the number of cannabis seizures reported by World Customs Organization agencies increased, while the weight of cannabis seized decreased.

Indicators of cannabis demand and supply in Australia point to a large and potentially expanding market.

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HEROIN

KEY POINTS

- While illicit opium production remained relatively stable in 2020, the total area under opium cultivation increased—primarily due to an increase in the area under cultivation in Afghanistan, which remained the largest cultivator of illicit opium in the world.
- Forensic profiling of both border and domestic seizures indicates that the vast majority of heroin in Australia continued to originate from South-East Asia.
- Indicators of heroin supply and demand point to a relatively small market which had increased seizures and detections during the review period.
  - Both the number and weight of heroin detections at the Australian border increased to record levels in 2020–21.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin from August 2020 to August 2021 decreased in both capital city and regional sites. Heroin consumption remained low compared to other illicit drugs, particularly methylamphetamine.
  - The number and weight of heroin seizures nationally increased in 2020–21, with the weight of seizures increasing to a record level.
  - The number of heroin arrests decreased in 2020–21.



National heroin market point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 and 2020–21	2011–12 and 2020–21
Border detections	**Number**	↑ 251% 177 → 622[a]	↑ 247% 179 → 622[a]
	Weight	↑ 1,027% 110kg → 1,246kg[a]	↑ 387% 256kg → 1,246kg[a]
National seizures	**Number**	↓ -4% 2,230 → 2,130	↑ 21% 1,758 → 2,130
	Weight	↑ 506% 210kg → 1,278kg[a]	↑ 229% 388kg → 1,278kg[a]
National arrests[b]		↓ -20% 3,514 → 2,826	↑ 4% 2,714 → 2,826
Price[c] ($)		↑ $85 → $100	↑ $60.0 → $100
Annual median purity range		⇨ 39.7% to 77.0% → 29.1% to 64.5%	↑ 14.6% to 46.0% → 29.1% to 64.5%
DUMA[d]	**Urinalysis**	↓ 7% → 6%	↓ 10% → 6%
NDSHS[e]	**Use in lifetime**	⇨ 1% → 1%	⇨ 1% → 1%
	Recent use	⇨ <1% → <1%	⇨ <1% → <1%

a. Highest on record.
b. Heroin arrests include arrests for heroin and other opioids.
c. National median price for a street deal, one taste/cap, of heroin (0.1–0.3 grams) of heroin.
d. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin.
e. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used heroin in 2010 and 2019 (decade trend) and 2016 and 2019 (annual trend).

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 3 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 2021; EMCDDA 2021; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The total area under opium cultivation worldwide increased 24% to 294,350 hectares in 2020—primarily due to the 37% increase in area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. Afghanistan reported 224,000 hectares of land under opium cultivation in 2020, which was more than 80% higher than a decade earlier. By contrast, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar decreased 11% to 29,500 hectares in 2020. In 2019, Afghanistan (69%), Myanmar (14%) and Mexico (9%) combined accounted for 92% of global illicit cultivation of opium poppy. Global opium production remained relatively stable at 7,410 tonnes in 2020, which was almost 60% higher than a decade earlier. Of this, between 5,898 and 6,205 tonnes is processed into heroin, producing between 454 and 694 tonnes of heroin. Afghanistan remains the largest illicit opium producing country in the world, accounting for an estimated 83% of global opium production between 2015 and 2020 (UNODC 2021a).

Detailed reporting on opium cultivation varies from country to country, with the latest available data available for Mexico covering the 2018–19 period, Myanmar the 2020–21 period, and Afghanistan the 2020–21 period. The total area under opium cultivation in Mexico decreased 23%, from 28,000 hectares in 2017–18 to 21,500 hectares in 2018–19. Although the total area under cultivation decreased, the national average yield of opium increased 27%, from 16.1 kilograms per hectare in 2017–18 to 20.5 kilograms per hectare in 2018–19. The weight of heroin seized decreased 25%, from 496 kilograms in 2018 to 374 kilograms in 2019 (UNODC 2021b).

While the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased 21%, from 224,000 hectares in 2020 to 177,000 hectares in 2021, the area under opium poppy cultivation has been increasing steadily over the past 2 decades. The estimated production of opium in 2021 increased 8%, from 6,300 tonnes in 2020 to 6,800 tonnes in 2021 (UNODC 2021c; UNODC 2022).

The area under opium cultivation in Myanmar increased 2%, from 29,500 hectares in 2020 to 30,200 hectares in 2021, and has stabilised after the continuous reduction which started in 2014. Due to scarcity of data[29], the average opium yield and opium production in 2021 was estimated based on average opium yield data from previous years. Both the estimated average opium yield and estimated opium production increased in 2021, increasing by 2% and 4% respectively. The weight of heroin seized in Myanmar also increased to 2,003 kilograms in 2021 (UNODC 2021d).

According to the World Drug Report, the weight of global opiate seizures increased over the last decade (2009 to 2019). While the weight of opiates seized globally decreased 7% in 2019, mostly due to the 41% decrease in weight of morphine seized globally, the weight of opiate seized remains the fifth highest weight on record. The weight of opium seized globally increased 3%, from 704 tonnes in 2018 to 727 tonnes in 2019, and the weight of heroin seized remained relatively stable at 96 tonnes in 2019 (UNODC 2020; UNODC 2021a).

Most opiate seizures are reported in or in close proximity to the main opium production areas. In 2019, more than 90% of global illicit opium production took place in Asia—the region accounting for the greatest proportion of the total weight of opiates seized globally (76% of the global total). The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of opiates seized globally in 2019 (52%), followed by Turkiye (10%) and Pakistan (9%) (UNODC 2021a).

While the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia regions continued to account for the largest proportion of the weight of heroin and morphine seized globally in 2019 (45% of the global total), the total weight seized in Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and East and South-East Asia continued to decrease. Turkiye accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of heroin seized globally in 2019 (21%), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (18%) and Pakistan (9%) (UNODC 2021a).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of 'opioids and opiates' category seizures increased from 2020 to 2021 by 143% (5,992 to 14,569) and replaced cannabis as the second most seized category by number. The weight seized decreased 29% over the same period (30,557 kilograms to 21,590 kilograms). Heroin continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of opioids and opiates seized globally in 2021 (13,761.5 kilograms, accounting for 64% of all opioids and opiates seizures). Within the opioids and opiates category, heroin and poppy straw reported a decrease in 2021, while opium and morphine increased (WCO 2022).

29 Due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions, yield survey was only carried out in East and South Shan and a reduced number of fields were visited compared to previous years.

DOMESTIC TRENDS

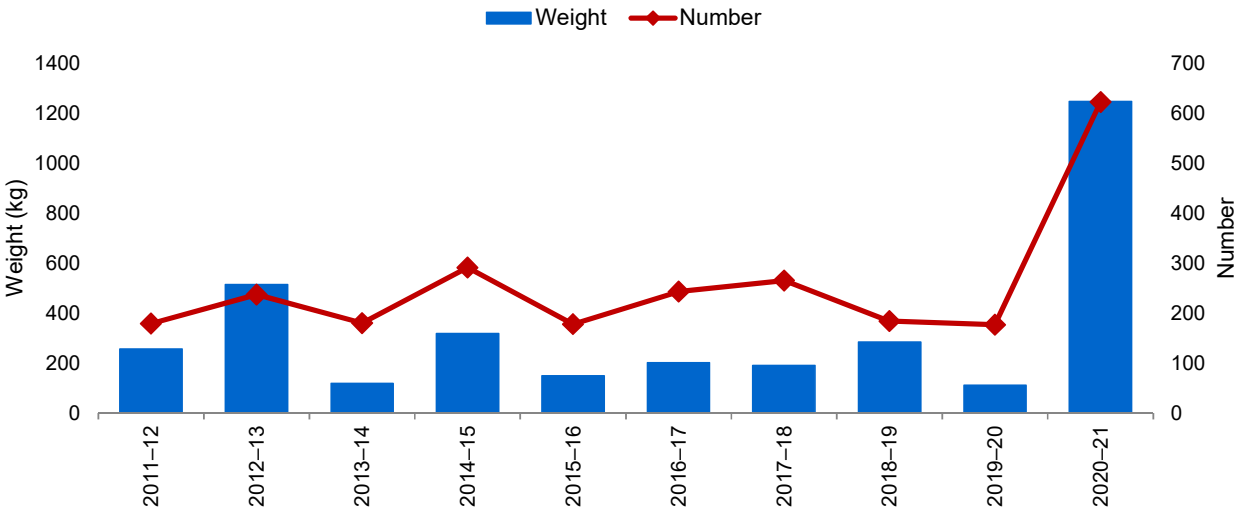
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of heroin detections at the Australian border fluctuated greatly, increasing 247% from 179 in 2011–12 to a record 622 in 2020–21. The number of heroin detections increased 251% this reporting period, from 177 in 2019–20.

The weight of heroin detected also fluctuated, increasing 387% from 256.2 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 1,246.8 kilograms in 2020–21, more than double the previous record weight in 2012–13 (513.8 kilograms). The weight of heroin detected increased 1,027% this reporting period, from 110.6 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 14).

In 2019–20, 79 of the 622 heroin detections (13%) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 1,118.9 kilograms, these 79 detections accounted for 90% of the total weight of heroin detected in 2020–21.[30]

FIGURE 14. Number and weight of heroin detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of heroin at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, the international mail stream continued to account for the greatest proportion of heroin detections (62%), followed by air cargo (38%) and sea cargo (<1%). By weight, the air cargo stream continued to account for the greatest proportion of detections (86%), followed by international mail (7%) and sea cargo (7%).

30 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of heroin in 2020–21.

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2020–21, 33 countries were identified as embarkation points for heroin detected at the Australian border, compared to 15 countries in 2019–20. By weight, Malaysia was the primary embarkation point for heroin detected in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Taiwan and Mozambique.

DRUG PROFILING

According to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence (FDI) team[31]:

- In the reporting period, South-East Asia (SEA) remained the dominant geographical origin for heroin seized by the AFP (see Tables 7 and 8). In 2020, the majority of the total seizure weight was attributed to a single seizure, weighing 348.4 kilograms.
- However, in 2020 there were 2 seizures that contained heroin of both South-West Asian (SWA) and SEA origin. This occurrence is rare and has not been observed by the AFP since 2014. These seizures were the result of domestic search warrants, where mixed heroin batches from separate sources are likely to be stored together. This demonstrates that organised crime syndicates were able to source heroin from different regions for import into Australia.
- While the proportion of heroin of SWA origin seized in the first 6 months of 2021 increased slightly, its prevalence remains low in the Australian market. The proportion of SWA heroin seized in 2021 accounted for 8.0 kilograms of a total 374.0 kilograms analysed.
- Heroin of South American origin was not detected in this reporting period.

31 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. 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 7. Geographic origin of heroin samples as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures, 2012–June 2021[32] (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 %	South-West Asia & South-East Asia %
Jan–Jun 2021	70.0	20.0	–	10.0	–	–	–
2020	70.0	–	–	10.0	–	–	20.0
2019	81.0	14.3	4.7	–	–	–	–
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	–	–	–

TABLE 8: Geographical origin of heroin samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2012–June 2021[33] (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 2021	97.6	2.1	–	0.3	–	–
2020	97.9	0.6	–	1.5	–	–
2019	92.5	0.5	7.0	–	–	–
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	–	–

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

According to the AFP's Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability[34]:

- Heroin samples submitted to the ENIPID capability in 2020 and the first 6 months of 2021 continue to reflect the situation at the border, highlighting the continued dominance of SEA heroin in the Australian market (see Appendix 3, Table 2).
- Fourteen samples of unclassified origin were mainly attributed to heroin which had broken down (hydrolysed), thus altering the chemical composition and ability to determine geographical origin. Unclassified and SWA origin samples generally represent a minor portion of all heroin samples submitted for chemical profiling in comparison to heroin of SEA origin.[35]

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS):

- Over the last decade, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used heroin at least once in their lifetime remained stable at 1% in 2010, 2016 and 2019.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[36] used heroin remained stable at <1% in 2010, 2016 and 2019 (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) has provided a measure of the consumption of heroin since August 2017. Since the Program began measuring heroin, the population-weighted average consumption increased in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2020 to August 2021:

- Heroin consumption fluctuated, with per capita consumption higher in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of heroin decreased in both capital city and regional sites.
- Demand for heroin remains low compared to other illicit drugs, particularly methylamphetamine.
- The ACIC estimates around 984 kilograms of heroin was consumed in Australia during the year ended 31 August 2021, a decrease from the estimated one tonne of heroin consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2022).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel groups which provide valuable insight into patterns of drug use and market trends and can assist in the identification of emerging issues that require further monitoring.

34 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.

35 A large proportion of heroin seized in 2020 had not been profiled at the time of data collection for this report, due to delays in forensic examination and subsequent delays in analysis.

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

According to data from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS):

- The proportion of respondents reporting heroin as their drug of choice decreased, from 54% in 2012 to 40% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 50%. For the first time since monitoring began in 2000, methylamphetamine (45%) replaced heroin as the drug of choice in 2021.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the drug most injected in the past month decreased, from 42% in 2012 to 34% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 46%.
- Methylamphetamine replaced heroin as the drug most injected in the past month in 2021.
- The reported recent use[37] of heroin in this population decreased, from 60% in 2012 to 50% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 63%.
- While fluctuating, the reported median number of days of heroin use in the 6 months preceding interview remained stable at 72 days in 2012 and 2021. In 2020 the reported number of days was 96 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

According to data from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) :

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of heroin remained relatively stable, with 5% of this population reporting the recent use of heroin in 2012, compared to 3% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 1% (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

According to data from the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) :

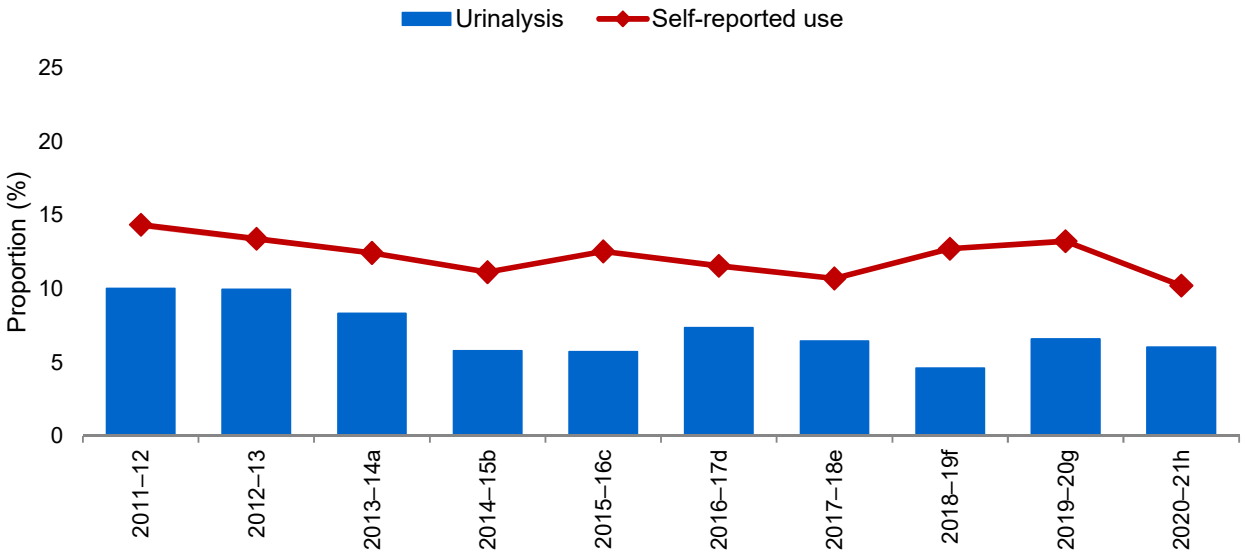
- The proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the drug last injected nationally decreased, from 33% in 2011 to 22% in 2020. This continued a decreasing trend observed since 2000, where 56% of respondents reporting heroin as the drug last injected. The proportion reported in 2020 is a decrease from the 27% reported in 2019 (Heard et al. 2020; Heard et al. 2021).

According to data from the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program[38]:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin and self-reporting heroin use generally decreased over the last decade.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive[39] to heroin ranged from 5% in 2018–19 to 10% in 2011–12. In 2020–21 this proportion was 6%, a slight decrease from 7% in 2019–20.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent heroin use[40] ranged from 10% in 2020–21 to 14% in 2011–12. In 2019–20 this proportion was 13% (see Figure 15).

37 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.
38 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
39 Heroin and its metabolite can be detected in urine for 6 hours after administration.
40 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, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

PRICE

At the street level the price of heroin is generally measured as a 'taste/cap' or in grams. Nationally, the price range for one taste/cap of heroin (0.1 to 0.3 grams) increased, ranging between $40 and $150 in 2011–12 to between $50 and $200 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the reported price ranged from $50 to $150. The national median price increased, from $60 in 2011–12 to $100 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the national median price was $85.

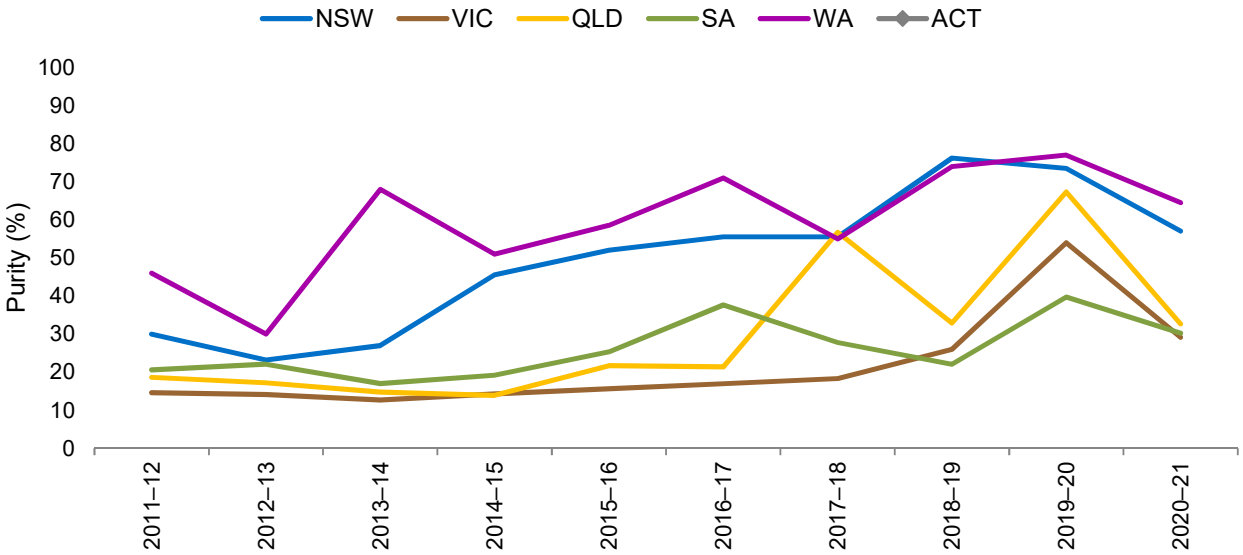
The price range for one gram of heroin decreased, ranging between $200 and $1,000 in 2011–12 to between $50 and $588.23 in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the reported price ranged from $200 to $750. The national median price increased, from $330 in 2011–12 to $450 in 2020–21 (reported in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania). In 2019–20 the national median price was $462.50.

The price range for a kilogram of heroin increased, from $280,000 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales) to between $90,000 and $500,000 in 2020–21. In 2019–20, the reported price ranged from $90,000 to $220,000 (reported in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory). The national median price increased from $165,000 in 2019–20 to $190,000 in 2020–21.

PURITY

Since 2011–12, the annual median purity of analysed heroin samples ranged between 13% (reported in 2013–14) and 77% (reported in 2019–20). While fluctuating, the annual median purity of heroin increased over the last decade. In 2020–21, the annual median purity ranged from 29% in Victoria to 65% in Western Australia. This reporting period all states reported a decrease in the annual median purity of heroin (see Figure 16).

FIGURE 16: Annual median purity of heroin samples, 2011–12 to 2020–21



AVAILABILITY

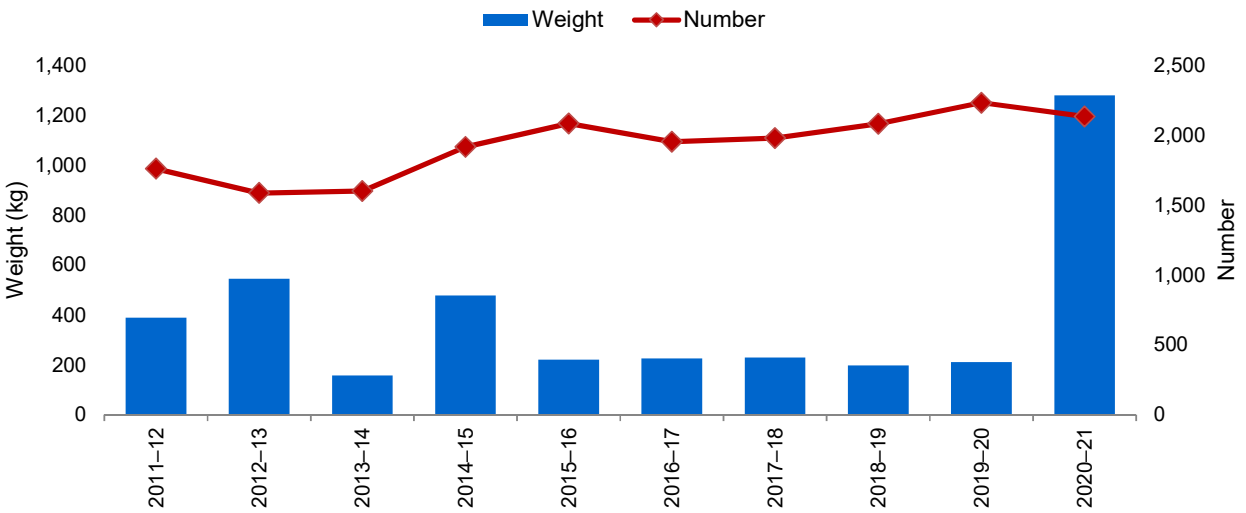
User surveys indicate an increase in the reported availability of heroin in 2020–21. In a 2021 survey of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain increased, from 77% in 2020 to 84% in 2021. This is a decrease from the 87% reported in 2012 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

SEIZURES

The number of national heroin seizures increased 21%, from 1,758 in 2011–12 to 2,130 in 2020–21. The number of national heroin seizures decreased 4% this reporting period from a record 2,230 in 2019–20.

The weight of heroin seized nationally increased 229%, from 388.3 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 1,278.0 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight seized nationally more than doubled this reporting period, increasing 506% from 210.7 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 17).

FIGURE 17: National heroin seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of heroin seizures in 2020–21, while New South Wales reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of heroin seized. This reporting period New South Wales continued to account for the greatest proportion of both the number (57%) and weight (66%) of heroin seized nationally (see Table 9).

TABLE 9: Number, weight and percentage change of national heroin seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

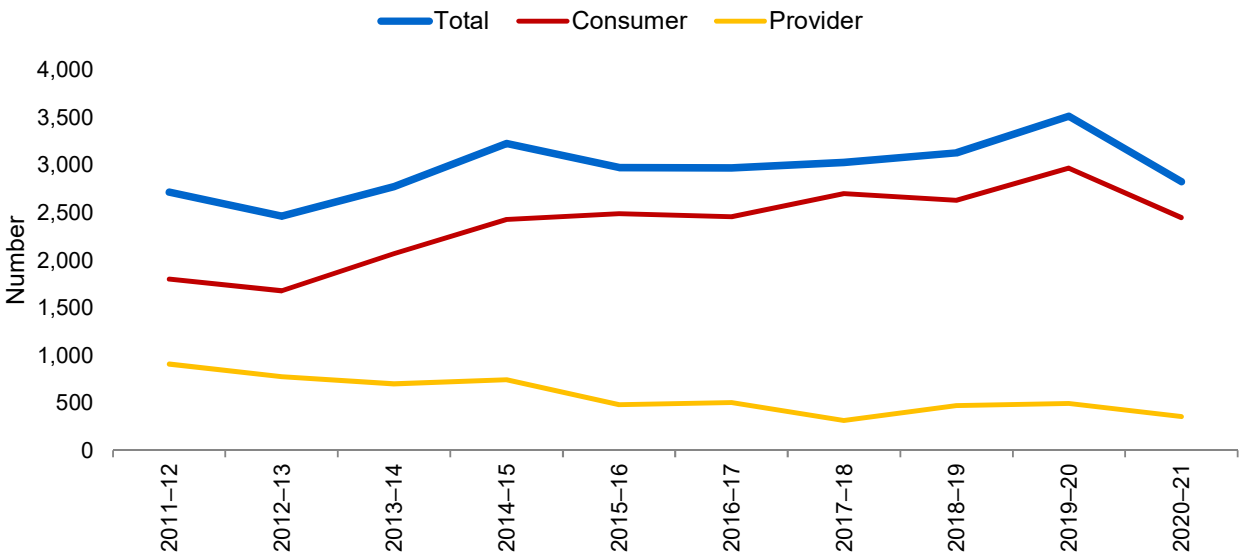
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	1,298	1,213	-6.5	127,646	846,366	563.1
Victoria	308	338	9.7	62,411	309,998	396.7
Queensland	195	168	-13.8	2,105	8,385	298.3
South Australia	27	27	0.0	595	2,420	306.7
Western Australia	332	334	0.6	17,756	110,328	521.4
Tasmania	17	27	58.8	52	104	100.0
Northern Territory	6	0	-100.0	35	0	-100.0
Australian Capital Territory	47	23	-51.1	125	409	227.2
Total	**2,230**	**2,130**	**-4.5**	**210,725**	**1,278,010**	**506.5**

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

ARRESTS

The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased 4%, from 2,714 in 2011–12 to 2,826 in 2020–21. The number of arrests decreased 20% this reporting period from the record 3,514 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 87% of national heroin and other opioid arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 18).

