

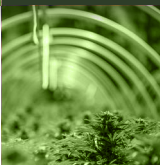
AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

- 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.



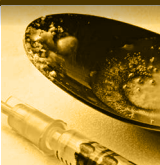
CANNABIS

- 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.



HEROIN

- 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.



COCAINE

- 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.



OTHER DRUGS

- 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.



CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES & PRECURSORS

- 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.

