

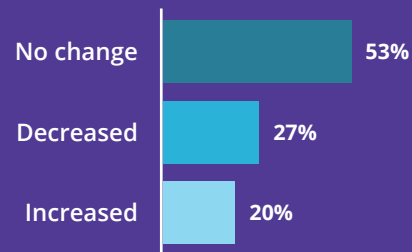


Data sources on this factsheet are not directly comparable and care should be taken when interpreting data.

**37%** of Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System participants used a **different main drug** during COVID-19.<sup>[4]</sup>

According to national wastewater data analysis, changes in population-weighted average consumption were recorded in capital cities and regional areas between December 2019 and April 2020, and in capital cities between April 2020 and June 2020.<sup>[6]</sup>

In May 2020, **27% of ANUPoll respondents reported having decreased** their alcohol consumption since the spread of COVID-19 and **20% had increased**.<sup>[1]</sup>









**49%** of Illicit Drug Reporting System participants had a **disruption to their drug treatment** since COVID-19.<sup>[5]</sup>

**12%** of IDRS participants had **difficulties accessing sterile needles & syringes** and **5%** had **difficulties safely disposing of used needles & syringes**.<sup>[5]</sup>

Capital cities

Regional areas

Capital cities			Regional areas
April 2020	June 2020		April 2020
↓	↑	Alcohol 	↓
↓	↑	Cannabis 	↑
↓	↓	Methyl-amphetamine 	↑
↑	↑	Cocaine 	↓
↓	↑	MDMA 	↓
↓	↓	Heroin 	↑

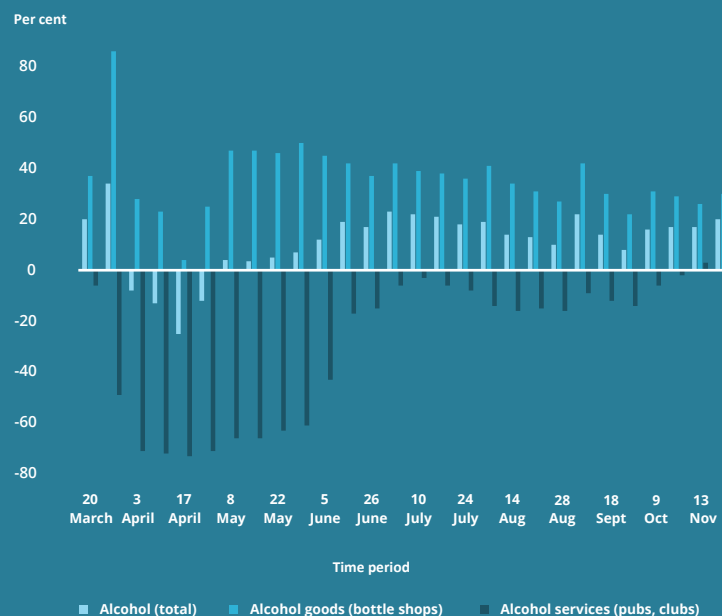
Of those ADAPT survey participants who reported an increase in perceived use of cannabis during Wave 1 (April-June 2020):

- 58% reported a perceived increase in use during Wave 2 (June-September)
- 42% reported they either decreased or returned to pre COVID-19 levels of use at Wave 2. [3]

The majority (72%) of participants in the UNSW study who reported an increase in their alcohol consumption during Wave 1: Lockdown, returned to Pre-lockdown levels of consumption by Wave 2: Easing restrictions.

About half (47%) of participants who reported a decrease in their alcohol consumption during Wave 1: Lockdown, remained at that level of consumption at Wave 2: Easing restrictions. [2]

Commonwealth Bank of Australia card spend data show decreased spending in pubs and clubs (relative to the same period in 2019) continued to be offset by increased spending in bottle shops up until mid-November 2020. [7]




1 in 2 (52%) of EDRS participants reported a decrease in frequency of use of ecstasy and related drugs between February 2020 and April-July 2020. [4]



1. Biddle N, Edwards B, Gray M & Sollis K (2020). Alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 period: May 2020. ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods: Canberra. Viewed 10 June 2020.
2. Ritter A, Wilkinson C, Vuong T, Kowalski M, Barrett L, Mellor R & Sommerville K (2020). Distilling our changing relationship with alcohol during COVID-19. DPMP Monograph No. 29. Sydney: UNSW Social Policy Research Centre.
3. Sutherland R, Baillie G, Memedovic S, Hammoud M, Barratt M, Bruno R et al. 2020. Key findings from the 'Australians' Drug Use: Adapting to Pandemic Threats (ADAPT) Study Wave 2. ADAPT Bulletin no. 2. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.
4. Australian Drug Trends 2020: Key Findings from the National Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Interviews. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.

5. Impact of COVID-19 and associated restrictions on people who inject drugs in Australia: Findings from the Illicit Drugs Reporting System 2020. Drug Trends Bulletin Series. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney.
6. ACIC (Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) 2020. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 11, 2020. Canberra: ACIC. Viewed 4 November 2020.
7. Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Global Economic & Markets Research reports: CBA card spend. Viewed 6 November 2020.

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For more detail, see the full report, [Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia](#), which is available from the AIHW website.



Stronger evidence,  
better decisions,  
improved health and welfare