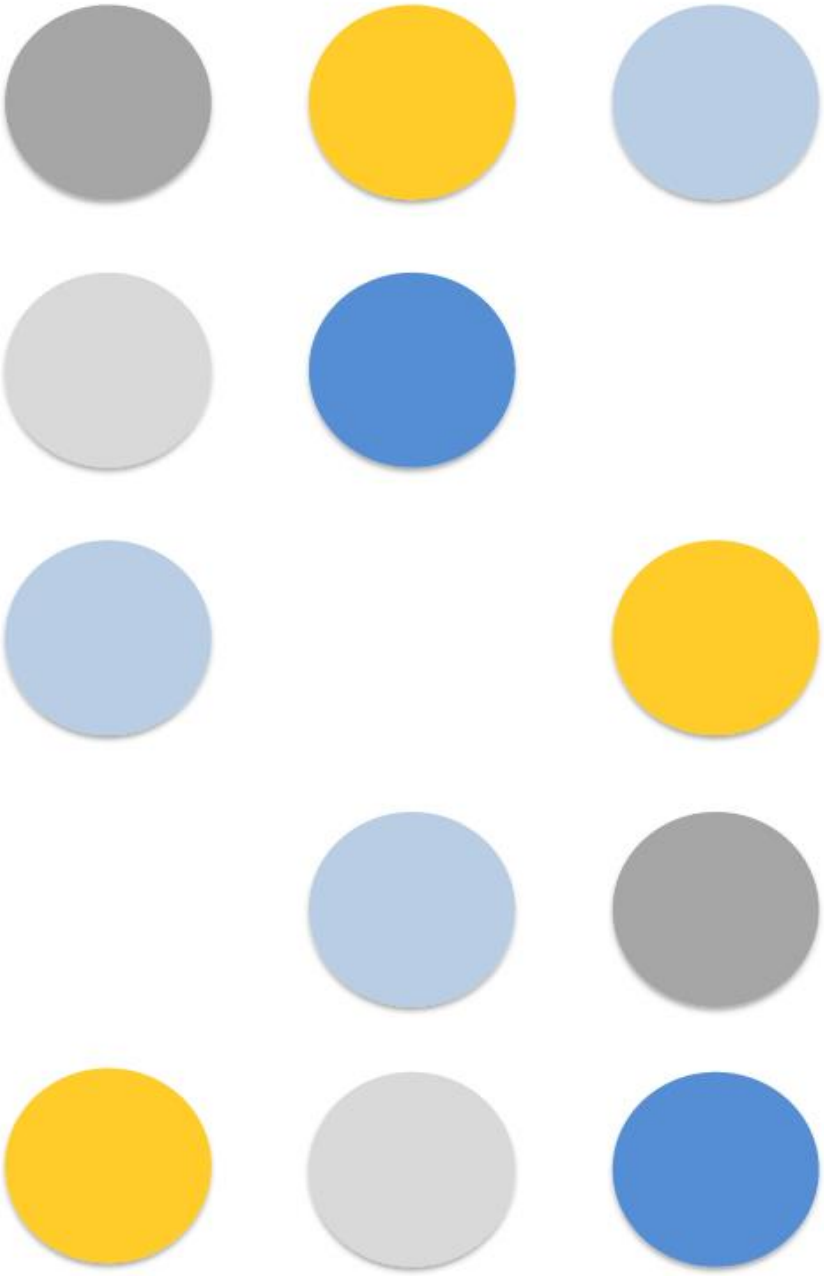
ASSAD 2017

STATISTICS & TRENDS



Australian Secondary School Students' Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Over-the-Counter Drugs, and Illicit Substances: Second Edition

Cancer Council Victoria

Important note for readers

Since its original publication in December 2018, this report and the associated dataset has undergone a quality control review process. This process identified small errors in the calculation of population weights used during analyses of the 2017 data and inconsistencies compared to previous ASSAD survey years in the data cleaning protocols that were applied to a select group of variables for that survey year. Several transcription errors in the report were also identified. In rectifying these issues for the updated second edition of this report, it is important to note that some of the previously reported prevalence estimates have changed. However, these changes are generally minor (± 1%) and have not affected the key prevalence estimates of current (past week) and past month smoking and drinking among students aged 12-17 years, both overall and for male and female students separately.

July 2020, Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Cancer Council Victoria

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Prepared for Drug Strategy Branch, Australian Government Department of Health

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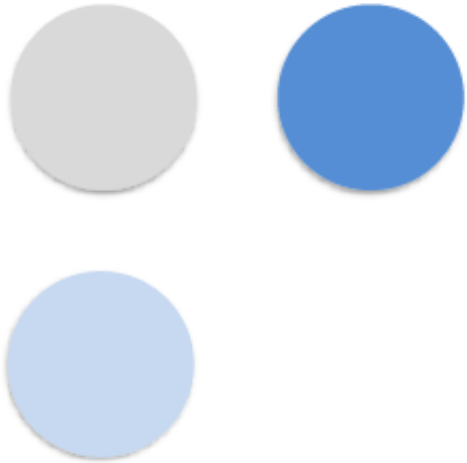

ASSAD 2017
STATISTICS & TRENDS

This report presents information from the Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) on the use of tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter drugs (for non-medicinal purposes), and other substances in school students aged 12 to 17 in Australia.

The 2017 ASSAD survey was conducted during the academic school year of 2017. This was the twelfth survey in a series that began in 1984. The first six ASSAD surveys measured adolescents' use of only tobacco and alcohol. Since the seventh survey, ASSAD has also included questions about the use of over-the-counter drugs (for non-medicinal purposes), and other substances.

In 2017, around 20,000 secondary students aged between 12 and 17 participated in the survey. Students answered questions about their current and lifetime use of tobacco, alcohol, analgesics, tranquilisers, and other substances, and their behaviour related to the use of these substances.

Included in the report are detailed tables on the prevalence of use of these substances by adolescents aged between 12 and 17 in Australia during 2017, and trends in their use over time since 2011. For these comparisons, we focused on estimates for three age groupings: 12 to 15; 16 to 17; and 12 to 17.

The first section of the report includes a brief overview of the survey's history and methodology. Later sections and appendices include a selection of easily interpretable tables and figures which may be reproduced in reports and presentations.

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all students who participated in the survey

the staff of participating schools

state departments of education

state and diocese Catholic education offices

state associations of independent schools

The organisations listed below funded ASSAD 2017 data collection in states or territories:

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Cancer Council Victoria

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Cancer Institute, NSW

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Chronic Disease Prevention Tobacco Policy Team, Health Department of Western Australia

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Cancer Council Queensland

Queensland Health

ACT Health, Epidemiology Section, Health Improvement Branch, Population Health Division

Cancer Council Tasmania

Communities, Sport and Recreation, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania

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Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania

Alcohol & Drug Services, Tasmanian Health Service

Northern Territory Government, Department of Health, Mental Health, Alcohol, and Other Drugs Branch

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Wai Yen Loh, Larissa Popowski, Alison Hopkins of Cancer Council Victoria, undertook and managed data cleaning and coding.

We also thank the research team who administered the survey to students throughout Australia.

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ASSAD 2017

KEY FINDINGS

Smoking and Secondary Students in Australia 2017

Most secondary students have **never smoked**

1 in 20 secondary students are current smokers

Most current smokers obtained cigarettes from friends or family

Fewer secondary students report ever smoking compared to 2011

82%

had never smoked

2014 81%

2011 77%

5%

smoked in the past week

which is

79,000

students

12 year olds 2%

17 year olds 11%

49%

of current smokers got cigarettes from friends

16%

bought their last cigarette themselves

Common brands:
JPS 24%
Winfield 22%

2% smoked **more than 100** cigarettes

3% in 2011

2% in 2017

Past month & past week smoking in 2017 was lower than in 2011

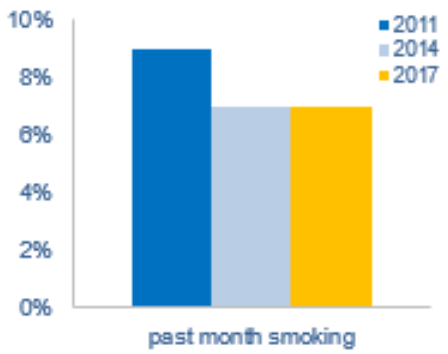
9% → 7% → 7%

smoked in the past month

7% → 5% → 5%

smoked in the past week

2011 2014 2017



73% past month smokers used roll-your-own tobacco at least once

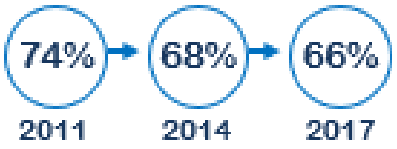
14% had ever vaped using e-cigarettes

9% had ever used shisha or waterpipe tobacco

9% had ever smoked a cigar or cigarillo

Alcohol and Secondary Students in Australia 2017

Fewer secondary students are drinking alcohol

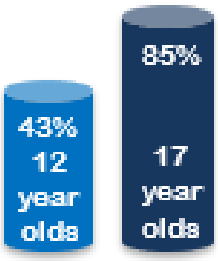


ever drank alcohol

15% drank in the past week

17% in 2011 & 15% in 2014

46% drank alcohol in the past year



Ever drank

Alcohol use increases with age.

5% drank at risky levels in the past week

How much do secondary students drink?

Had 5 or more drinks

on at least one day in the past week

9% 16 yrs

13% 17 yrs

What do secondary students drink?

37% Premixed spirits

19% Spirits

34% Beer (males)

7% Beer (females)

43% of current drinkers got alcohol from parents

Where do secondary students drink?

Of current drinkers

36% aged 16 and 17

22% aged 12 to 15

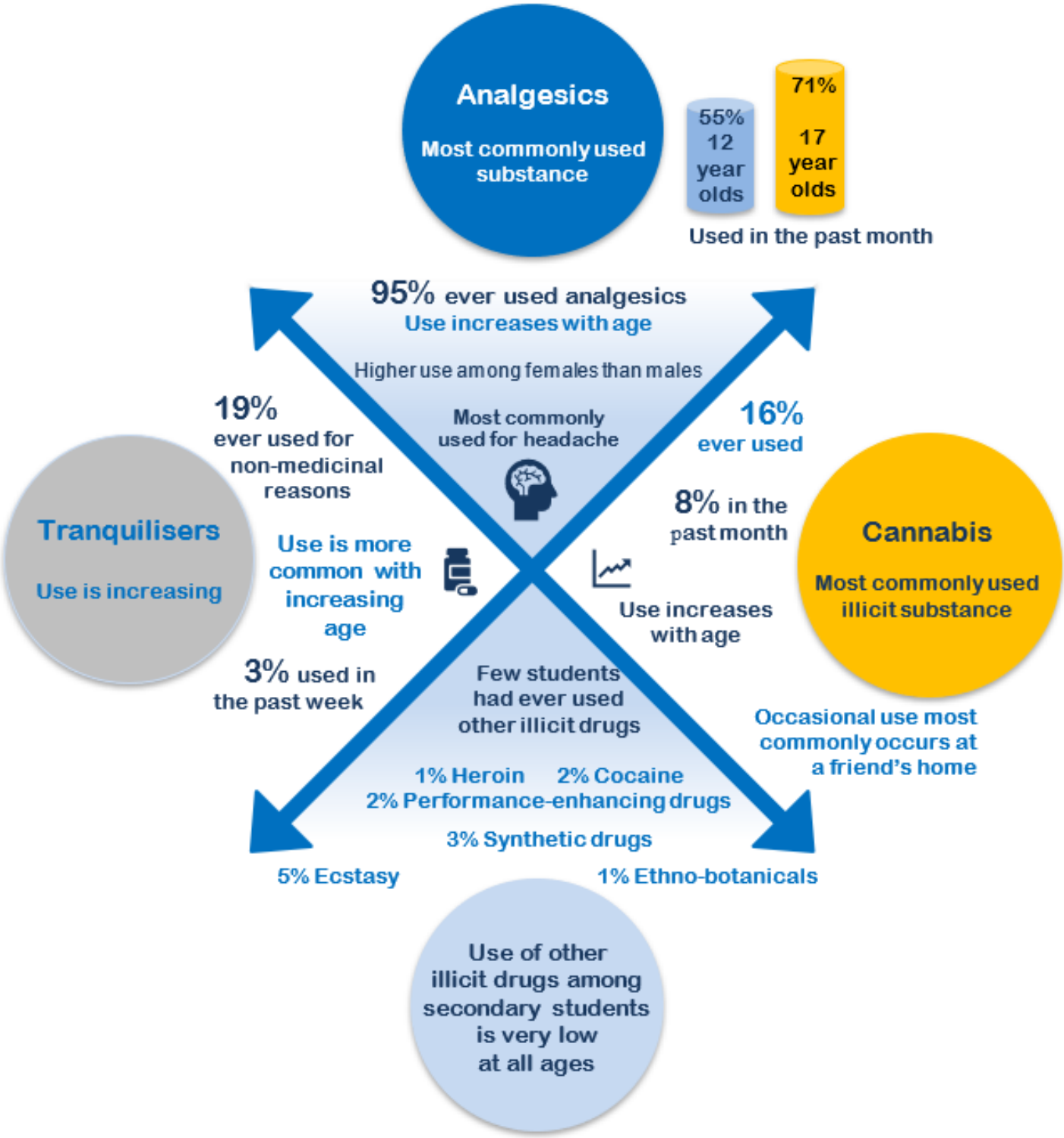
last drank at a party

28% aged 16 and 17

45% aged 12 to 15

last drank at home

Use of Over-the-Counter Drugs and Illicit Substances by Secondary Students in Australia 2017



INTRODUCTION

The Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey

The Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) is the largest national survey of teenage substance use in Australia. ASSAD data provides estimates of the current prevalence of tobacco use, alcohol use, and the use of other substances among school students in Australia aged 12 to 17. ASSAD reports also examine trends in the use of these substances over time.

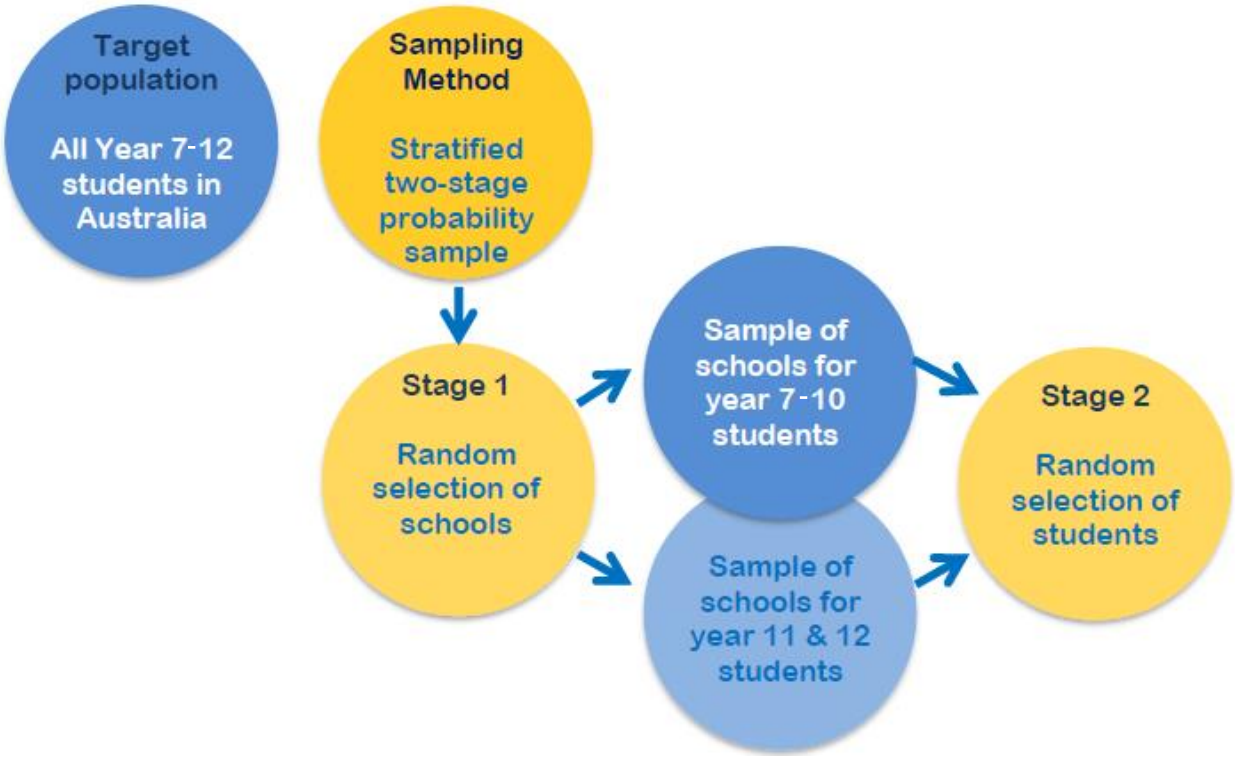
ASSAD is conducted every three years, and ASSAD 2017 was the twelfth survey in a series conducted from 1984 by Cancer Councils nationwide in collaboration with the Western Australian Health Department. Smoking and alcohol use have been measured across the entire survey series, while the section on use of other substances has been included since 1996. Since 1996, federal, state, and territory health departments have collaborated on ASSAD. Previous ASSAD surveys were conducted (tobacco and alcohol only) in 1984, 1987, 1990, and 1993, and (including other substances) in 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014.