FIGURE 18: Number of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2011–12 to 2020–21



All states and territories reported a decrease in the number of heroin and other opioid arrests in 2020–21. This reporting period Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national heroin and other opioid arrests (48%; see Table 10).

TABLE 10. Number and percentage change of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	1,257	855	-32.0
Victoria	1,464	1,357	-7.3
Queensland	355	305	-14.1
South Australia	94	92	-2.1
Western Australia	284	186	-34.5
Tasmania	33	13	-60.6
Northern Territory	1	0	-100.0
Australian Capital Territory	26	18	-30.8
Total	**3,514**	**2,826**	**-19.6**

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

SUMMARY

In 2020, the global cultivation of opium increased while the global production of opiates remained relatively stable. Afghanistan remains the main illicit opium producing country. According to the World Customs Organization agencies, in 2021 the weight of heroin seized decreased.

Indicators of supply and demand suggest that the Australian heroin market remains small but point to a potential expansion of the market, although some indicators are equivocal.

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COCAINE

KEY POINTS

- Cocaine remains among the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide.
- While the total area under coca bush cultivation decreased in 2019, the estimated weight of cocaine produced increased to record levels.
- Colombia accounted for two-thirds of the global area under coca bush cultivation, with drug profiling indicating that the majority of both border detections and domestic cocaine seizures originated from coca leaf grown in Colombia.
- Indicators of supply and demand point to a continuing expansion of the cocaine market in Australia.
  - The weight of cocaine detected at the border reached the highest level on record in 2020–21.
  - Both the number and weight of national cocaine seizures increased in 2020–21, with the number of cocaine seizures increasing to a record level.
  - There was a record number of national cocaine arrests.



National cocaine market point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 and 2020–21	2011–12 and 2020–21
Border detections	**Number**	↓ -18% 2,660 → 2,169	↑ 122% 979 → 2,169
	Weight	↑ 237% 763kg → 2,575kg[a]	↑ 228% 785kg →2,575kg
National seizures	**Number**	↑ 12% 5,750 → 6,452[a]	↑ 383% 1,336 → 6,452[a]
	Weight	↑ 181% 1,573kg → 4,420kg	↑ 362% 956kg → 4,420kg
National arrests		↑ 10% 5,393 → 5,958[a]	↑ 499% 995 → 5,958[a]
Price[b] ($)		↓ $80 → $65	↑ $60 → $65
Annual median purity range		↑ 40.5% to 67.0% → 22.0% to 62.5%	↑ 18.7% to 52.5% → 22.0% to 62.5%
DUMA[c]	**Urinalysis**	↑ 2% → 3%[a]	↑ 1% → 3%[a]
NDSHS[d]	**Use in lifetime**	↑ 9% → 11%	↑ 7% → 11%
	Recent use	↑ 3% → 4%	↑ 2% → 4%

a. Highest on record.
b. 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 South Australia only in 2011–12, and New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania only in 2019–20.
c. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine.
d. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine in 2010 and 2019 (decade trend) and 2016 and 2019 (annual trend).

MAIN FORMS

Cocaine (benzoylmethylecgonine) 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 2 most common forms of cocaine are hydrochloride salt and cocaine base.
  - Powdered hydrochloride is the most common form of cocaine 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

Cocaine continues to remain one of the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide. An estimated 20 million people globally reported cocaine use in the previous 12 months in 2019, an increase from 19 million people in 2018. The total area under coca bush cultivation globally decreased in 2019, while the weight of cocaine produced increased to record levels. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the total area under coca bush cultivation globally decreased 5%, from 244,200 hectares in 2018 to 234,200 hectares in 2019. This was mainly the result of the 9% decrease in the area under coca bush cultivation reported by Colombia in 2019. However, there was a 4% increase in the estimated weight of potential cocaine production worldwide, from 1,723 tonnes in 2018 to 1,784 tonnes in 2019 at 100% purity, which was the highest weight on record for the second consecutive year (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2021a).

The 3 primary cocaine producing countries in 2019 were Colombia (which accounted for two-thirds of the global area under coca bush cultivation), Peru (23%) and Bolivia (11%). In Colombia, while there has been a decrease in the area under coca bush cultivation in the past 2 years, the estimated quantity of cocaine produced increased over the same period. The area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia decreased by 9% from 169,000 hectares in 2018 to 154,000 hectares in 2019 and further decreased by 7% to 143,000 hectares in 2020. Conversely, the estimated quantity of coca leaf produced increased 2% between 2018 and 2019, with a further increase (<1%) between 2019 and 2020. In Bolivia, the area under coca bush cultivation increased by 10% from 23,100 hectares in 2018 to 25,500 hectares in 2019 and further increased by 15% to 29,400 hectares in 2020. The estimated quantity of coca leaf produced increased by 11% between 2018 and 2019 and increased by 17% in 2020. In Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation remained relatively stable in 2019, increasing 1% from 2018 (UNODC 2020b; UNODC 2020c; UNODC 2021a; UNODC 2021b).

Based on UNODC data, the weight of cocaine seized globally continued to increase to record levels for the fifth consecutive year, increasing by 10% from 1,311 tonnes in 2018 to 1,436 tonnes (of varying purities) in 2019. Between 2009 and 2019 the weight of cocaine seized globally increased by 90%, which is likely a reflection of factors such as an increase in cocaine manufacture (50% increase over the same period) and an increase in cocaine trafficking. In 2019, global cocaine seizures remained concentrated in the Americas and Europe (particularly in Western and Central Europe). The Americas continued to account for the majority (83%) of the weight of cocaine seized globally in 2019, of which South America accounted for the largest proportion of seizures. The weight of cocaine seized in South America increased 5% to a record 755 tonnes in 2019, with most countries in the subregion including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru reporting increases in the same reporting period (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2021a).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number and weight of cocaine seized increased in 2021. The number of cocaine seizures increased to 9,613 in 2021 and accounted for 13% of the total number of reported drug seizures. The weight of cocaine seized increased 27%, from 326,439 kilograms in 2020 to 413,231 kilograms in 2021. With the exception of crack cocaine, which decreased almost 100%, the weight of all cocaine types seized increased in 2021 (cocaine base increased 109% and cocaine solution increased 198%; WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

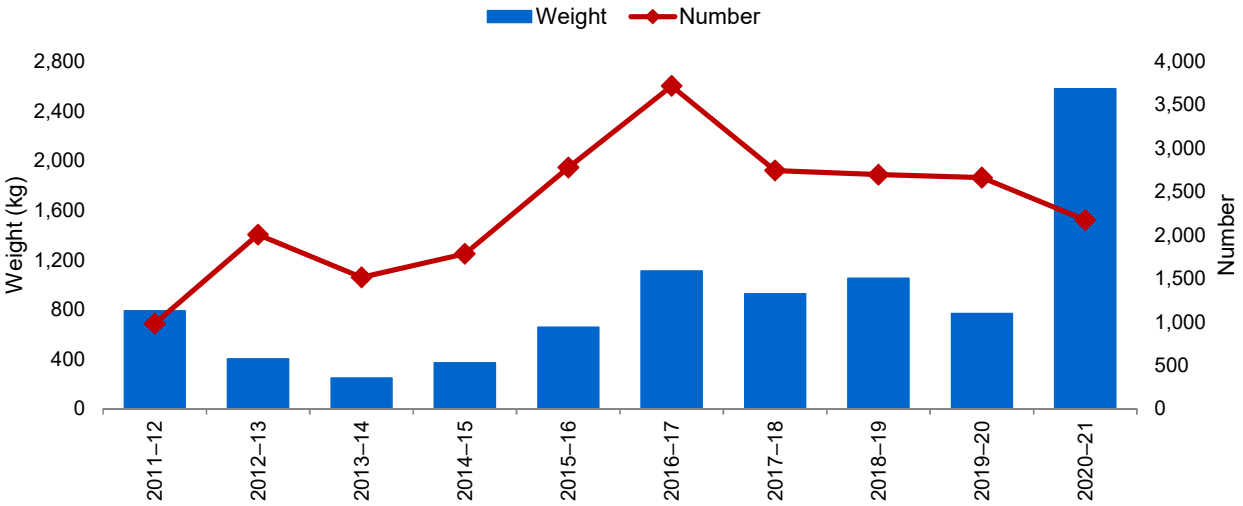
The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased 122%, from 979 in 2011–12 to 2,169 in 2020–21. The number of cocaine detections decreased by 18% this reporting period, from 2,660 in 2019–20.

The weight of cocaine detected increased 228%, from 785.7 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 2,575.8 kilograms in 2020–21, more than double the previous record weight in 2016–17 (1,109.5 kilograms). The weight of cocaine detected increased by 237% this reporting period, from 763.6 kilograms in 2019–20.

In 2020–21, 108 of the 2,169 cocaine detections (5%) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 2,491.8 kilograms, the 108 detections account for 97% of the weight of cocaine detected in 2020–21 (see Figure 19).[41]

41 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of cocaine in 2020–21.

FIGURE 19: Number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, 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 continued to account for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (89%), followed by air cargo (11%), sea cargo (<1%) and air passenger/crew (<1%). By weight, air cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (53%), followed by sea cargo (44%), international mail (3%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2020–21, 46 countries were identified as embarkation points for cocaine detected at the Australian border, compared to 42 countries in 2019–20. By weight, the United Kingdom was the primary embarkation point for cocaine detected in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period included Italy, Brazil, China (including Hong Kong), South Africa, the United States, Belgium, Greece, Germany and Canada.

DRUG PROFILING

According to data from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence (FDI) team:[42]

- In 2020, the weight of mixed origin seizures surpassed that of Colombian cocaine, accounting for 56% of the total seizure weight. This is largely driven by a change in the sampling methodology for large illicit drug seizures (LIDS) made by the AFP, resulting in an inability to accurately attribute the bulk weight for seizures with variations in profiling results.[43]

42 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.

43 The bulk weight of seizures containing cocaine of more than one geographical origin (Colombian & Peruvian/ Colombian & Unclassified) have been separated and attributed to their respective classifications. Due to a change in the sampling methodology for LIDS made by the AFP, seizure weights cannot be accurately attributed to a geographic origin for LIDS seizures with variations in profiling. As a result, the bulk weight of LIDS seizures containing cocaine of more than one geographic origin were assigned to the mixed category.

- Consistent with previous reporting periods, no cocaine of Bolivian origin was detected by the AFP during 2020. This is likely the result of coca leaf cultivation within the region accounting for only 11% of the global total, as noted in the World Drug Report 2021 (UNODC 2021a).

TABLE 11: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures (by number), 2012–June 2021[44] (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2021[a]	83.3	–	–	4.8	11.9
2020[a]	65.6	4.5	–	9.0	20.9
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

TABLE 12: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2012–June 2021[45] (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2021[a]	96.0	-	-	0.9	3.1
2020[a]	26.2	0.9	-	55.8	17.1
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

a. Due to a change in methodology for LIDS made by the AFP, seizure weights cannot be accurately attributed for LIDS with variations in profiling.

44 The data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
45 The data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.

According to the AFP's Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) project:[46]

- Cocaine samples submitted to the ENIPID capability throughout the reporting period continue to reflect the higher prevalence of Colombian cocaine in the Australian market. However there has been a large increase in the number of mixed/unclassified samples submitted by New South Wales and Victoria throughout the reporting period (see Appendix 3, Table 3).
- 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

According to data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS):

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine at least once in their lifetime increased, from 7% in 2010 to 11% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 9%.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[47] used cocaine increased, from 2% in 2010 to 4% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 3% (AIHW 2020).

According to the ACIC's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) data for August 2020 to August 2021:

- Cocaine consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cocaine decreased in both capital city and regional sites.
- The ACIC estimates that around 4.7 tonnes of cocaine was consumed in Australia in the year ending 31 August 2021, a decrease from 5.6 tonnes of cocaine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2022).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel groups which provide valuable insight into patterns of drug use and market trends and can assist in the identification of emerging issues that require further monitoring.

According to Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[48] of cocaine remained stable at 15% in 2012 and 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 17%.
- The reported median number of days of cocaine use in the 6 months preceding interview remained stable at 3 days in 2012 and 2021. The median number of days remain unchanged from 2020 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

According to Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice remained relatively stable, increasing from 13% in 2012 to 14% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 12%.

46 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.

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

48 In both the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), recent use refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of cocaine doubled, increasing from 40% in 2012 to 80% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 68%.
- The reported median number of days of cocaine use in the 6 months preceding interview remained relatively stable, increasing from 3 days in 2012 to 5 days in 2021. In 2020 the number of days was 4 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

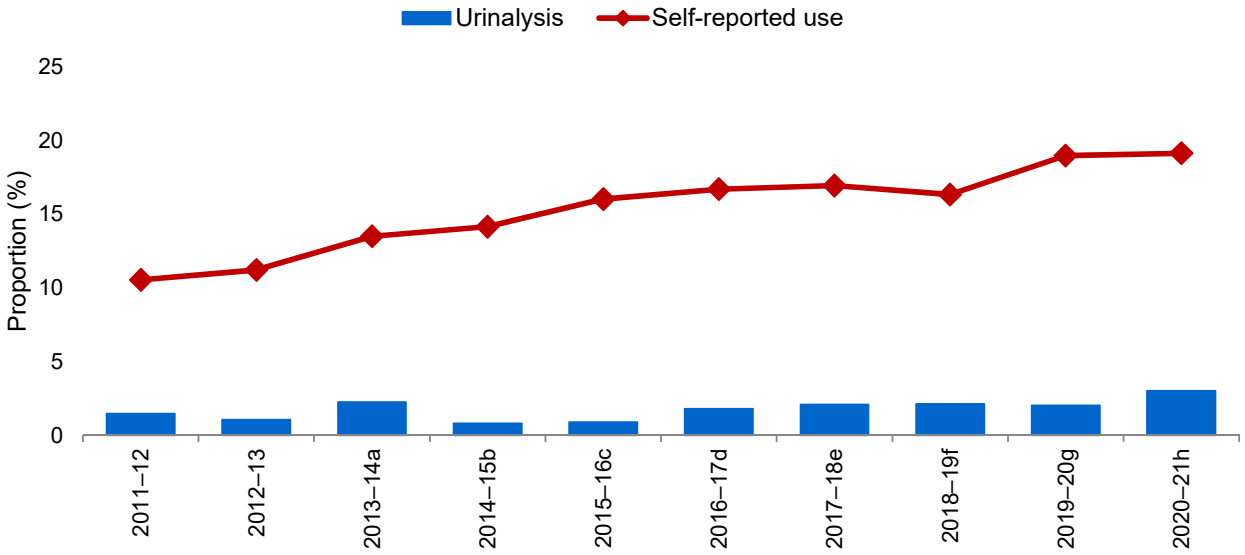
According to the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as the last drug injected remained stable at 1% in 2011, 2019 and 2020 (Heard et al. 2020; Heard et al. 2021).

According to Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine and self-reporting cocaine use generally increased over the last decade.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine ranged from 1% in 2014–15 to 3% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 2%.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent cocaine use[49] over the last decade ranged from 11% in 2011–12 to 19% in 2019–20 and 2020–21 (see Figure 20).

FIGURE 20: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cocaine compared with self-reported recent use, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

49 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 range for one cap (0.2 grams) of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between $50 and $100 in 2011–12 to between $50 and $200 in 2020–21. In 2019–20, the reported price ranged from $50 to $200. The median price for one cap of cocaine remained relatively stable over the last decade, from a median of $60 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia) to a national median of $65 in 2020–21. The median price was $80 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania).

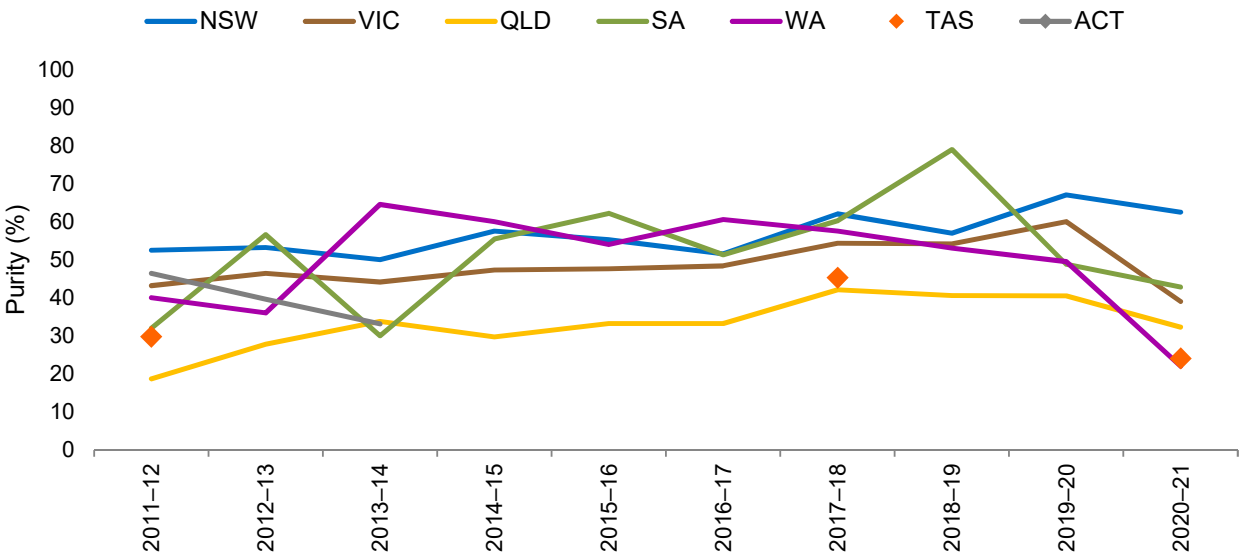
Nationally, the price range for one gram of cocaine increased, ranging between $250 and $500 in 2011–12 to between $200 and $600 in 2020–21 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). The reported price range was between $300 and $600 in 2019–20. The national median price for one gram of cocaine increased, from $375 in 2011–12 to $400 in 2020–21. The national median price in 2019–20 was $412.50.

Nationally, the price range for one kilogram of cocaine increased, ranging between $190,000 and $300,000 in 2011–12 to between $130,000 and $410,000 in 2020–21 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). In 2019–20, the reported price ranged from $150,000 to $330,000. The national median price for one kilogram of cocaine remained stable, at $220,000 in both 2011–12 and 2020–21. The national median price in 2019–20 was $210,000.

PURITY

Since 2011–12, the annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples ranged between 19% (reported in 2011–12) and 79% (reported in 2018–19). In 2020–21, the annual median purity ranged from 22% in Western Australia to 63% in New South Wales. Annual median cocaine purity decreased over the last decade, with fluctuations occurring in the intervening years. New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia all reported an increase in the annual median cocaine purity across the decade, while Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia all recorded decreases in annual cocaine purity. In 2020–21 the 5 states which provided data in 2019–20 reported a decrease in the annual median purity of cocaine (see Figure 21).

FIGURE 21: Annual median purity of cocaine samples, 2011–12 to 2020–21



AVAILABILITY

In a 2021 report of a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain increased from 65% in 2012 to 68% in 2021. Data on availability of cocaine in 2020 was not published (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

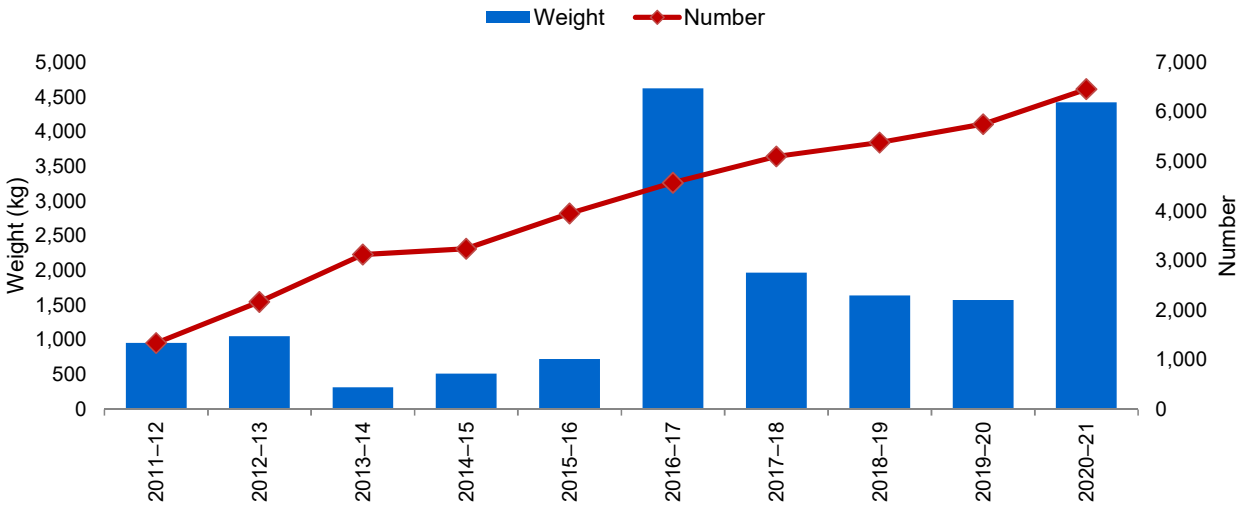
In a 2021 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 67% in 2020 to 77% in 2021. This is an increase from the 49% in 2012 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

SEIZURES

The number of national cocaine seizures increased 383%, from 1,336 in 2011–12 to a record 6,452 in 2020–21. The number of national cocaine seizures increased 12% this reporting period from 5,750 in 2019–20.

The weight of cocaine seized nationally increased 362%, from 956.3 kilograms in 2011–12 to 4,420.7 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of cocaine seized nationally more than doubled this reporting period, increasing 181% from 1,573.8 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22: National cocaine seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine seizures in 2020–21, while the Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of cocaine seized. This reporting period New South Wales continued to account for the greatest proportion of both the number (62%) and weight (75%) of cocaine seized nationally (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: Number, weight and percentage change of national cocaine seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

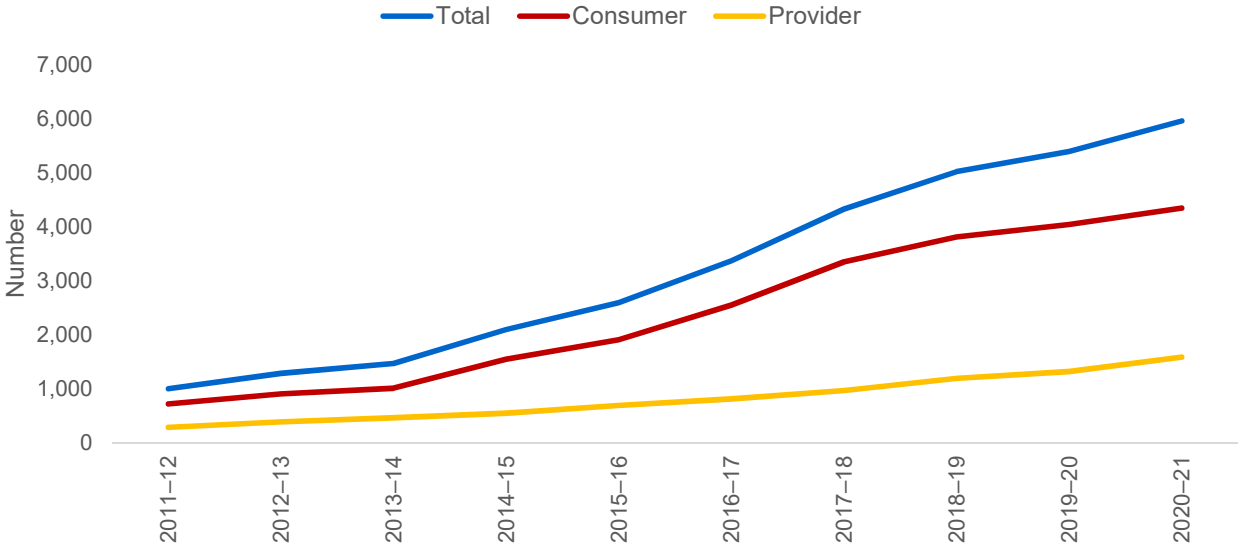
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	3,725	4,026	8.1	1,068,733	3,303,698	209.1
Victoria	394	398	1.0	69,240	231,896	234.9
Queensland	877	1,089	24.2	33,742	789,401	2,239.5
South Australia	38	61	60.5	2,158	2,282	5.7
Western Australia	541	604	11.6	397,460	29,153	-92.7
Tasmania	30	90	200.0	97	912	840.2
Northern Territory	27	39	44.4	262	211	-19.5
Australian Capital Territory	118	145	22.9	2,161	63,235	2,826.2
Total	**5,750**	**6,452**	**12.2**	**1,573,853**	**4,420,788**	**180.9**

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 499%, from 995 in 2011–12 to a record 5,958 in 2020–21. The number of national cocaine arrests increased 10% this reporting period from 5,393 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 73% of national cocaine arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 23).

FIGURE 23: Number of national cocaine arrests, 2011–12 to 2020–21



While starting from a low base, the Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine arrests in 2020–21. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of national cocaine arrests (46%; see Table 14).

TABLE 14: Number and percentage change of national cocaine arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	2,590	2,740	5.8
Victoria	1,124	1,162	3.4
Queensland	1,088	1,430	31.4
South Australia	166	219	31.9
Western Australia	326	305	-6.4
Tasmania	13	13	0.0
Northern Territory	5	25	400.0
Australian Capital Territory	81	64	-21.0
Total	**5,393**	**5,958**	**10.5**

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

SUMMARY

Cocaine continues to be among the most consumed and seized substances worldwide. Between 2018 and 2019, the total area under coca bush cultivation decreased while coca leaf production increased. Despite decreases, Colombia continues to account for the greatest proportion of the total coca bush cultivation. In 2019, the weight of cocaine seized reached record levels for the fifth consecutive year, with the majority of seizures concentrated in the Americas and Western and Central Europe.

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

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OTHER DRUGS

KEY POINTS

- Compared to other illicit drug markets in Australia, substances within the ‘other drugs’ category are niche markets. They 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.
- In 2020–21, the tryptamines, anaesthetics and anabolic steroids and other selected hormones market showed signs of potential expansion.



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)[50]
- 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 4 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 2022a).

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 (ADF 2022a; DEA 2017).

