

## 1998 NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey was the most comprehensive survey concerning licit and illicit drug use ever undertaken in Australia. It gathered information from over 10,000 persons aged 14 years and over.

Previous surveys were conducted in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995.

The information on this factsheet was adapted from the report published in 1999 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare –1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results.

More detail 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, 1995,1998

Drug/behaviour	Lifetime use		Recent use (a)		Mean age of initiation	
	1995	1998	1995	1998	1995	1998
Tobacco	64.8	65.4	27.1	26.4	15.6	15.7
Alcohol	87.8	89.6	78.3	80.7	17.3	17.1
<b>Illicits</b>						
Marijuana/cannabis	31.1	39.3	13.2	17.9	19.1	18.7
Analgesics <sup>(b)</sup>	12.3	11.4	3.5	5.2	19.0	19.7
Tranquillisers <sup>(b)</sup>	3.2	6.2	0.6	3.0	23.8	23.4
Steroids <sup>(b)</sup>	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.2	18.7	21.6
Barbiturates <sup>(b)</sup>	1.2	1.6	0.2	0.2	18.2	19.7
Inhalants	2.4	3.9	0.4	0.8	16.1	17.5
Heroin	1.4	2.2	0.4	0.7	20.6	21.5
Methadone <sup>(c)</sup>	(d)	0.5	(d)	0.2	(d)	21.6
Amphetamines <sup>(b)</sup>	5.8	8.7	2.1	3.6	20.2	19.9
Cocaine	3.4	4.3	1.0	1.4	21.1	22.3
Hallucinogens	5.5	10.0	1.8	3.0	19.1	18.8
Ecstasy/designer drugs	2.4	4.7	0.9	2.4	22.7	22.7
Injected illegal drugs	1.3	2.1	0.6	0.7	(d)	20.7
Any illicit	39.3	46.0	17.0	22.0	18.9	18.8

(a) Used in the last 12 months

(b) For non-medical purposes

(c) Illicit (not for treatment) use

(d) Not asked in 1995