We surveyed around 20,000 students for ASSAD 2017. As in previous survey years, teenagers who were not at school in 2017 were not included in the school-based sample.

METHOD

Sample selection

The Australian Centre for Education Research (ACER) drew a national school sample based on the most recent available enrolment data from 2016 (excluding schools with less than 100 student enrolments).



Sampling

We drew two school samples for each state and territory. School samples were stratified by education sector (government, Catholic, and independent) to reflect statewide distributions.

In South Australia, feeder primary schools for participating secondary schools were also sampled for Year 7 students.

Targets

- Target national sample: 25,000
- Survey period: 2017 academic school year
- Schools approached: 1756
- Schools participated: 305
- School response rate: 17%

Factors affecting response rate

Reasons for non-participation:

- High number of research participation requests
- Scheduling (e.g., curriculum pressure, exams, school events)
- Staff time

Additional Sample

Schools with similar characteristics to the sampled school were recruited to replace any sampled schools that did not participate, and so maintain a representative sample.

Procedure

School approvals	For each sampled school, we requested Principal permission to conduct the survey. If permission was not granted, we sought the participation of a school in the same geographic catchment and the same education sector.
Parental consent	State education authorities and individual schools have increasingly required active parental consent for student research participation. When required, parents complete and submit a consent form to approve their child's participation. Without this consent, the student does not participate. This requirement tends to reduce student participation due to lack of parent response.
Teacher liaison	Response rates are less affected by active consent requirements when teachers actively assist in reminding students and parents to complete the consent form.
Sample of students	Past experience has shown that teachers are more likely to assist with reminders when we surveyed intact classes of students, rather than randomly selected students within year levels. Therefore, when active parental consent was required we randomly selected intact classes within the surveyed year levels. We excluded classes selected by ability or performance to maintain a representative cross-section of the student population in each year level. We also surveyed intact classes when Principals were otherwise unable to approve participation.
Administration	Following the protocols established for past ASSAD surveys, members of the research team attended schools to administer the pencil-and-paper questionnaire to students on an agreed survey date.
Teacher presence	Teacher presence during survey administration was determined by state or territory education department policy, and school policy. 94% of students completed the questionnaire with a teacher present. This proportion was similar in 2011 (90%) and 2014 (90%). When present, teachers stayed at the front or back of the room and did not assist with survey administration. Overall, students completing the survey with a teacher present did not report significantly lower tobacco use than those who completed the survey without a teacher present. When a teacher was present, students tended to be more likely to report lifetime tobacco use, however this difference was not significant. For more recent smoking (i.e., past week, past month, past year), teacher presence had no significant effect on students' responses. When a teacher was present, students did not report significantly less alcohol use than students who completed the survey without a teacher present. Older students were more likely to report drinking alcohol in the past year when a teacher was present when they were surveyed, but this did not affect the pattern of overall results. For other substances, teacher presence did not significantly affect student responses.
Questionnaire	The 15 page questionnaire was shared in all states and territories and included key questions about use of tobacco, alcohol, analgesics, tranquilisers, and other substances (see Appendix 1). Two questions about students' mental health and use of health services were also included. To control for order effects, we used two versions of the questionnaire. For order 1, students completed questions about alcohol use first. For order 2, students completed questions about tobacco use first. Questions about the use of other substances were completed after alcohol and tobacco use questions for both orders.

Questions about tobacco use

Past surveys	Most of the questionnaire items related to tobacco use in the core questionnaire were identical to those in previous ASSAD surveys.
Recency	These questions assessed lifetime use, use in the past 12 months, use in the past four weeks, and use in each of the seven days preceding the survey.
Cigarette brands	Students who had used tobacco in the past seven days were asked to indicate the brand they smoked and the usual packet size.
Source of cigarettes	Students who had used tobacco in the past seven days were asked how they got their last cigarette. If students indicated that someone had bought their last cigarette for them, they were asked to report who this person was.
Self-perceived smoking status	Students were also asked to report whether they saw themselves as a non-smoker, ex-smoker, occasional smoker, light smoker, or heavy smoker.
Form of tobacco use	In 2014, we included questions asking students to indicate their use of roll-your-own tobacco, shisha (i.e., hookah or waterpipe tobacco), and cigars/cigarillos. In 2017, we expanded the range of questions asked about e-cigarettes and shisha tobacco.
E-cigarettes	Students were asked to report their use of electronic cigarettes, including in the past month, where or from whom they got their last used e-cigarette, and whether they had ever smoked a conventional cigarette before using an e-cigarette.

Questions about alcohol use

Past surveys	We used similar questionnaire items about alcohol use as those included in previous ASSAD surveys.
Recency	These questions also assessed 'ever use', use in the past 12 months, use in the past four weeks, and use in each day of the week before the survey.
Alcohol type	We asked students who had ever used alcohol to indicate the usual type of alcohol they had consumed (e.g., beer, wine, spirits, premixed).
Source of alcohol	The source of their last alcoholic drink.
Drinking location	Where they had consumed this last drink.
Self-perceived drinking status	Students also completed questions about whether they saw themselves as a non-drinker, party drinker, occasional drinker, light drinker, or heavy drinker.
Adverse outcomes	As in 2014, we asked students to indicate whether any of 20 specified outcomes or events had occurred after they had consumed alcohol in the past year. These outcomes included being sick (vomiting), arguing, being in a fight, verbally abusing someone, needing to go to the hospital, and missing school.
Risky drinking	To assess 'risky' drinking behaviour, students were asked about their intention to get drunk when they consumed alcohol, and how many times they had consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on any one occasion in the past two weeks, four weeks, year, and lifetime (never, 1-2 times, 3-5 times, 10-19 times, 20-29 times, 40 or more times).

Questions about use of over-the-counter drugs and other substances

Past surveys	We included questions about several categories of over-the-counter and illicit substances in the questionnaire: cannabis, analgesics, tranquilisers, inhalants, hallucinogens, amphetamines, performance- or image-enhancing drugs, ecstasy, cocaine, and opiates.
Recency	For each substance, we asked students to indicate the number of times they had used or taken the substance in the past week, past four weeks, past year, and over their lifetime (seven response categories from 'none' to '40 or more times').
Non-medicinal use	For tranquilisers, steroids, amphetamines, and opiates, we asked explicitly about non-medical use.
Source & reason for use	For analgesics, we asked students to indicate their reasons for use, and how it was obtained. Students who had used tranquilisers were also asked how they were obtained.
Multiple substances	For tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens, and ecstasy, we asked students if they had used any other substance(s) on the same occasion (including alcohol, tobacco, analgesics, tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, and hallucinogens).
Alone or with others	Students who had used cannabis were also asked if they had consumed it alone, with others, or both, and how it was used.
Additional substances	Since 2014, ASSAD has also included questions about student use of ethno-botanical and synthetic substances in the past year (response: yes, no). The questionnaire listed four types of synthetic substances and students could give a free text response to indicate use of other synthetic substances. Students indicated the type of substance used or indicated that they had not used any synthetic substance.

Questions about use of health services for substance use, emotional or behavioural problems

Past surveys	As in 2014, we asked students to indicate whether they had ever been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they had a mental health condition, and whether they had seen a health professional for alcohol or drug use, or because of emotional or behavioural problems.

Substance Definitions

We report the same substance categories as used in the questionnaire, and follow the descriptions and examples provided to student participants.

Alcohol	Beer, wine, wine coolers, alcoholic energy drinks, spirits, premixed spirit drinks, liqueurs or alcoholic cider.
Analgesics	Painkillers/analgesics such as paracetamol (e.g., Panadol), ibuprofen (e.g., Nurofen), or aspirin/disprin.
Cannabis	Marijuana/cannabis (grass, hash, dope, weed, mull, yarndi, gunja, pot, a bong, a joint).
Cocaine	Cocaine.
Dexamphetamines	Dexamphetamines (e.g., dex, dexies) other than for medical reasons.
Ecstasy	Ecstasy (E, MDMA, pingers, pills, bickies).
Electronic cigarettes	Battery operated electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).
Ethno-botanicals	Ethno-botanicals (e.g., Salvia, Kratom, Khat, Kava or Betel).
Hallucinogens	Hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms, datura, angel's trumpet).
Heroin	Heroin (smack, horse, skag, hammer, H).
Inhalants	Deliberately sniffed (inhaled) from spray cans or deliberately sniffed things like glue, paint, petrol, thinners, nangs or poppers in order to get high or for the way it makes you feel.
Meth/amphetamines	Meth/amphetamines (e.g., speed, meth, ice).
Opiates	Opiates (narcotics) such as methadone, morphine, oxycodone, codeine or pethidine other than for medical reasons.
Performance or image enhancing drugs	Steroids, muscle, roids or gear, without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to make you better at sport, to increase muscle size or to improve your general appearance.
Shisha tobacco	Shisha tobacco or hookah or waterpipe.
Synthetic drugs	Synthetic cannabis (K2, Spice, Kronic, Northern Lights), synthetic hallucinogens (2C-B/2C-I/2C-E, DOI, Foxy-methoxy, Bromo-DragonFLY, Trypstacy, NBOMe, NBomb, Smiles), MDPV (Ivory Wave, Bath Salts), mephedrone (Meow meow, M-kat), other synthetic substance (Benzo-fury, MXE, Etizolam).
Tobacco	Cigarettes.
Tranquilisers	Sleeping tablets, tranquilisers, sedatives or benzodiazepines, such as Valium, alprazolam (Xanax), Mogadon, Diazepam, Temazepam (Mazzies, Vallies, Moggies, Jellies), Serepax (Serries) or Rohypnol (Rohies, Barbs), other than for medical reasons.

Table 2.1 Categories of students who had smoked cigarettes, consumed alcohol, or used other substances.

Categories of students	Tobacco use	Alcohol use	Other substances
Never used	Never smoked Did not have even a puff of a cigarette	Never drank alcohol. Did not have even a sip of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime	Never used the substance
Ever used	Ever smoked Had smoked at least a few puffs of a cigarette in their lifetime	Ever drank alcohol. Had consumed at least a few sips of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime	Had used the substance in their lifetime
More than 100 cigarettes	Had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime		
Past-year	Past year smokers had smoked in the past 12 months	Past year drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink in the past 12 months	Had used the substance in the past year
Past-month	Past month smokers had smoked in the past four weeks	Past month drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink in the past four weeks	Had used the substance in the four weeks before the survey date
Current, or past week	Current smokers had smoked on at least one of the seven days before the survey date (past week)	Current drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink on at least one of the seven days before the survey date (past week)	Had used the substance in the seven days before the survey date
Committed smokers	Committed smokers had smoked on at least three days of the past week		
Daily smokers	Daily smokers had smoked on every day of the week before the survey date		
Single occasion risky drinkers		Had consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on any day in the past week (at risk of short-term harm, according to the 2009 NHMRC drinking guidelines for adults)	
Regular use			Had used the substance 10 or more times in the past year

Recency and frequency of use measures

Tobacco

We use the terms 'smoker' and 'tobacco use' to refer to cigarette use. We asked students if they had ever smoked in their lifetime, in the past year, and in the past four weeks (Table 2.1). Students entered the number of cigarettes they had smoked on each of the seven days before the survey date. We report the prevalence of tobacco use within these periods by sex and age group. We use several categories to describe students who have used cigarettes during each recency bracket.

Alcohol

Students were asked if they had consumed alcohol in their lifetime, in the past year, and past month (Table 2.1). They entered the number of alcoholic drinks they consumed on each of the seven days before the survey. Prevalence of use within these time periods is reported by sex and age group.

The 2009 NHMRC alcohol use guidelines advise the safest option for people under 18 is abstinence. We took ever having had an alcoholic drink to indicate not adhering to this guideline. NHMRC guidelines also state that adults who consume five or more drinks on any day are putting themselves at risk. While this guideline is for adults, it gives an estimate of teenage alcohol consumption at risky levels. We examined the percentage of students drinking at levels that could result in short-term harm.

Other substance use

We asked students how many times they had used a particular drug within specified time periods (Table 2.1). For each substance, the prevalence of use within their lifetime, the past year, and the past month is reported for all male and female students in each age group between 12 and 17. For more common substances (e.g., analgesics and cannabis), we also report weekly use.

For all substances, the recency of use categories overlap and are not mutually exclusive. For example, a student who reported having used a substance in the past week was also included in the estimates of use for all other time periods (i.e., past month, past year, and lifetime use).

Sample size and final data set

During the ASSAD 2017 survey period, 20,077 students from years 7 to 12 were surveyed from schools across Australia. Completed questionnaires from all states and territories were logged by the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at Cancer Council Victoria, before being scanned for the production of electronic data files.

Cancer Council Victoria also cleaned the 2017 ASSAD data following procedures established in previous survey years (see Appendix 2). In the final dataset, students with a large number of missing responses, or whose responses were exaggerated or largely implausible (i.e., 'nonsense' responses), were removed from the dataset before analysis.

We removed 58 cases from the data set during data cleaning, due to large amounts of missing data or implausible response patterns. This left 20,019 valid cases in the final data set. Of these, 19,115 were aged between 12 and 17 and provided valid sex data (Table 2.2). We excluded data from students outside this age range and who did not indicate their sex.

Table 2.2 Number of secondary school students aged between 12 and 17 surveyed across Australia in 2017 by sex and age

	Age in years						
Sex	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**Total**
Male	832	1,818	1,590	1,610	1,774	1,267	8,891
Female	1,030	1,871	1,745	1,729	2,238	1,611	10,224
Total	1,862	3,689	3,335	3,339	4,012	2,878	19,115

Data Analysis

Excluded data

We excluded missing, invalid, or multiple responses from analyses for specific questions. To minimise data loss and best represent the sampled population, we included these students' in analysis of other questions when their responses were valid.

Population weights

We present analyses for students aged 12 to 17. We weighted the data to align the sample with population distributions of 12 to 17 year old students in schools nation-wide. This addressed any possible bias in prevalence estimates as a result of disproportionate sampling of any state or territory, education sector, age, or sex. We used enrolment details collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in August 2017 of students by sex, age group, and education sector, to calculate weights (Table 2.3, Appendix 2).

Alpha levels

As our sample was large, increasing the probability of type 1 error (i.e., the likelihood of finding a significant difference between groups that does not reflect a real or meaningful difference in the broad population), we interpreted and reported only associations that were statistically significant at an alpha level of .01 ($p < .01$, or the 99% confidence interval did not include 0) as meaningful effects.

Confidence intervals

ASSAD 2017 provides data from a sample of the total population, not census data. Therefore, we must account for sampling error. Prevalence estimates for the sample are provided for information, even when the confidence interval is wide, and we can be less confident that our results closely reflect the population. For percentages or proportions, sampling error is indicated by the 95% confidence interval calculated for the number of students in the analysed group (e.g., 17 year old females) and the percentage reported (e.g., 20%). For smaller sample sizes and when the estimate is close to 50%, the confidence interval will be large. Therefore, interpretation of these results should be more cautious than when sample sizes are larger and estimates more extreme. When interpreting results, please refer to the confidence intervals associated with the sample size for each age and sex group (Table 2.4, Appendix 2).

We present results for specific sub-groups (e.g., current smokers, or past-year alcohol consumers). When percentages are reported for a specific sub-group, the confidence interval is likely to be wider than for the sex and age group from which it is drawn. For example, in 2017, the number of students of a specific age (e.g., 12 or 13 year old students) who had used some substances within a time period, was small (e.g., only 16 males and 12 females aged 12 had smoked in the past four weeks). Therefore, we combined data for age-level groups (i.e., 12-15, 16-17) when reporting proportions for some specific sub-groups (e.g., current smokers).

