AUSTRALIAN
CRIMINAL
INTELLIGENCE
COMMISSION

ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT
2019–20

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CEO FOREWORD

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's annual *Illicit Drug Data Report,* now in its 18th edition, continues to provide an authoritative picture of illicit drugs in Australia. It 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. For this and subsequent reports we will also include additional information and summary tables highlighting trends in national drug markets over the past decade for methylamphetamine, MDMA, cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

Serious and organised criminals are at the centre of Australia's illicit drug market, motivated by greed, power and profit. We know 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 being among the highest in the world. The estimated street value of the weight of amphetamines, MDMA, cannabis, cocaine and heroin seized nationally in 2019–20 is around $9.7 billion, of which amphetamines accounts for nearly 90 per cent, underlining the size of the black economy that relates to illicit drug markets. Almost all of the drug markets monitored in this report showed signs of expanding in 2019–20. As such, the importation, manufacture, cultivation, distribution and use of illicit drugs in Australia remain a focal point of government, law enforcement, health and intelligence agencies.

Illicit drug use cannot be addressed by law enforcement alone—a multi-faceted approach is needed. This report combines illicit drug data from a variety of sources including law enforcement, forensic services, health and academia, which inform our understanding and assist in focusing our collective efforts to respond to the issue of illicit drugs. The risk and harm posed by illicit drugs to the Australian community is ever-growing, which underscores the need for law enforcement and health agencies to work collaboratively to combat both the supply and demand for illicit drugs in Australia. Despite the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on drug markets in the latter half of 2019–20, a number of new records were set this reporting period and include:

- 38.5 tonnes of illicit drugs seized nationally
- 5.2 tonnes of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border
- 12.8 tonnes of ATS seized nationally
- 10.6 tonnes of cannabis seized nationally
- 121,274 national illicit drug seizures
- 39,204 national ATS seizures
- 62,454 national cannabis seizures

- 2,230 national heroin seizures
- 5,750 national cocaine seizures
- 166,321 national illicit drug arrests
- 49,638 national ATS arrests
- 5,393 national cocaine arrests.

Over the last decade, during which time the Australian population increased around 14 per cent:

- the number of national illicit drug seizures increased 74 per cent
- the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased 314 per cent
- the number of national illicit drug arrests increased 96 per cent.

These upward trends not only highlight the continued vigilance of law enforcement 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.

This reporting period the combined weight of cannabis, heroin and cocaine detected at the Australian border equated to less than one quarter of the weight of ATS (including MDMA) detected. Methylamphetamine, which accounts for the majority of ATS, remains the most consumed illicit drug of those monitored by the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program based on available dose data. It is estimated that 11,147 kilograms of methylamphetamine was consumed in Australia during the reporting period, with 9,408 kilograms of amphetamines—the majority of which is methylamphetamine—seized nationally in 2019–20.

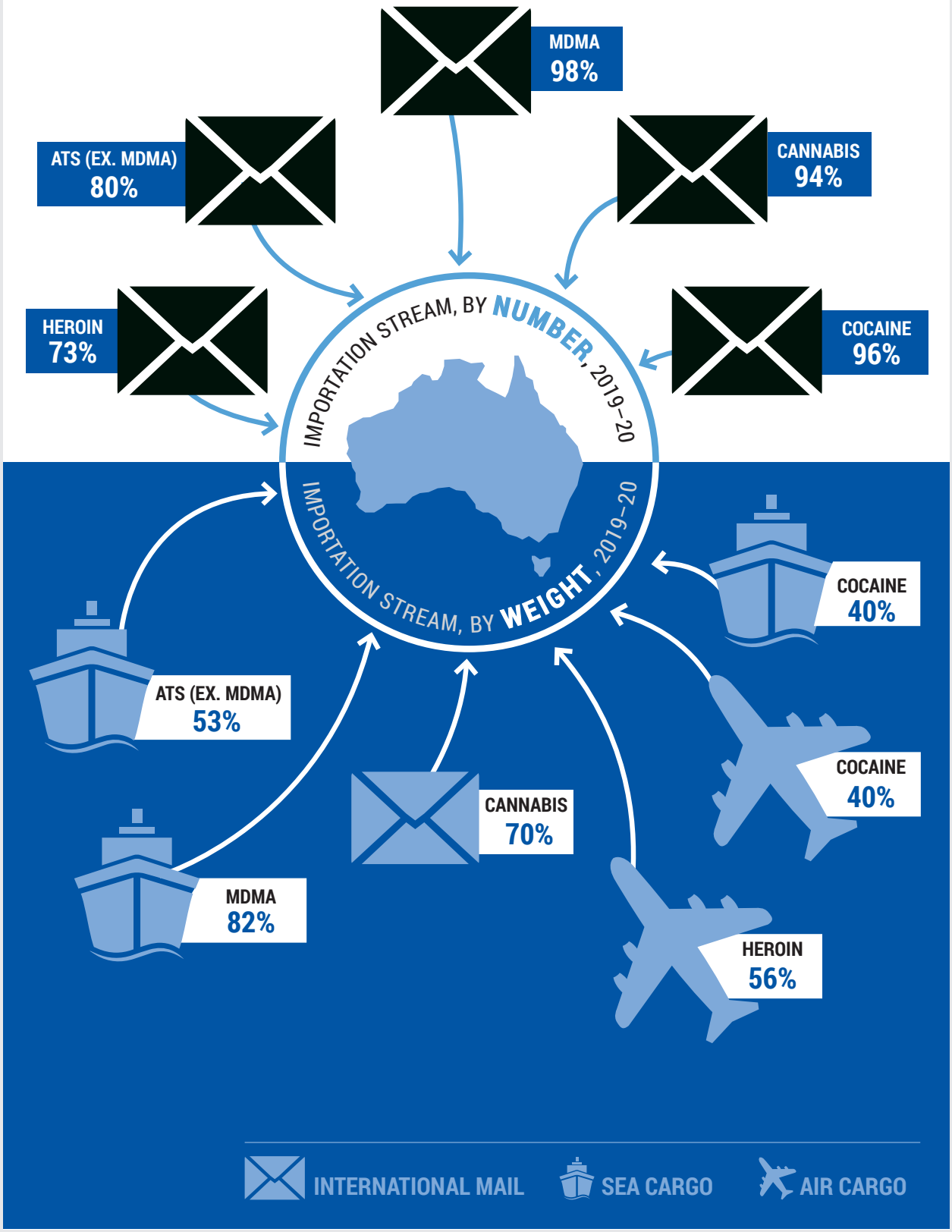
In addition to the highest risk drug markets, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission continues to monitor emerging markets. It is for this reason that the feature drug section of this report is focused on GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD. While the market for these drugs is small compared to more traditional illicit drugs, it appears to be expanding, with record recent seizures and clandestine laboratory detections and this is resulting in tangible harm to some users. The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally increased for the first time since 2011–12.

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

Michael Phelan APM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

SNAPSHOT

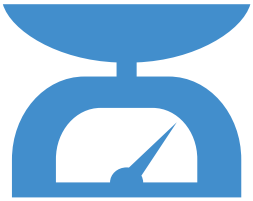
IMPORTATION METHODS



NATIONAL SEIZURES AND ARRESTS

RECORD
121,274
DRUG SEIZURES

RECORD
38.5
TONNES



DRUGS SEIZED

RECORD
166,321
DRUG ARRESTS

1 SEIZURE EVERY
4.5 MINS

1KG SEIZED EVERY
14 MINS

1 ARREST EVERY
3.5 MINS

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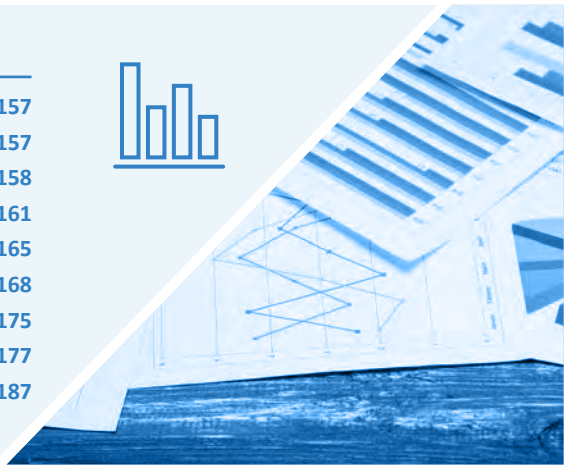


APPENDIX

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.

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 issues and explanatory notes is contained in the *Statistics* chapter.

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) is the only report of its type in Australia, providing governments, law enforcement agencies and interested stakeholders with a national picture of the illicit drug market. The IDDR presents 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 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission 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 2019–20 financial year include:

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

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

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission 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.

The current format and structure of the IDDR provides a more concise report, while still retaining key illicit drug market information and insights. Similar to previous reports, each chapter in the 2019–20 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. No single dataset provides a national picture of 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 main two illicit drug markets in Australia. This is illustrated by supply indicators such as national arrests, with cannabis and ATS accounting for three quarters of the total number of national arrests in 2019–20. Cannabis accounted for half of the total number of national seizures and around a quarter of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally this reporting period. In 2019–20, ATS accounted for a third of both the number and weight of illicit drugs seized nationally.

The emergence of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions, both domestically and internationally, may have impacted drug market trends for this reporting period. Based on supply and demand indicators for the main illicit drug markets in Australia in 2019–20:

- The ATS market remains large and shows some signs of potential expansion.
- The cannabis market remains large and is potentially expanding.
- The heroin market remains small but appears to be expanding.
- The cocaine market continued to expand.
- While the market for other drugs remains small compared to the above markets, there are signs that the market for hallucinogens continued to expand, with the market for GHB/GBL and 1-4 butanediol also expanding (see *Feature Drug* section).

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 there have been mixed changes in the heroin market.

National drug market decade trend: comparison of 2010–11 and 2019–20[2]

	Methylamphetamine	MDMA	Cannabis	Cocaine	Heroin
Border detections					
Number	↑ 28% 1,075 → 1,377[a]	↑ 1,961% 112 → 2,308	↑ 501% 2,137 → 12,846	↑ 447% 486 → 2,660	↓ -24% 232 → 177
Weight	↑ 4,920% 105kg → 5,271kg[a]	↑ 16,038% 8kg → 1,291kg	↑ 839% 69kg → 648kg	↑ 9% 701kg → 763kg	↓ -72% 400kg → 110kg
National seizures					
Number	↑ 274% 9,133 → 34,133[b]	↑ 171% 1,840 → 4,981	↑ 25% 50,073 → 62,454	↑ 372% 1,217 → 5,750	↑ 31% 1,700 → 2,230
Weight	↑ 1,415% 621kg → 9,408kg[b]	↑ 4,845% 65kg → 3,214kg	↑ 96% 5,452kg → 10,662kg	↑ 138% 662kg → 1,573kg	↓ -44% 375kg → 210kg
National arrests					
Number	↑ 322% 10,633 → 44,847[b]	↑ 120% 2,161 → 4,746	↑ 30 % 58,760 → 76,669	↑ 543 % 839 → 5,393	↑ 38 % 2,551 → 3,514[c]
Median price[d]					
	↑ $75.00 → $90.00	↓ $33.25 → $22.50	↑ $25.00 → $27.50	↑ $50.00 → $80.00	↑ $50.00 → $85.00
Annual median purity range					
	↑ 9.3% to 32.0% → 13.4% to 82.9%	↑ 7.7% to 16.0% → 39.9% to 76.0%[e]	—	↑ 9.5% to 30.0% → 40.5% to 67.0%	↑ 14.0% to 48.0% → 39.7% to 77.0%
NDSHS[f]					
Use in lifetime	↓ 7% → 6%	↑ 10% → 13%	↑ 35% → 37%	↑ 7% → 11%	➲ 1% → 1%
Recent use	↓ 2% → 1%	➲ 3% → 3%	↑ 10% → 12%	↑ 2% → 4%	➲ <1% → <1%
DUMA[g]					
	↑ 18% → 51%	↑ <1% → 1%	↓ 45% → 44%	↑ 1% → 2%	↓ 11% → 7%

a. National border detection data reflect ATS (excluding MDMA).
b. National seizure and arrest data reflect amphetamines, which include 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 amphetamine 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 are equivalent to 0.1 gram of methylamphetamine, 1 MDMA tablet, 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis, a cap (0.2 grams) of cocaine or a taste/cap of heroin (0.1–0.3 grams). National median prices are calculated using price data reported by four or more jurisdictions, with the exception of cocaine which used price data reported by New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania in 2019–20.
e. Annual median purity reflects reported phenethylamine purity, the majority of which relates to MDMA.
f. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used the nominated drug.
g. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program urinalysis data.

2 Key for tables in the Executive Summary:
↓ = Decrease ➲ = Relatively stable ↑ = Increase ■ = Highest on record □ = Highest in last decade

PROFILE OF ILLICIT DRUG DETECTIONS AT THE AUSTRALIAN BORDER

Number of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)		Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA			
↓ -32%	↓ -39%	↑ 15%	↓ -4%	↓ -1%
2,022 → 1,377	3,777 → 2,308	11,133 → 12,846	184 → 177	2,695 → 2,660

Cannabis continued to account for the greatest number of border detections in 2019–20, followed by cocaine, MDMA, ATS[3] and heroin.

- The number of ATS, MDMA, heroin and cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20.
- The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased this reporting period.

Weight of illicit drug detections—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)		Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA			
↑ 2%	↓ -39%	↓ -64%	↓ -61%	↓ -27%
5,148kg → 5,271kg	2,124kg → 1,291kg	1,811kg → 648kg	283kg → 110kg	1,049kg → 763kg

ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of border detections in 2019–20, followed by MDMA, cocaine, cannabis and heroin.

- The weight of MDMA, cannabis, heroin and cocaine detected decreased this reporting period.
- The weight of ATS detected increased in 2019–20 and is the highest weight on record.

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

Proportion of illicit drug detections, by importation stream in 2019–20

Drug type	Importation stream, by number		Importation stream, by weight	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	**International mail**	**80%**	**Sea cargo**	**53%**
	Air cargo	18%	Air cargo	39%
	Air passenger/crew	1%	International mail	7%
	Sea cargo	1%	Air passenger/crew	1%
MDMA	**International mail**	**98%**	**Sea cargo**	**82%**
	Air cargo	2%	International mail	11%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Air cargo	7%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
Cannabis	**International mail**	**94%**	**International mail**	**70%**
	Air cargo	6%	Air cargo	28%
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	Sea cargo	1%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	1%
Heroin	**International mail**	**73%**	**Air cargo**	**56%**
	Air cargo	24%	International mail	44%
	Air passenger/crew	3%	Air passenger/crew	<1%
Cocaine	**International mail**	**96%**	**Sea cargo**	**40%**
	Air cargo	3%	**Air cargo**	**40%**
	Air passenger/crew	<1%	International mail	18%
	Sea cargo	<1%	Air passenger/crew	2%

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 varies by drug type.

PROFILE OF NATIONAL DRUG SEIZURES

Number of national illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↑ 8 %	↑ 2 %	↑ 11 %	↑ 7 %	↑ 7 %	↑ 13 %
112,474 → 121,274	38,250 → 39,204	56,491 → 62,454	2,080 → 2,230	5,378 → 5,750	10,275 → 11,636

The number of national illicit drug seizures increased to a record level this reporting period.

- In 2019–20, cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of the number of national illicit drug seizures (51 per cent), followed by ATS (32 per cent), other and unknown drugs (10 per cent), cocaine (5 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (2 per cent).
- The number of ATS, cannabis, heroin, cocaine and other and unknown drugs seizures increased this reporting period, with ATS, cannabis, cocaine and heroin increasing to record levels.

The number of national illicit drug seizures increased 74 per cent over the last decade, from 69,595 seizures in 2010–11 to a record 121,274 seizures in 2019–20.

Weight of illicit drug seizures—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↑ 45 %	↑ 47 %	↑ 38 %	↑ 7 %	↓ -4 %	↑ 59 %
26.6t → 38.5t	8,776kg → 12,864kg	7,740kg → 10,662kg	197kg → 210kg	1,638kg → 1,573kg	8,345kg → 13,276kg

The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased to a record level this reporting period.

- In 2019–20, other and unknown accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of illicit drugs seized nationally (34 per cent), followed by ATS (33 per cent), cannabis (28 per cent), cocaine (4 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (1 per cent).
- The weight of ATS, cannabis, heroin and other and unknown drugs seized nationally increased this reporting period, with ATS and cannabis increasing to record levels.
- The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased this reporting period.

The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally increased 314 per cent over the last decade, from 9.3 tonnes in 2010–11 to a record 38.5 tonnes in 2019–20.

Comparison of the weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine seized nationally in 2019–20 and estimated consumption

Drug	Estimated consumption[a] (kilograms per annum)	2019–20 national seizures (gross kilograms)	Percentage of total estimated consumption seized (%)
Methylamphetamine	11,147	9,408[b]	84
MDMA	2,630	3,214	122
Heroin	1,021	210	21
Cocaine	5,675	1,573	28

a. Consumption estimates are based on data derived from Year 4 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 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has used wastewater data collected between August 2019 and August 2020 as part of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) to estimate the annual weight of methylamphetamine, MDMA, heroin and cocaine consumed nationally. Based on the reported gross weights seized nationally by Australian law enforcement in 2019–20 and consumption estimates from the NWDMP:

- The weight of amphetamines seized equated to 84 per cent of the total estimated weight of methylamphetamine needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of MDMA seized equated to 122 per cent of the total estimated weight of MDMA needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of heroin seized equated to 21 per cent of the total estimated weight of heroin needed to meet national demand.
- The weight of cocaine seized equated to 28 per cent of the total estimated weight of cocaine needed to meet national demand.

PROFILE OF ILLICIT DRUG ARRESTS

National illicit drug arrests—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

National	ATS	Cannabis	Heroin & other opioids	Cocaine	Other & unknown drugs
↑ 8 %	↑ 7 %	↑ 8 %	↑ 12 %	↑ 8 %	↑ 13 %
153,377 → 166,321	46,437 → 49,638	71,151 → 76,669	3,129 → 3,514	5,016 → 5,393	27,644 → 31,107

The number of national illicit drug arrests increased to a record level this reporting period.

- In 2019–20, cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests (46 per cent), followed by ATS (30 per cent), other and unknown drugs (19 per cent), cocaine (3 per cent) and heroin and other opioids (2 per cent).
- The number of national arrests increased for all drugs this reporting period. There were a record number of national ATS, cocaine and other and unknown drugs arrests in 2019–20, with the number of national heroin and other opioids arrests this reporting period the highest reported in the last decade.

The number of national illicit drug arrests increased 96 per cent over the last decade, from 84,738 in 2010–11 to a record 166,321 in 2019–20.

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 2019–20, summons accounted for the greatest proportion of national drug arrests (45 per cent), followed by arrest and charge (36 per cent) and caution/diversion/infringement (20 per cent). These proportions vary between drug type, with arrest and charge accounting for the greatest proportion of national heroin and other opioids arrests (58 per cent) and summons accounting for the greatest proportion of national ATS and steroid arrests (both 49 per cent). While caution/diversion/infringements accounted for 33 per cent of national cannabis arrests this reporting period, the highest proportion reported for any drug, summons accounted for the greatest proportion of national cannabis arrests in 2019–20 (42 per cent).

Males continued to account for the majority of national illicit drug arrests (75 per cent) in 2019–20. While there was some variation in the proportion of arrests involving males across drug types, males consistently accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests across all drug types this reporting period, ranging from 72 per cent of national other and unknown drug arrests to 85 per cent of national cocaine and steroid arrests.

In 2019–20, consumer arrests continued to account for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests (88 per cent). While consumer arrests accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests across all drug types this reporting period, the proportion attributed to them varies, ranging from 75 per cent of national cocaine arrests to 91 per cent of national cannabis arrests.

PROFILE OF NATIONAL CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

National clandestine laboratory detections—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

No. of detections	Size and production capacity		Location	
↑ 1%	↓ Addict-based	47% → 44%	↑ Residential	69% → 74%
308 → 312	↓ Other small	33% → 28%	↓ Commercial/industrial	10% → 8%
	↑ Medium	18% → 24%	→ Rural	5% → 5%
	↑ Industrial	2% → 4%	→ Other	5% → 5%
			↓ Vehicle	9% → 4%
			↑ Public place	3% → 4%

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally increased for the first time in 2019–20 after seven consecutive reporting periods of decreases.

- The majority of laboratories detected in Australia continue to be addict-based and situated in residential locations.
- The majority of laboratories detected this reporting period were producing methylamphetamine, with the hypophosphorous method of production the predominant process identified.

Number of ATS precursor border detections—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↑ 143%	↑ 100%
325 → 790	2 → 4

Both the number of ATS and MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border increased in 2019–20.

Weight of ATS precursor detections—comparison between 2018–19 and 2019–20

ATS Precursors	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↓ -20%	↑ 951%
2,621kg → 2,099kg	390g → 4.1kg

The weight of ATS precursors detected at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20, while the weight of MDMA precursors detected increased.

2019–20 FEATURE—GHB, GBL AND 1,4-BD

KEY POINTS

- The combined market for gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol (1,4-BD) is small, but appears to be expanding.
- There were record numbers of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD seizures and record weights of GHB and related compounds (including GHB and other related substances grouped in a single category) seized in 2019–20.
- A record 23 clandestine laboratories producing GHB/GBL were detected nationally in 2019–20.
- According to user reporting, demand for GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD remains relatively stable.

INTRODUCTION

GHB is a depressant and is found naturally in the body in small quantities and may also be synthetically produced. GBL and 1,4-BD, which are solvents with industrial applications, are closely related chemicals that once ingested are converted into GHB. GHB commonly appears as a colourless, odourless, bitter or salty liquid and less commonly as crystal powder. On the illicit market it is usually sold in small bottles or vials and is typically administered orally and swallowed (AAC 2021a; ADF 2021; DrugWise 2021).

In Australia many substances are regulated in relation to their sale, supply and distribution under various Commonwealth and state and territory legislation. Under the *Commonwealth Criminal Code Regulations 2019* (Cth), GHB and GBL are classified as both controlled drugs (illegal to possess) and border-controlled drugs (illegal to import into Australia).

GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD are often used illicitly to achieve a euphoric and disinhibiting effect when used in low doses, or for their sedative effects at higher doses. GHB and GBL are also used by body builders to promote the production of growth hormones (AAC 2021b; DrugWise 2021; WHO 2012).

HARMS

Use of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD can result in drug dependence, overdose and death (see Case Study 1). The risk of overdose is increased as a consequence of the small dosage units and also as a consequence of use in combination with other drugs such as alcohol. Commercially available domestic or industrial products containing these substances are not meant for human consumption and invariably contain other potentially toxic substances, including heavy metals and other solvents such as acetone or toluene. Other harms include its use to facilitate sexual assaults.

According to Global Drug Survey[4] data in 2019, 2.7 per cent of respondents reported using GHB/GBL in the past 12 months. Of the 13 illicit drugs ranked in terms of the proportion of people having to seek emergency medical treatment following use, GHB/GBL was ranked third (3.5 per cent) after heroin (12.7 per cent) and methylamphetamine (4.1 per cent). Of those reporting GHB use in the last 12 months, one in five reported losing consciousness, with 60 per cent of those reporting unconsciousness saying that they did so on more than one occasion in the past 12 months (GDS 2021).

The number of GHB related drug-induced deaths is small, accounting for less than 1 per cent of all recorded unintentional drug-induced deaths in Australia in 2017 and 2018[5]. The risk of death increases when GHB and GBL are combined with other depressant drugs such as alcohol, opioids or benzodiazepines, which can lead to severe respiratory depression. Use of GHB with psychostimulant drugs such as methylamphetamine, MDMA or cocaine can cause severe heart strain, with additional substances detected in 90 per cent of recorded GHB-related deaths in Australia from 2001 to 2019 (AAC 2021; ADF 2020; Drake at al. 2020; DrugWise 2021; Penington Institute 2019; Penington Institute 2020; WHO 2012).

CASE STUDY 1: GHB-related deaths and overdoses across Australia

The number of GHB-related deaths has steadily increased in Australia over the past two decades with 8 deaths reported between 2000 and 2004, 19 from 2005 to 2009, 21 from 2010 to 2014 and 26 from 2015 to 2019. Increases in GHB-related deaths and overdoses have prompted authorities to issue warnings in relation to GHB and GBL use. For example:

- in October 2019, the Canberra Hospital reported a resurgence of GHB-related overdoses
- in December 2019, the Western Australia Police Force issued a public warning about GHB after it was linked to three fatal overdoses in Perth and several others requiring medical attention
- in October 2020, South Australia Health issued an urgent warning about increased GHB overdose risks when multiple patients presented with serious effects after consuming GHB (ABC 2019; Canberra Times 2019; Drake at al. 2020; Government of South Australia 2020).

4 The Global Drug Survey is a self-report survey. Sampling was conducted between 7 November 2019 and 30 December 2019 and included 110,000 respondents from more than 25 countries.

5 Numbers refer to the succinimides and oxazolidinediones group, including drugs that have anti-convulsant or sedating-hypnotic effects. GHB typically forms the majority of the succinimides and oxazolidinediones group.

SUPPLY INDICATORS

INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

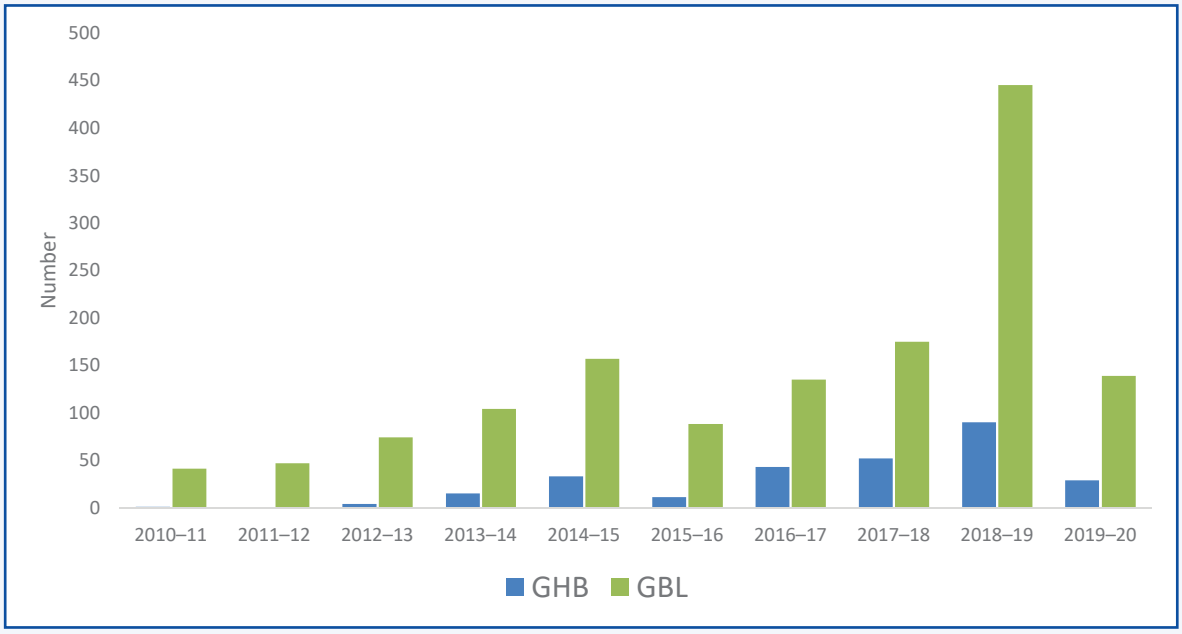
Available data suggest that fewer, but larger, seizures of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD have been detected globally, with the majority seized in Europe. The World Customs Organization reported a 40 per cent decrease in the number of GBL seizures between 2018 and 2019. In contrast, the weight seized increased 149 per cent. GBL accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of psychotropic substances seized in 2019, accounting for 15 per cent. Of the psychotropic substances seized in 2019, GBL accounted for the largest proportion of air seizures by weight (85.2 per cent) and 23.1 per cent of mail seizures (WCO 2020).

In 2018, seizures of GBL were reported mainly in Europe, with amounts ranging from 1 litre in Italy to 27,500 litres in Lithuania. The United States (US) was the only country outside of Europe to report GBL seizures; while Hungary and Spain were the only countries to report seizures of 1,4-BD in 2018. Countries in South East Asia and Oceania reported seizures and increasing use of GHB and GBL in 2019 (INCB 2019; UNODC 2020).

BORDER DETECTIONS

The number of GHB and GBL border detections increased over the last decade, with a record number of detections of both drugs reported in 2018–19. While fluctuating over the last decade, the number of GHB detections increased significantly, from 1 in 2010–11 to 29 in 2019–20, with the number of GBL detections increasing 239 per cent, from 41 in 2010–11 to 139 in 2019–20 (see figure below).

Number of GHB and GBL detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



In the last decade international mail consistently accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of GHB and GBL border detections, ranging from 56 per cent in 2019–20 to 86 per cent in 2013–14. Air cargo was the second most commonly detected importation method, ranging from 13 per cent of detections in 2017–18 to 44 per cent in 2019–20. Air passenger, followed by sea cargo were the least commonly detected importation methods. Although data relating to the quantity detected is not available, Case Study 2 provides an example of a significant detection at the Australian border.

CASE STUDY 2: Border detection of a large commercial quantity of GBL

In February 2018, a joint Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Border Force (ABF) operation resulted in one of Australia's largest seizures of GBL. ABF officers identified a high-risk shipping container arriving into Sydney. The consignment contained 120 drums, each with a capacity of 200 litres. During a physical examination, ABF officers identified 10 drums that had a number of anomalies. Presumptive testing of the liquid, labelled as car pre-painting wash, returned a positive result for GBL. Two thousand litres of GBL was seized, with an estimated street value of $10 million. A 30-year-old man was charged with one count of importing of a commercial quantity of a border-controlled substance under subsection 307.1(1) of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth; AFP 2018).

While embarkation points for GHB and GBL detections (by number) changed over the last decade, the most frequently identified countries include China (including Hong Kong), the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and the US. Other prominent countries include Lithuania, Poland, Singapore, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Thailand. Since 2015–16, China (including Hong Kong) and the Netherlands have been identified as the top two embarkation points by number.

SEIZURES

In recognition of recent apparent increases in this market and the inability of the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) system to provide granularity on related national seizures, bespoke data and information was sought from the AFP and jurisdictions in 2019–20 to gain a more detailed understanding of the nature and extent of the GHB, GBL and 1-4 BD market in Australia, and how this may have changed and evolved over the last decade.

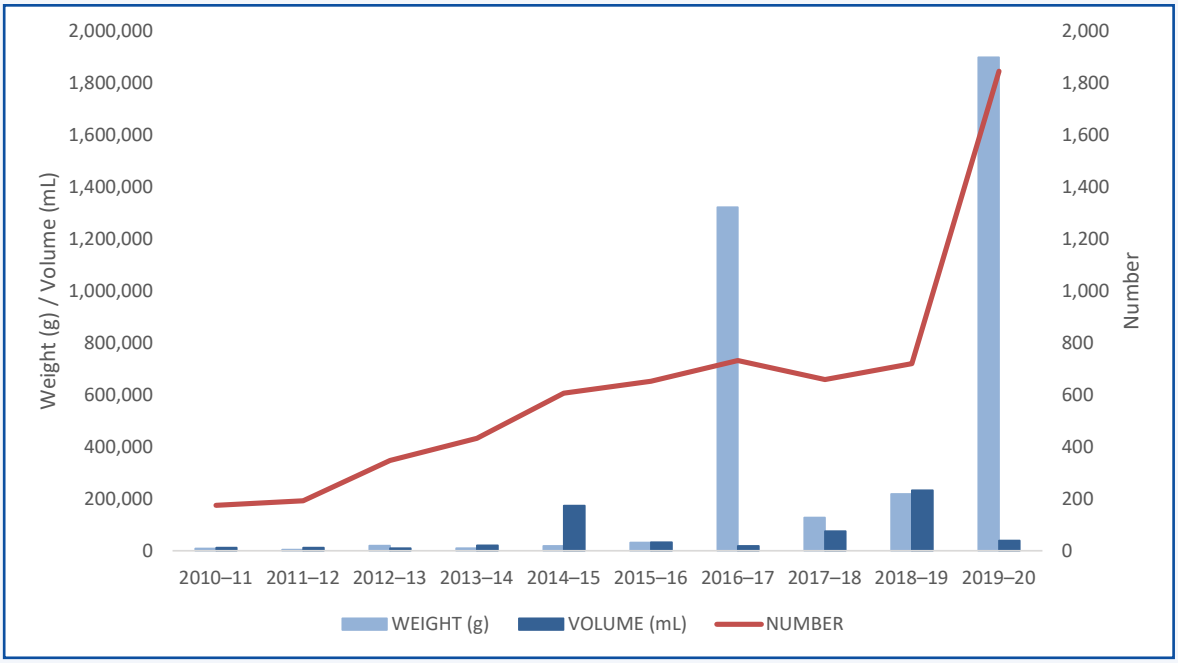
While seizure data are not available for all jurisdictions, overall trends point to an increase in the number, weight and volume of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD seizures between 2010–11 and 2019–20. Seizures fluctuated over the period, in some instances as a direct result of targeted law enforcement action. In some jurisdictions, GHB and related substances are grouped as a single category and reported as 'GHB and related compounds'. Where GHB could be separated from other related compounds, the weight seized was less than that of GBL. This in part may be a consequence of controls placed on GHB through international drug conventions.

Despite substantial increases in the number of seizures in 2019–20, seizures of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD are small when compared to other drugs. For example, despite large increases in both the number and weight of GHB and related compounds seizures, GHB and related compounds were only the ninth most commonly seized drug in New South Wales in 2019–20.

While fluctuating, the number, weight and volume of reported GHB and related compounds seizures increased over the last decade (see figure below):

- The number of GHB and related compound seizures increased 954 per cent, from 175 in 2010–11 to a record 1,845 in 2019–20 (of which a record 444 seizures were identified as GHB[6]). In 2018–19 there was 720 seizures.
- The weight of GHB and related compounds seized increased significantly, from 8.50 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 1,897.62 kilograms in 2019–20 (of which 33.86 kilograms was identified as GHB). In 2018–19, 217.84 kilograms was seized.
- The volume of GHB and related compounds seized increased 233 per cent, from 11.78 litres in 2010–11 to 39.24 litres in 2019–20 (which was identified as GHB). In 2018–19, 232.21 litres was seized.

Reported national GHB and related compound seizures, by number, weight and volume, 2010–11 to 2019–20[a]



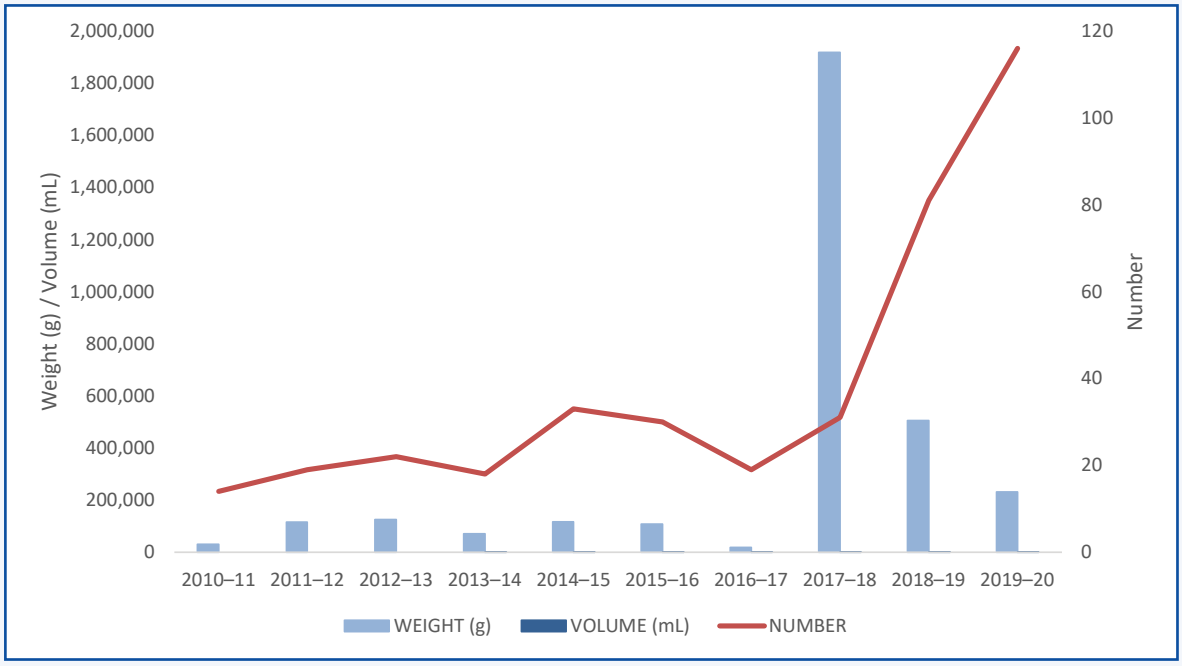
a. Grouping includes substances classed as 'fantasy'.

6 The total number and weight of identified GHB seizures may be higher, but due to grouping of GHB with other related compounds in some jurisdictions actual numbers cannot be determined.

Where it was possible to differentiate GBL from related compounds, the number and volume of GBL seizures increased over the last decade, while the weight of GBL seized fluctuated (see figure below):

- The number of GBL seizures increased 729 per cent, from 14 in 2010–11 to a record 116 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 there was 81 seizures.
- The weight of GBL seized increased 669 per cent, from 30.13 kilograms in 2010–11 to 231.65 kilograms in 2019–20. In 2018–19, 505.75 kilograms was seized, a decrease from the record 1,917.20 kilograms seized in 2017–18.
- The volume of GBL seized increased over the last decade, from no seizures in 2010–11 to 1.32 litres in 2019–20. In 2018–19, 1.23 litres of GBL was seized.

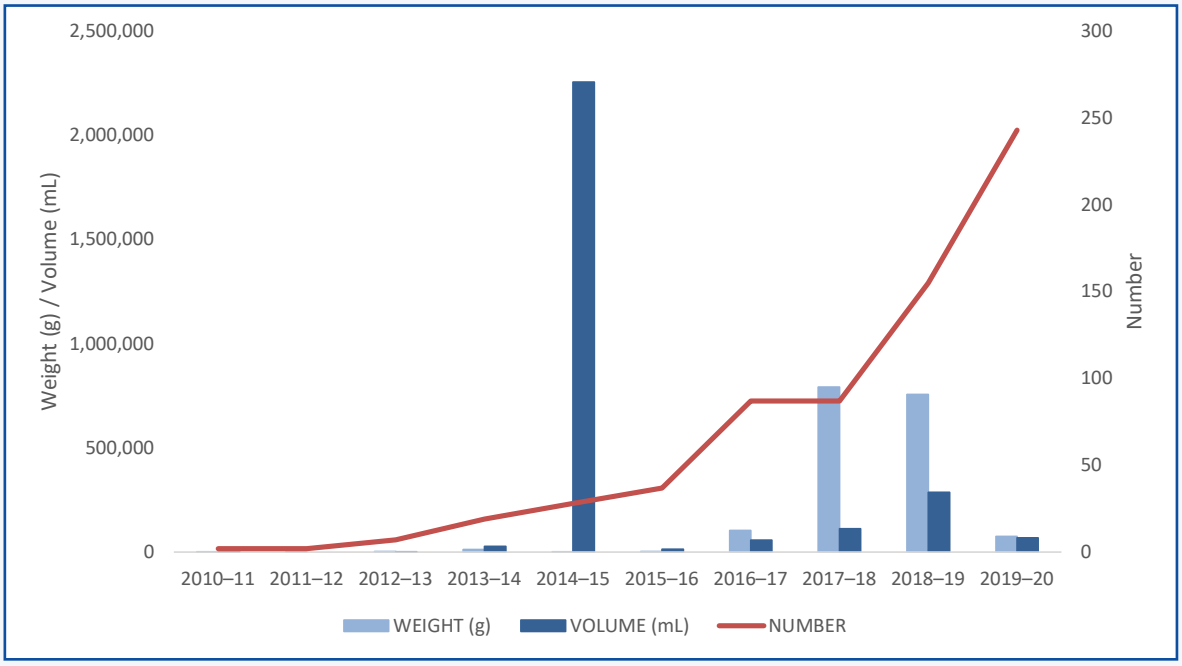
Reported national GBL seizures, by number, weight and volume, 2010–11 to 2019–20



While the number of 1,4-BD seizures increased over the last decade, the weight and volume seized fluctuated (see figure below):

- The number of 1,4-BD seizures increased significantly, from 2 in 2010–11 to a record 243 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 there was 155 seizures.
- The weight of 1,4-BD seized increased significantly, from 0.01 kilograms in 2010–11 to 76.23 kilograms in 2019–20. In 2018–19, 756.70 kilograms was seized.
- The volume of 1,4-BD seized increased 237 per cent, from 20.00 litres in 2010–11 to 67.30 litres in 2019–20. In 2018–19, 286.06 litres was seized, with a record 2,254.65 litres seized in 2014–15.

Reported national 1,4-BD seizures, by number, weight and volume, 2010–11 to 2019–20



GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD seizures were reported in almost all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania. Seizures ranged from small quantities, likely for personal use, to large commercial quantities. In many cases, offenders charged with supply of GHB, GBL or 1,4-BD were in possession of other illicit drugs (see case studies below).

CASE STUDY 3: Possession of 1,4-BD

On 24 August 2019, an offender was apprehended by members of the Northern Territory Police's Drugs and Organised Crime Squad when disembarking from a flight from Adelaide and was subject to a search in accordance with section 120C of the *Police Administration Act 1979* (NT).

During the search detectives located 41.9 grams of methylamphetamine and a 100 millilitre vial of 1,4-BD concealed in clothing around the offender's groin area.

On 7 February 2020, the offender was sentenced in the Darwin Supreme Court in relation to the following charges:

- supply Schedule 1 dangerous drug–commercial quantity
- possess a prohibited substance (Schedule 10 substance).

He was sentenced to serve four years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 17 months.

CASE STUDY 4: Supply of GHB

The Western Australia Police Force currently have a prosecution before the Perth District Court after a male adult was charged with possessing and/or attempting to possess GHB, both with intent to sell or supply.

In June 2020, the male adult was arrested at a postal locker in Perth. A quantity of 652.5 grams of GHB had been delivered to the postal lockers. A series of *Misuse of Drug Act 1981* (WA) search warrants were executed in relation to the matter and a further 112.7 grams of GHB was seized. The total amount of GHB seized was 765.2 grams.

If convicted, the male adult may be subject to other legislation, such as possible asset seizure.

PRICE

Based on available price reporting for the last decade, and assuming there are no significant changes in the environment, the median prices for GHB and/or GBL at the both street and commercial quantity levels are expected to remain relatively stable, or decrease slightly over the next two years.

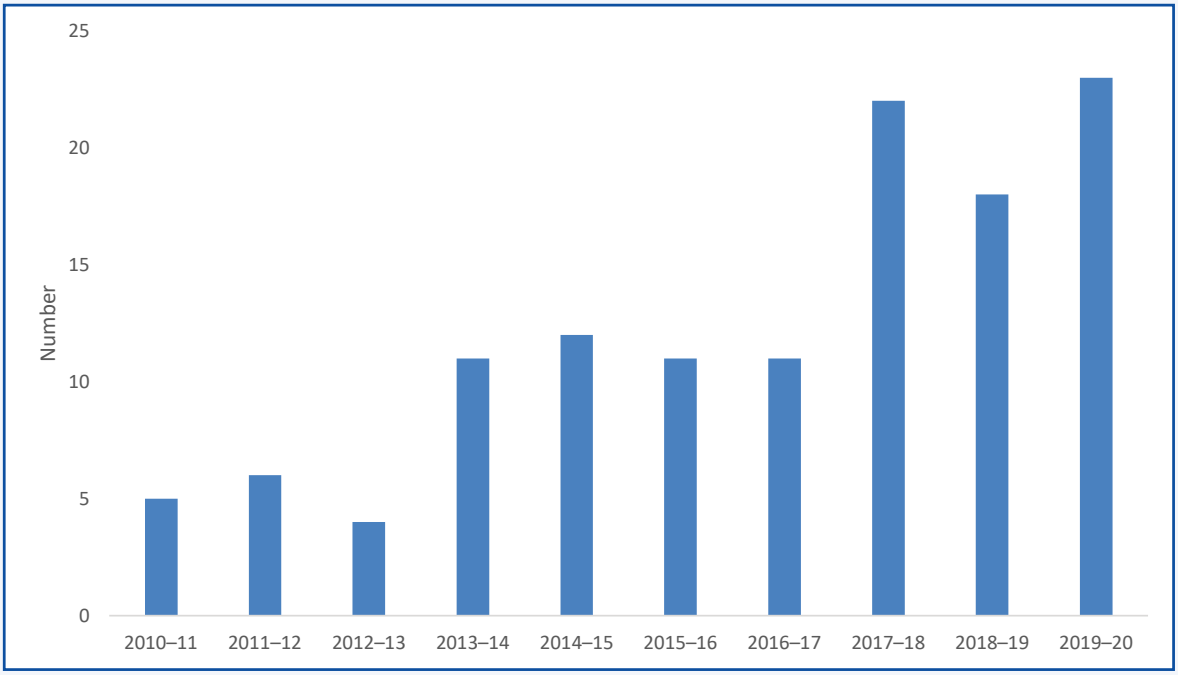
The national price range for 1 to 1.5 millilitres of GHB and/or GBL remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between $3 and $8 in 2010–11 to between $2 and $10 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this price ranged from $2 to $15. The median price for 1 to 1.5 millilitres of GHB and/or GBL decreased over the last decade, from $7.50 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia) to $6.25 nationally in 2019–20. The national median price was $7 in 2018–19.

The price for 1 litre of GHB and/or GBL fluctuated over the last decade, ranging from $2,600 in 2010–11 to between $900 and $5,000 in 2019–20. The reported price range was between $1,500 and $3,000 in 2018–19. Median prices for 1 litre of GHB and/or GBL increased over the same period, from $2,600 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales) to $2,750 nationally in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the national median price for 1 litre of GHB and/or GBL was $2,625.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of clandestine laboratories producing GHB and/or GBL increased 360 per cent over the last decade, from 5 laboratories in 2010–11 to a record 23 laboratories in 2019–20 (see figure and case study below). The majority of GHB and/or GBL laboratories were detected in Victoria (31 per cent), followed by South Australia and Queensland (24 per cent each), New South Wales (19 per cent) and Western Australia (<1 per cent). No GHB and/or GBL laboratories have been detected in Tasmania, the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory in the last decade.

Number of national GHB/GBL clandestine laboratory detections, 2010–11 to 2019–20



CASE STUDY 5: Arrest for GBL possession leads to the discovery of a clandestine laboratory

On 15 May 2020, detectives attached to Sydney City Police Area Command were patrolling the central business district when they stopped a hire car in Darlinghurst. Following a conversation with the 37-year-old driver, officers searched him and located cash and drugs believed to be methylamphetamine. During a subsequent search of the car, detectives seized approximately 27 kilograms of GBL, $20,000 cash, and various electronic devices and documents linked to the supply of prohibited drugs. The man was arrested and conveyed to a police station where he was charged with supply a large commercial quantity of prohibited drugs, supply a prohibited drug and two counts of dealing with the proceeds of crime.

