

DRUG STATISTICS SERIES

Number 10

2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey

State and Territory supplement

August 2002

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

AIHW cat. no. PHE 37

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2002

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced without prior written permission from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Head, Media and Publishing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Drug Statistics Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Media and Publishing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web site (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>).

ISSN 1442-7230

ISBN 1 74024 199 1

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2002. 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement. AIHW cat. no. PHE 37. Canberra: AIHW (Drug Statistics Series No. 10).

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair
Dr Sandra Hacker

Director
Dr Richard Madden

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Mark Cooper-Stanbury
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6289 7027

Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Contents

List of tables	iv
Abbreviations and symbols	v
Introduction.....	1
Use of tobacco	3
Use of alcohol.....	5
Use of illicit drugs	8
Recent use of illicit drugs	8
Injecting drug use.....	10
Policy support	12
Tobacco	12
Alcohol.....	12
Heroin	13
Appendix 1: Sample characteristics	15
Appendix 2: Standard errors	16
Appendix 3: Population estimates	17

List of tables

Table 1:	Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001	3
Table 2:	Daily smoking: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	4
Table 3:	Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001	5
Table 4:	Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	6
Table 5:	Risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	7
Table 6:	Recent illicit drug use summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	8
Table 7:	Recent use of cannabis and any illicit excluding cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	10
Table 8:	Recent injected drug use: estimate of the population aged 14 years and over, and proportion of recent injecting drug users injecting selected drugs, Australian States and Territories, 2001	11
Table 9:	Support for tobacco measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	12
Table 10:	Support for alcohol measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	13
Table 11:	Support for heroin measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	14
Table A1.1:	Sample characteristics, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	15
Table A2.1:	Prevalence, population estimates, standard errors (SE) and relative standard errors (RSE), Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	16
Table A3.1:	Population estimates, by age and sex, Australian States and Territories, 2001.....	17

Abbreviations and symbols

NSW New South Wales

Vic Victoria

Qld Queensland

WA Western Australia

SA South Australia

Tas Tasmania

ACT Australian Capital Territory

NT Northern Territory

Aust Australia

– Nil or rounded to zero

* Relative standard error greater than 50% – cell value annotated

** Relative standard error greater than 50% – cell value suppressed

Introduction

About this report

This report presents summary statistics for States and Territories from the 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. It supplements the national findings published in [2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results](#) in May 2002.

Some of the results contained in this report are not statistically reliable, but are included for completeness. Where results have a relative standard error of 50% or greater they have been flagged with an asterisk. A reference table of standard errors for each State and Territory is at Appendix 2.

Further, tests of the significance of differences between jurisdictions have not been performed. Readers should not conclude significant differences, even in cases where there are apparently large substantive differences.

About the survey

The survey of almost 27,000 Australians living in residential households was the seventh and most comprehensive survey in a series commencing in 1985. The survey covered drug-related attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, as well as support for various drug-related policy options. These topics related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs (including non-medical use of pharmaceuticals).

A full description of the survey, explanatory notes, definitions, and a copy of the survey questionnaire can be found in the *First Results* publication. A summary of the sample characteristics is at Appendix 1. A *Detailed Findings* report is scheduled for release in late 2002. A [public-use data set](#) is also available from the Social Science Data Archives at the Australian National University.

Comparison with previous results

For a number of the results in this report there are useful comparative tables from the 1998 survey, to be found in [1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory Results](#). For tobacco, the daily smoking rates shown in this report line up with the 'regular' category from the previous report. However, due to changes in the derivation of 'never smoked', and other improvements to the algorithm for deriving tobacco summary status, caution should be used in comparing the current findings with those from 1998.

For alcohol, there has been a revised set of drinking guidelines for Australia published by the National Health and Medical Research Council ([Australian Alcohol Guidelines: Health Risks and Benefits](#)), with new risk thresholds and classifications for both short- and long-term harm. Therefore the present risk analysis is not comparable with the previous analysis of hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption.

More generally, the methodology of the 2001 survey differed slightly from that of previous surveys: a discussion of the main differences is presented in chapter 6 of the *First Results* report.

The 2001 survey introduced the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) method to supplement the drop and collect method and the face-to-face methods of data collection.

The 2001 sample (26,744) was two-and-a-half times larger than the 1998 sample (10,030) and around seven times larger than the 1995 and 1993 samples (3,850 and 3,500 respectively). Due to the greater sample size, the 2001 estimates should be the most reliable.

There was a minor change in the wording of questions used to determine 'ever use' of illicit drugs. In previous surveys, the questions were in the form 'Have you ever tried...' whereas in 2001 the questions were in the form 'Have you ever used...'. For this reason, analyses of drugs ever used have not been reported.

Use of tobacco

For the first time in recent history in Australia, the national prevalence of daily smoking among people aged 14 years and over is below 20%, with rates in jurisdictions ranging from 18.1% in New South Wales to 27.9% in the Northern Territory (Table 1).

In all jurisdictions, the prevalence of daily smoking was higher for males than females, whereas the proportions of never smokers were higher for females than males across the country.