TOBACCO USE AMONG AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS

How many Australian secondary school students smoked in 2017?

In 2017, 82% of all secondary students in Australia had never smoked (Table 3.1). Levels of experimental and regular smoking increased with age, but by age 17 most students (65%) had still never smoked.

Overall, around 2% of all students had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime (6% of 17 year olds). The lowest proportion of students to have smoked in the past month was among 12 and 13 year olds (2%), and this level rose to 16% among 17 year olds. A similar pattern was evident among students who had smoked in the past week (i.e., current smokers), from 1-2% of 12 and 13 year olds to 11% of 17 year olds. Only around 3% of all students had smoked on three or more days during the past week (committed smokers), with this being highest among 17 year olds (6%).

We found only three sex differences in smoking rates within these time periods when looking at each age separately. For 13 year olds, more male than female students had ever smoked, while among 17 year olds, more male than female students had smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime[1]. Committed smoking was more common among males than females aged 17.

Patterns in current smoking

Around 33% of current smokers aged 12 to 17 had smoked on only one day of the past week (Table 3.2). Around half had smoked on three or more days of the past week, with around 22% smoking daily.

The frequency of smoking increased with age among male current smokers. There was a tendency for more younger male current smokers to smoke on only one day of the week (12-15: 35%; 16-17 students: 27%), and for more older male current smokers to smoke on three or more days of the past week (16-17: 57%; 12-15: 50%).

The opposite pattern was evident in female current smokers. For this group, there was a tendency for more older students to smoke on only one day of the past week (16-17: 38%; 12-15: 30%), while more younger female current smokers smoked on at least three days of the past week (12-15: 53%; 16-17: 47%).

Over all ages, male current smokers tended to smoke on more days per week than female current smokers. This was mainly due to older male students smoking on more days per week.

Male smokers also used a higher number of cigarettes each week than female current smokers (Table 3.2). Students aged 16 and 17 smoked more cigarettes per week (M = 18) than those aged 12 to 15 (M = 15).

Current smokers who did not smoke every day used substantially fewer cigarettes per week (M = 8) than daily smokers (M = 45). Among females, older daily smokers smoked more cigarettes in a week (M = 47) than younger daily smokers (M = 29). A similar age effect was not found for male students.

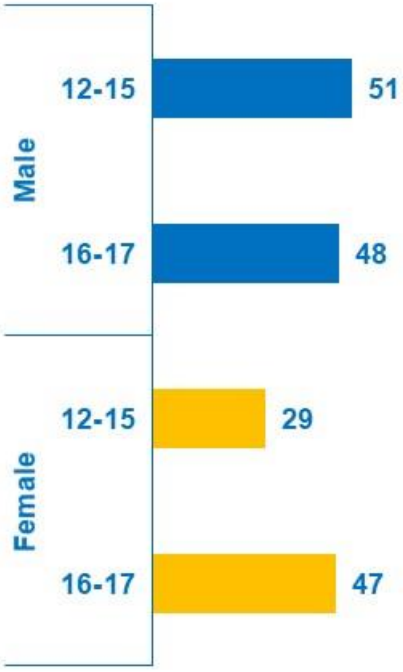
[1] $p < 0.01$ for all reported significant differences

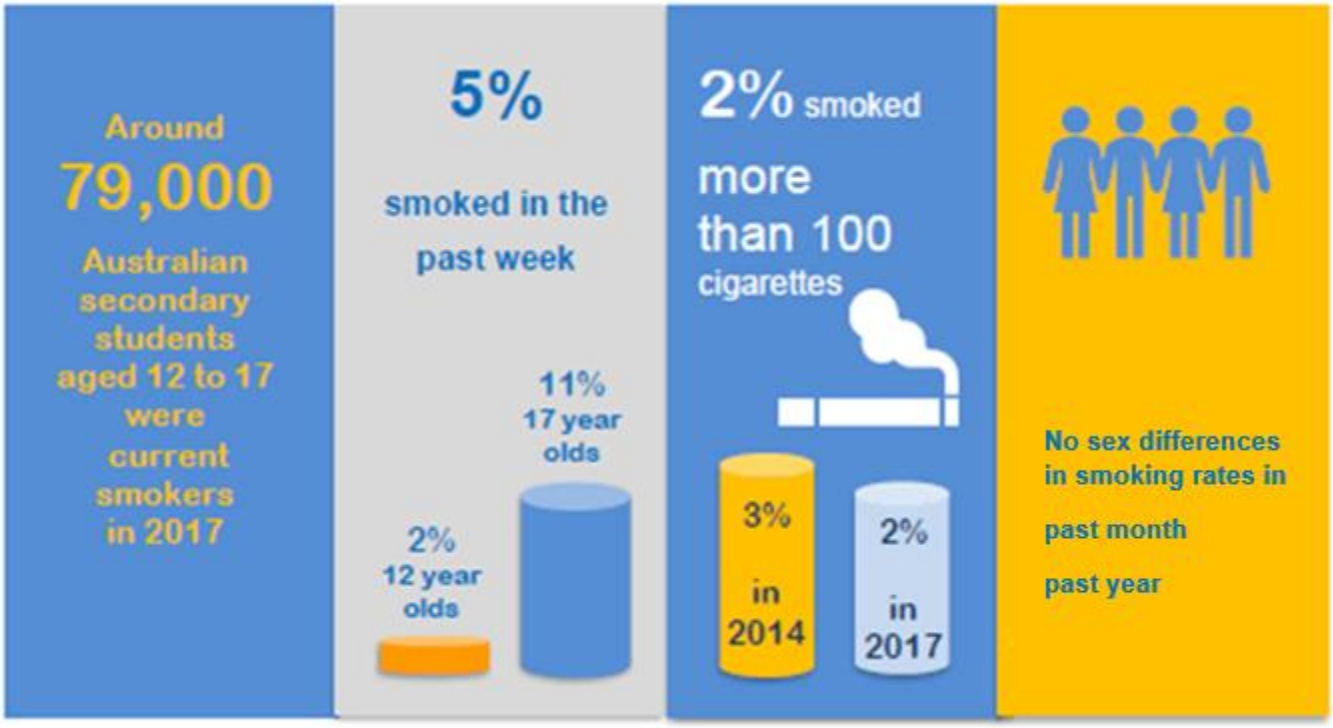
Average number of cigarettes smoked per week by current daily and weekly smokers

12-17 year old students in Australia

Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any day of the preceding week were excluded from analyses. Mean number of cigarettes smoked is based on unweighted data and adjusted for sex and age.

Average number of cigarettes smoked per week by current daily smokers





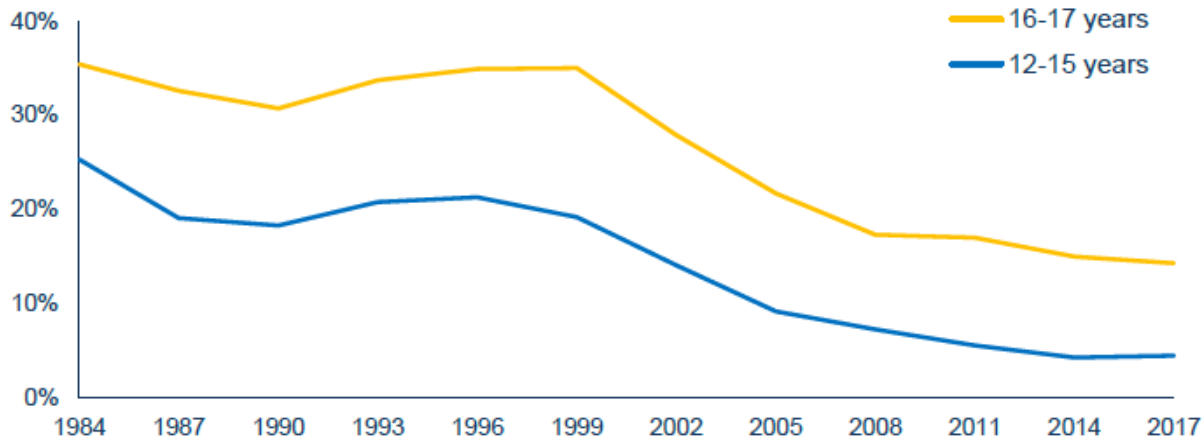
Changes in smoking behaviour

Key indicators

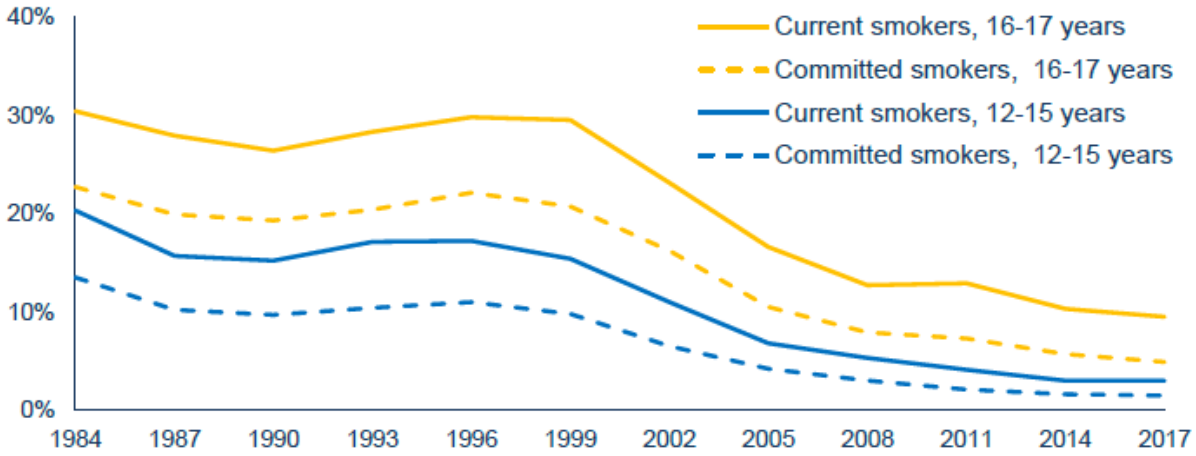
We examined patterns in the prevalence of smoking among two age groups (12-15; 16-17 years of age) over survey years using key indicators of smoking behaviour over the lifetime (Table 3.3, Figure 3.1, proportions not adjusted for age).

Trends in key indicators 2011-2017

Smoked in the past month



Current smoking (past week) and committed smoking (on at least three of the last 7 days)



Percentage of Australian secondary school students who smoked, 1984-2017

Figure 3.1

Trends in prevalence of smoking in the past month

The proportion of students aged 12 to 15 who had smoked in the past month fell from 1984 to 1990, before rising slightly through the 1990s (Figure 3.1). Between 1999 and 2014 the prevalence of past month smoking declined steadily. However, there was no further decline in this age group from 2014 to 2017.

For 16 and 17 year old students, the prevalence of past month smoking followed a similar pattern (Figure 3.1). However, the decline in past month smoking from 1999 plateaued between 2008 and 2011, before lower prevalence was again recorded in 2014 and 2017. The proportion of students in this age group who had smoked in the past month was lower in 2017 than at any other point in this survey series.

Trends in prevalence of current smoking

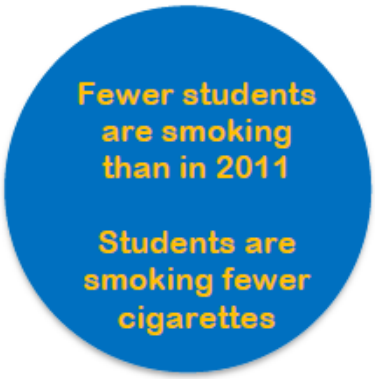
The prevalence of current smoking from 1984 to 2017 followed very similar patterns to those observed for past month smoking.

Current smoking declined among 12 to 15 year olds in the late 1980s, before increasing through the early 1990s. After 1996, prevalence rates again declined (Figure 3.1) to a low of 3% in 2014 and 2017. We found similar trends for committed smokers (who had smoked on at least three days in the past week) in this age group.

Among older students (aged 16 and 17), current and committed smoking rates declined from 1999 to 2017 (Figure 3.1). The decline between 2014 and 2017 was not significant.

Change in recency and regularity of smoking 2011-2017

Among younger students aged 12 to 15, lifetime smoking, and having smoked more than 100 cigarettes in the lifetime, were less common in 2017 than in 2011. This decline was also observed in the prevalence of past month, past week and committed smoking (smoked on three or more days of the past week) in this age group (Table 3.3).



The proportion of students aged 16 and 17 who had reported smoking in 2017 was also generally lower than that reported in 2011 and 2014. There was a significant decline from 2011 to 2017 in smoking for most of the recency periods (lifetime, more than 100 cigarettes smoked in lifetime, past week, on at least three days in past seven days and daily smoking). The significance of change in these different recency periods varied somewhat between males and females (Table 3.3).

Across all ages, fewer students in 2017 reported that they had ever smoked or smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime than in 2011. Past month, past week, daily and committed smoking also significantly declined from 2011 to 2017. The proportion of students smoking at these frequencies in 2017 was not significantly different to 2014.

Sources and types of cigarettes smoked by secondary students

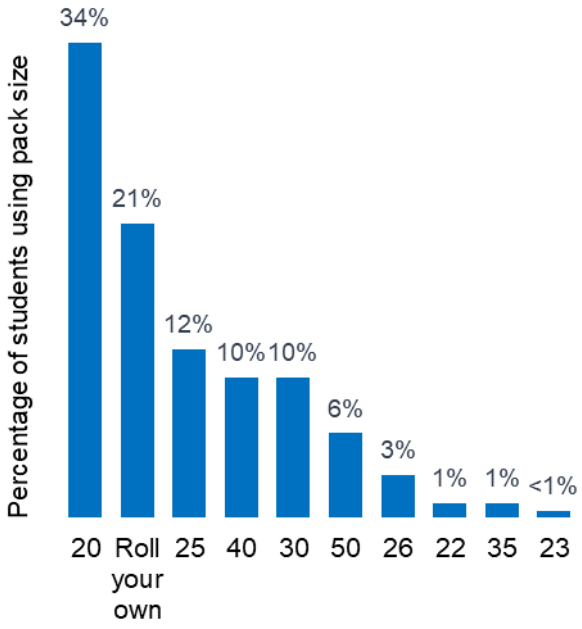
Most current smokers did not buy their last cigarette themselves (84%, Table 3.4). It was more common for older students (16-17: 21%) than younger students (12-15: 8%) to buy cigarettes. Around 5% of current smokers bought their last cigarette from a convenience store (3%) or milk bar (2%).

Most common sources of cigarettes for current smokers aged 12-17

6%	Parents
4%	Siblings
7%	Took from home
26%	Friend under 18
22%	Friend over 18
15%	Someone bought it for me
16%	Bought it myself

(Table 3.5)

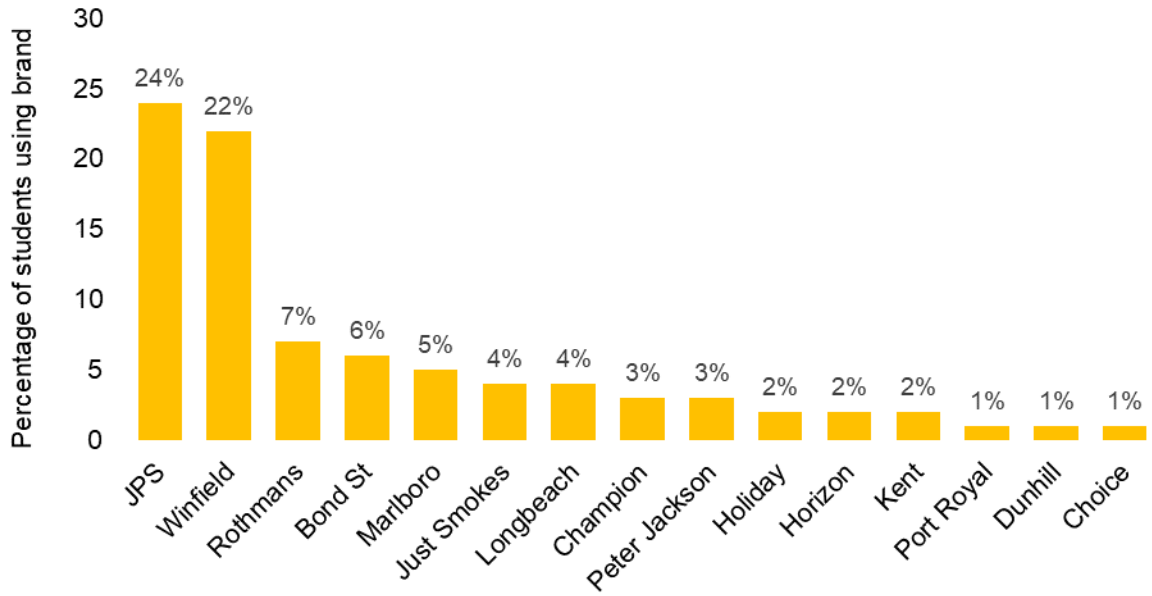
JPS was the most common brand for current smokers (24%) who indicated a single cigarette brand when asked for their usual brand (38% suggested multiple brands). Winfield (22%) was also commonly used (Table 3.6). Rothmans, Bond St, Marlboro, Longbeach, and Just Smokes, were each smoked by between four and seven per cent of current smokers.