Although AAS remain the most prevalent substance in the PIEDs category, a number of other substances 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 2022b; Larance et al. 2005).

50 NPS have been referred to as drug analogues and new psychoactive substances (DANPS) in previous Illicit Drug Data Reports.

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Established in 2008, Operation Pangea is an international collaboration coordinated by the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) in a global effort to target the trafficking of counterfeit medicines (including anabolic steroids). Operation Pangea XIV was conducted in 2021 and involved 92 countries worldwide. A primary goal of this operation was to respond to increased levels of criminal involvement in these markets following the high demand for medical products and equipment driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. Operation Pangea XIV resulted in 277 arrests and USD 23 million in potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals seized (including anabolic steroids; INTERPOL 2021).

According to current and historical data provided for the World Drug Report (WDR), over the past decade the weight (in kilogram equivalent) of steroids seized globally has increased 748%, from 214.5 kilograms in 2010 to 1,818.7 kilograms in 2019. This is a 28% increase from 2018, when 1,423 kilograms was seized (UNODC 2022a).

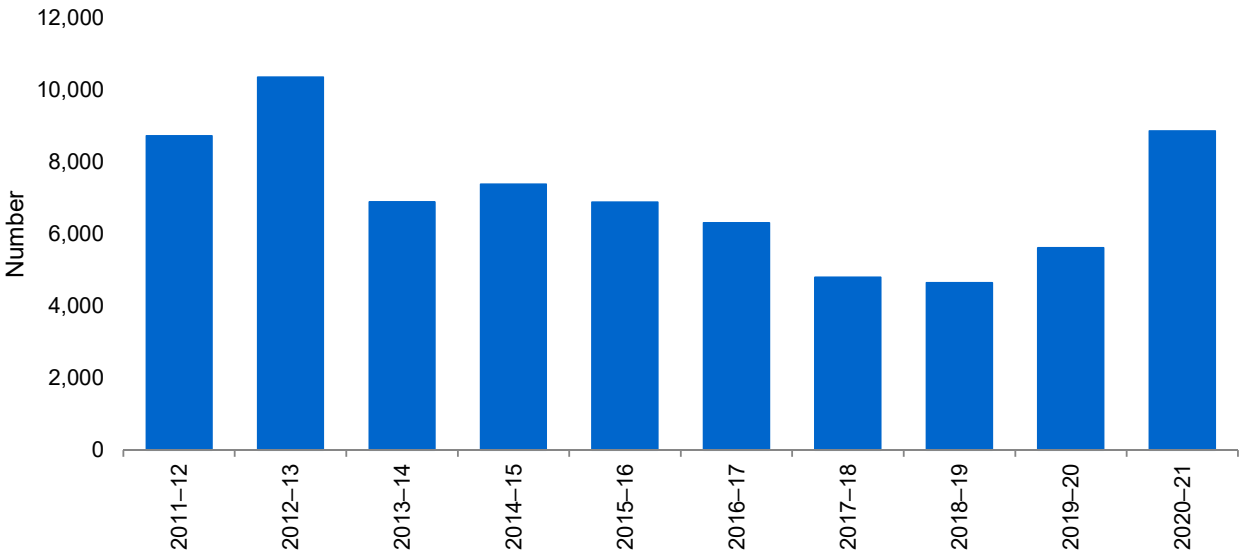
According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of 'metabolic agents'[51] seizures increased in 2021, while the number of pieces of metabolic agents within those seizures decreased slightly. Metabolic agents were the most common medical product seized globally in 2021, followed by musculo-skeletal agents (WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of PIED detections at the Australian border increased 1%, from 8,726 in 2011–12 to 8,855 in 2020–21. The number of detections increased 58% this reporting period from 5,614 in 2019–20 (see Figure 24).[52]

FIGURE 24: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections at the Australian border 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



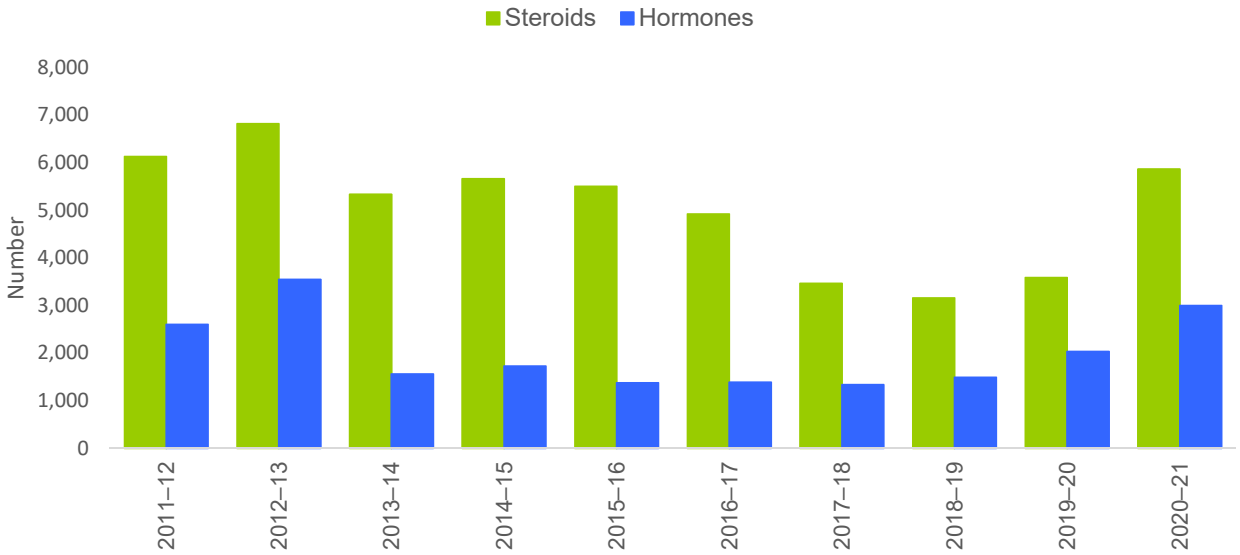
51 Metabolic agents include medical products such as steroids and antidiabetics.

52 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, which includes liquid, vials and tablets.

While steroid detections remain the greatest proportion of the number of PIED detections at the Australian border, the proportion decreased, from 70% in 2011–12 to 66% in 2020–21 (see Figure 25).

- The number of steroid detections increased 64% this reporting period, from 3,584 in 2019–20 to 5,861 in 2020–21.
- The number of hormone detections increased 47% this reporting period, from 2,030 in 2019–20 to 2,994 in 2020–21.
- The number of clenbuterol detections increased 149% this reporting period, from 152 in 2019–20 to 378 in 2020–21.

FIGURE 25: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections, by category, at the Australian border 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of PIEDs at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew, international mail and sea cargo streams. International mail accounted for 73% of the number of PIED detections in 2020–21, followed by air cargo (27%), air passenger/crew (<1%) and sea cargo (<1%).

In 2020–21, detections of clenbuterol at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. International mail accounted for 93% of the number of clenbuterol detections in 2020–21, followed by air cargo (7%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2020–21, 52 countries were identified as embarkation points for PIEDs detected at the Australian border, compared with 50 countries in 2019–20. By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for PIED detections in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points this reporting period include the United States, the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Turkiye, France, India, Saudi Arabia and Germany.

In 2020–21, 24 countries were identified as embarkation points for clenbuterol detected at the Australian border, compared with 26 countries in 2019–20.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting the non-medical use of steroids at least once in their lifetime increased, from <1% in 2010 to 1% in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[53] used steroids for non-medical purposes remained stable over the last decade at <1% (AIHW 2020).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel groups, which provide valuable insight into patterns of drug use and market trends and can assist in the identification of emerging issues that require further monitoring.

According to Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) data, the reported recent use[54] of non-prescribed steroids has remained consistently low since monitoring commenced in 2010, ranging between less than 1% and 3%, with less than 5 participants reporting recent use in 2021 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

According to the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS), the proportion of respondents reporting PIEDs as the drug last injected increased, from 5% in 2011 to 6% in 2020. This proportion was 4% in 2019 (Heard et al. 2020; Heard et al. 2021).

PRICE

National law enforcement data on the price of PIEDs is limited. The price range for a single 10 millilitre vial of testosterone enanthate decreased over the last decade, ranging from between $100 and $230 in 2011–12 (reported in Queensland and Tasmania) to between $80 and $100 in 2020–21 (reported in Queensland and the Northern Territory). The price was $80 in 2019–20 (reported in Queensland). The price range for 10 x 10 millilitre vials of testosterone enanthate decreased over the last decade, from $1,900 in 2011–12 (reported in Queensland) to between $840 and $1,000 in 2020–21 (reported in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory). The price was $840 in 2019–20 (reported in Queensland).

Queensland was the only jurisdiction to provide price data for trenbolone acetate in 2011–12, 2019–20 and 2020–21. The price for a single 10 millilitre vial of trenbolone acetate decreased over the last decade, from $200 in 2011–12 to $80 in 2019–20 and 2020–21. The price for 10 x 10 millilitre vials of trenbolone acetate decreased over the last decade, from $1,400 in 2011–12 to $650 in 2019–20 and 2020–21.

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

SEIZURES

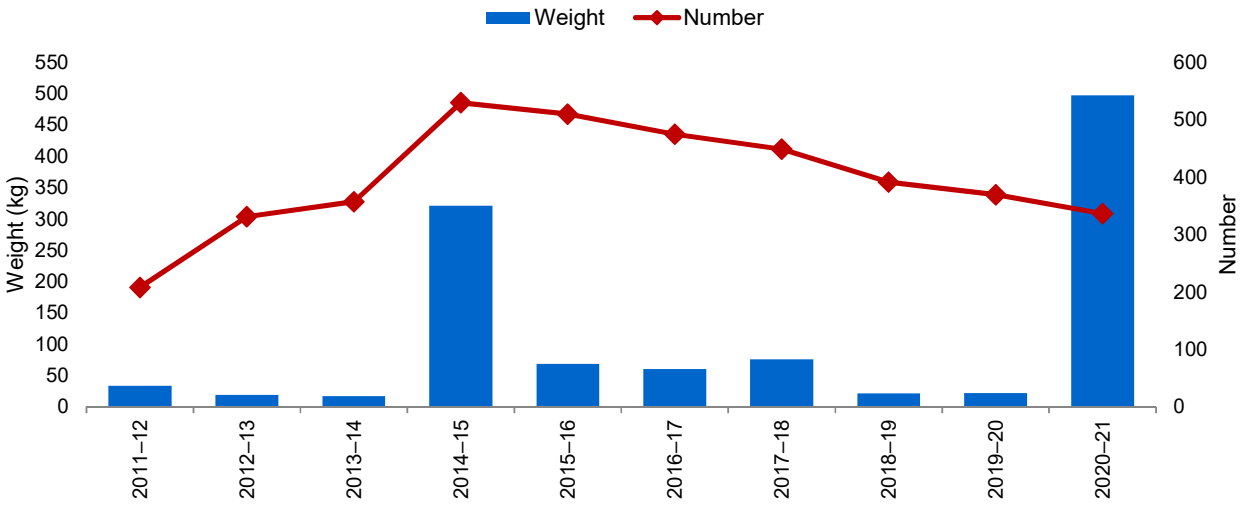
The number of national steroid seizures increased 62%, from 208 in 2011–12 to 336 in 2020–21. The number of steroid seizures increased to a record number in 2014–15 before decreasing in subsequent reporting periods. This reporting period the number of seizures decreased 9%, from 369 in 2019–20.

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

54 In both the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), recent use refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.

The weight of steroids seized nationally increased 1,372%, from 33.7 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 496.8 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight of steroids seized nationally increased 2,161% this reporting period, from 21.9 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 26).

FIGURE 26: National steroid seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of steroid seizures in 2020–21, while South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of steroids seized. This reporting period New South Wales continued to account for the greatest proportion of both the number (58%) and weight (96%) of steroids seized nationally (see Table 15).

TABLE 15: Number, weight and percentage change of national steroid seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

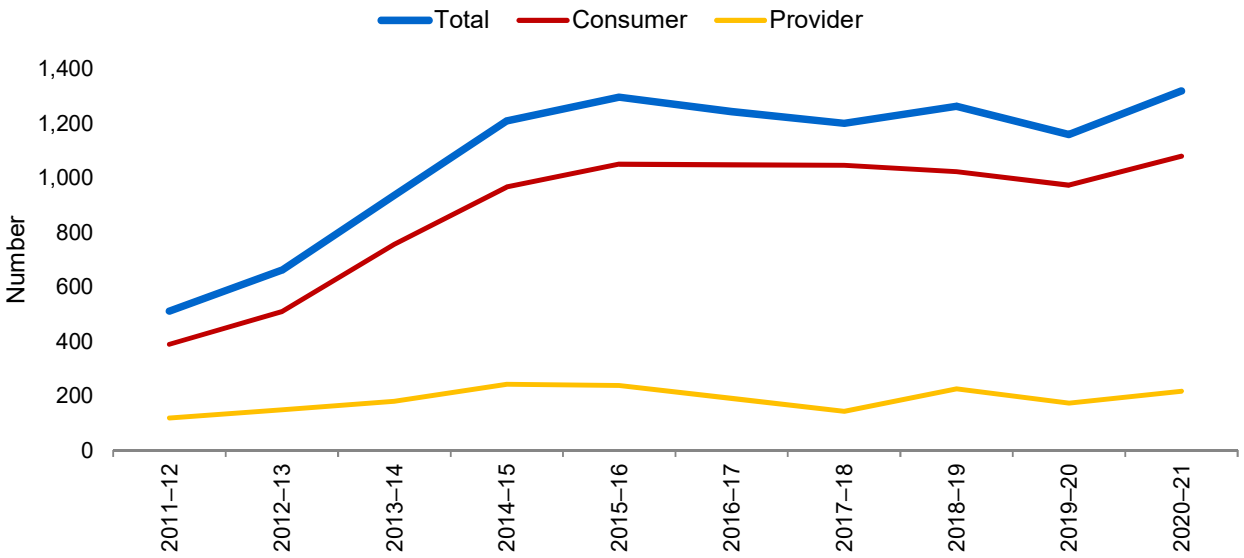
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	188	195	3.7	14,024	477,241	3,303.0
Victoria	2	8	300.0	101	123	21.8
Queensland	52	65	25.0	4,899	506	-89.7
South Australia	1	2	100.0	2	16,520	825,900.0
Western Australia	52	31	-40.4	1,646	1,897	15.2
Tasmania	0	1	–	0	60	–
Northern Territory	12	8	-33.3	191	289	51.3
Australian Capital Territory	62	26	-58.1	1,114	177	-84.1
Total	**369**	**336**	**-8.9**	**21,977**	**496,813**	**2,160.6**

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 steroid arrests increased 158%, from 511 in 2011–12 to a record 1,320 in 2020–21. The number of steroid arrests increased 14% this reporting period, from 1,160 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 82% of national steroid arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 27).

FIGURE 27: Number of national steroid arrests, 2011–12 to 2020–21



While starting from a low base, the Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of steroid arrests in 2020–21. Queensland continued to account for the greatest proportion of national steroid arrests this reporting period (47%; see Table 16).

TABLE 16: Number and percentage change of national steroid arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	187	208	11.2
Victoria	164	215	31.1
Queensland	596	622	4.4
South Australia	11	22	100.0
Western Australia	184	228	23.9
Tasmania	7	10	42.9
Northern Territory	5	12	140.0
Australian Capital Territory	6	3	-50.0
Total	**1,160**	**1,320**	**13.8**

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 2 most common tryptamines used in Australia (ADF 2022c; EMCDDA 2022a; EMCDDA 2022b; 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[55]), 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 2022c; EMCDDA 2022b; 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 2022a; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the World Drug Report, less than one tonne of tryptamines and one tonne of hallucinogens were seized globally in 2019. While most of the seized hallucinogens were LSD in past years, psilocybin and dimethyltryptamine (DMT) accounted for a majority of the weight of hallucinogens seized in 2019. In 2019, Canada had most of the seized psilocybin by weight, followed by Australia. By weight, most DMT was seized in the Netherlands, followed by Canada and Ireland; and by weight, most LSD was seized in India, followed by Venezuela and Australia (UNODC 2021).

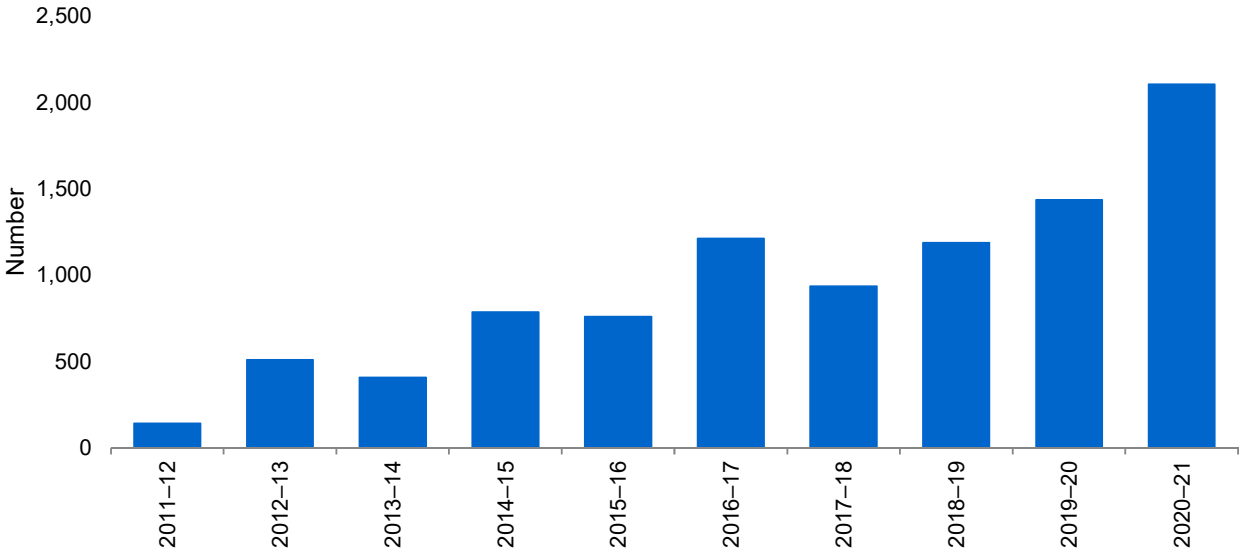
55 Small squares of absorbent paper generally decorated with artwork or designs and impregnated with LSD.

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border increased 1,382%, from 142 in 2011–12 to a record 2,104 in 2020–21. The number of detections increased 47% this reporting period, from 1,436 in 2019–20 (see Figure 28).

FIGURE 28: Number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2019–20, the majority of tryptamine detections at the Australian border in 2020–21 were LSD.

- LSD accounted for 19% of the number of tryptamine detections in 2011–12, increasing to 52% in 2020–21; while psilocybin accounted for 81% of the number of tryptamine detections in 2011–12, decreasing to 42% in 2020–21. 'Other tryptamines' increased from zero detections in 2011–12 to 6% of tryptamine detections in 2020–21.
- Of the 2,104 tryptamine detections in 2020–21, 1,096 were LSD (the highest number on record), a 10% increase from 996 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade the number of LSD detections increased 3,959%, from 27 in 2011–12.
- Of the 2,104 tryptamine detections in 2020–21, 877 were psilocybin (the highest number on record), a 131% increase from 380 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade, the number of psilocybin detections increased 663%, from 115 in 2011–12.
- The remaining 131 tryptamine detections in 2020–21 were reported as 'other', a 118% increase from 60 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade the number of other tryptamine detections increased from zero in 2011–12.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of tryptamines occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of tryptamines detection (99%), followed by air cargo (1%).

In 2020–21, detections of LSD occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of tryptamines detection (99%), followed by air cargo (1%).

In 2020–21, detections of psilocybin occurred in the international mail stream only.

EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, the United States was the primary embarkation point for tryptamine detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points this reporting period include the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Mexico, China (including Hong Kong), Lithuania, Canada, Germany and Peru.

By number, the Netherlands was the primary embarkation point for psilocybin detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include Switzerland, France, the United States, Lithuania, Canada, the United Kingdom, Austria, Belgium and Bulgaria.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used hallucinogens at least once in their lifetime increased, from 9% in 2010 to 10% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 9%.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used hallucinogens increased, from 1% in 2010 to 2% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 1% (AIHW 2020).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent LSD use increased, from 34% in 2012 to 53% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 49%.
- The reported median number of days of LSD use in the 6 months preceding interview remained stable at 3 days over the last decade, with the exception of 2014 and 2015 where the median number of days of use was 2.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of hallucinogenic mushrooms increased, from 27% in 2012 to 45% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 30%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of DMT increased, from 13% in 2012 to 18% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 13%.
- The reported median number of days of DMT use in the 6 months preceding interview remained relatively stable, increasing from 1.5 days in 2012 to 2 days in 2021. The number of days remained unchanged from 2020 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

PRICE

Nationally, the price range per tab of LSD remained relatively stable, ranging from between $20 and $50 in 2011–12 to between $20 and $40 in 2020–21. The price reported in 2019–20 ranged from $15 to $35. The median price per tab of LSD remained relatively stable, decreasing slightly from $27.50 in 2011–12 (reported in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory) to $25 in 2020–21. The national median price was $27.50 in 2019–20.

AVAILABILITY

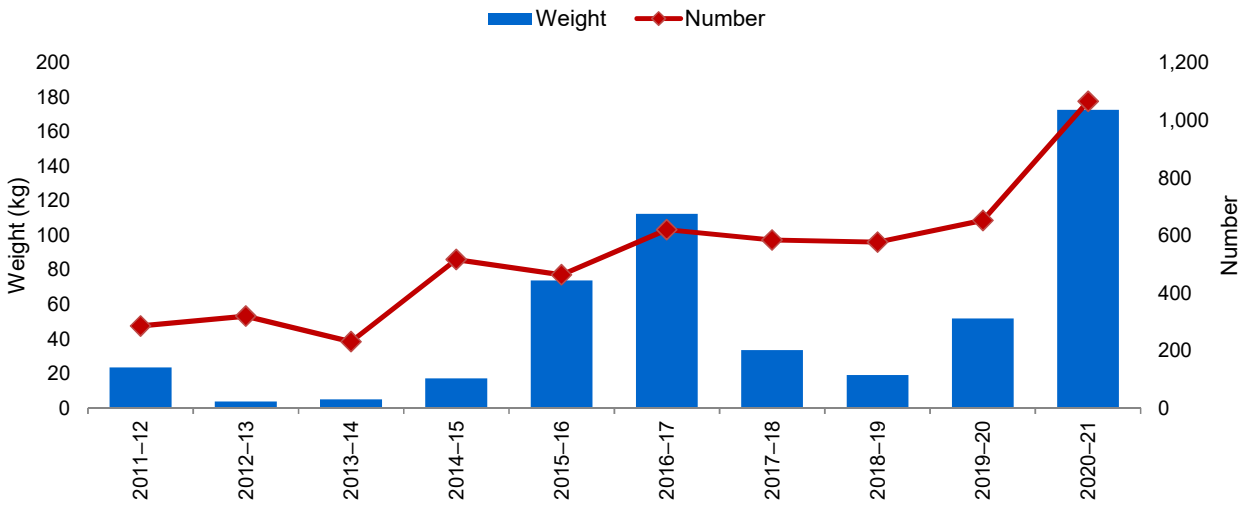
A national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants reported that over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting LSD as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain increased, from 63% in 2012 to 69% in 2021. This proportion was 61% in 2020 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

SEIZURES

The number of national hallucinogen seizures increased 274%, from 285 in 2011–12 to a record 1,066 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of national hallucinogen seizures increased 63% from 652 in 2019–20.

The weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased 634%, from 23.5 kilograms in 2011–12 to a record 172.8 kilograms in 2020–21. This reporting period the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased 233%, from 51.8 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 29).

FIGURE 29: National hallucinogen seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Although starting from a small base, South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in both the number and weight of hallucinogens seized in 2020–21. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (61%) and weight (73%) of hallucinogens seized nationally (see Table 17).

TABLE 17: Number, weight and percentage change of national hallucinogen seizures 2019–20 and 2020–21

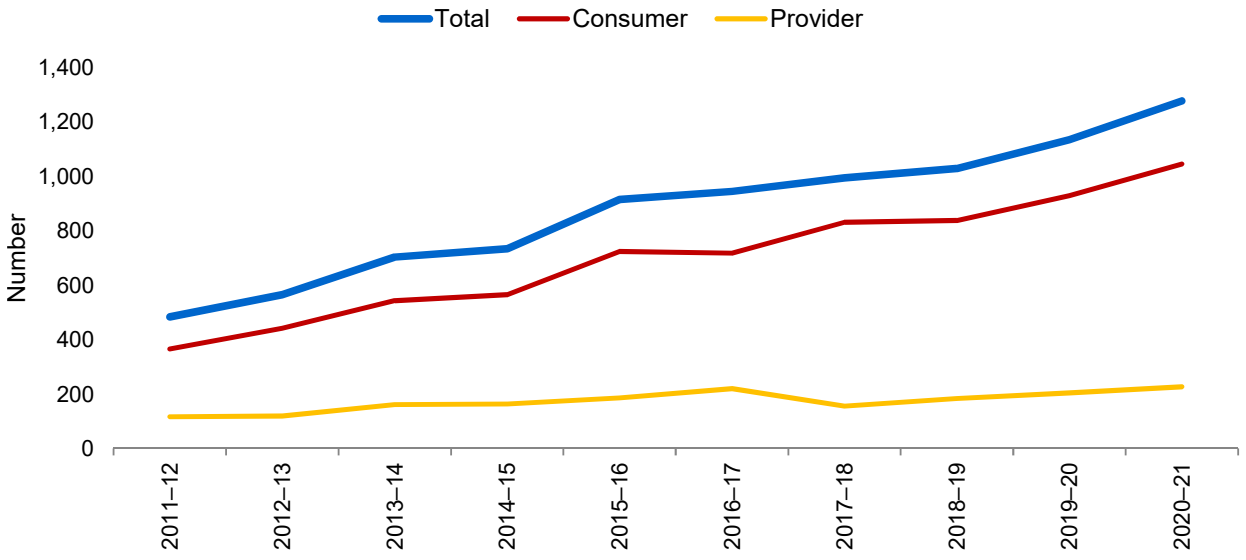
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	342	649	89.8	6,919	125,389	1,712.2
Victoria	101	81	-19.8	29,064	21,428	-26.3
Queensland	60	85	41.7	6,171	7,329	18.8
South Australia	6	16	166.7	12	1,545	12,775.0
Western Australia	109	190	74.3	8,625	16,064	86.2
Tasmania	15	24	60.0	1,085	1,044	-3.8
Northern Territory	10	15	50.0	3	11	266.7
Australian Capital Territory	9	6	-33.3	13	4	-69.2
Total	**652**	**1,066**	**63.5**	**51,892**	**172,814**	**233.0**

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 hallucinogen arrests increased 164%, from 484 in 2011–12 to a record 1,278 in 2020–21. The number of national hallucinogen arrests increased 13% this reporting period, from 1,135 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 82% of national hallucinogen arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 30).