As a result of subsequent inquiries, detectives executed a search warrant at a Regents Park factory on 18 May 2020, where they seized 724 kilograms of GBL. A further 56 kilograms of GBL was seized during a search warrant at a unit in Hunters Hill on 19 May 2020, with officers also dismantling a clandestine laboratory set up within the home.

AVAILABILITY

The reported availability of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD fluctuated over the last decade. A national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants found that the proportion of respondents reporting GHB as ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain fluctuated, ranging from 45 per cent of respondents in 2014 to 83 per cent of respondents in 2016. No data were available for 2018, 2019 or 2020 (NDARC 2021a).

According to data from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD availability in all cryptomarkets monitored between January 2014 and August 2020 fluctuated, with a maximum of 350 cumulative listings (including interpolated data) recorded in June 2017. Based on the total number of listings, the combined GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD market is small compared to other drug markets. For example, in June 2017 there were 2,115 heroin listings, 4,184 methylamphetamine listings, 7,361 cocaine listings, 12,472 MDMA listings and 23,549 cannabis listings (NDARC 2021b).

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

Reported use of GHB and GBL remained relatively stable over the last decade, with recent data indicating that the number of users remains small compared to other drugs.

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. Data from NDSHS shows that consumption of GHB has remained relatively stable, with 0.1 per cent of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting recent GHB use[7] between 2004 and 2019 (with the exception of 2013, where less than 0.1 per cent reported recent use). The proportion of the population reporting GHB use at least once in their lifetime remained relatively stable, increasing from less than 1 per cent in 2004 to 1 per cent in 2019. The mean age of initiation for GHB use is mid-20s (AIHW 2020).

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. In 2020, 10 per cent of respondents reported recent use[8] of GHB, GBL and/or 1,4-BD, with a small number reporting recent injection (Peacock et al. 2021).

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 recent GHB/GBL use remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 7 per cent in 2011 to 6 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 5 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of GHB/GBL use remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2020 at 2, the exception being 2016 and 2019 when the median number of days of use was 3 (Sindicich & Burns 2012; Peacock et al. 2020).

7 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.
8 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

In response to the increasing threat posed by GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD to the Australian community, Australian law enforcement employs measures consistent with other initiatives used to investigate the importation, supply and manufacture of other illicit substances. These include collaboration between Commonwealth, state and territory police and government agencies, as well as developing partnerships with industry to identify potential drug diversion and trafficking.

Other initiatives implemented include establishing specific task forces and working collaboratively with national and international police and government agencies. For example:

- **National week of action**—In June 2019, in addition to conducting other activities as part of a national week of action targeting several border-controlled drugs, Australian and Hong Kong authorities seized 20 litres and 6.4 kilograms of GHB. The week of action was undertaken in response to increasing detections of GBL and 1,4-BD at the Australian border and the impact and harm these drugs have on Australia.
- **Joint Agency Ice Strike Team (JAIST)**—The JAIST is a multiagency taskforce formed to target the supply and distribution of methylamphetamine in South Australia and reduce the drug's significant impact on the community. In February 2019, the JAIST detected the importation of 200 litres of 1,4-BD and made three arrests.
- **Actively screening for illicit importation**—A joint initiative involving the Australian Border Force (ABF) and Victoria Police. Although 1,4-BD is not a Commonwealth border-controlled substance, ABF is actively screening for suspicious packages arriving to Victorian addresses where there is evidence of mislabelled or deceptive packing or the provision of false information on incoming imports. When an import is detained, Victoria Police sends a letter to the nominated consignee/address seeking a response with a legal justification for the import within 21 days. If no response is obtained, the package is destroyed by Victoria Police Hazardous Material Management Unit.

Supporting and promoting legislative changes:

- In June 2019, the Victorian *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* was amended to include an offence of trafficking a 'large commercial quantity' of GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD, with the threshold being 20 kilograms or more—the maximum penalty for trafficking large commercial quantities is 25 years.
- Queensland Police Service is reviewing harmful impacts of GBL and 1,4-BD use.

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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
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
PIEDs	Performance and image enhancing drugs
PSE	Pseudoephedrine
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCON	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice
Tas	Tasmania
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
TSOC	Transnational serious and organised crime
UK	United Kingdom
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	United States
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 2008 and 2018 increased, primarily due to methylamphetamine seizures.
  - Methylamphetamine accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized globally in 2018.
  - The weight of ecstasy seized globally increased in 2018, while the weight of amphetamine seized decreased.
- Drug profiling data of analysed border and domestic seizures indicate the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using P2P-based methods has increased in recent years.
- Following a prolonged period of growth, indicators of supply and demand for ATS (especially methylamphetamine) remains large and showed some signs of further expansion in 2019–20:
  - While the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20, the weight detected increased and is the highest weight on record.
  - The number and weight of national ATS seizures increased to record levels in 2019–20. The number of national ATS arrests also increased to a record level this reporting period.
  - Data from the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) indicate the population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine decreased in capital city and regional sites from August 2019 to record low levels in August 2020.
- Despite some decreases, indicators of supply and demand for MDMA point to a relatively stable market:
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20.
  - Data from the NWDMP indicate the population-weighted average consumption of MDMA increased in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites from August 2019 to August 2020.
  - The number of MDMA laboratory detections nearly doubled in 2019–20.
  - The number of national MDMA seizures decreased in 2019–20, while the weight of MDMA seized increased.

National methylamphetamine market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections[a]		National seizures[b]		National arrests[b]
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↑ 28%	↑ 4,920%	↑ 274%	↑ 1,415%	↑ 322%
1,075 → 1,377	105kg → 5,271kg	9,133 → 34,133	621kg → 9,408kg	10,633 → 44,847

Price[c] ($)	Annual median purity range	DUMA[d] urinalysis	NDSHS[e]	
			Use in lifetime	Recent use
↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
$75.00 → $90.00	9.3% to 32.0%→ 13.4% to 82.9%	18% → 51%	7% → 6%	2% → 1%

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

National MDMA market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↑ 1,961%	↑ 16,038%	↑ 171%	↑ 4,845%	↑ 120%
112 → 2,308	8kg → 1,291kg	1,840 → 4,981	65kg → 3,214kg	2,161 → 4,746

Price[a] ($)	Annual median purity range[b]	DUMA[c] urinalysis	NDSHS[d]	
			Use in lifetime	Recent use
↓	↑	↑	↑	→
33.25 → 22.50	7.7% to 16.0%→ 39.9% to 76.0%	<1% → 1%	10% → 13%	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 is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ecstasy.

MAIN FORMS

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are a group of central nervous system stimulants, which include amphetamine, methylamphetamine and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

- Owing to differences in chemical composition, methylamphetamine is more potent than amphetamine, resulting in a stronger nervous system reaction.
- Methylamphetamine has four common 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.
- Amphetamine is most commonly found in powder and tablet form, which can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or (less commonly) injected.
- MDMA (also referred to as 'ecstasy'), is most commonly found in tablet form of varying colours 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 2020a; ADF 2020b; EMCDDA 2015; Degenhardt & Hall 2010).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the 2020 World Drug Report, the weight of ATS seized globally continued to increase over the period 2008 to 2018—primarily due to increases in the weight of methylamphetamine seized. Similar to most years since 1998, the majority of ATS seizures in 2018 were methylamphetamine. In the period 2014–18, methylamphetamine accounted for 71 per cent of the weight of ATS seized globally. Over the period 2008 to 2018, the weight of ATS seized globally increased 444 per cent, from 51.3 tonnes in 2008 to 279.0 tonnes in 2018, a 10 per cent increase from 2017 figures. Of the ATS seized globally:

- The weight of methylamphetamine seized increased 1,081 per cent over the decade, from 19.3 tonnes in 2008 to 228.0 tonnes in 2018, a 23 per cent increase from 184.0 tonnes seized in 2017.
- The weight of ecstasy seized increased 208 per cent, from 3.9 tonnes in 2008 to 12.0 tonnes in 2018, a 14 per cent decrease from 14.0 tonnes in 2017.
- The weight of amphetamine seized decreased 14 per cent, from 24.3 tonnes in 2008 to 21.0 tonnes in 2018, a 59 per cent decrease from 2017[9] (UNODC 2010, UNODC 2020).

The number of countries reporting methylamphetamine seizures increased more than 50 per cent between 2004 and 2018, increasing from 69 countries in 2004–08 to 105 countries in 2014–18. Methylamphetamine seizures are concentrated predominantly in North America and in East and South-East Asia, with the United States (US), Thailand and Mexico accounting for 80 per cent of the global weight of methylamphetamine seized in 2018 (UNODC 2019; UNODC 2020).

While the number of countries reporting ecstasy seizures slightly decreased from 109 in 2004–08 to 100 in 2014–18, the weight of ecstasy seized doubled over the period 2009 to 2018. The three countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of ecstasy seized in 2018 were Turkey, the US and Australia, with the combined weight accounting for 50 per cent of the weight of ecstasy seized globally.

9 The weight of amphetamine seized in 2017 is unavailable.

The three countries reporting the greatest proportion of the weight of amphetamine seized in 2018 were Turkey, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic, with the combined weight accounting for 50 per cent of the weight of amphetamine seized globally (UNODC 2020).

According to the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the number and weight of amphetamine and MDMA seizures increased in 2019. The number of amphetamine and MDMA seizures increased to 1,947 (13 per cent of the total number of psychotropic substances seizures) and 2,709 (18 per cent) respectively in 2019. The number of methylamphetamine seizures increased to 3,833 in 2019 (25 per cent of the total number of psychotropic substances seizures). While the weight of methylamphetamine seized decreased in 2019, it continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of psychotropic substances seized (58 per cent). Specific data for the weight of methylamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA seized in 2019 were not available (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

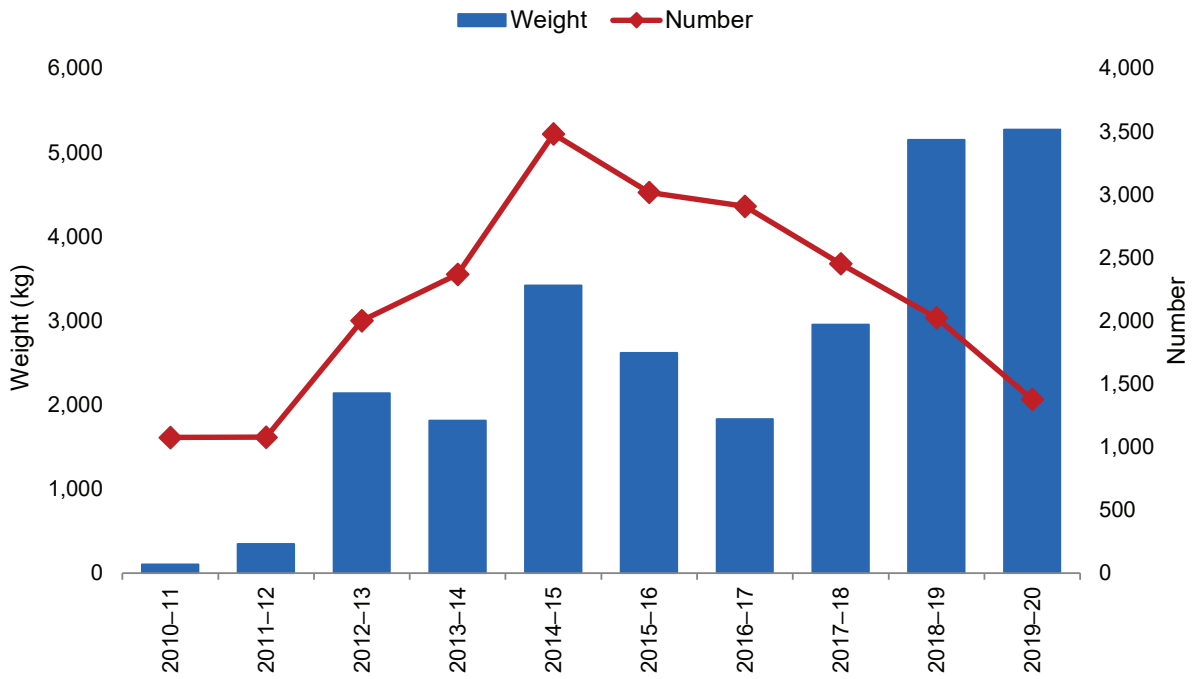
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections increased 28 per cent over the last decade, from 1,075 in 2010–11 to 1,377 in 2019–20. The number of detections displays a curved trend over the decade—increasing to a record high in 2014–15 before decreasing in the subsequent reporting periods. The number of detections decreased 32 per cent this reporting period, from 2,022 in 2018–19.

The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected fluctuated greatly over the last decade, increasing 4,911 per cent from 105.2 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 5,271.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight detected displays an increasing trend over the decade. The weight detected this reporting period increased 2 per cent, from 5,148.4 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 1).

In 2019–20, 237 of the 1,377 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (17 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 5,169.3 kilograms, these 237 detections account for 98 per cent of the weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2019–20.[10]

FIGURE 1: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



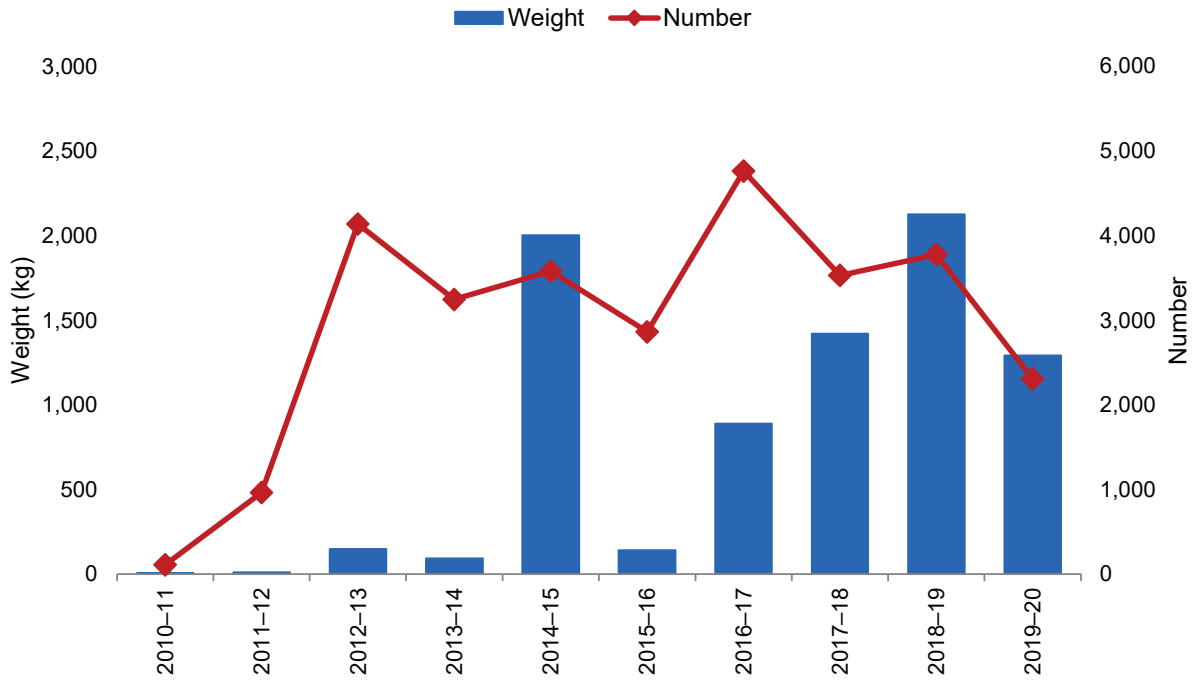
10 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2019–20.

The number of MDMA detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 1,961 per cent from 112 detections in 2010–11 to 2,308 in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the number of detections displays an increasing trend over the decade. The number of detections decreased 39 per cent this reporting period, from 3,777 in 2018–19.

The weight of MDMA detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 14,581 per cent from 8.8 kilograms in 2010–11 to 1,291.9 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight detected displays an increasing trend over the decade. The weight detected decreased 39 per cent this reporting period, from 2,124.9 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 2).

In 2019–20, 41 of the 2,308 MDMA detections (2 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 1,200.0 kilograms, these 41 detections account for 93 per cent of the weight of MDMA detected in 2019–20.[11]

FIGURE 2: Number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, 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 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections (80 per cent), followed by air cargo (18 per cent), sea cargo (1 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent). By weight, sea cargo continued to account for the greatest proportion of detections (53 per cent), followed by air cargo (39 per cent), international mail (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent).

In 2019–20, detections of 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 MDMA detections (98 per cent), followed by air cargo (2 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, the sea cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (82 per cent), followed by international mail (11 per cent), air cargo (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

11 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of MDMA in 2019–20.

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 42 countries were identified as embarkation points for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border, compared with 63 countries in 2018–19. By weight, Malaysia was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Mexico, the US, Germany, Canada, Cambodia, the United Arab Emirates, China (including Hong Kong), Thailand and Laos.

In 2019–20, 32 countries were identified as embarkation points for MDMA detected at the Australian border, compared with 33 countries in 2018–19. By weight, the Republic of Korea was the primary embarkation point for MDMA detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Estonia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Slovenia.

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[12] and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purpose of chemical profiling.[13] 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. The following data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2011 and June 2020 from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.[14]

In this reporting period, there has again been an increase in the proportion of methylamphetamine found to be manufactured from a 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) precursor. The proportion of mixed/unclassified seizures also continues to rise. This is due, in large part, to large seizures being profiled as containing methylamphetamine produced from multiple production methods.

- In 2019, 69 seizures of methylamphetamine were sent to the NMI for analysis. Of these, 61 seizures representing a bulk weight of 5.6 tonnes were found to be suitable for profiling, while the remaining seizures totalling 13.7 kilograms were found to be unsuitable for profiling.
- In 2019, the top nine seizures by weight accounted for 97 per cent of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized (see Table 1).
- In the first six months of 2020, there were 37 seizures, totalling 3.6 tonnes of methylamphetamine.
- In 2020, the top five seizures by weight accounted for 86 per cent of the total weight of methylamphetamine seized (see Table 2).
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of both P2P and ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (Eph/PSE) samples are listed under the “Mixed/Unclassified” category in Table 1. However, when classifying by weight, the bulk weight of these seizures is separated and attributed to the relevant precursor. As such, the “Mixed/Unclassified” category in Table 2 only includes the weight of samples that could not be attributed to either P2P or Eph/PSE.

12 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
13 Data from these samples/seizures has not been included in this summary.
14 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.

TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[15]

	Synthetic Route		
Year	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	18.9	70.3	10.8
2019	38.6	36.8	24.8
2018	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
2011	56.8	13.6	29.6

TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[16]

	Synthetic Route		
Year	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	56.0	43.8	0.2
2019	7.9	53.7	38.4
2018[a]	33.5	66.4	0.1
2017	70.2	28.4	1.4
2016	63.4	1.7	34.9
2015	65.7	29.4	4.9
2014	48.0	5.5	46.5
2013	76.4	14.7	8.9
2012	72.2	27.8	–
2011	35.6	62.8	1.6

a. Due to a change in the sampling methodology for large illicit drug seizures made by the AFP, seizure weights cannot be accurately attributed for seizures with mixed profiling. The weight has been assigned to the most prevalent chemical profiling determination.

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

The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability extends profiling to include state and territory seizures involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine. This enables the identification of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.[17]

- Samples of methylamphetamine submitted to the ENIPID capability for 2019 and the first six months of 2020 show a comparable split between Eph/PSE and P2P as the precursor of choice for methylamphetamine within the Australian market.
- P2P-based methylamphetamine has seen an increase in Australia. FDI data identified that P2P manufactured methylamphetamine has also been found in seizures from Asia.
- The number of mixed/unclassified samples remains steady when compared to previous reporting periods. It is likely these samples are a result of evolving routes of manufacture.

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

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.

AMPHETAMINES

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used meth/amphetamine at least once in their lifetime decreased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 6 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[18] used meth/amphetamine decreased over the last decade, from 2 per cent in 2010 to 1 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of meth/amphetamine increased over the last decade, from 9 per cent in 2010 to 17 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20 per cent.

17 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.
18 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 per cent). 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 over the last decade, increasing from 22 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 57 per cent.
  - The proportion of respondents reporting powder/speed as the main form used more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 51 per cent in 2010 to 20 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 20 per cent (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four 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 13 illicit and licit drugs. Since the Program began measuring methylamphetamine in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption decreased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- Of the substances monitored by the Program with available dose data, methylamphetamine remains the most consumed illicit drug by a considerable margin.
- Methylamphetamine consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of methylamphetamine decreased in capital city sites and regional sites to the lowest levels recorded by the Program in August 2020.
- The ACIC estimates that around 11.1 tonnes of methylamphetamine was consumed annually in Australia, a decrease from the estimated 11.5 tonnes of methylamphetamine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel 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 2020, crystal methylamphetamine was reported as the third most used drug within this user group after cannabis and heroin, a change from 2018 and 2019 where methylamphetamine overtook heroin as the second most consumed drug within this user group.
- In 2020, heroin replaced methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month.
- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 20 per cent in 2011 to 33 per cent in 2020. This proportion remained unchanged from 2019.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month increased, from 26 per cent in 2011 to 41 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 45 per cent.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting weekly or more frequent crystal methylamphetamine use in the past six months more than tripled, from 15 per cent in 2011 to 47 per cent in 2020. This proportion was 48 per cent in 2019.

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[19] of any form of methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, from 66 per cent in 2011 to 72 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 78 per cent.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview more than doubled, from 19 days in 2011 to 48 days in 2020. The reported median number of days remained unchanged from 2019 (Peacock et al. 2021).

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:

- Powder methylamphetamine remains the most commonly reported form of methylamphetamine used within this user group.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of any form of methylamphetamine more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 60 per cent in 2011 to 24 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 33 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of use of any form of methylamphetamine in the six months preceding interview decreased over the last decade, from 6 days in 2011 to 4 days in 2020. In 2019 the reported number of days was 5 (Peacock et al. 2020).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples[20] annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to ANSPS data:

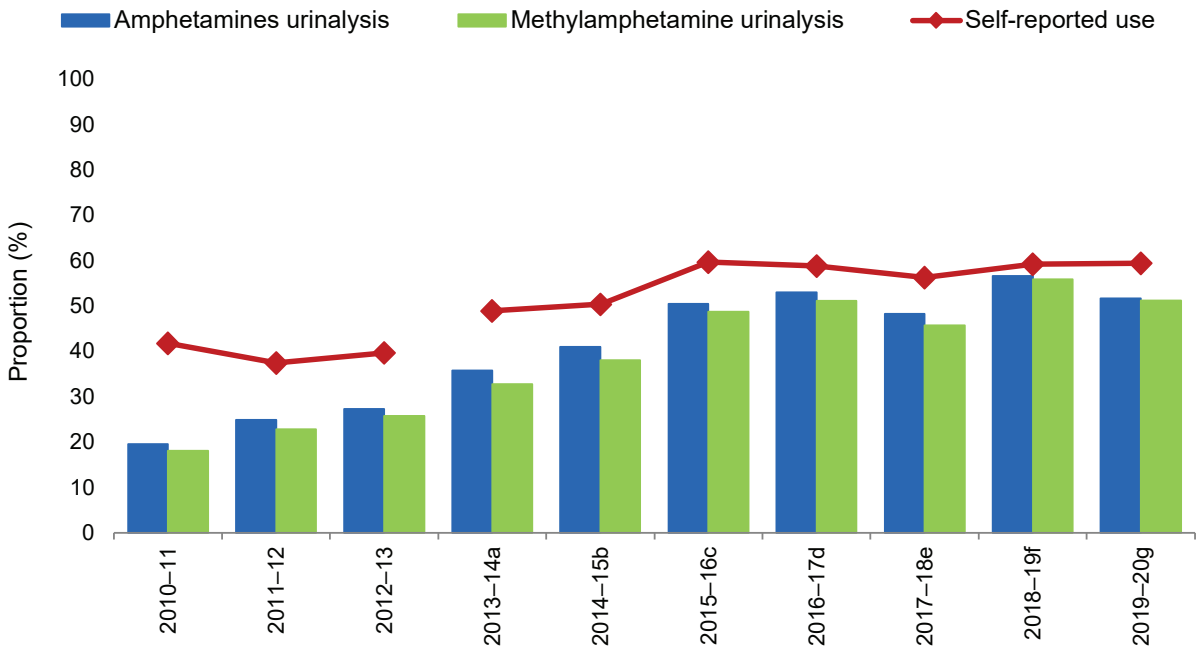
- The proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected nearly doubled over the last decade, increasing from 26 per cent in 2010 to 49 per cent in 2019. In 2018 this proportion was 48 per cent.
- Methylamphetamine continued to exceed heroin (27 per cent) as the most commonly reported drug last injected in 2019 (Heard et al. 2020).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, comprising an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which is tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.[21] According to DUMA data:

- The proportion of detainees testing positive[22] to amphetamines[23] more than doubled over the last decade, increasing from 20 per cent in 2010–11 to 52 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 57 per cent.
- Of the detainees testing positive to any amphetamines, the majority tested positive to methylamphetamine.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine almost tripled over the last decade, from 18 per cent in 2010–11 to 51 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 56 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use[24] of methylamphetamine increased from 49 per cent in 2013–14 (the first period for which data are available) to 59 per cent in 2018–19 and 2019–20 (see Figure 3).

19 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.
20 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.
21 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
22 Amphetamines and their metabolites can be detected in urine up to 2 to 4 days after administration.
23 Amphetamines in the DUMA program include results for methylamphetamine, MDMA and other amphetamines.
24 Recent use in the DUMA program reflects self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.

FIGURE 3: National proportion of detainees testing positive for amphetamines/methylamphetamine compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

MDMA

According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used ecstasy at least once in their life increased over the last decade, from 10 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 11 per cent in 2016.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used ecstasy remained stable at 3 per cent in 2010 and 2019. This proportion was 2 per cent in 2016.
- The proportion of respondents who reported frequent use (at least once a week) of ecstasy increased over the last decade, from 3 per cent in 2010 to 7 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 2 per cent in 2016.
- 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 per cent). Capsules replaced pills/tablets as the main form used in 2019, accounting for 49 per cent of the main forms used (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017; AIHW 2011).

Since the NWDMP began measuring MDMA in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption remained relatively stable in capital city sites and increased in regional sites. According to data from the Program for August 2019 to August 2020:

- MDMA consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA increased in capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of MDMA decreased in regional sites.
- The ACIC estimates that around 2.6 tonnes of MDMA was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from 2.2 tonnes of MDMA consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

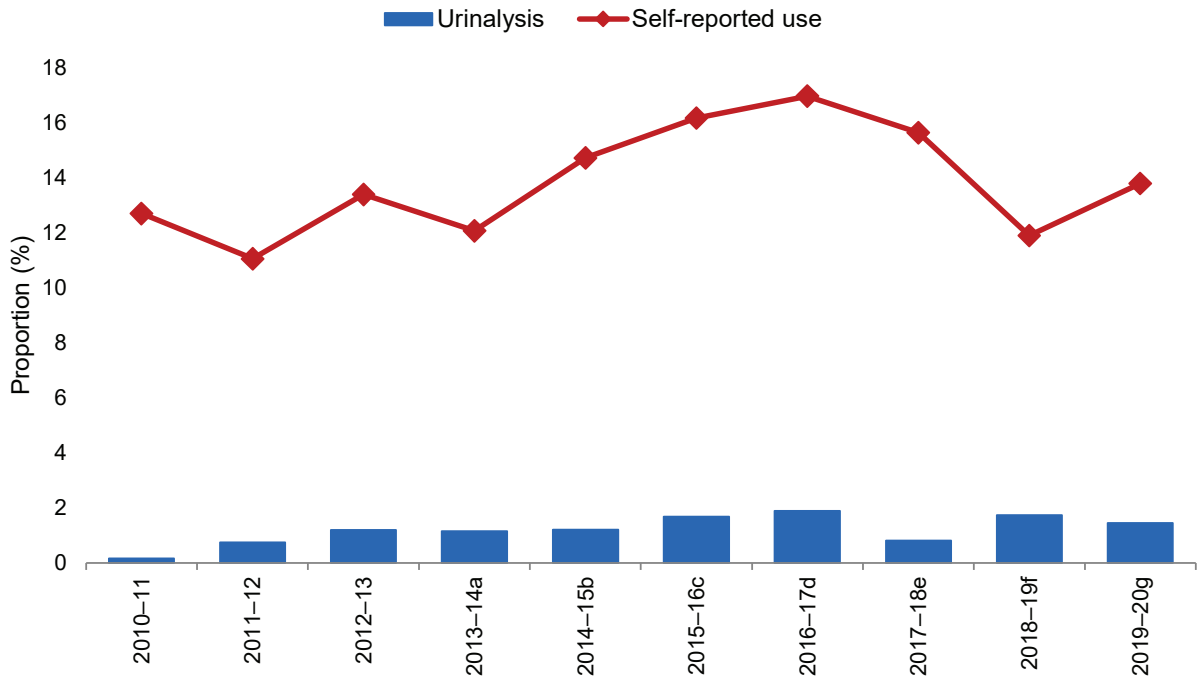
According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 27 per cent in 2011 to 29 per cent in 2020. This proportion was 32 per cent in 2019.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills almost halved over the last decade, decreasing from 97 per cent in 2011 to 53 per cent in 2020. Over the same period, respondents reported the increased recent use of powder ecstasy (from 26 per cent to 35 per cent), capsules (from 53 per cent to 83 per cent) and crystal (from 28 per cent in 2013 to 57 per cent in 2020).
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of ecstasy pills (from 67 per cent to 53 per cent) and crystal ecstasy (from 63 per cent to 57 per cent) decreased in 2020 when compared with 2019 figures. Over the same period, the proportion reporting the recent use of powder ecstasy (from 29 per cent to 35 per cent) and capsules (from 77 per cent to 83 per cent) increased.
- Capsules continued to be the most common recently used form of ecstasy in 2020.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of any ecstasy use in the six months preceding interview remained relatively stable at 12 days in 2011, 2019 and 2020 (Peacock et al. 2020; Sindicich & Burns 2011).

According to DUMA data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA remained low and relatively stable, increasing from <1 per cent in 2010–11 to 1 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 2 per cent.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent MDMA use remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 13 per cent in 2010–11 to 14 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19, this proportion was 12 per cent (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: National proportion of detainees testing positive for MDMA compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 703 in 2010–11 to 312 in 2019–20. Laboratories producing ATS (excluding MDMA) are the most commonly detected laboratories, accounting for 79 per cent of detections in 2010–11 and 48 per cent in 2019–20. Methylamphetamine remains the main drug produced in clandestine laboratories detected nationally over the last decade. The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratory detections decreased 71 per cent over the last decade, from 556 in 2010–11 to 162 in 2019–20. This number remained relatively stable this reporting period, decreasing from 164 in 2018–19.

The proportion of MDMA laboratories remained relative stable over the last decade, accounting for 2 per cent of all detections in 2010–11 and 3 per cent in 2019–20. The number of MDMA laboratory detections fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing from 16 in 2010–11 to 11 in 2019–20. This number almost doubled this reporting period, increasing from 6 in 2018–19 (see *Clandestine laboratories and precursors* chapter).

PRICE

This section includes available price data for crystal methylamphetamine—the prevalent form of methylamphetamine 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 generally measured as a 'street deal' (0.1 grams) or in grams. Nationally, the price range for a street deal of crystal methylamphetamine decreased over the last decade, from between $50 and $400 in 2010–11 to between $30 and $300 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $20 to $200. The national median price for a street deal increased over the last decade, from $75 in 2010–11 to $90 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was $62.50.

Nationally, the price range for 1 gram of crystal methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, ranging between $300 and $1,000 in 2010–11 to between $200 and $1,775 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $140 to $800. The national median price for a gram decreased over the last decade, from $650 in 2010–11 to $450 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was $385.

Nationally, the price range for 1 kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine increased over the last decade, ranging between $120,000 and $350,000 in 2010–11 to between $80,000 and $372,500 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $50,000 to $140,000. The national median price for a kilogram decreased over the last decade, from $270,000 in 2010–11 to $235,000 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was $100,500.

At the street level, the price for MDMA is generally measured in relation to individual tablets or in grams. Nationally, the price range for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade, from between $18 and $60 in 2010–11 to between $10 and $30 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $9 to $50. The national median price for a single MDMA tablet/capsule decreased over the last decade, from $33.25 in 2010–11 to $22.50 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the median price was $25.

No price data were available for 1 gram of MDMA in 2010–11. Nationally, the price for 1 gram of MDMA ranged between $100 and $350 in 2018–19 to between $100 and $1,000 in 2019–20. The national median price for a gram of MDMA was $200 in 2018–19 and $175 in 2019–20.

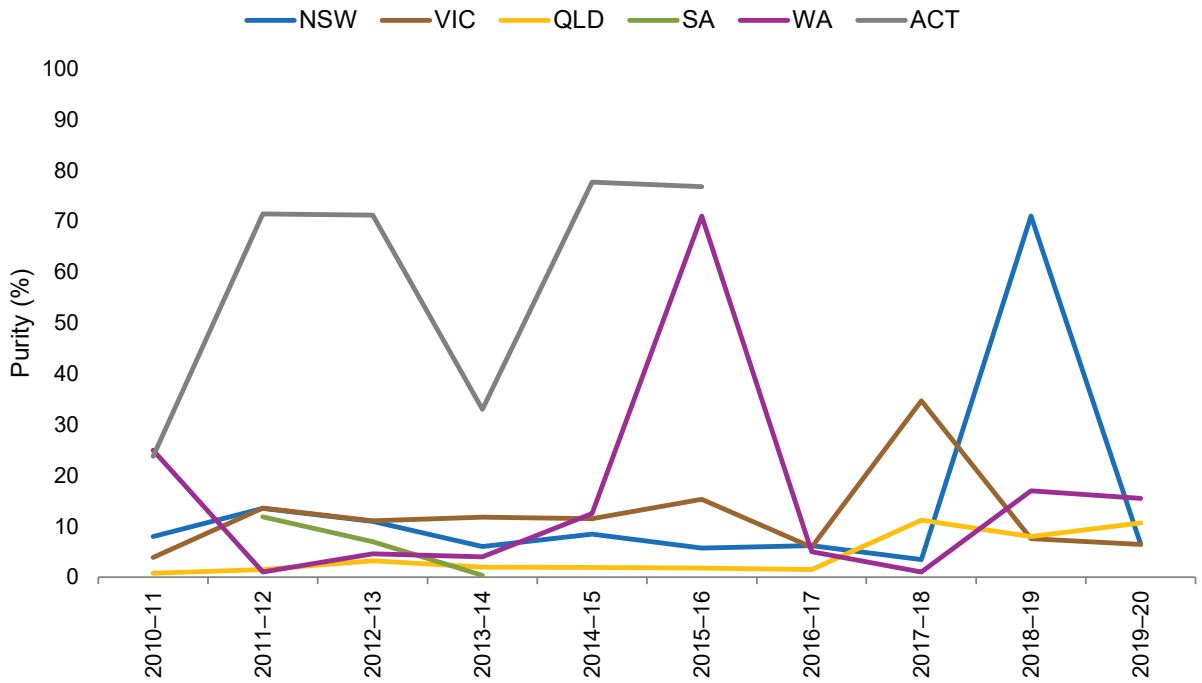
No price data were available for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2010–11. Nationally, the price range for 1 kilogram of MDMA in 2019–20 increased, from between $35,000 to $60,000 in 2018–19 (reported by New South Wales and Queensland) to between $18,000 and $60,000 in 2019–20. In 2019–20, the median price for 1 kilogram of MDMA was $40,000.

PURITY

Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed amphetamine[25] samples remained low and relatively stable for most jurisdictions, ranging between less than 1 per cent and 78 per cent. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 6 per cent in Victoria to 16 per cent in Western Australia. This reporting period New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia reported a decrease in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Queensland reported an increase (see Figure 5).

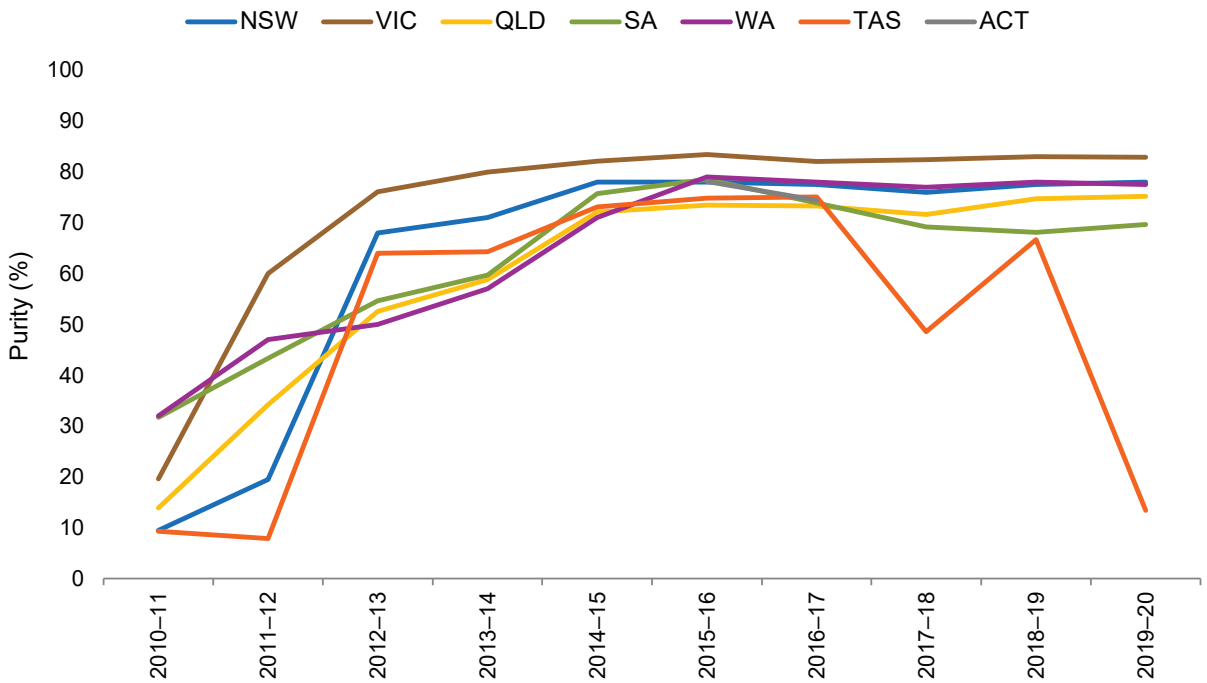
25 Amphetamine is a manufacturing by-product of some commonly used methods of methylamphetamine production. This can result in two separate purity figures for a single drug sample—one for methylamphetamine with considerable purity and another for amphetamine with low purity.

FIGURE 5: Annual median purity of amphetamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



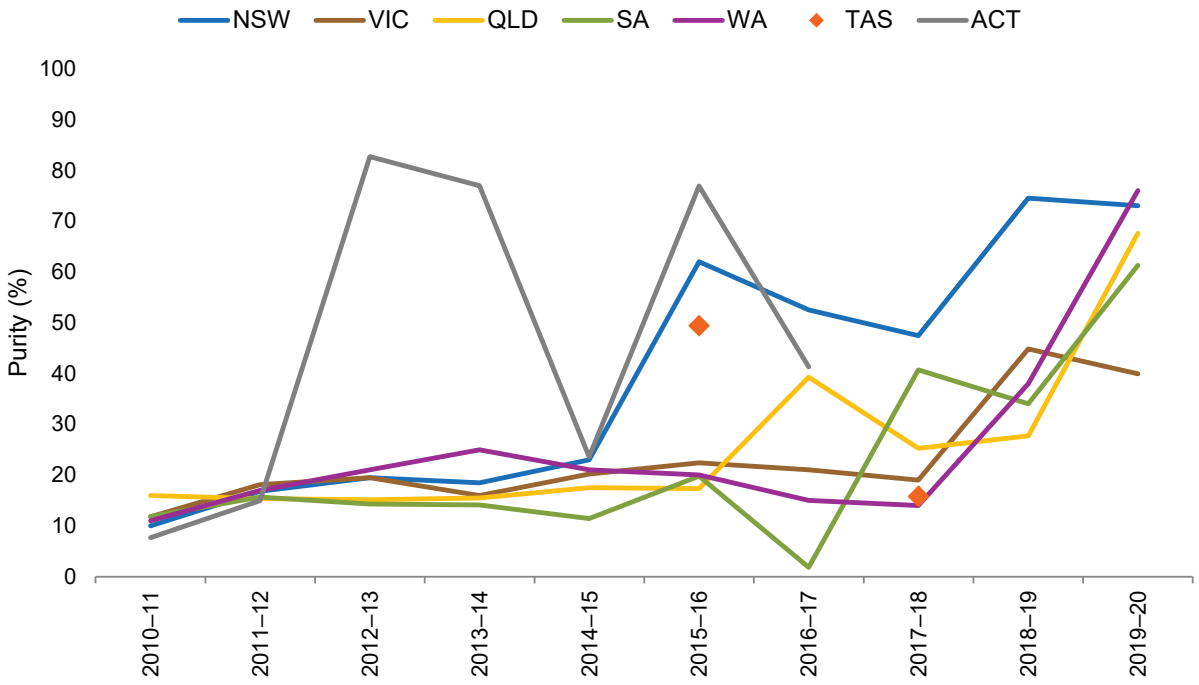
Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed methylamphetamine samples ranged between 8 per cent and 83 per cent. The annual median purity increased over the last decade and since 2012–13, has remained high and relatively stable (with the exception of Tasmania). In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 13 per cent in Tasmania to 83 per cent in Victoria. This reporting period South Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine, while Tasmania reported a decrease and New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia remained relatively stable (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: Annual median purity of methylamphetamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed phenethylamine[26] samples ranged between 2 per cent and 83 per cent. While fluctuating, the annual median purity of phenethylamine increased over the last decade. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 40 per cent in Victoria to 76 per cent in Western Australia. This reporting period Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of phenethylamine, while New South Wales and Victoria reported a decrease (see Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: Annual median purity of phenethylamine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate a decrease in the reported availability of crystal methylamphetamine in 2019–20. The same surveys indicate that the availability of ecstasy decreased for all forms (powder, capsules and crystal) except pills.

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain nearly halved, decreasing from 94 per cent in 2019 to 48 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade. This is a decrease from 83 per cent reported in 2011.
- Data on the availability of other forms of methylamphetamine was not published for this reporting period (Peacock et al. 2021).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting crystal methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 94 per cent in 2019 to 71 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease from 86 per cent reported in 2011.
- The proportion of respondents reporting powder methylamphetamine as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 68 per cent in 2019 to 66 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease from 87 per cent reported in 2011.

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

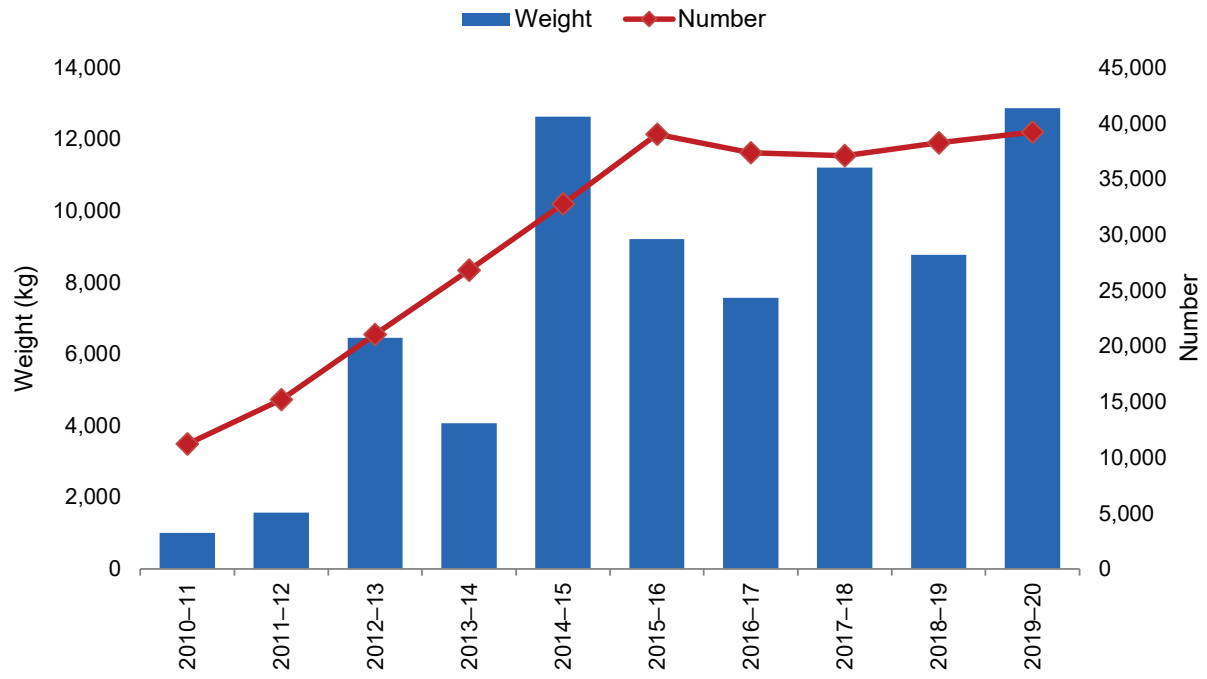
- The proportion of respondents reporting ecstasy in all forms as easy or very easy to obtain decreased from 2019 to 2020—from 76 per cent to 69 per cent for powder; from 92 per cent to 84 per cent for capsules; from 81 per cent to 80 per cent for crystal; and from 81 per cent to 70 per cent for pills. Historical data for ecstasy availability in all forms is only available from 2017, with perceived availability decreasing for all forms with the exception of crystal ecstasy during this period (Peacock et al. 2020; Sindicich & Burns 2011).

SEIZURES

The number of national ATS seizures increased 250 per cent over the last decade, from 11,212 in 2010–11 to a record 39,204 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures showing an overall increasing trend during the period. The number of national ATS seizures increased between 2010–11 and 2015–16 and has since remained high and relatively stable. This reporting period the number of national ATS seizures increased 2 per cent, from 38,250 in 2018–19.

The weight of ATS seized nationally increased 1,175 per cent over the last decade from 1,008.7 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 12,864.5 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the weight of ATS seized shows an increasing trend over the last decade. This reporting period the weight of ATS seized nationally increased 47 per cent, from 8,776.5 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 8: National ATS seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS seizures in 2019–20, while New South Wales reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of ATS seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (37 per cent) and weight of ATS seized nationally (76 per cent; see Table 3).

TABLE 3: Number, weight and percentage change of national ATS seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	13,865	14,326	3.3	4,448,119	9,796,979	120.2
Victoria	2,360	2,258	-4.3	2,109,855	1,675,125	-20.6
Queensland	10,000	11,673	16.7	1,601,445	631,292	-60.6
South Australia	1,007	534	-47.0	242,411	49,935	-79.4
Western Australia	9,439	8,378	-11.2	351,458	698,721	98.8
Tasmania	743	1,168	57.2	7,722	8,149	5.5
Northern Territory	442	335	-24.2	4,815	2,482	-48.5
Australian Capital Territory	394	532	35.0	10,724	1,823	-83.0
Total	**38,250**	**39,204**	**2.5**	**8,776,549**	**12,864,506**	**46.6**

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

Over the last decade amphetamines[27] have accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS seizures, increasing from 81 per cent in 2010–11 to 87 per cent in 2019–20. This is followed by MDMA (decreasing from 16 per cent in 2010–11 to 13 per cent in 2019–20) and other ATS (decreasing from 2 per cent in 2010–11 to <1 per cent in 2019–20).