Table 1: Tobacco smoking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Smoking status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
Daily	19.1	21.9	23.2	20.7	22.4	21.1	18.8	29.3	21.1
Weekly	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.4	1.8	2.6	1.0	2.0
Less than weekly	2.3	3.2	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.4	1.7	2.6
Ex-smokers ^(a)	28.0	29.1	31.5	30.7	32.2	32.2	28.8	26.9	29.6
Never smoked ^(b)	48.5	43.8	41.5	43.5	41.1	42.1	47.5	41.2	44.7
Females									
Daily	17.2	17.0	19.1	19.5	18.4	20.9	18.1	26.4	18.0
Weekly	1.0	1.8	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.1	2.4	1.3
Less than weekly	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.0	1.0	2.2	1.6	1.5
Ex-smokers ^(a)	23.4	22.2	21.7	22.4	24.3	25.1	26.7	25.9	22.9
Never smoked ^(b)	57.0	57.3	56.8	54.8	55.4	51.9	52.0	43.7	56.4
Persons									
Daily	18.1	19.4	21.1	20.1	20.4	21.0	18.4	27.9	19.5
Weekly	1.6	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.6
Less than weekly	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.8	2.3	1.7	2.0
Ex-smokers ^(a)	25.7	25.6	26.5	26.5	28.2	28.6	27.7	26.4	26.2
Never smoked ^(b)	52.8	50.7	49.2	49.1	48.4	47.1	49.8	42.4	50.6

(a) Smoked at least 100 cigarettes (or equivalent amount of tobacco) in their lifetime, but reported no longer smoking.

(b) Never smoked more than 100 cigarettes (or equivalent amount of tobacco).

There was considerable variation in daily smoking rates by age and sex, both within and between jurisdictions (Table 2). Key findings include:

- the lowest rates were generally observed in the 60+ years age group; conversely the highest rates were seen in the 20–29 years and 30–39 years age groups;
- across jurisdictions, the Northern Territory generally had the highest prevalence for each age and sex group;
- in all but three jurisdictions, the daily prevalence among teenage females was higher than among teenage males.

Table 2: Daily smoking: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by age and sex, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
14–19	11.2	17.3	14.1	13.7	17.4	9.4	12.7	20.3	14.1
20–29	24.6	30.8	31.7	28.1	28.1	33.1	30.1	34.3	28.5
30–39	24.4	27.8	31.1	24.4	32.7	28.3	21.9	31.1	27.3
40–49	21.9	23.6	26.1	25.1	22.9	22.3	19.4	31.4	23.6
50–59	19.8	21.9	18.9	16.4	25.4	26.8	13.8	31.3	20.3
60+	8.9	9.2	13.1	12.9	9.5	7.3	7.3	21.5	10.2
<i>All ages</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>21.9</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>21.1</i>
Females									
14–19	14.9	12.7	21.7	17.2	16.7	13.4	31.6	20.0	16.2
20–29	23.3	22.7	23.6	26.1	24.6	26.1	17.6	35.2	23.7
30–39	23.8	22.1	25.9	25.1	26.9	33.7	18.0	31.6	24.3
40–49	19.5	20.1	23.2	21.9	23.3	15.9	19.0	22.4	20.8
50–59	14.9	17.4	16.4	15.0	14.3	25.9	15.7	15.7	16.1
60+	8.0	7.5	5.7	9.7	7.7	10.9	10.1	18.4	7.8
<i>All ages</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>18.0</i>
Persons									
14–19	13.0	15.0	17.8	15.3	17.1	11.4	22.1	20.2	15.1
20–29	24.0	26.9	27.7	27.1	26.4	29.6	24.2	34.8	26.1
30–39	24.1	24.8	28.5	24.7	29.7	31.1	19.8	31.4	25.7
40–49	20.7	21.9	24.6	23.6	23.1	19.1	19.2	27.1	22.2
50–59	17.5	19.5	17.7	15.8	19.6	26.4	14.7	24.3	18.2
60+	8.4	8.3	9.2	11.2	8.5	9.3	8.8	20.1	8.9
<i>All ages</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>20.4</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>19.5</i>

Use of alcohol

Alcohol continues to be the most popular drug in Australian society, with more than 80% of the population aged 14 years and over consuming in the past 12 months (Table 3).

In 2001, the prevalence of daily drinking fluctuated around 8%, with males having higher rates of daily drinking than females in all jurisdictions. The prevalence of current drinking (that is at least one day per week) was highest in the two Territories (around 55%) compared with a low of 40.8% in Tasmania.

Table 3: Alcohol drinking status: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Drinking status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
Daily	11.4	9.7	11.9	11.3	11.6	10.8	11.9	11.4	11.1
Weekly	45.2	46.5	43.2	48.5	51.1	41.1	49.0	53.3	46.0
Less than weekly	28.0	29.9	31.9	26.2	22.9	33.7	31.1	24.8	28.8
Ex-drinker ^(a)	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.3	8.0	7.9	4.5	5.4	6.8
Never a full serve of alcohol	8.8	7.3	6.3	6.7	6.4	6.5	3.6	5.0	7.4
Females									
Daily	6.5	5.1	5.0	6.0	4.5	3.2	7.5	6.1	5.6
Weekly	33.6	32.6	32.5	36.5	30.3	27.0	41.9	37.0	33.2
Less than weekly	37.7	40.1	41.9	40.1	46.0	50.8	37.7	41.6	40.3
Ex-drinker ^(a)	9.4	8.6	10.2	8.2	9.3	10.8	5.9	7.0	9.2
Never a full serve of alcohol	12.8	13.6	10.4	9.2	10.0	8.1	7.0	8.3	11.7
Persons									
Daily	8.9	7.4	8.4	8.7	7.9	6.9	9.6	8.9	8.3
Weekly	39.3	39.4	37.8	42.5	40.5	33.9	45.4	45.5	39.5
Less than weekly	32.9	35.1	36.9	33.1	34.7	42.5	34.5	32.9	34.6
Ex-drinker ^(a)	8.0	7.6	8.5	7.8	8.7	9.4	5.2	6.2	8.0
Never a full serve of alcohol	10.8	10.5	8.4	8.0	8.2	7.3	5.4	6.6	9.6

(a) Consumed a full serve of alcohol, but not in the past 12 months.