FIGURE 30: Number of national hallucinogen arrests, 2011–12 to 2020–21



While starting from a low base, the Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of hallucinogen arrests in 2020–21. Queensland continued to account for the greatest proportion of national hallucinogens arrest this reporting period (41%; see Table 18).

TABLE 18: Number and percentage change of national hallucinogen arrests, 2019–20 to 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	189	168	-11.1
Victoria	202	235	16.3
Queensland	483	520	7.7
South Australia	19	66	247.4
Western Australia	221	264	19.5
Tasmania	8	9	12.5
Northern Territory	4	14	250.0
Australian Capital Territory	9	2	-77.8
Total	**1,135**	**1,278**	**12.6**

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 and gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and related substances, the most prevalent anaesthetics used illicitly in Australia (ADF 2022d).

KETAMINE

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

- Ketamine is commonly found in 3 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 2022d; DrugWise 2022a; 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 2022e; DrugWise 2022b; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Between 2015 and 2019, the weight of ketamine seized globally decreased by almost 50% to 12 tonnes. The majority of the weight of seized ketamine continued to be seized in East and South-East Asia, particularly in China, followed by Malaysia and Thailand. In 2019, GHB was the most seized substance within the 'sedatives and tranquilizers' category. The majority of the weight of GHB seized globally was reported in Sweden, followed by the United States and New Zealand (UNODC 2021).

According to the WCO, the weight of ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances within the 'NPS' category increased 289% in 2021. The weight of ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances accounted for 19% of the total NPS weight seized globally in 2021 and was the third most seized substance by weight (WCO 2022).

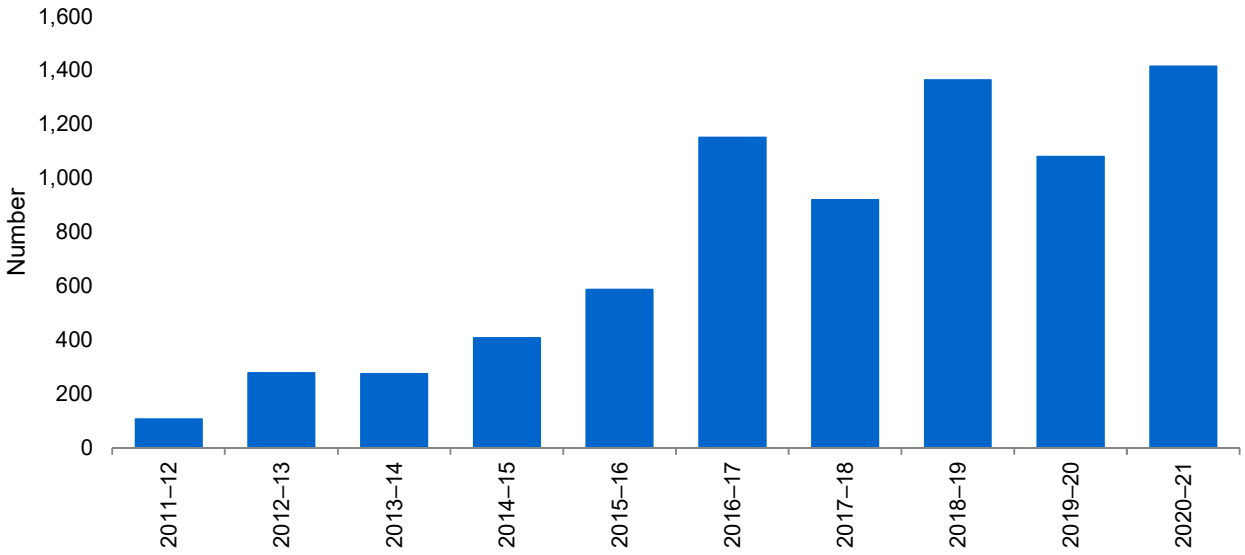
The WCO reported a 155% increase in the weight of GBL seized globally, increasing from 1,727 kilograms in 2020 to 4,394 kilograms in 2021. GBL was the fourth most seized substance by weight within the 'psychotropic substances' category in 2021. WCO data for the number of GBL seizures was not available in 2021. WCO data for GHB seizures was also not available for that year (WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of detections of anaesthetics (including GHB, GBL and ketamine) at the Australian border increased 1,233%, from 106 in 2011–12 to a record 1,413 in 2020–21. The number of anaesthetics detections increased 31% this reporting period, from 1,079 in 2019–20 (see Figure 31).

FIGURE 31: Number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2019–20, a majority of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border in 2020–21 were ketamine.

- Ketamine accounted for 56% of the number of anaesthetic detections in 2011–12, increasing to 69% in 2020–21; while GBL accounted for 44% in 2011–12, decreasing to 14% in 2020–21. GHB detections increased from zero detections in 2011–12 to 3% of the anaesthetics detections in 2020–21.
- Of the 1,413 anaesthetic detections, 976 were ketamine (the highest number on record), a 7% increase from the 911 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade, the number of ketamine detections increased 1,554%, from 59 in 2011–12.
- Of the 1,413 anaesthetic detections, 194 were GBL, a 40% increase from the 139 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade, the number of GBL detections increased 313%, from 47 in 2011–12.
- Of the 1,413 anaesthetic detections, 44 were GHB, a 52% increase from the 29 detections in 2019–20. Over the last decade, the number of GHB detections increased, from zero detections in 2011–12.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of anaesthetics occurred in the air cargo, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of anaesthetic detections (74%), followed by air cargo (25%) and sea cargo (1%).

- Detections of ketamine occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of ketamine detections (90%), followed by air cargo (10%).
- Detections of GHB occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of GHB detections (98%), followed by air cargo (2%).
- Detections of GBL occurred in the air cargo, international mail and sea cargo streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of GBL detections (61%), followed by air cargo (36%) and sea cargo (3%).

EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for anaesthetic detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and Kenya.

By number, the United Kingdom was the primary embarkation point for ketamine detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points this reporting period include Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Kenya, the Netherlands, Poland and Pakistan.

By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for GHB and GBL detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points this reporting period include the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the United States, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand, Norway and Namibia.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used GHB at least once in their lifetime remained stable at 1% over the last decade.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used GHB remained stable at <1% over the last decade.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ketamine at least once in their lifetime increased, from 1% in 2010 to 3% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 2%.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used ketamine increased, from <1% in 2010 to 1% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was <1% (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) began monitoring ketamine in December 2020 and the drug was included for the first time in Report 13 of the NWDMP. According to data from the NWDMP for December 2020 to August 2021:

- Ketamine consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of ketamine increased in both capital city and regional sites (ACIC 2022).

According to IDRS data, the proportion of respondents reporting recent GHB/GBL/1,4-BD use remained stable at 10% in 2020 and 2021 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent GHB/GBL/1,4-BD use increased, from 7% in 2012 to 9% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 6%.
- The reported median number of days of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD use remained stable at 2 days in 2012 and 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent ketamine use increased, from 14% in 2012 to 52% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 43%.
- The reported median number of days of ketamine use increased, from 2 days in 2012 to 3 days in 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020 (Sindicich & Burns 2013; Sutherland et al. 2021b).

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

Over the last decade, the proportion of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased from one percent in 2011–12 to 6% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the proportion was 7%. The number of laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased 183% over the last decade, from 6 in 2011–12 to 17 in 2020–21. This number decreased 26% this reporting period, from a record 23 in 2019–20 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

PRICE

The price range for one gram of ketamine powder decreased, from between $50 and $200 in 2011–12 to between $180 and $260 in 2020–21. The price reported in 2019–20 ranged from $180 to $260. The median price increased, from $145 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales and Queensland) to $245 in 2020–21. The median price was $200 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia).

Nationally, the price range for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol increased, from between $3 and $8 in 2011–12 to between $1 and $20 in 2020–21. Nationally, the price reported in 2019–20 ranged from $2 to $10. The median price for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol increased, from $6 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia) to $10 in 2020–21. The national median price was $6.25 in 2019–20.

The price range for one litre of GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol decreased, ranging between $2,000 and $5,000 in 2011–12 to between $1,250 and $4,000 in 2020–21. Nationally, the price reported in 2019–20 ranged from $900 to $5,000. The median price for one litre of GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol decreased, from $3,100 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia) to $2,413 in 2020–21 (reported in New South Wales and South Australia). The national median price was $2,750 in 2019–20.

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, from 45% in 2012 to 58% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 57%. Data relating to the availability of GHB/GBL was unavailable for 2021 (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

PHARMACEUTICALS

MAIN FORMS

In Australia, the importation, manufacture, distribution and supply of pharmaceuticals is controlled under 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 misused 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 2022f; EMCDDA 2022c; 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 2022g; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

In 2019, benzodiazepine was the second most seized substance within the sedatives and tranquilizers category. The majority of the weight of benzodiazepines seized globally was reported in Malaysia, followed by Sweden and China. For the third time in the past 5 years, the total weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized globally (228 tonnes) exceeded the total weight of heroin seized globally (93 tonnes) in 2019. Codeine accounted for the largest proportion of the weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized in 2019, followed by tramadol, fentanyl and methadone. By weight, most pharmaceutical opioids were seized in Bangladesh (mostly codeine), followed by Benin (mostly tramadol), India (mostly codeine), Malaysia (mostly codeine) and the United States (mostly fentanyl and its analogues; UNODC 2021).

According to the World Customs Organization, the weight of ‘opioids and opiates’ seized decreased 29%, from 30,557.0 kilograms in 2020 to 21,590.5 kilograms in 2021. The number of opioids and opiates seizures increased 143%, from 5,992 in 2020 to 14,569 in 2021. Opioids and opiates replaced cannabis as the second most seized category by number in 2021. The United States accounted for the greatest proportion of the total number of seizures (13,092) or 90% of the weight (8,776.0 kilograms) of opioids and opiates seized globally in 2021. The global weight of opioids and opiates seized was not available in 2021 (WCO 2022).

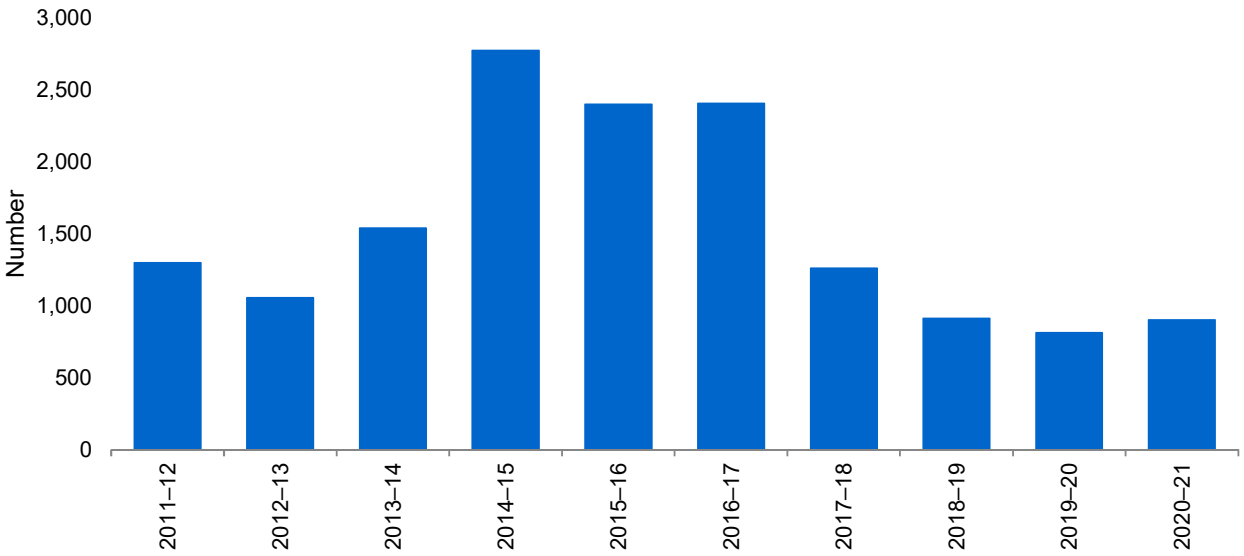
DOMESTIC TRENDS

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).[56] While fluctuating, the number of pharmaceuticals detected at the Australian border increased 6% from 1,337 in 2011–12 to 1,415 in 2020–21, a 27% increase from 1,112 in 2019–20 (see Figure 32).

FIGURE 32: Number of pharmaceutical detections at the Australian border 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2019–20, the majority (64%) of pharmaceutical detections at the Australian border in 2020–21 were benzodiazepines.

- The number of benzodiazepines detections fluctuated, decreasing 31% from 1,298 in 2011–12 to 902 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of detections increased 11% from 810 in 2019–20.
- The number of opioid detections increased 1,215%, from 39 in 2011–12 to a record 513 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of detections increased 70% from 302 in 2019–20.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2020–21, detections of benzodiazepines 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 benzodiazepine detections (79%), followed by air cargo (17%), air passenger/crew (3%) and sea cargo (1%).

In 2020–21, detections of opioids 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 opioids detections (86%), followed by air cargo (12%), sea cargo (2%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

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

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to NDSHS[57] data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting the non-medical[58] use of any pharmaceuticals (excluding OTC[59]) at least once in their lifetime increased, from 7% in 2010 to 12% in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 13%.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting recent non-medical use of any pharmaceuticals (excluding OTC) remained stable at 4% in both 2010 and 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 5% (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2011).

Since the NWDMP began in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone and fentanyl has decreased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2020 to August 2021:

- Fentanyl consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of fentanyl decreased in both capital city and regional sites.
- Oxycodone consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone remained relatively stable in capital city sites, while the population-weighted average consumption decreased to a record low in regional sites (ACIC 2022).

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of methadone halved, decreasing from 26% in 2012 to 13% in 2021. This proportion remained unchanged from 2020.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed methadone syrup use more than doubled, increasing from 4 days in 2012 to 10 days in 2021. In 2020 the median number of days was 5.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of buprenorphine more than halved, decreasing from 14% in 2012 to 6% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 5%.
- Over the last decade, the median number of days of non-prescribed buprenorphine use remained stable at 5 days in 2012 and 2021. The median number of days was 12 in 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of morphine more than halved, decreasing from 38% in 2012 to 16% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 15%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed morphine use halved, decreasing from 20 days in 2012 to 10 days in 2021. In 2020 the median number of days was 12.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of oxycodone more than halved, decreasing from 35% in 2012 to 9% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 11%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed oxycodone use decreased, from 7 days in 2012 to 4 days in 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020.

57 From 2016, the pharmaceutical data provided in the NDSHS reflects improvements made to the quality of the lifetime use and recent use dataset, with over the counter (OTC) pharmaceuticals removed. As a result, caution should be exercised in comparing data from previous reporting periods.

58 The NDSHS relates use for non-medical purposes to the use of drugs either alone or with other drugs to induce or enhance a drug experience, for performance enhancement or cosmetic purposes.

59 OTC refers to paracetamol, aspirin and other non-opioid over-the-counter pain-killers/analgesics.

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of fentanyl remained stable this reporting period at 6% in 2020 and 2021. Historical data for the recent use of non-prescribed fentanyl is unavailable.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed fentanyl use doubled this reporting period, increasing from 2 days in 2020 to 4 days in 2021. Historical data for median number of days of non-prescribed fentanyl use is unavailable.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of benzodiazepines decreased, from 50% in 2012 to 29% in 2021, the lowest on record since monitoring began in 2007. In 2020 this proportion was 31%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed benzodiazepine (excluding alprazolam) use increased, from 10 days in 2012 to 12 days in 2021. In 2020 the median number of days was 10.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical stimulants more than halved, decreasing from 13% in 2012 to 6% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 8%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants use decreased, from 4 days in 2012 to 3 days in 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020 (Stafford & Burns 2013; Sutherland et al. 2021a).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of codeine decreased, from 14% in 2012 to 8% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 9%.[60]
- The median number of days of non-prescribed codeine use decreased, from 4 days in 2012 to 2 days in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 3 days.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical opioids remained stable at 10% in 2013 (when monitoring of pharmaceutical opioids began) and 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 9%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed pharmaceutical opioids use remained low and stable this reporting period at 2 days in 2020 and 2021.
- The proportion of respondent reporting recent non-prescribed use of benzodiazepines increased, from 26% in 2012 to 35% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 40%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed benzodiazepine (excluding alprazolam) use decreased, from 4 days in 2012 to 3 days in 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical stimulants increased, from 28% in 2012 to 46% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 39%.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants use increased, from 4 days in 2012 to 5 days in 2021. The reported number of days remained unchanged from 2020 (Sindicich & Burns 2013; Sutherland et al. 2021b).

60 In February 2018, the scheduling for codeine changed such that low-dose codeine formerly available over the counter was required to be obtained via a prescription. High-dose codeine was excluded from pharmaceutical opioids from 2018. Data from 2010 to 2020 represents non-prescribed low-dose codeine used for non-pain purposes. Data for 2021 represents non-prescribed codeine (low- and high-dose) for non-pain purposes.

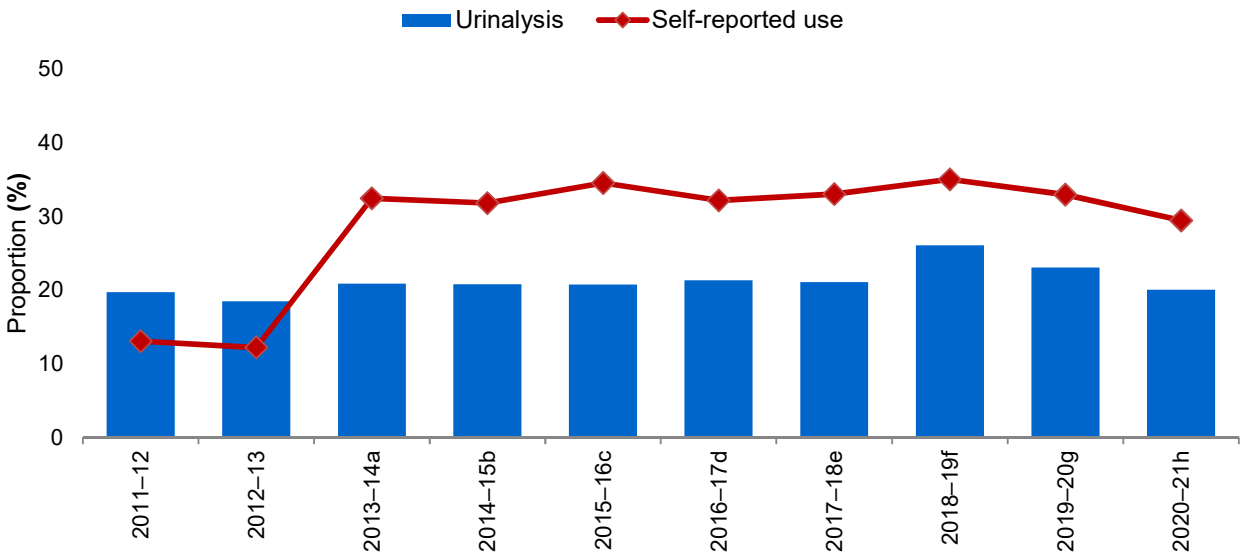
According to ANSPS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting pharmaceutical opioids as the drug last injected decreased, from 15% in 2011 to 8% in 2020. This proportion was 6% in 2019 (Heard et al. 2020; Heard et al. 2021).

According to DUMA[61] data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to benzodiazepines remained relatively stable at 20% in 2011–12 and 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 23%.[62]
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent use[63] of benzodiazepine increased, from 13% on 2011–12 to 29% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 33% (see Figure 33).
- The proportion of detainees testing positive for any opiates[64] decreased, from 15% in 2011–12 to 9% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 10%.
- The self-reported recent use of any opiates almost doubled, increasing from 10% in 2011–12 to 18% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 20% (see Figure 34).

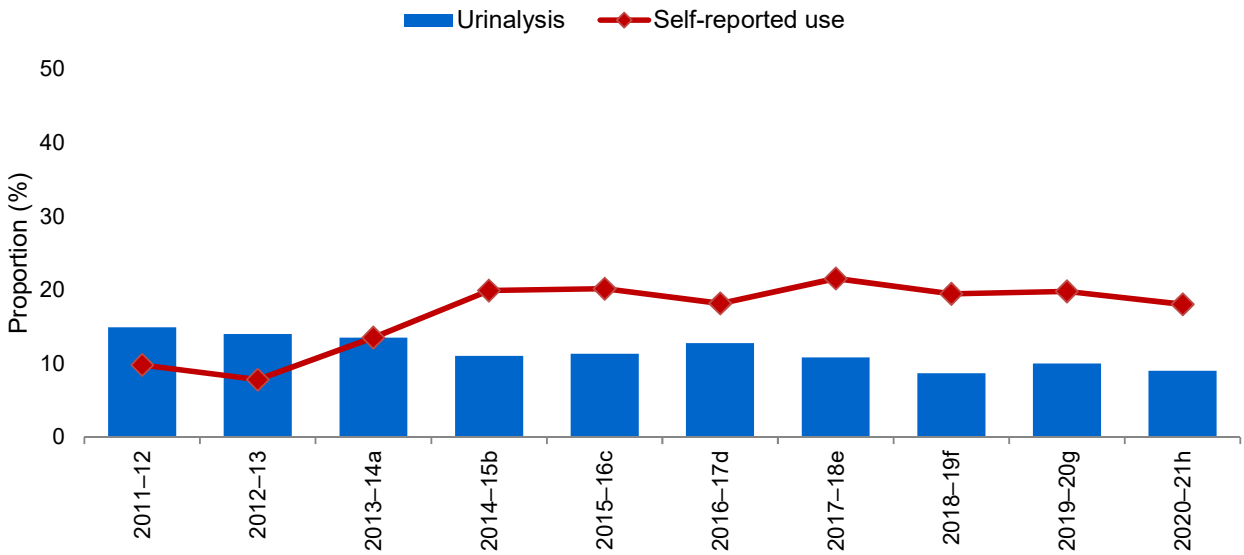
FIGURE 33: National proportion of detainees testing positive for benzodiazepines, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)



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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

61 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
62 Benzodiazepines and their metabolites can be detected in urine for 2 to 14 days after administration.
63 Recent use in DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.
64 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, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (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 2018 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.
h. Urine was collected in the second quarter of 2021 in Adelaide, Bankstown, Brisbane and Perth.

PRICE

The price for a single tablet of MS Contin ranged from $1 for one milligram, to $60 for one 60 milligram tablet and $100 for one 100 milligram tablet in 2020–21 (all prices reported in Tasmania). The prices remain unchanged from 2019–20. In 2011–12, the price for a single tablet of MS Contin ranged from $1 for one milligram (reported in Tasmania), to between $30 and $40 for one 60 milligram tablet (reported in Queensland) and between $60 and $100 for one 100 milligram tablet (reported in Queensland).

The price range for a single OxyContin tablet increased, from between $5 and $100 in 2011–12 (reported in New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory) to between $30 and $140 in 2020–21 (reported in New South Wales and Queensland). In 2019–20, the price ranged between $20 and $100 (reported in New South Wales).

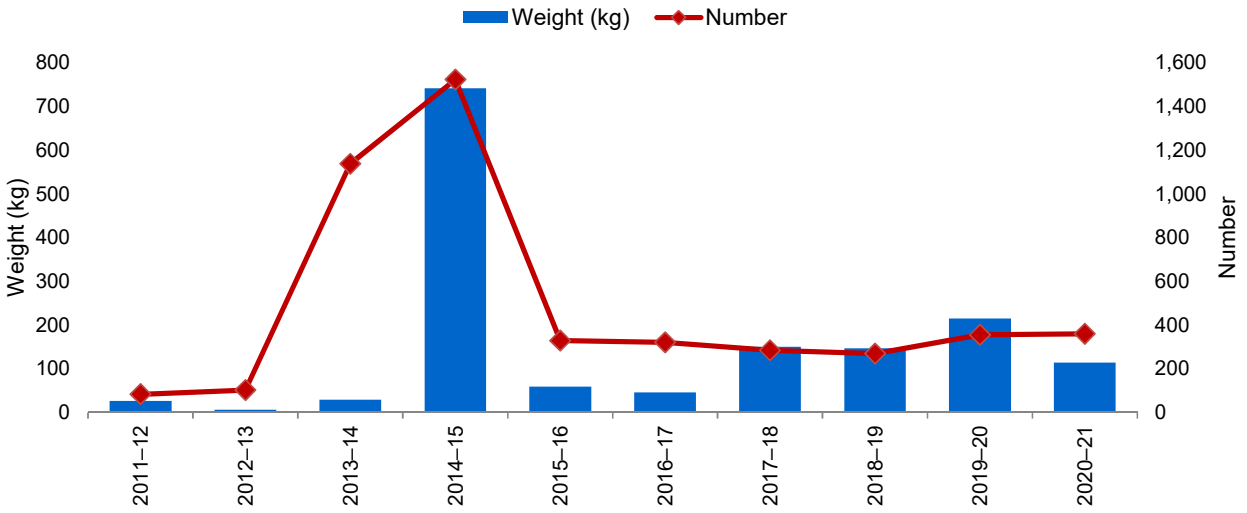
The price for a single 100 microgram patch of fentanyl decreased, from $400 in 2011–12 (reported in Queensland) to between $200 and $300 in 2020–21 (reported in New South Wales). In 2019–20, the price ranged between $90 and $300 (reported in New South Wales).