- This reporting period the number of national amphetamines seizures increased 7 per cent, from 32,021 in 2018–19 to a record 34,113 in 2019–20. The number of national MDMA seizures decreased 18 per cent, from 6,103 in 2018–19 to 4,981 in 2019–20, while the number of national other ATS seizures decreased 13 per cent, from 126 in 2018–19 to 110 in 2019–20.

Over the last decade amphetamines have accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally, increasing from 62 per cent in 2010–11 to 73 per cent in 2019–20. This is followed by MDMA (increasing from 7 per cent in 2010–11 to 25 per cent in 2019–20) and other ATS (decreasing from 32 per cent in 2010–11 to 2 per cent in 2019–20).

- The weight of amphetamines seized increased 113 per cent this reporting period, from 4,418.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to a record 9,408.1 kilograms in 2019–20.
- The weight of MDMA seized increased 106 per cent, from 1,560.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to 3,214.9 kilograms in 2019–20, while the weight of other ATS seized decreased 91 per cent, from 2,798.4 kilograms (second highest weight on record) in 2018–19 to 241.4 kilograms in 2019–20.

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 predominantly crystalline seizures. In 2010–11, seizures in crystalline and powder form each accounted for 26 per cent of national ATS seizures, with other[28] and tablet forms accounting for 33 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. In 2019–20, seizures in crystalline form accounted for 72 per cent of the number of national ATS seizures, followed by other forms (17 per cent), powder (10 per cent) and tablet (2 per cent). These proportions were broadly similar to 2018–19.

27 Amphetamines include amphetamine, methylamphetamine, dexamphetamine and amphetamines not elsewhere classified.
28 In relation to ATS drug form, the category 'other' reflects drug forms other than crystalline, powder or tablet and include seizures for which the drug form was not known or was inadequately described.

- This reporting period the number of crystalline seizures increased 7 per cent, from 26,463 in 2018–19 to a record 28,289 in 2019–20. The number of powder seizures increased 2 per cent, from 3,675 in 2018–19 to 3,749 in 2019–20, while the number of tablet seizures decreased 49 per cent, from 1,181 in 2018–19 to 606 in 2019–20. The number of other seizures decreased 5 per cent this reporting period, from 6,931 in 2018–19 to 6,560 in 2019–20.

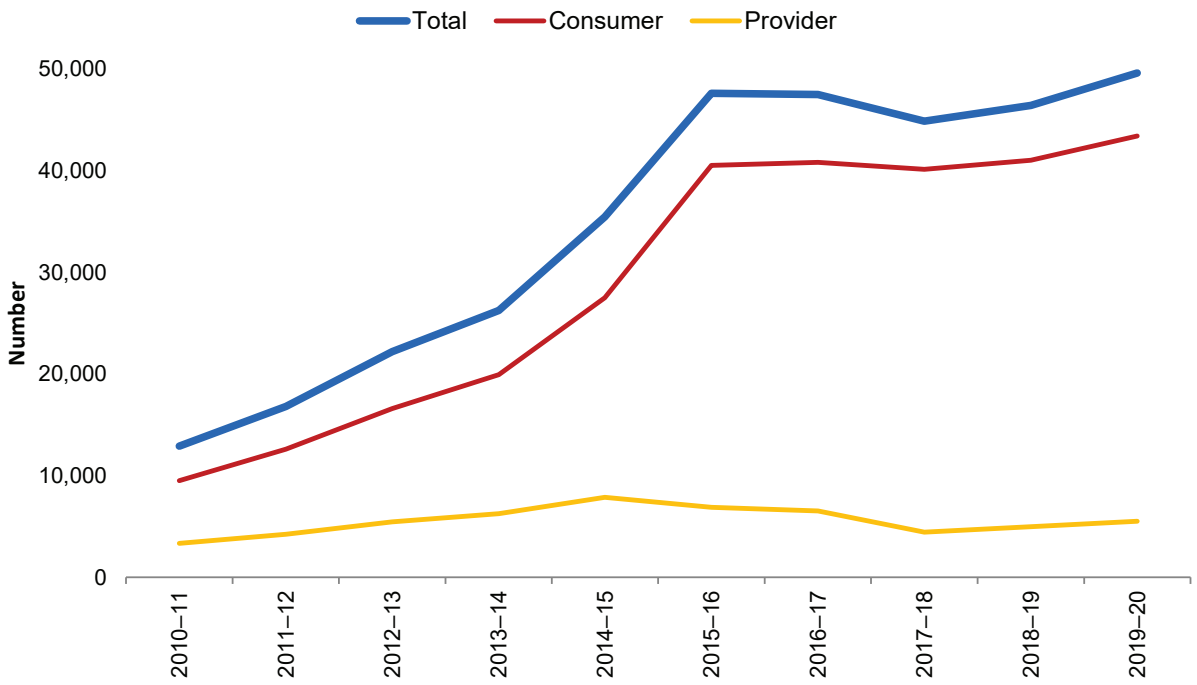
The form of national ATS seizures (by weight) changed over the last decade, from seizures of other forms to predominantly crystalline seizures. Seizures in crystalline form accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of ATS seized nationally in 2019–20 (70 percent), increasing considerably from 2 per cent in 2010–11. This is followed by other (decreasing from 78 per cent in 2010–11 to 17 per cent in 2019–20), powder (decreasing from 15 per cent in 2010–11 to 13 per cent in 2019–20) and tablet form (decreasing from 5 per cent in 2010–11 to <1 per cent in 2019–20).

- This reporting period the weight of crystalline seized increased 116 per cent, from 4,416.9 kilograms in 2018–19 to a record 8,988.1 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight of powder seized decreased 53 per cent, from 3,571.1 kilograms in 2018–19 to 1,693.5 kilograms in 2019–20, while the weight of tablet seized decreased 54 per cent, from 65.0 kilograms in 2018–19 to 30.0 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight of other forms of ATS seized increased 120 per cent this reporting period, from 979.4 kilograms in 2018–19 to 2,152.8 kilograms in 2019–20.

ARRESTS

The number of national ATS arrests increased 285 per cent over the last decade, from 12,897 in 2010–11 to a record 49,638 in 2019–20, with the number of arrests showing an overall increasing trend during the period. The number of national ATS arrests increased 7 per cent from the 46,437 arrests in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 87 per cent of national ATS arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 9: Number of national ATS arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Amphetamines continue to account for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests, accounting for 90 per cent in 2019–20, followed by MDMA (10 per cent) and other ATS (<1 per cent). The number of national amphetamines arrests increased 11 per cent this reporting period, from 40,487 in 2018–19 to a record 44,847 in 2019–20. The number of MDMA arrests decreased 19 per cent this reporting period, from 5,890 in 2018–19 to 4,746 in 2019–20, while the number of other ATS arrests decreased 25 per cent, from 60 in 2018–19 to 45 in 2019–20.

South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of ATS arrests in 2019–20. This reporting period Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS arrests (30 per cent; see Table 4).

TABLE 4: Number and percentage change of national ATS arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	10,355	11,160	7.8
Victoria	10,598	11,055	4.3
Queensland	12,926	14,975	15.9
South Australia	4,390	5,446	24.1
Western Australia	7,031	5,977	-15.0
Tasmania	718	753	4.9
Northern Territory	270	108	-60.0
Australian Capital Territory	149	164	10.1
Total	**46,437**	**49,638**	**6.9**

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

The weight of ATS seized globally continued to increase in 2018, with methylamphetamine accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight seized. In 2018 the weight of ecstasy seized globally also increased, while the weight of amphetamine seized decreased. In 2019, the number of methylamphetamine seizures reported by WCO agencies increased, while the weight seized decreased. The number and weight of amphetamine and MDMA seizures reported by WCO agencies increased in 2019.

Several indicators of ATS supply and demand in Australia indicate that following a long period of growth, the ATS market (especially for methylamphetamine) remains large and showed some signs of further expansion in 2019–20.

Indicators of demand for amphetamines include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Data from surveys of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants point to a decrease in methylamphetamine use.

- According to national studies of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the availability of all forms of methylamphetamine decreased in 2020.
- According to NDSHS data, the reported recent use of meth/amphetamine and use in lifetime remained relatively stable in 2019 compared to 2016, however, the frequency of reported use decreased, with crystal remaining the most common form of the drug used.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting methylamphetamine as the drug last injected increased in 2019 and it remains the most commonly reported drug last injected.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine decreased, while the proportion of detainees self-reporting recent methylamphetamine use remained stable.
- The NWDMP identified that, of the substances monitored by the Program with available dose data, methylamphetamine remains the most consumed illicit drug, with regional consumption exceeding capital city consumption. The population-weighted average consumption for methylamphetamine decreased in both capital city and regional sites in August 2020 to the lowest levels recorded by the Program.

Indicators of ATS (excluding MDMA) supply include border detection, forensic profiling, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border continued to decrease, while the weight detected increased to a record level.
- Forensic profiling identified an increase in the proportion of methylamphetamine manufactured using the P2P method.
- The number and weight of national ATS seizures increased to record levels.
  - Amphetamines continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of national ATS seizures, both of which increased to record levels.
- The number of ATS arrests increased to a record level, with amphetamines accounting for the greatest proportion of the number of national ATS arrests.
- The national median price for a street deal, 1 gram and 1 kilogram of crystal methylamphetamine increased.
- New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia reported a decrease in the annual median purity of amphetamine, while Queensland reported an increase.
- South Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of methylamphetamine, while Tasmania reported a decrease and New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia remained relatively stable.
- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratories detected nationally remained relatively stable, with methylamphetamine remaining the main drug produced.

Indicators of supply and demand for MDMA point to a relatively stable market despite some decreases suggested by the available indicators.

Indicators of MDMA demand include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- According to NDSHS data, the reported recent use of ecstasy, use in lifetime and frequency of reported use increased in 2019 compared to 2016, with capsules replacing pills/tables as the main form of the drug used.
- Data from surveys of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants provided mixed results, with a decrease in ecstasy use in pill and crystal form and an increase in use of powder and capsule form.
- Surveys of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants reported availability decreased for all forms (powder, capsules, crystal and pills) of the drug.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to MDMA decreased, while the proportion self-reporting recent MDMA use increased.
- The NWDMP indicates that average MDMA consumption is higher in regional sites than capital city sites. The population-weighted average consumption increased in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites.

Indicators of MDMA supply include border detection, seizure, arrest, price, purity and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Both the number and weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased.
- The number of national MDMA seizures decreased, while the weight of MDMA seized nationally doubled.
- The national median price for a single MDMA tablet decreased.
- Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia reported an increase in the annual median purity of phenethylamine, while New South Wales and Victoria reported a decrease.
- While remaining low, the number of MDMA clandestine laboratory detections almost doubled.

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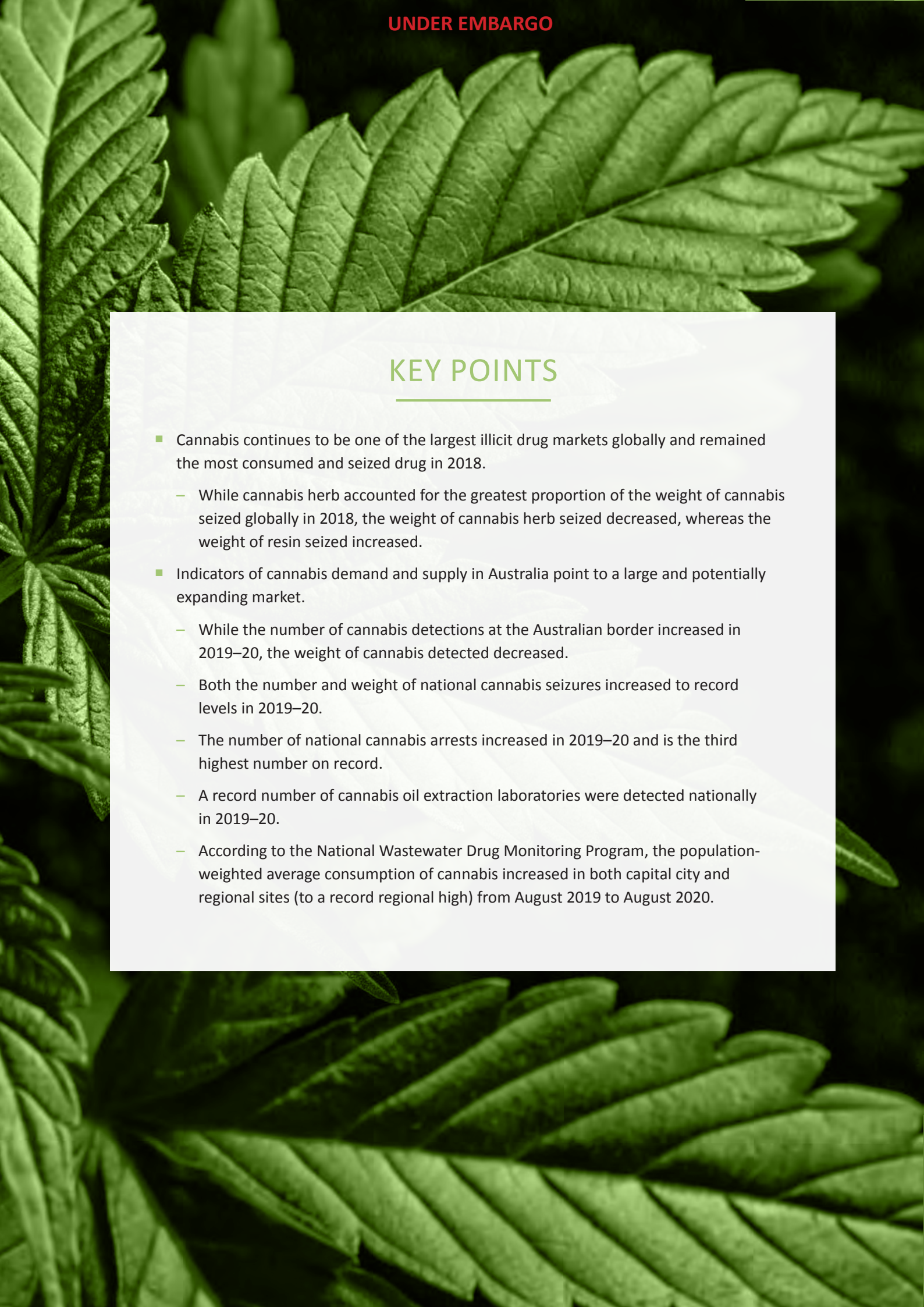
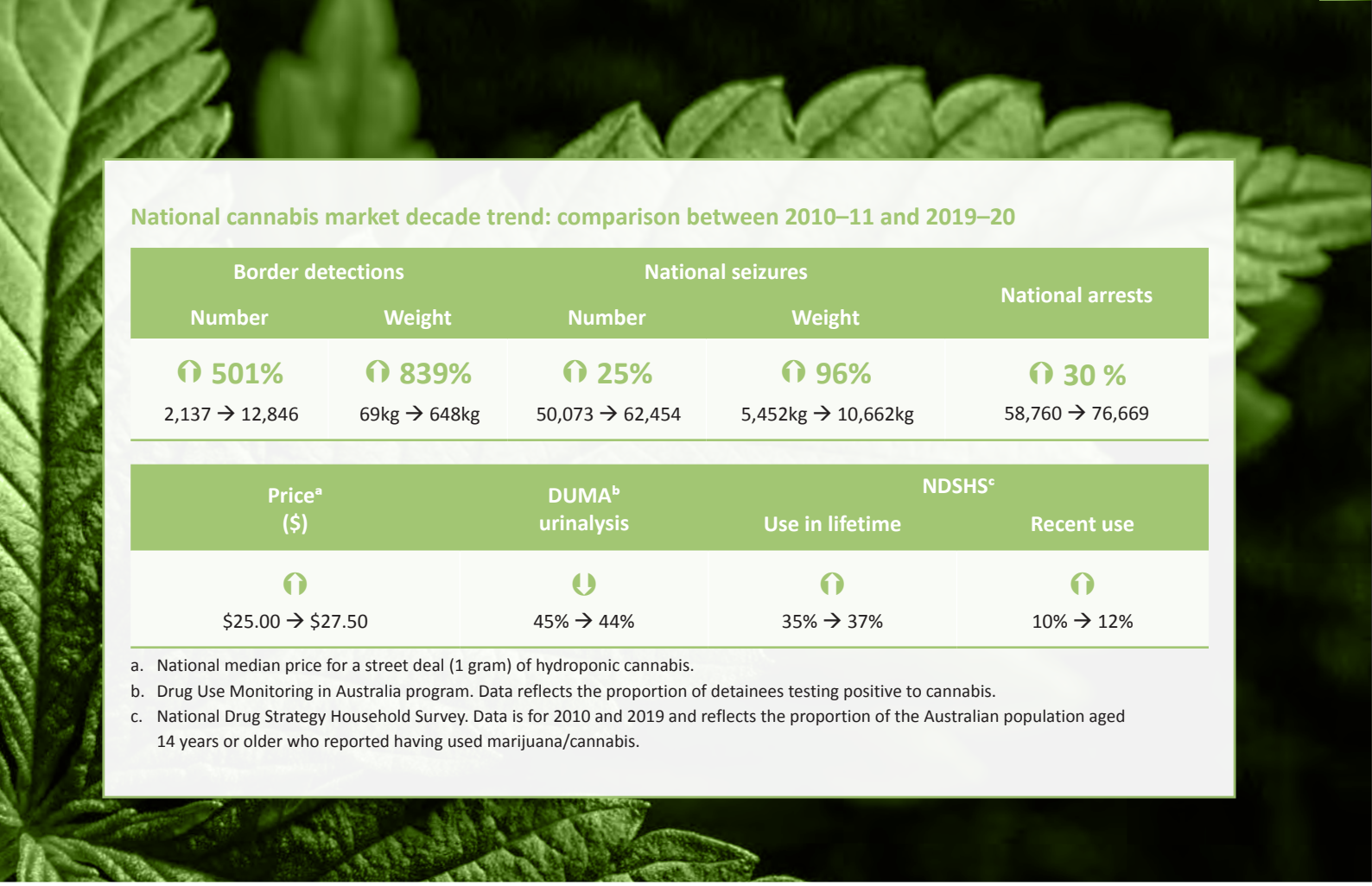
CANNABIS



KEY POINTS

- Cannabis continues to be one of the largest illicit drug markets globally and remained the most consumed and seized drug in 2018.
  - While cannabis herb accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis seized globally in 2018, the weight of cannabis herb seized decreased, whereas the weight of resin seized increased.
- Indicators of cannabis demand and supply in Australia point to a large and potentially expanding market.
  - While the number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased in 2019–20, the weight of cannabis detected decreased.
  - Both the number and weight of national cannabis seizures increased to record levels in 2019–20.
  - The number of national cannabis arrests increased in 2019–20 and is the third highest number on record.
  - A record number of cannabis oil extraction laboratories were detected nationally in 2019–20.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis increased in both capital city and regional sites (to a record regional high) from August 2019 to August 2020.



National cannabis market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↑ 501%	↑ 839%	↑ 25%	↑ 96%	↑ 30 %
2,137 → 12,846	69kg → 648kg	50,073 → 62,454	5,452kg → 10,662kg	58,760 → 76,669

Price[a] ($)	DUMA[b] urinalysis	NDSHS[c]	
		Use in lifetime	Recent use
↑	↓	↑	↑
$25.00 → $27.50	45% → 44%	35% → 37%	10% → 12%

a. National median price for a street deal (1 gram) of hydroponic cannabis.
b. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis.
c. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used marijuana/cannabis.

MAIN FORMS

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

- Cannabis plants can grow in a range of climates, as well as indoors through the use of 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 three 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 (CIS 2019).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

Cannabis continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide, with an estimated 192 million people reporting cannabis use in the previous 12 months in 2018. In the period 2010 to 2018, 151 countries reported cannabis cultivation. There was an increase in the weight of cannabis plants seized and the area under cultivation that was eradicated in 2018 compared to 2017; however, there was a decrease in the number of cannabis plants eradicated and the number of cannabis sites eradicated globally in the same period (UNODC 2020a).

Based on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data, cannabis remains the most seized drug worldwide. Over the last decade the number of cannabis seizures (herb and resin) increased 40 per cent, from 1 million in 2008 to 1.4 million in 2018. In contrast, the weight of cannabis (herb and resin) seized over the same period decreased 23 per cent to 5,610.0 tonnes in 2018. In 2017, 6,273.5 tonnes was seized. The weight of cannabis herb seized globally decreased 16 per cent, from 5,112.0 tonnes in 2017 to 4,303.0 tonnes in 2018. In contrast, the weight of cannabis resin seized globally increased 13 per cent, from 1,161.5 tonnes in 2017 to 1,307.0 tonnes in 2018 (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020b).

Compared to 2010, the weight of cannabis herb seized in North America in 2018 decreased 84 per cent, however the weight seized in the rest of the world almost doubled over the same period. Paraguay accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis herb seized in 2018 (24 per cent), followed by the United States (US; 11 per cent) and India (9 per cent). The Americas accounted for 61 per cent of the weight of cannabis herb seized globally in 2018, with South America accounting for 43 per cent of this total. This was followed by Africa (19 per cent), Asia (13 per cent), Europe (7 per cent) and Oceania (less than 1 per cent; UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020b).

Spain accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of cannabis resin seized globally in 2018 (34 per cent), followed by Pakistan (14 per cent), Afghanistan (14 per cent) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (8 per cent). Western and Central Europe accounted for around half of the weight of cannabis resin seized globally in 2018 (51 per cent), followed by the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (36 per cent) and North Africa (8 per cent). These three subregions accounted for 95 per cent of the weight of cannabis resin seized in 2018 (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020b).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of cannabis seizures and the weight of cannabis seized globally by WCO agencies continued to decrease in 2019. The number of cannabis seizures decreased 5 per cent, from 10,678 in 2018 to 10,168 in 2019. The weight of cannabis seized decreased 24 per cent, from 708,612.5 kilograms in 2018 to 540,847.1 kilograms in 2019. Herbal cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of the number and weight of cannabis seized in 2019 (65 per cent of the number and 59 per cent of the weight seized). This was followed by cannabis resin, which accounted for 21 per cent of the number and 1 per cent of the weight of cannabis seized (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

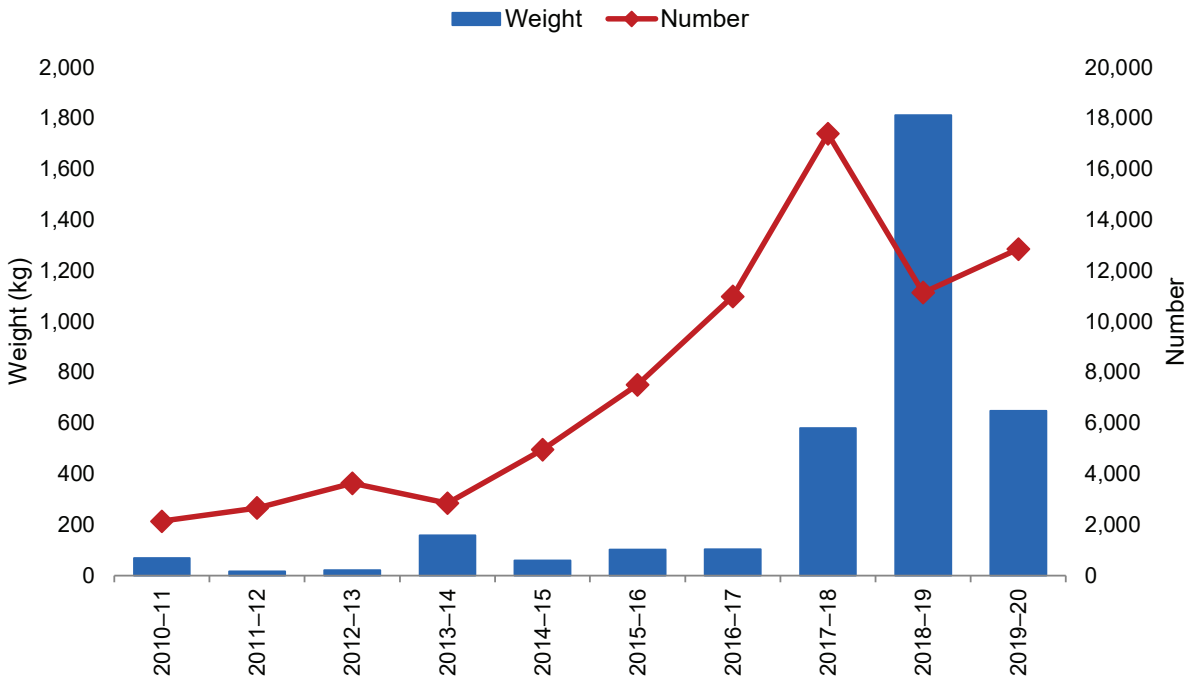
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased 501 per cent over the last decade, from 2,137 in 2010–11 to 12,846 in 2019–20, with the number of detections displaying an increasing trend over the decade. The number of cannabis detections increased 15 per cent this reporting period from 11,133 in 2018–19.

The weight of cannabis detected increased 832 per cent over the last decade, from 69.6 kilograms in 2010–11 to 648.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the weight detected also displays an increasing trend over the decade. The weight of cannabis detected decreased 64 per cent this reporting period from a record 1,811.7 kilograms[29] in 2018–19 (see Figure 10).

In 2019–20, 46 of the 12,846 cannabis detections (<1 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 184.7 kilograms, these 46 detections account for 28 per cent of the weight of cannabis detected in 2019–20.[30]

FIGURE 10: Number and weight of cannabis detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



29 In 2018–19 a single cannabis detection weighed 1,500 kilograms.
30 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of cannabis in 2019–20.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, 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 accounted for the greatest proportion of cannabis detections (94 per cent), followed by air cargo (6 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (70 per cent), followed by air cargo (28 per cent), sea cargo (1 per cent) and air passenger/crew (1 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 50 countries were identified as embarkation points for cannabis detected at the Australian border, compared to 49 countries in 2018–19. By weight, the US continued to be the primary embarkation point for cannabis detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include the United Kingdom, Spain, China (including Hong Kong), Canada, the Netherlands, Colombia, Turkey, New Zealand and Ireland.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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.

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cannabis at least once in their lifetime remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 35 per cent in 2010 to 37 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 35 per cent.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[31] used cannabis also remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 10 per cent in 2010 to 12 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 10 per cent (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four 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 13 illicit and licit drugs. Since the Program began measuring cannabis consumption in August 2018 the population-weighted average consumption increased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- Cannabis consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cannabis in capital city sites increased.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cannabis in regional sites increased to a record high in August 2020 (ACIC 2021).

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

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel 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:

- Over the last decade, the proportion of respondents reporting cannabis as their drug of choice remained relatively stable, decreasing from 7 per cent in 2011 to 6 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 8 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[32] of any form of cannabis decreased over the last decade, from 79 per cent in 2011 to 67 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last two decades. In 2019 this proportion was 74 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis used in the six months preceding interview decreased over the last decade, from 180 days in 2011 to 160 days in 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 130 (Peacock et al 2021).

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:

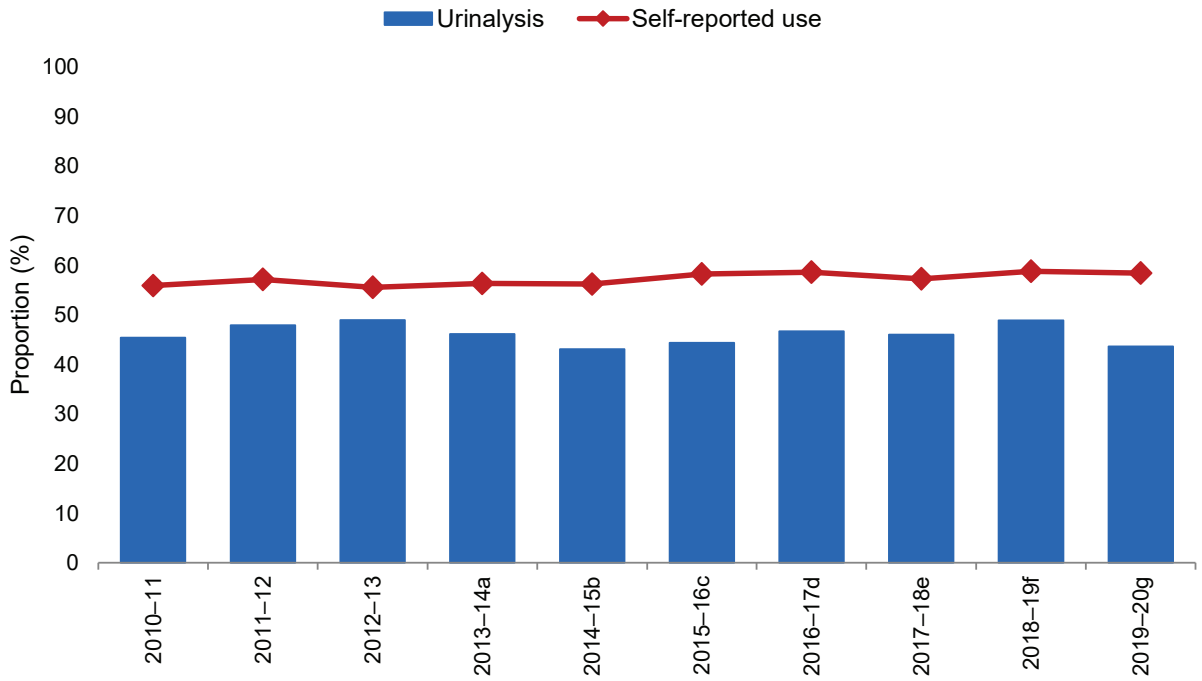
- The proportion of respondents reporting cannabis as their drug of choice increased over the last decade, from 20 per cent in 2011 to 26 per cent in 2020. This proportion remained unchanged from 2019.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cannabis remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 85 per cent in 2011 to 88 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 85 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cannabis use in the six months preceding interview remained unchanged in 2011 and 2020 at 48 days. In 2019 the median number of days was 60 (Peacock et al. 2020).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, comprising an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which is tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.[33] According to DUMA data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis decreased slightly, while self-reporting cannabis use remained relatively stable.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis over the last decade ranged from 43 per cent in 2014–15 to 49 per cent in 2012–13 and 2018–19. In 2019–20 this proportion was 44 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use[34] of cannabis among detainees over the last decade ranged from 56 per cent in 2012–13 to 59 in 2018–19. In 2019–20, this proportion was 58 per cent (see Figure 11).

32 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.
33 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
34 Recent use in the DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.

FIGURE 11: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cannabis compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

The number of cannabis oil extraction laboratories detected nationally increased over the last decade, from 3 in 2010–11 to a record 29 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number increased from 18 in 2018–19 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

PRICE

At the street level, the price of cannabis is generally measured as a 'deal' (approximately 1 gram). Nationally, the price range for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head increased over the last decade, from between $20 and $75 in 2010–11 to between $20 and $100 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the reported price ranged between $10 and $100. The national median price for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head increased over the last decade (from $25 in 2010–11 to $27.50 in 2019–20). In 2018–19 the national median price was $23.75.

Nationally, the price range for 1 ounce (28 grams) of hydroponic cannabis head increased over the last decade, from between $200 and $480 in 2010–11 to between $200 and $600 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the reported price ranged between $200 and $500. The national median price for 1 ounce of hydroponic cannabis head decreased over the last decade, from $340 in 2010–11 to $325 in 2019–20, an increase from $302.50 in 2018–19.

Nationally, the price range for a single mature hydroponic cannabis plant decreased over the last decade, from between $1,500 and $15,000 in 2010–11 to between $2,000 and $5,000 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales). In 2018–19 the reported price ranged between $3,000 and $5,000.

The price for 1 gram of resin increased over the last decade, from between $25 and $50 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales and Queensland) to $50 in 2019–20 (reported in Tasmania). In 2018–19 the price ranged between $25 and $50.

AVAILABILITY

User surveys indicate that the availability of both hydroponic cannabis and bush cannabis[35] decreased this reporting period.

In a 2020 national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting hydroponic cannabis as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain decreased, from 88 per cent in 2019 to 81 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade and a decrease from the 94 per cent reported in 2011. The proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain decreased, from 78 per cent in 2019 to 68 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade and a decrease from the 76 per cent reported in 2011 (Peacock et al. 2021).

In a 2020 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 decreased slightly, from 90 per cent in 2019 to 89 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease from the 93 per cent reported in 2011. The proportion of respondents reporting bush cannabis as easy or very easy to obtain increased, from 78 per cent in 2019 to 81 per cent in 2020. This is an increase from the 77 per cent reported in 2011 (Peacock et al. 2020).

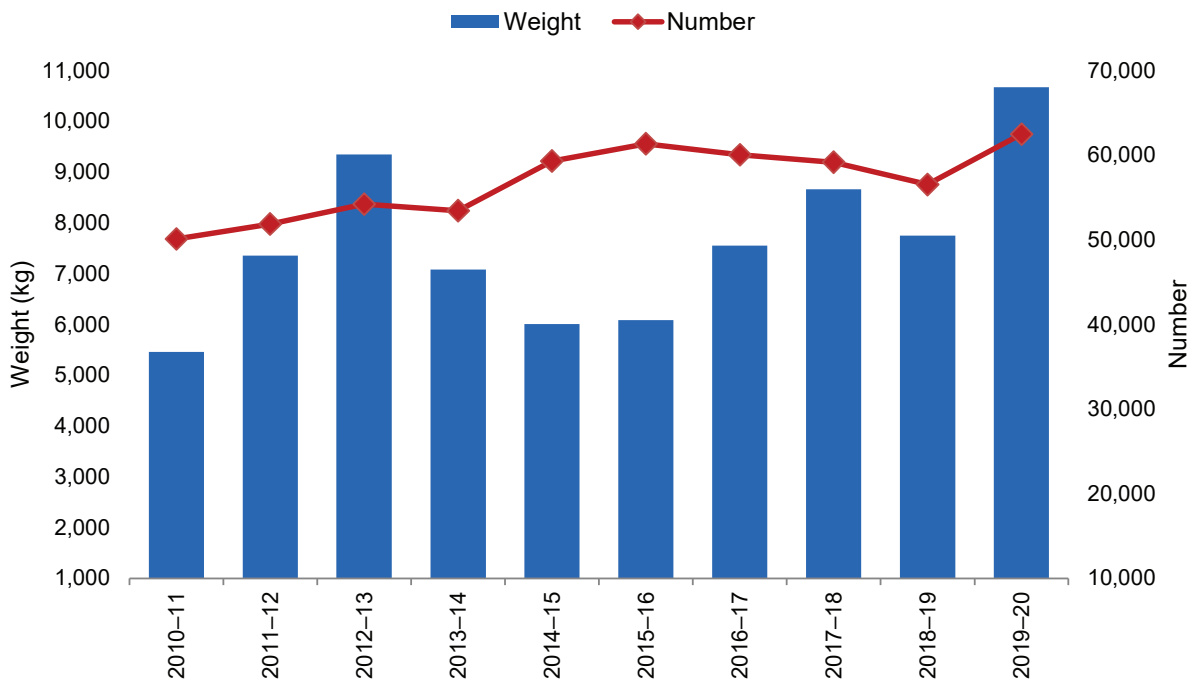
SEIZURES

The number of national cannabis seizures increased 25 per cent over the last decade, from 50,073 in 2010–11 to a record 62,454 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures displaying an increasing trend over the decade. The number of national cannabis seizures increased 11 per cent this reporting period from 56,491 in 2018–19.

The weight of cannabis seized nationally increased 96 per cent over the last decade, from 5,452.4 kilograms in 2010–11 to a record 10,662.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the weight seized displays an increasing trend during the last decade. The weight of cannabis seized nationally increased 38 per cent this reporting period from 7,740.8 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 12).

35 Bush cannabis refers to cannabis grown outdoors.

FIGURE 12: National cannabis seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in both the number and weight of cannabis seized in 2019–20. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number (30 per cent) and weight (38 per cent) of cannabis seized nationally (see Table 5).

TABLE 5: Number, weight and percentage change of national cannabis seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

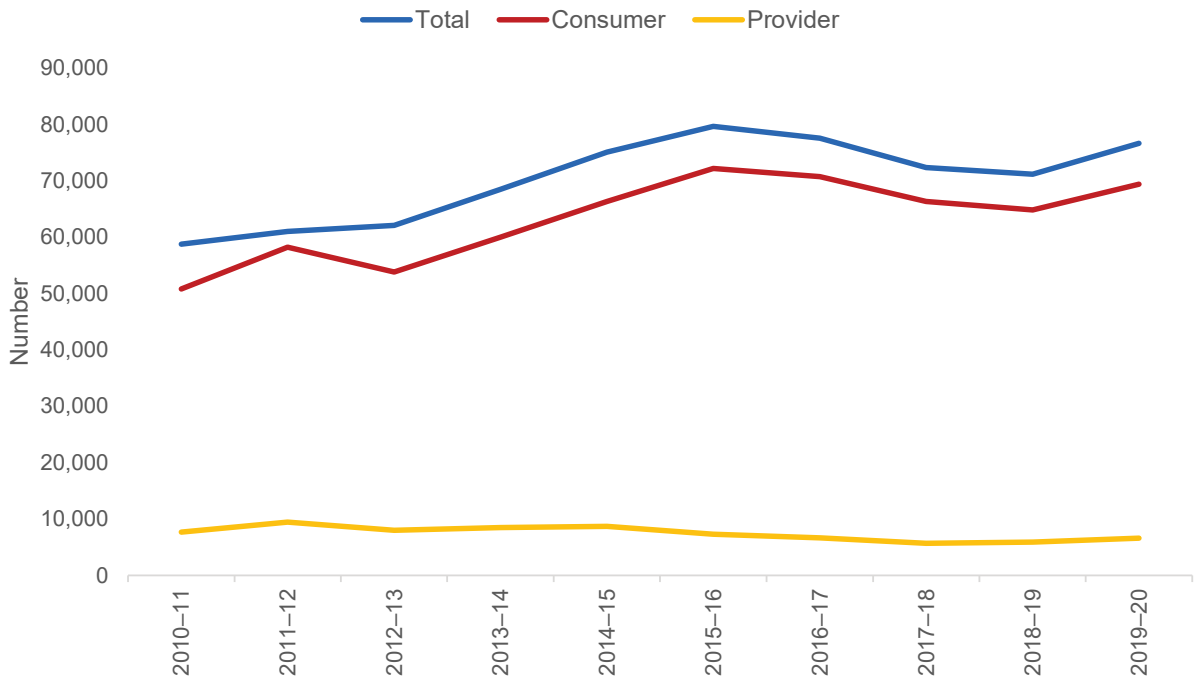
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	17,261	18,814	9.0	2,197,338	4,072,121	85.3
Victoria	3,524	4,067	15.4	3,184,656	1,681,821	-47.2
Queensland	16,955	18,689	10.2	1,105,706	2,733,103	147.2
South Australia	116	278	139.7	223,684	871,732	289.7
Western Australia	14,240	15,601	9.6	392,922	654,936	66.7
Tasmania	1,799	2,331	29.6	220,887	173,543	-21.4
Northern Territory	1,941	2,036	4.9	71,331	90,742	27.2
Australian Capital Territory	655	638	-2.6	344,362	384,689	11.7
Total	**56,491**	**62,454**	**10.6**	**7,740,886**	**10,662,687**	**37.7**

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

ARRESTS

The number of national cannabis arrests increased 30 per cent over the last decade, from 58,760 in 2010–11 to 76,669 in 2019–20, the third highest number on record, with the number of arrests showing an overall increasing trend during the period. The number of national cannabis arrests increased 8 per cent this reporting period from 71,151 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continues to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 91 per cent of national cannabis arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 13).

FIGURE 13: Number of national cannabis arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in cannabis arrests in 2019–20. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of cannabis arrests this reporting period (31 per cent; see Table 6).

TABLE 6: Number and percentage change of national cannabis arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	16,224	17,474	7.7
Victoria	10,485	11,860	13.1
Queensland[b]	21,780	23,697	8.8
South Australia	1,141	3,482	205.2
South Australia (CENs)[c]	8,093	6,850	-15.4
Western Australia	8,917	8,921	0.0
Western Australia (CIRs)[d]	1,546	1,538	-0.5
Tasmania	1,435	1,598	11.4
Northern Territory	555	412	-25.8
Northern Territory (DINs)[e]	732	691	-5.6
Australian Capital Territory	188	117	-37.8
Australian Capital Territory (SCONs)[f]	55	29	-47.3
Total	**71,151**	**76,669**	**7.8**

a. The arrest data for each state and territory include Australian Federal Police data.
b. Queensland cannabis arrest data includes Police Drug Diversion Program participants.
c. Cannabis Expiation Notices.
d. Cannabis Intervention Requirements.
e. Drug Infringement Notices.
f. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices.

NATIONAL IMPACT

Despite decreases in the weight of cannabis seized globally, cannabis continued to be the most consumed and seized illicit drug in 2018, with cannabis herb continuing to account for the greatest proportion of cannabis seized. In 2019, the number and weight of cannabis seizures reported by WCO continued to decrease.

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

Indicators of demand for cannabis include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis.

- According to the NDSHS, the reported recent use and use in lifetime of cannabis increased in 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the reported recent use of cannabis decreased to the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade in 2020, while the reported median days of use increased from 2019 to 2020.
- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the reported recent use of cannabis increased from 2019 to 2020, while the median days of use decreased.

- Data from surveys of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants point to a decrease in the availability of hydroponic cannabis and an increase in the availability of bush cannabis.
- According to a national study of police detainees, both the proportion of detainees testing positive to cannabis and self-reported cannabis use decreased in 2019–20.
- The NWDMP indicates that cannabis consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites. When comparing data for August 2019 to August 2020, the population-weighted average consumption of cannabis increased in capital city sites and increased to a record level in regional sites.

Indicators of cannabis supply include border detection, seizure, arrest, price and clandestine laboratory data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- The number of cannabis detections at the Australian border increased, while the weight detected decreased.
- The number and weight of national cannabis seizures increased to record levels.
- The number of cannabis arrests increased to the third highest number on record.
- The national median price for 1 gram of hydroponic cannabis head increased.
- A record number of cannabis oil extraction laboratories were detected nationally.

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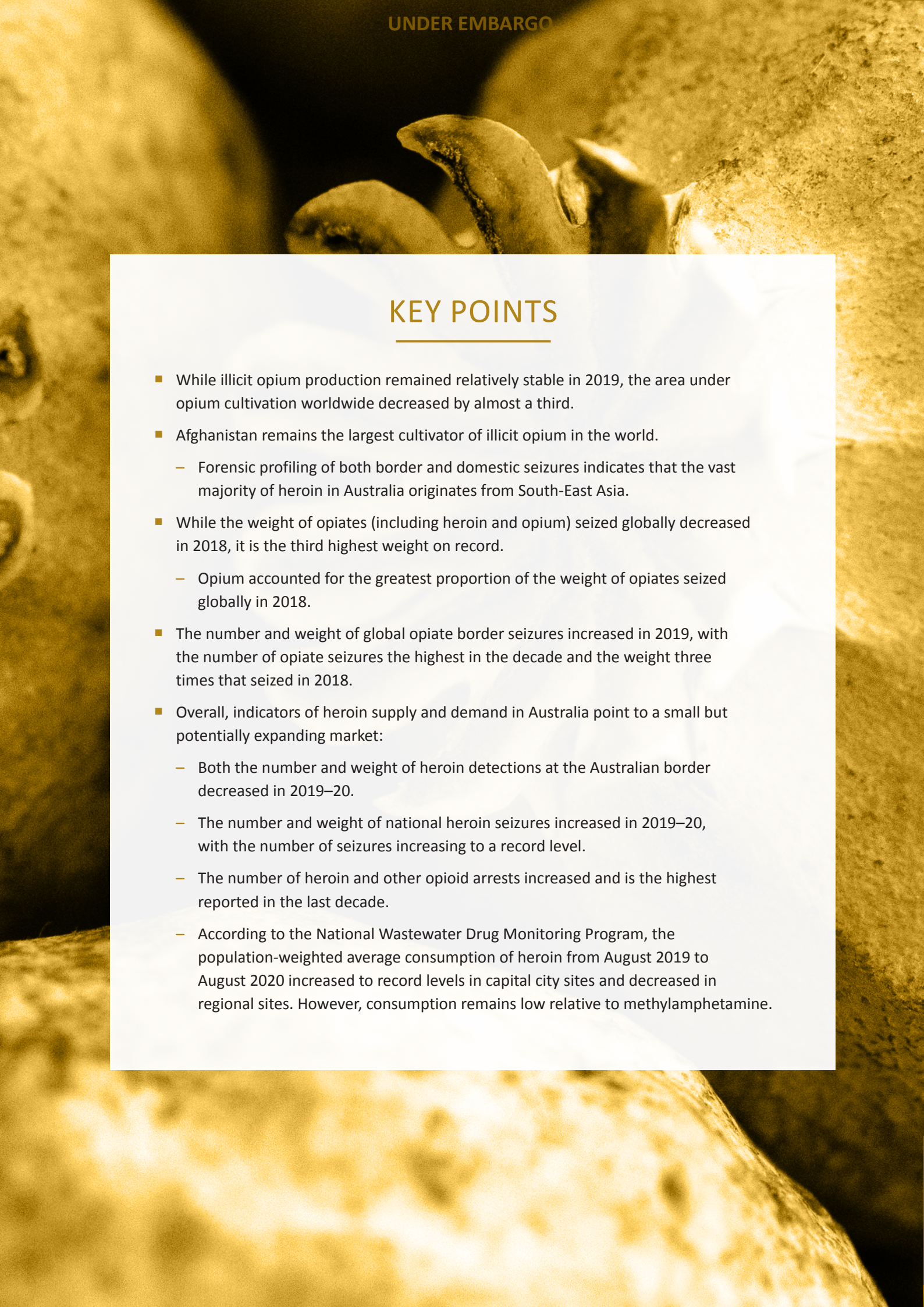
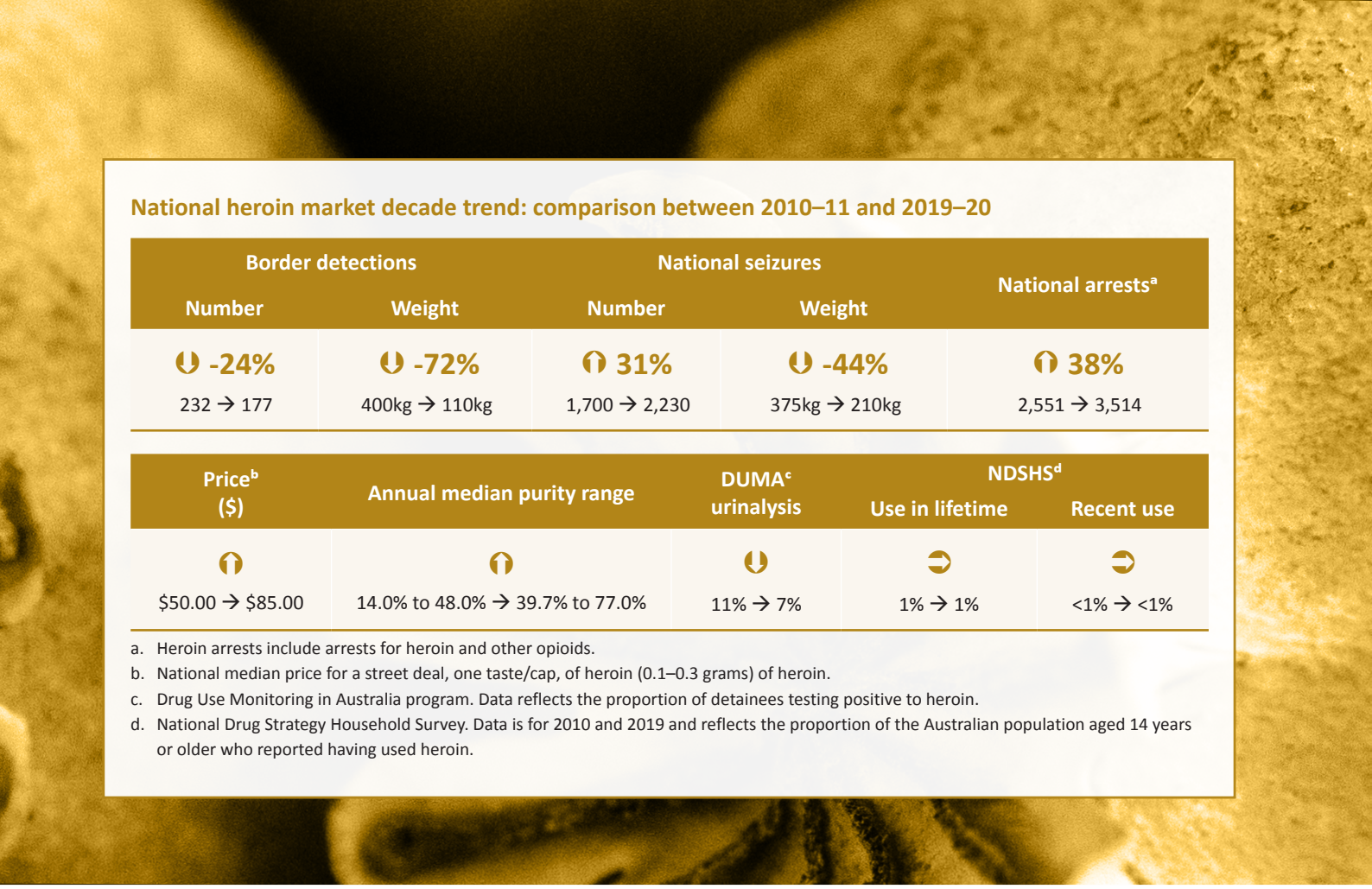
HEROIN



KEY POINTS

- While illicit opium production remained relatively stable in 2019, the area under opium cultivation worldwide decreased by almost a third.
- Afghanistan remains 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 originates from South-East Asia.
- While the weight of opiates (including heroin and opium) seized globally decreased in 2018, it is the third highest weight on record.
  - Opium accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of opiates seized globally in 2018.
- The number and weight of global opiate border seizures increased in 2019, with the number of opiate seizures the highest in the decade and the weight three times that seized in 2018.
- Overall, indicators of heroin supply and demand in Australia point to a small but potentially expanding market:
  - Both the number and weight of heroin detections at the Australian border decreased in 2019–20.
  - The number and weight of national heroin seizures increased in 2019–20, with the number of seizures increasing to a record level.
  - The number of heroin and other opioid arrests increased and is the highest reported in the last decade.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin from August 2019 to August 2020 increased to record levels in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites. However, consumption remains low relative to methylamphetamine.