The most common cigarette pack size used by current smokers (Table 3.7) was packs of 20 (34%), followed by packs of roll-your-own (21%) and 25 (12%).

A small percentage of current smokers obtained their cigarettes from packs that contained 'bonus' cigarettes (packs of 22: 1%; packs of 26: 3%.). Packs of 25 were more popular among older than younger students, while a greater proportion of younger students reported using packs of 50.

There were few sex differences in pack size, however, roll-your-own use was more common among male than female students in the younger age group.



Has it become more difficult for students to buy cigarettes?

Overall, the proportion of current smokers buying cigarettes has declined from the time the series of ASSAD surveys began (Figure 3.2). Among current smokers aged 12 to 15, the proportion buying cigarettes decreased markedly from 1987 to 2002, then declined again from 2005 to 2014, after a small increase was recorded in the 2005 survey (Figure 3.2). The proportion of 12 to 15 year old current smokers (8%) who bought their last cigarette in 2017 was similar to 2008, 2011 and 2014.

Among older current smokers, the proportion who bought their own cigarettes also declined from 1990 (Figure 3.2). However, there was a non-significant increase in this proportion from 2014 (18%) to 2017 (21%).

From 1990 to 2002, the proportion of current smokers getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them increased from 5% to 21% among younger students, and from 1% to 18% of older students (Figure 3.2). After 2002, rates stayed between 15-19% for younger students. Among older students, the proportion getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them rose from 15% in 2005 to 23% in 2014. In 2017, however, the rate dropped to 13%. Corresponding to this drop, we found small increases in older students reporting getting cigarettes from friends (2014: 47%; 2017: 51%) as well as buying cigarettes themselves.

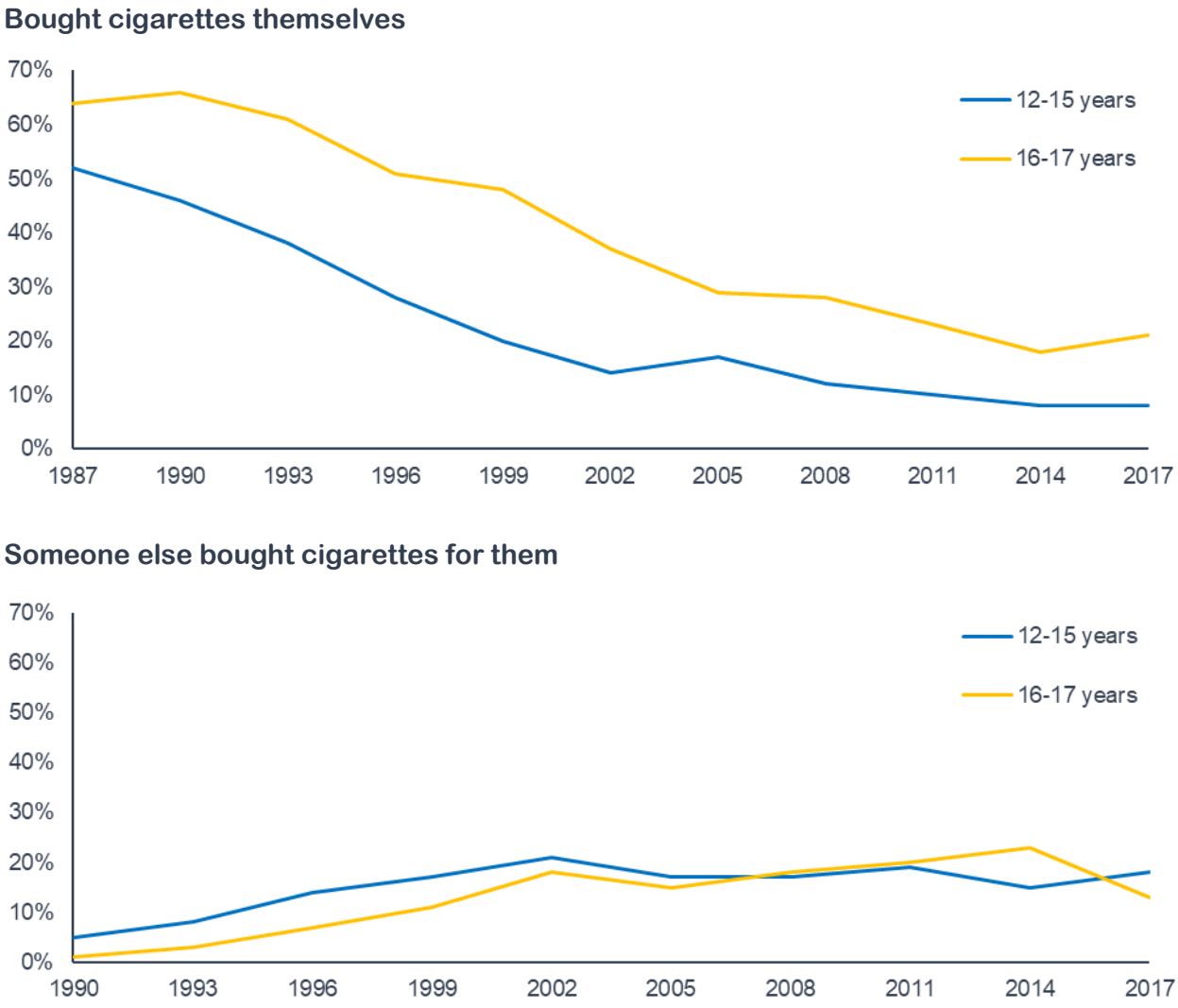
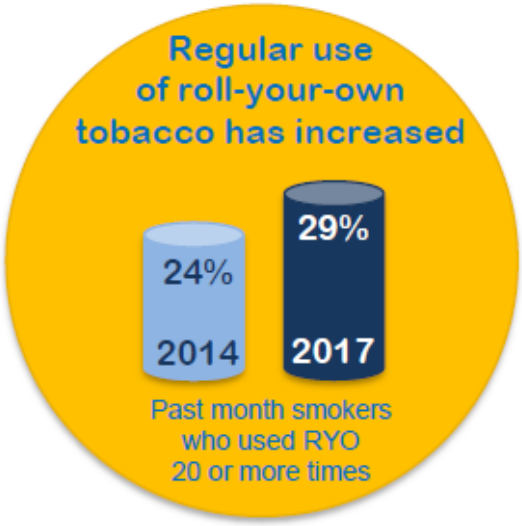


Figure 3.2

Student use of roll-your-own cigarettes

Roll-your-own cigarettes are made by the user from loose fine-cut tobacco, cigarette papers, and an optional filter. Our results showed a large increase since 2014 in students reporting roll-your-own cigarettes when asked about their usual cigarette or tobacco pack size (Table 3.7), most likely in response to price increases in factory-made cigarettes (Note: 12% of current smokers who gave multiple responses to the pack size question were excluded from these analyses).



We also asked students how many times, if ever, they had smoked roll-your-own cigarettes. Most past month smokers had used roll-your-own cigarettes at some time (73%, Table 3.8). While around 16% of past-month smokers had only used roll-your-own tobacco once or twice, 12% had used it three to five times, 16% had used it 6-19 times, and 29% had used it 20 or more times in their lifetime (up from 24% in 2014).

While there was no sex difference in the proportion of past month smokers who had ever tried roll-your-own products, male and female students differed in how frequently they were used. Females were more likely than males to have used roll-your-own cigarettes only once or twice, while male students were more likely to have used these products more regularly.

Overall, roll-your own use was similar among older and younger past month smokers and did not increase with each successive year of age (Table 3.8).

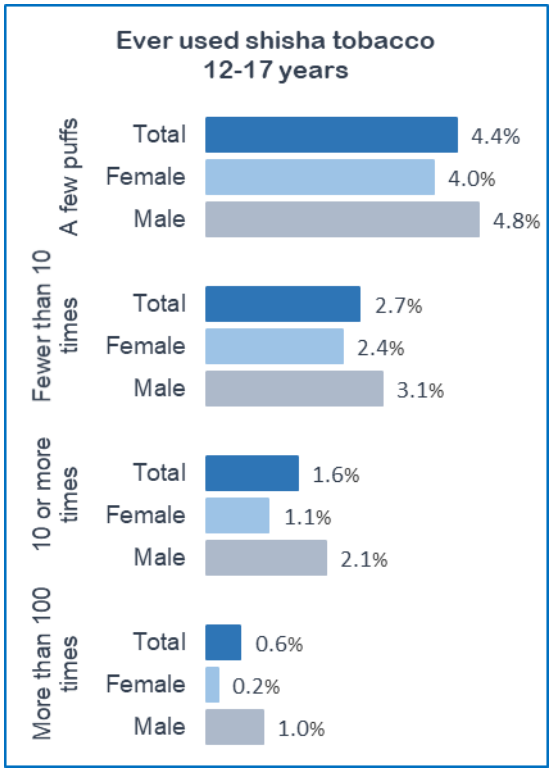
Use of other tobacco products

Since 2014, students have been asked about their use of smoking devices other than regular cigarettes, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and shisha or waterpipe tobacco.

Use of shisha or waterpipe tobacco

Shisha tobacco, smoked through waterpipes or hookahs, is often smoked in a social setting with several people inhaling the smoke from a shared device. Only around 9% of all students had ever used shisha or waterpipe tobacco (Table 3.9). More older (16-17: 17%) than younger (12-15: 6%) students had tried it at least once. However, the proportion of older students who had smoked tobacco in this way ten or more times was lower than those who had smoked it only once (ten or more, 3%; less than ten, 6%) or reporting having a few puffs (8%). More males (11%) than females (8%) had used shisha at each level, however, these sex differences were small.

Students most commonly used shisha tobacco with friends (72% of users) or family (16% of users), with few using it when alone (9% of users).



Use of cigars or cigarillos

Most students (91%) had never used cigars or cigarillos, but older students were slightly more likely to have tried them (e.g., 14% of 16 year olds; 16% of 17 year olds reported using at least once in their lifetime, Table 3.10). Among 16 to 17 year olds, male students were more likely to have smoked a cigar or cigarillo than female students. Overall, around 4% of all students had used cigars or cigarillos once or twice, and a further 4% reported smoking them at least three times.

Use of e-cigarettes (vaping)

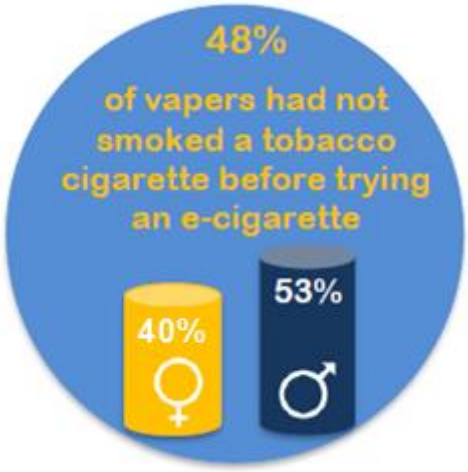
E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that heat a liquid to deliver vapour that can contain nicotine, flavour, and other chemicals. Vapers inhale this vapour in the same way as smoking a regular cigarette. In Australia, commercial sale by retail outlets of nicotine e-cigarettes or liquid nicotine for vaping (e-liquid) is illegal. It is also illegal to buy nicotine e-cigarettes or e-liquid nicotine for personal use online without a medical prescription.

For all 12 to 17 year old students, around 14% indicated they had ever used an e-cigarette at least once, and 32% of these students had used one in the past month (Tables 3.11 and 3.12). Vaping experience increased with age (4% of 12 year olds, up to 21% of 17 year olds). At each age, male students were more likely to have tried vaping than female students.

Of those who had tried e-cigarettes, younger students were more likely to have used them recently. Around 37% of 12 to 15 year old users and 27% of 16 and 17 year old users reported vaping at least once during the past month. Younger vapers were also more likely to have used e-cigarettes at least three times in the past month (12-15: 16%; 16-17: 10%).

Students who had vaped most commonly reported getting the last e-cigarette they had used from friends (63%), siblings (8%), or parents (7%). Around 12% of students reported buying an e-cigarette themselves. Students aged 16-17 were more likely to have bought a vaping device (18%) than younger students (7%).

Of the students who had ever used an e-cigarette (*n* = 2,403), 48% reported that they had never smoked a tobacco cigarette before their first vape (Table 3.13). Around 25% of these students who had vaped before ever smoking, reported later trying tobacco cigarettes (18% had smoked in the past year; 10% had smoked in the past month; and 5% became current smokers). These results showed higher levels of experimentation and more regular smoking than in students who had not vaped or had vaped only after first smoking (17% had ever smoked; 13% in the past year; 7% in the past month).



Female students (60%) were more likely than male students (47%) to have smoked before trying e-cigarettes. This result is consistent with the idea that male students were more likely than female students to be attracted to novel vaping products, even when they had not previously experimented with cigarettes.

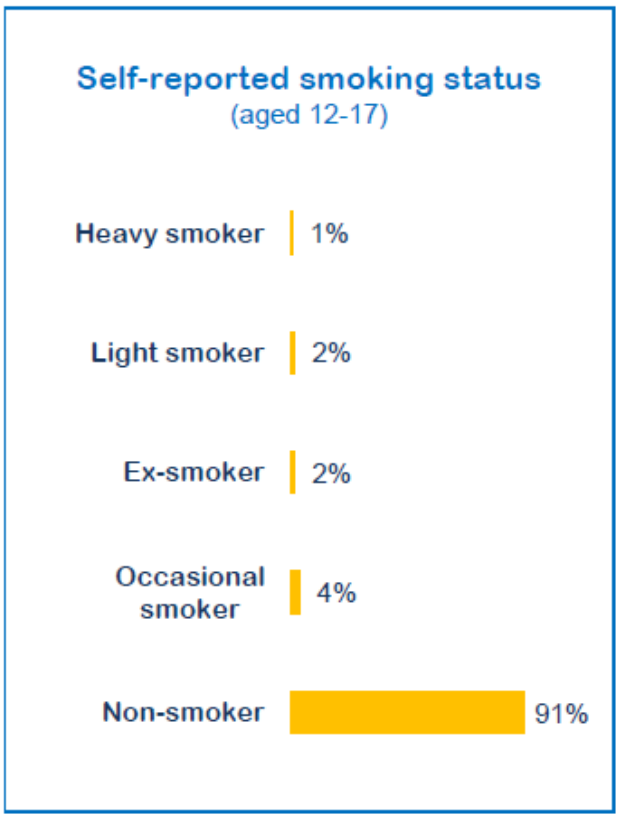
Of the students who had smoked before they tried e-cigarettes, 20% had only smoked a few puffs of a cigarette, 11% had smoked fewer than 10 cigarettes, and 21% (male 18%; female 27%) had smoked 10 or more. The proportion of e-cigarette users who had smoked more regularly before trying e-cigarettes was greater with age. It was more common among younger students (85%) than older students (73%) to try an e-cigarette without ever having previously smoked more than 10 tobacco cigarettes.

How do students see their own smoking?

At each age, most students saw themselves as non-smokers (91%, Table 3.14). Other students described themselves as occasional smokers (4%), or light smokers (2%).