SEIZURES

The number of national other opioid seizures increased 334%, from 83 in 2011–12 to 360 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number remained relatively stable, increasing 1% from 355 in 2019–20.

The weight of other opioids seized nationally increased 328%, from 26.6 kilograms in 2011–12 to 113.8 kilograms in 2020–21. This reporting period the weight decreased 47% from 214.7 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 35).

FIGURE 35: National other opioid seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



Although starting from a small base, Tasmania and the Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other opioid seizures in 2020–21, while Queensland 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 (64%) and weight (76%) of other opioids seized nationally (see Table 19).

TABLE 19: Number, weight and percentage change of national other opioid seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	208	230	10.6	63,170	86,180	36.4
Victoria	48	15	-68.8	135,493	13,064	-90.4
Queensland	18	23	27.8	386	9,614	2,390.7
South Australia	4	6	50.0	2,069	57	-97.2
Western Australia	26	31	19.2	11,399	4,008	-64.8
Tasmania	4	8	100.0	16	371	2,218.8
Northern Territory	1	2	100.0	200	275	37.5
Australian Capital Territory	46	45	-2.2	2,054	259	-87.4
Total	**355**	**360**	**1.4**	**214,787**	**113,828**	**-47.0**

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

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

MAIN FORMS

NPS[65] 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 3 categories of analogue drugs: direct, structural and functional.
- NPS are often marketed and sold under a range of terms including 'legal highs'[66], 'herbal highs', 'bath salts', 'designer drugs' and 'research chemicals' (UNODC 2020; UNODC 2022b; Wermuth 2006).

Among the wide range of NPS available, this section covers 3 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-tetrahydrocannabinoil (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 2022h; EMCDDA 2022d; UNODC 2016).

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 2022i).

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 2022j; UNODC 2016; EMCDDA 2014).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The illicit global trade in NPS[67] is relatively small, but includes substances that are of global concern, particularly synthetic opioid NPS such as fentanyl analogues. In 2019, the total weight of NPS seized globally increased to 2,022 tonnes. While the seized weight of both synthetic NPS and plant-based NPS increased in 2019, plant-based NPS continued to account for the largest proportion of NPS seized.

65 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.

66 Use of the term legal high may not reflect the true legal status of these substances under Australian legislation.

67 The UNODC classifies NPS as substances which are not under international control whose pharmacological effects mimic substances which are internationally controlled.

The total weight of plant-based NPS seized increased more than tenfold between 2015 and 2019, with the weight of khat and kratom seized increasing to 1,623 tonnes and 398 tonnes respectively in 2019. Most of the khat seized by weight in 2019 was reported in the Near and Middle East (particularly Oman and Saudi Arabia) in contrast to most years in the past decade when most khat was seized in North America (particularly the United States) and Europe (UNODC 2021).

The weight of synthetic NPS seized globally decreased by more than 60% between 2015 and 2019, reflecting the close to 50% decrease in the weight of ketamine seized and more than 90% decrease in the weight of synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, tryptamines and piperazines seized. However, overall the weight of synthetic NPS seized in 2019 was still 170 times larger than 2001—when the first seizures of synthetic NPS were reported in the World Drug Report. In 2019, most synthetic NPS by weight were seized in China (mainly ketamine), followed by Australia (mainly phenethylamines), Malaysia (mainly ketamine), Thailand (mainly ketamine) and Myanmar (mainly ketamine; UNODC 2021).

According to the WCO, the number of NPS seizures reported globally increased to 11,787, accounting for 16% of the total weight of drugs seized globally in 2021. The weight of NPS seized decreased 4%, from 44,864.0 kilograms in 2020 to 43,046.0 kilograms in 2021. The 'other substances' subcategory accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of NPS seized in 2021 (33%), followed by tryptamine (31%) and ketamine and phencyclidine-type substance (19%). Lyrica (pregabalin) reported a 191% increase in 2021. The United States accounted for the greatest proportion of the number (7,589 seizures or 64%) and weight (25,397.0 kilograms) of NPS seized globally in 2021 (WCO 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of NPS border detections increased 113% this reporting period, from 609 in 2019–20 to 1,299 in 2020–21. Historical data for NPS border detections for 2011–12 is unavailable.

In 2020–21, detections of NPS occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of NPS detections (84%), followed by air cargo (16%).

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[68].

68 Other NPS include 2C-group substances, synthetic opiates and ketamine analogues.

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 refers only to seizures made and examined by the AFP.

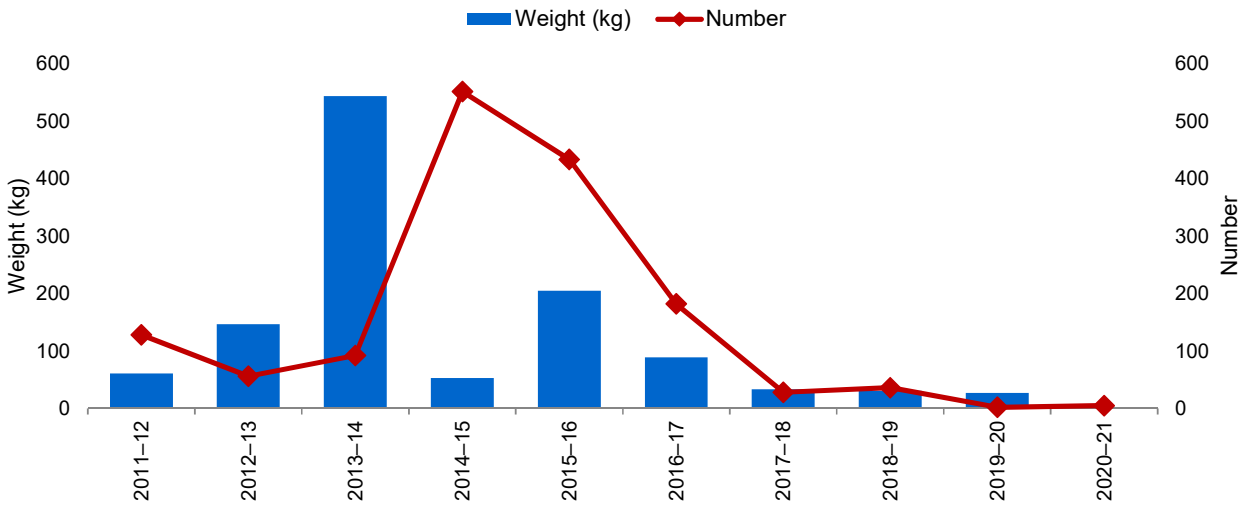
- There were no seizures of amphetamine-type substances or synthetic cannabinoids in 2020–21.
- In 2020–21, tryptamine-type substances and other NPS each accounted for 40% of the total number of analysed seizures, while cathinone-type substances made up the remaining 20%.

In contrast to previous years, amphetamine-type substances no longer constituted the greatest proportion of the weight of analysed seizures.

- In 2020–21, other NPS accounted for 92% of the weight of analysed seizures.
- Tryptamine-type substances accounted for 8% of the weight of analysed seizures in 2020–21.
- Cathinone-type substances accounted for less than 1% of the weight of analysed seizures in 2020–21.
  - The relevant seizure was of a single cathinone-type substance, 4-fluoro-3-methyl-α-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (4-fluoro-3-methyl-α-PVP).

The AFP's National Forensic Rapid Laboratory (NFRL) identifies a majority of the NPS seized by the AFP through the international mail stream. NFRL was not in operation during the 2020–21 reporting period, which may impact on the number of seizures identified for analysis and the range of substances detected during this reporting period.

FIGURE 36: Number and weight of seizures selected for further analysis and found to contain novel substances and drug analogues, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[a]



a. The data above refers only to seizures made and examined by the AFP and examined by AFP crime scene teams.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting having used a new and emerging psychoactive substance at least once in their lifetime increased, from <1% in 2013 to 1% in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australia population aged 14 years or older reporting having recently used a new and emerging psychoactive substance remained stable at <1% in 2013, 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting having used synthetic cannabinoids at least once in their lifetime increased, from 1% in 2013 to 3% in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australia population aged 14 years or older reporting having recently used synthetic cannabinoids decreased, from 1% in 2013 to <1% in 2016 and 2019 (AIHW 2020).

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of NPS decreased, from 12% in 2013 (earliest available data) to 7% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 8%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of substances mimicking the effects of cannabis decreased, from 9% in 2013 (earliest available data) to 4% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 5%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of substances mimicking the effect of opioids remained stable this reporting period at 1% in 2020 and 2021 (Sutherland et al. 2021a).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of any NPS (including plant-based NPS) decreased, from 40% in 2012 to 16% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 15%.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of any NPS (excluding plant-based NPS) decreased, from 37% in 2012 to 14% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 12%.
- 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 halved, decreasing from 12% in 2012 to 6% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 5%.
  - Recent use of NBOMes decreased, from 9% in 2014 (earliest available data) to 1% in 2021. This proportion remained unchanged from 2020.
  - Recent use of synthetic cannabinoids decreased, from 15% in 2012 to 2% in 2021. In 2020 this proportion was 4% (Sutherland et al. 2021b).

PRICE

National law enforcement price data for NPS was unavailable in 2020–21.

OTHER AND UNKNOWN NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED DRUGS

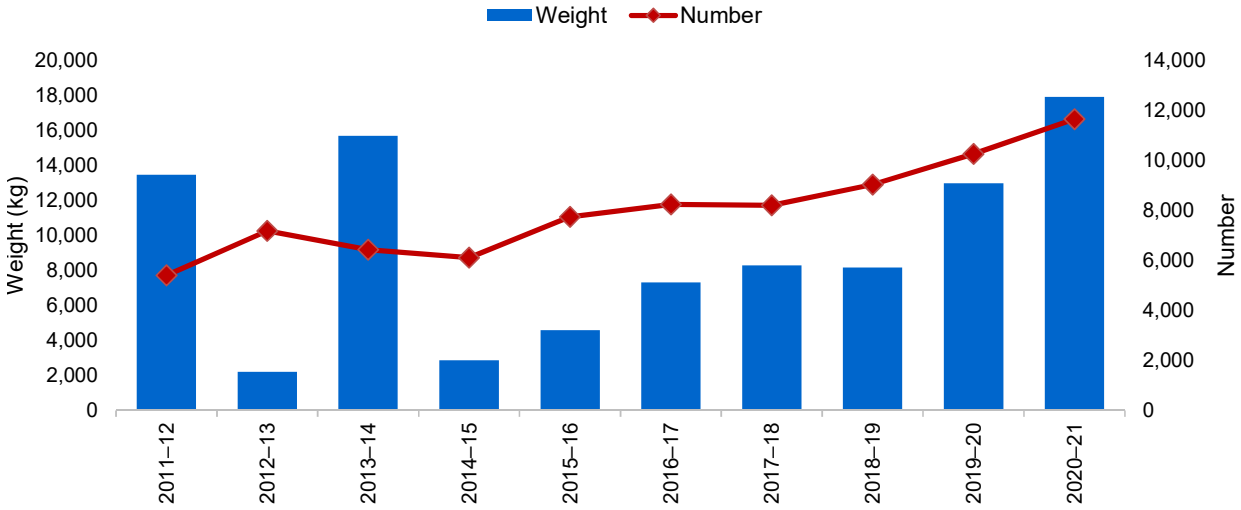
Data for national other and unknown not elsewhere classified (NEC) drug seizures and arrests capture those drugs and substances outside the specific drug categories contained in the *Illicit Drug Data Report*. This category contains a range of substances including precursors, anaesthetics, NPS, pharmaceuticals 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 116%, from 5,399 in 2011–12 to a record 11,648 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of seizures increased 14% from 10,260 in 2019–20.

The weight of other and unknown NEC drugs seized nationally increased 33%, from 13,451.5 kilograms in 2011–12 to 17,911.1 kilograms in 2020–21. This reporting period the weight seized increased 38 percent from 12,987.7 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 37).

FIGURE 37: National other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



The Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other and unknown NEC drug seizures in 2020–21, while Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of other and unknown NEC drug seizures (52%), while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight seized (60%; see Table 20).

TABLE 20: Number, weight and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, 2019–20 and 2020–21

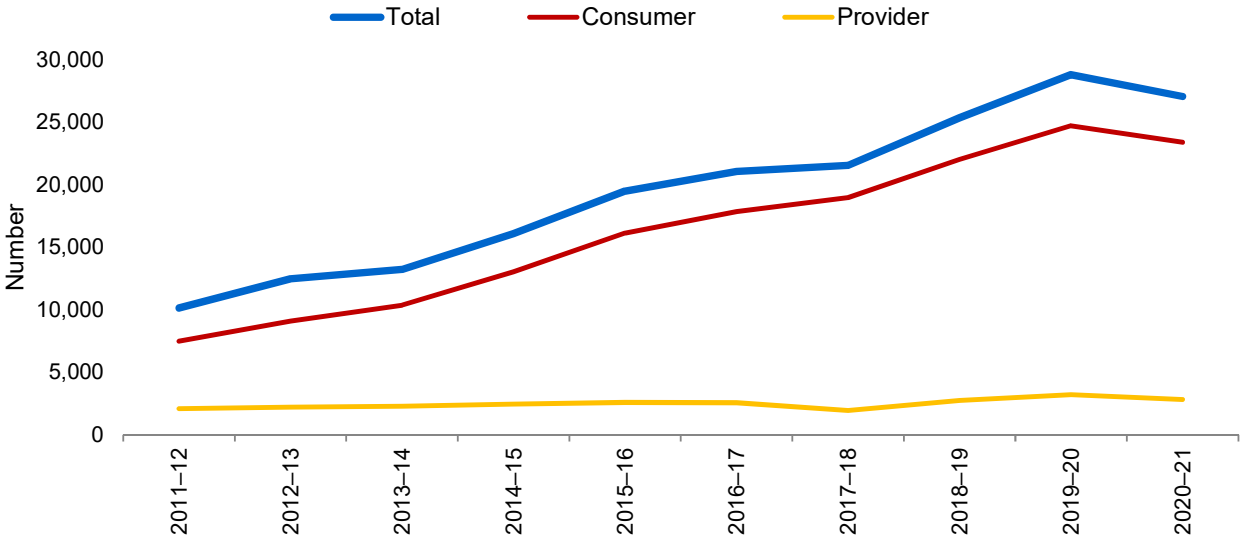
State/Territory[a]	Number			Weight (grams)		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	5,307	6,093	14.8	10,197,938	6,826,128	-33.1
Victoria	612	857	40.0	2,222,536	10,751,770[b]	383.8
Queensland	1,137	986	-13.3	433,153	180,635	-58.3
South Australia	28	32	14.3	5,501	15,420	180.3
Western Australia	2,660	2,529	-4.9	94,366	98,604	4.5
Tasmania	236	575	143.6	3,036	7,035	131.7
Northern Territory	165	194	17.6	19,620	24,449	24.6
Australian Capital Territory	115	382	232.2	11,565	7,067	-38.9
Total	**10,260**	**11,648**	**13.5**	**12,987,715**	**17,911,108**	**37.9**

a. Includes seizures by state and territory police and Australian Federal Police for which a valid seizure weight was recorded.
b. Includes a single seizure of 1,4-BD weighing over 4 tonnes.

ARRESTS

The number of other and unknown NEC drug arrests increased 155%, from 10,605 in 2011–12 to 27,072 in 2020–21. The number of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests decreased 6% from a record 28,812 in 2019–20. Consumer arrests account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 86% of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2020–21 (see Figure 38).

FIGURE 38: Number of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, by number and weight, 2011–12 to 2020–21



While starting from a low base, the Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other and unknown NEC drug arrests this reporting period. Victoria continued to account for the greatest proportion of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2020–21 (39%; see Table 21).

TABLE 21: Number and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, 2019–20 and 2020–21

State/Territory[a]	Arrests		
	2019–20	2020–21	% change
New South Wales	4,011	3,238	-19.3
Victoria	8,803	10,410	18.3
Queensland	7,877	7,004	-11.1
South Australia	1,378	1,136	-17.6
Western Australia	6,118	4,508	-26.3
Tasmania	558	644	15.4
Northern Territory	49	93	89.8
Australian Capital Territory	18	39	116.7
Total	**28,812**	**27,072**	**-6.0**

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

SUMMARY

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.

As a whole, the Australian markets for other drugs can be described as niche markets. In 2020–21, the markets for anabolic steroids and other selected hormones, tryptamines and anaesthetics continued to remain small but showed signs of potential expansion. Illicit pharmaceuticals remained relatively stable while NPS markets presented a mixed picture.

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CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES & PRECURSORS

KEY POINTS

- 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 stimulants (ATS) increasing.
- In 2020, of the chemicals seized globally under international control and commonly used to manufacture ATS, cocaine and heroin:
  - the weight of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine decreased to decade-low levels
  - the weight of potassium permanganate increased
  - the weight of acetic anhydride increased.
- Indicators of domestic illicit drug production in 2020–21 provide a mixed picture:
  - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally decreased.
  - Both the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border decreased.
  - The number of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border increased, while the weight decreased.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally continue to be addict-based and located in residential areas.
  - While the proportion of clandestine laboratories manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) decreased, they continue to account for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced.



National clandestine laboratory detections and precursor border detection, point in time annual and decade trend comparison

		2019–20 and 2020–21	2011–12 and 2020–21
No. of clandestine detections		↓ -9% 312 → 284	↓ -65% 809 → 284
Clandestine laboratory category[69]	**Category A**	↑ 13% → 14%	↑ 7% → 14%
	Category B	↓ 34% → 32%	↓ 35% → 32%
	Category C	➲ 42% → 42%	↓ 56% → 42%
	Category D	↑ 11% → 12%	↑ 2% → 12%
Clandestine laboratory size and production capacity	**Addict-based**	↓ 44% → 40%	↓ 79% → 40%
	Other small	↑ 28% → 35%	↑ 13% → 35%
	Medium	↓ 24% → 20%	↑ 6% → 20%
	Industrial	↑ 4% → 6%	↑ 3% → 6%
Clandestine laboratory location	**Residential**	↑ 74% → 81%	↑ 71% → 81%
	Commercial/ industrial	➲ 8% → 8%	↑ 3% → 8%
	Vehicle	↓ 4% → 3%	↓ 9% → 3%
	Public place	↓ 4% → 3%	↓ 8% → 3%
	Rural	↓ 5% → 3%	➲ 3% → 3%
	Other	↓ 5% → 2%	↓ 7% → 2%

69 Category A—active (chemicals and equipment in use); Category B—stored/used (equipment or chemicals); Category C—stored/unused (equipment or chemicals); and Category D—historical site.

National clandestine laboratory detections and precursor border detection, point in time annual and decade trend comparison (continued)

		2019–20 and 2020–21	2011–12 and 2020–21
ATS (excluding MDMA) border detection	ATS precursors (no.)	↓ -28% 790 → 571	↓ -39% 937 → 571
	ATS precursors (weight)	↓ -51% 2,099kg → 1,031kg	↓ -41% 1,744kg → 1,031kg
MDMA border detection	ATS precursors (no.)	↑ 50% 4 → 6	↓ -33% 9 → 6
	ATS precursors (weight)	↓ -92% 4,000g → 320g	↓ ≈-100% 240 litres → 320g

MAIN FORMS

Clandestine laboratories—commonly referred to as clan labs—covertly manufacture illicit drugs or their precursors. They 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 clan labs 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 clan labs may involve any or all of the following processes:

- Extraction—the active chemical ingredients are extracted from a preparation or plant, using a solvent to produce a finished drug or a precursor chemical. Examples include the extraction of precursor chemicals from pharmaceutical preparations, or 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 3 types of substances used in illicit drug manufacture:

- Precursors—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 that cause a chemical reaction to modify the precursor's molecular structure. For example, when the reagent acetic anhydride is mixed with the precursor P2P, the resulting compound is methylamphetamine.
- Solvents—substances 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; INCB 2022).

The method of manufacture employed is influenced by a number of factors, including the skill of the drug 'cook' and the availability of precursors. In Australia, methylamphetamine is the predominant drug manufactured in detected clan labs. The manufacturing methods and precursors used to manufacture methylamphetamine vary.

- The predominant processes used in Australia for manufacturing methylamphetamine are comparatively simple, using readily available basic equipment and precursor chemicals, with PSE and Eph 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 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 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) relies 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) noted an increasing trend of using non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors[70] and pre-precursors as alternatives to traditional precursor chemicals, although trafficking in controlled precursors appears to have remained largely unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions (INCB 2022).

70 Designer precursors are substances that are close chemical relatives to controlled precursors, typically developed to evade international controls.

This section will focus on ephedrines, 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: 28 countries reported Eph seizures in 2020 (totalling 8.9 tonnes), while 22 countries reported PSE seizures (totalling 1.4 tonnes). The combined weight of Eph and PSE seized globally continued to decrease in 2020 to a decade low (10.3 tonnes). East and South-East Asia accounted for more than 80% of the weight of Eph seized globally in 2020 (8.3 tonnes), of which China accounted for 7.6 tonnes. Australia and New Zealand are the only countries in the Oceania region that have reported seizures of Eph in the last 10 years, with Australia accounting for the majority of the weight seized (over 75%). In 2020, Australia seized 650 kilograms of Eph (among the lowest weight reported by Australia in the last decade) and 475 kilograms of PSE.
- Potassium permanganate: 12 countries reported potassium permanganate seizures in 2020. The weight of potassium permanganate seized globally increased from 65 tonnes (2019) to approximately 95 tonnes (2020). South America and China accounted for the majority of seizures, with Colombia accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight seized (almost 65 tonnes) in 2020.
- Acetic anhydride: 17 countries reported acetic anhydride seizures in 2020 totalling 106,000 litres, an increase from 60,049 litres in 2019. China accounted for the greatest proportion of the volume seized in 2020 (48,900 litres; INCB 2021; INCB 2022).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

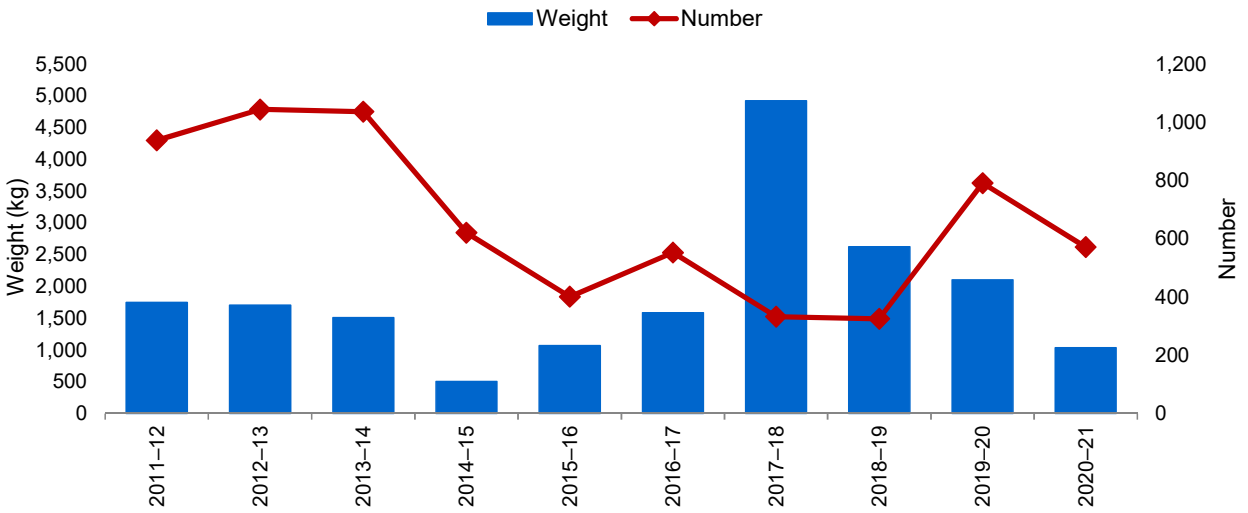
AUSTRALIA BORDER SITUATION

As ATS are the most common illicit drugs manufactured in domestic clan labs, 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, decreasing 39% from 937 in 2011–12 to 571 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of detections decreased 28%, from 790 in 2019–20. The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected also fluctuated, decreasing 41% from 1,744.6 kilograms in 2011–12 to 1,031.0 kilograms in 2020–21. The weight detected this reporting period decreased 51%, from 2,099.1 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 39).[71]

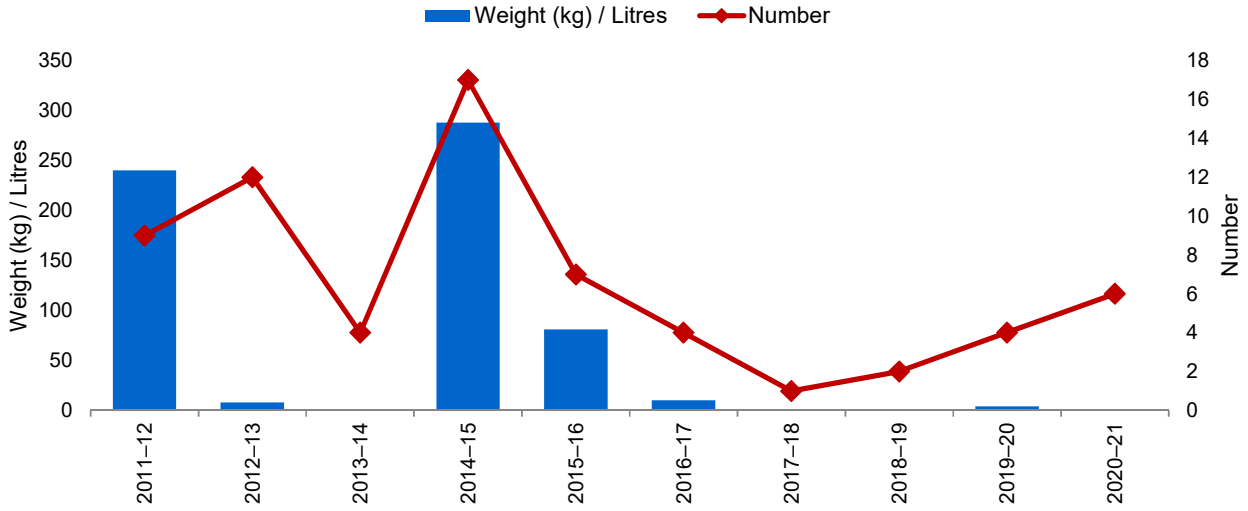
71 See Appendix 2 for significant ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections in 2020–21.