The NHMRC's *Australian Alcohol Guidelines* describe patterns of drinking that lead to risk of harm in the short term and in the long term. Short-term risk is associated with levels of drinking on a single occasion, leading to problems of intoxication such as falls, accidents and violence. Long-term risk is associated with consistent high-level consumption over months and years, and leads to problems such as liver disease, some cancers, and dementia.

In terms of short-term risk, about one-third of Australians aged 14 years or more had at least one drinking occasion in the past 12 months that was risky or high risk for short-term harm (Table 4). The proportion of risky or high-risk drinking at least once in the past 12 months ranged from 32% in New South Wales to 45% in the Northern Territory.

Across all jurisdictions, at-risk drinking was more prevalent for males than females, with a range of 8 to 12 percentage points difference between the male and female rates within each jurisdiction.

Other key findings regarding short-term risk include:

- around 13% of Australians had risky or high-risk drinking sessions on a monthly basis, with the highest rates being in the Northern Territory for both males and females;
- the highest prevalence of risky or high risk drinking on a weekly basis for males was in Tasmania (13.3%), with the lowest rate in the Australian Capital Territory (6.9%);
- for females, the highest rate of weekly at-risk drinking was in the Northern Territory (10.0%), compared with a low of 4.6% in South Australia.

Table 4: Risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Risk status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
Abstainers	15.3	13.9	13.0	13.9	14.4	14.3	8.1	10.5	14.1
Low risk	48.2	46.6	45.7	43.3	45.4	45.7	48.1	40.4	46.5
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
At least yearly	15.3	14.9	16.3	14.9	16.8	13.7	21.8	16.9	15.5
At least monthly	13.3	16.4	16.4	17.7	14.4	12.9	15.2	21.3	15.3
At least weekly	7.8	8.2	8.6	10.2	9.0	13.3	6.9	10.9	8.5
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>36.4</i>	<i>39.5</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>42.7</i>	<i>40.2</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>39.4</i>
Females									
Abstainers	22.0	22.1	20.5	17.4	19.2	18.9	12.9	15.3	20.8
Low risk	50.6	48.6	48.7	50.1	48.3	53.9	52.5	44.7	49.6
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
At least yearly	12.0	13.1	12.5	12.7	14.8	11.2	15.1	12.8	12.7
At least monthly	10.5	11.1	12.6	13.4	13.0	10.7	14.0	17.2	11.6
At least weekly	4.9	5.0	5.8	6.4	4.6	5.4	5.4	10.0	5.3
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>27.4</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>32.4</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>34.6</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>29.6</i>
Persons									
Abstainers	18.7	18.0	16.8	15.7	16.9	16.6	10.5	12.8	17.5
Low risk	49.4	47.6	47.2	46.7	46.9	49.9	50.4	42.5	48.1
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
At least yearly	13.6	14.0	14.4	13.8	15.8	12.4	18.4	15.0	14.1
At least monthly	11.9	13.7	14.5	15.5	13.7	11.8	14.6	19.3	13.4
At least weekly	6.3	6.6	7.2	8.3	6.8	9.3	6.1	10.5	6.9
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>31.9</i>	<i>34.3</i>	<i>36.0</i>	<i>37.6</i>	<i>36.2</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>39.1</i>	<i>44.7</i>	<i>34.4</i>

(a) For males, consumption of 7 or more standard drinks on one occasion; for females, consumption of 5 or more standard drinks on one occasion. A standard drink is 10 grams (or 12.5 millilitres) of pure alcohol.

In terms of risks of harm in the long term, around one in 10 Australians aged 14 years and over had a pattern of drinking that is risky or high risk for long-term harm (Table 5). There was close to two-fold variation across States and Territories, ranging from 8.9% in South Australia to 17.4% in the Northern Territory.

Unlike short-term risk drinking, rates for males were not higher than for females across the board, and generally the differences were much smaller. Among males, long-term risky or high risk drinking was highest in the Northern Territory (16.1%) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (7.5%). For females, the Northern Territory had the highest rate (18.9%), with South Australia the lowest (7.8%).