National heroin market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests[a]
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↓ -24%	↓ -72%	↑ 31%	↓ -44%	↑ 38%
232 → 177	400kg → 110kg	1,700 → 2,230	375kg → 210kg	2,551 → 3,514

Price[b] ($)	Annual median purity range	DUMA[c] urinalysis	NDSHS[d]	
			Use in lifetime	Recent use
↑	↑	↓	→	→
$50.00 → $85.00	14.0% to 48.0% → 39.7% to 77.0%	11% → 7%	1% → 1%	<1% → <1%

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

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 three 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 2020; EMCDDA 2017; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The total area under opium cultivation worldwide decreased 30 per cent, from around 346,000 hectares in 2018 to 240,800 hectares in 2019. While a decline in the area under opium cultivation was reported in Afghanistan and Myanmar in 2019, the total global area under opium cultivation is still substantially larger than that recorded a decade ago. Similarly, while illicit opium production remained relatively stable in 2019, it has shown an upward trend over the last decade. Afghanistan remains the largest illicit opium producing country in the world (UNODC 2020a).

The area under opium cultivation in Myanmar has continued to decrease since 2014. Decreases in the area under opium cultivation were observed in all surveyed regions in 2020. The total area under opium cultivation decreased 11 per cent, from 33,100 hectares in 2019 to 29,500 hectares in 2020. The average opium yield decreased 11 per cent in 2020, resulting in a decrease in estimated opium production. The estimated production of opium in 2020 was 405.0 tonnes—a 20 per cent decrease from the 508.0 tonnes in 2019. The weight of heroin seized in Myanmar more than doubled, increasing from 690.0 kilograms in 2019 to 1,389.0 kilograms in 2020 (UNODC 2020b; UNODC 2021a).

The total area under opium cultivation in Afghanistan increased 37 per cent, from 163,000 hectares in 2019 to 224,000 hectares in 2020. Increases in the area under opium cultivation were observed in all surveyed regions in 2020, with the exception of the Eastern region which decreased 28 per cent. Based on average opium yield data from previous years and estimated average yield, the estimated production of opium in 2020 was 6,300.0 tonnes (UNODC 2021b).

According to the World Drug Report, the weight of global opiate seizures increased steadily over the 2008–2018 period. While the weight of opiates seized globally decreased in 2018, the weight seized remains the third highest weight on record. In 2018 the weight of heroin seized globally decreased 6 per cent to 96.0 tonnes and the weight of opium seized increased 2 per cent to 703.6 tonnes (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020c).

Similar to 2017, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that most seizures of opiates are reported in or in close proximity to the main opium production areas. In 2018, more than 90 per cent of global illicit opium production took place in Asia—the region accounting for the greatest proportion of the total weight of opiates seized globally. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of opiates seized globally in 2018 (53 per cent), followed by Afghanistan (12 per cent), Turkey (9 per cent) and Pakistan (5 per cent; UNODC 2020a).

While the weight of heroin and morphine seized in South-West Asia decreased 42 per cent, from a record 136.5 tonnes in 2017 to 79.4 tonnes in 2018, South-West Asia continues to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of heroin and morphine seized globally. In 2018 the weight of heroin and morphine seized in Europe reached record levels, increasing to 29.7 tonnes. According to the UNODC, 103 countries reported heroin seizures in 2018 with the top three countries—the Islamic Republic of Iran (25.0 tonnes), Turkey (19.0 tonnes) and the United States (9.0 tonnes)—accounting for 54 per cent of the weight of heroin seized globally (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020c).

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), both the number and weight of global opiate border seizures increased in 2019. The number of opiate seizures increased 38 per cent, from 2,030 in 2018 to 2,795 in 2019, and the weight seized increased 231 per cent, from 15,612.3 kilograms in 2018 to 51,689.0 kilograms in 2019. Over the last decade, the number of opiate seizures increased, with the weight of opiates seized fluctuating but increasing overall. Heroin continues to account for the greatest proportion of the number of global opiate border seizures (1,300 seizures, accounting for 47 per cent of all opiate seizures in 2019). Heroin was the only drug within the 'opiates' category to report a decrease in the number of seizures in 2019, with the category of opiates reporting an increase in the weight seized. The weight of seized heroin accounted for the second highest proportion (28 per cent) of the total weight of opiates seized at the border (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

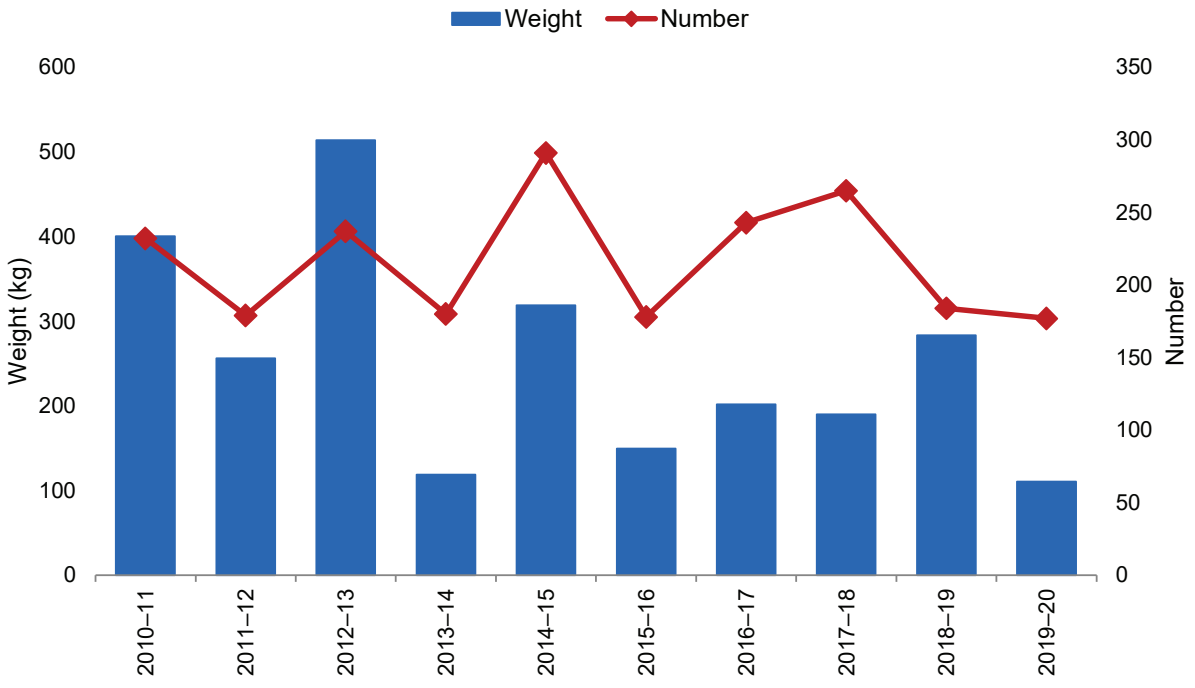
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of heroin detections at the Australian border fluctuated greatly over the last decade, decreasing 24 per cent from 232 in 2010–11 to 177 in 2019–20, although the overall trend remained relatively stable over the decade. The number of heroin detections decreased 4 per cent this reporting period, from 184 in 2018–19.

While the weight of heroin detected also fluctuated over the last decade, it followed a general decreasing trend, decreasing 72 per cent from 400.2 kilograms in 2010–11 to 110.6 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight of heroin detected decreased 61 per cent this reporting period, from 283.4 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 14).

In 2019–20, 34 of the 177 heroin detections (19 per cent) weighed one kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 90.5 kilograms, these 34 detections accounted for 82 per cent of the total weight of heroin detected in 2019–20.[36]

FIGURE 14: Number and weight of heroin detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



36 See Appendix 2 for significant border detections of heroin in 2019–20.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, detections of heroin at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of heroin detections (73 per cent), followed by air cargo (24 per cent) and air passenger/crew (3 per cent). By weight, the air cargo stream accounted for the greatest proportion of detections (56 per cent), followed by international mail (44 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 15 countries were identified as embarkation points for heroin detected at the Australian border, compared to 21 countries in 2018–19. By weight, Malaysia was the primary embarkation point for heroin detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Germany, Laos, the United Kingdom, South Africa, China (including Hong Kong) and the Netherlands.

DRUG PROFILING

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 regions of origin and manufacturing trends for samples of heroin submitted from seizures made at the Australian border[37] and seizures provided to the AFP by international agencies for the purpose of chemical profiling.[38] 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.

The following data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2011 and June 2020, from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.[39]

- Heroin in the Australian market continues to be predominantly of South-East Asian (SEA) origin.
- For the first time in six years, 2019 saw the seizure of heroin of South American (SA) origin. This seizure was made offshore but destined for Australia as part of Operation HOTH. This single seizure accounted for 7 per cent of the total bulk weight of heroin analysed in 2019.
- In 2019, the number of seizures of South-West Asian (SWA) origin increased to levels not seen since 2015.
- The total bulk weight of seizures in 2019 and the first six months of 2020 are predominantly comprised of heroin of SEA origin.

37 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
38 Data from these samples/seizures has not been included in this summary.
39 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, 2011—June 2020[40] (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 2020[a]	100.0	–	–	–	–	–
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	–	–
2011	49.0	51.0	–	–	–	–

a. In the first half of 2020, there was only one seizure of heroin profiled.

TABLE 8: Geographical origin of heroin samples as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2011–June 2020[41] (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 2020[a]	100.0	–	–	–	–	–
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	–	–
2011	39.4	60.6	–	–	–	–

a. In the first half of 2020, there was only one seizure of heroin profiled.

The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) capability extends forensic profiling to include state and territory seizures involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine. This enables the identification of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.[42]

40 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
41 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
42 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.

Heroin samples submitted to the ENIPID capability in 2019 and the first six months of 2020 continue to reflect the situation at the border, highlighting the continued dominance of SEA heroin in the Australian market (see Appendix 3, Tables 3 and 4).[43]

- When compared to the AFP border data, an increase in the "Mixed/Unclassified" samples for the reporting period was noted, however this remained consistent with the trends observed in the ENIPID data reported in previous years.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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.

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

- 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 per cent in 2010, 2016 and 2019.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[44] used heroin remained stable at <1 per cent in 2010, 2016 and 2019 (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four 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 13 illicit and licit drugs, including heroin from 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 2019 to August 2020:

- Heroin consumption fluctuated, with per capita consumption higher in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of heroin in capital city sites increased to a record high in August 2020.
- The population-weighted average consumption of heroin decreased in regional sites.
- Demand for heroin remains low compared to other illicit drugs, particularly methylamphetamine.
- The ACIC estimates that around 1.0 tonne of heroin was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 940 kilograms of heroin consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

43 Care should be taken when drawing any conclusions from this data due to the low number of heroin samples profiled during this period, a possible reflection of the low demand for heroin that currently exists within Australia.
44 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel 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:

- The proportion of respondents reporting heroin as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 53 per cent in 2011 to 50 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 45 per cent. Heroin remains the most commonly reported drug of choice within this population.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the drug most injected in the past month increased, from 43 per cent in 2011 to 46 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 40 per cent.
- Heroin replaced methylamphetamine as the drug most injected in the past month in 2020.
- The reported recent use[45] of heroin in this population remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 62 per cent in 2011 to 63 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 55 per cent.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of heroin use in the six months preceding interview increased, from 72 days in 2011 to 96 days in 2020. In 2019 the reported number of days was 90 (Peacock et al. 2021).

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 heroin decreased over the last decade, with 4 per cent of this population reporting the recent use of heroin in 2011, compared to 1 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 3 per cent (Sindicich & Burns 2011; Peacock et al. 2020).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples[46] 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 heroin as the drug last injected nationally decreased over the last decade, from 34 per cent in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2019. This continues a decreasing trend observed since 2000, where 56 per cent of respondents reported heroin as the drug last injected. The proportion reported in 2019 is a slight increase from the 26 per cent reported in 2018 (Heard et al. 2020).

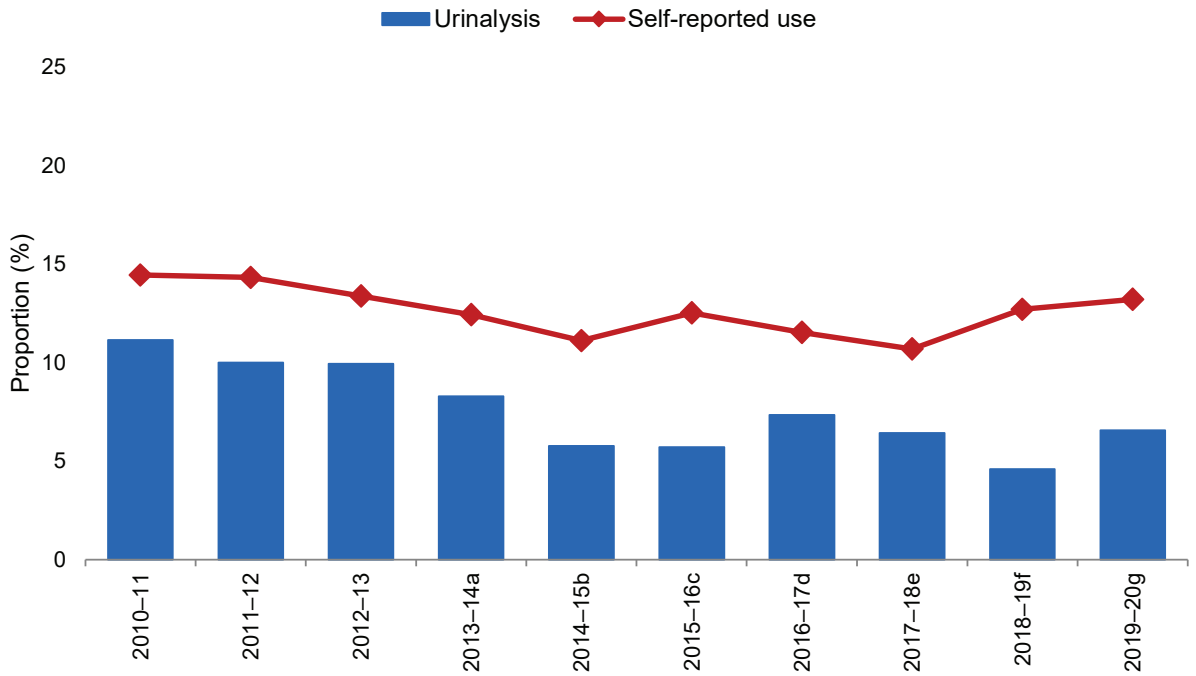
The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, comprising an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which is tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.[47] According to DUMA data:

- 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[48] to heroin over the last decade ranged from 5 per cent in 2018–19 to 11 per cent in 2010–11. In 2019–20 this proportion was 7 per cent.

45 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.
46 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.
47 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
48 Heroin and its metabolite can be detected in urine for 6 hours after administration.

- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent heroin use[49] over the last decade ranged from 11 per cent in 2017–18 to 14 per cent in 2010–11. In 2018–19 and 2019–20 this proportion remained stable at 13 per cent (see Figure 15).

FIGURE 15: National proportion of detainees testing positive for heroin compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

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) remained relatively stable over the last decade, from between $40 and $150 in 2010–11 to between $50 and $150 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $30 to $150. The national median price increased over the last decade, from $50 in 2010–11 to $85 in 2019–20, an increase from $75 in 2018–19.

The price range for one gram of heroin remained relatively stable over the last decade, from between $200 and $700 in 2010–11 to between $200 and $750 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the price ranged from $200 to $700. The national median price increased over the last decade, from $325 in 2010–11 to $462.50 in 2019–20, an increase from $400 in 2018–19.

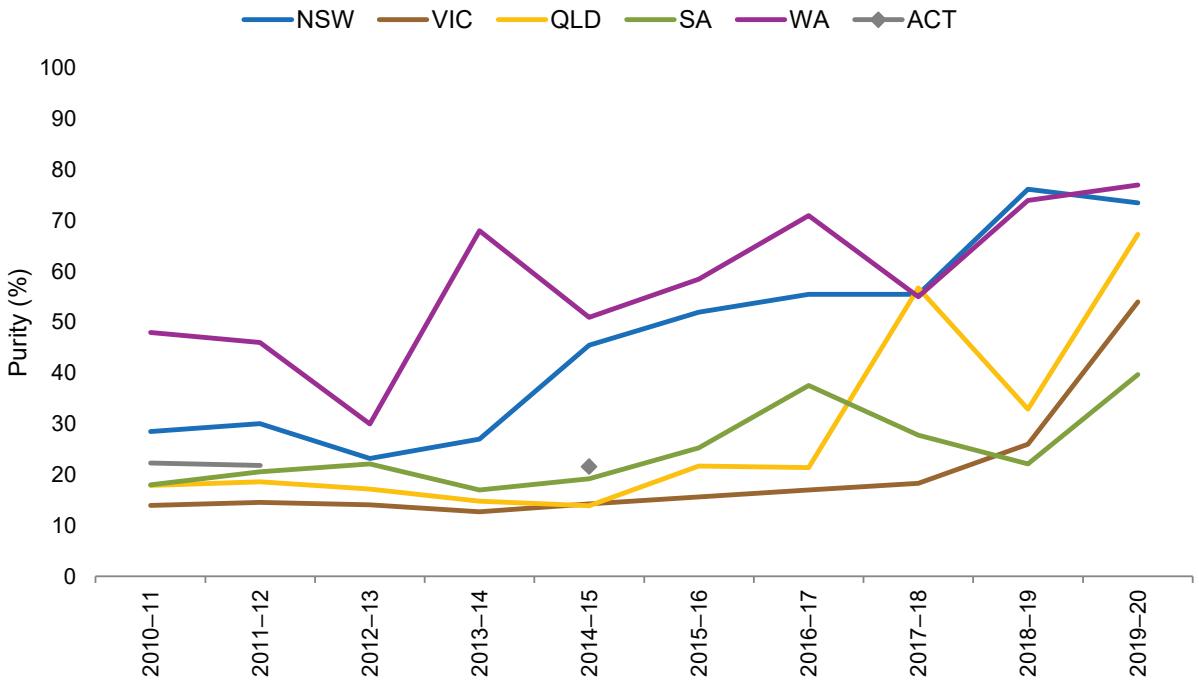
No price data were available for a kilogram of heroin in 2010–11. This reporting period New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were the only jurisdictions to report a price for one kilogram of heroin, which ranged between $90,000 and $220,000, compared with a price range of $90,000 to $170,000 (reported by New South Wales and Victoria) in 2018–19.

49 Recent use in the DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.

PURITY

Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed heroin samples ranged between 13 per cent and 77 per cent. While fluctuating, the annual median purity of heroin increased over the last decade. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 40 per cent in South Australia to 77 per cent in Western Australia. This reporting period, with the exception of New South Wales which decreased, all states reported an increase in the annual median purity of heroin. The annual median purity of heroin in Victoria, which is Australia's primary heroin market, more than doubled from 2018–19 to 2019–20 (see Figure 16).

FIGURE 16: Annual median purity of heroin samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



AVAILABILITY

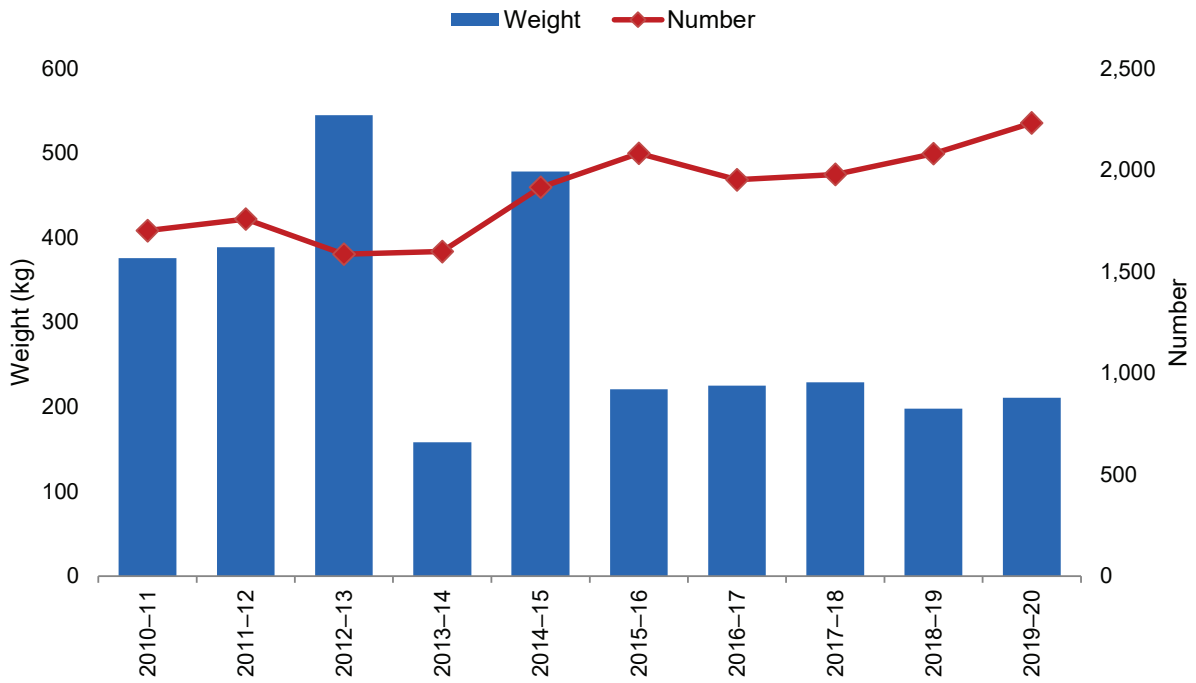
User surveys indicate a decrease in the reported availability of heroin in 2020 compared to 2019. In a 2020 survey of people who regularly inject drugs, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain decreased, from 89 per cent in 2019 to 77 per cent in 2020, the lowest proportion recorded in the last decade. This is a decrease from the 86 per cent reported in 2011 (Peacock et al. 2021).

SEIZURES

The number of national heroin seizures increased 31 per cent over the last decade, from 1,700 in 2010–11 to a record 2,230 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures displaying an increasing trend over the decade. The number of national heroin seizures remained high and relatively stable over the last four reporting periods, increasing 7 per cent this reporting period from 2,080 in 2018–19.

The weight of heroin seized nationally decreased 44 per cent over the last decade, from 375.7 kilograms in 2010–11 to 210.7 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the weight of heroin seized displays a decreasing trend over the last decade. The weight seized nationally remained relatively stable over the last five reporting periods, increasing 7 per cent this reporting period from 197.7 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 17).

FIGURE 17: National heroin seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



The Northern Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number and weight of heroin seized in 2019–20, although starting from a low base. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (58 per cent) and weight (61 per cent) of heroin seized nationally (see Table 9).

TABLE 9: Number, weight and percentage change of national heroin seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

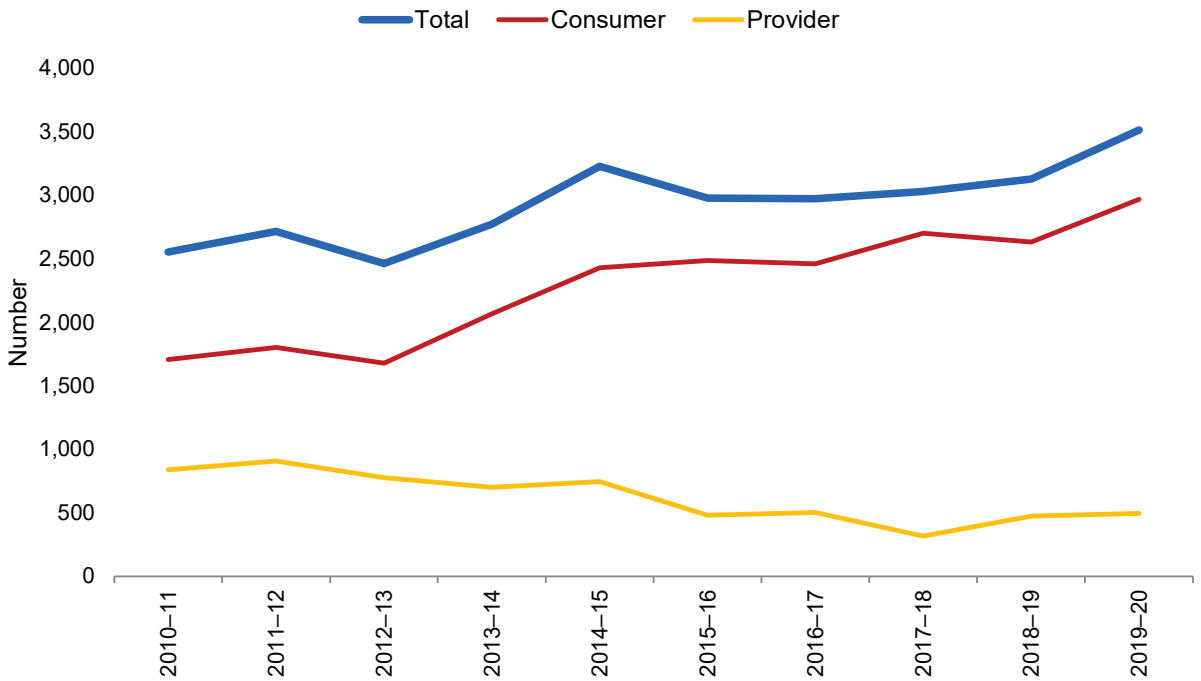
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	1,170	1,298	10.9	86,633	127,646	47.3
Victoria	310	308	-0.6	56,915	62,411	9.7
Queensland	198	195	-1.5	25,026	2,105	-91.6
South Australia	20	27	35.0	15,408	595	-96.1
Western Australia	334	332	-0.6	13,656[b]	17,756	30.0
Tasmania	13	17	30.8	99	52	-47.5
Northern Territory	2	6	200.0	7	35	400.0
Australian Capital Territory	33	47	42.4	53	125	135.8
Total	**2,080**	**2,230**	**7.2**	**197,797**	**210,725**	**6.5**

a. Includes seizures by state/territory police and Australian Federal Police for which a valid seizure weight was recorded.
b. The majority of the weight of heroin seized in Western Australia in 2018–19 relates to a single seizure.

ARRESTS

The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased 38 per cent over the last decade, from 2,551 in 2010–11 to 3,514 in 2019–20, with the number of arrests showing an increasing trend during the period. The number of arrests increased by more than 5 per cent for the first time after four reporting periods of relative stability, increasing 12 per cent this reporting period from 3,129 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 84 per cent of national heroin and other opioid arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 18).

FIGURE 18: Number of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



The Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of heroin and other opioid arrests in 2019–20. This reporting period Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national heroin and other opioid arrests (42 per cent; see Table 10).

TABLE 10: Number and percentage change of national heroin and other opioid arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	907	1,257	38.6
Victoria	1,469	1,464	-0.3
Queensland	330	355	7.6
South Australia	86	94	9.3
Western Australia	285	284	-0.4
Tasmania	33	33	0.0
Northern Territory	3	1	-66.7
Australian Capital Territory	16	26	62.5
Total	**3,129**	**3,514**	**12.3**

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

In 2019, the global cultivation of opium decreased while the global production of opiates remained relatively stable. Afghanistan remains the main illicit opium producing country. The estimated weight of global heroin seizures decreased in 2018, with Iran accounting for the greatest proportion of the weight seized. According to WCO agencies, in 2019 the number of heroin seizures decreased while the weight of heroin seized increased.

Indicators of supply and demand suggest that the Australian heroin market remains small but point to a potential expansion of the market.

Indicators of heroin demand include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis.

- According to the NDSHS, both the reported recent use and use in lifetime of heroin remained relatively stable in 2019.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting heroin as the drug last injected increased slightly in 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs, the reported recent use and median number of days of heroin use increased in 2020, while the reported availability of heroin decreased.
- According to a national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the reported recent use of heroin decreased in 2020.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin increased and self-reported heroin use remained relatively stable in 2019–20.
- The NWDMP indicates that heroin consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites. When comparing data for August 2019 and August 2020, the population-weighted average consumption of heroin increased to a record level in capital city sites and decreased in regional sites.

Indicators of heroin supply include border detection, forensic profiling, seizure, arrest, price and purity data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Both the number and weight of heroin detected at the Australian border decreased.
- Forensic profiling indicates that South-East Asia remains the predominant source of analysed heroin in Australia. For the first time since 2013, heroin originating from South America was identified in 2019.
- The number and weight of heroin seized nationally increased, with the number of seizures increasing to a record level.
- The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests increased to the highest number reported in the last decade.
- The national median price for a street deal and one gram of heroin increased.
- The annual median purity of analysed heroin samples increased in all states except New South Wales.

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COCAINE

KEY POINTS

- Cocaine remains among the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide, with the weight of cocaine seized globally reaching a record level in 2018.
- While the total area under coca bush cultivation remained relatively stable in 2018, the estimated weight of cocaine produced globally increased to a record level.
- Colombia produces the majority of the world's cocaine, with drug profiling indicating that the majority of both border and domestic cocaine seizures in Australia originated in Colombia.
- Indicators of supply and demand point to a continued expansion of the cocaine market in Australia.
  - The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border remained relatively stable in 2019–20, while the weight detected decreased.
  - The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased in 2019–20, while the number of seizures increased and is the highest on record.
  - There was a record number of national cocaine arrests in 2019–20.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine increased in both capital city and regional sites from August 2019 to August 2020.

National cocaine market decade trend: comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

Border detections		National seizures		National arrests
Number	Weight	Number	Weight	
↑ 447%	↑ 9%	↑ 372%	↑ 138%	↑ 543%
486 → 2,660	701kg → 763kg	1,217 → 5,750	662kg → 1,573kg	839 → 5,393

Price[a] ($)	Annual median purity range	DUMA[b] urinalysis	NDSHS[c]	
			Use in lifetime	Recent use
↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
$50.00 → $80.00	9.5% to 30.2%→ 40.5% to 67.0%	1% → 2%	7% → 11%	2% → 4%

a. 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 Tasmania only in 2019–20.
b. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program. Data reflects the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine.
c. National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Data is for 2010 and 2019 and reflects the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine.

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 two most common forms of cocaine are hydrochloride salt (powdered) and cocaine base.
  - Powdered hydrochloride is the most common form of cocaine available 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

An estimated 19 million people globally reported cocaine use in the previous 12 months in 2018. The total area under coca bush cultivation globally remained relatively stable in 2018, while the weight of cocaine produced increased. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the total global area under coca bush cultivation decreased from 245,400 hectares in 2017 to 244,200 hectares in 2018. However, there was a 5 per cent increase in the estimated weight of potential cocaine production worldwide, which reached a record 1,723.0 tonnes (at 100 per cent purity) in 2018 (UNODC 2020a).

The three primary cocaine producing countries in 2018 were Colombia (which accounted for 70 per cent of global coca bush cultivation), Peru (20 per cent) and Bolivia (10 per cent). While there was a decrease in the area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia between 2017 and 2019, the estimated quantity of cocaine produced increased during the same period. The area under coca bush cultivation decreased by 1 per cent to 169,000 hectares in 2018, and by 9 per cent to 154,000 hectares in 2019. The estimated quantity of cocaine produced increased by 6 per cent between 2017 and 2018 (reaching 1,120.0 tonnes in 2018), and by 2 per cent in 2019 (reaching 1,137 tonnes). In Bolivia, the area under coca bush cultivation and cocaine production fluctuated between 2017 and 2019. The area under coca bush cultivation decreased by 6 per cent to 23,100 hectares in 2018, and increased by 10 per cent to 25,500 hectares in 2019. The estimated quantity of cocaine produced decreased by 6 per cent between 2017 and 2018 and increased by 11 per cent in 2019. Information relating to the area under cultivation and cocaine production in Peru in 2018 was unavailable at the time of publication (UNODC 2020a; UNODC 2020b; UNDOC 2020c).

Based on UNODC data, cocaine continues to be the second most seized drug worldwide by weight. According to the 2019 World Drug Report, the weight of cocaine seized globally continued to increase in 2018 to a record 1,311 tonnes. Between 2008 and 2018 the weight of cocaine seized globally increased by 71 per cent. While the weight seized continued to increase, the rate of increase was smaller compared to previous reporting periods, suggesting the market may be stabilising. In 2018, global cocaine seizures remained concentrated in the Americas and Europe. The Americas accounted for the majority (85 per cent) of the weight of cocaine seized globally in 2018, of which Colombia accounted for 35 per cent. The weight of cocaine seized in Colombia decreased 7 per cent, from 489.0 tonnes in 2017 to 457.0 tonnes in 2018 (UNODC 2020a).

The number of global cocaine border seizures reported by World Customs Organization (WCO) agencies decreased 18 per cent, from 7,280 in 2018 to 6,005 in 2019. While the number of powdered cocaine seizures decreased 21 per cent, from 6,926 in 2018 to 5,464 in 2019, it continued to account for the greatest proportion of the number of global cocaine border seizures in 2019 (91 per cent). This was followed by cocaine base (4 per cent), coca products (3 per cent) and coca leaves (2 per cent). The weight of cocaine seized globally increased 53 per cent, from 189,549.9 kilograms in 2018 to 289,331.3 kilograms in 2019. Powdered cocaine accounted for 96 per cent of the weight seized in 2019, followed by cocaine base (4 per cent). The average size of a powdered cocaine border seizure nearly doubled, increasing from 26.5 kilograms in 2018 to 50.7 kilograms in 2019 (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

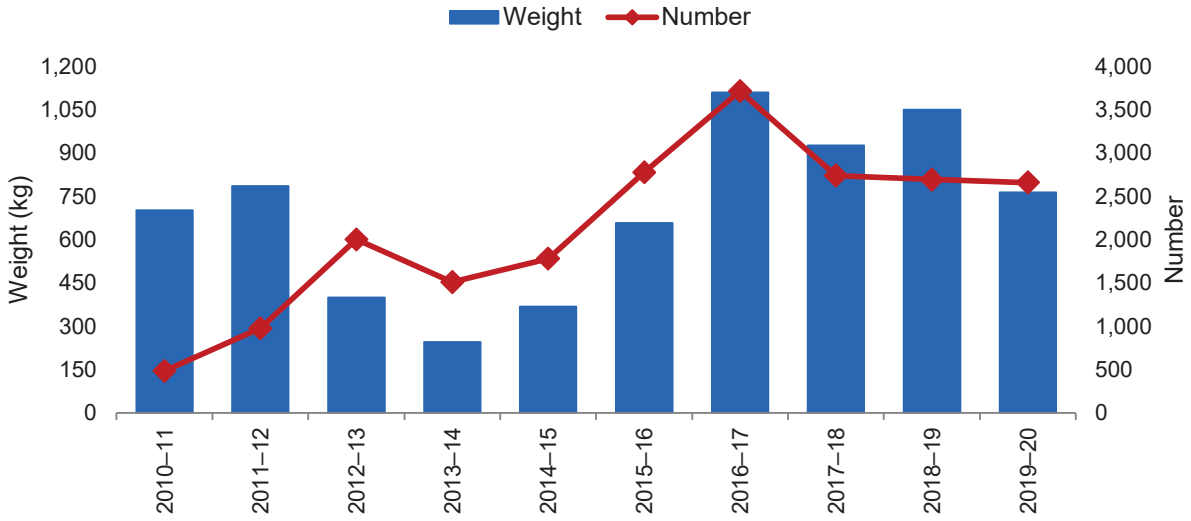
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased 447 per cent over the last decade, from 486 in 2010–11 to 2,660 in 2019–20. Despite some fluctuations, the number of cocaine detected displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The number of cocaine detections decreased 1 per cent this reporting period, from 2,695 in 2018–19.

While fluctuating, the weight of cocaine detected increased 9 per cent over the last decade, from 701.8 kilograms in 2010–11 to 763.6 kilograms in 2019–20. Despite the fluctuations, the weight of cocaine detected also displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The weight of cocaine detected decreased 27 per cent this reporting period, from 1,049.7 kilograms in 2018–19.

In 2019–20, 62 of the 2,660 cocaine detections (2 per cent) weighted 1 kilogram or more. With a combined weight of 683.6 kilograms, these 62 detections account for 90 per cent of the weight of cocaine detected in 2019–20 (Figure 19).[50]

FIGURE 19: Number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, 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 accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (96 per cent), followed by air cargo (3 per cent), air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent). By weight, the sea cargo and air cargo streams accounted for the greatest proportion of cocaine detections (40 per cent each), followed by international mail (18 per cent) and air passenger/crew (2 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 42 countries were identified as embarkation points for cocaine detected at the Australian border, compared to 49 countries in 2018–19. By weight, Mexico was the primary embarkation point for cocaine detected in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include the United States, Germany, Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Canada.

50 See Appendix 1 for significant border detections of cocaine in 2019–20

DRUG PROFILING

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Forensic Drug Intelligence (FDI) team operates a forensic drug profiling capability through the National Measurement Institute (NMI), which is used to identify regions of origin and manufacturing trends for samples of cocaine submitted from seizures made at the Australian border[51]. 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.

The following data relate to seizures investigated by the AFP between 2011 and June 2020, from which samples were submitted to the NMI for routine analysis and profiling.[52]

- Figures continue to highlight the dominance of Colombian cocaine in the Australian market.
- The trend of cocaine seizures of mixed origin has continued.
- The AFP has not examined any seizures of Bolivian origin since 2015.[53]
- It should be noted that single seizures involving a mixture of Colombian, Peruvian, Bolivian and unknown samples are listed under the "Mixed" category in Table 11. However, when classifying by weight, the bulk weight of these seizures is separated and attributed to the relevant country of origin. As such, the "Mixed" category in Table 12 only includes the weight of samples that could not be attributed to a specific country of origin.

TABLE 11: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of analysed AFP border seizures, 2011–June 2020[54] (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020	74.1	7.4	–	11.1	7.4
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
2011	55.9	35.3	–	5.9	2.9

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

52 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.

53 A number of seizures (4 in 2019) returned chemical profiling results with a geographical origin of Peru or Bolivia. In these instances the seizures were attributed to the unclassified category.

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

TABLE 12: Geographical origin of coca leaf used to produce cocaine as a proportion of total bulk weight of analysed AFP border seizures, 2011–June 2020[55] (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)

Year	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed %	Unclassified %
Jan–Jun 2020[a]	92.0	5.7	–	–	2.4
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
2011	51.3	44.2	–	4.4	0.1

a. Due to a change in the sampling methodology for large illicit drug seizures made by the AFP, seizure weights cannot be accurately attributed for seizures with variations in profiling. The weight has been assigned to the most prevalent chemical profiling determination.

The Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (ENIPID) project extends this profiling to include state and territory seizures involving heroin, methylamphetamine and cocaine. This enables detection of convergences between supply routes into different jurisdictions, links between different criminal groups, as well as comparison of trends between jurisdictions.[56]

- ENIPID profiling data for the first six months of 2020 shows an increase in mixed/unclassified cocaine cases in South Australia and the Northern Territory, where there were approximately double the amount of mixed/unclassified cocaine cases to Colombian cocaine cases.
- Colombia remains the dominant source of cocaine in Australia.
- 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

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.

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to NDSHS data:

55 This data may also include seizures destined for Australia which occurred offshore.
56 The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 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.

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having used cocaine at least once in their lifetime increased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 11 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 9 per cent.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[57] used cocaine increased over the last decade, from 2 per cent in 2010 to 4 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 3 per cent (AIHW 2020).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four 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 13 illicit and licit drugs. Since the Program began measuring cocaine in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption increased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- Cocaine consumption was higher per capita in capital city sites than regional sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of cocaine in both capital city and regional sites increased.
- The ACIC estimates that around 5.6 tonnes of cocaine was consumed annually in Australia, an increase from the estimated 4.6 tonnes of cocaine consumed in the previous year (ACIC 2021).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel 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:

- The proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as their drug of choice remained relatively stable over the last decade, decreasing from 2 per cent in 2011 to 1 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 2 per cent.
- Over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting the recent use[58] of cocaine remained relatively stable, decreasing from 18 per cent in 2010 to 17 per cent in 2020. In 2019 the proportion was 13 per cent.
- Over the last decade the reported median number of days of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview decreased, from 5 days in 2011 to 3 days in 2020. The median number of days remain unchanged from 2019 (Peacock et al. 2021).

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 cocaine as their drug of choice decreased over the last decade, from 14 per cent in 2011 to 12 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 11 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of cocaine increased over the last decade, from 46 per cent in 2011 to 68 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 67 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview increased over the last decade, from 2 days in 2011 to 4 days in 2020. The median number of days remained unchanged from 2019 (Peacock et al 2020).

57 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.
58 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.

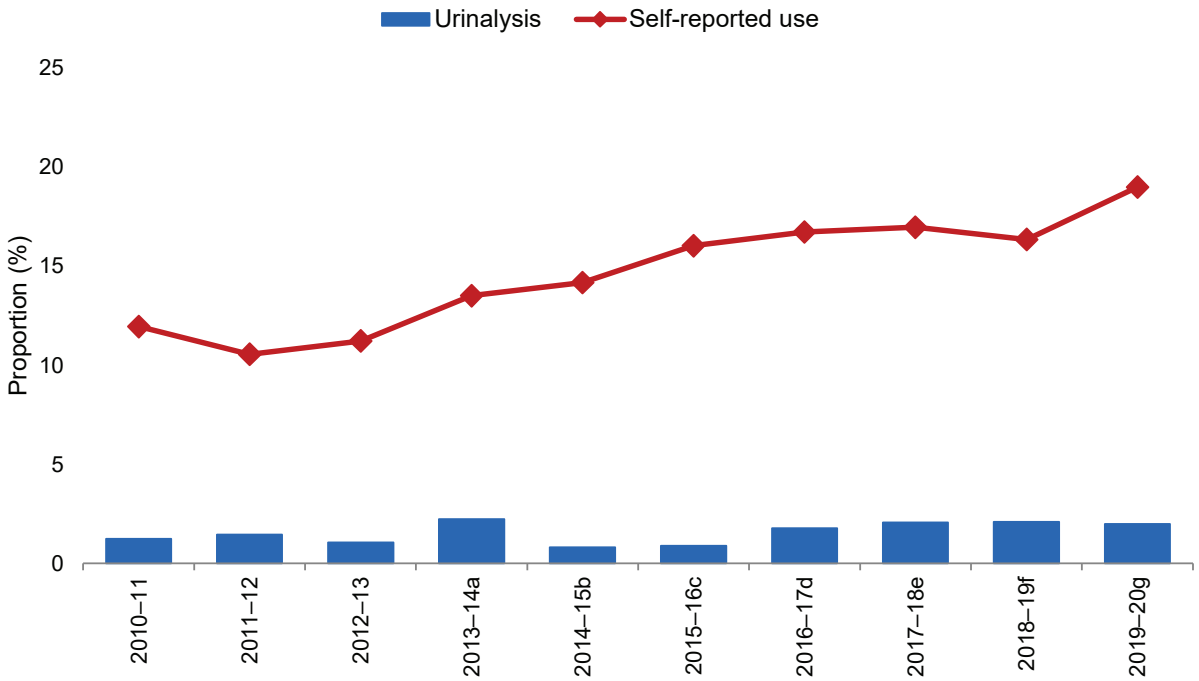
The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples[59] annually to monitor blood borne viral infections and associated risk behaviour among individuals who inject drugs. According to ANSPS data:

- In both 2010 and 2019, 1 per cent of respondents reported cocaine as the drug last injected (Heard et al. 2020).

The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program collects criminal justice and drug use information on a quarterly basis from police detainees, comprising an interviewer-assisted self-report survey and the voluntary provision of a urine sample, which is tested to detect licit and illicit drug use.[60] According to DUMA data:

- Over the last decade the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained relatively stable, while the proportion self-reporting cocaine use increased.
- The proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine over the last decade ranged from a low of 1 per cent in 2014–15, to a high of 2 per cent in 2018–19 and 2019–20.
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting recent cocaine use[61] increased over the last decade, from 12 per cent in 2010–11 to a record 19 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19, this proportion was 16 per cent (see Figure 20).