FIGURE 39: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



The number of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, but remained relatively low. The number of detections decreased 33%, from 9 in 2011–12 to 6 in 2020–21. This reporting period the number of detections increased 50%, from 4 in 2019–20. The weight of MDMA precursor detected also fluctuated and decreased by close to 100% from 240.1 litres in 2011–12 to 320 grams in 2020–21. The weight detected this reporting period decreased 92%, from 4.1 kilograms in 2019–20 (see Figure 40).

FIGURE 40: Number and weight/litres[a] of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border, 2011–12 to 2020–21 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



a. Significant detections of MDMA precursors occur in both kilograms and litres. As this figure reflects 2 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 2020–21, 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 77% of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections, followed by air cargo (21%), air passenger/crew (1%) and sea cargo (1%). By weight, air cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections (42%), followed by sea cargo (35%), international mail (22%) and air passenger/crew (<1%).

In 2020–21, MDMA precursor border detections occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for 67% of MDMA precursor border detections, followed by air cargo (33%). By weight, air cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of MDMA precursor border detections (66%), followed by international mail (34%).

EMBARKATION POINTS

By weight, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period included India, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates.

By weight, the United States was the primary embarkation point for MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border in 2020–21. Other key embarkation points this reporting period included the Netherlands and Poland.

TABLET PRESS DETECTIONS

The number of tablet press detections at the Australian border increased 305%, from 20 in 2011–12 to 81 in 2020–21. The number of detections increased 179% this reporting period, from 29 in 2019–20.

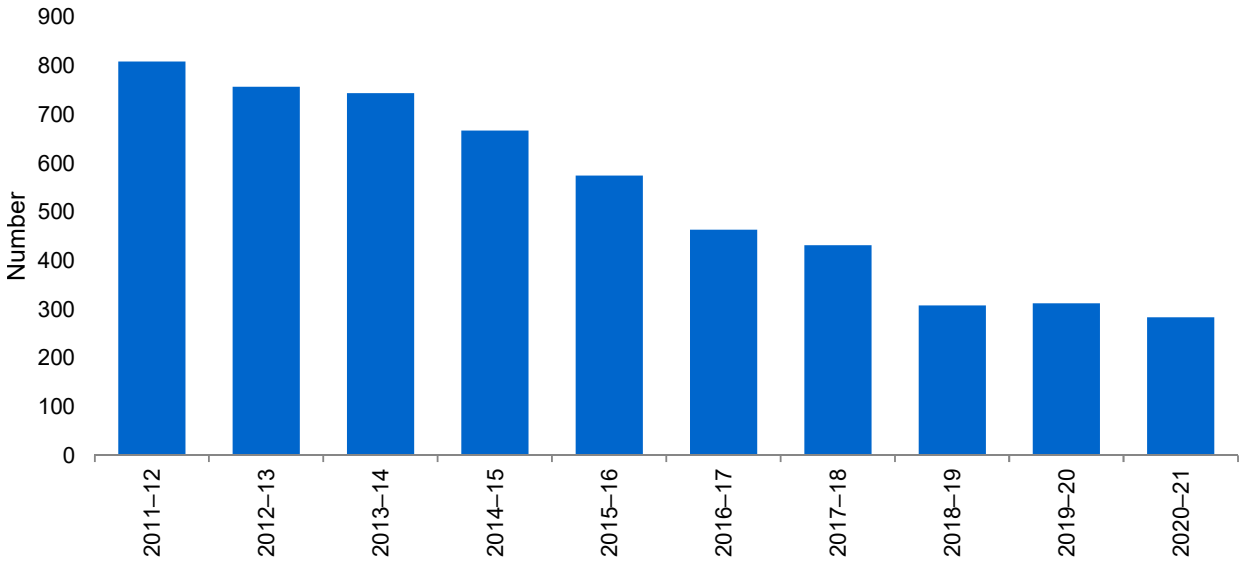
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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

CLANDESTINE LABORATORY DETECTIONS

The number of national clan lab detections in Australia decreased 65%, from a record 809 in 2011–12 to 284 in 2020–21. Since 2011–12, the number of clan lab detections decreased in every subsequent reporting period, with the exception of 2019–20 which had a slight increase. This reporting period the number of clan labs detected nationally decreased 9%, from 312 in 2019–20 (see Figure 41).

FIGURE 41: National clan lab detections, 2011–12 to 2020–21



New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory reported a decrease in the number of clan labs detected this reporting period compared to 2019–20, while Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory reported an increase. The number of clan labs detected in Tasmania remained stable (see Table 22). Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national clan lab detections in 2020–21 (24%), followed by Queensland (23%).

TABLE 22: Number of clan lab detections, by state and territory, 2011–12 to 2020–21

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
2011–12	90	99	379	58	160	15	7	1	809
2012–13	105	113	330	56	136	9	8	0	757
2013–14	98	114	340	80	96	5	11	0	744
2014–15	99	161	236	71	84	5	10	1	667
2015–16	83	144	234	69	40	1	3	1	575
2016–17	56	135	150	81	33	3	5	0	463
2017–18	86	98	141	78	25	2	2	0	432
2018–19	59	91	81	58	14	1	2	2	308
2019–20	80	77	62	61	28	2	1	1	312
2020–21	56	68	66	56	33	2	3	0	284

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 4 categories—addict-based, other small scale, medium scale and industrial scale—are found in the *Statistics* chapter.

In 2020–21, clan labs detected in Australia ranged from addict-based laboratories, which typically use basic equipment and simple procedures, through to industrial-scale laboratories using oversized equipment. The majority of detected laboratories in Australia continue to be addict-based, though the proportion continued to decrease, from 44% in 2019–20 to 40% in 2020–21. In 2011–12, this proportion was 79%. The proportion of laboratories categorised as other small-scale laboratories increased this reporting period, from 28% in 2019–20 to 35% in 2020–21. In 2011–12 this proportion was 13%. The proportion of laboratories categorised as medium sized laboratories decreased this reporting period, from 24% in 2019–20 to 20% in 2020–21. In 2011–12 this proportion was 6%. The proportion of industrial-scale laboratories increased this reporting period, from 4% in 2019–20 to 6% in 2020–21. In 2011–12 this proportion was 3%.

DRUG TYPES AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION

Over the last decade and of those able to be identified, clan labs 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, decreasing from 66% in 2011–12 to 51% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the proportion was 48%.

The number of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections decreased 73%, from 552 in 2011–12 to 149 in 2020–21. This number decreased 8% this reporting period from 162 in 2019–20.

- In 2020–21, Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratories (26%), followed by New South Wales (24%). All states and territories, with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, reported ATS (excluding MDMA) production this reporting period (see Table 23).

While fluctuating, the proportion of MDMA laboratory detections increased from less than 1% of national clan lab detections in 2011–12 to 2% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the proportion was 3%.

- The number of detections increased 200%, from 2 in 2011–12 to 6 in 2020–21. This number decreased 45% this reporting period, from 11 in 2019–20.
- In 2020–21, MDMA laboratories were detected in Victoria (3), New South Wales (2) and Queensland (1).

The proportion of cannabis oil extraction laboratory detections increased, from less than 1% of national clan lab detections in 2011–12 to 6% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the proportion was 9%.

- Detections increased 533%, from 3 in 2011–12 to 19 in 2020–21. This number decreased 34% this reporting period, from a record 29 in 2019–20.
- South Australia accounted for the majority of detections (8), followed by Victoria (5), Western Australia (5) and Queensland (1).

While fluctuating, the proportion of clan labs extracting PSE remained relatively stable, decreasing from 2% of national clan lab detections in 2011–12 to 1% in 2019–20 and 2020–21.

- PSE laboratory detections decreased 82%, from 17 in 2011–12 to 3 in 2020–21. This number decreased 25% this reporting period, from 4 in 2019–20.
- In 2020–21, laboratories were detected in New South Wales (1), Victoria (1) and South Australia (1).

The proportion of gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)/gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) laboratory detections increased, from 1% in 2011–12 to 6% of national clan lab detections in 2020–21. In 2019–20 the proportion was 7%.

- The number of detections increased 183%, from 6 in 2011–12 to 17 in 2020–21. This number decreased 26% this reporting period, from a record 23 in 2019–20.
- In 2020–21, laboratories were detected in Victoria (7), Queensland (6), New South Wales (2), South Australia (1) and Western Australia (1).

While fluctuating, the proportion of homebake heroin laboratories decreased, from less than 1% of national clan lab detections in 2011–12 to no detections in 2020–21. No detections were reported in 2019–20.

Clan labs detected in Australia also produce a range of other illicit drugs, precursors and pre-precursors, as well as being used in extraction and conversion processes.

- In 2020–21, this included laboratories manufacturing DMT, MDP2P, P2P, MDA, steroids, psilocybin, 1,4-butanediol (1,4-BD), mescaline and controlled precursors and pharmaceuticals. A cocaine and an iodine extraction laboratory were also detected this reporting period.

TABLE 23: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by drug production type and state and territory, 2020–21

State/ Territory	ATS (excl. MDMA)	MDMA	Homebake heroin	Cannabis oil extraction	PSE extraction	GHB/ GBL	Other[a]	Unknown[b]	Total[c]
NSW	36	2	0	0	1	2	13	6	60
Vic	39	3	0	5	1	7	8	6	69
Qld	33	1	0	1	0	6	8	18	67
SA	23	0	0	8	1	1	23	2	58
WA	14	0	0	5	0	1	11	3	34
Tas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
NT	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**149**	**6**	**0**	**19**	**3**	**17**	**64**	**35**	**293**

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 clan lab detections due to multiple drug production types being identified in a single laboratory.

The hypophosphorous method of production continues to be the predominant method of ATS (excluding MDMA) manufacture identified in Australia (see Table 24). While fluctuating over the last decade, the proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratories detected nationally using the hypophosphorous method of production decreased, from 59% in 2011–12 to 54% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 53%. The number of laboratories detected using this method of production decreased 81%, from 354 in 2011–12 to 68 in 2020–21. The number of laboratories detected decreased 15% this reporting period, from 80 in 2019–20.

Other trends observed in ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections nationally over the last decade include:

- The proportion of detections identified using the red phosphorous method decreased, from 10% in 2011–12 to 5% in 2020–21. In 2019–20, this proportion was 7%. The number of laboratories detected decreased 89%, from 57 in 2011–12 to 6 in 2020–21. The number of laboratories detected decreased 45% this reporting period, from 11 in 2019–20.
- The proportion of detections identified using the Nazi/Birch method decreased, from 26% in 2011–12 to 18% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 13%. The number of laboratories detected decreased 86%, from 157 in 2011–12 to 22 in 2020–21. The number of laboratories detected increased 16% this reporting period, from 19 in 2019–20.
- The proportion of detections identified using the P2P method doubled, increasing from 3% in 2011–12 to 6% in 2020–21. In 2019–20 this proportion was 9%. The number of laboratories detected decreased 56%, from 16 in 2011–12 to 7 in 2020–21. The number of laboratories detected decreased 46% this reporting period, from 13 in 2019–20.
- In 2020–21, New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of hypophosphorous laboratories detected nationally (32%), South Australia accounted for the greatest proportion of red phosphorus laboratory detections (50%), Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of P2P laboratory detections (57%) and Western Australia accounted for the greatest proportion of Nazi/Birch laboratory detections (64%).

TABLE 24: Method of ATS (excluding MDMA) production in clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2020–21

State/ Territory	Hypophosphorous	Red-phosphorus	Nazi/ Birch	Phenyl-2-propanone (P2P)	Other[a]	Total[b]
NSW	22	2	0	1	10	35
Vic	16	1	6	4	10	37
Qld	15	0	0	2	0	17
SA	13	3	0	0	2	18
WA	0	0	14	0	0	14
Tas	0	0	2	0	0	2
NT	2	0	0	0	0	2
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**68**	**6**	**22**	**7**	**22**	**125**

a. 'Other' includes the detection of other ATS (excluding MDMA) production methods.
b. Total may not equal the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clan lab 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:

3-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (MOPB) P2P isomer

- 85.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 1.10 kilograms in Victoria.

Ephedrine

- 8.50 kilograms in South Australia
- 0.98 kilograms in New South Wales.

Hypophosphorous acid

- 174.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 1.00 kilogram in Victoria
- 0.50 kilograms in Victoria
- 0.46 kilograms in Queensland.

Iodine

- 70.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 25.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 20.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 10.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 7.50 kilograms in South Australia
- 3.50 kilograms in South Australia
- 2.00 kilograms in South Australia
- 0.50 kilograms in Victoria
- 0.20 kilograms in Victoria.

MDP2P/PMK

- 760.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 160.00 kilograms in New South Wales.

Methylamine

- 4.40 tonnes in Victoria.

Methyl-alpha acetylphenylacetate (MAPA)

- 1.00 tonne in Victoria
- 1.00 kilogram in Victoria.

Pseudoephedrine

- 3.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 1.00 kilogram in South Australia
- 0.10 kilograms in the Northern Territory.

Red phosphorous

- 60.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 36.00 kilograms in Victoria.

Sodium hydroxide

- 1,075.00 kilograms in South Australia
- 25.00 kilograms in Victoria.

Other

- 1.00 tonne of MMDMG in Victoria
- 10.00 kilograms of GABA in Victoria
- 4.50 kilograms of 4-fluro-3-methyl-alpha-PVP (Alpha-PVP) in Victoria
- 3.60 kilograms of nitro ethane in Victoria
- 1.50 kilograms of GABA in Queensland
- 1.00 kilogram of piperonal in New South Wales
- 0.81 kilograms of sodium hypophosphite and hydrochloric acid in Victoria
- 0.50 kilograms of magnesium in Victoria
- 0.50 kilograms of mandelic acid in Victoria
- 0.39 kilograms of potassium iodide in Victoria.

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:

1,4-BD

- 20.00 litres in Western Australia.

GBL

- 29.00 litres in Queensland
- 25.00 litres in Queensland
- 20.00 litres in Queensland.

Hypophosporous acid

- 220.00 litres in New South Wales
- 11.20 litres in South Australia
- 10.90 litres in South Australia
- 1.00 litre in Victoria
- 0.60 litres in Victoria.

Pseudoephedrine

- 1,125.00 litres in New South Wales.

Other

- 3,500.00 litres of hydrobromic acid in Victoria
- 3,500.00 litres of hydrofluoric acid in Victoria
- 200.00 litres of nitro ethane in Victoria
- 40.00 litres of toluene in South Australia
- 3.00 litres of formaldehyde in Victoria
- 1.00 litre of safrole in New South Wales.

LOCATION AND CATEGORY

The majority of clan labs detected in Australia continue to be located in residential areas. The proportion of clan labs detected in residential areas increased this reporting period, from 74% in 2019–20 to 81% in 2020–21. Clan labs located in commercial and industrial areas accounted for the second largest proportion of national detections this reporting period (remaining stable at 8% in 2019–20 and 2020–21), followed by laboratories detected in vehicles (3%, a decrease from 4% in 2019–20), public places (3%, a decrease from 4% in 2019–20), rural areas (3%, a decrease from 5% in 2019–20) and other locations (2%, a decrease from 5% in 2019–20).

- Victoria and South Australia reported detections of laboratories in hotels/motels in 2020–21.
- South Australia reported the detection of a laboratory in a storage unit in 2020–21.
- Victoria reported the detection of a laboratory in a community hall in 2020–21.
- Western Australia reported the detection of a laboratory in a nightclub in 2020–21.

Based on their operating status, there are 4 distinct categories of clan labs:

- Category A—active (equipment and chemicals in use)
- Category B—stored/used (equipment and chemicals)[72]
- Category C—stored/unused (equipment and chemicals)
- Category D—historical site.

72 Laboratories which are fully assembled, but not active at the time of detection.

Consistent with previous reporting periods, Category C was the most common category for clan labs detected nationally, accounting for 42% of laboratories in 2020–21, unchanged from 2019–20. This was followed by Category B, which accounted for 32% this reporting period (a decrease from 34% in 2019–20), Category A, which remained relatively stable at 14% (13% in 2019–20) and Category D, which remained relatively stable at 12% (11% in 2019–20).

NATIONAL TABLET PRESS SEIZURES

The number of tablet presses seized nationally increased 52% this reporting period, from 29 in 2019–20 to 44 in 2020–21. The 44 national tablet press seizures this reporting period comprised 25 single station/simple presses and 19 rotary presses. In 2020–21, seizures were made in Victoria (20), New South Wales (8), South Australia (8), Queensland (5) and Western Australia (3).

The number of encapsulators seized nationally decreased 58% this reporting period, from 12 in 2019–20 to 5 in 2020–21. The 5 encapsulators were seized in New South Wales (1), Victoria (1), Queensland (1), South Australia (1) and Western Australia (1).

SUMMARY

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. In 2020, of the chemicals seized globally under international control commonly used to manufacture ATS, cocaine and heroin:

- The weight of Eph and PSE decreased to decade-low levels.
- The weight of potassium permanganate increased.
- The weight of acetic anhydride increased.

Clan labs in Australia manufacture and process a range of illicit drugs, precursors and pre-precursors:

- In 2020–21, this included ATS (excluding MDMA), MDMA, cannabis oil extraction, PSE extraction and GHB/GBL. Additional drugs manufactured in laboratories detected include DMT, MDP2P, P2P, MDA, steroids, psilocybin, 1,4-BD, mescaline and controlled precursors and pharmaceuticals as well as a cocaine and an iodine extraction laboratory.
- While decreasing over the last decade, clan labs manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) continue to account for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced in 2020–21.

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STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

The ACIC uses the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) system to process seizure, arrest and purity data for the IDDR. This allows for more accurate analysis of law enforcement data and moves us 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 2020–21, 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 does not conduct purity determinations on exhibits unless it is specifically requested by the investigator and there is a good reason provided for undertaking the testing. Tasmania does 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 significant value.

At ChemCentre Western Australia, purity analysis is done on any cases containing drugs that are >2 grams. Purity analysis is also done on drug powders <2 grams by request, and for controlled purchases.

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 agencies 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.

Problems exist with differentiation between the range of drugs recorded as 'other drugs', which restricts the ACIC's ability to monitor and report on national trends.

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 illicit drug use monitoring program that captures information on approximately 2,200 police detainees per year, across 5 locations throughout Australia. There are 2 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 3 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 50 wastewater treatment sites nationally will be assessed, bimonthly in the case of capital city sites and every 4 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 are nicotine, alcohol, amphetamine, methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, 3,4-methylendioxyamphetamine (MDA), heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, cannabis and ketamine.

The ACIC provides data from the NWDMP in the form of public reports 3 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/national-wastewater-drug-monitoring-program-reports>.

ILLICIT DRUG REPORTING SYSTEM AND ECSTASY AND RELATED DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) studies conduct interviews of drug users in sentinel groups. The purpose of the studies is to collect self-report information on drug use and related harms annually from individuals in Australian capital cities who regularly inject drugs (IDRS) and those who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants (EDRS).

The methodology of the IDRS and EDRS studies is kept consistent each year for the purpose of studying drug trends, but given the emergence of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions, face-to-face interviews were not possible in most jurisdictions in 2020. In 2020, data collection for IDRS occurred in June to September and EDRS collection in April to July. Differences in the methodology employed and the events of 2020 should be taken into consideration when comparing 2020 data to previous years and the data should be treated with caution.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The emergence of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions both domestically and internationally may have impacted drug market trends for this reporting period. Care should be taken when comparing more recent data to historical data.

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 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, 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 has 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 offender, seizure and purity data, with the purity sample analysis conducted by NSW FASS.

From 2017, New South Wales FASS has made changes to its 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% 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 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. 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 offender and seizure data and 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 datasets. 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 offender and seizure data and 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 offender 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 be referred to the Drug Diversion Program no more than twice in a 4 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 offender and seizure data and Forensic Science Service Tasmania provided the purity data.

It is important to note that the figures reported for the purposes of the IDDR may vary from those reported in the DPFEM Annual Report and other publications. This is due to the differing counting rules applied. Data entry lag and quality assurance measures may also contribute to discrepancies.

VICTORIA

Victoria Police provided offender, seizure and drug quantities data from its Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) and 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 seizure and offender data and 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 4 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 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. A typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield less than 500 grams of the substance.

Medium sized labs. These 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 and 50 kilograms.

Industrial scale labs. These labs 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 4 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-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (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 stanazolol.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviation are used in the tables:

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

ARREST TABLES

TABLE 25: All drugs—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	19,424	5,095	10	24,529	3,938	713	1	4,652	23,722	5,924	12	29,658
Vic	25,318	7,616	1	32,935	2,035	452	0	2,487	27,353	8,068	1	35,422
Qld	25,746	10,830	0	36,576	3,186	1,067	0	4,253	28,933	11,897	0	40,830
SA	3,226	1,166	0	4,392	1,236	381	0	1,617	5,032	1,716	1	6,749
SA CENs[b]	3,720	1,197	3	4,920	–	–	–	–	3,720	1,197	3	4,920
WA	10,556	4,195	48	14,799	2,032	663	6	2,701	12,639	4,881	54	17,574
WA CIRs[c]	966	423	6	1,395	–	–	–	–	966	423	6	1,395
Tas	1,602	506	0	2,108	180	58	0	238	1,904	591	0	2,495
NT	248	89	0	334	146	43	0	189	524	171	0	695
NT DINs[d]	413	209	0	622	–	–	–	–	413	209	0	622
ACT	173	38	0	211	48	5	0	53	221	43	0	264
ACT SCONs[e]	0	0	0	0	–	–	–	–	0	0	0	0
Total	**91,392**	**31,364**	**68**	**122,824**	**12,801**	**3,382**	**7**	**16,190**	**105,427**	**35,120**	**77**	**140,624**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	4,350	1,471	0	5,821	1,131	231	0	1,362	5,599	1,749	0	7,348
Vic	7,218	2,223	0	9,441	599	148	0	747	7,817	2,371	0	10,188
Qld	6,601	3,098	0	9,699	566	247	0	813	7,167	3,345	0	10,512
SA	1,594	690	0	2,284	344	133	0	477	1,946	829	0	2,775
WA	2,428	1,122	8	3,558	709	229	0	938	3,143	1,355	8	4,506
Tas	191	79	0	270	55	22	0	77	263	104	0	367
NT	34	9	0	43	26	8	0	34	91	34	0	125
ACT	44	7	0	51	11	2	0	13	55	9	0	64
Total	**22,460**	**8,699**	**8**	**31,167**	**3,441**	**1,020**	**0**	**4,461**	**26,081**	**9,796**	**8**	**35,885**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	10,782	2,554	10	13,346	1,330	223	0	1,553	12,267	2,823	11	15,101
Vic	8,843	2,353	0	11,196	531	128	0	659	9,374	2,481	0	11,855
Qld	12,956	5,241	0	18,197	1,720	520	0	2,240	14,676	5,761	0	20,437
SA	1,176	306	0	1,482	747	172	0	919	1,954	485	0	2,439
SA CENs[b]	3,720	1,197	3	4,920	–	–	–	–	3,720	1,197	3	4,920
WA	4,916	1,708	28	6,652	669	240	6	915	5,592	1,951	34	7,577
WA CIRs[c]	966	423	6	1,395	–	–	–	–	966	423	6	1,395
Tas	978	269	0	1,247	95	25	0	120	1,132	307	0	1,439
NT	173	60	0	233	89	29	0	118	320	103	0	423
NT DINs[d]	416	209	0	625	–	–	–	–	416	209	0	625
ACT	51	9	0	60	13	1	0	14	64	10	0	74
ACT SCONs[e]	0	0	0	0	–	–	–	–	0	0	0	0
Total	**44,977**	**14,329**	**47**	**59,353**	**5,194**	**1,338**	**6**	**6,538**	**50,481**	**15,750**	**54**	**66,285**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	548	165	0	713	101	25	0	126	662	193	0	855
Vic	946	303	0	1,249	81	27	0	108	1,027	330	0	1,357
Qld	190	75	0	265	29	11	0	40	219	86	0	305
SA	37	27	0	64	11	10	0	21	48	44	0	92
WA	98	33	0	131	40	14	0	54	139	47	0	186
Tas	9	1	0	10	2	1	0	3	11	2	0	13
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	11	3	0	14	3	1	0	4	14	4	0	18
Total	**1,839**	**607**	**0**	**2,446**	**267**	**89**	**0**	**356**	**2,120**	**706**	**0**	**2,826**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	1,533	193	0	1,726	877	115	1	993	2,429	310	1	2,740
Vic	858	129	0	987	169	6	0	175	1,027	135	0	1,162
Qld	964	230	0	1,194	206	29	0	235	1,171	259	0	1,430
SA	157	14	0	171	34	14	0	48	191	28	0	219
WA	150	42	0	192	97	16	0	113	247	58	0	305
Tas	8	1	0	9	3	0	0	3	12	1	0	13
NT	5	2	0	7	7	0	0	7	20	5	0	25
ACT	45	11	0	56	8	0	0	8	53	11	0	64
Total	**3,720**	**622**	**0**	**4,342**	**1,401**	**180**	**1**	**1,582**	**5,150**	**807**	**1**	**5,958**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	156	8	0	164	32	4	0	36	195	13	0	208
Vic	168	13	0	181	34	0	0	34	202	13	0	215
Qld	448	83	0	531	76	15	0	91	524	98	0	622
SA	8	0	0	8	7	0	0	7	22	0	0	22
WA	156	24	0	180	45	1	0	46	203	25	0	228
Tas	6	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	10
NT	5	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	12	0	0	12
ACT	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3
Total	**949**	**131**	**0**	**1,080**	**197**	**20**	**0**	**217**	**1,168**	**152**	**0**	**1,320**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	92	28	0	120	42	4	0	46	136	32	0	168
Vic	171	53	0	224	10	1	0	11	181	54	0	235
Qld	322	113	0	435	58	27	0	85	380	140	0	520
SA	42	14	0	56	7	2	0	9	50	16	0	66
WA	141	54	0	195	58	11	0	69	199	65	0	264
Tas	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
NT	2	3	0	5	6	1	0	7	10	4	0	14
ACT	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total	**780**	**266**	**0**	**1,046**	**181**	**46**	**0**	**227**	**966**	**312**	**0**	**1,278**