Table 5: Risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Risk status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
Abstainers	15.3	13.9	13.0	13.9	14.4	14.3	8.1	10.5	14.1
Low risk	74.8	76.7	76.2	74.3	75.6	71.6	84.4	73.5	75.6
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
Risky	6.9	6.0	7.0	8.0	5.9	7.1	4.5	11.0	6.7
High risk	2.9	3.4	3.7	3.7	4.2	7.0	3.0	5.1	3.5
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>10.2</i>
Females									
Abstainers	22.0	22.1	20.5	17.4	19.2	18.9	12.9	15.3	20.8
Low risk	68.8	69.0	69.3	72.7	73.0	72.5	75.5	65.7	69.8
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
Risky	7.2	6.9	7.1	7.8	6.2	5.8	9.2	15.1	7.2
High risk	2.0	2.1	3.1	2.1	1.6	2.9	2.4	3.8	2.2
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>9.4</i>
Persons									
Abstainers	18.7	18.0	16.8	15.7	16.9	16.6	10.5	12.8	17.5
Low risk	71.8	72.8	72.7	73.5	74.2	72.0	79.9	69.8	72.7
Risky or high risk ^(a)									
Risky	7.1	6.5	7.1	7.9	6.0	6.4	6.9	12.9	7.0
High risk	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.9	2.9	4.9	2.7	4.5	2.9
<i>Total risky or high risk</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>9.8</i>

(a) For males, consumption of 29 or more standard drinks per week; for females, consumption of 15 or more standard drinks per week. A standard drink is 10 grams (or 12.5 millilitres) of pure alcohol.

Use of illicit drugs

Use of illicit drugs is defined for the purposes of the survey as:

- use of drugs which are [generally] illegal to use;
- illicit use of volatile substances;
- use of pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes, which in turn is defined as drugs used:
 - either alone or with other drugs in order to induce or enhance a drug experience;
 - for performance (e.g. athletic) enhancement;
 - for cosmetic (e.g. body shaping) purposes.

Recent use of illicit drugs

There was generally very low use of illicit drugs in the community, with less than 4% using any illicit drug other than cannabis in the past 12 months, and 13% using cannabis (Table 6).

The Northern Territory recorded the highest prevalence of recent drug use for cannabis, amphetamines, other opiates, and injected drugs. Western Australia had the highest rates for non-medical use of analgesics and tranquillisers, and the use of hallucinogens. New South Wales reported the highest use of cocaine.

Table 6: Recent^(a) illicit drug use summary: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Drug	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(per cent)								
Marijuana/cannabis	11.9	11.8	12.7	17.5	14.2	11.9	14.4	24.4	12.9
Amphetamines ^(b)	3.4	2.4	2.9	5.8	4.3	2.1	4.5	6.3	3.4
Pain-killers/analgesics ^(b)	2.5	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.1	2.2	3.3	3.8	3.1
Ecstasy/designer drugs	3.4	3.0	1.7	4.0	2.0	0.8	4.8	2.8	2.9
Cocaine	1.8	1.3	0.7	1.5	0.7	*0.2	1.5	*0.5	1.3
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills ^(b)	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.1
Hallucinogens	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.8	1.7	1.1
Injected drugs	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.8	1.0	*0.3	1.9	0.6
Inhalants	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	*0.2	0.5	*0.5	0.4
Other opiates ^(b)	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6	*0.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.3
Heroin	0.2	0.3	*0.2	0.3	*0.1	*0.3	*0.4	*0.1	0.2
Barbiturates ^(b)	*0.1	0.2	*0.2	0.2	*0.3	*0.1	*0.2	*0.1	0.2
Steroids ^(b)	*0.1	0.3	*0.1	*0.1	*0.3	*0.1	*0.1	*0.1	0.2
Methadone ^(c)	*0.1	*0.1	–	*0.1	*0.1	*0.1	–	*0.3	0.1
<i>Any illicit</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>16.9</i>

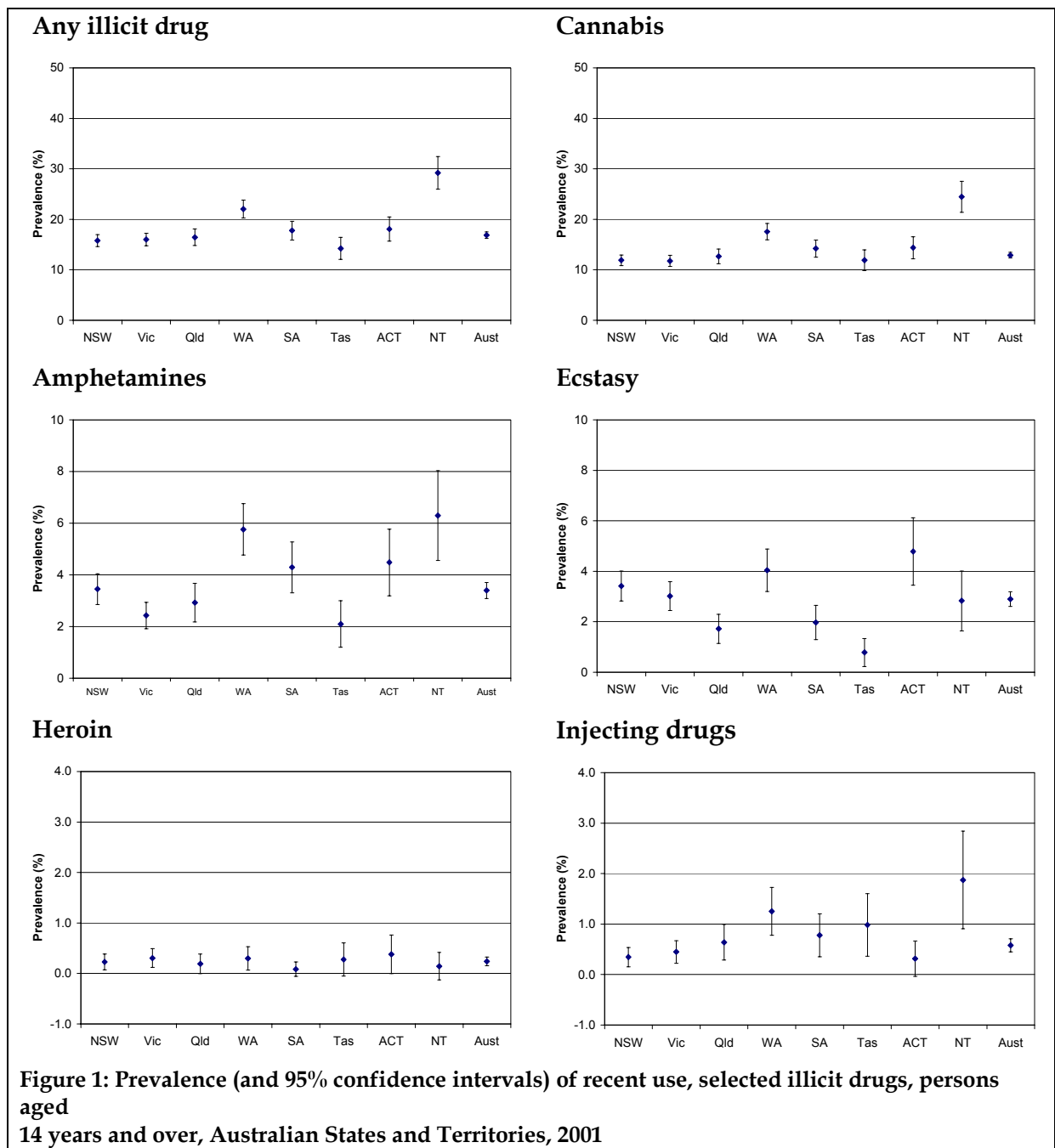
(a) Used in past 12 months.