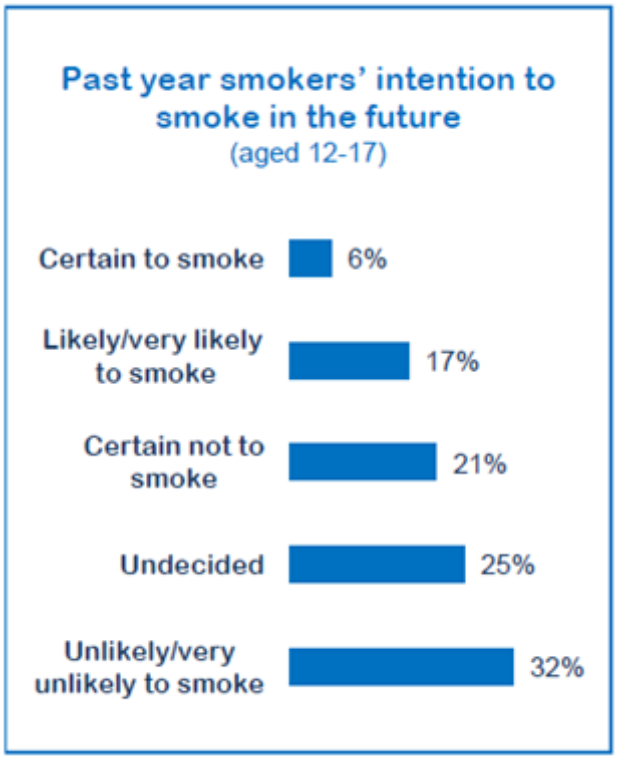
Students' perceptions accurately reflected their reported smoking behaviour (Table 3.15). Nearly all students who described themselves as some sort of smoker (heavy, light or occasional) had smoked in the past year. Around 89% of heavy and 87% of light smokers had smoked in the past month, and 86% of students who had described themselves as heavy smokers had smoked in the past week. Occasional smokers were more likely to have smoked in the past month (70%) than in the past week (43%), reflecting irregular smoking.

For ex-smokers, around 13% reported that they had smoked in the past week. These responses might reflect recent decisions to quit smoking, or some students who no longer smoke regularly (and hence the ex-smoker label) still smoke occasionally.



Intention to smoke in the future

Most students in each age and sex group (79% overall) indicated that they were 'certain not to smoke' in the next year (Tables 3.16). Future intention to not smoke was lower at older age levels for both sexes. Of all students, 4% reported being undecided about smoking in the next year, but only around 3% thought it was likely or certain they would smoke (1% certain).

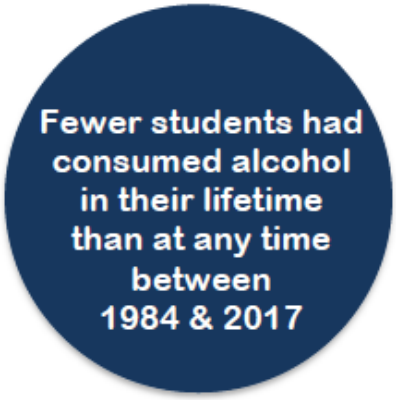


ALCOHOL USE AMONG AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS

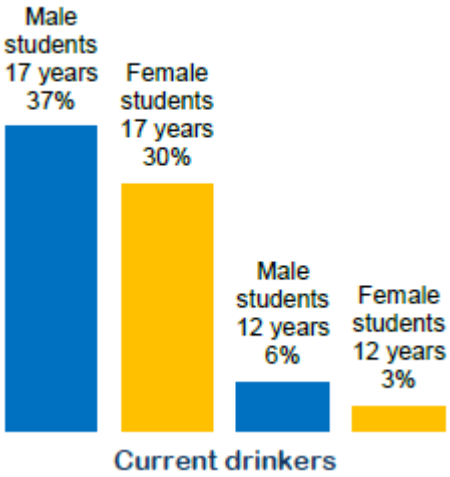
How many Australian secondary school students drank alcohol?

The prevalence of alcohol consumption among Australian secondary students in 2017 is an indicator of the importance of drinking alcohol in contemporary adolescent cultures. Student reports of alcohol use reflect the degree of non-adherence to current NHMRC guidelines recommending people under the age of 18 do not use any alcohol.

Of all students surveyed, 34% reported never having consumed alcohol (Table 4.1). Alcohol use was more common among older students, with 76% of 17 year olds having consumed alcohol in the past year, compared to 17% of 12 year olds (Table 4.1).

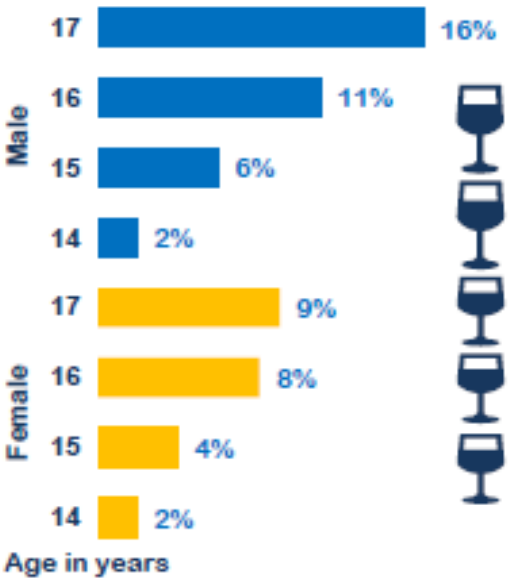


Current drinking (in the past week) was more common among older than younger students. Overall, a greater proportion of male (16%) than female (14%) students were current drinkers.



Risky drinking

While any alcohol consumption is risky for teenagers, drinking five or more drinks on one occasion in the past week indicates risky levels of drinking for adults, according to the NHMRC guidelines. In 2017, risky drinking was more common among males (6%) than females (4%) overall (Table 4.1).



Around 33% of all students surveyed reported risky drinking on at least one occasion in their lifetime (Table 4.2). Risky drinking in the last two weeks, past month, past year, and in their lifetime, was more common in older than younger students. Risky drinking in the last two weeks was more common among male than female older students, but there was no sex difference in students aged 12 to 15.

Drinking five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past seven days among current drinkers followed a similar pattern, with the proportion greater among male than female students, and among older than younger students (Table 4.3). Among current drinkers, male students reported a higher average number of drinks consumed (*M* = 8) than female students (*M* = 5), and older students drank more on average (*M* = 7) than younger students (*M* = 5).

Changes in drinking behaviour

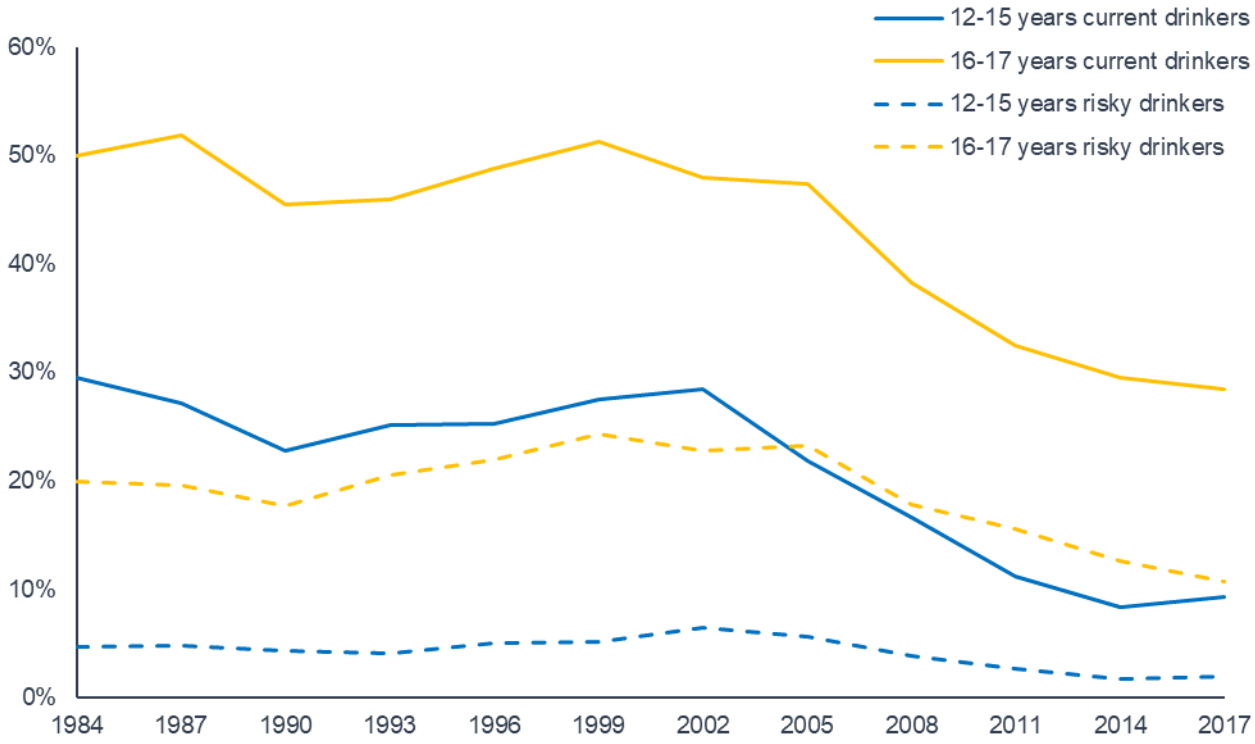
Among 12 to 15 year olds, current drinking declined during the 1980s, but increased in the 1990s to peak in 2002. Prevalence then again declined to 2014 but has not changed significantly between 2014 and 2017 (Figure 4.1).

There was little change in patterns of risky drinking in this age group (i.e., consuming five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past week) between 1984 and 1999, but prevalence declined between 2002 and 2014. Prevalence in the 12 to 15 year age group did not change between 2014 and 2017. However, lifetime drinking in this age group was lower in 2017 than in 2011 (Table 4.4).

Among 16 and 17 year olds, current drinking became more common through the mid to late 1990s but declined between 1999 and 2002 (Figure 4.1). This trend to lower prevalence continued to 2017, although changes in current drinking between 2011 and 2017 were not significant.

Lifetime drinking prevalence in this older age group in 2017 was lower than in 2011 (Table 4.4). However, while there was a trend to lower past month drinking by older male and female students in 2017 compared to 2011, this change was not significant.

Risky drinking in the past week was lower among 16 and 17 year olds in 2017 than in 2011. For older current drinkers, risky drinking levels were also lower in 2017 than in 2011 (Table 4.4). This suggests that while the percentage of older students that used alcohol in these time periods has declined only slightly from previous years, these older students who consumed alcohol were drinking less when they drank.



Current† and risky# drinkers

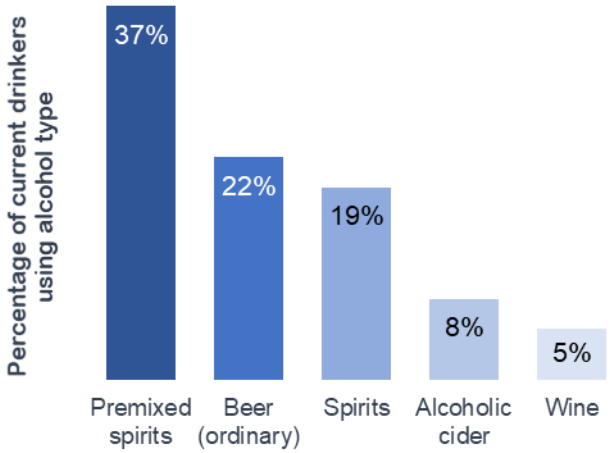
Figure 4.1

† Students who drank alcohol at least once in the past week were defined as current drinkers. The 2009 NHMRC Australian drinking guidelines recommend no alcohol consumption as the safest option for people under 18. Therefore, drinking prevalence reflects the proportion of students who did not adhere to this guideline.

Those that drank five or more drinks on one occasion were considered to be putting themselves at risk of short-term harm according to the 2009 NHMRC drinking guidelines for adults.

What type of alcohol do students drink?

For current drinkers of all ages, premixed spirits (37%), and beer (22%) were the most commonly consumed types of alcohol, but male and female students differed markedly in the type of alcohol last consumed (Table 4.5). Drinking premixed spirits was more common among females (47%) than males (29%) for both younger and older students. Beer was predominantly preferred by males in both age groups (age 12-17, males: 34%; females; 7%). Consumption of non-premixed spirits was more prevalent among females (24%) than males (16%). Use of wine or alcoholic cider did not differ by sex or age group.



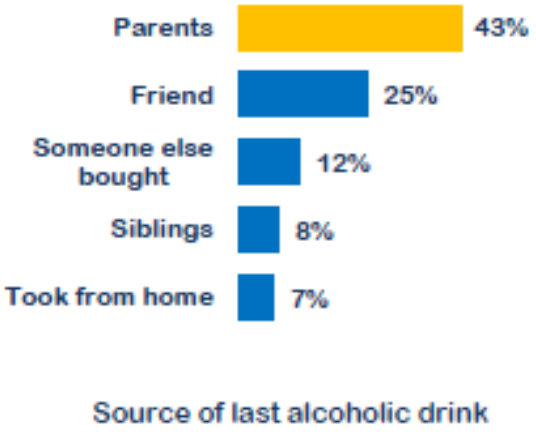
Changes in the type of alcohol students drink

In 2017, consumption of non-premixed spirits was less common for male current drinkers than in 2011. However, there was no change in their use of premixed spirits (Table 4.6). Consumption of premixed spirits by female current drinkers was more common in 2017 than in 2014, while consumption of non-premixed spirits was less common in 2017 compared to 2011 in this group.

How do students access alcohol?

Parents were the most common source of alcohol (Table 4.7). Both older (28%) and younger current drinkers (21%) more commonly obtained alcohol from a friend than had someone else buy it.

When someone else bought alcohol for students, this was most commonly a friend who was 18 or older (62%), rather than a stranger (6%, Table 4.8).

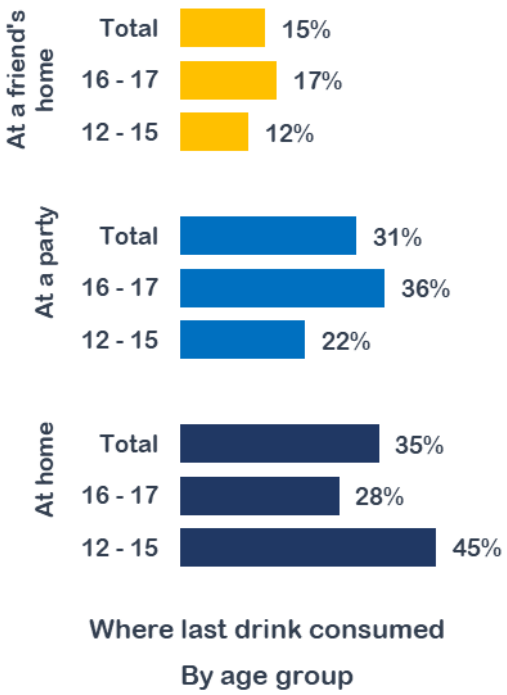


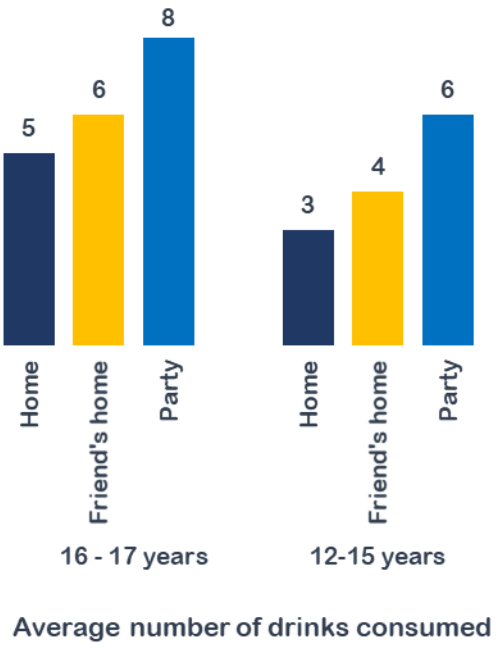
Drinking locations and adult supervision

The most common location for drinking by older current drinkers was at a party (36%; younger students: 22%), while younger current drinkers most commonly drank at home (45%; older students: 28%). Drinking at a friend's home (15%) was also common (Table 4.9).

Overall, 63% of current drinkers reported that an adult was supervising the event where they had their last alcoholic drink. Similar proportions of younger and older current drinkers, and male and female current drinkers, reported being supervised.

Of those who drank at home, a large majority (75%) were under adult supervision. Over half the students drinking at parties (57%) or friend's homes (55%) reported adult supervision.





