

DRUG USE AMONGST SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The second national survey on the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances by secondary students was conducted in 1999, and the results released in mid 2001 in the report published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare - Statistics on Drug Use in Australia 2000 by Megge Miller and Glenn Draper.

More detail on this report can be found via the Institute's web site – <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

The survey included students from a representative sample that incorporated government, Catholic and independent schools. The survey collected data from 25,480 students aged 12-17 years from 434 secondary schools across Australia.

Summary of lifetime use of drugs, secondary school students aged 12-17 years

Males

SUBSTANCE	AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Marijuana		11	20	30	42	47	53	32
Pain-killers/analgesics (a)		94	94	95	97	97	96	96
Tranquillisers (b)		16	18	17	21	20	22	19
Steroids (b)		4	4	4	3	4	3	4
Inhalants		32	30	28	23	19	17	26
Opiates (b)		3	3	5	4	5	7	4
Amphetamines (b)		4	6	7	8	12	13	8
Cocaine		4	4	4	4	5	6	4
Hallucinogens		3	4	7	8	12	15	7
Ecstasy/designer drugs		4	3	4	4	7	7	5

Females

SUBSTANCE	AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Marijuana		7	17	28	38	44	50	29
Pain-killers/analgesics (a)		96	96	98	99	99	99	98
Tranquillisers (b)		11	14	17	20	25	22	18
Steroids (b)		3	2	2	1	1	1	2
Inhalants		37	32	30	26	17	14	26
Opiates (b)		2	4	4	4	4	4	4
Amphetamines (b)		2	4	7	8	9	11	7
Cocaine		2	3	4	4	3	2	3
Hallucinogens		2	3	6	8	9	9	6
Ecstasy/designer drugs		1	3	4	4	5	5	3

(a) for medical and non-medical purposes

(b) for non-medical purposes

Summary of illicit drug use in the past 12 months, secondary school students aged 12-17 years

Males

SUBSTANCE	AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Marijuana		9	16	26	36	40	43	27
Pain-killers/analgesics (a)		90	90	92	94	93	91	92
Tranquillisers (b)		9	10	10	12	11	12	10
Steroids (b)		3	3	3	2	3	2	3
Inhalants		24	23	22	16	13	9	19
Opiates (b)		2	2	3	3	3	5	3
Amphetamines (b)		3	4	6	6	9	10	6
Cocaine		2	3	3	3	3	4	3
Hallucinogens		2	2	5	6	9	11	5
Ecstasy/designer drugs		2	3	3	4	5	6	4

Females

SUBSTANCE	AGE	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Marijuana		6	13	23	30	35	37	23
Pain-killers/analgesics (a)		93	94	96	97	98	97	96
Tranquillisers (b)		6	9	10	12	18	14	11
Steroids (b)		2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inhalants		27	26	24	18	11	7	20
Opiates (b)		1	3	3	3	2	2	2
Amphetamines (b)		1	3	6	6	7	9	5
Cocaine		1	3	3	3	2	2	2
Hallucinogens		1	3	5	6	7	6	4
Ecstasy/designer drugs		1	2	3	3	4	4	3

(a) for medical and non-medical purposes

(b) for non-medical purposes