(b) For non-medical purposes.

(c) For non-maintenance purposes.

* Relative standard error greater than 50%.

Some of these results are presented graphically in Figure 1, including 95% confidence intervals for the prevalence estimates. Note that for some very low prevalence results in the smaller jurisdictions, the confidence interval includes zero.



When viewed by age and sex, similar cross-jurisdiction variation is apparent. For cannabis, almost without exception the highest prevalence age group was 14–24 years for both males and females, with rates in this age group approximately double those of the whole population in each State and Territory (Table 7).

For use of any illicit drug excluding cannabis, the highest prevalence was seen in the 25–39 years age group for males, and for females in the smaller jurisdictions, but in the 14–24 years age group for females in the larger States.

Table 7: Recent^(a) use of cannabis and any illicit drug excluding cannabis: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Drug and age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(per cent)									
Males									
Cannabis									
14–24	29.1	33.5	31.9	34.2	32.6	24.3	34.5	41.0	31.6
25–39	22.9	19.9	24.9	32.3	32.1	29.8	20.2	34.3	24.4
40+	5.7	4.6	4.1	9.4	4.9	4.3	3.6	9.3	5.4
All ages	15.0	14.7	15.5	20.6	17.3	14.7	15.5	25.6	15.8
Any illicit excluding cannabis									
14–24	3.5	3.2	1.0	2.7	2.6	*0.8	3.2	*1.0	2.7
25–39	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.9	5.3	1.4	3.9	4.7	3.9
40+	2.9	4.0	3.8	2.6	2.3	*0.7	1.9	3.1	3.2
All ages	3.3	3.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	0.9	2.8	3.2	3.3
Females									
Cannabis									
14–24	21.8	20.0	24.6	29.5	33.2	19.8	34.3	32.6	23.8
25–39	12.2	14.1	14.3	21.1	14.6	16.7	17.3	33.0	14.6
40+	2.9	2.3	2.3	4.7	3.2	2.6	2.2	8.2	2.8
All ages	8.9	9.0	9.9	14.5	11.2	9.3	13.3	23.2	10.0
Any illicit excluding cannabis									
14–24	4.5	4.8	3.9	10.8	2.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.9
25–39	4.5	4.1	3.3	4.4	3.4	3.2	4.6	5.3	4.1
40+	2.7	3.4	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.0
All ages	3.5	3.9	3.5	4.9	2.9	2.9	3.5	4.2	3.7
Persons									
Cannabis									
14–24	25.5	26.9	28.3	31.9	32.9	22.1	34.4	37.0	27.8
25–39	17.6	16.9	19.6	26.4	23.4	22.9	18.7	33.7	19.4
40+	4.3	3.4	3.2	7.1	4.0	3.4	2.9	8.8	4.1
All ages	11.9	11.8	12.7	17.5	14.2	11.9	14.4	24.4	12.9
Any illicit excluding cannabis									
14–24	4.0	3.9	2.4	6.7	2.7	2.2	3.6	2.5	3.8
25–39	4.2	4.1	3.4	4.2	4.4	2.4	4.2	5.0	4.0
40+	2.8	3.7	3.6	2.7	2.5	1.6	2.3	3.1	3.1
All ages	3.4	3.9	3.3	3.9	3.0	1.9	3.1	3.6	3.5

(a) Used in past 12 months.

* Relative standard error greater than 50%.

Injecting drug use

The Institute estimates the greatest *number* of injecting drug users to be in Western Australia (19,300) and Queensland (18,700), with the least number in the Australian Capital Territory (fewer than 1,000).