How does source of alcohol and drinking location relate to student drinking behaviour?

Younger current drinkers who obtained alcohol from their parents drank less alcohol per week than those who got alcohol from friends aged over 18 or had someone else buy it for them (Table 4.10), but not those who obtained alcohol from friends aged under 18.

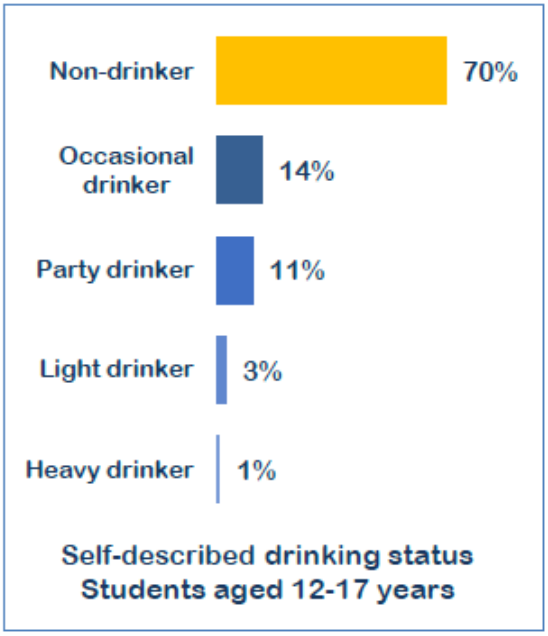
Younger current drinkers consumed more alcohol per week if they drank at a party than if they drank at home or at a friend's place.

Among older students, current drinkers who drank at home or at a friend's place consumed fewer alcoholic drinks per week than those who drank at a party.

At parties, older current drinkers drank fewer drinks when the alcohol was provided by friends under 18 than when it was obtained from parents.

What do students think about their own drinking?

We asked students to select the most appropriate description of their drinking behaviour (Table 4.11). Around 70% of all students saw themselves as non-drinkers. This proportion was lower among older than younger students of both sexes.



It was more common for older students to perceive themselves to be occasional or party drinkers, and this peaked among 17 year olds (26% occasional drinkers; 30% party drinkers).

Female students were more likely than males to describe themselves as party drinkers. Male students were more likely than female students to describe themselves as heavy drinkers.

Overall, students' descriptions of their own drinking tended to accurately reflect where they had last consumed alcohol and how they had obtained their alcohol (Table 4.12). Students who had consumed alcohol in the past week but identified as non-drinkers or occasional drinkers had mainly accessed their alcohol through parents and drank at home. Nearly half of all current drinkers who identified as party drinkers had consumed their last drink at a party. Among party drinkers, younger students most commonly accessed alcohol through friends, but parents were the most common source for older students.

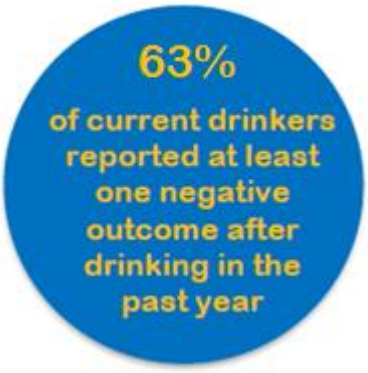
Intention to get drunk

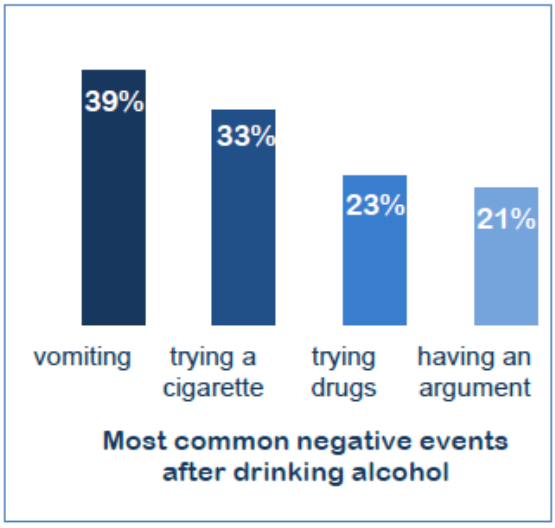
Around 38% of current drinkers reported that they intended to get drunk most or every time they drank (Table 4.14). This was more likely for older than younger students.

Negative experiences after drinking

Similar proportions of male and female students reported having experienced at least one negative outcome after drinking alcohol (Table 4.13). However, experiencing at least one negative outcome was more common among older than younger students.

Overall, 28% of current drinkers reported doing something while drinking alcohol that they later regretted.





USE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS BY AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS

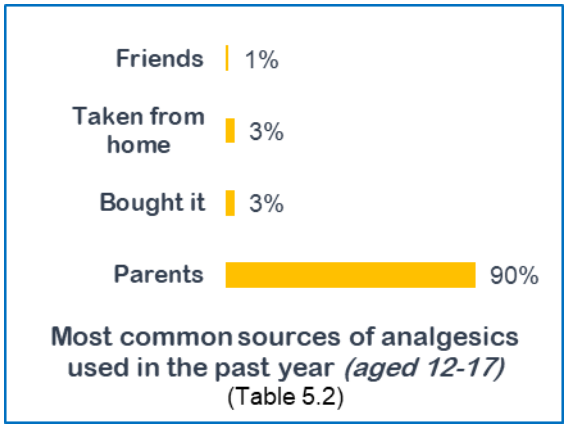
Analgesics

Use of painkillers or analgesics (e.g., Disprin, Panadol, or Nurofen) is common among secondary students. Ninety-five per cent of students had ever used an analgesic, and around two-thirds of students had used them in the past month (Table 5.1).

Use increased with age (e.g., past month use by 12 year olds: 55%; 17 year olds: 71%) and was higher among female than male students for lifetime, past year, past month, and past week.

Among past year users, 52% of females and 42% of males had used analgesics 10 or more times in this period, while 16% of males and 11% of females had used analgesics only once or twice. Regular use (10 or more times) was higher among females than males at older ages.

Of students who had used analgesics in the past week, 70% of males and 68% of females had used them once or twice.



Most common sources of analgesics used in the past year *(aged 12-17)*
(Table 5.2)

Reasons for use

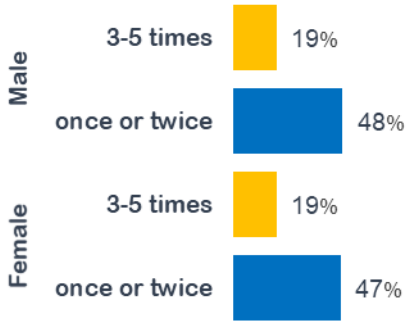
Students most commonly used analgesics to help ease headache (males: 53%; females: 44%, Table 5.3). Other common reasons for use included easing cold or 'flu symptoms (males: 31%; females: 24%), menstrual pain (females: 25%), or dental pain (5%). Male students (14%) were more likely than female students (9%) to have used analgesics for sports injury pain.

Changes in analgesic use

Prevalence of lifetime analgesic use in 2017 was similar to 2014, while past month use was lower than in 2011 or 2014 (Table 5.4).

Tranquilisers

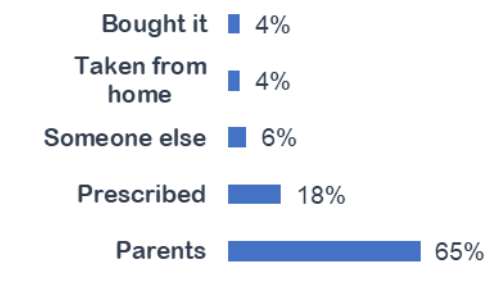
Around 19% of all students had used tranquilisers at least once for a non-medical reason (Table 5.5). Use was higher among older students (12 year olds: 15%; 17 year olds: 22%). Past month use was low across all ages (5%) and only 3% had used tranquilisers in the past week.



Number of times past year tranquiliser users (13% of students aged 12-17) had used them in the past year

Sources of tranquilisers

Parents were the most common source of tranquilisers for students who had used them for non-medicinal reasons in the past year (65%, Table 5.6). Reported use of prescribed tranquilisers for non-medicinal reasons might include incorrectly reported medical use.



Most common sources of tranquilisers used in the past year *(aged 12-17)*
(Table 5.6)

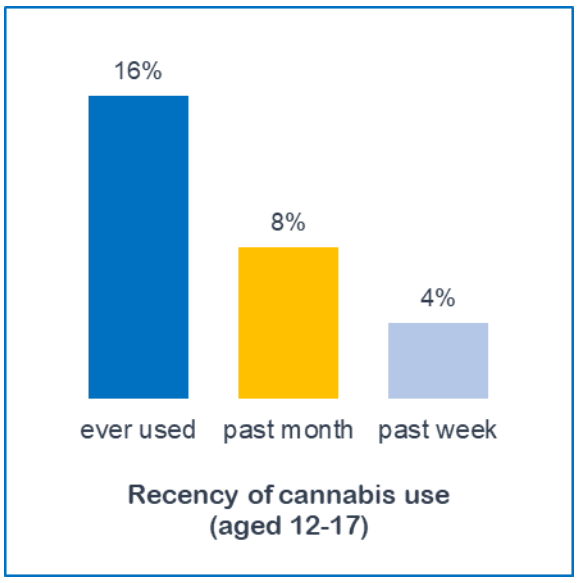
Changes in tranquiliser use over time

Overall, lifetime, past month, and past week tranquiliser use was higher in 2017 than 2011 (Table 5.7).

ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE AMONG AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary students. Use increased with age in all recency periods (Table 6.1). Overall, use tended to be higher among male than female students. In the older age group (16 and 17 year olds), males were more likely than females to have used cannabis in the past week, past month and in their lifetime.

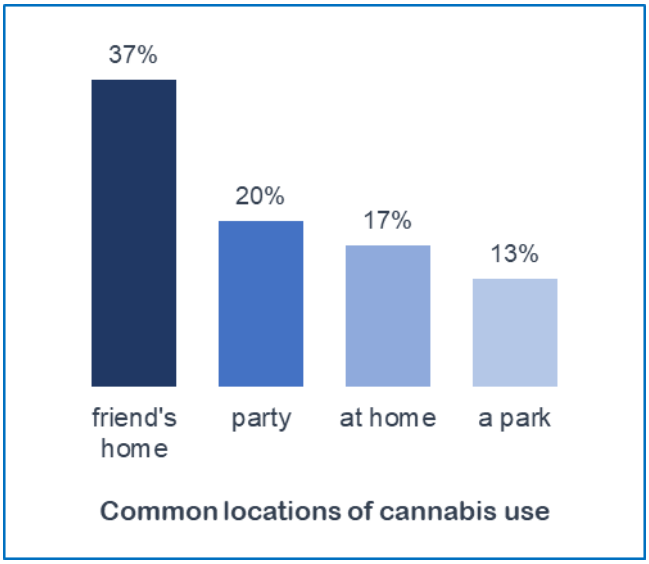


Regular use

Among the 14% of students who had used cannabis in the past year, 30% of males and 37% of females had used cannabis once or twice, while 38% of males and 29% of females had used it on 10 or more occasions (regular use). Regular use tended to be more common among older than younger students (10% of 12 year olds; 37% of 17 year olds), and among male than female students from age 13.

How do students use cannabis?

Past year cannabis users most commonly used a bong (63% of males and 52% of females) or smoked it in a joint (male: 31%; female: 44%). Use of a bong was more common among regular cannabis users while smoking it in a joint was more common among occasional users. Most students had used cannabis with others (81%), most commonly at a friend's home (37%).



Cannabis use at home was more common for regular (22%) than occasional (14%) users, while cannabis use at a party was more common for occasional (24%) than regular (13%) users.

Prevalence 2011-2017

Among older female students, past month cannabis use was higher in 2017 than in 2014 or 2011. There was no change in lifetime and past week use of cannabis between 2011 and 2017 (Table 6.2).

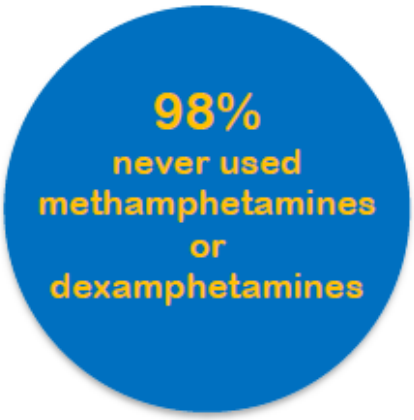
Amphetamines

In 2017, we asked students about their use of two categories of amphetamines: dexamphetamines (e.g., dex, dexies) and methamphetamines (e.g., speed, meth, ice), as patterns of use of these drug types were expected to differ.

Very few students reported that they had ever used amphetamines for non-medicinal reasons (dexamphetamines: 2%; methamphetamines: 2%, Table 6.3).

The highest prevalence of lifetime amphetamine use was among older students (16-17, dexamphetamines: 2%; methamphetamines: 3%).

Overall, use in the past month (1%) or year (1%) was also very low for each kind of amphetamine and 41% of students who reported past year use of dexamphetamines (methamphetamines: 35%) had tried them only once or twice.



Amphetamine use 2011-2017

In previous ASSAD surveys, students were asked about their use of amphetamines for non-medicinal reasons using only a single category ('amphetamines'). Therefore, we report 2017 findings for methamphetamines against longer term trends in use for the larger category of amphetamines, with no direct comparisons made between survey years (Table 6.4). Overall patterns of use for methamphetamines in 2017 were generally consistent with those found for amphetamine use in 2011 and 2014.

Opiates

Student use of heroin was extremely low (Table 6.5). In the past year, 1% of students reported using heroin, and around 30% of these past year users had used it only once or twice.

For the first time in 2017, we asked students about their use of other opiates (e.g. morphine, oxycodone, codeine) other than for medical reasons separate from their use of heroin (Table 6.5). Results suggest that students might have reported medicinal as well as non-medicinal use of these drugs (5% ever used). Around 47% of those who reported having used other opiates in the past year had used them only once or twice. Past month use was reported by 2% of students.

Opiate use 2011-2017

We made no direct comparisons between reported use of heroin or other opiates in 2017 and levels of opiate use (including heroin) reported in earlier survey years, as students were asked to report use for different drug categories. However, we report 2011 and 2014 use of opiates (including heroin) against the 2017 figures for heroin (Table 6.6).

Generally, the very low prevalence of heroin use reported in 2017 is consistent with the similarly low prevalence of opiate use reported in 2011 and 2014.

The levels of other opiate use reported in 2017 are likely to reflect both prescribed and non-prescribed use of these drugs due to misinterpretation of the survey questions by students.

Cocaine

Most secondary school students had never tried cocaine (98%, Table 6.7). Only 1% of students had used cocaine in the past month.

Among the 2% who had used cocaine in the past year, 45% of males and 66% of females had used it only once or twice.

Overall, prevalence was very low in all years. Lifetime cocaine use in 2017 among older students was higher than in 2011, but there was no change in their past month use.

Among younger students, lifetime and past month prevalence did not differ from that found in 2014 or 2011 (Table 6.8).

Inhalants

Unlike other illicit substances used by students, inhalant use tends to be reported at a higher rate among younger than older students. Overall, only 18% of all students had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once in their lifetime (7% past month; 4% past week, Table 6.9).

Of the 13% of students who had used inhalants in the past year, 43% had tried them only once or twice, and 19% were regular users (used over 10 times in the past year).

Prevalence did not differ between 2011 and 2017 among younger students (Table 6.10). In older students, reported lifetime and past month inhalant use was higher in 2017 than in 2014 and 2011.

Hallucinogens

Student use of hallucinogens such as LSD was extremely low (Table 6.11). Only 3% of all secondary students had ever used hallucinogens and just over half of the students who had used hallucinogens in the past year had only used them once or twice.

Use increased with age, peaking at 6% of 16 and 17 year olds, but only 1% of all students reported use in the past month.

It was more common for male than female students to have tried hallucinogens in both the older and younger age groups.

There was no difference observed between 2011 and 2017 in past month or lifetime use (Table 6.12).

Ecstasy

Most secondary school students (95%) had never used ecstasy (Table 6.13). Lifetime use increased with age (13 year olds, 2%; 17 year olds, 11%). In the past year, 4% of students had used ecstasy (past month, 2%), with around 47% of these students having used it only once or twice.

Male students were more likely than female students to have used ecstasy in each recency period.

