



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer people



Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

Compared with heterosexual people, in the previous 12 months in 2019 **lesbian, gay or bisexual** people were:

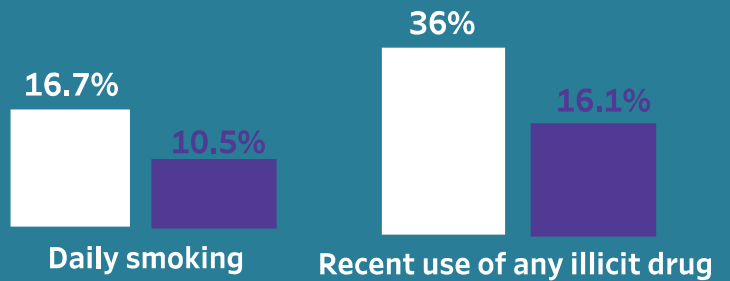
9 x as likely to use inhalants

3.9 x as likely to use meth/amphetamines

3.5 x as likely to use hallucinogens

2.6 x as likely to use ecstasy.[1]

Lesbian, gay or bisexual people were more likely to report daily smoking and recent use of any illicit drug than **heterosexual** people in 2019.[1]



Lesbian, gay or bisexual people's drug use in 2010 vs 2019:



Daily smoking decreased from 28% in 2010 to 16.0% in 2019



Lifetime risky drinking decreased from 30% in 2010 to 22% in 2019



Recent non-medical use of pharmaceuticals decreased from 12.0% in 2010 to 7.5% in 2019



Inhalants increased from 6.5% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2019.[1]

In 2019, at least **2 in 5** (44%) participants in **Private Lives 3** reported using **one or more drugs** for non-medical purposes in the previous 6 months. [4]

Respondents from the 2022 **Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey**:

- **5%** were **homosexual**
- **10%** were **bisexual**. [2]



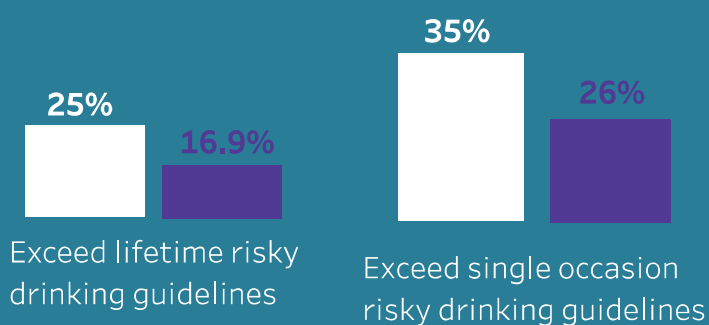


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In 2019, **27%** of participants aged 14–17 years in **Writing Themselves In 4** reported using any drug for **non-medical purposes** in the past six months. [3]

Lesbian, gay or bisexual people were more likely to exceed lifetime and single occasion risky drinking guidelines than **heterosexual** people in 2019.[1]



References

National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. Findings for homosexual/bisexual people compared with those for heterosexual people are age-standardised [1]

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2020. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019. Drug statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 3 August 2020.
2. Heard S, Zolala F & Maher L 2023. Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey National Data Report 2018–2022: Prevalence of HIV, HCV and injecting and sexual behaviour among NSP attendees. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW
3. Hill AO, Bourne A, McNair R, Carman M & Lyons A 2021. Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.
4. Hill AO, Lyons A, Jones J, McGowan I, Carman M, Parsons M, Power J, Bourne A.. 2021. Writing Themselves In 4: The health and wellbeing of LGBTQA+ young people in Australia. National report, monograph series number 124. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia
(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).