Although only very few people reported using injected drugs, the pattern of type of drug injected varied substantially across the country (Table 8). Nationally, amphetamines were the most commonly injected drugs in the past 12 months, followed by heroin, other opiates, cocaine and ecstasy.

Other findings regarding injecting drug use include:

- heroin was most prevalent in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland;
- cocaine injecting was mostly observed in Victoria, with ecstasy also commonly used in Victoria and Western Australia.

Table 8: Recent^(a) injected drug use: estimate of the population aged 14 years and over, and proportion of recent injecting drug users injecting selected drugs, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Estimate/drug	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(number)								
Injecting drug users	18,000	17,700	18,700	19,300	9,600	3,700	800	2,700	90,800
	(per cent)								
Drugs recently injected									
Heroin	37	35		21	**	**	**	**	23
Methadone	25	–	**	**	**	**	–	**	**
Other opiates	**	32	**	19	**	41	–	**	18
Amphetamines	72	53	86	89	78	86	**	89	77
Cocaine	**	24	**	**	**	–	–	–	14
Hallucinogens	–	**	–	**	**	–	–	–	**
Ecstasy	**	28	–	20	**	**	–	**	14
Steroids	**	**	–	**	**	–	–	–	**
Benzodiazepines	**	**	–	–	**	**	**	**	**
Other drugs	–	**	**	**	**	–	–	**	**

(a) Used in past 12 months.

Note: Results in this table are based on very few respondents: those subject to very large sampling variability (that is RSE greater than 50%) have been suppressed and replaced by a double asterisk.

Policy support

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they would support or oppose specific policies, using a five-point scale (strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, and strongly oppose), plus an option of 'Don't know enough to say'. For the purposes of this section, responses of 'support' or 'strongly support' are taken as support for specific policies, and presented as a proportion of those that expressed an opinion (that is excluding 'Don't know enough to say' responses).

The survey questions were in the context of reducing problems associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and heroin.

Tobacco

Tobacco policies generally enjoyed strong support from the community, with jurisdictions unanimous in having the strongest support for 'Stricter enforcement of law against selling to minors' (91.2% overall) (Table 9).

One of the measures with relatively weak support was 'Banning smoking in pubs/clubs' (60.8% overall), and this was also the measure with the greatest variation across the country, ranging from 48.5% in the Northern Territory to 63.4% in Victoria.

Table 9: Support^(a) for tobacco measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(per cent)								
Stricter enforcement of law against supplying minors	91.4	91.7	90.5	90.5	91.1	91.5	89.3	89.8	91.2
Immediate ban of tobacco advertising at sporting events	67.1	67.5	61.4	69.1	66.5	67.5	67.2	60.0	66.3
Banning smoking in the workplace	81.4	83.6	77.0	82.3	81.8	78.9	83.4	71.2	81.1
Banning smoking in shopping centres	85.2	87.5	81.9	86.8	86.7	83.3	88.3	75.5	85.3
Banning smoking in restaurants	84.6	85.9	79.0	85.6	85.4	83.4	85.5	70.5	83.9
Banning smoking in pubs/clubs	61.8	63.4	56.3	61.9	58.6	59.7	63.2	48.5	60.8
Increasing tax on tobacco products to pay for health education	66.0	65.1	61.0	65.5	62.1	59.9	66.0	58.7	64.3
Increasing tax on tobacco products to contribute to treatment costs	68.8	67.3	64.1	67.6	65.5	61.9	69.6	63.0	67.0
Increasing tax on tobacco products to discourage smoking	62.3	62.3	58.4	61.9	60.2	58.0	59.5	52.7	61.1
Making it harder to buy tobacco in shops	60.6	61.4	58.6	60.1	56.7	61.7	57.2	55.1	60.0

(a) Support or strongly support; all results as a proportion of those that expressed an opinion.

Alcohol

Support for alcohol measures varied greatly, mostly between measures within jurisdictions, but also across jurisdictions on some measures (Table 10). Again, there was very high consensus on the measures with the strongest support ('More severe

penalties for drink driving’ – 87.2% overall) and the weakest support (‘Increasing the price of alcohol – 20.5% overall).

Measures with considerable variation across the country include ‘Raising the legal drinking age’ (from 29.2% in the Australian Capital Territory to 45.6% in Tasmania) and ‘Reducing trading hours for pubs and clubs’ (from 24.8% in Western Australia to 37.6% in New South Wales).

Table 10: Support^(a) for alcohol measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(per cent)								
Increasing the price of alcohol	21.5	22.2	20.0	18.6	16.5	18.8	16.4	15.4	20.5
Reducing the number of outlets	30.3	30.6	29.6	22.5	21.7	27.3	23.5	36.5	28.7
Reducing trading hours for pubs and clubs	37.6	33.4	28.5	24.8	26.6	29.7	34.8	28.3	32.4
Raising the legal drinking age	43.0	40.1	43.0	40.3	45.4	45.6	29.2	32.4	42.0
Increasing the number of alcohol-free events	69.0	67.2	62.8	63.1	62.8	66.0	61.0	57.7	66.0
Increasing the number of alcohol-free dry zones	70.7	61.8	62.9	60.1	71.1	66.0	61.0	62.6	65.7
Serving only low-alcohol beverages at sporting events	65.8	65.5	62.9	60.7	59.6	66.4	59.0	60.8	64.0
Limiting TV advertising until after 9.30 p.m.	70.9	69.1	68.7	66.7	70.2	71.9	68.6	65.1	69.5
Banning alcohol sponsorship of sporting events	46.7	45.5	38.8	42.6	41.0	42.8	44.4	37.4	43.9
More severe penalties for drink driving	88.7	88.2	85.7	84.4	86.2	86.4	84.6	84.1	87.2
Stricter laws against serving drunk customers	85.4	85.5	84.4	82.8	85.8	86.6	84.0	84.4	85.0
Restricting late night trading of alcohol	55.6	50.2	49.4	45.3	44.0	51.4	50.9	45.2	50.9
Stricter monitoring of late night licensed premises	75.2	73.6	71.1	67.7	71.1	73.2	70.4	71.4	72.8
Increasing the size of standard drink labels on alcohol containers	67.7	68.7	68.0	69.2	65.3	65.7	66.2	63.9	67.9
Adding national drinking guidelines to alcohol containers	72.4	71.0	70.4	70.3	69.6	69.6	68.3	61.6	71.0