For both younger and older students, the prevalence of lifetime ecstasy use was higher than in 2011 and 2014. While past month use has increased similarly since 2011 and 2014 in younger students, prevalence is very low (Table 6.14).

Performance enhancing drugs

Very few secondary school students reported use of performance or image enhancing drugs that had not been prescribed (Table 6.15). Only 2% of all students had ever used these kinds of drugs without a prescription to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size, or improve appearance. 1% reported use in the past month.

Around 43% of past year users (2% of all students) had used these drugs only once or twice.

There was no change in lifetime or past month use of performance enhancing drugs from 2011 to 2017 (Table 6.16).

Ethno-botanicals

Most secondary school students had not used ethno-botanicals such as Salvia, Kraton, Khat, or Kava, in the past year (1%, Table 6.17).

Synthetic drugs

Student use of synthetic drugs, such as synthetic cannabis and MDPV, in the past year was also rare among secondary school students (97% had not used, Table 6.17). Of those reported, synthetic cannabis was the most common synthetic drug used (2%) and use increased with age.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON SUBSTANCE USE AMONG AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY STUDENTS

Most common substance use

The most common substances used by secondary school students were analgesics and alcohol (Table 7.1). At least 93% of students in each age group had used analgesics in the past year (59% past month). Use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis increased markedly with age. For the first time in the ASSAD survey series, the proportion of students who had used cannabis in the past month was greater than the proportion that had used tobacco cigarettes.

Illicit substance use

Inhalants and cannabis were the most common illicit substances used (Table 7.1). However, while cannabis use increases with age, inhalant use follows a unique pattern of lower reported use with older age.

Ecstasy and hallucinogens were the next most commonly used illicit substances, with their use also greater at older ages.

Experiences with amphetamines, opiates, cocaine, and performance enhancing drugs were rare at all ages.

Use of illicit substances in the past month was low at all ages.

Trends of illicit drug use over time

Overall, the proportions of students that had used any of cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates or ecstasy in their lifetime or in the past month were similar in 2011, 2014, and 2017 (Table 7.2).

Among 16 and 17 year old females, the prevalence of past month use of any illicit substance was higher in 2017 than in 2014. For younger students, prevalence was similar to that reported in 2011 and 2014.

When excluding cannabis, the proportions of students that had used any illicit substance were lower. There was no change in lifetime or past month use of any illicit substance other than cannabis between 2011 and 2017.

Multiple substance use

We examined patterns of multiple substance use among students who had used tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy in the past year (Table 7.3).

Around 64% of students who used tranquilisers had not used another substance at the same time. Between 19-36% of students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy reported that they had not used another substance at the same time. Concurrent use might be lower with tranquilisers due to greater parental supervision of much reported use of these drugs.

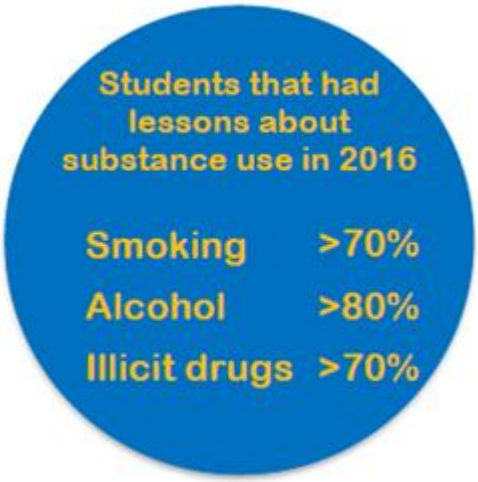
In line with the idea that a substantial amount of substance use occurs in social situations when alcohol has been consumed, alcohol was the substance most commonly used on the same occasion as another substance (tranquilisers, 17%; cannabis, 59%; amphetamines, 39%; hallucinogens, 37%; and ecstasy; 58%).

Similarly, cannabis and (or) tobacco, were the next two most common substances to be used on the same occasion as tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens, and ecstasy.

Ecstasy, hallucinogens, amphetamines, analgesics, or tranquilisers were used together in some combination on the same occasion by smaller proportions of students.

Substance use education

Generally, the greatest focus on substance use education as part of school curricula is during years 8 to 10. ASSAD 2017 results reflect this approach, with student recall of lessons in the previous year (2016) about substance use being highest among 14 to 16 year olds (Table 7.4).



Close to half of all students aged 14 to 15 reported having had more than one lesson about smoking tobacco.

Over half of students aged 14 to 16 reported more than one lesson about drinking alcohol. This proportion was only slightly lower among 17 year olds (47%), indicating that alcohol education tends to extend into the year 11 curriculum.

Reports of lessons about illicit substance use were lowest among 12 year olds (50% did not recall any lessons) and highest among 15 and 16 year olds (84-85% recalled any lessons). Nearly 80% of 17 year olds also reported substance use education in the previous year.

Student use of health services for substance use, emotional problems, or behavioural problems

To evaluate students' access to health professionals for substance use, emotional or behavioural problems, we asked students to report if they had ever been diagnosed or told they have a mental health condition, and whether they had used a treatment service.

A small proportion of students (11%) reported that they had been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they had a mental health condition, while 74% had not (Table 7.5). The proportion of students who had received a diagnosis increased with age, from 5% of 12 year olds to 19% of 17 year olds and was higher among female than male students.

Around 17% of all students had seen a health professional in the past year for alcohol or drug use, or emotional or behavioural problems (Table 7.6). However, most health professionals were seen for emotional or behavioural problems. As with the proportions of students that had been diagnosed with a mental health condition, a greater proportion of female (20%) than male students (12%) had sought professional help for emotional or behaviour problems. The proportions of female students who had seen a health professional for emotional or behavioural problems tended to increase with age (12 year olds: 12%; 17 year olds: 28%). However, there was no age difference in the proportions of male students who had seen a health professional for these reasons.

Association between mental health diagnosis and substance use

For both sexes, substance use was higher among students who had reported a mental health diagnosis than those who had not (Table 7.7).

TABLES SHOWING TOBACCO USE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Table 3.1 Percentage of secondary students in Australia who have smoked in the past week, past month, past year, or lifetime, by age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never smoked							
Male	94	92	87	79	73	64	82
Female	96	94	88	77	70	66	83
Total	95	93	88	78	72	65	82
More than 100 cigarettes in lifetime							
Male	<1	1	2	3	5	9	3
Female	<1	<1	1	2	4	4	2
Total	<1	<1	1	3	4	6	2
Past year							
Male	4	5	8	17	22	29	13
Female	2	4	9	17	23	27	13
Total	3	4	9	17	23	28	13
Past month							
Male	2	2	5	10	13	17	8
Female	2	2	5	8	13	15	7
Total	2	2	5	9	13	16	7
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)							
Male	2	2	4	6	9	12	5
Female	1	1	3	5	8	9	4
Total	2	1	4	5	8	11	5
Committed smokers (smoked on 3+ days in past seven days)							
Male	1	1	2	3	5	7	3
Female	<1	<1	2	3	4	5	2
Total	<1	1	2	3	4	6	3
Estimated number of current smokers[^]							
Male	2,877	2,471	5,760	8,434	12,049	12,610	44,202
Female	1,427	1,657	4,184	6,708	10,503	10,427	34,908
Total	4,304	4,128	9,944	15,142	22,553	23,037	79,109

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4% of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence intervals on percentages for each age and sex group.

[^] Estimated number of current smokers is extrapolated from survey findings to population of 12-17 year old students enrolled in schools across Australia.

Table 3.2 Smoking behaviour of secondary students in Australia who smoked in the week before the survey (current smokers) by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Smoking behaviour									
Smoked on 1 day									
	35	30	33	27	38	32	31	35	33
Smoked ≥ 3 days									
	50	53	51	57	47	52	54	49	52
Daily smoker									
	22	21	22	24	21	23	23	21	22
No. of cigarettes smoked in past week^									
	M	*M*	*M*	*M*	*M*	*M*	*M*	*M*	*M*
	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ	(*se*)Ŧ
	18.7	10.8	14.8	20.3	15.4	17.9	19.7	13.8	16.8
	(2.6)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.0)	(0.8)
n	173	165	338	310	306	616	483	471	954

Ŧ (se) Standard error.

^ Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any of the preceding seven days were excluded from analysis. Average number of cigarettes smoked in past seven days is based on unweighted data.

Table 3.3 Percentage of students in Australia who had smoked in 2011, 2014 and 2017, by recency period, age group and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
Recency period	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	18*	12	12	40*	33	31	24*	18	18
Female	16*	13	11	39*	37*	32	23*	20*	17
Total	17*	13	12	39*	35	31	23*	19	18
Smoked more than 100 cigarettes in lifetime									
Male	2	1	1	9	8	7	4	3	3
Female	2*	1	1	7*	5	4	3*	2	2
Total	2*	1	1	8*	6	5	3*	3	2
Past month									
Male	6	4	5	18	15	15	9	7	8
Female	6	5	4	16	14	14	9*	8	7
Total	6*	4	4	17	15	14	9*	7	7
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)									
Male	4	3	3	13	12	10	7*	5	5
Female	4*	3	3	12*	9	9	6*	5	4
Total	4*	3	3	13*	10	9	7*	5	5
Committed smokers (smoked on 3+ days in past seven days)									
Male	2	2	2	7	7	6	4	3	3
Female	2*	2	1	7*	4	4	4*	2	2
Total	2*	2	2	7*	6	5	4*	3	3
Smoked daily in past seven days									
Male	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	1	1
Female	1	<1	1	3*	2	2	2*	1	1
Total	1	1	1	4*	3	2	2*	1	1
Daily smokers among current smokers									
Male	24	22	22	29	29	24	27	26	23
Female	24	15	21	28	22	21	26	19	21
Total	24	19	22	28	26	23	26	23	22

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 3.4 Secondary students in Australia who were current smokers[#] and bought their last cigarette[†] themselves, by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Bought last cigarette									
	8	8	8	27	15	21	19	12	16
n	166	146	312	246	224	469	412	370	782

[#] Current smokers: students who smoked on any of the past seven days.

[†] Current smokers indicating more than one cigarette source excluded from analyses.

Table 3.5 Source of last cigarette for current smokers[#†] among secondary students in Australia, by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Did not buy									
Parents	7	10	8	3	7	5	5	8	6
Siblings	2	6	4	4	4	4	3	5	4
Took from home	9	19	14	2	4	3	5	10	7
Friend under 18	30	29	29	21	26	24	25	27	26
Friend over 18	17	13	15	27	25	26	23	21	22
Someone bought it	22	13	18	10	16	13	15	15	15
Bought									
Convenience store	3	1	2	4	4	4	4	3	3
Milk bar	<1	1	<1	1	3	2	1	2	2
Tobacconist/ tobacco shop	1	2	1	6	2	4	4	2	3
Newsagency	0	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
Supermarket	2	<1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2
Petrol station	1	1	1	5	3	4	3	2	3
n	166	146	312	246	224	469	412	370	782

[#] Current smokers: students who smoked on any of the past seven days.

[†] Current smokers indicating more than one cigarette source excluded from analyses. Percentages do not add to 100 as only the most frequent responses are listed.

Table 3.6 Usual cigarette brand smoked by current smokers[#†] among secondary students in Australia, by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Brand									
n	110	84	194	151	148	299	261	232	492
JPS	27	24	26	22	23	22	24	23	24
Winfield	20	10	16	28	24	26	24	19	22
Rothmans	2	10	6	5	9	7	4	9	7
Bond St	1	7	4	6	8	7	4	8	6
Marlboro	10	0	5	5	4	4	7	2	5
Just Smokes	6	6	6	2	5	3	4	5	4
Longbeach	6	6	6	2	2	2	4	4	4
Champion	1	2	1	4	4	4	3	3	3
Peter Jackson	1	3	2	2	4	3	1	4	3
Holiday	7	2	5	1	0	1	4	1	2
Horizon	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kent	4	0	2	2	1	1	3	<1	2
Port Royal	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Dunhill	0	3	1	2	<1	1	1	1	1
Choice	1	2	1	0	2	1	<1	2	1

[#] Current smokers: students who smoked on any of the past seven days.

[†] Current smokers reporting more than one brand excluded from analyses. Percentages do not sum to 100 as only the most commonly mentioned brands are listed.

Table 3.7 Pack size of last cigarette used by current smokers[#†] by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Factory-made cigarette pack size									
20	37	45	40	31	29	30	33	35	34
25	5	11	7	15	15	15	11	13	12
30	12	6	10	7	15	11	9	12	10
35	0	3	1	1	<1	1	<1	2	1
40	7	14	10	12	10	11	10	11	10
50	11	6	9	3	4	3	6	5	6
22	3	2	3	1	0	<1	2	1	1
26	2	1	2	5	5	5	3	3	3
23	0	2	1	<1	0	<1	<1	1	<1
Roll your own tobacco									
	24	11	18	26	21	24	25	17	21
n	164	131	295	218	206	423	381	337	718

[#] Current smokers: students who smoked on any of the past seven days.

[†] Current smokers reporting more than one response excluded from analyses.

Table 3.8 Roll-your-own tobacco use among past-month cigarette smokers by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						Age group		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-15	16-17	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Past-month smokers									
Never used									
Males	48	18	28	22	26	24	26	25	25
Females	61	34	25	28	25	30	31	27	29
Total	54	25	26	25	25	27	28	26	27
Once or twice									
Males	0	28	5	9	18	12	9	15	13
Females	0	24	24	20	18	18	19	18	19
Total	0	26	15	14	18	15	14	17	16
3-5 times									
Males	12	23	9	10	7	10	12	9	10
Females	13	8	13	12	15	14	12	14	14
Total	12	16	11	11	11	12	12	12	12
6-9 times									
Males	20	0	10	11	4	6	10	5	7
Females	0	8	10	6	10	7	6	9	8
Total	11	3	10	9	7	7	8	7	8
10-19 times									
Males	14	6	7	13	6	8	11	7	8
Females	13	4	10	8	9	10	9	9	9
Total	13	5	9	11	7	9	10	8	9
20+ times									
Males	7	26	41	35	39	40	32	39	36
Females	13	23	19	26	23	22	22	22	22
Total	10	24	29	31	31	31	27	31	29
n	60	72	149	263	396	386	544	782	1,326

Table 3.9 Frequency of shisha/waterpipe tobacco use by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	96	95	93	87	82	78	89
Female	98	97	95	91	87	85	92
Total	97	96	94	89	84	81	91
A few puffs							
Male	2	2	4	4	8	8	5
Female	2	2	2	5	7	7	4
Total	2	2	3	4	8	8	4
Fewer than 10 times							
Male	1	1	2	4	5	8	3
Female	<1	1	2	2	4	6	2
Total	<1	1	2	3	5	7	3
10 or more times							
Male	<1	1	1	3	4	4	2
Female	<1	<1	1	2	1	2	1
Total	<1	1	1	3	2	3	2
More than 100 times							
Male	<1	<1	<1	2	1	2	1
Female	0	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Total	<1	<1	<1	1	1	1	1

Table 3.10 Frequency of cigar/cigarillo use by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	97	95	94	89	85	79	90
Female	98	97	93	91	87	88	92
Total	97	96	93	90	86	84	91
Once or twice							
Male	2	3	3	5	7	8	4
Female	1	2	4	4	6	6	4
Total	2	2	3	4	7	7	4
Three or more times							
Male	1	2	4	6	7	13	5
Female	1	2	3	5	7	6	4
Total	1	2	3	5	7	9	4

Table 3.11 Use of e-cigarettes by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	95	91	85	78	73	72	83
Female	98	96	91	86	85	85	90
Total	96	93	88	82	79	79	86
Ever used							
Male	5	9	15	22	27	28	17
Female	2	4	9	14	15	15	10
Total	4	7	12	18	21	21	14

Table 3.12 Frequency of e-cigarette use in the past month among ever users of e-cigarettes by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Of ever users, any use in the past month							
Male	38	36	43	34	25	31	33
Female	55	43	41	28	24	27	31
Total	43	38	42	31	25	29	32
Of ever users, use on three or more days in the past month							
Male	14	14	18	16	10	12	13
Female	19	24	19	13	8	10	13
Total	15	17	18	15	9	11	13
n	108	209	373	559	653	513	2,415