FIGURE 20: National proportion of detainees testing positive for cocaine compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

59 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.
60 Detainees can participate in the survey without providing a urine sample. Cases with missing data are excluded from the relevant analysis.
61 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 for 1 cap (0.2 grams) of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between $50 and $70 in 2010–11 to between $50 and $200 in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the reported price ranged from $40 to $200. The median price for 1 cap of cocaine increased over the last decade, from a national median of $50 in 2010–11 to $80 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania). The median price was $50 in 2018–19 (reported in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania).

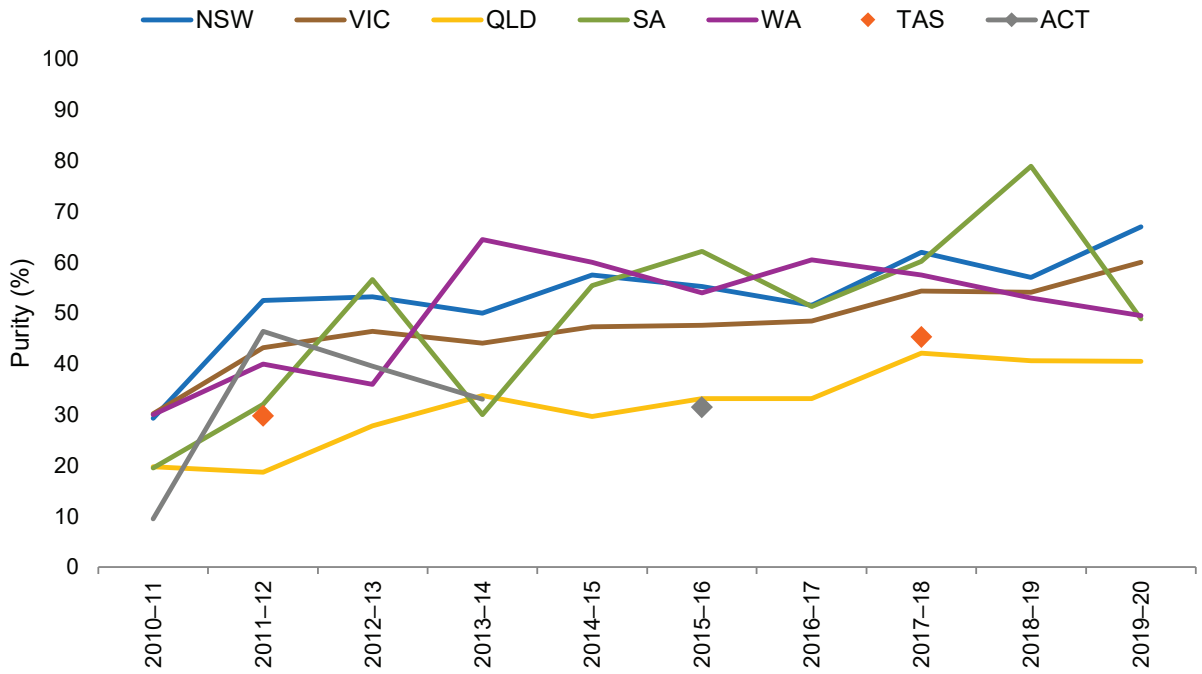
Nationally, the price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between $250 and $500 in 2010–11 to between $300 and $600 in 2019–20 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). The reported price range was between $200 and $800 in 2018–19. The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased over the last decade, from $350 in 2010–11 to $412.50 in 2019–20. The national median price in 2018–19 was $350.

Nationally, the price for 1 kilogram of cocaine increased over the last decade, ranging between $190,000 and $250,000 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales and Victoria) to between $150,000 and $330,000 in 2019–20 (noting there is a large overlap in price ranges). In 2018–19, the reported price ranged from $90,000 to $300,000.

PURITY

Since 2010–11, the annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples ranged between 10 per cent and 79 per cent. Annual median cocaine purity fluctuated over the last decade, but overall all states reported an increase. In 2019–20, the annual median purity ranged from 41 per cent in Queensland to 67 per cent in New South Wales. In 2019–20, New South Wales and Victoria reported increases in the annual median purity of cocaine, while South Australia and Western Australia reported decreases and Queensland remained relatively stable (see Figure 21).

FIGURE 21: Annual median purity of cocaine samples, 2010–11 to 2019–20



AVAILABILITY

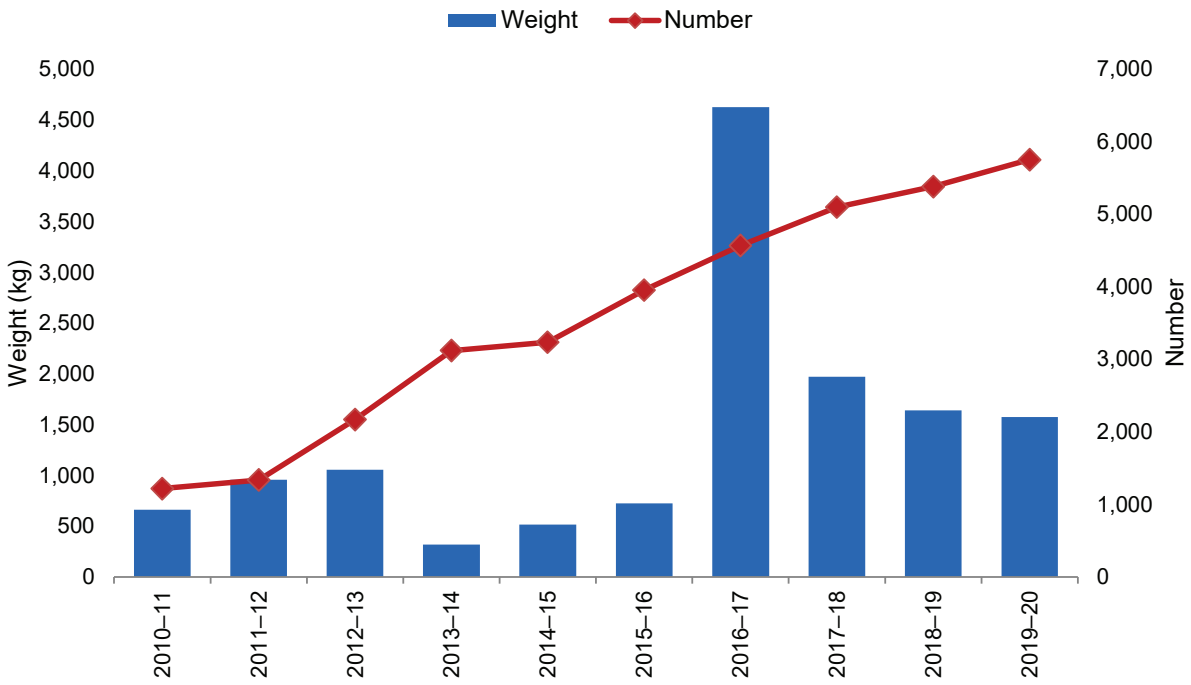
In a 2020 national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain remained relatively stable, decreasing from 69 per cent in 2019 to 68 per cent in 2020. This is an increase from the 42 per cent reported in 2011 (Peacock et al. 2020).

SEIZURES

The number of national cocaine seizures increased 372 per cent over the last decade, from 1,217 in 2010–11 to a record 5,750 in 2019–20, with the number of seizures displaying an increasing trend over the decade. The number of cocaine seizures increased 7 per cent this reporting period from 5,378 in 2018–19 (the second highest number on record).

The weight of cocaine seized nationally increased over the last decade, increasing 138 per cent from 662.0 kilograms in 2010–11 to 1,573.8 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight seized nationally continued to decrease for the third consecutive reporting period following the record high (4,623.3 kilograms) reported in 2016–17. Despite some fluctuations, the overall weight of cocaine seized also displays an increasing trend over the last decade. The weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased 4 per cent this reporting period from 1,638.5 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 22).

FIGURE 22: National cocaine seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine seizures in 2019–20, while Western Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of cocaine seized. New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of national cocaine seizures, accounting for 65 per cent of the number and 68 per cent of the weight of cocaine seized nationally in 2019–20 (see Table 13).

TABLE 13: Number, weight and percentage change of national cocaine seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

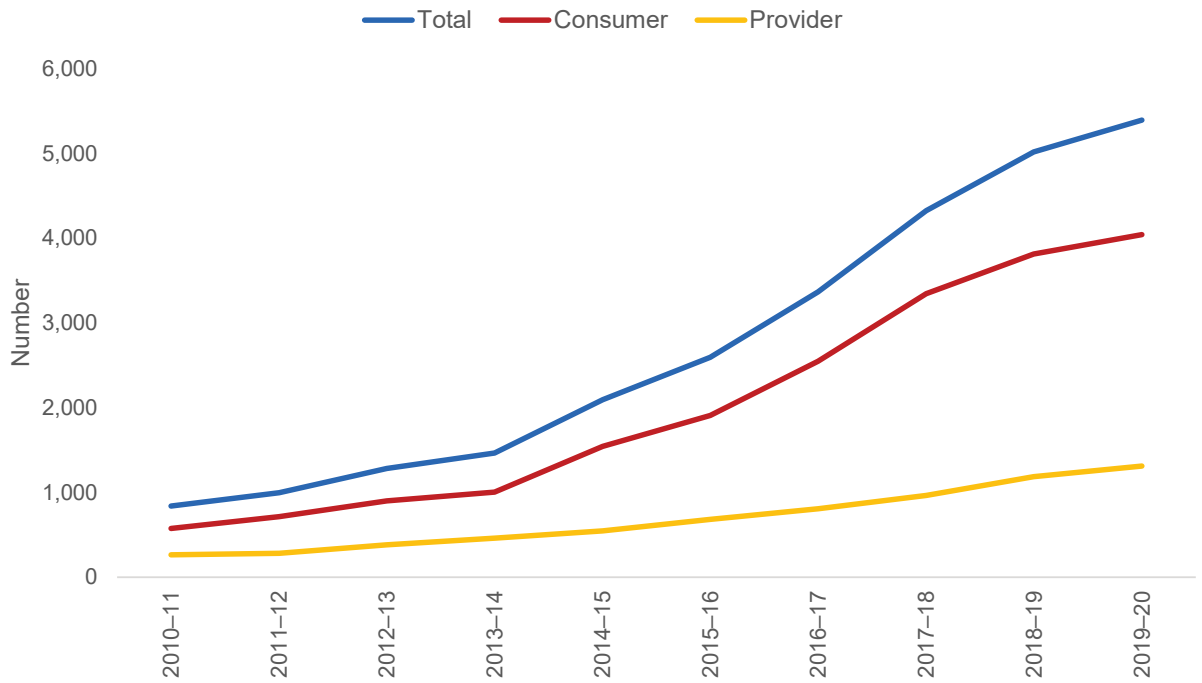
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	3,621	3,725	2.9	898,696	1,068,733	18.9
Victoria	378	394	4.2	63,929	69,240	8.3
Queensland	761	877	15.2	644,275	33,742	-94.8
South Australia	20	38	90.0	450	2,158	379.6
Western Australia	415	541	30.4	24,958	397,460	1,492.5
Tasmania	29	30	3.4	332	97	-70.8
Northern Territory	27	27	0.0	134	262	95.5
Australian Capital Territory	127	118	-7.1	5,798	2,161	-62.7
Total	**5,378**	**5,750**	**6.9**	**1,638,572**	**1,573,853**	**-3.9**

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 543 per cent over the last decade, from 839 in 2010–11 to a record 5,393 in 2019–20, with the number of arrests showing an increasing trend during the period. The number of national cocaine arrests increased 8 per cent this reporting period from 5,016 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 75 per cent of national cocaine arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 23).

FIGURE 23: Number of national cocaine arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Queensland reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of cocaine arrests in 2019–20. New South Wales continues to account for the greatest proportion of national cocaine arrests, accounting for 48 per cent this reporting period (see Table 14).

TABLE 14: Number and percentage change of national cocaine arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	2,564	2,590	1.0
Victoria	998	1,124	12.6
Queensland	907	1,088	20.0
South Australia	163	166	1.8
Western Australia	284	326	14.8
Tasmania	11	13	18.2
Northern Territory	20	5	-75.0
Australian Capital Territory	69	81	17.4
Total	**5,016**	**5,393**	**7.5**

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

Cocaine remains among the most consumed and seized drugs worldwide. While the total area under coca bush cultivation remained relatively stable in 2018, cocaine production increased. Colombia continues to account for the greatest proportion of global coca bush cultivation. In 2018, the weight of cocaine seized globally reached record levels, with the majority of cocaine seized in the Americas and Europe. WCO agencies reported a decrease in the number of global cocaine seizures in 2019, but an increase in the cocaine weight seized.

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

Indicators of demand for cocaine include surveys of people who use drugs, police detainees and wastewater analysis.

- According to the NDSHS, the reported recent use of cocaine and use in lifetime increased in 2019.
- According to the ANSPS, the proportion of respondents reporting cocaine as the drug last injected remained stable in 2019.
- According to a national study of people who regularly inject drugs and of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants, the reported recent use of cocaine increased while the median days of cocaine use remained stable in 2020.
- According to a national study of police detainees, the proportion of detainees testing positive to cocaine remained relatively stable in 2019–20, while self-reported cocaine use increased to a record level.

- The NWDMP indicates that average cocaine consumption in capital city sites exceeds regional consumption. When comparing data for August 2019 to August 2020, the population-weighted average consumption of cocaine increased in both capital city and regional sites.

Indicators of cocaine supply include border detection, forensic profiling, seizure, arrest, price and purity data. Compared to 2018–19, in 2019–20:

- Both the number and weight of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased.
- Forensic profiling indicates that Colombia remains the predominant source of analysed cocaine in Australia.
- There was a record number of national cocaine seizures, while the weight of cocaine seized nationally decreased.
- There was a record number of national cocaine arrests.
- The national median price for 1 gram of cocaine increased.
- The annual median purity of analysed cocaine samples fluctuated.

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OTHER DRUGS

KEY POINTS

- Compared to other illicit drug markets in Australia, substances within the 'other drugs' category can be described as niche markets. However, these markets 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 2019–20, the anabolic steroids and other selected hormones market remained small and relatively stable. The markets for anaesthetics, illicit pharmaceuticals and new psychoactive substances (NPS) show a mixed picture, while the tryptamines market shows signs of potential expansion.
- Indicators of demand and supply for 'other drugs' in Australia in 2019–20 provide a mixed picture:
  - There was a record number of opioid and tryptamine detections at the Australian border. Both the number and weight of national hallucinogen and other opioid seizures increased and there was a record number of national hallucinogen arrests.
  - According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program, the population-weighted average regional consumption of fentanyl decreased to a record low level in August 2020.
  - The number of performance and image enhancing drugs detected at the Australian border increased. The number of national steroid seizures decreased, while the weight of steroids seized nationally increased.
  - There was a record number of GHB/GBL laboratories detected nationally.
  - The number of NPS detections at the Australian border increased, with the number of anaesthetics and pharmaceuticals detections decreasing.
  - Forensic profiling indicates both amphetamine-type substances and cathinone-type substances accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of analysed border NPS seizures, with amphetamine-type substances continuing to account for the greatest proportion of the weight seized.

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)[62]
- 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 four 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 2020a).

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 (DEA 2020; Larance et al. 2005).

Although AAS remain the most prevalent substance in the PIEDs category, a number of other substances exist which 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 2020b; Larance et al. 2005).

62 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 XIII was conducted in March 2020 and involved 91 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 outbreak. Operation Pangea XIII resulted in 121 arrests, USD 14 million in potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals seized, 4.4 million units of illicit pharmaceuticals seized (including anabolic steroids), and 37 organized crime groups dismantled (INTERPOL 2020).

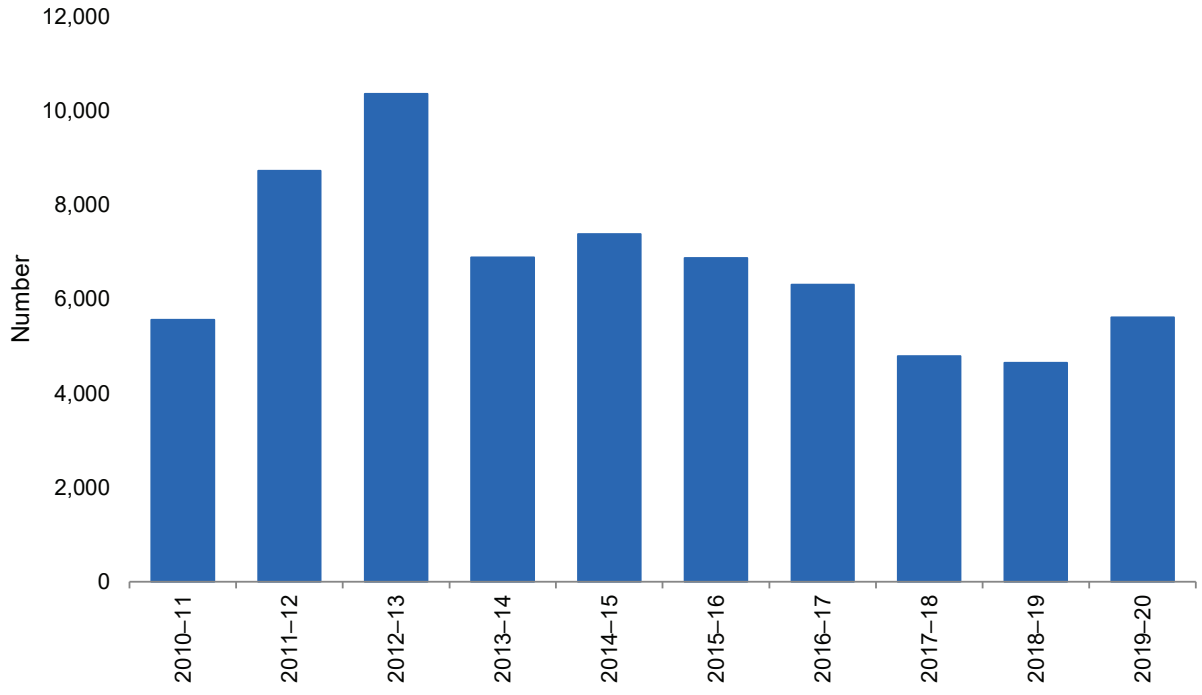
According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the number of 'metabolic agents'[63] seizures increased 82 per cent to 2,630 in 2019—making it the most common medical product seized globally that year. Metabolic agents were most commonly seized in the United States (US) in 2019 (2,148 seizures). The 150,201.5 kilograms of metabolic agents seized globally in 2019 was the second highest weight seized on record and accounted for 28 per cent of the total weight of medical products seized (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of PIEDs detected at the Australian border displays a relatively stable trend over the last decade, increasing 1 per cent from 5,561 in 2010–11 to 5,614 in 2019–20. The number of detections increased 21 per cent this reporting period from 4,643 in 2018–19 (see Figure 24).[64]

FIGURE 24: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



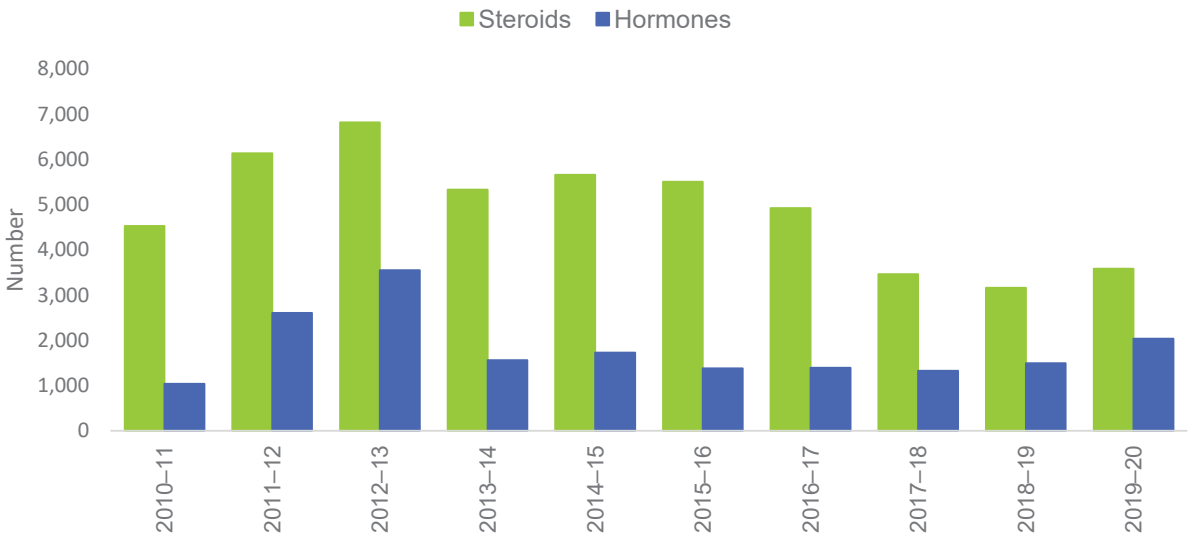
63 Metabolic agents include medical products such as steroids and antidiabetic.

64 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 continue to account for the greatest proportion of the number of PIED detections, the proportion decreased over the last decade, from 81 per cent in 2010–11 to 64 per cent in 2019–20 (see Figure 25).

- The number of steroid detections increased 14 per cent this reporting period, from 3,155 in 2018–19 to 3,584 in 2019–20.
- The number of hormone detections increased 36 per cent this reporting period, from 1,488 in 2018–19 to 2,030 in 2019–20.
- The number of clenbuterol detections decreased 25 per cent this reporting period, from 203 in 2018–19 to 152 in 2019–20.

FIGURE 25: Number of performance and image enhancing drug detections, by category, at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, detections of PIEDs at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. International mail accounted for 80 per cent of the number of PIED detections in 2019–20, followed by air cargo (18 per cent), and air passenger/crew (2 per cent).

In 2019–20, detections of clenbuterol at the Australian border occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. International mail accounted for 89 per cent of the number of clenbuterol detections in 2019–20, followed by air cargo (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew (4 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

In 2019–20, 50 countries were identified as embarkation points for PIEDs detected at the Australian border, compared with 56 countries in 2018–19. By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for PIED detections in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the US, India, the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany, Thailand and the Philippines.

In 2019–20, 26 countries were identified as embarkation points for clenbuterol detected at the Australian border, compared with 22 countries in 2018–19.

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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.

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. Conducted approximately every three years, the related report presents estimates derived from survey responses weighted to the appropriate Australian population. According to 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 over the last decade, from <1 per cent in 2010 to 1 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently[65] used steroids for non-medical purposes remained stable over the last decade at <1 per cent (AIHW 2020).

The below data reflect drug use within sentinel 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 this national study, the reported recent use[66] of non-prescribed steroids has remained consistently low since monitoring commenced in 2010, ranging between 1 per cent and 3 per cent (Peacock et al. 2021).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) collects self-report information and capillary blood samples[67] 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 PIEDs as the drug last injected increased over the last decade, from 2 per cent in 2010 to 4 per cent in 2018 and 2019 (Heard et al. 2020).

PRICE

National law enforcement data on the price of PIEDs is limited. Queensland was the only jurisdiction to provide price data for PIEDs in 2019–20. The price for a single 10 millilitre vial of testosterone enanthate decreased over the last decade, from $230 in 2010–11 (reported in Queensland) to $80 in 2019–20. The price ranged between $100 and $230 in 2018–19 (reported in Victoria and Queensland).

The price for a single 10 millilitre vial of trenbolone acetate in Queensland was $80 in 2019–20, a decrease compared to a price range from $150 to $240 in 2018–19 (reported in Queensland and Western Australia). The price for ten 10 millilitre vials of trenbolone acetate in Queensland in 2019–20 was $650, compared to a price range of between $340 and $1,400 in 2018–19 (reported in Queensland and Western Australia). Data for trenbolone acetate is not available for 2010–11.

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

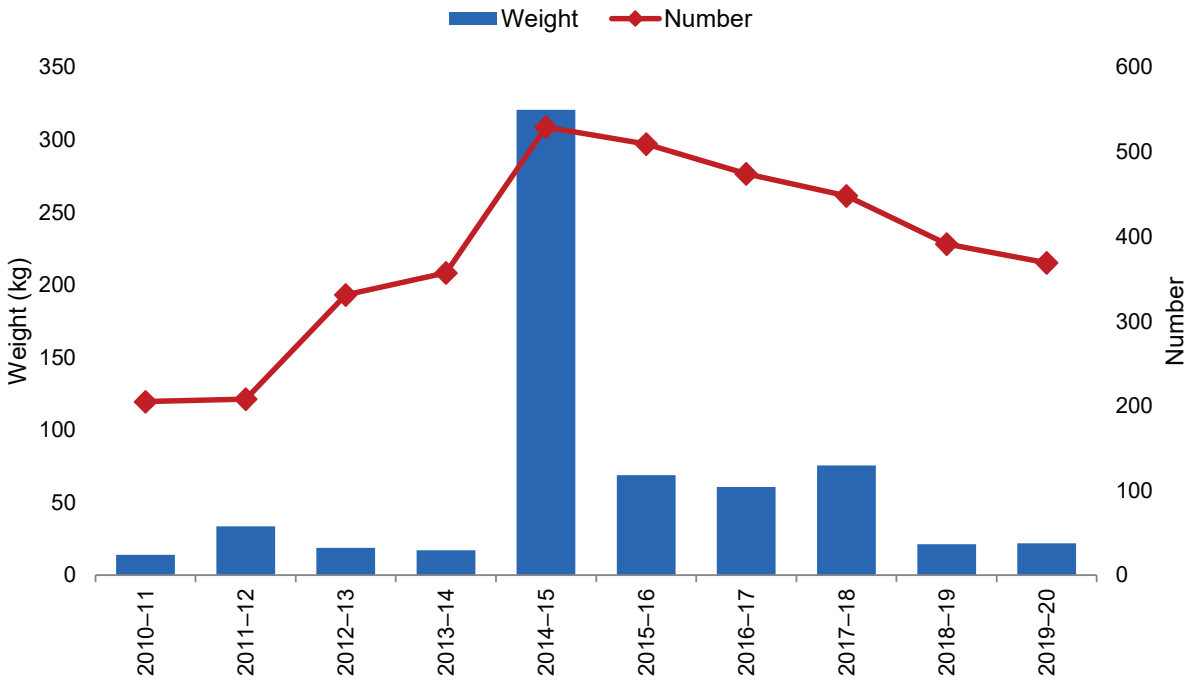
65 In the NDSHS, recent use refers to reported use in the 12 months preceding the survey.
66 In both the IDRS and EDRS studies, recent use refers to reported use in the six months preceding interview.
67 Individuals participating in the survey are invited to provide a blood sample for HIV and HCV antibody testing.

SEIZURES

The number of national steroid seizures increased 80 per cent over the last decade, from 205 in 2010–11 to 369 in 2019–20. 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 6 per cent, from 391 in 2018–19.

The weight of steroids seized nationally increased 58 per cent over the last decade, from 13.9 kilograms in 2010–11 to 21.9 kilograms in 2019–20 (with a record 320.4 kilograms seized in 2014–15). The weight of steroids seized nationally increased 3 per cent this reporting period, from 21.2 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 26).

FIGURE 26: National steroid seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



The Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number and weight of steroid seizures in 2019–20. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of both the number (51 per cent) and weight (64 per cent) of steroids seized nationally (see Table 15).

TABLE 15: Number, weight and percentage change of national steroid seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

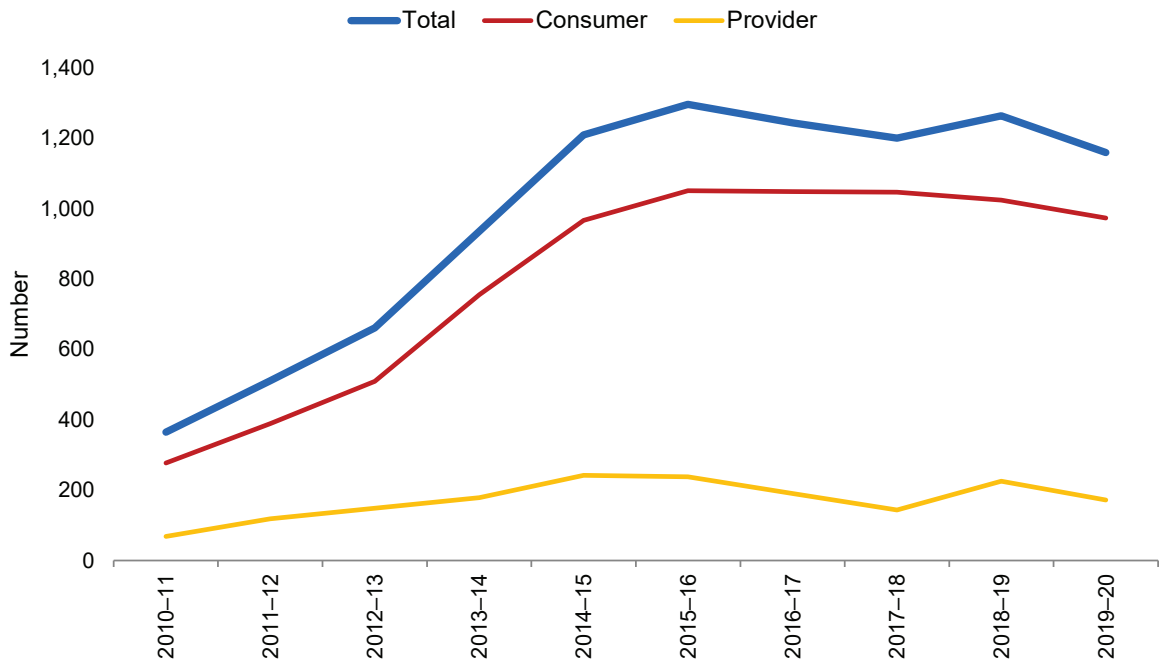
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	227	188	-17.2	9,876	14,024	42.0
Victoria	5	2	-60.0	5,206	101	-98.1
Queensland	68	52	-23.5	3,505	4,899	39.8
South Australia	0	1	–	0	2	–
Western Australia	29	52	79.3	582	1,646	182.8
Tasmania	0	0	–	0	0	–
Northern Territory	32	12	-62.5	1,756	191	-89.1
Australian Capital Territory	30	62	106.7	367	1,114	203.5
Total	**391**	**369**	**-5.6**	**21,292**	**21,977**	**3.2**

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 218 per cent over the last decade, from 365 in 2010–11 to 1,160 in 2019–20. The number of steroid arrests decreased 8 per cent this reporting period, from 1,264 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests continue to account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 84 per cent of national steroid arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 27).

FIGURE 27: Number of national steroid arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of arrests in 2019–20. Queensland continued to account for the greatest proportion of national steroid arrests this reporting period (51 per cent; see Table 16).

TABLE 16: Number and percentage change of national steroid arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	181	187	3.3
Victoria	153	164	7.2
Queensland	641	596	-7.0
South Australia	3	11	266.7
Western Australia	247	184	-25.5
Tasmania	15	7	-53.3
Northern Territory	20	5	-75.0
Australian Capital Territory	4	6	50.0
Total	**1,264**	**1,160**	**-8.2**

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, and are 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 two most common tryptamines used in Australia (ADF 2020c; EMCDDA 2018; 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[68]), 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 2020c; 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 2018; UNODC 2016).

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

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The US accounted for the greatest proportion of global hallucinogenic seizures in 2018, seizing 52 kilograms of LSD, 390.4 kilograms of dimethyltryptamine (DMT), and 493.1 kilograms of non-specified hallucinogens (UNODC 2020c).

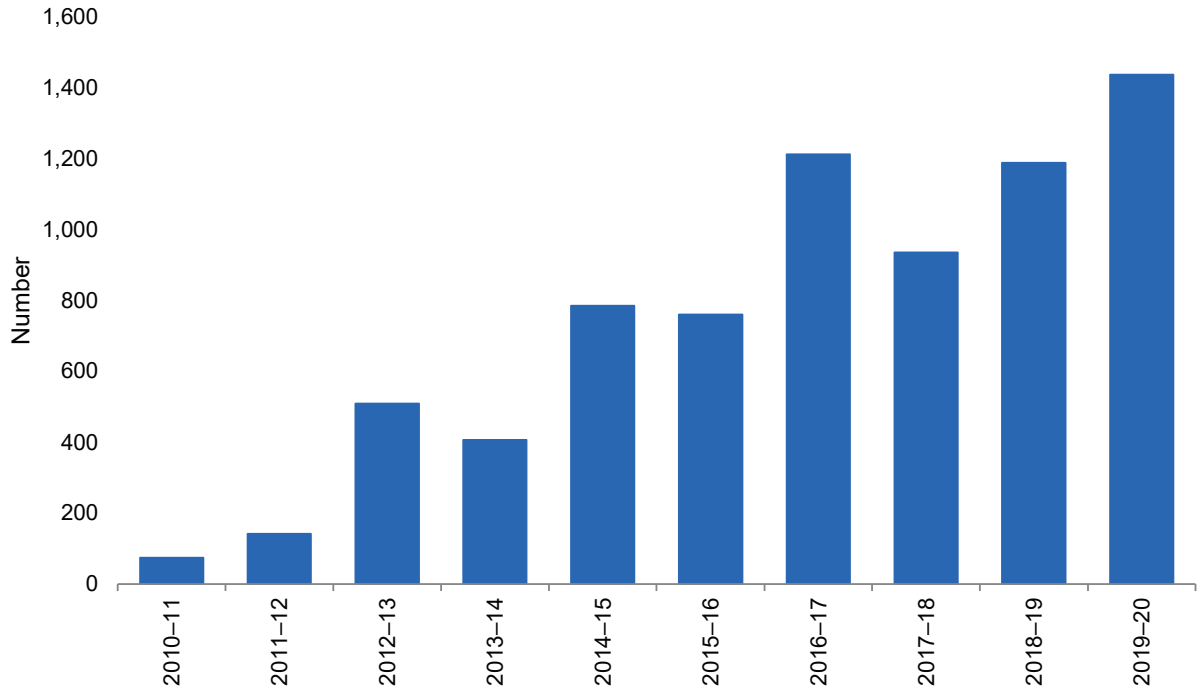
While WCO data for the specific number and weight of LSD seizures were not reported, the WCO noted a 51 per cent decrease in the number of LSD seizures in 2019. The Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)—a multi-agency program implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with INTERPOL and the WCO—aims to destabilise criminal networks by strengthening interception and detection capabilities. The AIRCOP seized 75.0 kilograms of LSD in 2019 (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border displays an increasing trend over the last decade, increasing 1,815 per cent from 75 in 2010–11 to a record 1,436 in 2019–20. The number of detections increased 21 per cent this reporting period from 1,188 in 2018–19 (see Figure 28).

FIGURE 28: Number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2018–19, the majority of tryptamine detections in 2019–20 were LSD.

- LSD accounted for 3 per cent of the number of tryptamine detections in 2010–11, increasing to 69 per cent in 2019–20; while psilocybin accounted for 97 per cent of the number of tryptamine detections in 2010–11, decreasing to 26 per cent in 2019–20. Other tryptamines increased from zero detections in 2010–11 to accounting for 4 per cent of tryptamine detections in 2019–20.
- Of the 1,436 detections in 2019–20, 996 were LSD, a 2 per cent increase from the 974 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of LSD detections increased 49,700 per cent, from 2 in 2010–11.

- Of the 1,436 detections in 2019–20, 380 were psilocybin, a 233 per cent increase from the 114 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of psilocybin detections increased 421 per cent, from 73 detections in 2010–11.
- The remaining 60 detections in 2019–20 were reported as other, a 40 per cent decrease from the 100 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of other tryptamine detections increased from zero in 2010–11.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, detections of tryptamines occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of tryptamine detections (99 per cent), followed by air cargo (<1 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

In 2019–20, detections of LSD occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of LSD detections (99 per cent), followed by air passenger/crew (<1 per cent) and air cargo (<1 per cent).

In 2019–20, detections of psilocybin occurred in the international mail and air cargo streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of psilocybin detections (99 per cent), followed by air cargo (1 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, the Netherlands was the primary embarkation point for tryptamine detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include Switzerland, Taiwan, France, the UK, Canada, the US, Germany, China (including Hong Kong) and Spain.

By number, the Netherlands was the primary embarkation point for psilocybin detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include Switzerland, France, the UK, Canada, the US, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg and Latvia.

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 over the last decade, from 9 per cent in 2010 to 10 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 9 per cent.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used hallucinogens increased over the last decade, from 1 per cent in 2010 to 2 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 1 per cent (AIHW 2020).

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 recent LSD use increased over the last decade, from 46 per cent in 2011 to 49 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 47 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of LSD use in the six 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 remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 29 per cent in 2011 to 30 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 27 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of DMT remained stable at 13 per cent in 2011 and 2020, peaking at 18 per cent in 2017 and 2018. In 2019 this proportion was 16 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of DMT use in the six months preceding interview remained stable at 2 days in 2019 and 2020 (Peacock et al. 2019a; Peacock et al. 2020; Sindicich and Burns 2012).

PRICE

Nationally, the price range per tab of LSD decreased over the last decade, from between $25 and $50 in 2010–11 to between $15 and $35 in 2019–20. The price reported in 2018–19 ranged from $15 to $50. The national median price per tab of LSD decreased this reporting period, from $30 in 2018–19 to $27.50 in 2019–20.

AVAILABILITY

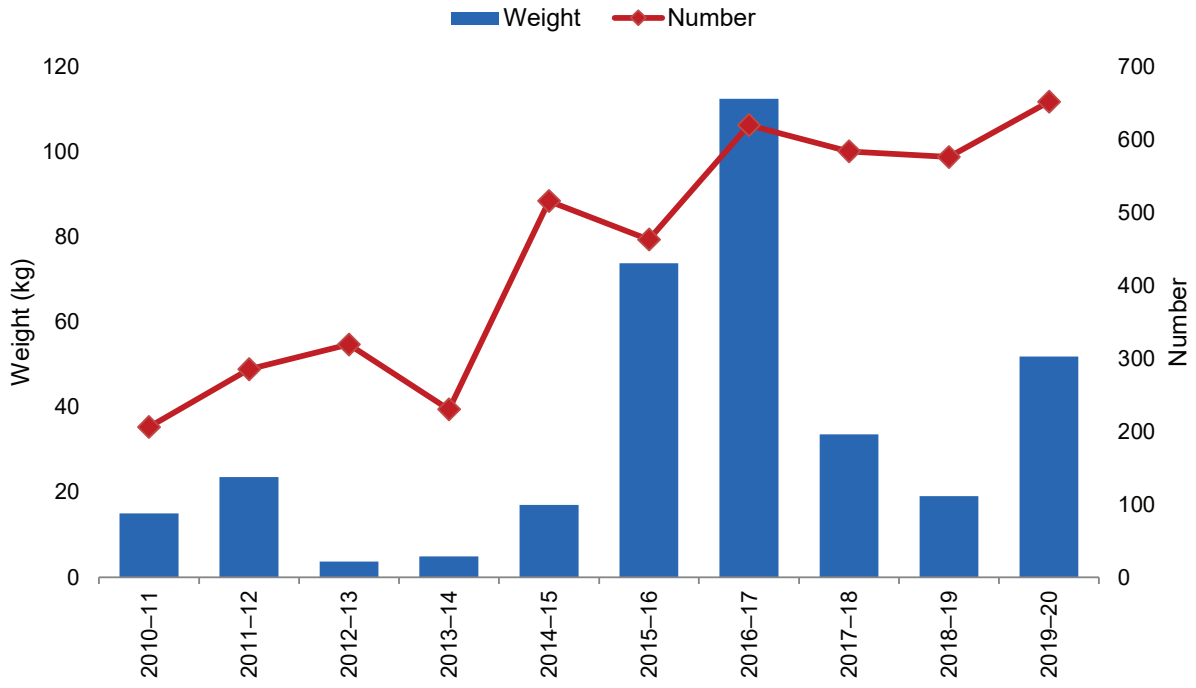
A national study of people who regularly use ecstasy and other stimulants reported that over the last decade the proportion of respondents reporting LSD as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain decreased, from 73 per cent in 2011 to 61 per cent in 2020. This proportion was 57 per cent in 2019 (Peacock et al. 2020).

SEIZURES

The number of national hallucinogen seizures fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 217 per cent from 206 in 2010–11 to a record 652 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of national hallucinogen seizures increased 13 per cent from 576 in 2018–19.

Over the last decade, the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased 245 per cent, from 15.0 kilograms in 2010–11 to 51.8 kilograms in 2019–20. This reporting period the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally increased 171 per cent from 19.1 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 29).

FIGURE 29: National hallucinogen seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Although starting from a small base, South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of hallucinogen seizures in 2019–20, while Tasmania reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of hallucinogens seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national hallucinogen seizures (53 per cent), while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of hallucinogens seized nationally (56 per cent; see Table 17).

TABLE 17: Number, weight and percentage change of national hallucinogen seizures 2018–19 and 2019–20

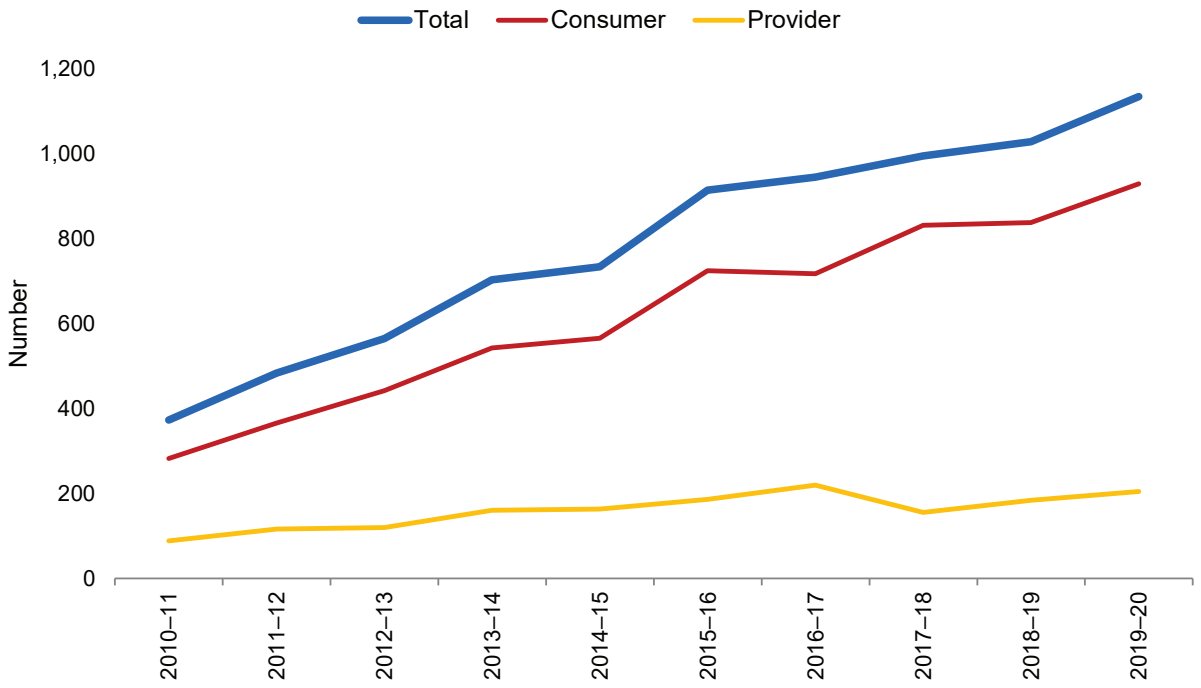
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	364	342	-6.0	5,755	6,919	20.2
Victoria	77	101	31.2	7,959	29,064	265.2
Queensland	34	60	76.5	3,316	6,171	86.1
South Australia	3	6	100.0	23	12	-47.8
Western Australia	60	109	81.7	870	8,625	891.4
Tasmania	8	15	87.5	96	1,085	1,030.2
Northern Territory	8	10	25.0	8	3	-62.5
Australian Capital Territory	22	9	-59.1	1,088	13	-98.8
Total	**576**	**652**	**13.2**	**19,115**	**51,892**	**171.5**

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 204 per cent over the last decade, from 373 in 2010–11 to a record 1,135 in 2019–20. The number of national hallucinogen arrests increased 10 per cent this reporting period, from 1,029 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 82 per cent of national hallucinogen arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 30).

FIGURE 30: Number of national hallucinogen arrests, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of hallucinogens arrests this reporting period. Queensland accounted for the greatest proportion of national hallucinogens arrests in 2019–20 (43 per cent; see Table 18).

TABLE 18: Number and percentage change of national hallucinogen arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	237	189	-20.3
Victoria	158	202	27.8
Queensland	389	483	24.2
South Australia	21	19	-9.5
Western Australia	193	221	14.5
Tasmania	16	8	-50.0
Northern Territory	6	4	-33.3
Australian Capital Territory	9	9	0.0
Total	**1,029**	**1,135**	**10.3**

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, gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and related substances, the most prevalent anaesthetics used illicitly in Australia (ADF 2020d; ADF 2020e; WHO 2014).

KETAMINE

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

- Ketamine is commonly found in three 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 2020d; DrugWise 2017a; UNODC 2017a; 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 2020e; DrugWise 2017b; UNODC 2016; WHO 2014).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The weight of 'ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances' seized globally decreased between 2017 and 2018. Despite this, during the 2014–18 period, ketamine was the second most dominant synthetic NPS seized globally (UNODC 2020a).

In 2018, 5,801.7 kilograms and 33.2 litres of ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances was seized globally. Myanmar accounted for the greatest proportion of this, with 2,360.2 kilograms seized. This is a decrease from 2017, when 10,804.9 kilograms and 870.6 litres was seized, with China accounting for 7,292.6 kilograms (UNODC 2020b).

The weight of ketamine seized in South-East Asia has increased significantly since 2015, primarily driven by ketamine manufacturing and trafficking in and through Myanmar. In 2019, at least four tonnes of ketamine was seized in South-East Asia, representing a 14-fold increase compared to 2014 (UNODC 2020c).

According to the WCO, the number of seizures of ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances within the NPS category increased 312 per cent in 2019, with the weight seized also increasing (specific figures are not available; WCO 2020).

The WCO reported a 40 per cent decrease in the number of GBL seizures between 2018 and 2019. In contrast, the weight seized during the same period increased by 149 per cent. GBL was the eighth most seized substance by number and the third by weight within the 'psychotropic substances' category in 2019, accounting for 15 per cent of the total weight seized. GBL accounted for the largest proportion of air seizures by weight (80 per cent), and for 23 per cent of mail seizures by weight. WCO data for GHB seizures was not available in 2019 (WCO 2020).