(a) Support or strongly support; all results as a proportion of those that expressed an opinion.

Heroin

Again there was a high degree of variation in the support for selected heroin measures. In general the community most strongly supported the treatment-oriented measures (‘Rapid detoxification therapy’ and ‘use of Naltrexone’, at 79.9% and 75.2% respectively) (Table 11).

The measure with the least support, and the most variation, was ‘Trial of prescribed heroin’, ranging from 29.0% in Queensland up to 48.6% in the Australian Capital Territory. There was also relatively low and variable support for ‘Regulated injecting rooms’, ranging from 39.5% in Queensland to 55.1% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 11: Support^(a) for heroin measures: proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(per cent)								
Needle and syringe programs	58.0	61.8	53.8	61.2	60.9	57.2	71.3	59.1	59.0
Methadone maintenance programs	61.1	68.9	57.6	66.0	66.9	66.1	69.2	59.8	63.7
Treatment with drugs other than methadone	64.9	70.1	60.1	68.0	65.7	64.8	72.2	62.0	65.8
Regulated injecting rooms	44.8	47.4	39.5	47.3	45.8	48.3	55.1	49.8	45.1
Trial of prescribed heroin	34.0	37.3	29.0	36.6	35.4	32.9	48.6	34.3	34.5
Rapid detoxification therapy	80.2	81.3	77.6	79.4	79.7	79.1	80.7	79.5	79.9
Use of Naltrexone	74.9	77.2	72.5	77.6	74.3	71.7	78.2	74.4	75.2

(a) Support or strongly support; all results as a proportion of those that expressed an opinion.

Appendix 1: Sample characteristics

Table A1.1: Sample characteristics, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Measure	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(number)								
Sample size									
Drop and collect	5,992	4,555	3,401	2,931	1,896	1,263	1,338	1,273	22,649
Face-to-face	591	569	273	240	188	32	146	16	2,055
CATI	671	508	395	195	162	54	35	20	2,040
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,254</i>	<i>5,632</i>	<i>4,069</i>	<i>3,366</i>	<i>2,246</i>	<i>1,349</i>	<i>1,519</i>	<i>1,309</i>	<i>26,744</i>
	(per cent)								
Response rates									
Drop and collect	49	48	52	53	53	56	55	51	51
Face-to-face	34	39	50	42	34	56	50	40	39
CATI	47	47	51	52	50	62	55	57	49
<i>Total</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>50</i>
	(number)								
Average design effect ^(a)	2.01	1.64	2.09	1.59	1.38	1.39	1.54	1.74	2.06

(a) Average taken across key 'Ever used' and 'Recently used' variables; the design effect is the ratio of variance from a clustered design to the variance from an equivalent-sized simple random sample.

Appendix 2: Standard errors

Table A2.1: Prevalence, population estimates, standard errors (SE) and relative standard errors (RSE), Australian States and Territories, 2001

Prev ^(a)	NSW			Vic			Qld			WA		
	Pop ^(b) (^{'000s})	SE ^(c) (%)	RSE ^(d) (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)
90	4,813	0.5	0.6	3,530	0.5	0.6	2,621	0.7	0.8	1,378	0.7	0.7
50	2,674	0.8	1.7	1,961	0.9	1.7	1,456	1.1	2.3	766	1.1	2.2
40	2,139	0.8	2.0	1,569	0.8	2.1	1,165	1.1	2.8	613	1.1	2.7
30	1,604	0.8	2.5	1,177	0.8	2.6	874	1.0	3.5	459	1.0	3.3
20	1,070	0.7	3.3	785	0.7	3.4	582	0.9	4.5	306	0.9	4.3
10	535	0.5	5.0	392	0.5	5.1	291	0.7	6.8	153	0.7	6.5
9.0	481	0.5	5.3	353	0.5	5.4	262	0.6	7.2	138	0.6	6.9
8.0	428	0.5	5.6	314	0.5	5.8	233	0.6	7.7	123	0.6	7.4
7.0	374	0.4	6.1	275	0.4	6.2	204	0.6	8.3	107	0.6	7.9
6.0	321	0.4	6.6	235	0.4	6.8	175	0.5	9.0	92	0.5	8.6
5.0	267	0.4	7.3	196	0.4	7.4	146	0.5	9.9	77	0.5	9.5
4.0	214	0.3	8.2	157	0.3	8.4	116	0.4	11.1	61	0.4	10.6
3.0	160	0.3	9.5	118	0.3	9.7	87	0.4	12.9	46	0.4	12.4
2.0	107	0.2	11.7	78	0.2	11.9	58	0.3	15.9	31	0.3	15.2
1.0	53	0.2	16.6	39	0.2	17.0	29	0.2	22.6	15	0.2	21.6
0.5	27	0.1	23.5	20	0.1	24.1	15	0.2	32.0	8	0.2	30.7
0.2	11	0.1	37.2	8	0.1	38.1	6	0.1	50.6	3	0.1	48.6

