



# Cannabis

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

**Cannabis** was the **most commonly used illicit drug** in Australia in 2022–2023.<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2022–2023, **21%** of recent cannabis users report **at least weekly use**.<sup>[1]</sup>



The proportion of people who **only ever used cannabis for medical purposes** in the last 12 months **increased**.<sup>[1]</sup>

0.8%



2019

1.0%



2022–2023

Recent cannabis use was higher among people living in **the areas of highest socioeconomic advantage** than those in **the most disadvantaged areas** in 2022–2023.<sup>[1]</sup>



**Cannabis use** among the Australian general population in the past 12 months **remained stable** in 2022–2023 compared to 2019.<sup>[1]</sup>

11.6%

2019

11.5%

2022–2023

In 2022–2023, most people who had recently used cannabis **usually obtained it from** a friend (61%) or a dealer (21%).<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2022–2023, **people with mental health conditions were 2.0 times as likely as people without mental health conditions** to report recent use of cannabis.<sup>[1]</sup>



In 2022–2023, lesbian, gay or bisexual people were **2.6 times as likely** to report use of cannabis in the past 12 months, compared with people identifying as heterosexual.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2020–21, **52% of national illicit drug seizures** and **47% of arrests** were for cannabis.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 2022, **53% of prison entrants** reported using cannabis in the previous 12 months.<sup>[2]</sup>





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Among the Australian general population, **approval of regular cannabis use increased** from 19.6% in 2019 to 23.4% in 2022–2023.[1]



**Cannabis** is perceived as **'easy'** or **'very easy'** to obtain by most participants in the 2023 EDRS and IDRS reports.[5][6]



In 2022–23, **cannabis** was the **third most common principal drug of concern** (17% of treatment episodes) for client's own alcohol and other drug use.[7]

**3 in 5 ambulance attendances** for cannabis use in 2022 were **for males**. [8]



Males aged 14 and over were more likely to have recently used cannabis (13.1%) than females (9.8%). [1]

**Wastewater data analysis** indicates average **cannabis consumption** in **regional areas** was higher than in **capital cities** in August 2023.[3]





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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 gay, lesbian and bisexual people compared with heterosexual people are age-standardised.<sup>[1]</sup>  
Ambulance attendance data are for those aged over 15 years, data includes NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS and ACT. <sup>[7]</sup>

### References

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