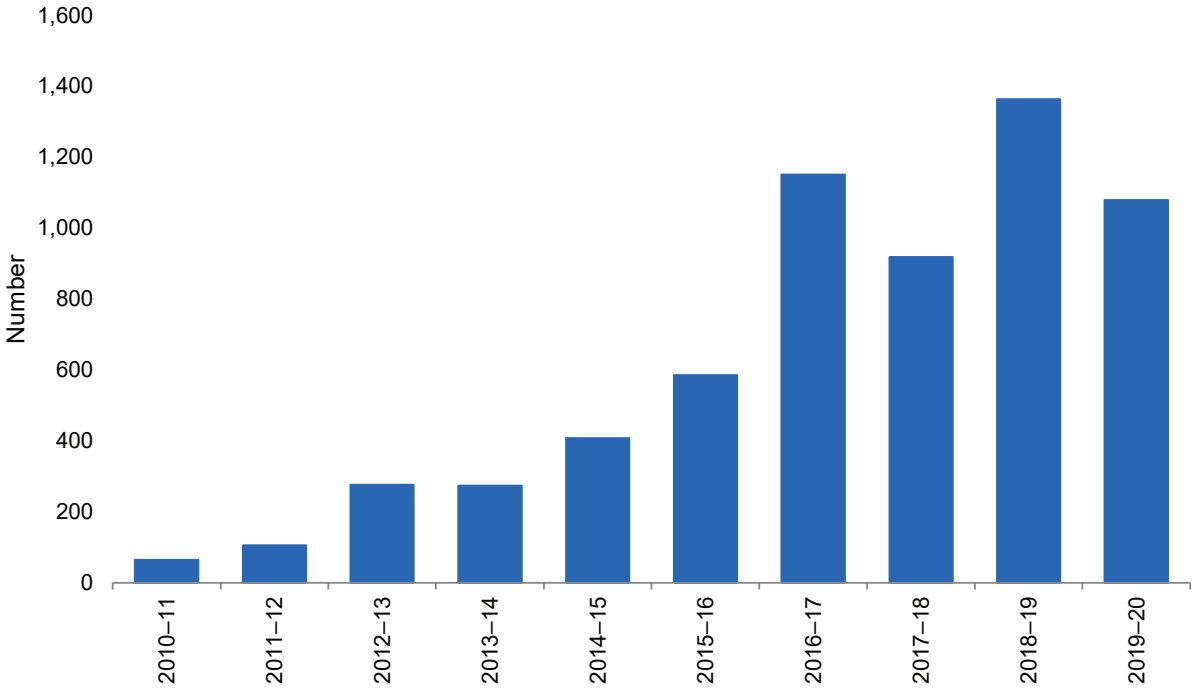
In 2019, the majority of GBL seizures continued to be reported by countries in Europe. The Netherlands was most frequently identified as the country of origin of seizures in Europe and Chile, while China (including Hong Kong) was identified to be the main country of origin for GBL seizures in Australia. No seizures of 1,4-BD were reported in 2019 (INCB 2021).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of detections of anaesthetics (including GHB, GBL and ketamine) at the Australian border displays an increasing trend over the last decade, increasing 1,560 per cent from 65 in 2010–11 to 1,079 in 2019–20. The number of anaesthetic detections decreased 21 per cent this reporting period from 1,363 in 2018–19 (see Figure 31).

FIGURE 31: Number of anaesthetic detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2018–19, the majority of anaesthetics detections in 2019–20 were ketamine.

- Ketamine accounted for 35 per cent of the number of anaesthetic detections in 2010–11, increasing to 84 per cent in 2019–20, while GBL accounted for 63 per cent in 2010–11, decreasing to 13 per cent in 2019–20. GHB detections accounted for 2 per cent in 2010–11, increasing to 3 per cent in 2019–20.
- Of the 1,079 anaesthetics detections in 2019–20, 911 were ketamine (the second highest number on record), a 10 per cent increase from the 828 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of ketamine detections increased 3,861 per cent, from 23 in 2010–11.
- Of the 1,079 anaesthetics detections in 2019–20, 139 were GBL, a 69 per cent decrease from the 445 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of GBL detections increased 239 per cent, from 41 in 2010–11.
- The remaining 29 detections in 2019–20 were GHB, a 68 per cent decrease from the 90 detections in 2018–19. Over the last decade the number of GHB detections increased 2,800 per cent, from 1 in 2010–11.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, detections of anaesthetics occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of anaesthetic detections (87 per cent), followed by air cargo (13 per cent), and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent). In 2019–20:

- Detections of ketamine occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of ketamine detections (92 per cent), followed by air cargo (7 per cent) and air passenger/crew(<1 per cent).

- Detections of GHB occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, the international mail stream accounted for the greatest proportion of GHB detections (86 per cent), followed by air cargo (10 per cent) and air passenger/crew (3 per cent).
- Detections of GBL occurred in the air cargo and international mail streams. By number, both the air cargo stream and international mail stream each accounted for 50 per cent of detections.

EMBARKATION POINTS

By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for anaesthetic detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, India, France, Belgium, Italy, the US and Malaysia.

By number, the UK was the primary embarkation point for ketamine detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the Netherlands, Germany, China (including Hong Kong), India, Belgium, Malaysia, France, Canada and Denmark.

By number, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for GHB and GBL detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by number this reporting period include the Netherlands, the UK, Malaysia, the US, Switzerland and Germany.

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 per cent 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 per cent 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 over the last decade, from 1 per cent in 2010 to 3 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 2 per cent.
- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older who reported having recently used ketamine increased over the last decade, from <1 per cent in 2010 to 1 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was <1 per cent (AIHW 2020).

According to IDRS data, 10 per cent of respondents reported the recent use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD in 2020. No data is available for recent use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD in 2019 (Peacock, et al. 2021).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent ketamine use increased over the last decade, from 16 per cent in 2011 to 43 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 41 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of ketamine use increased over the last decade, from 2 days in 2011 to 3 days in 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was a record 4 days.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent GHB/GBL use decreased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2011 to 6 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 5 per cent.
- The reported median number of days of GHB/GBL use remained stable at 2 days in 2011 and 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 3 days (Sindicich & Burns 2012; Peacock et al. 2020).

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

Over the last decade, the proportion of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased from zero in 2010–11 to 5 per cent in 2019–20. The number of laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased 28 per cent this reporting period, from 18 in 2018–19 to a record 23 in 2019–20 (see *Clandestine Laboratories and Precursors* chapter).

PRICE

The price range for 1 gram of ketamine powder increased over the last decade, from between $50 and $180 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales) to between $180 and $260 in 2019–20. The price reported in 2018–19 ranged from $120 to $320.

Nationally, the price range for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL remained relatively stable over the last decade, from between $3 and $8 in 2010–11 to between $2 and $10 in 2019–20. The price reported in 2018–19 ranged from $2 to $15. The national median price for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL decreased from $7 in 2018–19 to $6.25 in 2019–20.

Nationally, the price range for 1 litre of GHB/GBL increased over the last decade, ranging between $2,200 and $3,000 in 2010–11 (reported in New South Wales) to between $900 and $5,000 in 2019–20. The price reported in 2018–19 ranged from $1,500 to $3,000.

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 over the last decade, from 52 per cent in 2011 to 57 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 53 per cent. Data relating to the availability of GHB/GBL was unavailable for 2020 (Peacock et al. 2020).

PHARMACEUTICALS

MAIN FORMS

In Australia, the importation, manufacture, distribution and supply of pharmaceuticals is controlled under various pieces of 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 2017b).

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 2020f; EMCDDA 2015; 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 2020g; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

According to the World Drug Report, the weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized globally fluctuated from 2008 to 2018, peaking in 2014 at 203.0 tonnes. The weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized decreased 51 per cent, from 150.0 tonnes in 2017 to 73.0 tonnes in 2018. Tramadol and codeine comprised the majority of the weight of pharmaceutical opioids seized in 2018 (more than 95 per cent), with fentanyl accounting for 4 per cent of the weight seized (UNODC 2019; UNODC 2020a).

The WCO reported a 38 percent increase in the number of opiates[69] seizures, from 2,030 in 2018 to 2,795 in 2019. The weight of opiates seized increased 231 per cent, from 15,612.3 kilograms in 2018 to 51,689.0 kilograms in 2019. In 2019, opiates accounted for 55 per cent of the weight of narcotics seized in the Asia-Pacific region. Seizures of 'nervous system agents' (including substances such as painkillers, sedatives and anti-Alzheimer's medication) increased 231 per cent, from 462 in 2018 to 1,530 in 2019. The weight of nervous system agents seized increased 1,502 per cent in 2019 (WCO 2020).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

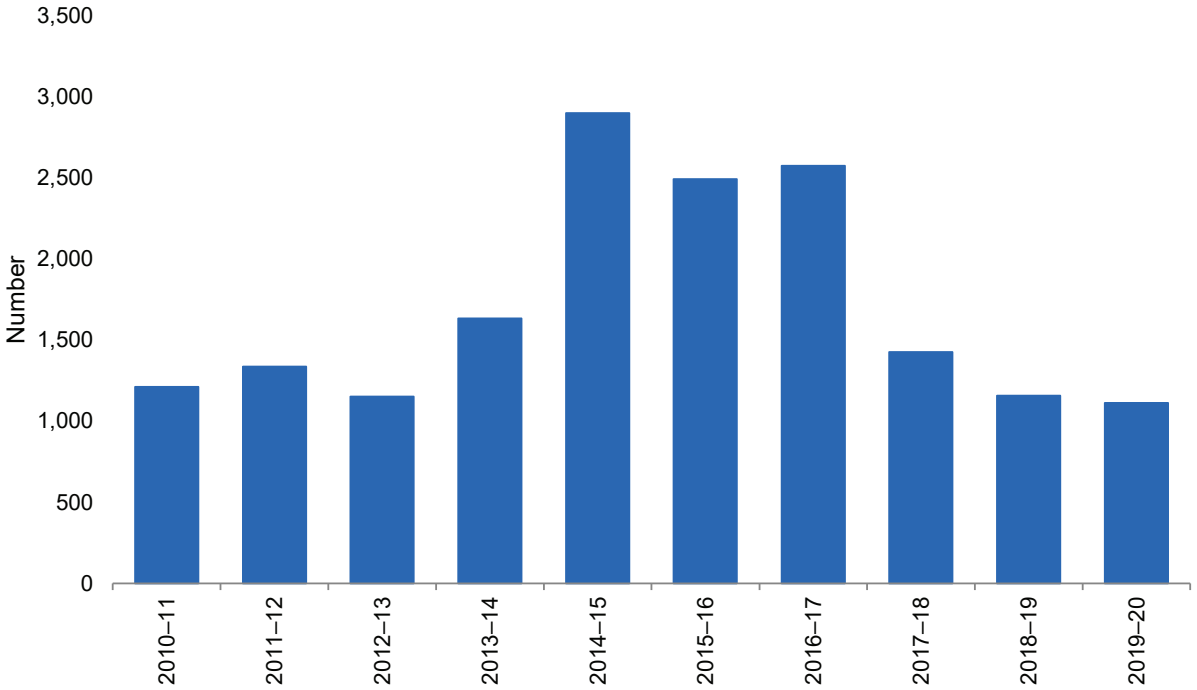
AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

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).[70] While fluctuating over the last decade, the number of pharmaceuticals detected at the Australian border decreased 8 per cent from 1,211 in 2010–11 to 1,112 in 2019–20, a 4 per cent decrease from 1,156 in 2018–19 (see Figure 32).

69 According to the WCO, the opiate category includes heroin, opium, poppy straw, methadone and morphine.
70 Benzodiazepines and opioids statistics only represent a component of the larger pharmaceutical category. As such, caution must be used when comparing data.

FIGURE 32: Number of pharmaceutical detections at the Australian border 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



Similar to 2018–19, the majority (73 per cent) of pharmaceutical detections in 2019–20 were benzodiazepines.

- The number of benzodiazepine detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing 31 per cent from 1,173 in 2010–11 to 810 in 2019–20. Benzodiazepine detections peaked at 2,772 in 2014–15. This reporting period the number of detections decreased 11 per cent from 912 in 2018–19.
- The number of opioid detections at the Australian border increased 695 per cent over the last decade, from 38 in 2010–11 to a record 302 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of detections increased 24 per cent from 244 in 2018–19.

IMPORTATION METHODS

In 2019–20, 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 (69 per cent), followed by air passenger/crew (21 per cent), air cargo (10 per cent) and sea cargo (<1 per cent).

In 2019–20, 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 (78 per cent), followed by air cargo (16 per cent), air passenger/crew (5 per cent) and sea cargo (1 per cent).

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

According to NDSHS[71] data:

- The proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting the non-medical[72] use of any pharmaceuticals (excluding OTC[73]) at least once in their lifetime increased over the last decade, from 7 per cent in 2010 to 12 per cent in 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 13 per cent.
- 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 per cent in both 2010 and 2019. In 2016 this proportion was 5 per cent (AIHW 2020; AIHW 2017a; AIHW 2011).

The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) collects wastewater samples every two months in capital city sites and every four 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 13 illicit and licit drugs. Since the Program began in August 2016, the population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone and fentanyl decreased in both capital city and regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- 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, with regional consumption in August 2020 the lowest level recorded by the Program.
- Oxycodone consumption was higher per capita in regional sites than capital city sites.
- The population-weighted average consumption of oxycodone decreased in both capital city and regional sites (ACIC 2021).

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent non-prescribed use of methadone decreased over the last decade, from 26 per cent in 2011 to a record low of 13 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 15 per cent.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed methadone syrup use remained relatively stable over the last decade, increasing from 4 days in 2011 to 5 days in 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 6.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of buprenorphine decreased over the last decade, from 15 per cent in 2011 to a record low of 5 per cent in 2019 and 2020.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed buprenorphine use increased over the last decade, from 8 days in 2011 to 12 days in 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 5.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of morphine decreased over the last decade, from 39 per cent in 2011 to a record low of 15 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 18 per cent.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed morphine use decreased over the last decade, from 13 days in 2011 to 12 days in 2019 and 2020.

71 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.

72 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.

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

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent non-prescribed use of oxycodone decreased over the last decade, from 32 per cent in 2011 to a record low of 11 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 15 per cent.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed oxycodone use remained stable at 4 days in 2011 and 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 5.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed fentanyl use decreased this reporting period, from 9 per cent in 2019 to 6 per cent in 2020. Historical data for the recent use of non-prescribed fentanyl is unavailable.
- The median number of days of non-prescribed fentanyl use more than halved this reporting period, decreasing from 5 days in 2019 to 2 days in 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of benzodiazepines decreased over the last decade, from 53 per cent in 2011 to a record low of 31 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 32 per cent.
- Over the last decade, the median number of days of non-prescribed benzodiazepine (excluding alprazolam) use remained stable at 10 days in 2011 and 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 7.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical stimulants decreased over the last decade, from 14 per cent in 2011 to 8 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 7 per cent.
- Over the last decade, the median number of days of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulant use decreased from 4 days in 2011 to 3 days in 2020. In 2019 the median number of days was 5 (Stafford & Burns 2012; Peacock et al. 2021).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed low-dose codeine decreased over the last decade, from 12 per cent in 2011 to 9 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 6 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical opioids decreased, from 12 per cent in 2019 to 10 per cent in 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed benzodiazepines increased over the last decade, from 33 per cent in 2011 to 40 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 41 per cent.
- The proportion of respondents reporting recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants use increased over the last decade, from 27 per cent in 2011 to 39 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 33 per cent (Sindicich & Burns 2012; Peacock et al. 2020).

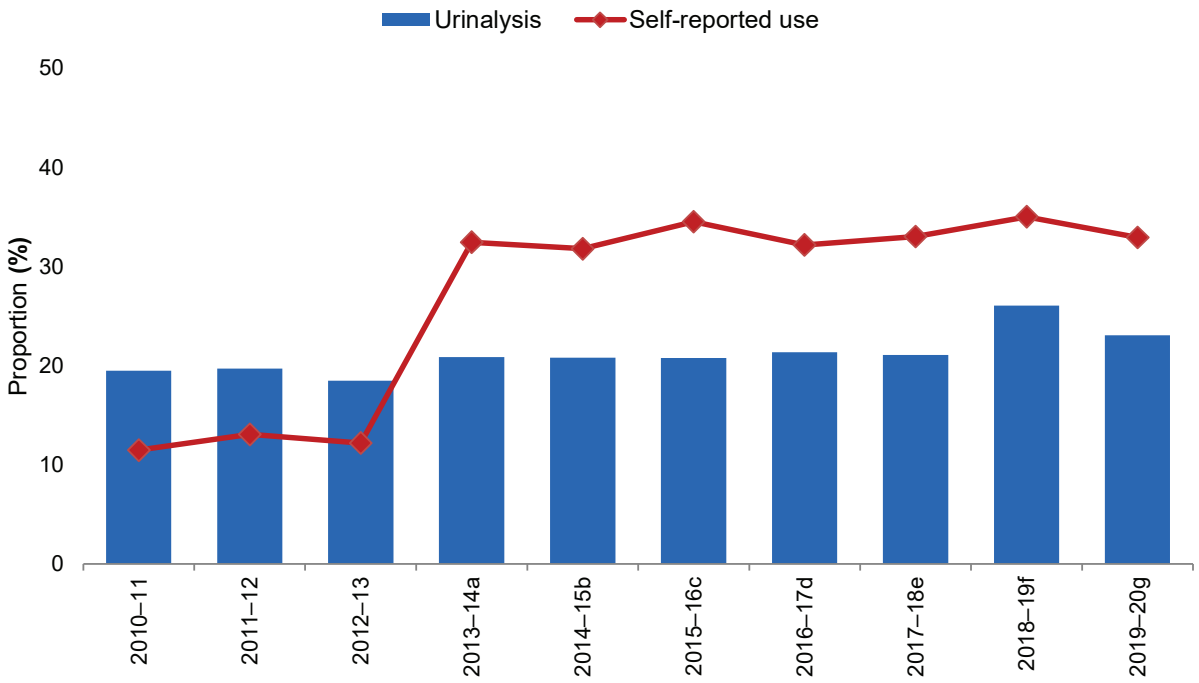
According to ANSPS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting pharmaceutical opioids as the drug last injected more than halved over the last decade, decreasing from 16 per cent in 2010 to 6 per cent in 2019. This proportion was 7 per cent in 2018 (Heard et al. 2020).

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

- The proportion of detainees testing positive to benzodiazepines increased over the last decade, from 19 per cent in 2010–11 to 23 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 26 per cent.[74]
- The proportion of detainees self-reporting the recent use[75] of benzodiazepines tripled over the last decade, from 11 per cent in 2010–11 to 33 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 35 per cent (see Figure 33).
- The proportion of detainees testing positive for any opiates[76] decreased over the last decade, from 15 per cent in 2010–11 to 10 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 9 per cent.
- The self-reported recent use of any opiates over the last decade more than doubled, increasing from 9 per cent in 2010–11 to 20 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 19 per cent (see Figure 34).

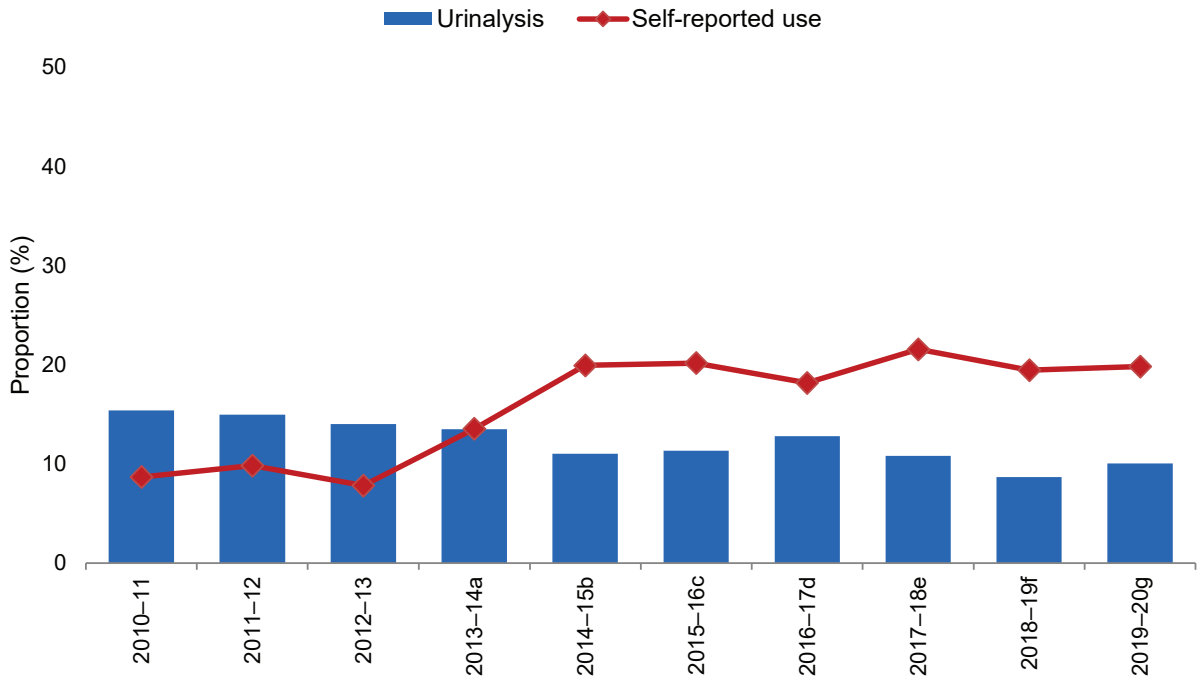
FIGURE 33: National proportion of detainees testing positive for benzodiazepines compared with self-reported recent use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Australian Institute of Criminology)



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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

74 Benzodiazepines and their metabolites can be detected in urine for 2 to 14 days after administration.
75 Recent use in DUMA program refers to self-reported use in the 12 months prior to arrest.
76 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 other than heroin compared with self-reported use, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (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 2019 in Bankstown; and the first quarter of 2020 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Surry Hills.

PRICE

New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia were the only jurisdictions to provide price data for opioid pharmaceuticals in 2019–20.

In 2019–20, the price reported in Tasmania for a single tablet of MS Contin ranged from $1 for 1 milligram, to $60 for one 60 milligram tablet and $100 for one 100 milligram tablet. In 2010–11, the price of a single tablet of MS Contin ranged between $30 and $100 (reported in New South Wales).

New South Wales was the only jurisdiction to provide price data for OxyContin in 2010–11 and 2019–20. The price range for a single OxyContin tablet remained relatively stable over the last decade, ranging between $30 and $100 in 2010–11 to between $20 and $100 in 2019–20. In 2018–19, the reported price ranged between $10 and $100. Tasmania reported price data for other units of OxyContin in 2019–20, including $60 for a 60 milligram tablet and $100 for a 100-milligram tablet.

The price for a single 100 microgram patch of fentanyl ranged between $90 and $300 in in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales), compared with a national price range of between $25 and $250 in 2018–19. Historical price data for fentanyl is unavailable.

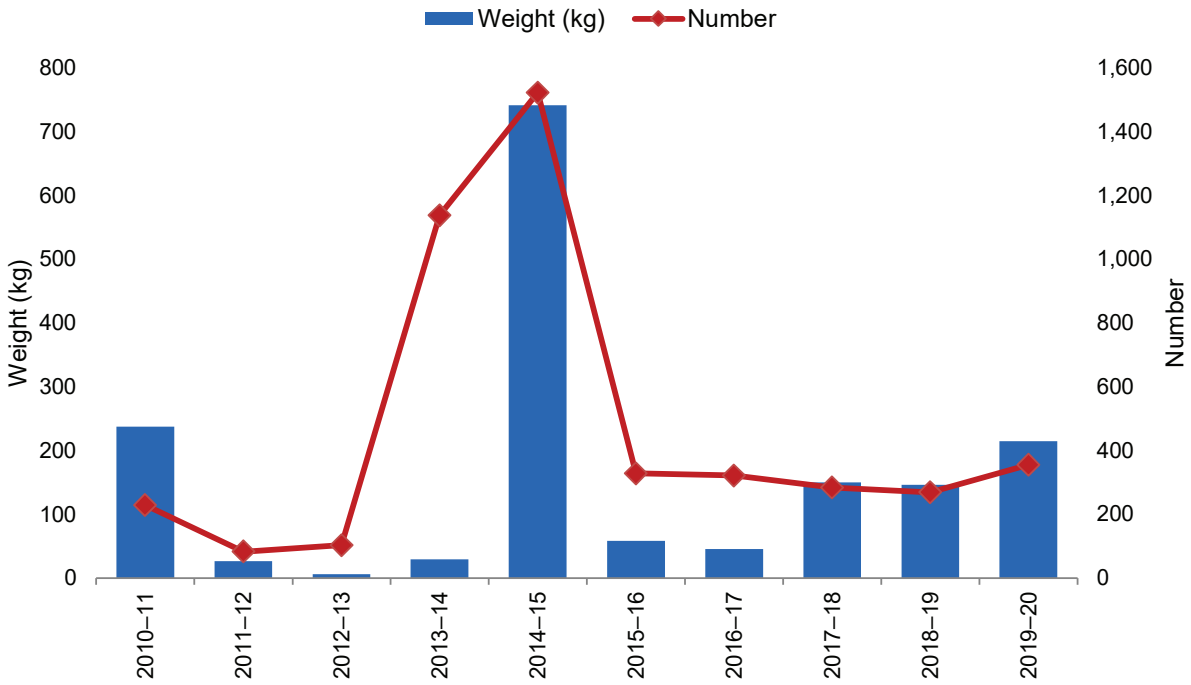
National law enforcement price data for a single benzodiazepine tablet is limited. Queensland reported a price of $10 per milligram in 2019–20. In 2018–19, the price per milligram was $25 (reported in Queensland).

SEIZURES

The number of national other opioid seizures increased 55 per cent over the last decade, from 229 in 2010–11 to 355 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number increased 32 per cent from 269 in 2018–19.

The weight of other opioids seized nationally decreased 9 per cent over the last decade, from 236.8 kilograms in 2010–11 to 214.7 kilograms in 2019–20. This reporting period the weight increased 47 per cent from 146.2 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 35).

FIGURE 35: National other opioid seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other opioid seizures in 2019–20, while South Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of other opioids seized. This reporting period New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of national other opioid seizures (59 per cent), while Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of other opioids seized nationally (63 per cent; see Table 19).

TABLE 19: Number, weight and percentage change of national other opioid seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	177	208	17.5	92,962	63,170	-32.0
Victoria	22	48	118.2	13,456	135,493	906.9
Queensland	22	18	-18.2	20,694	386	-98.1
South Australia	2	4	100.0	1	2,069	206,800.0
Western Australia	13	26	100.0	18,962	11,399	-39.9
Tasmania	7	4	-42.9	31	16	-48.4
Northern Territory	0	1	–	0	200	–
Australian Capital Territory	26	46	76.9	123	2,054	1,569.9
Total	**269**	**355**	**32.0**	**146,229**	**214,787**	**46.9**

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

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES[77]

MAIN FORMS

NPS 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 three categories of analogue drugs: direct, structural and functional.
- NPS are often marketed and sold under a range of terms including 'legal highs'[78], 'herbal highs', 'bath salts', 'designer drugs' and 'research chemicals' (UNODC 2017a; UNODC 2017b; UNODC 2017c; Wermuth 2006).

Among the wide range of NPS available, this section covers three 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 2020h; EMCDDA 2017; UNODC 2016).

77 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.
78 Use of the term legal high may not reflect the true legal status of these substances under Australian legislation.

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 2020i).

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 (ACMD 2013; ADF 2020j; EMCDDA 2014; UNODC 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

The illicit global trade in NPS[79] is relatively small, but includes substances that are of global concern, particularly synthetic opioid NPS such as fentanyl analogues. The UNODC distinguishes between plant-based NPS and synthetic NPS and both types recorded a decrease in the weight seized in 2018. For the third year in a row, kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight of plant-based NPS seized globally (82 per cent), followed by khat (*Catha edulis*) and the hallucinogen *Salvia divinorum*. The weight of synthetic NPS seized globally continued to decrease, from 44 tonnes in 2017 to 10 tonnes in 2018. This decrease in part may be a consequence of some of the most widely used and most harmful NPS being put under national and international control. The number of emerging NPS with opioid effects increased nearly sevenfold, from 7 substances in 2014 (accounting for 2 per cent of all NPS) to 48 in 2018 (9 per cent of all NPS). While synthetic opioid NPS are fewer in number than other NPS categories, they have led to an increase in the number of overdose deaths in North America (UNODC 2020a).

According to the WCO, the number of NPS[80] seizures reported globally by WCO agencies increased 22 per cent, from 3,049 in 2018 to 3,716 in 2019. The weight of NPS seized decreased 55 per cent, from 21,070.1 kilograms in 2018 to 9,558.5 kilograms in 2019. In 2019 the number of seizures in all subcategories increased, with the exception of 'synthetic cannabinoids' which decreased from 752 seizures in 2018 to 245 seizures in 2019. The 'other substances' subcategory continued to account for the greatest proportion of the number of NPS seizures in 2019 (46 per cent), followed by the subcategory 'Lyrica (Pregabalin)' (18 per cent) and 'synthetic cathinones'. The US accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of NPS seizures in 2019 (55 per cent). This was followed by the United Arab Emirates (9 per cent), Denmark and Switzerland (6 per cent each), Saudi Arabia (5 per cent) and Norway (3 per cent; WCO 2020).

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

80 NPS includes Lyrica (pregabalin), synthetic cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids, fentanyl, ketamine and phencyclidine-type substances and other substances.

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

The number of NPS border detections increased 6 per cent this reporting period, from 575 in 2018–19 to 609 in 2019–20.

In 2019–20, detections of NPS occurred in the air cargo, air passenger/crew and international mail streams. By number, international mail accounted for the greatest proportion of NPS detections (81 per cent), followed by air cargo (19 per cent) and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

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.[81]

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.

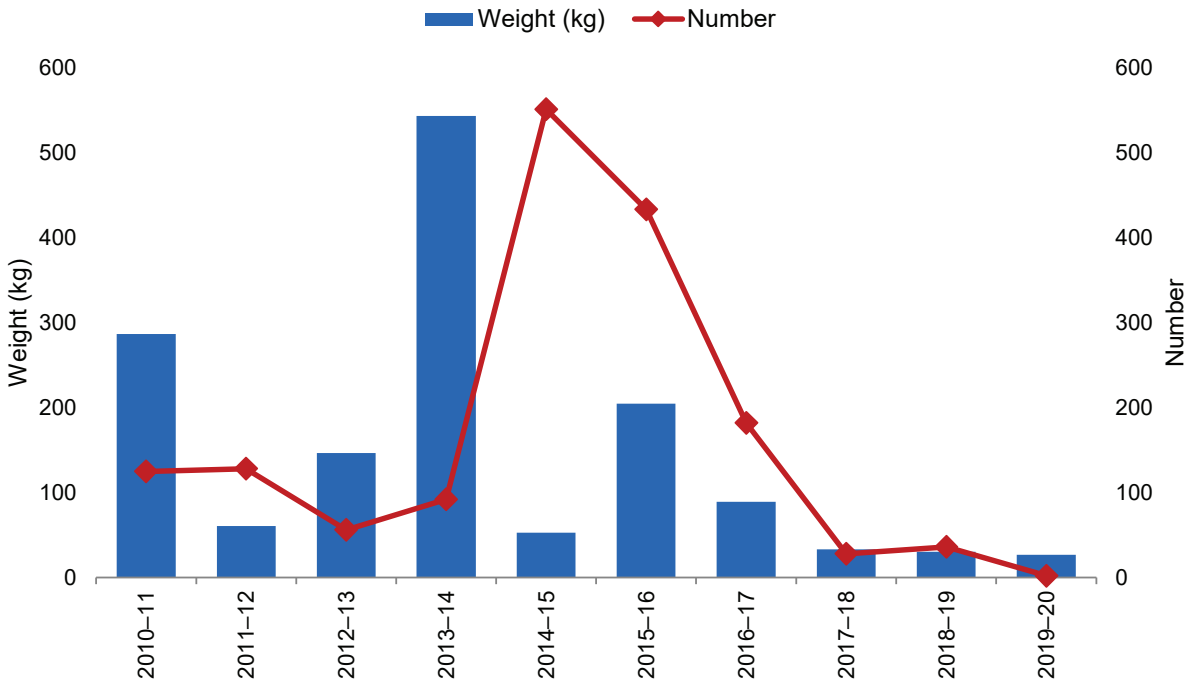
- There were no seizures of synthetic cannabinoids, tryptamine-type substances or other NPS in 2019–20.
- In 2019–20, amphetamine-type substances and cathinone-type substances each accounted for 50 per cent of the total number of analysed seizures.

Consistent with previous reporting periods, amphetamine-type substances continue to account for the greatest proportion of the weight of analysed seizures.

- In 2019–20, amphetamine-type substances accounted for 82 per cent of the weight of analysed seizures.
- Cathinone-type substances accounted for 19 per cent of the weight of analysed seizures in 2019–20.
  - The seizure comprised of several substances including N-ethylheptedrone, 3,4-methylenedioxy N-tert-butyl cathinone (MDPT), 4-chloro N,N-dimethyl cathinone and 3,4-methylenedioxy N-benzyl cathinone (BMDP).

81 Other NPS include 2C-group substances, which are synthetic phenethylamines with psychedelic effects.

FIGURE 36: Number and weight of seizures selected for further analysis and found to contain novel substances and drug analogues, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Australian Federal Police, Forensic Drug Intelligence)[a]



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

DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

NPS use was first included in the NDSHS in 2013 and included questions on new and emerging psychoactive substances and synthetic cannabinoids. 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 per cent in 2013 to 1 per cent 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 per cent 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 per cent in 2013 to 3 per cent in 2016 and 2019.
- The proportion of the Australia population aged 14 years or older reporting having recently used synthetic cannabinoids decreased, from 1 per cent in 2013 to <1 per cent in 2016 and 2019 (AIHW 2020).

Since the NWDMP began measuring the NPS mephedrone and methylone in August 2016, the number of mephedrone detections increased in both capital cities and regional sites; while the number of methylone detections decreased in capital city sites and increased in regional sites. According to data from the NWDMP for August 2019 to August 2020:

- Mephedrone and methylone were the least consumed substances monitored by the Program. Both drugs were detected at a small number of sites and below levels at which they could be reliably quantified.

- The number of mephedrone detections increased from 38 to 56.
- The number of sites where mephedrone was detected decreased from 12 to 11.
- The number of methylone detections increased from 24 to 61.
- The number of sites where methylone was detected increased from 8 to 16 (ACIC 2021).

According to IDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of NPS decreased, from 11 per cent in 2019 to 8 per cent in 2020. Historical data for NPS is unavailable.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of substances mimicking the effects of cannabis decreased, from 6 per cent in 2019 to 5 per cent in 2020.
- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of substances mimicking the effects of opioids decreased, from 2 per cent in 2019 to 1 per cent in 2020 (Peacock et al. 2021; Peacock et al. 2019b).

According to EDRS data:

- The proportion of respondents reporting the recent use of NPS decreased over the last decade, from 40 per cent in 2011 to 23 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 30 per cent.
- Over the last decade the median number of days of reported NPS use has remained low (2 days or less) for different forms of NPS used.
- 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 decreased over the last decade, from 14 per cent in 2011 to 5 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 6 per cent.
  - Recent use of NBOMes decreased, from 9 per cent in 2014 (earliest available data) to 1 per cent in 2020. In 2018 and 2019 this proportion was 2 per cent.
  - Recent use of mephedrone decreased over the last decade, from 13 per cent in 2011 to no respondents reporting mephedrone use in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 1 per cent.
  - Recent use of synthetic cannabinoids decreased, from 6 per cent in 2011 to 4 per cent in 2020. In 2019 this proportion was 3 per cent (Peacock et al. 2020).

PRICE

National law enforcement price data for NPS is limited. The price range for 1 to 1.5 grams of synthetic cannabinoids remained relatively stable over the last decade, from between $20 and $30 in 2010–11 (reported in Queensland for 1 gram) to between $20 and $25 in 2019–20 (reported in New South Wales for 1.5 grams). The price for 1.5 grams of synthetic cannabinoids ranged between $30 and $100 in 2018–19.

OTHER AND UNKNOWN NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED DRUGS

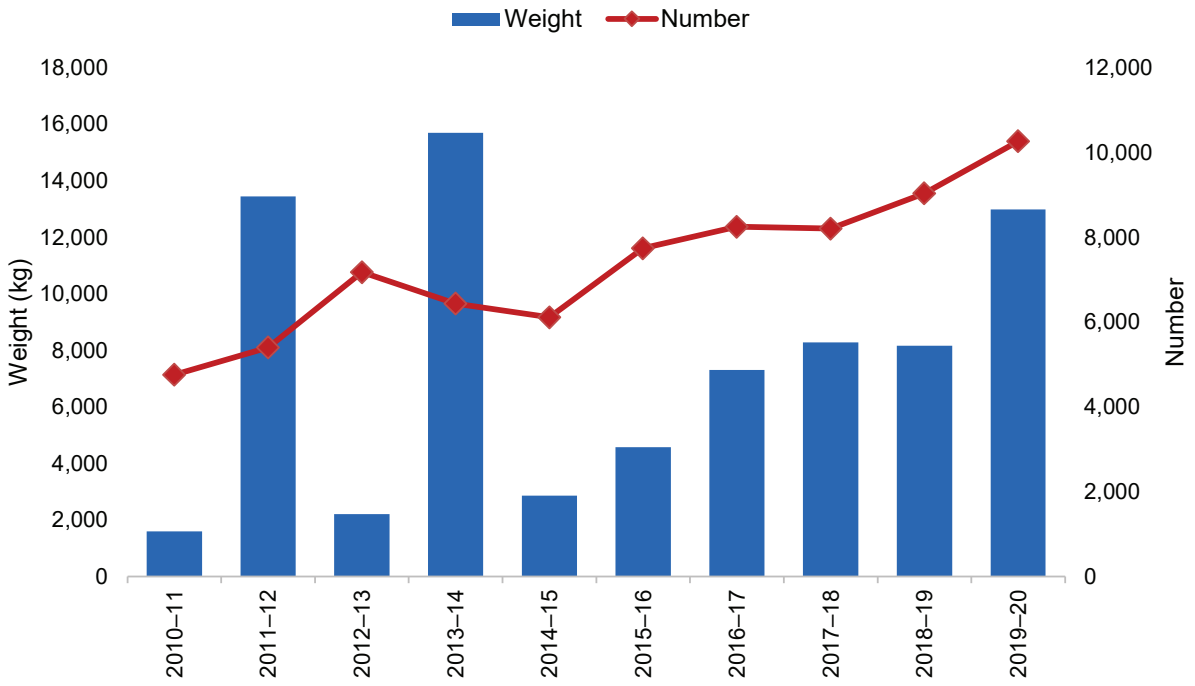
Data for national other and unknown not elsewhere classified (NEC) drug seizures and arrests capture those drugs and substances outside the specific drug categories contained in the *Illicit Drug Data Report*. This category contains a range of substances including precursors, anaesthetics, NPS, pharmaceuticals 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 per cent over the last decade, from 4,753 in 2010–11 to a record 10,260 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of seizures increased 14 per cent from 9,039 in 2018–19.

The weight of national other and unknown NEC drugs seized increased 715 per cent over the last decade, from 1,593.5 kilograms in 2010–11 to 12,987.7 kilograms in 2019–20. This reporting period the weight seized increased 59 percent from 8,158.6 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 37).

FIGURE 37: National other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Western Australia reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other and unknown NEC drug seizures in 2019–20, while Queensland reported the greatest percentage increase in the weight of other and unknown NEC drugs seized. New South Wales continued to account for the greatest proportion of both the number (52 per cent) and weight (79 per cent) of other and unknown NEC drugs seized nationally (see Table 20).

TABLE 20: Number, weight and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug seizures, 2018–19 and 2019–20

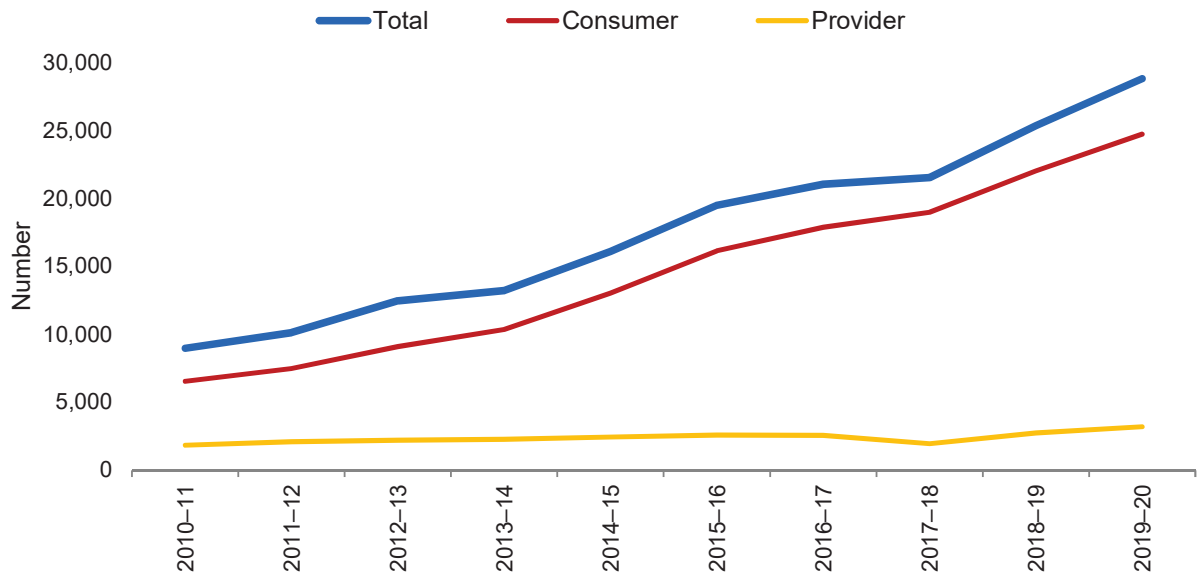
	Number			Weight (grams)		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	4,760	5,307	11.5	5,185,287	10,197,938	96.7
Victoria	789	612	-22.4	2,629,915	2,222,536	-15.5
Queensland	1,042	1,137	9.1	145,104	433,153	198.5
South Australia	23	28	21.7	11,216	5,501	-51.0
Western Australia	1,812	2,660	46.8	109,560	94,366	-13.9
Tasmania	186	236	26.9	3,666	3,036	-17.2
Northern Territory	225	165	-26.7	69,583	19,620	-71.8
Australian Capital Territory	202	115	-43.1	4,276	11,565	170.5
Total	**9,039**	**10,260**	**13.5**	**8,158,607**	**12,987,715**	**59.2**

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

ARRESTS

The number of other and unknown NEC drug arrests increased 221 per cent over the last decade, from 8,972 in 2010–11 to a record 28,812 in 2019–20, a 14 per cent increase from 25,351 in 2018–19. Consumer arrests account for the greatest proportion of arrests, accounting for 86 per cent of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2019–20 (see Figure 38).

FIGURE 38: Number of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, by number and weight, 2010–11 to 2019–20



While starting from a low base, the Australian Capital Territory reported the greatest percentage increase in the number of other and unknown NEC drugs arrests this reporting period. Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of national other and unknown NEC drug arrests in 2019–20 (31 per cent; see Table 21).

TABLE 21: Number and percentage change of national other and unknown not elsewhere classified drug arrests, 2018–19 and 2019–20

	Arrests		
State/Territory[a]	2018–19	2019–20	% change
New South Wales	3,123	4,011	28.4
Victoria	7,078	8,803	24.4
Queensland	7,319	7,877	7.6
South Australia	1,781	1,378	-22.6
Western Australia	5,432	6,118	12.6
Tasmania	510	558	9.4
Northern Territory	102	49	-52.0
Australian Capital Territory	6	18	200.0
Total	**25,351**	**28,812**	**13.7**

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

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 2019–20, the markets for anabolic steroids and other selected hormones remained small and relatively stable. The markets for anaesthetics, illicit pharmaceuticals and NPS showed a mixed picture, while the tryptamine market shows signs of potential expansion.

ANABOLIC AGENTS AND OTHER SELECTED HORMONES

Indicators of anabolic agents and other selected hormones supply and demand point to a small and relatively stable market.

Indicators of demand for anabolic agents and other selected hormones (including surveys of people who use drugs) remained relatively stable. When comparing data for 2018–19 and 2019–20, indicators of supply (including border detections, seizure and arrest data) provide a mixed picture, with a decrease in the weight of steroids seized nationally as well as decreases in the number of national steroid seizures and arrests.

TRYPTAMINES

Indicators of tryptamine supply and demand point to a small market which shows signs of potential expansion.

Indicators of demand for tryptamines (including surveys of people who use drugs) point to an increase in demand. When comparing data for 2018–19 and 2019–20, indicators of supply (including border detections, price, seizure and arrest data) show an increase, including a record number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border, a record number of national hallucinogen arrests, an increase in the number and weight of hallucinogens seized nationally and a decrease in the national median price for a single LSD tablet.

ANAESTHETICS

Indicators of anaesthetic supply and demand provide a mixed picture of a small market.

Indicators of demand for anaesthetics (including surveys of people who use drugs) provide a mixed picture. When comparing data for 2018–19 and 2019–20, indicators of supply (including border detections, national clandestine laboratory detections and price data) also provide a mixed picture, with a record number of GHB/GBL laboratories detected nationally, an increase in the number of ketamine border detections to the second highest number on record and an increase in the price for 1 litre of GHB/GBL. During the same period there was a decrease in the number of anaesthetic and GHB/GBL border detections and a decrease in the national median price for 1–1.5 millilitres of GHB/GBL.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Indicators of supply and demand for illicit pharmaceuticals provide a mixed picture of a small market.

Indicators of demand for pharmaceuticals (including surveys of people who use drugs, a study of police detainees and wastewater analysis) show a mixed picture with no clear trends within or between specific drug types such as benzodiazepines, opiates, pharmaceutical stimulants and other pharmaceuticals. When comparing data for 2018–19 and 2019–20, indicators of supply (including border detections, seizure and arrest data) also provide a mixed picture, including a decrease in the number of pharmaceuticals detected at the Australian border and an increase in the number and weight of other opioids seized nationally.

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Indicators of supply and demand for NPS provide a mixed picture of a small and relatively stable market.

Indicators of demand for NPS (including surveys of people who use drugs and wastewater analysis) provide a mixed picture, with user surveys indicating NPS use remains relatively stable or is decreasing, while wastewater analysis of two NPS indicates very low use with small increases. When comparing data for 2018–19 and 2019–20, indicators of supply (including border detections and forensic profiling data) show an increase in the number of NPS detections at the Australian border and the continued prevalence of amphetamine-type substances and cathinone-type substances among the substances seized.