Prev	SA			Tas			ACT			NT		
	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)	Pop (^{'000s})	SE (%)	RSE (%)
90	1,118	0.7	0.8	342	1.0	1.1	234	1.0	1.1	137	1.1	1.2
50	621	1.2	2.5	190	1.6	3.2	130	1.6	3.2	76	1.8	3.6
40	497	1.2	3.0	152	1.6	3.9	104	1.6	3.9	61	1.8	4.5
30	373	1.1	3.8	114	1.5	4.9	78	1.5	4.9	46	1.7	5.6
20	249	1.0	5.0	76	1.3	6.4	52	1.3	6.4	30	1.5	7.3
10	124	0.7	7.4	38	1.0	9.6	26	1.0	9.6	15	1.1	10.9
9.0	112	0.7	7.9	34	0.9	10.2	23	0.9	10.1	14	1.0	11.6
8.0	99	0.7	8.4	30	0.9	10.9	21	0.9	10.8	12	1.0	12.4
7.0	87	0.6	9.0	27	0.8	11.7	18	0.8	11.6	11	0.9	13.3
6.0	75	0.6	9.8	23	0.8	12.7	16	0.8	12.6	9	0.9	14.4
5.0	62	0.5	10.8	19	0.7	14.0	13	0.7	13.9	8	0.8	15.9
4.0	50	0.5	12.1	15	0.6	15.7	10	0.6	15.6	6	0.7	17.9
3.0	37	0.4	14.1	11	0.5	18.3	8	0.5	18.1	5	0.6	20.7
2.0	25	0.3	17.4	8	0.4	22.5	5	0.4	22.3	3	0.5	25.5
1.0	12	0.2	24.7	4	0.3	31.9	3	0.3	31.7	2	0.4	36.3
0.5	6	0.2	35.0	2	0.2	45.3	1	0.2	44.9	0.8	0.3	51.4
0.2	2	0.1	55.4	0.8	0.1	71.7	0.5	0.1	71.1	0.3	0.2	81.4

(a) Prevalence estimate (values taken from tables in the report can be interpolated from those provided in this table).

(b) Population estimate for given prevalence.

(c) Standard error expressed in same units as prevalence.

(d) Relative standard error.

Notes

1. The standard error estimates are modelled on the average design effects across 35 key variables.

2. Light shading indicates caution in using estimates; dark shading indicates unreliable for most practical purposes.

Appendix 3: Population estimates

Table A3.1: Population estimates, by age and sex, Australian States and Territories, 2001

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
(number)									
Males									
14–19	277,716	200,664	161,806	86,853	63,561	20,966	15,133	9,393	836,092
20–29	459,607	338,675	254,036	136,529	99,868	28,292	26,297	18,111	1,361,415
30–39	501,183	369,102	267,446	147,640	112,308	32,377	25,108	18,498	1,473,662
40–49	478,167	346,278	261,769	142,977	111,352	34,954	23,561	15,302	1,414,360
50–59	394,622	281,260	222,066	115,258	93,160	29,527	19,611	11,057	1,166,561
60+	520,601	374,538	269,421	132,816	129,131	39,630	17,722	6,981	1,490,840
Total	2,631,896	1,910,517	1,436,544	762,073	609,380	185,746	127,432	79,342	7,742,930
Females									
14–19	263,538	193,386	153,908	82,052	60,498	19,987	14,287	8,767	796,423
20–29	454,699	339,500	255,233	131,998	95,622	28,734	26,324	16,987	1,349,097
30–39	505,316	382,100	277,575	147,249	111,172	34,010	26,011	17,566	1,500,999
40–49	481,668	355,746	267,152	144,388	112,986	35,646	25,354	14,199	1,437,139
50–59	386,378	285,018	215,924	109,770	94,262	29,135	19,846	9,100	1,149,433
60+	624,831	456,478	305,892	154,034	158,640	47,253	21,026	5,806	1,773,960
Total	2,716,430	2,012,228	1,475,684	769,491	633,180	194,765	132,848	72,425	8,007,051
Persons									
14–19	541,254	394,050	315,714	168,905	124,059	40,953	29,420	18,160	1,632,515
20–29	914,306	678,175	509,269	268,527	195,490	57,026	52,621	35,098	2,710,512
30–39	1,006,499	751,202	545,021	294,889	223,480	66,387	51,119	36,064	2,974,661
40–49	959,835	702,024	528,921	287,365	224,338	70,600	48,915	29,501	2,851,499
50–59	781,000	566,278	437,990	225,028	187,422	58,662	39,457	20,157	2,315,994
60+	1,145,432	831,016	575,313	286,850	287,771	86,883	38,748	12,787	3,264,800
Total	5,348,326	3,922,745	2,912,228	1,531,564	1,242,560	380,511	260,280	151,767	15,749,981

Source: AIHW population database.