



In 2016, the **main reason** older smokers **gave for not wanting to quit** was because they enjoy it (ranging from 52% for those aged 40–49 to 69% for those aged 70 and over).^[3]

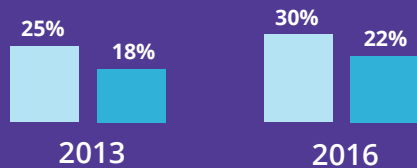
Those aged **70 and over** continue to be the age group **most likely to drink daily** in 2016, for both males (19.5%) and females (8.7%).^[3]



49% of daily and occasional smokers **not planning to quit smoking** in 2016 were aged 70 and over.^[3]

Alcohol was the **principal drug of concern for 68%** of closed AOD treatment episode for clients aged 50+ in 2017–18.^[5]

There was a greater proportion of **males** and **females** aged 60 or older who had used illicit drugs in their lifetime in 2016 than in 2013.^[3]



The two most commonly used drugs by older people in 2016 were **cannabis** and **pharmaceutical drugs** when used for **non-medical purposes**.^[3]



In 2015, **tobacco** was the **leading risk factor** for the **burden of disease** among people aged 65–84.^[1]



There has been an **increase in drug-induced deaths** among older people since 1999.^[2]



Older people (aged 55–74) were the **most likely age cohort to exceed lifetime risk guidelines** by consuming on average more than 2 standard drinks per day in 2017–18.^[4]

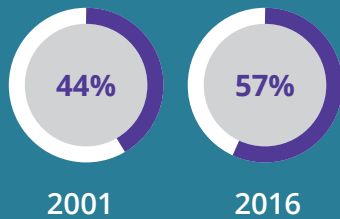


In 2016, **57% of daily smokers were aged 40 and over**, up from 44% in 2001.^[3]

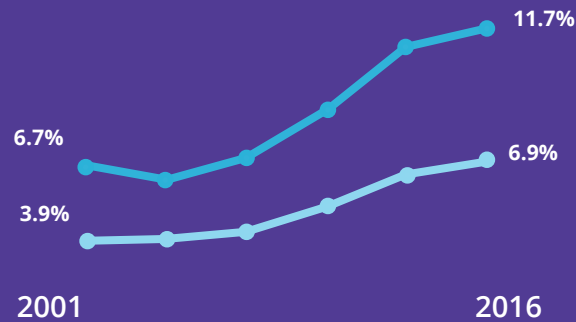


Illicit drug use among people aged 50 and over was more prominent in 2016 (**22%**) than in 2001 (11%), suggesting an ageing cohort of illicit drug users.^[3]

Proportion of daily smokers aged 40+ has increased ^[3]



Recent use of any illicit drug has increased among people 50-59 and 60+.^[3]



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older.^[3]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. [Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2015](#). Australian Burden of Disease Study series no.19. Cat. no. BOD 22. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 13 June 2019.
2. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2017. [Causes of death, Australia, 2016](#). ABS cat. no. 3303.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 4 January 2018.

3. AIHW 2017. [National Drug Strategy Household survey 2016: detailed findings](#). Drug statistics series no. 31. Cat. no. PHE 214. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 14 December 2017.
4. ABS 2018. [National health survey, first results, 2017-18](#). ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 21 December 2018.
5. AIHW 2019. [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2017-18: key findings](#). Web Report. Viewed 17 April 2019.

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For more detail, see the full report, [Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia](#), which can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website.



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