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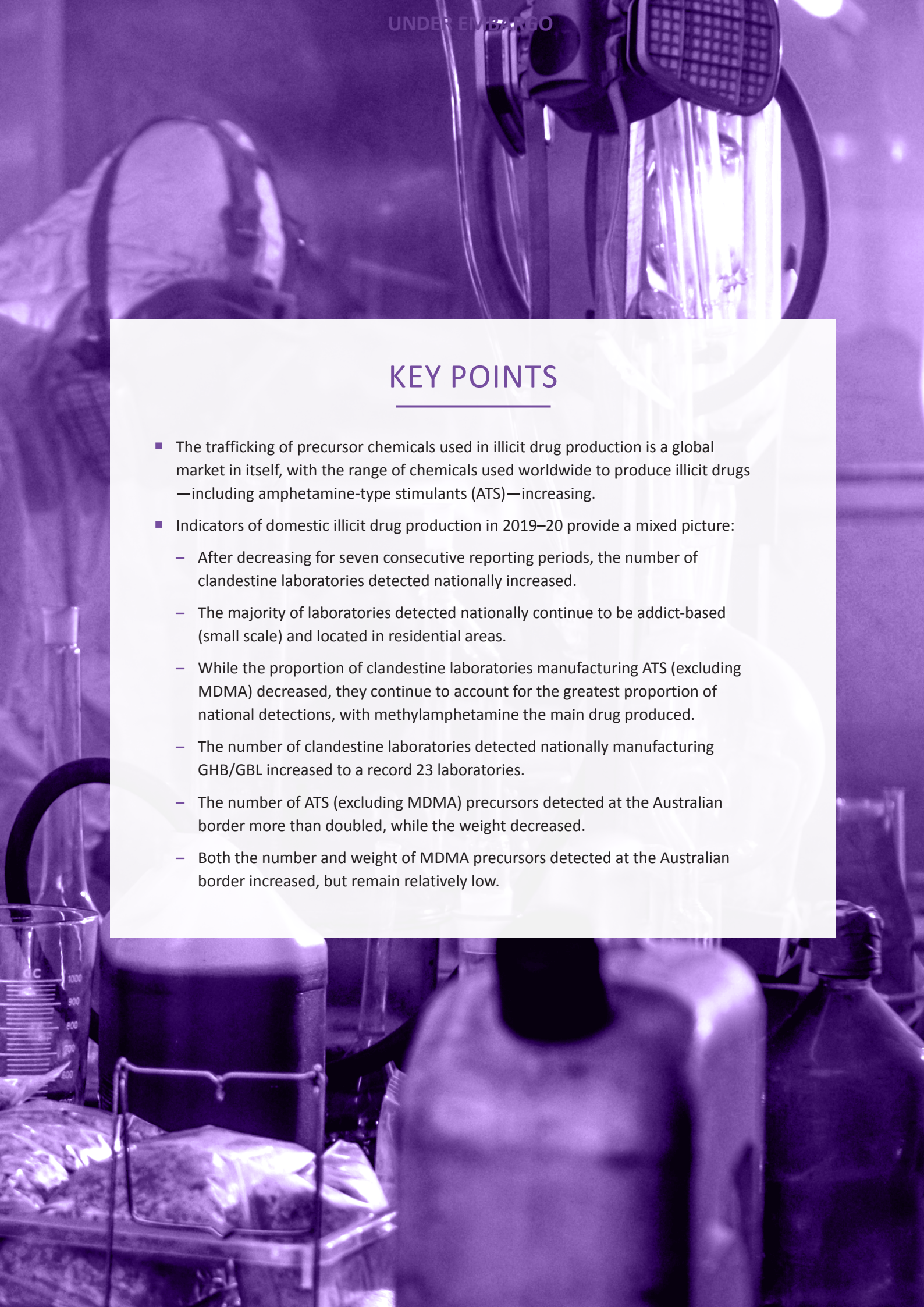
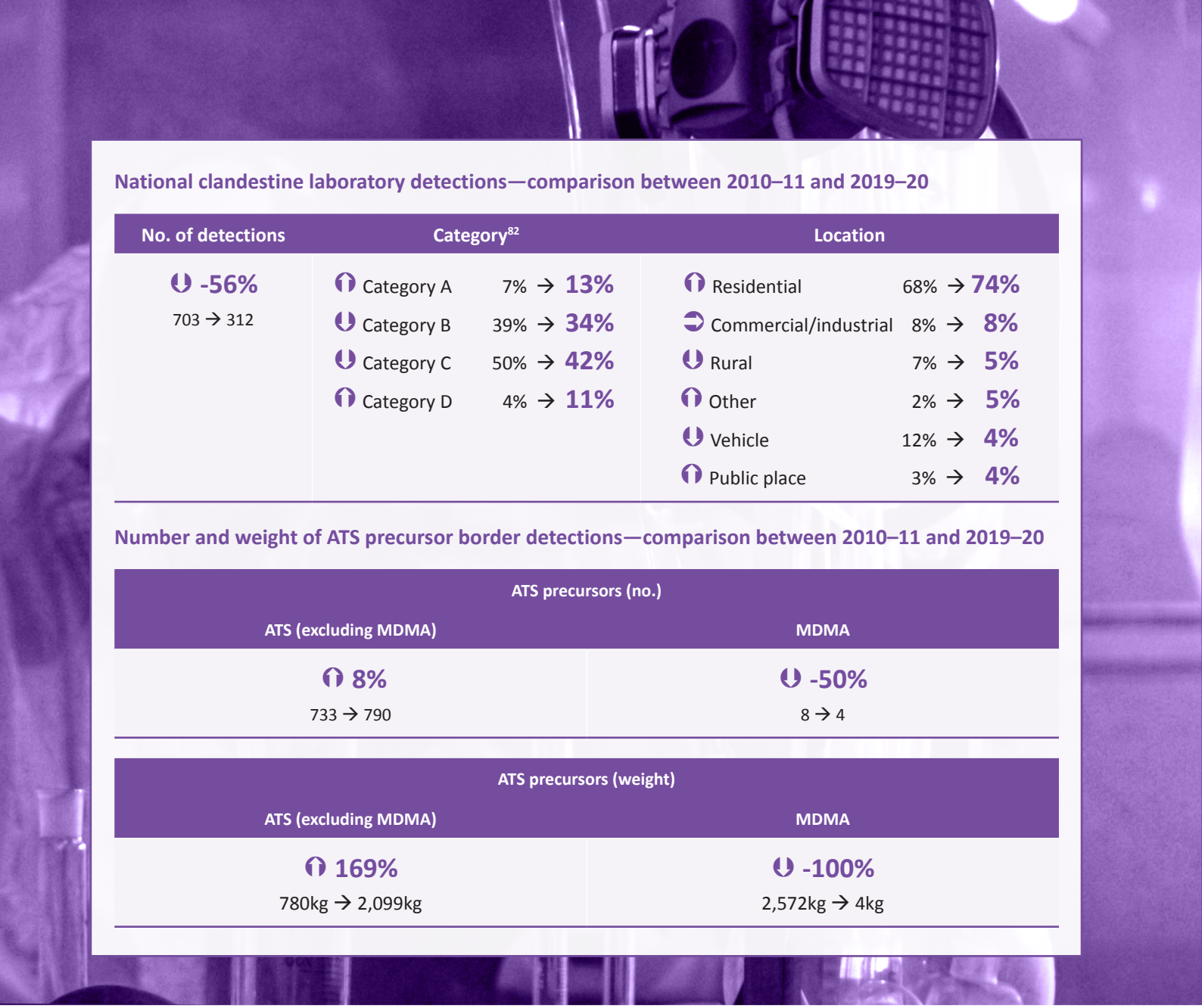
CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS



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.
- Indicators of domestic illicit drug production in 2019–20 provide a mixed picture:
  - After decreasing for seven consecutive reporting periods, the number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally increased.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally continue to be addict-based (small scale) 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.
  - The number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally manufacturing GHB/GBL increased to a record 23 laboratories.
  - The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border more than doubled, while the weight decreased.
  - Both the number and weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border increased, but remain relatively low.



National clandestine laboratory detections—comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

No. of detections	Category[82]		Location	
↓ -56%	↑ Category A	7% → 13%	↑ Residential	68% → 74%
703 → 312	↓ Category B	39% → 34%	↷ Commercial/industrial	8% → 8%
	↓ Category C	50% → 42%	↓ Rural	7% → 5%
	↑ Category D	4% → 11%	↑ Other	2% → 5%
			↓ Vehicle	12% → 4%
			↑ Public place	3% → 4%

Number and weight of ATS precursor border detections—comparison between 2010–11 and 2019–20

ATS precursors (no.)	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↑ 8%	↓ -50%
733 → 790	8 → 4

ATS precursors (weight)	
ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA
↑ 169%	↓ -100%
780kg → 2,099kg	2,572kg → 4kg

MAIN FORMS

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

- Extraction—the active chemical ingredients are extracted from a chemical preparation or plant, using a chemical solvent to produce a finished drug or a precursor chemical. Examples of extraction include the extraction of precursor chemicals from pharmaceutical preparations, or the extraction of morphine from opium.

82 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.

- 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 three types of substances used in illicit drug manufacture:

- Precursors—considered 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 used to cause a chemical reaction that modifies the precursor's molecular structure. For example, when the reagent acetic anhydride is mixed with the precursor phenyl-2-propanone (P2P), the resulting compound is methylamphetamine.
- Solvents—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).

The method of illicit drug manufacture employed is influenced by a number of factors, including the skill of the person and the availability of precursors. In Australia, ATS, specifically methylamphetamine, is the predominant drug manufactured in detected clandestine laboratories. The manufacturing methods and precursors used to manufacture ATS vary.

- The predominant processes used in Australia for manufacturing methylamphetamine are comparatively simple, using readily available basic equipment and precursor chemicals, with pseudoephedrine and ephedrine 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 use in 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 used to produce illicit drugs 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 the continued increasing trend in the use of non-schedule chemicals, designer precursors[83] and pre-precursors as alternatives to precursor chemicals in the manufacture of illicit drugs. In addition, noting the increasing demand for materials and equipment in the manufacture of illicit drugs, for the first time the INCB issued guidelines to prevent and investigate cases of diversion of equipment for illicit drug manufacture (INCB 2021).

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.

- Ephedrine (Eph) and pseudoephedrine (PSE): The combined weight seized decreased, from 40 tonnes in 2018 to 5.7 tonnes in 2019—the lowest weight seized in several years. Seizures occurred in all regions of the globe. Oceania accounted for the majority of the weight of Eph seized in 2019, while South Asia accounted for the majority of the weight of PSE seized. Within Oceania, Australia accounted for the largest proportion of the weight of ephedrines seized in 2019, totalling 1,300 kilograms, 99 per cent of which related to a single seizure.
- Potassium permanganate: The weight seized decreased from 80 tonnes in 2018 to 65 tonnes in 2019. Colombia accounted for the greatest proportion of the weight seized (almost 47 tonnes), followed by Chile (7.7 tonnes seized in a single incident), Pakistan (more than 4.8 tonnes), Germany (3 tonnes seized in a single incident) and Venezuela (almost 2.8 tonnes).
- Acetic anhydride: The volume seized decreased from 194,281 litres in 2018 to 60,049 litres in 2019. Pakistan (19,060 litres) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (15,000 litres) were the only two countries which reported seizing in excess of 10,000 litres of acetic anhydride in 2019, compared to six countries in 2018 (INCB 2020; INCB 2021).

DOMESTIC TRENDS

AUSTRALIAN BORDER SITUATION

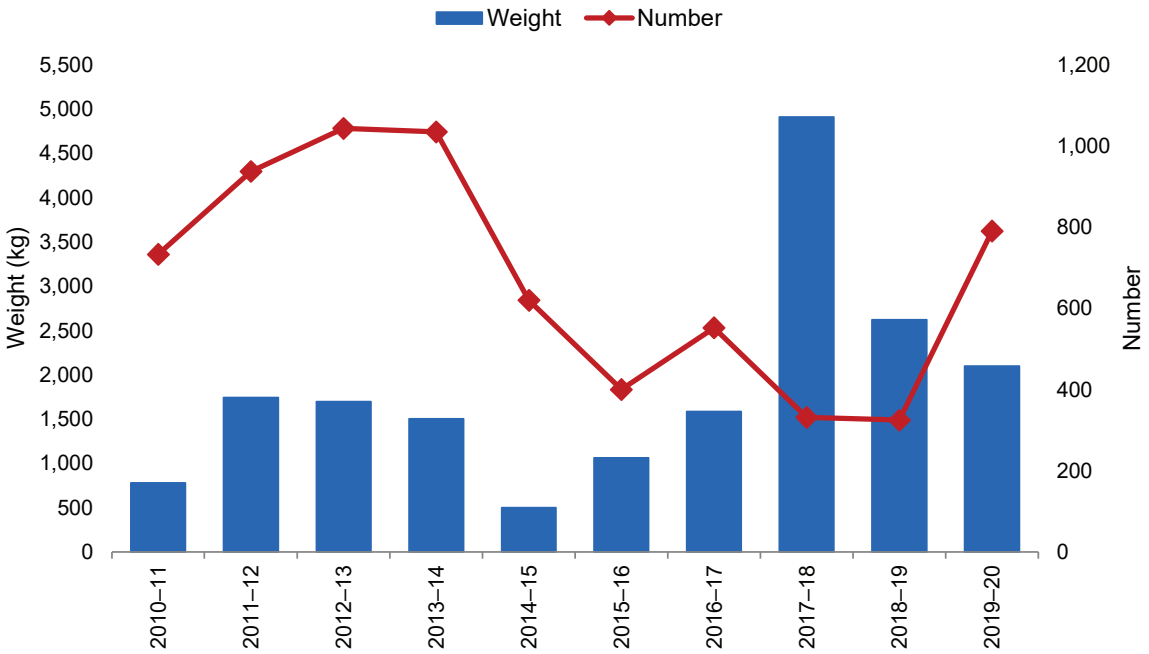
As ATS are the most common illicit drugs manufactured in domestic clandestine laboratories in Australia, this chapter focuses on ATS (excluding MDMA) and MDMA precursor detection data.

The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 8 per cent from 733 in 2010–11 to 790 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of detections increased 143 per cent, from 325 in 2018–19. The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected also fluctuated over the last decade, increasing 169 per cent from 780.7 kilograms in 2010–11 to 2,099.1 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight detected this reporting period decreased 20 per cent, from 2,621.3 kilograms in 2018–19 (see Figure 39).[84]

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

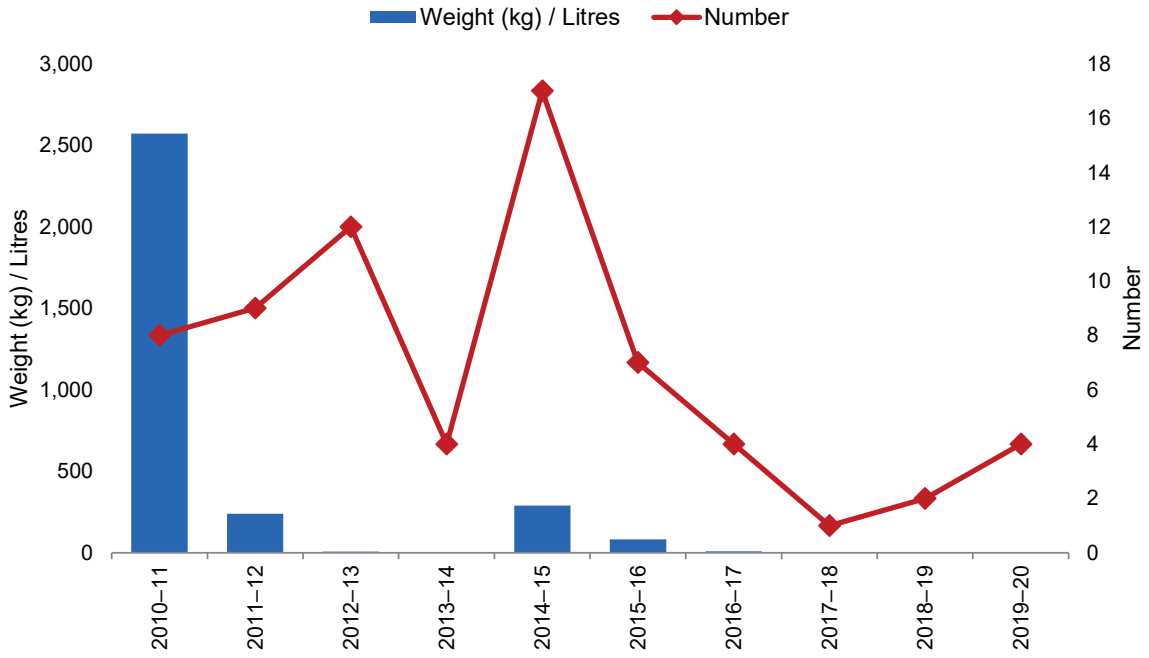
84 See Appendix 2 for significant ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections in 2019–20.

FIGURE 39: Number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



The number of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border fluctuated over the last decade, but remain relatively low. The number of detections has halved over the last decade, decreasing from 8 in 2010–11 to 4 in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of detections increased 100 per cent, from 2 in 2018–19. The weight of MDMA precursor detected also fluctuated over the last decade, decreasing almost 100 per cent from 2,572.1 kilograms in 2010–11—the second highest weight on record—to 4.1 kilograms in 2019–20. The weight detected this reporting period increased 951 per cent, from 390 grams in 2018–19 (see Figure 40).

FIGURE 40: Number and weight/litres[a] of MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border, 2010–11 to 2019–20 (Source: Department of Home Affairs)



a. Significant detections of MDMA precursors occur in both kilograms and litres. As this figure reflects two 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 2019–20, 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 78 per cent of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections, followed by air cargo (14 per cent), air passenger/crew (7 per cent) and sea cargo (1 per cent). By weight, sea cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor border detections (60 per cent), followed by air cargo (36 per cent), international mail (4 per cent), and air passenger/crew (<1 per cent).

In 2019–20, the 4 MDMA precursor border detections occurred in the air cargo and international mail stream, accounting for 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. By weight, air cargo accounted for the greatest proportion of MDMA precursor border detections (88 per cent), followed by international mail (12 per cent).

EMBARKATION POINTS

By weight, China (including Hong Kong) was the primary embarkation point for ATS (excluding MDMA) precursor detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include India, the United States (US), Malaysia, Canada, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Indonesia.

By weight, the United Kingdom was the primary embarkation point for MDMA precursor detections at the Australian border in 2019–20. Other key embarkation points by weight this reporting period include Germany, China (including Hong Kong) and the US.

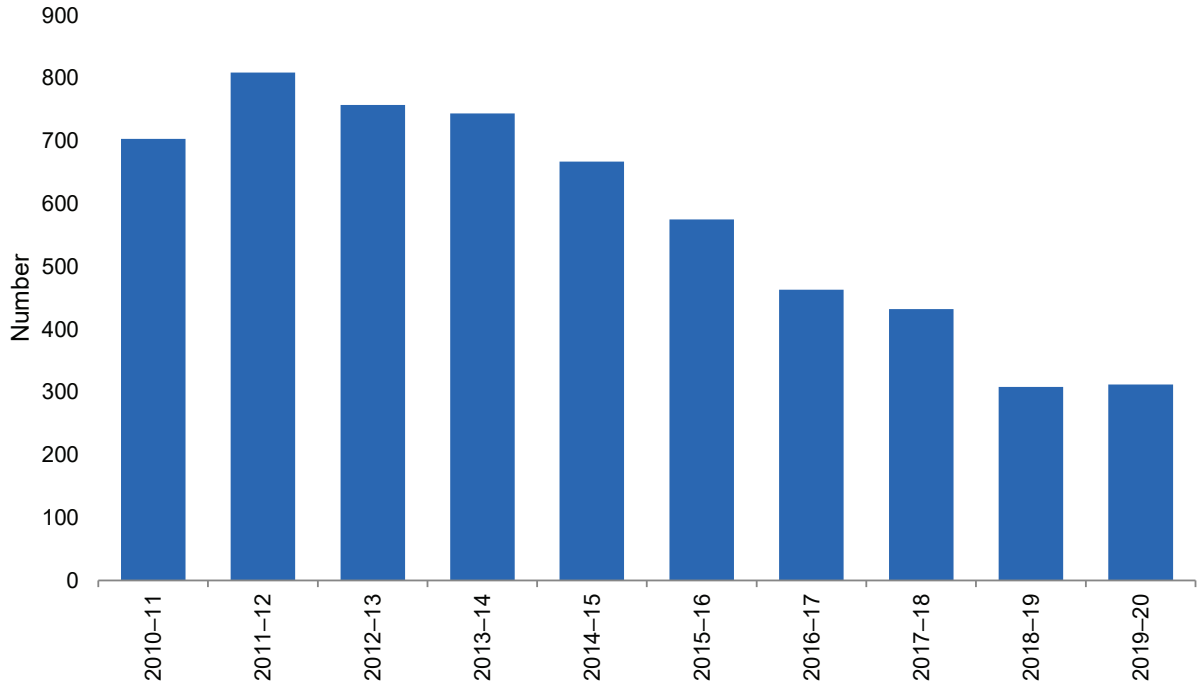
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS

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

CLANDESTINE LABORATORY DETECTIONS

The number of national clandestine laboratory detections in Australia decreased 56 per cent over the last decade, from 703 in 2010–11 to 312 in 2019–20. While the number of detections increased from 2010–11 to 2011–12, it decreased in the seven subsequent reporting periods, before increasing slightly in 2019–20. This reporting period the number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally increased 1 per cent, from 308 in 2018–19 (see Figure 41).

FIGURE 41: National clandestine laboratory detections, 2010–11 to 2019–20



Victoria, Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory reported a decrease in the number of clandestine laboratories detected this reporting period compared to 2018–19, while New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania reported an increase (see Table 22). New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2019–20 (26 per cent), followed by Victoria (25 per cent).

TABLE 22: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2010–11 to 2019–20

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
2010–11	87	63	293	75	171	11	2	1	**703**
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**

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

In 2019–20, clandestine laboratories detected in Australia ranged from addict-based laboratories, which typically use basic equipment and simple procedures, through to industrial scale laboratories using oversized equipment. For those able to be categorised, the majority of detected laboratories in Australia continue to be addict-based, though the proportion of laboratories attributed to this category continued to decrease, from 47 per cent in 2018–19 to 44 per cent in 2019–20. The proportion of laboratories categorised as other small-scale laboratories decreased this reporting period, from 33 per cent in 2018–19 to 28 per cent in 2019–20, with the proportion of medium sized laboratories increasing from 18 per cent in 2018–19 to 24 per cent in 2019–20. The proportion of industrial-scale laboratories increased, from 2 per cent in 2018–19 to 4 per cent in 2019–20.

DRUG TYPES AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION

Over the last decade and of those able to be identified, clandestine laboratories 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 over the last decade, decreasing from 79 per cent in 2010–11 to 48 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the proportion was 49 per cent.

- The number of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratory detections decreased 71 per cent over the last decade, from 556 in 2010–11 to 162 in 2019–20. This number remained relatively stable this reporting period, decreasing 1 per cent from 164 in 2018–19.
- In 2019–20, New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of national ATS (excluding MDMA) laboratories (30 per cent), followed by Victoria (23 per cent). All states and territories reported ATS (excluding MDMA) production this reporting period (see Table 23).

While fluctuating over the last decade, the proportion of MDMA laboratory detections remained relatively stable, increasing from 2 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2010–11 to 3 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the proportion was 2 per cent.

- The number of MDMA laboratory detections decreased 31 per cent over the last decade, from 16 in 2010–11 to 11 in 2019–20. This number increased 83 per cent this reporting period, from 6 in 2018–19. In 2019–20, MDMA laboratories were detected in New South Wales (4), Victoria (3), Queensland (3) and the Australian Capital Territory (1).

Over the last decade the proportion of cannabis oil extraction laboratory detections increased, from less than 1 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2010–11 to 9 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the proportion was 5 per cent.

- The number of cannabis oil extraction laboratory detections increased 867 per cent over the last decade, from 3 in 2010–11 to 29 in 2019–20, the highest number of detections since related reporting began in 2007–08. This number increased 61 per cent this reporting period, from 18 in 2018–19.
- South Australia accounted for the majority of detections (17), followed by Victoria (8), Western Australia (2), New South Wales (1) and Tasmania (1).

While fluctuating over the last decade, the proportion of clandestine laboratories extracting PSE decreased, from 5 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2010–11 to 1 per cent in both 2018–19 and 2019–20.

- The number of PSE extraction laboratory detections decreased 88 per cent over the last decade, from 34 in 2010–11 to 4 in both 2018–19 and 2019–20. This reporting period PSE exaction laboratories were detected in South Australia (2), New South Wales (1) and Victoria (1).

Over the last decade the proportion of gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)/gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) laboratory detections increased, from zero in 2010–11 to 7 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2019–20. In 2018–19 the proportion was 5 per cent.

- The number of GHB/GBL laboratory detections increased 28 per cent this reporting period, from 18 in 2018–19 to a record 23 detections in 2019–20. This reporting period GHB/GBL laboratories were detected in Victoria (11), New South Wales (6), South Australia (4) and Queensland (2).

While fluctuating over the last decade, the proportion of homebake heroin laboratories decreased, from 1 per cent of national clandestine laboratory detections in 2010–11 to no detections reported in either 2018–19 or 2019–20.

Clandestine laboratories 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 2019–20, this included laboratories manufacturing DMT, MDP2P, P2P, MDA, steroids, psilocybin, p-Tosyl methylamphetamine, hypophosphorous acid and selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs). Ephedrine and cocaine extraction laboratories were also detected in 2019–20.

TABLE 23: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by drug production type and state and territory, 2019–20

State/ Territory	ATS (excluding MDMA)	MDMA	Homebake heroin	Cannabis oil extraction	PSE extraction	GHB/ GBL	Other[a]	Unknown[b]	Total[c]
NSW	49	4	0	1	1	6	16	7	84
Vic	38	3	0	8	1	11	19	3	83
Qld	29	3	0	0	0	2	4	24	62
SA	20	0	0	17	2	4	19	6	68
WA	21	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	30
Tas	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
NT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ACT	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	**162**	**11**	**0**	**29**	**4**	**23**	**66**	**40**	**335**

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 clandestine laboratory 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 remained relatively stable at 54 per cent in 2010–11 and 53 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 77 per cent. The number of laboratories detected using this method of production decreased 72 per cent, from 282 in 2010–11 to 80 in 2019–20. The number of laboratories detected decreased 17 per cent this reporting period, from 96 in 2018–19.

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

- The proportion of detections identified as using the red phosphorous method remained stable at 7 per cent in 2010–11 and 2019–20. In 2018–19, this proportion was 9 per cent. The number of laboratories detected decreased 70 per cent, from 37 in 2010–11 to 11 in both 2018–19 and 2019–20.
- The proportion of detections identified as using the Nazi/Birch method decreased, from 35 per cent in 2010–11 to 13 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 8 per cent. The number of laboratories detected decreased 90 per cent, from 183 in 2010–11 to 19 in 2019–20. The number of laboratories detected increased 90 per cent this reporting period, from 10 in 2018–19.
- The proportion of detections identified as using the P2P method increased, from 3 per cent in 2010–11 to 9 per cent in 2019–20. In 2018–19 this proportion was 2 per cent. The number of laboratories detected decreased 24 per cent, from 17 in 2010–11 to 13 in 2019–20. The number of laboratories detected increased 333 per cent this reporting period, from 3 in 2018–19.
- In 2019–20, New South Wales accounted for the greatest proportion of the number of hypophosphorous laboratories detected nationally (35 per cent). Victoria accounted for the greatest proportion of red phosphorus laboratory detections (64 per cent) and P2P laboratory detections (69 per cent). Western Australia accounted for the greatest proportion of Nazi/Birch laboratory detections in 2019–20 (95 per cent).

TABLE 24: Method of ATS (excluding MDMA) production in clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2019–20

State/ Territory	Hypophosphorous	Red-phosphorus	Nazi/Birch	Phenyl-2-propanone (P2P)	Other[a]	Total[b]
NSW	28	0	0	2	16	46
Vic	16	7	1	9	9	42
Qld	18	1	0	0	1	20
SA	14	2	0	1	1	18
WA	1	1	18	1	2	23
Tas	2	0	0	0	0	2
NT	1	0	0	0	0	1
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**80**	**11**	**19**	**13**	**29**	**152**

c. 'Other' includes the detection of other ATS (excluding MDMA) production methods.
d. Total may not equal the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) clandestine laboratory 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:

4-aminobutanoic acid

- 18.00 kilograms in South Australia
- 12.00 kilograms in Victoria.

Ephedrine

- 75.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 8.08 kilograms in New South Wales.

Iodine

- 140.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 75.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 26.80 kilograms in Victoria
- 3.00 kilograms in Victoria.

Methylamine

- 3,000.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 100.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 4.00 kilograms in Western Australia
- 3.00 kilograms in South Australia.

Methyl-alpha acetylphenylacetate (MAPA)

- 200.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 25.40 kilograms in Western Australia
- 2.60 kilograms in Victoria.

P2P (BMK)

- 100.00 kilograms of P2P (BMK) in Victoria
- 10.00 kilograms of P2P (BMK) in Victoria.

Pseudoephedrine

- 100.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 9.00 kilograms in New South Wales
- 0.50 kilograms in New South Wales.

Red phosphorous

- 66.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 5.00 kilograms in Victoria.

Sodium borohydride

- 440.00 kilograms in Victoria
- 40.00 kilograms in New South Wales.

Other

- 100.00 kilograms of MMDMG[85] in Victoria
- 66.00 kilograms of formaldehyde in Victoria
- 1.60 kilograms of sodium hypophosphite in South Australia.

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 Butanediol

- 32.05 litres in Western Australia.

Benzaldehyde

- 1.50 litres in Victoria
- 1.00 litres in New South Wales.

Hypophosphorous acid

- 400.00 litres in New South Wales
- 220.00 litres in New South Wales
- 20.00 litres in Victoria
- 10.00 litres in Victoria
- 2.00 litres in Victoria.

Other

- 3,485.00 litres of hydrobromic acid in Victoria
- 100.00 litres of hydrofluoric acid in Victoria
- 80.00 litres of MDP2P/PMK in New South Wales.

85 Methyl 3-[3’4’- (methylenedioxy)phenyl]-2-methyl glycidate, also known as PMK-glycidate.

LOCATION AND CATEGORY

The majority of clandestine laboratories detected in Australia continue to be located in residential areas. The proportion of clandestine laboratories detected in residential areas increased this reporting period, from 69 per cent in 2018–19 to 74 per cent in 2019–20. Clandestine laboratories located in commercial and industrial areas accounted for the second largest proportion of national detections this reporting period (8 per cent, a decrease from 10 per cent in 2018–19), followed by laboratories detected in rural areas (5 per cent, unchanged from 2018–19), other locations (5 per cent, unchanged from 2018–19), vehicles (4 per cent, a decrease from 9 per cent in 2018–19) and public places (4 per cent, an increase from 3 per cent in 2018–19).

- Victoria, Queensland and South Australia reported detections of laboratories in hotels/motels or other short-term rental accommodation in 2019–20.
- Victoria and New South Wales reported detections of laboratories in storage units/facilities in 2019–20.

Based on their operating status, there are four distinct categories of clandestine laboratories:

- Category A—active (chemicals and equipment in use)
- Category B—stored/used (equipment and chemicals)[86]
- Category C—stored/unused (equipment and chemicals)
- Category D—historical site.

Consistent with previous reporting periods, for those able to be categorised, Category C was the most common category for clandestine laboratories detected nationally, accounting for 42 per cent of laboratories in 2019–20, a decrease from 44 per cent in 2018–19. This was followed by Category B, which remained relatively stable at 34 per cent this reporting period (33 per cent in 2018–19), Category A, which remained relatively stable at 13 per cent (12 per cent in 2018–19) and Category D, which remained relatively stable at 11 per cent (12 per cent in 2018–19).

NATIONAL TABLET PRESS SEIZURES

The number of tablet presses seized nationally increased 61 per cent this reporting period, from 18 in 2018–19 to 29 in 2019–20. The 29 national tablet press seizures this reporting period comprised of 22 single station/simple presses and 7 rotary presses. In 2019–20, seizures were made in New South Wales (9), Victoria (14), Queensland (2), Tasmania (2), South Australia (1) and Western Australia (1).

The number of encapsulators seized nationally increased 20 per cent this reporting period, from 10 in 2018–19 to 12 in 2019–20, the highest number reported since 2011–12 (13). In 2019–20, encapsulators were seized in New South Wales (8), Victoria (2) and Western Australia (2).

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

NATIONAL IMPACT

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.

Indicators of domestic drug production provide a mixed picture. These include border detection, seizure, clandestine laboratory, tablet press and encapsulator data.

- The number of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border more than doubled this reporting period, while the weight detected decreased.
- In 2019–20, both the number and weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border increased—though the number and weight of detections are comparatively small.
- After decreasing for seven consecutive reporting periods, the number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally increased slightly in 2019–20. Despite the increase, it is the second lowest number reported in the last decade.
- Clandestine laboratories in Australia manufacture and process a range of illicit drugs, precursors and pre-precursors.
  - In 2019–20, this included ATS (excluding MDMA), MDMA, GHB, DMT, MDP2P, P2P, MDA, steroids, psilocybin, p-Tosyl methylamphetamine, hypophosphorous acid and SARMs, as well as phedrine and cocaine extraction laboratories.
  - While decreasing over the last decade, clandestine laboratories manufacturing ATS (excluding MDMA) continue to account for the greatest proportion of national detections, with methylamphetamine the main drug produced in 2019–20.
- The hypophosphorous method of production remains the predominant method of ATS (excluding MDMA) production in Australia.
- Clandestine laboratories detected in Australia range from addict-based through to industrial-scale laboratories.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally in 2019–20 continue to be addict-based and located in residential areas. The proportion of addict-based laboratories decreased this reporting period, while the proportion of laboratories located in residential areas increased.
  - The majority of laboratories detected nationally in 2019–20 continue to relate to the detection of stored/unused equipment or chemicals (Category C). Historical sites (Category D) were the least detected category this reporting period.
- Both the number of tablet presses and encapsulators seized nationally increased this reporting period.

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STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) uses the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) system to process seizure, arrest and purity data for the Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR). This allows for more accurate analysis of law enforcement data and assists in moving 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
- 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 2019–20, not necessarily all seizures made during that period.

From 2017, the NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service (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 Police do not conduct purity determinations on exhibits unless it is specifically requested by the investigator and he/she has a good reason for doing so. Tasmania Police also do 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 great value and hence not worth the significant effort required to determine the purity.

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 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.

Historically, a number of jurisdictional data systems did not differentiate between amphetamines and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). This has restricted the ACIC's ability to monitor and report on national trends in regards to seizures and arrests of specific ATS drug types. Similar problems continue to exist with the range of drugs recorded as 'other drugs'. Monitoring and reporting on national trends of these drugs is therefore limited.

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 (possessing 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 ongoing illicit drug use monitoring program that captures information on approximately 2,200 police detainees per year, across five locations throughout Australia. There are two 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 three years. Since then, additional funding in the ACIC's annual budgetary appropriation has allowed for the extension of the Program until 30 June 2023.

The University of Queensland and University of South Australia have been commissioned to provide drug consumption data to the ACIC. A total of approximately fifty wastewater treatment sites nationally will be assessed, bimonthly in the case of capital city sites and every four 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 include nicotine, alcohol, amphetamine, methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, 3,4-methylendioxyamphetamine (MDA), heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, cannabis, mephedrone and methylone.

The ACIC provides data from the NWDMP in the form of public reports three 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 the ACIC with 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. This data was 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.

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.

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.

For operational reasons, the format of data presented in the IDDR may vary from year to year.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The New South Wales Police Force provided the ACIC with offender, seizure and purity data, with the purity sample analysis conducted by NSW FASS.

From 2017, NSW FASS made changes to their 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 per cent 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.

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 the ACIC with 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. In the Northern Territory, 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 the ACIC with offender and seizure data. 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 dataset. 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 the ACIC with offender and seizure data. Forensic Science South Australia provided the purity data.

The Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative implemented changes which took effect on 1 April 2019. An adult can only be referred to the Drug Diversion Program no more than twice in a four-year period and on a third detection, the adult is referred directly to court. This action has resulted in a reduction in drug diversions.

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.

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 the ACIC with offender and seizure data. Forensic Science Service Tasmania provided the purity data.

It is important to note that the reported figures may differ from those reported in the Tasmania Police Annual Report and other publications due to the differing counting rules applied.

VICTORIA

Victoria Police provided the ACIC with offender, seizure and drug quantities data from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). 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 the ACIC with seizure and offender data. 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.

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.

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.

STATISTICS

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, notice to appear, caution, cannabis expiation notice (South Australia), simple cannabis offence notice (Australian Capital Territory), drug infringement notice (Northern Territory), 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 four 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 in 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. Typical manufacture cycle for ATS would yield less than 500 grams of the substance.

Medium sized 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. Laboratories 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 four 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:

g/gms grams

kg kilograms

na not available

NEC not elsewhere classified

no. number

r revised figure

t tonnes

% per cent

– nil related data or error in calculation when it appears in relation to percentage change

ARREST TABLES

TABLE 25: All drugs—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	23,694	6,279	11	29,984	4,656	964	8	5,628	29,282	7,567	19	36,868
Vic	25,155	7,265	5	32,425	1,761	481	2	2,244	26,918	7,747	7	34,672
Qld	31,901	12,769	5	44,675	3,293	1,103	0	4,396	35,194	13,872	5	49,071
SA	5,926	2,103	2	8,031	1,233	395	2	1,630	7,840	2,752	4	10,596
SA CENs[b]	5,183	1,628	39	6,850	–	–	–	–	5,183	1,628	39	6,850
WA	13,444	5,441	62	18,947	2,266	773	5	3,044	15,734	6,230	67	22,031
WA CIRs[c]	1,117	416	5	1,538	–	–	–	–	1,117	416	5	1,538
Tas	1,989	587	0	2,576	238	52	0	290	2,304	666	0	2,970
NT	287	77	0	364	160	60	0	220	447	137	0	584
NT DINs[d]	446	245	0	691	–	–	–	–	446	245	0	691
ACT	301	65	0	366	44	11	0	55	345	76	0	421
ACT SCONs[e]	24	5	0	29	–	–	–	–	24	5	0	29
Total	**109,467**	**36,880**	**129**	**146,476**	**13,651**	**3,839**	**17**	**17,507**	**124,834**	**41,341**	**146**	**166,321**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	6,530	2,198	0	8,728	1,674	433	2	2,109	8,427	2,731	2	11,160
Vic	7,878	2,399	1	10,278	623	154	0	777	8,501	2,553	1	11,055
Qld	9,760	4,252	1	14,013	714	248	0	962	10,474	4,500	1	14,975
SA	3,386	1,207	0	4,593	371	129	0	500	4,016	1,430	0	5,446
WA	3,440	1,534	14	4,988	700	280	1	981	4,147	1,815	15	5,977
Tas	480	141	0	621	88	22	0	110	582	171	0	753
NT	47	14	0	61	34	13	0	47	81	27	0	108
ACT	118	28	0	146	13	5	0	18	131	33	0	164
Total	**31,639**	**11,773**	**16**	**43,428**	**4,217**	**1,284**	**3**	**5,504**	**36,359**	**13,260**	**19**	**49,638**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	12,616	2,845	10	15,471	1,479	235	3	1,717	14,318	3,143	13	17,474
Vic	8,978	2,277	4	11,259	446	155	0	601	9,424	2,432	4	11,860
Qld[b]	15,536	5,894	1	21,431	1,720	546	0	2,266	17,256	6,440	1	23,697
SA	1,783	543	1	2,327	702	167	2	871	2,709	770	3	3,482
SA CENs[c]	5,183	1,628	39	6,850	–	–	–	–	5,183	1,628	39	6,850
WA	5,828	2,176	32	8,036	640	231	2	873	6,475	2,412	34	8,921
WA CIRs[d]	1,117	416	5	1,538	–	–	–	–	1,117	416	5	1,538
Tas	1,107	304	0	1,411	107	22	0	129	1,256	342	0	1,598
NT	210	57	0	267	104	41	0	145	314	98	0	412
NT DINs[e]	446	245	0	691	–	–	–	–	446	245	0	691
ACT	80	16	0	96	19	2	0	21	99	18	0	117
ACT SCONs[f]	24	5	0	29	–	–	–	–	24	5	0	29
Total	**52,908**	**16,406**	**92**	**69,406**	**5,217**	**1,399**	**7**	**6,623**	**58,621**	**17,949**	**99**	**76,669**

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. Queensland cannabis arrest data includes Police Drug Diversion Program participants.
c. Cannabis Expiation Notices.
d. Cannabis Intervention Requirements.
e. Drug Infringement Notices.
f. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices.

TABLE 28: Heroin and other opioids—consumer and provider arrests, by state and territory and gender, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	717	243	0	960	215	41	0	256	960	297	0	1,257
Vic	1,026	319	0	1,345	89	30	0	119	1,115	349	0	1,464
Qld	242	78	0	320	28	7	0	35	270	85	0	355
SA	50	19	0	69	6	7	0	13	63	31	0	94
WA	146	77	2	225	48	11	0	59	194	88	2	284
Tas	22	6	0	28	4	1	0	5	26	7	0	33
NT	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
ACT	14	6	0	20	4	2	0	6	18	8	0	26
Total	**2,217**	**749**	**2**	**2,968**	**394**	**99**	**0**	**493**	**2,646**	**866**	**2**	**3,514**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	1,470	220	0	1,690	763	107	1	871	2,255	334	1	2,590
Vic	841	157	0	998	110	14	2	126	951	171	2	1,124
Qld	744	191	0	935	126	27	0	153	870	218	0	1,088
SA	134	11	0	145	11	2	0	13	151	15	0	166
WA	146	38	0	184	121	20	0	141	268	58	0	326
Tas	9	1	0	10	3	0	0	3	12	1	0	13
NT	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	5
ACT	72	5	0	77	4	0	0	4	76	5	0	81
Total	**3,420**	**623**	**0**	**4,043**	**1,139**	**170**	**3**	**1,312**	**4,588**	**802**	**3**	**5,393**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	134	9	0	143	36	4	0	40	173	14	0	187
Vic	142	16	0	158	6	0	0	6	148	16	0	164
Qld	428	95	0	523	57	16	0	73	485	111	0	596
SA	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	10	1	0	11
WA	117	19	1	137	39	7	0	46	156	27	1	184
Tas	3	1	0	4	2	0	0	2	6	1	0	7
NT	3	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	4	1	0	5
ACT	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	6	0	0	6
Total	**833**	**140**	**1**	**974**	**144**	**28**	**0**	**172**	**988**	**171**	**1**	**1,160**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	125	30	0	155	22	11	1	34	147	41	1	189
Vic	167	33	0	200	2	0	0	2	169	33	0	202
Qld	297	98	0	395	71	17	0	88	368	115	0	483
SA	15	4	0	19	0	0	0	0	15	4	0	19
WA	113	32	0	145	63	13	0	76	176	45	0	221
Tas	5	1	0	6	1	1	0	2	6	2	0	8
NT	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4
ACT	6	2	0	8	1	0	0	1	7	2	0	9
Total	**730**	**200**	**0**	**930**	**162**	**42**	**1**	**205**	**892**	**242**	**1**	**1,135**

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, 2019–20

	Consumer				Provider				Total[a]			
State/territory	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
NSW	2,102	734	1	2,837	467	133	1	601	3,002	1,007	2	4,011
Vic	6,123	2,064	0	8,187	485	128	0	613	6,610	2,193	0	8,803
Qld	4,894	2,161	3	7,058	577	242	0	819	5,471	2,403	3	7,877
SA	556	319	1	876	142	90	0	232	876	501	1	1,378
WA	3,654	1,565	13	5,232	655	211	2	868	4,318	1,785	15	6,118
Tas	363	133	0	496	33	6	0	39	416	142	0	558
NT	21	5	0	26	18	5	0	23	39	10	0	49
ACT	7	8	0	15	1	2	0	3	8	10	0	18
Total	**17,720**	**6,989**	**18**	**24,727**	**2,378**	**817**	**3**	**3,198**	**20,740**	**8,051**	**21**	**28,812**

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, 2015–16 to 2019–20

Drug type	Consumer					Provider				
	2015–16[a]	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2015–16[a]	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Amphetamine-type stimulants	40,527	40,837	40,144	41,055	43,428	6,885	6,553	4,441	4,992	5,504
Cannabis	72,198	70,747	66,296	64,848	69,406	7,317	6,679	5,732	5,945	6,623
Heroin and other opioids	2,487	2,458	2,699	2,631	2,968	480	502	315	473	493
Cocaine	1,906	2,546	3,343	3,811	4,043	683	809	962	1,185	1,312
Steroids	1,051	1,049	1,047	1,024	974	238	190	143	225	172
Hallucinogens	725	718	832	838	930	186	220	156	184	205
Other and unknown nec	16,143	17,872	18,985	22,035	24,727	2,593	2,566	1,948	2,739	3,198
Total	**135,037**	**136,227**	**133,346**	**136,242**	**146,476**	**18,382**	**17,519**	**13,697**	**15,743**	**17,507**

Note: Excludes arrests where consumer/provider information was not recorded.
a. From 2015–16, offender data provided by South Australia Police includes data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

TABLE 34: All arrests: number and proportion, by drug type, 2015–16 to 2019–20

Drug Type	2015–16[a]		2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amphetamine-type stimulants	47,625	30.8	47,531	30.7	44,887	30.3	46,437	30.3	49,638	29.8
Cannabis	79,643	51.6	77,549	50.1	72,381	48.8	71,151	46.4	76,669	46.1
Heroin and other opioids	2,975	1.9	2,970	1.9	3,029	2.0	3,129	2.0	3,514	2.1
Cocaine	2,592	1.7	3,366	2.2	4,325	2.9	5,016	3.3	5,393	3.2
Steroids	1,297	0.8	1,244	0.8	1,201	0.8	1,264	0.8	1,160	0.7
Hallucinogens	915	0.6	945	0.6	995	0.7	1,029	0.7	1,135	0.7
Other and unknown nec	19,491	12.6	21,045	13.6	21,545	14.5	25,351	16.5	28,812	17.3
Total	**154,538**	**100**	**154,650**	**100**	**148,363**	**100**	**153,377**	**100**	**166,321**	**100**

Note: Includes arrests where consumer/provider information was not recorded.
a. Offender data provided by South Australia Police from 2015–16 includes data for offenders participating in its Drug Diversion Program (excluding diversion records not related to a drug seizure).