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, 2020–21

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	1,963	676	0	2,639	425	111	0	536	2,434	804	0	3,238
Vic	7,114	2,542	1	9,657	611	142	0	753	7,725	2,684	1	10,410
Qld	4,265	1,990	0	6,255	531	218	0	749	4,796	2,208	0	7,004
SA	212	115	0	327	86	50	0	136	821	314	1	1,136
WA	2,667	1,212	12	3,891	414	152	0	566	3,116	1,380	12	4,508
Tas	401	153	0	554	25	10	0	35	470	174	0	644
NT	26	15	0	41	16	5	0	21	68	25	0	93
ACT	19	7	0	26	12	1	0	13	31	8	0	39
Total	**16,667**	**6,710**	**13**	**23,390**	**2,120**	**689**	**0**	**2,809**	**19,461**	**7,597**	**14**	**27,072**

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, 2016–17 to 2020–21

	Consumer					Provider				
Drug type	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Amphetamine-type stimulants	40,837	40,144	41,055	43,428	31,167	6,553	4,441	4,992	5,504	4,461
Cannabis	70,747	66,296	64,848	69,406	59,353	6,679	5,732	5,945	6,623	6,538
Heroin and other opioids	2,458	2,699	2,631	2,968	2,446	502	315	473	493	356
Cocaine	2,546	3,343	3,811	4,043	4,342	809	962	1,185	1,312	1,582
Steroids	1,049	1,047	1,024	974	1,080	190	143	225	172	217
Hallucinogens	718	832	838	930	1,046	220	156	184	205	227
Other and unknown nec	17,872	18,985	22,035	24,727	23,390	2,566	1,948	2,739	3,198	2,809
Total	**136,227**	**133,346**	**136,242**	**146,476**	**122,824**	**17,519**	**13,697**	**15,743**	**17,507**	**16,190**

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

TABLE 34: All arrests: number and proportion, by drug type, 2016–17 to 2020–21

Drug Type	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amphetamine-type stimulants	47,531	30.7	44,887	30.3	46,437	30.3	49,638	29.8	35,885	25.5
Cannabis	77,549	50.1	72,381	48.8	71,151	46.4	76,669	46.1	66,285	47.1
Heroin and other opioids	2,970	1.9	3,029	2.0	3,129	2.0	3,514	2.1	2,826	2.0
Cocaine	3,366	2.2	4,325	2.9	5,016	3.3	5,393	3.2	5,958	4.2
Steroids	1,244	0.8	1,201	0.8	1,264	0.8	1,160	0.7	1,320	0.9
Hallucinogens	945	0.6	995	0.7	1,029	0.7	1,135	0.7	1,278	0.9
Other and unknown nec	21,045	13.6	21,545	14.5	25,351	16.5	28,812	17.3	27,072	19.3
Total	**154,650**	**100**	**148,363**	**100**	**153,377**	**100**	**166,321**	**100**	**140,624**	**100**

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

SEIZURE TABLES

TABLE 35: Seizures—drug type, by state and territory, 2020–21

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Amphetamine-type stimulants									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	8,872	1,671	7,056	566	6,858	992	200	310	26,525
Weight (gms)	1,053,482	172,642	42,490	102,421	396,165	8,683	3,330	2,085	1,781,298
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	1,398	365	54	7	139	8	0	7	1,978
Weight (gms)	3,010,323	1,212,320	43,865	200,105	39,092	52	0	61	4,505,818
Cannabis									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	15,803	3,451	15,181	460	13,337	2,798	1,753	383	53,166
Weight (gms)	2,129,869	3,662,379	695,991	899,743	928,261	221,558	172,462	245,213	8,955,142
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	1,475	230	163	3	144	13	1	4	2,033
Weight (gms)	863,284	438,682	479,787	57	48,066	1,986	10	2	1,831,874
Heroin									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	841	232	165	25	312	27	0	22	1,624
Weight (gms)	22,857	2,969	2,663	1,919	23,583	104	0	216	54,311
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	372	106	3	2	22	0	0	1	506
Weight (gms)	823,509	307,029	5,722	501	86,745	0	0	193	1,223,699
Other opioids									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	112	0	8	5	2	8	0	45	180
Weight (gms)	2,386	0	20	56	<1	371	0	259	3,092
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	118	15	15	1	29	0	2	0	180
Weight (gms)	83,794	13,064	9,594	1	4,008	0	275	0	110,736

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, 2020–21

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Cocaine									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	3,319	282	1,052	60	570	90	39	141	5,554
Weight (gms)	171,012	53,006	23,172	2,280	19,146	912	211	915	469,654
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	707	116	37	1	34	0	0	4	899
Weight (gms)	3,132,686	178,890	766,229	2	10,007	0	0	62,320	4,150,134
Steroids									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	191	5	63	2	23	0	8	26	318
Weight (gms)	476,382	40	498	16,520	1,542	0	289	177	495,448
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	4	3	2	0	8	1	0	0	18
Weight (gms)	859	83	8	0	355	60	0	0	1,365
Hallucinogens									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	149	11	84	15	156	24	15	6	460
Weight (gms)	439	37	1,754	1,045	12,524	1,044	11	4	16,858
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	500	70	1	1	34	0	0	0	606
Weight (gms)	124,950	21,391	5,575	500	3,540	0	0	0	155,956
Other and unknown drugs nec									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	4,231	560	937	26	2,418	570	186	378	9,306
Weight (gms)	1,183,122	4,130,557	51,762	8,481	86,039	6,503	23,580	7,054	5,497,098
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	1,862	297	49	6	111	5	8	4	2,342
Weight (gms)	5,643,006	6,621,213	128,873	6,939	12,565	532	869	13	12,414,010

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.

PURITY TABLES

TABLE 36: Amphetamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	1	18.5	18.5	18.5	4	13.5	11.0	29.5	1	83.0	83.0	83.0	–	–	–	–	6	16.7	11.0	83.0
Total	1	18.5	18.5	18.5	4	13.5	11.0	29.5	1	83.0	83.0	83.0	–	–	–	–	6	16.7	11.0	83.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	9	4.7	0.6	37.0	3	8.2	1.7	15.3	6	2.1	0.4	14.4	1	1.6	1.6	1.6	19	3.8	0.4	37.0
>2 gms	12	8.0	5.0	43.0	1	5.8	5.8	5.8	6	2.6	0.4	6.0	–	–	–	–	19	6.0	0.4	43.0
Total	21	8.0	0.6	43.0	4	7.0	1.7	15.3	12	2.4	0.4	14.4	1	1.6	1.6	1.6	38	5.9	0.4	43.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	2	2.9	2.9	3.0	–	–	–	–	1	37.1	37.1	37.1	3	3.1	1.5	8.4	6	3.0	1.5	37.1
>2 gms	1	12.6	12.6	12.6	–	–	–	–	29	37.4	1.1	38.6	4	11.6	1.5	34.3	34	35.7	1.1	38.6
Total	3	3.0	2.9	12.6	–	–	–	–	30	37.4	1.1	38.6	7	3.8	1.5	34.3	40	27.2	1.1	38.6
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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.

TABLE 36 (continued): Amphetamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1	0.4	0.4	0.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	0.4	0.4	0.4
>2 gms	1	0.2	0.2	0.2	–	–	–	–	3	4.0	2.0	5.0	1	6.0	6.0	6.0	5	4.0	0.2	6.0
Total	2	0.3	0.2	0.4	–	–	–	–	3	4.0	2.0	5.0	1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6	3.0	0.2	6.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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.

TABLE 37: Methylamphetamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)	Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)	Case (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)	Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)	Cases (no.)	Median (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	11	58.0	33.5	79.0	14	73.0	1.0	82.5	21	78.5	53.5	81.5	27	79.0	2.5	81.5	73	78.0	1.0	82.5
>2 gms	50	76.5	1.0	83.5	76	77.5	1.5	81.5	84	79.5	8.1	83.0	135	79.0	1.0	82.5	345	78.5	1.0	83.5
Total	61	70.0	1.0	83.5	90	77.0	1.0	82.5	105	79.5	8.1	83.0	162	79.0	1.0	82.5	418	78.5	1.0	83.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	5	70.4	19.8	80.3	5	80.3	19.8	80.3	1	76.9	76.9	76.9	–	–	–	–	11	76.9	19.8	80.3
>2 gms	44	80.0	6.4	80.3	35	80.2	25.0	80.3	32	79.7	6.4	80.3	22	79.7	21.1	80.3	133	80.0	6.4	80.3
Total	49	80.0	6.4	80.3	40	80.2	19.8	80.3	33	79.6	6.4	80.3	22	79.7	21.1	80.3	144	79.9	6.4	80.3
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1,135	83.4	0.3	97.6	961	84.0	0.3	96.1	820	84.7	0.3	99.7	693	84.1	0.6	94.8	3,609	84.0	0.3	99.7
>2 gms	306	82.6	0.3	92.8	331	83.1	0.3	100.0	253	85.0	0.2	100.0	236	83.7	0.2	93.6	1,126	83.5	0.2	100.0
Total	1,441	83.2	0.3	97.6	1,292	84.0	0.3	100.0	1,073	84.8	0.2	100.0	929	84.0	0.2	94.8	4,735	84.0	0.2	100.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	2	74.5	68.8	80.2	2	64.1	59.5	68.8	2	69.8	59.5	80.2	2	80.2	80.2	80.3	8	74.5	59.5	80.3
>2 gms	19	80.2	14.1	80.3	26	78.4	14.1	80.3	12	80.2	42.3	80.3	9	79.8	51.0	80.2	66	80.1	14.1	80.3
Total	21	80.2	14.1	80.3	28	73.7	14.1	80.3	14	80.2	42.3	80.3	11	80.1	51.0	80.3	74	80.1	14.1	80.3
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	433	75.4	0.7	77.8	543	72.0	0.4	78.6	429	69.4	0.3	77.7	301	74.1	0.2	77.9	1,706	73.1	0.2	78.6
>2 gms	408	74.7	<0.1	77.8	336	73.4	1.0	77.6	348	66.7	0.2	77.2	262	72.8	<0.1	78.0	1,354	72.4	<0.1	78.0
Total	841	75.0	<0.1	77.8	879	72.5	0.4	78.6	777	68.3	0.2	77.7	563	73.8	<0.1	78.0	3,060	72.9	<0.1	78.6
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	67.3	67.3	67.3	–	–	–	–	2	73.8	67.3	80.3	–	–	–	–	3	67.3	67.3	80.3
>2 gms	10	80.0	59.4	80.3	7	79.5	72.2	80.3	16	79.7	74.2	80.3	8	80.0	74.2	80.3	41	79.8	59.4	80.3
Total	11	79.9	59.4	80.3	7	79.5	72.2	80.3	18	79.7	67.3	80.3	8	80.0	74.2	80.3	44	79.8	59.4	80.3
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	30	53.5	0.1	77.8	12	47.5	7.5	59.7	13	27.6	20.0	80.3	14	59.9	12.1	79.9	69	46.1	0.1	80.3
>2 gms	161	63.2	0.3	80.3	71	48.7	0.1	80.3	102	58.0	0.3	80.3	165	72.3	0.1	80.3	499	63.2	0.1	80.3
Total	191	61.0	0.1	80.3	83	47.7	0.1	80.3	115	51.5	0.3	80.3	179	71.4	0.1	80.3	568	61.9	0.1	80.3
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	37.5	37.5	37.5	–	–	–	–	1	37.5	37.5	37.5
>2 gms	3	36.3	6.4	80.3	1	36.3	36.3	36.3	3	69.5	6.4	80.3	1	69.5	69.5	69.5	8	52.9	6.4	80.3
Total	3	36.3	6.4	80.3	1	36.3	36.3	36.3	4	53.5	6.4	80.3	1	69.5	69.5	69.5	9	37.5	6.4	80.3

Note: Figures do not represent twhe 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.

TABLE 37 (continued): Methylamphetamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
	Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity			
	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 (%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	45	76.0	0.3	83.0	32	78.5	0.3	82.0	19	79.0	15.0	83.0	40	78.5	63.0	82.0	136	78.0	0.3	83.0
>2 gms	315	79.0	0.1	83.0	182	74.5	0.3	83.0	385	80.0	0.2	85.0	344	79.0	0.7	83.0	1,226	79.0	0.1	85.0
Total	360	79.0	0.1	83.0	214	75.0	0.3	83.0	404	80.0	0.2	85.0	384	79.0	0.7	83.0	1,362	79.0	0.1	85.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	2	41.3	2.5	80.1	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2.5	2.5	80.1
>2 gms	13	80.0	64.6	80.3	3	80.1	78.9	80.3	10	79.4	64.6	80.1	7	79.7	68.4	80.3	33	79.7	64.6	80.3
Total	15	80.0	2.5	80.3	4	79.5	2.5	80.3	10	79.4	64.6	80.1	7	79.7	68.4	80.3	36	79.7	2.5	80.3
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	3	60.2	50.9	64.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	60.2	50.9	64.6
>2 gms	13	60.8	1.1	80.4	2	80.4	80.3	80.5	5	70.5	69.5	71.8	2	41.0	6.9	75.2	22	70.4	1.1	80.5
Total	16	60.7	1.1	80.4	2	80.4	80.3	80.5	5	70.5	69.5	71.8	2	41.0	6.9	75.2	25	69.5	1.1	80.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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.

TABLE 38: Phenethylamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	10	57.5	10.5	75.5	10	77.0	22.0	79.0	4	33.7	10.5	70.5	25	63.5	14.0	77.5	49	63.5	10.5	79.0
>2 gms	43	33.5	1.5	85.0	16	63.5	9.5	79.5	27	32.0	1.0	78.5	17	35.5	8.5	75.0	103	35.5	1.0	85.0
Total	53	35.5	1.5	85.0	26	66.0	9.5	79.5	31	33.0	1.0	78.5	42	51.5	8.5	77.5	152	41.7	1.0	85.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1	33.4	33.4	33.4	2	52.9	37.2	68.7	4	65.6	37.2	77.6	8	47.8	0.9	77.6
>2 gms	3	68.7	30.3	76.2	3	77.6	30.3	78.2	1	77.4	77.4	77.4	6	76.8	58.5	78.8	13	76.2	30.3	78.8
Total	4	49.5	0.9	76.2	4	55.5	30.3	78.2	3	68.7	37.2	77.4	10	74.5	37.2	78.8	21	72.8	0.9	78.8
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	264	31.9	1.2	89.0	186	32.1	1.5	85.7	165	33.0	0.6	87.4	87	31.0	1.1	84.5	702	32.0	0.6	89.0
>2 gms	79	47.0	1.3	85.6	64	29.0	0.6	82.0	51	23.4	1.4	90.0	66	17.5	1.1	81.0	260	27.8	0.6	90.0
Total	343	34.0	1.2	89.0	250	31.9	0.6	85.7	216	29.6	0.6	90.0	153	27.0	1.1	84.5	962	31.3	0.6	90.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	2	23.6	15.9	31.3	1	78.1	78.1	78.1	1	10.8	10.8	10.8	–	–	–	–	4	23.6	10.8	78.1
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	5	39.1	7.3	77.6	1	23.3	23.3	23.3	2	42.4	7.3	77.6	8	31.2	7.3	77.6
Total	2	23.6	15.9	31.3	6	50.4	7.3	78.1	2	17.0	10.8	23.3	2	42.4	7.3	77.6	12	27.3	7.3	78.1
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	123	69.4	1.3	80.1	176	63.9	1.4	73.2	55	42.4	0.3	71.8	49	53.7	5.6	71.9	403	64.8	0.3	80.1
>2 gms	115	70.9	3.2	73.0	106	68.7	5.3	74.7	114	47.4	0.3	72.0	84	26.5	4.5	72.5	419	62.7	0.3	74.7
Total	238	70.3	1.3	80.1	282	67.2	1.4	74.7	169	46.2	0.3	72.0	133	30.6	4.5	72.5	822	63.6	0.3	80.1
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	59.8	43.9	75.7	2	59.8	43.9	75.7
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	1	43.9	43.9	43.9	–	–	–	–	4	77.0	15.2	78.4	5	75.7	15.2	78.4
Total	–	–	–	–	1	43.9	43.9	43.9	–	–	–	–	6	75.7	15.2	78.4	7	75.7	15.2	78.4
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1	75.1	75.1	75.1	2	23.9	15.7	32.1	–	–	–	–	1	46.7	46.7	46.7	4	39.4	15.7	75.1
>2 gms	69	44.5	17.7	77.1	16	33.5	12.3	76.9	25	42.9	9.5	77.2	9	26.1	8.7	79.0	119	37.8	8.7	79.0
Total	70	46.4	17.7	77.1	18	32.7	12.3	76.9	25	42.9	9.5	77.2	10	31.1	8.7	79.0	123	37.8	8.7	79.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Phenethylamine include MDA, MDEA, MDMA, Mescaline, PMA, DMA and phenethylamines not elsewhere classified (n.e.c). Figures do not represent the purity levels of all phenethylamine 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.

TABLE 38 (continued): Phenethylamine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
State/territory	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 (%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	29	75.0	10.0	83.0	9	17.0	17.0	81.0	17	31.0	0.4	45.0	–	–	–	–	55	33.0	0.4	83.0
>2 gms	78	73.0	10.0	84.0	32	79.0	18.0	84.0	26	37.5	0.6	80.0	27	9.0	0.2	45.0	163	44.0	0.2	84.0
Total	107	73.0	10.0	84.0	41	78.0	17.0	84.0	43	32.0	0.4	80.0	27	9.0	0.2	45.0	218	43.5	0.2	84.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	3	43.3	23.8	43.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	43.3	23.8	43.3
Total	3	43.3	23.8	43.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	43.3	23.8	43.3
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	4	62.5	15.9	69.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	62.5	15.9	69.4
Total	4	62.5	15.9	69.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	62.5	15.9	69.4
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Phenethylamine include MDA, MDEA, MDMA, Mescaline, PMA, DMA and phenethylamines not elsewhere classified (n.e.c). Figures do not represent the purity levels of all phenethylamine 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.

TABLE 39: Heroin purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	35.0	35.0	35.0	16	46.5	25.0	76.5	17	43.0	25.0	76.5
>2 gms	5	72.0	49.0	80.5	3	21.5	21.5	74.5	7	71.5	27.5	81.0	13	65.5	8.5	79.5	28	68.2	8.5	81.0
Total	5	72.0	49.0	80.5	3	21.5	21.5	74.5	8	53.2	27.5	81.0	29	55.0	8.5	79.5	45	57.0	8.5	81.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	11.8	11.8	11.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	11.8	11.8	11.8
>2 gms	3	74.2	29.6	77.5	4	70.2	28.0	77.8	6	77.6	24.3	78.5	5	75.9	24.3	78.5	18	75.2	24.3	78.5
Total	4	51.9	11.8	77.5	4	70.2	28.0	77.8	6	77.6	24.3	78.5	5	75.9	24.3	78.5	19	74.5	11.8	78.5
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	163	32.6	1.1	85.3	107	26.4	1.5	82.0	55	15.0	1.5	80.4	58	67.6	4.4	80.1	383	31.1	1.1	85.3
>2 gms	50	22.5	0.7	89.1	38	13.0	1.3	80.3	7	15.0	6.5	83.8	62	63.0	3.5	80.0	157	21.0	0.7	89.1
Total	213	30.3	0.7	89.1	145	21.7	1.3	82.0	62	15.0	1.5	83.8	120	65.8	3.5	80.1	540	29.1	0.7	89.1
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	77.9	77.9	77.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	77.9	77.9	77.9
>2 gms	8	53.8	32.9	80.8	4	57.6	12.2	65.9	3	57.6	42.5	79.1	3	79.1	42.5	80.8	18	60.8	12.2	80.8
Total	9	65.9	32.9	80.8	4	57.6	12.2	65.9	3	57.6	42.5	79.1	3	79.1	42.5	80.8	19	64.1	12.2	80.8
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	2	24.2	16.0	32.4	8	44.8	24.1	74.7	6	41.1	7.0	73.4	13	27.5	10.0	74.0	29	28.4	7.0	74.7
>2 gms	8	71.2	29.7	72.6	2	40.7	10.5	71.0	10	31.6	25.3	67.7	15	54.2	28.7	74.3	35	45.6	10.5	74.3
Total	10	70.3	16.0	72.6	10	44.8	10.5	74.7	16	31.6	7.0	73.4	28	32.9	10.0	74.3	64	32.7	7.0	74.7
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	18	32.9	27.6	62.1	5	25.0	10.2	29.0	1	0.8	0.8	0.8	–	–	–	–	24	30.1	0.8	62.1
>2 gms	9	35.7	29.3	40.0	4	27.9	21.6	71.0	3	2.4	0.8	23.7	1	29.7	29.7	29.7	17	30.2	0.8	71.0
Total	27	33.2	27.6	62.1	9	25.0	10.2	71.0	4	1.6	0.8	23.7	1	29.7	29.7	29.7	41	30.2	0.8	71.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all heroin 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.

TABLE 39 (continued): Heroin purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	5	38.0	24.0	63.0	–	–	–	–	2	23.0	22.0	24.0	–	–	–	–	7	33.0	22.0	63.0
>2 gms	19	62.0	12.0	81.0	2	76.5	76.0	77.0	9	67.0	32.0	79.0	5	46.0	25.0	72.0	35	67.0	12.0	81.0
Total	24	54.0	12.0	81.0	2	76.5	76.0	77.0	11	66.0	22.0	79.0	5	46.0	25.0	72.0	42	64.5	12.0	81.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	21.9	21.9	74.8	1	74.8	74.8	74.8	4	48.3	21.9	74.8
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	21.9	21.9	74.8	1	74.8	74.8	74.8	4	48.3	21.9	74.8
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all heroin 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.

TABLE 40: Cocaine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

State/territory	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	17	57.0	6.0	88.5	42	52.2	2.5	86.0	21	47.5	5.5	83.0	37	35.0	4.0	90.0	117	50.0	2.5	90.0
>2 gms	48	64.0	9.0	86.0	49	45.5	1.0	87.5	74	69.2	1.0	86.5	95	78.0	1.0	87.5	266	68.2	1.0	87.5
Total	65	63.0	6.0	88.5	91	50.0	1.0	87.5	95	64.0	1.0	86.5	132	75.7	1.0	90.0	383	62.5	1.0	90.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	73.3	73.3	73.3	1	1.3	1.3	1.3	3	38.1	12.4	67.3	9	38.1	12.4	76.8	14	38.1	1.3	76.8
>2 gms	13	73.1	42.4	86.6	19	85.3	56.9	87.2	14	76.0	17.5	86.7	43	79.5	37.4	87.2	89	79.6	17.5	87.2
Total	14	73.2	42.4	86.6	20	83.5	1.3	87.2	17	74.0	12.4	86.7	52	76.8	12.4	87.2	103	76.8	1.3	87.2
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	112	41.8	4.8	87.5	152	43.8	2.9	95.0	149	36.0	1.3	89.0	86	34.2	1.1	87.3	499	39.0	1.1	95.0
>2 gms	75	37.0	1.4	85.2	40	40.0	4.0	86.0	76	47.5	1.0	89.0	69	29.0	1.0	89.0	260	39.4	1.0	89.0
Total	187	38.4	1.4	87.5	192	43.1	2.9	95.0	225	40.0	1.0	89.0	155	33.0	1.0	89.0	759	39.0	1.0	95.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	82.5	82.5	82.5	4	77.9	58.9	82.1	1	33.3	33.3	33.3	–	–	–	–	6	77.9	33.3	82.5
>2 gms	7	83.8	69.5	86.3	7	55.5	22.1	82.7	12	75.7	39.8	85.2	11	75.0	42.2	86.3	37	75.7	22.1	86.3
Total	8	83.1	69.5	86.3	11	76.5	22.1	82.7	13	75.7	33.3	82.2	11	75.0	42.2	86.3	43	76.5	22.1	86.3
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	60	38.0	0.8	75.2	128	29.0	2.0	82.4	124	30.9	1.4	75.6	119	24.1	3.6	76.2	431	27.5	0.8	82.4
>2 gms	74	47.0	6.4	77.2	79	33.4	3.4	75.2	87	37.7	7.4	77.3	105	34.6	0.4	80.3	345	37.7	0.4	80.3
Total	134	45.5	0.8	77.2	207	30.7	2.0	82.4	211	33.5	1.4	77.3	224	28.0	0.4	80.3	776	32.3	0.4	82.4
AFP																				
<=2 gms	4	61.7	0.5	79.0	2	42.6	0.5	84.7	–	–	–	–	1	84.7	84.7	84.7	7	79.0	0.5	84.7
>2 gms	9	79.5	25.3	83.3	6	72.8	49.9	83.4	3	76.9	22.4	81.8	6	34.3	22.4	83.4	24	76.5	22.4	83.4
Total	13	79.0	0.5	83.3	8	72.8	0.5	84.7	3	76.9	22.4	81.8	7	34.3	22.4	84.7	31	76.9	0.5	84.7
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	4	63.6	0.4	64.4	2	30.5	16.6	44.4	10	28.0	12.3	75.7	9	7.6	7.0	76.4	25	13.5	0.4	76.4
>2 gms	7	72.8	62.6	81.1	5	23.9	23.2	76.2	10	21.0	12.3	81.2	15	70.4	13.2	76.5	37	67.1	12.3	81.2
Total	11	69.1	0.4	81.1	7	23.9	16.6	76.2	20	21.4	12.3	81.2	24	38.0	7.0	76.5	62	42.8	0.4	81.2
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	2	80.0	78.7	81.4	1	78.7	78.7	78.7	2	67.5	53.6	81.4	–	–	–	–	5	78.7	53.6	81.4
Total	2	80.0	78.7	81.4	1	78.7	78.7	78.7	2	67.5	53.6	81.4	–	–	–	–	5	78.7	53.6	81.4

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all cocaine 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.

