

2004 NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was gathered information concerning licit and illicit drug use in Australia from almost 30,000 persons aged 12 years and over. Previous surveys were conducted in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2001. It is important to note that 12 and 13 year olds were surveyed for the first time in 2004. To enable comparisons over time the data below (apart from age of initiation) are based on the population aged 14 years and over.

The information on this factsheet can be found in the report published in 2005 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare - 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results. This report can be found via the Institute's web site - <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Summary of drug use: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, and mean age of initiation, Australia, 2001, 2004

Drug/behaviour	Lifetime use		Recent use (a)		Age of initiation	
	2001	2004	2001	2004	2001	2004
Tobacco	49.4	47.1	23.2	20.7	15.5	15.9
Alcohol	90.4	90.7	82.4	83.6	17.1	17.2
Illicits						
Marijuana/cannabis	33.1	33.6	12.9	11.3	18.5	18.7
Analgesics (b)	6.0	5.5	3.1	3.1	18.9	23.4
Tranquilisers (b)	3.2	2.8	1.1	1.0	22.8	25.2
Steroids (b)	0.3	0.3	0.2	-	22.5	25.2
Barbituates (b)	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.2	18.7	19.6
Inhalants	2.6	2.5	0.4	0.4	17.6	18.6
Heroin	1.6	1.4	0.2	0.2	20.7	21.2
Methadone (c)	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	21.8	24.8
Meth/amphetamine (b)	8.9	9.1	3.4	3.2	20.4	20.8
Cocaine	4.4	4.7	1.3	1.0	22.6	23.5
Hallucinogens	7.6	7.5	1.1	0.7	19.1	19.5
Ecstasy (d)	6.1	7.5	2.9	3.4	21.9	22.8
Ketamine	n.a.	1.0	n.a.	0.3	n.a.	23.7
GHB	n.a.	0.5	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	23.7
Injected drugs	1.8	1.9	0.6	0.4	20.2	21.7
Any illicit	37.7	38.1	16.9	15.3	18.6	19.4
None of the above	7.5	7.9	14.7	13.7		

(a) Used in the last 12 months. For tobacco and alcohol, 'recent use' means daily, weekly and less than weekly smokers and drinkers respectively

(b) For non-medical purposes

(c) Non-maintenance

(d) This category included substances known as 'Designer drugs' prior to 2004