SEIZURE TABLES

TABLE 35: Seizures—drug type, by state and territory, 2019–20

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Amphetamine-type stimulants									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	12,856	1,939	11,591	527	8,288	1,168	335	531	37,235
Weight (gms)	2,467,346	60,786	123,006	17,292	152,029	8,149	2,482	1,438	2,832,528
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	1,470	319	82	7	90	0	0	1	1,969
Weight (gms)	7,329,633	1,614,339	508,286	32,643	546,692	0	0	385	10,031,978
Cannabis									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	18,126	3,880	18,597	273	15,510	2,326	2,035	637	61,384
Weight (gms)	3,781,262	1,381,236	1,146,518	871,706	459,133	170,829	90,732	384,679	8,286,095
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	688	187	92	5	91	5	1	1	1,070
Weight (gms)	290,859	300,585	1,586,585	26	195,803	2,714	10	10	2,376,592
Heroin									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	1,222	254	191	27	317	17	6	47	2,081
Weight (gms)	24,172	2,310	1,940	595	15,909	52	35	125	45,138
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	76	54	4	0	15	0	0	0	149
Weight (gms)	103,474	60,101	165	0	1,847	0	0	0	165,587
Other opioids									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	110	1	13	0	4	4	0	44	176
Weight (gms)	24,627	1	178	0	216	16	0	349	25,387
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	98	47	5	4	22	0	1	2	179
Weight (gms)	38,543	135,492	208	2,069	11,183	0	200	1,705	189,400

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, 2019–20

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Cocaine									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	3,197	293	854	36	516	30	27	118	5,071
Weight (gms)	443,179	22,678	10,466	1,766	8,920	97	262	2,161	489,529
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	528	101	23	2	25	0	0	0	679
Weight (gms)	625,554	46,562	23,276	392	388,540	0	0	0	1,084,324
Steroids									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	181	0	52	1	48	0	12	60	354
Weight (gms)	13,792	0	4,899	2	1,117	0	191	750	20,751
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	7	2	0	0	4	0	0	2	15
Weight (gms)	232	101	0	0	529	0	0	364	1,226
Hallucinogens									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	160	17	59	6	89	15	10	9	365
Weight (gms)	317	1,042	983	12	7,753	1,085	3	13	11,208
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	182	84	1	0	20	0	0	0	287
Weight (gms)	6,602	28,022	5,188	0	872	0	0	0	40,684
Other and unknown drugs nec									
State police									
Seizures (no.)	4,415	359	1,077	28	2,541	236	162	114	8,932
Weight (gms)	7,878,547	14,220	36,377	5,501	41,415	3,036	19,457	9,235	8,007,788
AFP									
Seizures (no.)	892	253	60	0	119	0	3	1	1,328
Weight (gms)	2,319,391	2,208,316	396,776	0	52,951	0	163	2,330	4,979,927

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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
>2 gms	2	11.2	11.0	11.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	11.2	11.0	11.5
Total	2	11.2	11.0	11.5	2	2.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	6.5	2.0	11.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	5	11.0	1.3	21.0	5	5.8	1.2	16.7	2	17.5	16.9	18.2	3	7.0	2.3	11.0	15	11.0	1.2	21.0
>2 gms	1	1.0	1.0	1.0	2	4.0	3.0	5.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3.0	1.0	5.0
Total	6	6.3	1.0	21.0	7	5.0	1.2	16.7	2	17.5	16.9	18.2	3	7.0	2.3	11.0	18	6.4	1.0	21.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	1	1.3	1.3	1.3	–	–	–	–	2	11.0	10.9	11.1	3	10.9	1.3	11.1
>2 gms	1	9.5	9.5	9.5	–	–	–	–	1	66.6	66.6	66.6	6	10.6	9.5	11.8	8	10.6	9.5	66.6
Total	1	9.5	9.5	9.5	1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1	66.6	66.6	66.6	8	10.8	9.5	11.8	11	10.7	1.3	66.6
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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max
State/territory	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	1	5.0	5.0	5.0	1	26.0	26.0	26.0	–	–	–	–	2	15.5	5.0	26.0
Total	–	–	–	–	1	5.0	5.0	5.0	1	26.0	26.0	26.0	–	–	–	–	2	15.5	5.0	26.0
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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
State/territory	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	44	77.5	1.0	85.5	23	77.5	12.5	79.0	15	64.0	1.0	79.5	29	78.0	1.0	81.5	111	77.5	1.0	85.5
>2 gms	154	78.0	1.0	81.5	108	77.5	3.0	82.5	107	79.0	1.0	81.5	112	77.5	1.0	81.5	481	78.0	1.0	82.5
Total	198	78.0	1.0	85.5	131	77.5	3.0	82.5	122	78.5	1.0	81.5	141	77.5	1.0	81.5	592	78.0	1.0	85.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	77.1	77.1	77.1	–	–	–	–	3	80.1	70.2	80.3	–	–	–	–	4	78.6	70.2	80.3
>2 gms	8	76.1	1.9	80.3	9	12.1	0.3	80.3	10	80.1	2.3	80.5	13	80.3	1.6	80.7	40	79.9	0.3	80.7
Total	9	76.1	1.9	80.3	9	12.1	0.3	80.3	13	80.1	2.3	80.5	13	80.3	1.6	80.7	44	79.9	0.3	80.7
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1,329	82.8	0.3	97.0	872	83.4	0.8	96.2	560	83.0	1.6	94.4	463	82.9	0.4	93.2	3,224	83.0	0.3	97.0
>2 gms	387	82.0	1.6	95.5	277	82.6	0.4	91.1	228	81.7	0.3	92.0	144	82.0	0.6	94.0	1,036	82.0	0.3	95.5
Total	1,716	82.6	0.3	97.0	1,149	83.2	0.4	96.2	788	82.6	0.3	94.4	607	82.9	0.4	94.0	4,260	82.9	0.3	97.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	2	79.6	79.3	79.9	1	27.3	27.3	27.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	79.3	27.3	79.9
>2 gms	2	79.8	79.5	80.1	8	79.8	1.4	80.3	12	80.1	79.7	80.7	6	80.3	80.0	80.3	28	80.1	1.4	80.7
Total	4	79.7	79.3	80.1	9	79.8	1.4	80.3	12	80.1	79.7	80.7	6	80.3	80.0	80.3	31	80.0	1.4	80.7
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	459	74.4	0.2	78.3	557	75.2	0.1	77.9	454	75.8	0.6	78.9	361	75.5	0.5	78.4	1,831	75.2	0.1	78.9
>2 gms	419	74.2	0.8	77.4	444	75.1	0.1	78.0	425	75.6	0.5	78.7	391	75.2	0.1	77.4	1,679	75.1	0.1	78.7
Total	878	74.3	0.2	78.3	1001	75.2	0.1	78.0	879	75.7	0.5	78.9	752	75.4	0.1	78.4	3,510	75.2	0.1	78.9
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	3.6	3.6	3.6	–	–	–	–	6	78.2	68.9	80.3	–	–	–	–	7	78.1	3.6	80.3
>2 gms	3	75.6	72.1	79.9	–	–	–	–	7	79.8	72.6	80.3	1	80.2	80.2	80.2	11	79.8	72.1	80.3
Total	4	73.8	3.6	79.9	–	–	–	–	13	79.4	68.9	80.3	1	80.2	80.2	80.2	18	79.1	3.6	80.3
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	11	67.5	11.6	80.4	6	61.1	2.0	80.1	3	71.6	32.7	79.4	1	45.5	45.5	45.5	21	65.2	2.0	80.4
>2 gms	152	67.3	0.1	80.3	75	69.7	0.1	80.4	102	70.4	0.3	80.7	72	69.9	0.2	80.4	401	69.8	0.1	80.7
Total	163	67.4	0.1	80.4	81	69.7	0.1	80.4	105	70.5	0.3	80.7	73	69.7	0.2	80.4	422	69.7	0.1	80.7
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	42.8	11.9	75.6	–	–	–	–	4	42.8	11.9	75.6
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	73.7	47.0	80.3	1	79.9	79.9	79.9	9	79.6	47.0	80.3
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	68.6	11.9	80.3	1	79.9	79.9	79.9	13	69.4	11.9	80.3

Note: Figures do not represent the purity levels of all methylamphetamine 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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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	27	77.0	46.0	82.0	36	76.5	9.0	82.0	42	77.0	11.0	82.0	55	76.0	1.0	82.0	160	77.0	1.0	82.0
>2 gms	249	78.0	0.1	82.0	254	77.0	0.1	85.0	233	79.0	0.2	84.0	244	76.0	0.8	84.0	980	78.0	0.1	85.0
Total	276	78.0	0.1	82.0	290	77.0	0.1	85.0	275	79.0	0.2	84.0	299	76.0	0.8	84.0	1,140	77.5	0.1	85.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	79.7	79.7	79.7	2	53.4	35.3	71.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	71.6	35.3	79.7
>2 gms	2	79.9	79.9	79.9	5	79.4	65.5	80.2	–	–	–	–	1	80.3	80.3	80.3	8	79.8	65.5	80.3
Total	3	79.9	79.7	79.9	7	73.7	35.3	80.2	–	–	–	–	1	80.3	80.3	80.3	11	79.7	35.3	80.3
Tas																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	3	13.4	13.0	69.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	13.4	13.0	69.0
Total	–	–	–	–	3	13.4	13.0	69.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	13.4	13.0	69.0
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 methylamphetamine 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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	13	71.5	27.0	77.0	84	74.0	14.5	77.0	204	74.0	7.0	80.5	15	44.5	21.0	76.5	316	74.0	7.0	80.5
>2 gms	57	72.0	7.0	76.0	110	72.0	2.0	77.5	79	61.0	1.0	78.0	50	61.5	1.0	83.5	296	67.7	1.0	83.5
Total	70	71.7	7.0	77.0	194	73.0	2.0	77.5	283	73.5	1.0	80.5	65	58.5	1.0	83.5	612	73.0	1.0	83.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	4	44.3	16.3	44.7	2	49.0	20.5	77.5	11	40.8	28.4	77.5	–	–	–	–	17	44.0	16.3	77.5
>2 gms	3	77.7	25.5	78.2	–	–	–	–	10	77.7	16.4	77.9	–	–	–	–	13	77.7	16.4	78.2
Total	7	44.7	16.3	78.2	2	49.0	20.5	77.5	21	74.6	16.4	77.9	–	–	–	–	30	47.0	16.3	78.2
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	471	33.7	0.5	89.3	404	61.8	1.4	91.6	175	71.8	5.6	87.5	84	39.1	5.0	81.8	1,134	46.5	0.5	91.6
>2 gms	123	29.0	0.4	84.5	164	32.5	3.5	83.4	50	33.9	2.6	83.8	57	30.0	0.7	82.0	394	32.0	0.4	84.5
Total	594	32.7	0.4	89.3	568	49.8	1.4	91.6	225	65.3	2.6	87.5	141	34.3	0.7	82.0	1,528	39.9	0.4	91.6
AFP																				
<=2 gms	9	29.2	19.4	77.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	29.2	19.4	77.4
>2 gms	4	52.8	18.6	77.9	2	31.5	23.3	39.7	1	65.2	65.2	65.2	–	–	–	–	7	39.7	18.6	77.9
Total	13	29.2	18.6	77.9	2	31.5	23.3	39.7	1	65.2	65.2	65.2	–	–	–	–	16	30.1	18.6	77.9
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	104	63.4	1.0	71.3	115	64.5	1.9	76.2	116	70.2	1.1	74.4	109	70.5	0.6	72.7	444	68.0	0.6	76.2
>2 gms	117	37.2	0.4	71.2	111	64.8	2.4	75.2	138	69.4	0.7	73.7	127	70.1	2.1	72.6	493	66.9	0.4	75.2
Total	221	56.8	0.4	71.3	226	64.6	1.9	76.2	254	70.2	0.7	74.4	236	70.4	0.6	72.7	937	67.6	0.4	76.2
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	77.9	77.8	78.1	3	78.6	77.6	78.7	5	78.1	77.6	78.7
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	77.9	77.8	78.1	3	78.6	77.6	78.7	5	78.1	77.6	78.7
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	1	28.5	28.5	28.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	30.8	30.1	61.3	4	30.4	28.5	61.3
>2 gms	28	54.2	8.9	75.7	14	76.5	24.3	77.7	9	35.9	12.6	77.2	20	76.1	15.1	77.2	71	64.6	8.9	77.7
Total	29	53.8	8.9	75.7	14	76.5	24.3	77.7	9	35.9	12.6	77.2	23	75.8	15.1	77.2	75	61.3	8.9	77.7
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Phenethylamine include MDA, MDEA, MDMA, Mescaline, PMA, DMA and phenethylamines not elsewhere classified (NEC). Data supplied by the AFP refers to MDMA purity only. 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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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	13	16.0	8.0	88.0	2	83.5	81.0	86.0	39	78.0	12.0	83.0	6	79.5	36.0	81.0	60	78.0	8.0	88.0
>2 gms	63	66.0	3.0	86.0	81	73.0	3.0	85.0	90	79.0	15.0	85.0	92	74.5	9.0	83.0	326	76.0	3.0	86.0
Total	76	49.0	3.0	88.0	83	73.0	3.0	86.0	129	79.0	12.0	85.0	98	75.0	9.0	83.0	386	76.0	3.0	88.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	2	73.9	73.9	73.9	2	75.8	74.6	77.0	–	–	–	–	2	78.1	78.1	78.1	6	75.8	73.9	78.1
Total	2	73.9	73.9	73.9	2	75.8	74.6	77.0	–	–	–	–	2	78.1	78.1	78.1	6	75.8	73.9	78.1
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: Phenethylamine include MDA, MDEA, MDMA, Mescaline, PMA, DMA and phenethylamines not elsewhere classified (NEC). Data supplied by the AFP refers to MDMA purity only. 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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	16	75.2	63.0	80.0	3	70.0	69.0	71.5	2	73.5	71.0	76.0	3	77.0	72.0	78.0	24	73.5	63.0	80.0
>2 gms	15	70.0	35.0	82.0	8	73.7	32.5	81.0	9	75.0	71.5	83.0	9	74.5	38.0	78.0	41	73.5	32.5	83.0
Total	31	73.0	35.0	82.0	11	71.5	32.5	81.0	11	75.0	71.0	83.0	12	75.5	38.0	78.0	65	73.5	32.5	83.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	3	71.7	70.8	74.7	1	70.3	70.3	70.3	–	–	–	–	1	70.3	70.3	70.3	5	70.8	70.3	74.7
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	78.1	78.1	78.1	–	–	–	–	1	78.1	78.1	78.1
Total	3	71.7	70.8	74.7	1	70.3	70.3	70.3	1	78.1	78.1	78.1	1	70.3	70.3	70.3	6	71.2	70.3	78.1
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	191	21.1	1.7	93.3	137	57.5	6.2	88.5	97	64.2	8.0	87.4	58	62.2	1.4	83.4	483	54.2	1.4	93.3
>2 gms	72	21.0	6.7	88.0	42	73.4	0.5	89.0	39	68.0	12.4	80.0	47	14.4	0.7	83.5	200	51.5	0.5	89.0
Total	263	21.1	1.7	93.3	179	67.5	0.5	89.0	136	65.8	8.0	87.4	105	49.5	0.7	83.5	683	54.0	0.5	93.3
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	11	67.8	3.1	73.6	13	66.7	8.1	75.4	7	69.2	6.8	72.7	11	70.6	29.5	74.4	42	69.1	3.1	75.4
>2 gms	11	67.3	22.0	72.8	10	47.9	25.6	73.9	4	64.8	64.6	64.9	7	25.8	16.9	73.7	32	64.8	16.9	73.9
Total	22	67.5	3.1	73.6	23	66.7	8.1	75.4	11	68.5	6.8	72.7	18	67.3	16.9	74.4	74	67.3	3.1	75.4
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	29.2	29.2	29.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	29.2	29.2	29.2
>2 gms	2	78.1	77.4	78.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	78.1	77.4	78.8
Total	3	77.4	29.2	78.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	77.4	29.2	78.8
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	4	43.7	13.6	52.0	–	–	–	–	2	40.1	39.7	40.5	1	75.6	75.6	75.6	7	40.5	13.6	75.6
>2 gms	2	43.5	29.5	57.4	–	–	–	–	2	36.8	33.3	40.3	2	23.0	21.1	24.8	6	31.4	21.1	57.4
Total	6	43.7	13.6	57.4	–	–	–	–	4	40.0	33.3	40.5	3	24.8	21.1	75.6	13	39.7	13.6	75.6
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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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	3	49.0	16.0	53.0	–	–	–	–	3	79.0	78.0	79.0	–	–	–	–	6	65.5	16.0	79.0
>2 gms	35	77.0	33.0	92.0	6	67.5	33.0	78.0	13	75.0	54.0	79.0	17	81.0	6.0	85.0	71	77.0	6.0	92.0
Total	38	76.0	16.0	92.0	6	67.5	33.0	78.0	16	75.0	54.0	79.0	17	81.0	6.0	85.0	77	77.0	6.0	92.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	1	69.3	69.3	69.3	2	81.5	81.5	81.5	1	67.0	67.0	67.0	–	–	–	–	4	75.4	67.0	81.5
Total	1	69.3	69.3	69.3	2	81.5	81.5	81.5	1	67.0	67.0	67.0	–	–	–	–	4	75.4	67.0	81.5
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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		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 (%)
NSW																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	41	68.0	27.5	90.5	32	61.0	29.0	87.5	31	70.0	34.0	84.5	22	50.2	6.0	83.5	126	65.2	6.0	90.5
>2 gms	61	76.5	4.0	88.0	64	66.0	23.5	85.0	39	67.5	32.5	86.0	87	60.0	1.0	86.0	251	68.0	1.0	88.0
Total	102	73.5	4.0	90.5	96	63.0	23.5	87.5	70	67.5	32.5	86.0	109	55.5	1.0	86.0	377	67.0	1.0	90.5
AFP																				
<=2 gms	5	63.4	23.3	80.6	3	69.9	61.7	76.5	5	74.7	60.7	84.8	1	96.9	96.9	96.9	14	74.5	23.3	96.9
>2 gms	9	79.3	40.1	80.7	15	75.6	34.2	81.6	11	74.3	41.7	80.9	11	71.8	51.2	77.8	46	74.0	34.2	81.6
Total	14	73.7	23.3	80.7	18	75.1	34.2	81.6	16	74.3	41.7	84.8	12	72.0	51.2	96.9	60	74.3	23.3	96.9
Vic																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	213	58.0	0.5	96.9	173	53.6	1.0	85.9	105	53.0	9.2	89.0	56	49.5	0.7	89.9	547	54.3	0.5	96.9
>2 gms	82	66.5	0.5	96.7	62	67.0	0.5	85.0	80	71.0	8.2	100.0	58	69.9	12.0	87.0	282	69.0	0.5	100.0
Total	295	60.2	0.5	96.9	235	55.0	0.5	85.9	185	63.6	8.2	100.0	114	62.0	0.7	89.9	829	60.0	0.5	100.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	1	75.0	75.0	75.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	75.0	75.0	75.0
>2 gms	2	77.7	77.6	77.9	2	74.4	71.0	77.8	9	62.6	23.0	83.7	4	79.7	58.1	80.1	17	77.6	23.0	83.7
Total	3	77.6	75.0	77.9	2	74.4	71.0	77.8	9	62.6	23.0	83.7	4	79.7	58.1	80.1	18	76.3	23.0	83.7
Qld																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	104	29.7	5.1	76.1	69	39.4	1.8	71.5	103	38.6	0.8	77.6	93	37.0	10.1	77.6	369	37.0	0.8	77.6
>2 gms	80	48.5	13.9	77.7	47	41.8	5.2	77.3	80	37.9	0.7	77.6	62	51.5	15.6	77.4	269	46.1	0.7	77.7
Total	184	38.2	5.1	77.7	116	39.8	1.8	77.3	183	38.4	0.7	77.6	155	44.1	10.1	77.6	638	40.5	0.7	77.7
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	59.9	48.6	73.3	–	–	–	–	9	59.9	48.6	73.3
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	72.3	50.2	84.9	–	–	–	–	4	72.3	50.2	84.9
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	59.9	48.6	84.9	–	–	–	–	13	59.9	48.6	84.9
SA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	7	78.5	56.9	79.0	2	26.4	7.6	45.2	3	46.7	46.6	64.8	2	62.3	58.6	66.0	14	65.4	7.6	79.0
>2 gms	6	27.6	6.5	68.1	8	34.9	30.8	48.8	6	68.9	3.9	76.0	3	78.1	77.4	79.2	23	35.5	3.9	79.2
Total	13	68.1	6.5	79.0	10	34.9	7.6	48.8	9	64.8	3.9	76.0	5	77.4	58.6	79.2	37	48.8	3.9	79.2
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	72.0	64.0	80.1	–	–	–	–	2	72.0	64.0	80.1
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	72.0	64.0	80.1	–	–	–	–	2	72.0	64.0	80.1

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, 2019–20

	July–September 2019				October–December 2019				January–March 2020				April–June 2020				Total July 2019–June 2020			
		Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity				Purity		
	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max	Cases	Median	Min	Max
State/territory	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(%)	(%)
WA																				
State police																				
<=2 gms	8	43.0	39.0	54.0	6	25.5	8.0	73.0	6	57.5	5.0	75.0	1	34.0	34.0	34.0	21	41.0	5.0	75.0
>2 gms	14	48.5	13.0	86.0	39	69.0	15.0	90.0	23	60.0	1.0	82.0	19	41.0	15.0	90.0	95	57.0	1.0	90.0
Total	22	45.5	13.0	86.0	45	68.0	8.0	90.0	29	60.0	1.0	82.0	20	39.0	15.0	90.0	116	49.5	1.0	90.0
AFP																				
<=2 gms	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
>2 gms	3	81.7	81.7	84.5	1	80.6	80.6	80.6	–	–	–	–	1	85.7	85.7	85.7	5	81.7	80.6	85.7
Total	3	81.7	81.7	84.5	1	80.6	80.6	80.6	–	–	–	–	1	85.7	85.7	85.7	5	81.7	80.6	85.7
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 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, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	na	na	na	na	165	na	na	na
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	543	na	na	na
1 weight gram	na	na	na	na	1,128	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	2,941	na	na	na
1/4 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	na	na	10,625	na	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	na	na	na	na	na	7,000–9,000	na
1 ounce	na	na	na	na	13,404	na	na	na
1 pound	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	260,755	na	na	na

a. South Australia Police has not provided prices for amphetamine as it 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, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
1 tablet/capsule	20–30	15–25	20–25	15–30	22	20–30	na	10–30
2–24 tablets/capsules (per tab)	20–26	na	20–25	15	22	18–25	na	na
25–99 tablets/capsules (per tab)	10–18	na	17–22	12	na	10–20	na	na
100–999 tablets/capsules (per tab)	9–10	na	10–15	na	na	10–18	na	na
1,000+ tablets/capsules (per tab)	6–7	na	8–10	na	8	8–9	na	na
1 gram	150–250	na	100–150	100–200	100	200	1,000	na
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	na	na	300–350	350	300	na	2,000	600
1/2 ounce	na	na	500–700	900	800	na	na	2,000
1 kilogram	18,000–28,000	na	45,000–60,000	na	40,000	na	na	40,000

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 43: Methylamphetamine prices by state and territory, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
Crystal form ('ice')								
1 street deal (0.1 gram)	30–100	50	100–110	50	200	200–300	150	50–100
0.7 gram	na	na	na	na	750	na	na	na
1 weight gram	200–550	400–500	850–1,000	200–400	1,775	1,000–1,500	na	200–300
Half 8 ball (1.75 grams)	na	na	900–1,200	250–600	1,468	na	900	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)	550–1,200	na	1,800–2,000	500–1,500	4,632	3,500	2,500–3,000	1,300–1,800
1/4 ounce	na	na	na	na	5,375	na	na	na
1 vial (1/2 ounce)	na	na	na	2,300–2,400	1,300	na	na	na
1 ounce (street deal)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 ounce	3,000–6,000	8,000–12,000	9,000–11,000	2,000–7,000	17,674	15,000–20,000	9,000	7,500–10,000
1 pound	40,000–45,000	na	140,000–150,000	na	241,667	na	na	na
1 kilogram	100,000–180,000	230,000–280,000	220,000–250,000	80,000–200,000	372,500	320,000	na	190,000–200,000
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 it 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, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA[a]	WA	Tas	NT[Bb]	ACT
Bush								
Leaf								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	na	na	na	na	50–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	600	na
1 pound	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,000–7,000	na
Head								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	20–25	na	na	na	na	20–25	50–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	130–150	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	250–400	na	na	na	na	250	600	na
1 pound	2,500–3,000	na	na	na	na	2,500–3,500	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	4,000–6,500	5,000–7,000	na
1 mature plant	1,000–2,000	na	5,000	na	na	na	na	na
Hydroponic								
Leaf								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	na	na	35	na	50–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	na	150–200	na	210	na	na	180
Ounce bag (28 grams)	na	na	250–320	na	408	na	600	na
1 pound	na	na	1,500–2,500	na	4,238	na	na	400
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,000–7,000	4,000
Head								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	20–25	20–30	na	25	na	25–35	50–100	na
1/2 bag (14 grams)	na	150	na	na	na	150–170	na	na
Ounce bag (28 grams)	250–400	280	na	200–300	na	300–350	600	na
1 pound	2,500–3,000	2,500–3,000	na	2,000–2,500	na	3,000–4,000	na	na
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	5,000	5,000–7,000	na
1 mature plant	2,000–5,000	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Resin								
Deal (1 gram approx.)	na	na	na	na	na	50	na	na
Oil								
Cap/vial	na	na	na	na	na	50	na	na

a. South Australia Police has not provided prices for cannabis 'leaf' as it 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, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
Half point (0.05 gram)	50	na	na	na	na	30	na	na
1 taste/cap (0.1–0.3 gram)	50–100	na	na	50–100	141	60–150	na	70–100
1/4 gram	na	na	na	na	150	na	na	na
1/2 weight (0.4–0.6 gram)	100–200	na	na	100–200	350	200–250	na	na
1 street weight (0.6–0.8 gram)	na	na	na	na	500	250–350	na	na
1 gram	300–700	200–300	na	450–500	750	400	na	400–500
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	900–1,000	na	na	na	na	1,000	na	1,000–1,300
10 gram bag	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1/2 ounce	na	na	na	na	na	4,500	na	na
1 ounce	6,500–8,000	6,500–8,000	na	na	17,500	na	na	5,000
1/2 Asian catti (350 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
12.5 ounce block	40,000–70,000	100,000–120,000	na	na	na	na	na	20,000
1 pound	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Asian catti (700 grams)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 kilogram	160,000–170,000	180,000–220,000	na	na	na	na	na	90,000–120,000

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, 2019–20 ($)

Weight	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[a]	ACT
1 cap	100–200	na	60–100	na	na	50	na	na
1 gram	300–600	400–500	350–500	300–350	400	300–500	450	300–400
8 ball (3.5 grams; i.e. 1/8 ounce)	1,000–1,200	na	700–1,000	1,200–1,300	1,400	1,000–1,200	na	600–900
1/4 ounce	na	na	1,600–2,200	na	2,400	na	na	na
1 ounce	5,500–7,500	7,000–10,000	5,000–9,000	6,000–7,500	8,800	8,000	8,000–10,000	7,000–11,000
1 pound	na	na	85,000–100,000	na	175,000	na	na	na
1 kilogram	150,000–230,000	210,000–250,000	150,000–185,000	160,000–170,000	313,000	na	na	280,000–330,000

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, 2019–20 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
LSD								
1–9 tabs (ddu[a])	25	na	15–20	na	35	30	na	na
10–100 tabs (ddu)	10–20	na	15–20	na	25	24	na	na
101–999 tabs (ddu)	na	na	10–12	na	13	na	na	na
1000+ tabs (ddu)	na	na	8–10	na	na	na	na	na
1 x 20 millilitre vial	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Psilocybin								
1 gram	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Ketamine								
Tablet	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Powder (1 gram)	240–260	180–200	na	200	na	na	na	na
Vial (5–10 millilitres)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
GHB/GBL/1,4-butanediol								
1–1.5 millilitres	5–10	na	na	2–5	10	na	na	5
4–5 millilitres (fish)	na	20–30	na	na	na	na	na	na
10–15 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	70
50 millilitres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
100 millilitres	500–700	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Bulk	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1 litre	1,100–5,000	2,500–3,000	na	900–1,500	na	na	na	2,500–3,000
25 litres	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
GHB					350			
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
OPIOID PHARMACEUTICALS								
Per milligram	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na
Per tablet	na	na	na	na	na	15	na	na
OxyContin (per tablet)	20–100	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (60 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	60	na	na
OxyContin (80 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (100 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	100	na	na
OxyContin (200 milligram tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
OxyContin (1 box)	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.

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2019–20 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
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	na
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)	90–300	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Fentanyl (per gram)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Morphine (per tablet)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BENZODIAZEPINE PHARMACEUTICALS								
Per milligram	na	na	10	na	na	na	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
Nitrazepan (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	na	na	na	na	na
Xanax (50 tablets)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
PRECURSORS								
Ephedrine								
1 kilogram	na	na	na	na	na	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	na	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

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2019–20 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
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
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	20–25	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
PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE ENHANCING DRUGS								
Testosterone enanthate 200 milligrams								
1 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	80	na	na	na	na	na
10 x 10 millilitre vial	na	na	840	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
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

TABLE 47 (continued): Other drugs prices by state and territory, 2019–20 ($)

Other drugs	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT[b]	ACT
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	100	na	na	na

APPENDIX

UNDER EMBARGO

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).

TASKFORCE BLAZE

Taskforce Blaze**,** a partnership with the Chinese National Narcotics Control Commission, has been responsible for the disruption of significant transnational serious and organised crime attempts to target the Australian community. Since November 2015, this cooperation has resulted in the seizure of more than 26 tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals and $2 million in proceeds of crime.

AFP AND MYANMAR POLICE FORCE (MPF)

Previous to the military coup of February 2021, the Australian Federal Police and MPF were in discussions to establish 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, AFP has since suspended capability and training programs with the MPF.

TASKFORCE STORM

Taskforce Storm is a joint taskforce 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 involving joint investigations and intelligence exchange to combat transnational crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking and serious fraud. Since its inception in May 2016, Taskforce Storm has resulted in the seizure of over nine tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals, 25 arrests and combined asset seizures in both Thailand and Australia valued in excess of $5.2 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 drugs and precursor chemicals, as well as 62 arrests.

In September 2020, collaborative efforts led to the disruption of a clandestine laboratory involved in the production of cathinone-type substances and the seizure of over 1.2 tonnes of drugs and precursor chemicals. It is assessed that the syndicate had been in operation for at least 12 months, with narcotic shipments sent to Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe.

TASKFORCE BASILISK

Taskforce Basilisk, the full-time Colombia-Australia Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, conducts disruption and enforcement operations in Colombia independently from, or coordinated with, activity in Australia or elsewhere. After 15 years, Basilisk now self-sufficiently identifies threats, noting Colombia remains the primary source of cocaine in Australia regardless of transport route. 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 Basilisk-related activities and cooperation with the Colombian National Police has also resulted in 27 seizures of cocaine in Colombia destined for Australia totalling 31 kilograms (gross weight including the concealments).

TASKFORCE TYCHE

Taskforce Tyche is a joint arrangement between the AFP, National Police of Netherlands (NPN), the Dutch National Prosecutors Office and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC). The AFP has been working in partnership with the NPN since November 2019 in an effort to enhance proactive joint investigations on high value targets involved in drug trafficking between Australia and the Netherlands.

This Taskforce has already resulted in 13 arrests and the seizure of 800 kilograms of MDMA, 548 litres of MDMA oil and 66 tonnes of precursor chemicals.

TRANSNATIONAL SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME PACIFIC TASKFORCE

In February 2019, the AFP, New Zealand Police, Fiji Police Force and Tonga Police Force launched the TSOC Pacific Taskforce, which is a commitment by all participants to work collaboratively to combat transnational organised crime impacting on the Pacific.
The goals of the Taskforce are to:

- enhance information sharing between participants through the established Pacific Transnational Crime Network, Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre and respective Tactical Crime Units
- investigate and disrupt transnational serious and organised crime operating from, through or impacting the participant countries
- target organised crime entities or syndicates utilising small craft to move illicit drugs and facilitate other organised criminal activity
- demonstrate the commitment of participants toward effective multi-national cooperation and effectiveness combating transnational organised crime
- strengthen cooperation to conduct expanded investigations on transnational organised crime groups operating within and between multiple countries.

Initiatives undertaken by the Taskforce have resulted in 18 arrests in Fiji, Australia and New Zealand, and the seizure of 84 kilograms of cocaine, 2 kilograms of MDMA and 45 kilograms of methylamphetamine. In support of the Taskforce goals, Fiji Police has successfully uprooted in excess of 2.5 tonnes of cannabis (in excess of 40,000 plants) and arrested an additional 25 offenders during the COVID-19 travel ban, significantly disrupting local Pacific criminal networks also exploited by TSOC groups transshipping methylamphetamine and cocaine to Australia and New Zealand. During this same period, Tonga Police Force continued to have success in targeting and disrupting illicit drug import channels into Tonga, further limiting options for TSOC groups to exploit Tonga as a transshipment point to markets in Australia and New Zealand.

The Taskforce also identified a number of high value targets impacting the Pacific, based predominantly in Fiji and Tonga, who are responsible for the transport and stockpiling of narcotics in Fiji. The targets have a strong nexus to organised crime groups operating from Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Mexico and China.

During the COVID-19 period, the focus of Taskforce operations has been directed towards dismantling local Pacific networks connecting with TSOC groups and investigating the laundering of criminal proceeds by TSOC in the Pacific.

APPENDIX 2

2019–20 SIGNIFICANT BORDER DETECTIONS (SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS)

ATS

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2019–20 include:

- 735.0 kilograms of methylamphetamine detected on 12 August 2019 via sea cargo from Mexico
- 396.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 8 June 2020 via sea cargo from Malaysia
- 390.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 14 February 2020 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 360.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 4 March 2020 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 300.0 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 15 October 2019 via air cargo from the United States (US).

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 2,181.0 kilograms and account for 41 per cent of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

Significant border detections of MDMA in 2019–20 include:

- 1,056.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 15 January 2020 via sea cargo from the Republic of Korea
- 12.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 17 July 2019 via air cargo from Estonia
- 9.6 kilograms of MDMA detected on 7 December 2019 via air cargo from France
- 9.5 kilograms of MDMA detected on 22 January 2020 via international mail from Switzerland
- 8.0 kilograms of MDMA detected on 29 May 2020 via air cargo from Germany.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 1,095.1 kilograms and account for 85 per cent of the total weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

CANNABIS

Significant border detections of cannabis in 2019–20 include:

- 42.8 kilograms of cannabis detected on 18 August 2019 via air cargo from Spain
- 24.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 3 December 2019 via air cargo from the US
- 16.8 kilograms of cannabis detected on 4 February 2020 via air cargo from the United Kingdom (UK)
- 8.0 kilograms of cannabis detected on 20 November 2019 via sea cargo from China (including Hong Kong)
- 6.2 kilograms of cannabis detected on 9 July 2019 via international mail from the US.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 97.8 kilograms and account for 15 per cent of the total weight of cannabis detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

HEROIN

Significant border detections of heroin in 2019–20 include:

- 10.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 30 August 2019 via air cargo from the United Arab Emirates
- 6.1 kilograms of heroin detected on 13 February 2020 via international mail from Thailand
- 5.0 kilograms of heroin detected on 26 November 2019 via air cargo from Malaysia
- 4.5 kilograms of heroin detected on 3 November 2019 via air cargo from Thailand
- 4.2 kilograms of heroin detected on 20 January 2020 via air cargo from Malaysia.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 29.8 kilograms and account for 27 per cent of the total weight of heroin detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

COCAINE

Significant border detections of cocaine in 2019–20 include:

- 233.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 21 September 2019 via sea cargo from Mexico
- 150.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 24 July 2019 via air cargo from the US
- 75.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 9 June 2020 via sea cargo from Germany
- 40.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 8 October 2019 via air cargo from Austria
- 33.0 kilograms of cocaine detected on 16 January 2020 via international mail from Brazil.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 531.0 kilograms and account for 70 per cent of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

PRECURSORS

In 2019–20, all significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors originated from China (including Hong Kong) and include:

- 1,266.0 kilograms of ephedrine detected on 3 September 2019 via sea cargo
- 182.0 kilograms of methyl alpha-acetylphenylacetate detected on 21 November 2019 via air cargo
- 109.0 kilograms of phenyl-2-propane (P2P) detected on 1 October 2019 via air cargo
- 104.0 kilograms of methylamine detected on 6 August 2019 via air cargo
- 100.0 kilograms of methylamine detected on 28 July 2019 via air cargo.

These 5 detections have a combined weight of 1,761 kilograms and account for 84 per cent of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) precursors detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

Significant border detections of MDMA precursors in 2019–20 include:

- 1.8 kilograms of methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone (MDP2P) detected on 20 August 2019 via air cargo from the UK
- 1.5 kilograms of piperonal detected on 4 February 2020 via air cargo from Germany.

These 2 detections have a combined weight of 3.3 kilograms and account for 80 per cent of the total weight of MDMA precursors detected at the Australian border in 2019–20.

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 2020

		Synthetic Route			
Year	Jurisdiction	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	Total %
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	1.6	1.6	1.3	**4.5**
	NSW	9.8	10.9	5.4	**26.1**
	NT	3.9	3.4	2.3	**9.6**
	SA	6.5	–	0.3	**6.8**
	WA	21.2	22.0	9.8	**53.0**
Total		**43.0**	**37.9**	**19.1**	**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**
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**

TABLE 1: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (continued)

		Synthetic Route			
Year	Jurisdiction	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	Total %
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**
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	**4.4**
	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 1,320 methylamphetamine samples. Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020

		Synthetic Route			
Year	Jurisdiction	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	Total %
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	1.7	1.7	1.4	**4.8**
	NSW	9.9	11.0	5.7	**26.6**
	NT	2.5	2.5	2.8	**7.8**
	SA	5.7	–	0.3	**6**
	WA	21.5	22.3	11.0	**54.8**
Total		**41.3**	**37.5**	**21.2**	**100**
2019	ACT	1.0	0.5	0.7	**2.2**
	NSW	1.5	4.3	2.2	**8.0**
	NT	0.4	2.2	1.1	**3.7**
	SA	5.8	11.9	8.7	**26.4**
	VIC	8.2	5.4	4.1	**17.7**
	WA	17.0	15.8	9.3	**42.1**
Total		**33.9**	**40.1**	**26.1**	**100**
2018	ACT	1.1	1.5	0.3	**2.9**
	NSW	4.8	7.3	4.2	**16.3**
	NT	1.4	2.8	1.4	**5.6**
	SA	2.5	7.9	3.4	**13.8**
	VIC	3.9	1.8	1.7	**7.4**
	WA	26.2	19.3	8.5	**54.0**
Total		**39.9**	**40.6**	**19.5**	**100**
2017	ACT	1.7	0.5	0.6	**2.8**
	NSW	21.2	5.0	12.8	**39.0**
	NT	5.6	0.6	0.6	**6.8**
	SA	14.5	3.4	12.8	**30.7**
	VIC	15.1	1.1	3.9	**20.1**
	WA	0.6	–	–	**0.6**
Total		**58.7**	**10.6**	**30.7**	**100**
2016	ACT	2.7	–	0.1	**2.8**
	NSW	25.6	2.1	3.8	**31.5**
	NT	4.9	–	–	**4.9**
	SA	13.5	0.8	3.3	**17.6**
	TAS	0.3	–	–	**0.3**
	VIC	12.8	0.8	1.1	**14.7**
	WA	26.4	0.8	1.0	**28.2**
Total		**86.2**	**4.5**	**9.3**	**100**

TABLE 2: Synthetic route of manufacture of methylamphetamine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, classified by precursor, 2011–June 2020 (continued)

		Synthetic Route			
Year	Jurisdiction	Eph/PSE %	P2P %	Mixed/Unclassified %	Total %
2015	ACT	1.8	–	–	**1.8**
	NSW	31.2	2.2	3.4	**36.8**
	NT	4.8	0.4	–	**5.2**
	SA	8.9	0.7	1.1	**10.7**
	VIC	11.3	–	0.6	**11.9**
	WA	29.1	0.7	3.8	**33.6**
Total		**87.1**	**4.0**	**8.9**	**100**
2014	NSW	31.0	3.6	4.6	**39.2**
	NT	4.6	0.6	0.8	**6.0**
	QLD	–	–	0.2	**0.2**
	SA	2.3	1.9	1.7	**5.9**
	TAS	1.3	–	0.6	**1.9**
	VIC	1.9	–	0.4	**2.3**
	WA	35.9	4.4	4.2	**44.5**
Total		**77.0**	**10.5**	**12.5**	**100**
2013	NSW	33.9	4.6	1.7	**40.2**
	NT	4.6	0.4	1.7	**6.7**
	TAS	2.9	–	0.4	**3.3**
	VIC	–	0.4	–	**0.4**
	WA	33.5	6.7	9.2	**49.4**
Total		**74.9**	**12.1**	**13.0**	**100**
2012	ACT	3.5	–	–	**3.5**
	NSW	41.3	0.5	5.5	**47.3**
	NT	11.4	–	0.5	**11.9**
	TAS	1.0	–	–	**1.0**
	WA	26.8	5.0	4.5	**36.3**
Total		**84.0**	**5.5**	**10.5**	**100**
2011	NSW	13.5	1.8	4.5	**19.8**
	NT	8.1	1.0	–	**9.1**
	TAS	4.5	–	–	**4.5**
	WA	32.4	2.7	31.5	**66.6**
Total		**58.5**	**5.5**	**36.0**	**100**

Note: This data set represents a total of 1,320 methylamphetamine samples (1,086 cases). Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date. Cases which involved multiple seizures collected in both 2019 and 2020 were counted twice, once for each year.

TABLE 3: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011–June 2020

		Geographical origin			
Year	Jurisdiction	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total %
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	46.7	–	–	**46.7**
	NSW	16.7	–	–	**16.7**
	NT	3.3	–	–	**3.3**
	WA	33.3	–	–	**33.3**
Total		**100.0**	**–**	**–**	**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**
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**

TABLE 3: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2011–June 2020 (continued)

		Geographical origin			
Year	Jurisdiction	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total %
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**
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 147 heroin samples. Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

TABLE 4: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2011–June 2020

		Geographical origin			
Year	Jurisdiction	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total %
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	46.7	–	–	**46.7**
	NSW	16.7	–	–	**16.7**
	NT	3.3	–	–	**3.3**
	WA	33.3	–	–	**33.3**
Total		**100.0**			**100**
2019	ACT	3.9	–	–	**3.9**
	NSW	15.6	–	1.3	**16.9**
	NT	2.6	–	–	**2.6**
	SA	10.4	–	6.5	**16.9**
	VIC	31.2	1.3	5.2	**37.7**
	WA	22.1	–	–	**22.1**
Total		**85.8**	**1.3**	**13.0**	**100**
2018	ACT	5.3	–	–	**5.3**
	NSW	13.2	2.6	5.3	**21.1**
	SA	18.3	–	13.2	**31.5**
	VIC	13.2	–	5.3	**18.5**
	WA	21.0	–	2.6	**23.6**
Total		**71.0**	**2.6**	**26.4**	**100**
2017	ACT	3.8	–	–	**3.8**
	NSW	15.4	15.4	3.8	**34.6**
	SA	3.8	–	–	**3.8**
	VIC	26.9	–	11.6	**38.5**
	WA	11.7	3.8	3.8	**19.3**
Total		**61.6**	**19.2**	**19.2**	**100**
2016	ACT	4.9	1.6	–	**6.5**
	NSW	31.1	1.6	–	**32.7**
	NT	1.6	–	–	**1.6**
	SA	6.6	–	–	**6.6**
	VIC	36.1	–	3.3	**39.4**
	WA	13.1	–	–	**13.1**
Total		**93.4**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**100**
2015	ACT	3.1	–	–	**3.1**
	NSW	35.4	6.1	6.2	**47.7**
	TAS	1.5	–	–	**1.5**
	VIC	35.4	3.1	–	**38.5**
	WA	9.2	–	–	**9.2**
Total		**84.6**	**9.2**	**6.2**	**100**

TABLE 4: Geographical origin of heroin ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2011–June 2020 (continued)

		Geographical origin			
Year	Jurisdiction	South-East Asia %	South-West Asia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total %
2014	NSW	51.7	10.3	–	**62.0**
	SA	–	3.5	–	**3.5**
	VIC	–	3.5	–	**3.5**
	WA	31.0	–	–	**31.0**
Total		**82.7**	**17.3**	**–**	**100**
2013	NSW	50.0	–	5.6	**55.6**
	WA	33.3	11.1	–	**44.4**
Total		**83.3**	**11.1**	**5.6**	**100**
2012	ACT	9.4	–	–	**9.4**
	NSW	46.9	12.5	18.7	**78.1**
	WA	3.1	9.4	–	**12.5**
Total		**59.4**	**21.9**	**18.7**	**100**
2011	NSW	18.8	6.2	12.5	**37.5**
	WA	56.3	–	6.2	**62.5**
Total		**75.1**	**6.2**	**18.7**	**100**

Note: This heroin data set represents a total of 91 cases. Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

TABLE 5: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples, as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2014–June 2020

		Geographical origin				
Year	Jurisdiction	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	6.0	–	–	3.6	**9.6**
	NSW	27.7	8.4	–	10.8	**46.9**
	NT	2.4	–	–	3.6	**6.0**
	SA	1.2	–	–	3.6	**4.8**
	WA	14.5	7.2	–	10.8	**32.5**
Total		**51.8**	**15.6**	**–**	**32.4**	**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**
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**

TABLE 5: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples, as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional samples, 2014–June 2020 (continued)

		Geographical origin				
Year	Jurisdiction	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total
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	–	–	–	**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 275 cocaine samples. Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.

TABLE 6: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2014–June 2020

		Geographical origin				
Year	Jurisdiction	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total
Jan–Jun 2020	ACT	4.5	–	–	3.0	**7.5**
	NSW	23.9	4.5	–	16.4	**44.8**
	NT	1.5	–	–	3.0	**4.5**
	SA	1.5	–	–	4.5	**6.0**
	WA	14.9	9.0	–	13.4	**37.3**
Total		**46.3**	**13.5**	**–**	**40.3**	**100**
2019	ACT	1.4	1.4	–	–	**2.8**
	NSW	18.1	1.4	–	14.6	**34.1**
	NT	1.4	–	–	–	**1.4**
	SA	13.2	2.1	–	4.2	**19.5**
	VIC	11.1	2.8	–	6.3	**20.2**
	WA	13.9	1.4	–	6.9	**22.2**
Total		**59.1**	**9.1**	**–**	**32.0**	**100**
2018	ACT	3.2	–	–	3.2	**6.4**
	NSW	16.9	7.3	–	25.0	**49.2**
	NT	2.4	–	–	0.8	**3.2**
	SA	10.5	–	–	2.4	**12.9**
	VIC	6.5	0.8	–	1.6	**8.9**
	WA	5.7	0.8	–	12.9	**19.4**
Total		**45.2**	**8.9**	**–**	**45.9**	**100**
2017	ACT	5.9	–	–	–	**5.9**
	NSW	44.1	13.2	–	19.1	**76.4**
	NT	1.5	–	–	–	**1.5**
	SA	5.9	–	–	1.5	**7.4**
	VIC	5.9	–	–	2.9	**8.8**
Total		**63.3**	**13.2**	**–**	**23.5**	**100**
2016	ACT	3.5	–	–	0.9	4.4
	NSW	46.5	–	–	26.3	**72.8**
	NT	0.9	–	–	–	**0.9**
	SA	5.2	–	–	–	**5.2**
	VIC	3.5	–	–	0.9	**4.4**
	WA	7.0	0.9	–	4.4	**12.3**
Total		**66.6**	**0.9**	**–**	**32.5**	**100**

TABLE 6: Geographical origin of cocaine ENIPID samples as a proportion of analysed jurisdictional cases, 2014–June 2020 (continued)

		Geographical origin				
Year	Jurisdiction	Colombia %	Peru %	Bolivia %	Mixed/ Unclassified %	Total
2015	ACT	1.9	–	–	–	**1.9**
	NSW	38.0	14.8	–	20.4	**73.2**
	NT	0.9	–	–	–	**0.9**
	SA	2.8	–	–	–	2.8
	VIC	4.6	–	–	4.6	**9.2**
	WA	2.8	0.9	–	8.3	**12.0**
Total		**51.0**	**15.7**	**–**	**33.3**	**100**
2014	NSW	13.5	13.5	–	5.4	**32.4**
	NT	2.7	2.7	–	–	**5.4**
	QLD	2.7	5.4	–	–	**8.1**
	VIC	16.2	–	–	–	**16.2**
	WA	24.3	2.7	–	10.8	**37.8**
Total		**59.4**	**24.3**	**–**	**16.2**	**100**

Note: This cocaine data set represents a total of 209 cases. Due to a lack of available data, all samples were classified based on sample collection date in place of sample seizure date.