TABLE 40 (continued): Cocaine purity levels—state and territory, by quarter, 2020–21

	July–September 2020				October–December 2020				January–March 2021				April–June 2021				Total July 2020–June 2021			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
State/territory	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 (%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1	23.0	23.0	23.0	4	13.0	2.0	28.0	25	15.0	7.0	36.0	5	14.0	13.0	17.0	35	15.0	2.0	36.0
>2 gms	41	46.0	4.0	86.0	6	57.5	20.0	78.0	28	27.5	16.0	92.0	73	16.0	7.0	78.0	148	23.0	4.0	92.0
Total	42	46.0	4.0	86.0	10	28.0	2.0	78.0	53	23.0	7.0	92.0	78	16.0	7.0	78.0	183	22.0	2.0	92.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	2	79.7	79.4	80.1	–	–	–	–	1	44.2	44.2	44.2	5	69.9	44.2	85.7	8	74.6	44.2	85.7
Total	2	79.7	79.4	80.1	–	–	–	–	1	44.2	44.2	44.2	5	69.9	44.2	85.7	8	74.6	44.2	85.7
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	24.1	22.4	25.7	3	24.1	22.4	25.7
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	24.1	22.4	25.7	3	24.1	22.4	25.7
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	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
Total	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all cocaine 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, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 weight gram	na	200–300	na	na	na	na	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	na	na	na	na	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	na	na	na
1 ounce	na	2,000–3,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	80,000–100,000	53,000	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, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
1 tablet/capsule	16–30	10–20	10–25	20–35	na	30	30–60	25
2–24 tablets/capsules (per unit)	16–30	na	17.5–20	18–30	na	25	25–50	na
25–99 tablets/capsules (per unit)	13–34	na	15–20	na	na	20	na	15
100–999 tablets/capsules (per unit)	9–10	8–10[b]	15–20	na	na	13	na	na
1 000+ tablets/capsules (per unit)	5–10	5[b]	15–20	na	na	na	na	na
1 gram	130–150	100–200	80–125	130–200	na	200	800	250
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	na	300–400	400–500	na	550	na	na	na
1/2 ounce	na	1,000	600–1,500	na	na	2,500	na	na
1 kilogram	18,000–28,000	40,000–60,000	50,000–70,000	na	70,000	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.
b. Prices adjusted for bulk purchase prices to reflect prices per tab/cap.

TABLE 43: Methylamphetamine prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
Crystal form ('ice')								
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	50–120	50	50–150	50–100	123–190	100–200	100	70–100
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 weight gram	400–600	200	100–1,000	200–600	550–850	na	600–1,000	na
Half 8 ball (1.75 grams)	na	300	250–1,800	250–850	710–1,596	na	na	750
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)	1,000–1,800	550	700–3,800	350–2,500	1,483–4,000	3,500	1,800–2,200	1,800
1/4 ounce	na	na	1,200–5,000	na	na	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	2,500–8,500	na	7,000	na	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 ounce	4,200–11,500	3,200	3,000–15,000	3,500–15,000	8,600–26,000	10,000–20,000	14,000	6,000–9,000
1 pound	72,000–130,000	na	108,000–150,000	na	280,000	na	200,000–250,000	na
1 kilogram	100,000–250,000	96,000–101,000	70,000–250,000	90,000–350,000	150,625–533,333	na	na	120,000–235,000
Non-crystal form								
Powder/paste/base								
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 weight gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	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	na	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	na	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
Meth oil								
1 litre	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

a. South Australia Police has not provided prices for non-crystal methylamphetamine 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 44: Cannabis prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
Bush								
Leaf								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	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
Head								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	15–20	na	na	na	na	20	na	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	150	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	300–450	na	na	na	na	250	na	na
1 pound	3,400–4,500	na	na	na	na	2,500	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 mature plant	1,000–2,000	na	2,200–4,000	na	na	250	na	na
Hydroponic								
Leaf								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	25–30	na	50–75	na	na	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	140–280	na	180	na	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	na	na	220–600	na	270–500	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	3,500	na	2,724–3,100	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Head								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	15–20	20	25–30	25	na	20	30–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	150	140–280	130–150	na	150	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	300–450	280	220–600	220–300	na	300	450–500	300
1 pound	3,400–4,500	2,300–2,700	3,500	1,900–3,200	na	3,000	5,000–6,000	na
1 kilogram	na	4,000–5,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 mature plant	2,000–5,000	5,000	3,200–5,000	na	na	300	na	na
Resin								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	na	na	na	25	na	na
Oil								
Cap/vial	na	na	10	10	na	40	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, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
Half point (0.05 gram)	50	50	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 taste/cap (0.1–0.3 gram)	50–100	na	100	50–100	200	100	na	80–150
1/4 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 weight (0.4–0.6 gram)	200–300	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 street weight (0.6–0.8 gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 gram	400–500	588.23	na	na	na	500	na	na
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	1,000–1,500	na	850	na	na	1,000	na	1,600–2,000
10 gram bag	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 ounce	na	7,200	na	4,000	na	na	na	na
1 ounce	9,000–11,000	8,000–9,500	7,000	6,000–10,000	30,000	na	na	14,000–16,000
1/2 Asian catti (350 grams)	65,000–175,000	55,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
12.5 ounce block	na	na	na	na	175,000–180,000	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	na	na	375,000	na	na	na
Asian catti (700 grams)	na	na	245,000	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	100,000–200,000	90,000	310,000	na	370,000–500,000	na	na	180,000–200,000

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 46: Cocaine prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
1 cap	100–200	50	60–100	na	na	50	na	na
1 gram	300–600	300–500	200–600	300–450	400–467	400	400	300–400
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	1,000–1,300	na	800–1,550	900–1,900	1,150–1,762	1,200	1,000–1,300	1,300–1,500
1/4 ounce	na	na	1,000–3,500	na	na	2,000	na	na
1 ounce	6,000–9,500	6,000–7,000	5,500–10,300	7,500–9,500	7,500–12,667	10,000	8,000–10,000	10,000–12,000
1 pound	na	80,000–100,000	85,000–100,000	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	130,000–280,000	160,000–200,000	150,000–320,000	185,000–335,000	310,000–410,000	na	na	180,000–200,000

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, 2020–21 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
LSD								
1–9 tabs (ddu[a])	25	20	22–35	25–40	na	20	25	na
10–100 tabs (ddu)	10–20	5[c]	21–35	11–22	na	na	na	na
101–999 tabs (ddu)	na	na	21–35	9–10	na	na	na	na
1000+ tabs (ddu)	na	9[c]	20–35	na	na	na	na	na
1 x 20 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Psilocybin								
1 gram	na	na	na	20	na	na	na	na
Ketamine								
Tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Powder (1 gram)	240–260	180–200	230–250	na	na	na	250	na
Vial (5–10 millilitres)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol								
GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol (not specified)								
1–1.5 millilitres	5–10	na	na	1–7	7–20	na	na	10–15
4–5 millilitres (fish)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
10–15 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
50 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100 millilitres	400–700	na	na	400–500	na	na	na	na
Bulk	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 litre	1,400–4,000	na	na	1,250–3,000	na	na	na	na
25 litres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
GHB								
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
1,4-butanediol								
1–1.5 millilitres	na	20–30	na	na	na	na	na	na
4–5 millilitres (fish)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
10–15 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
50 millilitres	na	na	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

c. Prices adjusted for bulk purchase prices to reflect prices per ddu/tab.

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
100 millilitres	na	200–300	na	na	na	na	na	na
Bulk	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 litre	na	2,500–3,000	na	na	na	na	na	na
25 litres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OPIOID PHARMACEUTICALS								
Per milligram	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (per tablet)	50–140	na	30	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (60 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	60	30	na
OxyContin (80 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (100 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	100	50	na
OxyContin (200 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (1 box)	na	na	na	na	na	na	1,400	na
MS Contin								
1 milligram	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
60 milligram tablet	na	na	na	na	na	60	na	na
100 milligram tablet	na	na	na	na	na	100	na	na
Kapanol (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Buprenorphine (2 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	10
Buprenorphine (8 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (1 microgram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (1 x 100 microgram patch)	200–300	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (per gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (nasal spray)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Morphine (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
BENZODIAZEPINE PHARMACEUTICALS								
Per milligram	na	na	10	na	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Bromazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Clonazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Flunitrazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nitrazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Diazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Oxazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Temazepam (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Xanax (1 tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Xanax (10 tablets)	na	na	na	70–90	na	na	na	na
Xanax (50 tablets)	na	na	1,000	220–250	na	na	na	na
PRECURSORS								
Ephedrine								
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	40,000	na	na	na
Pseudoephedrine								
Box	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Per milligram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100 x boxes	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram (pure)	na	30,000–35,000	na	na	40,000	na	na	na
Hypophosphorous acid								
50 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 litre	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Iodine								
1 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
ANALOGUES								
4MMC per tablet/capsule	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
4MMC (1 milligram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
MDPV								
1 tablet/capsule	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2–24 tablets/capsules (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
25–99 tablets/capsules (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100–999 tablets/capsules (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1000+ tablets/capsules (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Point	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Milligram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
N-Benzylpiperazine (BZP)								
1 tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Synthetic cannabinoids								
1.5 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
3 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
7 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
14 grams	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Other								
Methadone 30 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Sildenafil (per tablet)	na	na	15	na	na	na	na	na
Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) per milligram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) per gram	na	na	na	250–320	150	na	na	na

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2020–21 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS								
Testosterone enanthate 200 milligrams								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	80	na	na	na	100	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	840	na	na	na	na	1,000
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Deca-durabolin 200 milligrams								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	80	na	na	na	na	na
Stanozolol 25 milligram/millilitre								
40 millilitre vial	na	na	180	na	na	na	na	na
Sustanon 250 (blend of 4 testosterone compounds)								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	80	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	650	na	na	na	na	na
Testosterone propionate 100mg								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	150	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	800	na	na	na	na	na
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Primoteston 300 milligrams/millilitres								
1 x 10 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Trenbolone Acetate 100mg								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	80	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	650	na	na	na	na	na
20 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
50 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Clenbuterol								
0.04 milligram tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
30 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

APPENDICES

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).

All statistics provided are accurate as at December 2021.

TASKFORCE BLAZE

Taskforce Blaze is a joint initiative between the AFP and the China National Narcotics Control Commission to counter the narcotics trade and trafficking. The Taskforce focuses on eradicating sources of narcotics and obstructing the channels of trafficking at key borders. Taskforce Blaze also continues to target narcotic-related money laundering avenues available to organised crime syndicates.

Since its inception in November 2015, Taskforce Blaze has intercepted more than 26 tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals and $2 million in proceeds of crime, resulting in 299 arrests.

AFP ENGAGEMENT WITH MYANMAR POLICE FORCE (MPF)

Prior to the military coup in February 2021, the AFP and MPF were in the final stages of officially signing off on establishing Taskforce Thunder, a joint drug control program that aims to facilitate counter narcotics operations. This follows successful collaboration between the AFP and MPF which led to the disruption of a number of clandestine laboratories and refineries. In keeping with the whole of Australian Government policy, the AFP has since suspended capability and training programs with the MPF and assesses operational engagement on a case-by-case basis.

Since February 2021, the Drug Enforcement Division of the MPF has seized close to 30 tonnes of drugs; with nearly 13 tonnes of methylamphetamine, over 13 tonnes of dry powder precursor chemicals and over 90,000 litres of liquid precursor chemicals. Despite our reduction in engagement, the MPF is still actively sharing intelligence related to drug exportation with the AFP, for sharing with our international law enforcement partners in the Mekong region.

TASKFORCE STORM

Taskforce Storm is a joint initiative between the AFP, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Special Investigations, and the Anti-Money Laundering Office. Taskforce Storm enables joint investigations and intelligence exchange to combat transnational, serious and organised crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking and serious fraud.

Since its inception in May 2016, Taskforce Storm has resulted in seizures of more than 10 tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals, and asset seizures valued in excess of $25.7 million.

STRIKEFORCE DRAGON

Strikeforce Dragon, a partnership with the Cambodian National Police and the Cambodian General Department of Immigration, aims to combat methylamphetamine (primarily crystal methylamphetamine). Strikeforce Dragon provides a mechanism to strengthen cooperation and intelligence sharing on narcotics to combat transnational organised crime syndicates targeting Australia.

Since its inception in June 2016, Strikeforce Dragon has resulted in the seizure of 3.3 tonnes of narcotics and precursor chemicals in addition to 64 arrests.

TASKFORCE BASILISK

The AFP partners with the Office of the Colombian Attorney General to conduct police operations under Taskforce Basilisk. The objective of Taskforce Basilisk is to detect, deter, prevent and disrupt transnational serious and organised crime suspected of directly or indirectly impacting Australia. Taskforce Basilisk regularly engages with international law enforcement partners to interdict and disrupt ventures involving multi-tonne exports of cocaine from Colombia and international money laundering activities.

TASKFORCE TYCHE

In November 2019, the AFP, ACIC, National Police of the Netherlands and the National Prosecution Office of the Netherlands established Taskforce Tyche, to enhance proactive joint investigations on High Value Targets involved in drug trafficking between Australia and the Netherlands.

Since its inception in November 2019, Taskforce Tyche has resulted in 13 arrests, 2 illicit laboratories being dismantled and the seizure of 5 firearms, 850 kilograms of MDMA, 548 litres of MDMA oil, 26 kilograms of ketamine, 65 tonnes of precursor chemicals and €200,000 (equivalent to approximately AUD $300,000).

TRANSNATIONAL SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME PACIFIC TASKFORCE

The Pacific Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime Taskforce was launched by the Fiji Police Force, Tonga Police Force, AFP and New Zealand Police in February 2019, and is a commitment by all participants to work collaboratively to combat transnational, serious and organised crime impacting the Pacific. In 2021, the Taskforce co-oped Pacific French Territories as operational partners through the Office Anti-Stupéfiant (OFAST).

Since its inception, the Taskforce has seized in excess of 86 kilograms of cocaine, 70 kilograms of methylamphetamine, 2 kilograms of MDMA and 4.5 tonnes of cannabis being produced or transhipped through Fiji or Tonga. Over 48 offenders have been arrested and charged in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand with an array of serious drug offences. Coordination between the Taskforce members has also resulted in over 30 outlaw ootorcycle gang members and high-level criminal entities being refused entry, or detained, upon arrival in Fiji and Tonga. In addition, over 20 high risk vessels of interest have been interdicted by Fiji and Tonga law enforcement authorities.

APPENDIX 2
2020–21[73] SIGNIFICANT BORDER DETECTIONS

Source: Department Of Home Affairs

ATS

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2020–21 include:

- 739.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine detected on 17 August 2020 via air cargo from Thailand
- 546.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine detected on 11 November 2020 via air cargo from the United States
- 540.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine detected on 29 March 2021 via sea cargo from Mexico
- 320.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine (ice) detected on 4 May 2021 via sea cargo from Thailand
- 215.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine (ice) detected on 23 December 2020 via sea cargo from Malaysia.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 2,360.0 kilograms and account for 45% of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

Significant border detections of MDMA in 2020–21 include:

- 5.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 16 May 2021 via air cargo from Italy
- 5.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 11 April 2021 via international mail from Germany
- 4.5 kilograms of MDMA detected on 25 December 2020 via air cargo from the United Kingdom
- 4.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 10 May 2021 via air cargo from Spain
- 4.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 16 April 2021 via air cargo from Belgium.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 22.5 kilograms and account for 21% of the total weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

73 Country of embarkation information was not available for every significant detection at the Australian border in 2020–21.

CANNABIS

Significant border detections of cannabis in 2020–21 include:

- 42.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 1 April 2021 via air cargo from the United States
- 25.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 30 March 2021 via air cargo from Thailand
- 16.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 25 August 2020 via sea cargo from the United States
- 15.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 5 August 2020 via air cargo from China (including Hong Kong)
- 14.2 kilograms of cannabis detected on 5 September 2020 via air cargo from China (including Hong Kong).

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 112.2 kilograms and account for 14% of the total weight of cannabis detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

HEROIN

Significant border detections of heroin in 2020–21 include:

- 348.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 23 December 2020 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 316.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 9 January 2021 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 135.5 kilograms of heroin detected on 23 December 2020 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 85.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 23 December 2020 via sea cargo from Malaysia
- 77.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 28 May 2021 via air cargo from Malaysia.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 961.5 kilograms and account for 77% of the total weight of heroin detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

COCAINE

Significant border detections of cocaine in 2020–21 include:

- 600.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 15 January 2021 via sea cargo from Italy
- 550.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 15 May 2021 via air cargo from the United Kingdom
- 500.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 22 September 2020 via sea cargo from Brazil
- 160.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 31 May 2021 via air cargo from China (including Hong Kong)
- 144.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 6 October 2020 via air cargo from South Africa.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 1,954.0 kilograms and account for 76% of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

PRECURSORS

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors in 2020–21 include:

- 263.0 kilograms of methyl alpha-acetylphenylacetate detected on 5 November 2020 via sea cargo from China (including Hong Kong)
- 156.0 kilograms of pseudoephedrine detected on 11 October 2020 via air cargo from India
- 50.0 kilograms of pseudoephedrine detected on 14 May 2021 via air cargo from India
- 26.0 kilograms of methyl alpha-acetylphenylacetate detected on 5 November 2021 via sea cargo from China (including Hong Kong)
- 26.0 kilograms of methyl alpha-acetylphenylacetate detected on 5 November 2021 via sea cargo from China (including Hong Kong)[74].

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 521.0 kilograms and account for 51% of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

Significant border detections of MDMA precursors in 2020–21 include:

- 162.0 grams of piperonal detected on 4 May 2021 via air cargo from the United States
- 56.0 grams of N-Moc-MDMA detected on 30 November 2020 via international mail from the Netherlands
- 50.0 grams of piperonal detected on 3 March 2021 via air cargo from the United States
- 25.0 grams of N-Moc-MDMA detected on 29 January 2021 via international mail from the Netherlands
- 20.0 grams of piperonal detected on 17 December 2020 via international mail from Poland.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 313.0 grams and account for 98% of the total weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border in 2020–21.

74 This is the second of 2 transactions on the same day, not a duplicate.

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 2021

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
Jan-Jun 2021	ACT	–	–	–	–
	NSW	1.0	12.6	1.9	**15.5**
	NT	0.4	1.0	0.6	**2.0**
	SA	5.2	10.8	4.2	**20.2**
	VIC	12.4	10.1	7.1	**29.6**
	WA	6.6	19.5	6.6	**32.7**
Total		**25.6**	**54.0**	**20.4**	**100**
2020	ACT	0.9	0.7	0.6	**2.2**
	NSW	2.3	6.6	3.5	**12.4**
	NT	1.3	1.1	0.2	**2.6**
	SA	5.5	8.4	4.3	**18.2**
	VIC	17.4	9.9	6.6	**33.9**
	WA	8.9	14.0	7.0	**30.7**
Total		**36.3**	**41.5**	**22.2**	**100**
2019	ACT	1.0	1.0	0.6	**2.6**
	NSW	2.6	5.8	2.0	**10.4**
	NT	0.4	2.0	1.1	**3.5**
	SA	5.0	9.6	7.0	**21.6**
	VIC	13.9	8.4	3.4	**25.7**
	WA	15.4	13.2	7.6	**36.2**
Total		**38.3**	**40.0**	**21.7**	**100**

TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2021 (continued)

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
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**
Total		**41.4**	**42.4**	**16.2**	**100**
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**
Total		**65.0**	**11.2**	**23.8**	**100**
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**
Total		**86.0**	**4.7**	**9.3**	**100**
2015	ACT	1.1	–	–	**1.1**
	NSW	30.5	2.3	2.0	**34.8**
	NT	5.1	0.5	–	**5.6**
	SA	6.8	0.6	1.0	**8.4**
	TAS	0.1	–	–	**0.1**
	VIC	10.2	0.1	0.4	**10.7**
	WA	34.9	1.9	2.5	**39.3**
Total		**88.7**	**5.4**	**5.9**	**100**

TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2021 (continued)

Year	Jurisdiction	Synthetic Route			Total %
		Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
2014	NSW	31.4	3.9	3.1	**38.4**
	NT	3.7	0.9	0.4	**5.0**
	QLD	–	–	0.1	**0.1**
	SA	2.4	1.6	1.2	**5.2**
	TAS	0.8	–	0.5	**1.3**
	VIC	1.2	–	0.3	**1.5**
	WA	38.9	4.8	4.8	**48.5**
Total		**78.4**	**11.2**	**10.4**	**100**
2013	NSW	28.4	4.5	0.9	**33.8**
	NT	3.3	0.2	0.9	**4.5**
	TAS	2.4	0.2	–	**2.6**
	VIC	–	0.2	–	**0.2**
	WA	40.7	10.9	7.3	**58.9**
Total		**74.8**	**16.0**	**9.1**	**100**
2012	ACT	4.7	–	–	**4.7**
	NSW	38.2	0.6	6.2	**45.0**
	NT	7.9	–	0.3	**8.2**
	TAS	0.6	–	–	**0.6**
	WA	34.4	4.4	2.7	**41.5**
Total		**85.8**	**5.0**	**9.2**	**100**
2011	NSW	13.7	0.9	2.4	**17.0**
	NT	5.7	0.5	–	**6.2**
	TAS	2.4	–	–	**2.4**
	WA	46.0	1.9	26.5	**74.4**
Total		**67.8**	**3.3**	**28.9**	**100**

Note: This data set represents a total of 858 methylamphetamine samples in 2020 and 483 methylamphetamine samples between January and June 2021. Due to a lack of available data, samples were classified based on the sample collection date in place of the sample seizure date. ACT is not represented between January and June 2021 as no collection of ENIPID samples occurred in this time period.

TABLE 2: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011– June 2021

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
Jan–Jun 2021	ACT	–	–	–	–
	NSW	8.0	4.0	–	**12.0**
	NT	–	–	–	–
	SA	12.0	–	–	**12.0**
	VIC	36.0	8.0	4.0	**48.0**
	WA	28.0	–	–	**28.0**
Total		**84.0**	**12.0**	**4.0**	**100**
2020	**ACT**	12.0	–	–	**12.0**
	NSW	14.5	–	–	**14.5**
	NT	0.8	–	–	**0.8**
	SA	4.3	–	–	**4.3**
	VIC	40.2	7.7	11.1	**59.0**
	WA	8.5	–	0.9	**9.4**
Total		**80.3**	**7.7**	**12.0**	**100**
2019	**ACT**	2.6	–	–	**2.6**
	NSW	12.8	–	0.9	**13.7**
	NT	1.7	–	–	**1.7**
	SA	12.8	1.7	3.4	**17.9**
	VIC	42.7	2.6	4.3	**49.6**
	WA	14.5	–	–	**14.5**
Total		**87.1**	**4.3**	**8.6**	**100**
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**
Total		**70.1**	**10.6**	**19.3**	**100**

TABLE 2: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011– June 2021 (continued)

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
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
Total		50.0	38.9	11.1	100
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
Total		93.9	4.9	1.2	100
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
Total		88.6	6.2	5.2	100
2014	NSW	47.6	7.2	–	54.8
	SA	–	2.4	–	2.4
	VIC	–	7.1	–	7.1
	WA	35.7	–	–	35.7
Total		83.3	16.7	–	100
2013	NSW	45.7	–	2.9	48.6
	WA	34.3	17.1	–	51.4
Total		80.0	17.1	2.9	100

TABLE 2: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011– June 2021 (continued)

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin			Total %
		South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	
2012	ACT	8.5	–	–	**8.5**
	NSW	55.3	12.8	12.8	**80.9**
	WA	2.1	8.5	–	**10.6**
Total		**65.9**	**21.3**	**12.8**	**100**
2011	NSW	9.8	2.0	3.9	**15.7**
	WA	82.3	–	2.0	**84.3**
Total		**92.1**	**2.0**	**5.9**	**100**

Note: This data set represents a total of 117 heroin samples in 2020 and 25 heroin samples between Jan and Jun 2021. Due to a lack of available data, some samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

TABLE 3: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples, as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2014–June 2021

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin				Total %
		Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
Jan – Jun 2021	ACT	–	–	–	–	–
	NSW	22.6	–	–	20.2	**42.8**
	NT	0.8	–	–	–	**0.8**
	SA	4.0	–	–	–	**4.0**
	VIC	29.0	–	–	12.1	**41.1**
	WA	7.3	–	–	4.0	**11.3**
Total		**63.7**	**–**	**–**	**36.3**	**100**
2020	ACT	1.9	–	–	1.1	**3.0**
	NSW	21.3	2.6	–	10.1	**34.0**
	NT	1.5	–	–	0.8	**2.3**
	SA	3.0	–	–	2.2	**5.2**
	VIC	28.5	–	–	15.4	**43.9**
	WA	7.1	1.5	–	3.0	**11.6**
Total		**63.3**	**4.1**	**–**	**32.6**	**100**
2019	ACT	1.0	1.0	–	–	**2.0**
	NSW	22.4	2.1	–	16.7	**41.2**
	NT	1.0	–	–	–	**1.0**
	SA	9.9	1.6	–	3.1	**14.6**
	VIC	13.5	3.7	–	6.3	**23.5**
	WA	10.9	1.0	–	5.7	**17.6**
Total		**58.7**	**9.4**	**–**	**31.8**	**100**
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**
Total		**48.2**	**11.4**	**–**	**40.4**	**100**

TABLE 3: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples, as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2014–June 2021 (continued)

Year	Jurisdiction	Geographical origin				Total %
		Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/Unclassified %	
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
Total		61.0	14.8	–	24.2	100
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
Total		67.0	1.2	–	31.8	100
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
Total		50.5	24.5	–	25.0	100
2014	NSW	10.0	26.7	–	3.3	40.0
	NT	1.7	1.7	–	–	3.4
	QLD	1.7	3.3	–	–	5.0
	VIC	10.0	0.0	–	–	10.0
	WA	30.0	6.7	–	5.0	41.7
Total		53.3	38.4	–	8.3	100

Note: This data set represents a total of 267 cocaine samples in 2020 and 124 samples between January and June 2021. Due to a lack of available data, samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.