Table 3.13 Previous tobacco cigarette smoking (i.e., before trying an e-cigarette) among ever and past month e-cigarette users by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ever used e-cigarette							
Never smoked a tobacco cigarette before using e-cigarette							
Male	59	64	58	62	49	36	53
Female	51	43	46	44	38	32	40
Total	57	58	54	55	45	34	48
A few puffs of a tobacco cigarette before using e-cigarette							
Male	29	18	21	12	19	26	20
Female	48	19	23	17	17	20	20
Total	34	18	21	14	18	24	20
Less than 10 tobacco cigarettes							
Male	5	8	10	11	10	11	10
Female	0	18	12	16	14	11	13
Total	4	11	11	13	12	11	11
10 or more tobacco cigarettes							
Male	7	10	10	14	21	28	18
Female	1	20	19	23	31	36	27
Total	6	13	14	18	25	31	21
n	117	204	367	553	650	512	2,403
Past month e-cigarette user							
Never smoked a tobacco cigarette before using e-cigarette							
Male	48	45	43	48	31	19	38
Female	41	22	31	34	16	20	26
Total	45	38	38	44	26	20	34
A few puffs of a tobacco cigarette before using e-cigarette							
Male	15	17	23	16	26	42	24
Female	57	16	26	9	22	19	21
Total	30	17	24	14	24	34	23
Less than 10 tobacco cigarettes							
Male	15	14	15	14	12	13	14
Female	0	28	15	22	14	11	16
Total	10	19	15	17	12	12	14
10 or more tobacco cigarettes							
Male	22	24	19	22	32	26	24
Female	2	34	28	35	48	50	37
Total	15	27	23	26	37	34	29
n	46	78	151	174	160	148	758

Table 3.14 Self-perceived smoking status among students in Australia by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Heavy smoker							
Male	<1	1	1	2	2	3	2
Female	<1	<1	1	1	1	2	1
Total	<1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Light smoker							
Male	1	<1	1	2	3	4	2
Female	0	1	1	2	3	3	2
Total	<1	<1	1	2	3	3	2
Occasional smoker							
Male	1	1	3	5	7	9	4
Female	<1	1	3	5	10	10	5
Total	1	1	3	5	8	9	4
Ex-smoker							
Male	1	1	2	2	2	5	2
Female	1	<1	2	3	2	2	1
Total	1	1	2	3	2	3	2
Non-smoker							
Male	97	96	93	88	85	79	91
Female	98	98	94	89	85	84	91
Total	98	97	93	89	85	82	91

Table 3.15 Smoking recency and average number of cigarettes smoked per week by self-perceived smoking status among secondary students in Australia, ASSAD 2017

	Self-description of smoking				
	Heavy smoker	Light smoker	Occasional smoker	Ex- smoker	Non-smoker
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Smoking recency					
Smoked >100 cigarettes	76	45	9	13	<1
Smoked in past year	91	97	94	73	6
Smoked in past month	89	87	70	24	2
Smoked in past week	86	77	43	13	1
Smoked on 3 or more days of past week	74	56	12	4	<1
n	238	319	819	329	17,177
Among current smokers[#]					
Average number of cigarettes smoked per week[†]	*M* *(se)* [Ŧ]	*M* *(se)* [Ŧ]	*M* *(se)* [Ŧ]	*M* *(se)* [Ŧ]	*M* *(se)* [Ŧ]
	43.9 (1.5)	16.3 (1.3)	6.4 (1.1)	5.5 (3.5)	7.3 (2.2)
n	195	258	359	38	101

[Ŧ] (se) Standard error.

[†] Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any one day of preceding 7 days excluded from analysis. Average number of cigarettes smoked adjusted for sex and age and are based on unweighted data

[#] Current smokers: students who smoked in the past week.

Table 3.16 Intention to smoke in the next year among secondary students in Australia by age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Certain not to smoke							
Male	89	85	82	73	74	67	79
Female	92	88	81	72	69	67	78
Total	91	86	81	72	71	67	79
Unlikely/ very unlikely to smoke							
Male	9	12	13	17	16	16	14
Female	6	9	12	19	17	19	14
Total	7	11	13	18	16	18	14
Undecided							
Male	1	2	3	5	5	9	4
Female	1	2	4	6	8	8	5
Total	1	2	3	6	7	9	4
Likely/ very likely to smoke							
Male	<1	1	1	3	4	5	2
Female	1	1	2	3	5	4	3
Total	1	1	2	3	4	5	2
Certain to smoke							
Male	<1	<1	1	1	1	2	1
Female	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	<1	<1	1	1	1	2	1

[#] Percentage of students in each age group indicating each response category.

Table 3.17 Intention to smoke in the next year among past year smokers among secondary students in Australia, by age, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Intention							
Certain not to smoke	28	22	23	19	22	19	21
Unlikely/very unlikely to smoke	38	34	27	35	31	31	32
Undecided	12	20	24	25	24	27	25
Likely/very likely to smoke	14	17	17	16	19	16	17
Certain to smoke	8	6	9	5	4	6	6
n	89	148	284	549	714	706	2,491

TABLES SHOWING ALCOHOL USE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Table 4.1 Alcohol use by secondary students in Australia by age, sex, and recency, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	50	43	35	29	21	16	33
Female	65	54	36	24	16	14	36
Total	57	48	36	26	19	15	34
Used in past year							
Male	19	32	40	54	65	75	46
Female	14	22	39	57	71	77	46
Total	17	27	40	55	68	76	46
Used in past month							
Male	10	14	19	31	43	55	27
Female	6	9	18	31	46	53	26
Total	8	11	18	31	44	54	27
Current drinker (consumed alcohol in past seven days)							
Male	6	7	10	18	26	37	16
Female	3	4	11	16	24	30	14
Total	4	6	10	17	25	33	15
Single occasion risky drinker (drank five or more drinks on one day in past seven days)							
Male	<1	2	2	6	11	16	6
Female	<1	<1	2	4	8	9	4
Total	<1	1	2	5	9	13	5

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4% of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 4.2 Risky drinking by secondary students in Australia by recency, age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
All students									
Last two weeks	7	6	7	26	21	24	13	11	12
Past month	11	10	10	36	34	35	18	17	18
Past year	20	19	20	55	54	54	30	30	30
Lifetime	24	22	23	58	55	57	34	32	33
Ever drinkers									
Last two weeks	12	11	12	33	25	29	19	17	18
Past month	17	18	18	44	40	42	27	27	27
Past year	34	35	34	68	63	65	46	47	46
Lifetime	39	40	39	72	65	68	51	50	50
Current drinkers									
Last two weeks	53	54	53	69	58	64	62	56	59
Past month	64	67	65	79	71	75	72	69	71
Past year	77	77	77	91	85	88	85	81	83
Lifetime	81	78	80	93	86	89	87	83	85

Table 4.3 Alcohol consumption among past week drinkers (current drinkers) in Australia by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Drinking behaviour									
Number of drinks in past seven days^									
M	5.9	4.0	5.0	8.6	5.5	7.0	7.6	5.0	6.2
(se)‡	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Five or more drinks on one occasion#									
%	24	19	22	43	32	38	35	26	31
n	695	547	1,242	861	765	1,626	1,556	1,312	2,868

^ Means are based on unweighted data. Respondents indicating they consumed more than 20 drinks on any one day excluded from calculations of means.

‡ (se) Standard error

Percentage of current drinkers consuming five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days.

Table 4.4 Alcohol use among secondary students in Australia, by recency, age group and sex in 2011, 2014, and 2017^, ASSAD

Recency period	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2017 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2017 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2017 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	70*	62	61	88*	84	81	75*	68	67
Female	65*	60	55	90*	86	85	73*	68	64
Total	68*	61	58	89*	85	83	74*	68	66
Past month									
Male	21	16	18	52	47	48	30	25	27
Female	18	15	16	53	48	49	29*	25	26
Total	19	15	17	53	47	49	29*	25	27
Current drinkers (consumed alcohol in past seven days)									
Male	12	9	10	34	30	31	18	15	16
Female	10	8	8	31	29	26	16*	14	14
Total	11*	8	9	32	29	29	17*	15	15
Consumed five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days (risky drinkers)									
All students									
Male	3	2	2	18	15	13	7	6	6
Female	2	1	2	13*	10	8	5*	4	4
Total	3	2	2	16*	13	11	6*	5	5
Current drinkers									
Male	27	24	24	53	52	43	41	41	35
Female	20	16	19	43*	34	32	33*	27	26
Total	24	21	22	48*	43	38	37*	34	31

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$

^ 2009 NHMRC drinking guidelines recommend abstaining from alcohol consumption as the safest option for young people under the age of 18. Therefore, the proportions of students who report having consumed an alcoholic drink in their lifetime or in any recency period reflects the proportions of students who did not adhere to this guideline.

Table 4.5 Usual alcoholic beverage consumed by current drinkers[^†#] in Australia, by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Beverage type									
Premixed spirits	25	41	32	32	50	40	29	47	37
Beer (ordinary)	36	10	25	32	4	20	34	7	22
Spirits	15	24	19	16	23	20	16	24	19
Alcoholic cider	6	9	7	9	9	9	7	9	8
Wine	6	8	7	3	6	4	4	7	5
n	412	315	726	584	467	1,051	996	782	1,777

[^] Current drinkers: students who drank on any of the past seven days.

[†] Percentages exclude responses from students who gave more than one type of drink.

[#] Percentages do not add to 100% as only the most common beverage types shown.

Table 4.6 Most common usual drink for current drinkers[^] aged 12-17 (only students indicating one usual drink type included in analysis) by sex, ASSAD 2011-2017

	2011		2014		2017	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Beverage type						
Premixed spirits (incl. alcoholic sodas and alcoholic energy drinks)	31	47	30	46	31	49
Spirits	24*	30*	20	23	16	24
Alcoholic cider	2*	1*	8	9	7	9
Beer (ordinary)	30	4	28	5	34	7
Wine	7	8	7	9	4	7
Liqueur	1	3	1	2	1	2
Champagne or sparkling wine	1	4	<1	3	1	2

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

[^] Current drinkers: students who drank on any of the past seven days.

Table 4.7 How current drinkers^ among secondary students in Australia accessed their last alcoholic drink#†, by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Supplied by others									
Parents	42	44	43	41	45	43	42	45	43
Siblings	9	9	9	8	6	7	8	7	8
Took from home	14	9	11	3	3	3	8	5	7
Friend under 18	8	12	10	7	6	6	7	8	8
Friend over 18	12	11	11	20	23	21	16	18	17
Someone else bought	9	12	10	13	14	13	11	13	12
Bought themselves									
Liquor store, supermarket, or bottle shop	1	1	1	4	1	3	3	1	2
Bar/Pub/RSL	<1	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	<1	1
Restaurant/café	0	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
n	551	455	1,006	762	702	1,464	1,313	1,157	2,471

^ Current drinkers: students who drank in the past week.

We show only the most common sources of those in the survey, so percentages do not add to 100%.

† Percentages exclude responses from students who gave more than one source of alcohol.

Table 4.8 Sources who bought alcohol for current drinkers^ among secondary students in Australia who were supplied by another#†, by sex, ASSAD 2017

	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Person who bought alcohol for student			
Friend 18 or over	62	63	62
Brother/sister or other relative 18 or over	9	10	9
Friend under 18	5	6	5
Brother/sister or other relative under 18	2	<1	1
Stranger	8	3	6
n	145	149	294

^ Current drinkers: students who drank in the past week.

We show only the most common sources who bought alcohol for those in the survey, so percentages do not add to 100%.

† Percentages exclude responses from students who gave more than one source of alcohol.

Table 4.9 Most common locations for drinking and supervision by an adult of current drinkers in Australia by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017^†#

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Location									
At home	44	46	45	27	29	28	35	36	35
Party	22	23	22	33	40	36	28	33	31
Friend's house	9	15	12	17	18	17	14	17	15
n	600	496	1,096	806	729	1,535	1,406	1,226	2,631
Supervised by an adult*									
At home	76	74	75	71	77	74	74	75	75
Party	69	60	65	56	53	54	60	55	57
Friend's house	49	45	46	62	55	59	58	51	55
All locations	66	62	64	63	61	62	64	61	63
n	593	494	1,087	804	727	1,530	1,396	1,221	2,617

^ Current drinkers: students who drank on any of the past seven days.

* Current drinkers who provided information about adult supervision

† Percentages exclude responses from students who reported multiple drinking locations.

Additional drinking places were included in the survey. As only the most common places are shown, percentages do not add to 100%.

Table 4.10 Average number of drinks# consumed per week by current drinkers^ in Australia by source of alcohol, where alcohol was consumed, and age group, ASSAD 2017†

	Age group in years		
	12-15	16-17	12-17
	(*M*)	(*M*)	(*M*)
Source of alcohol			
Parents	3.4	6.3	5.3
Friends under 18	4.5	5.0	4.8
Friends over 18	6.2	7.4	7.1
Someone else bought it for me	7.7	7.2	7.3
Location			
Home	3.3	5.0	4.2
Friend's place	3.8	6.3	5.5
Party	6.5	7.8	7.4

Means are based on unweighted data. Students who indicated they consumed more than 20 drinks in the week preceding the survey were excluded from analyses.

^ Current drinkers: students who drank in the past week.

† Means for source of alcohol exclude responses from students who reported multiple drink sources, while means for location exclude responses from students who reported multiple drinking locations.

Table 4.11 Self-described drinking status among secondary students in Australia, by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Non-drinker							
Male	93	86	81	65	49	37	70
Female	95	92	81	62	47	37	70
Total	94	89	81	64	48	37	70
Occasional drinker							
Male	5	9	11	19	23	26	15
Female	3	5	11	19	21	26	14
Total	4	7	11	19	22	26	14
Light drinker							
Male	1	2	2	4	4	5	3
Female	1	2	2	3	4	5	3
Total	1	2	2	3	4	5	3
Party drinker							
Male	1	2	4	10	22	29	10
Female	<1	1	5	16	27	31	13
Total	1	2	5	13	24	30	11
Heavy drinker							
Male	<1	1	2	2	2	3	2
Female	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	1	<1
Total	<1	<1	1	2	1	2	1

Table 4.12 Source and location of last drink for current drinkers^ in Australia by self-described drinking status and age group, ASSAD 2017#

	Non-drinker		Occasional drinker		Party drinker	
	12-15	16-17	12-15	16-17	12-15	16-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Source of alcohol*						
Parents	61	56	50	51	26	36
Friend over 18	6	13	10	24	18	21
Friend under 18	8	15	7	6	12	6
Someone else bought it for me	2	1	5	8	23	18
Location of last drink*						
Home	56	36	60	35	23	18
Party	6	19	15	30	47	45
Friend's place	6	13	13	16	14	20

^ Current drinkers: students who drank in the past week.

Percentages for source of alcohol exclude responses from students who reported multiple drink sources, while percentages for location of last drink exclude responses from students who reported multiple drinking locations.

* Additional sources of alcohol and drinking places were included in the survey. As only the most common sources and places are shown, percentages do not add to 100%.

Table 4.13 Negative outcomes experienced by current drinkers[#] after drinking alcohol in the past year by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Negative Outcome									
Health and wellbeing									
Been sick (vomited)	29	35	32	44	44	44	37	40	39
Had an injury that needed to be seen by a doctor	5	5	5	3	4	3	4	4	4
Missed school or work	11	15	13	12	12	12	12	13	12
Tried smoking	19	29	24	38	43	40	30	37	33
Tried drugs	15	19	17	29	26	28	23	23	23
Lost something	15	16	15	24	23	24	20	20	20
Done something you later regretted	19	27	22	28	36	32	24	32	28
Interpersonal									
Had an argument	13	24	18	23	25	24	19	25	21
Verbally abused someone	10	9	9	14	9	12	12	9	11
Physically threatened someone	5	5	5	8	2	5	7	3	5
Hit someone or had a fight	10	9	9	11	4	8	11	6	8
Civil or legal									
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	5	6	6	10	5	8	8	6	7
Stolen something	7	6	6	9	3	6	8	4	6
Driven a motor vehicle	9	4	7	9	3	6	9	4	7
Caused damage to property	7	6	7	13	5	9	10	5	8
Been in trouble with the police	6	6	6	8	2	5	7	3	6
Number of Negative Outcomes^									
None	47	41	44	31	32	31	38	36	37
One	22	17	20	16	15	16	19	16	18
Two	8	9	9	14	12	13	12	11	11
Three or more	23	32	27	39	41	40	32	37	34
n	695	547	1,242	861	765	1,626	1,556	1,312	2,868

[#] Current drinkers: students who drank in the past week.

^ Includes responses to all negative outcomes listed in the survey, not just the main ones listed above (refer to Q21 in the survey in Appendix 1 to see list of all negative outcomes). Includes multiple responses.

Table 4.14 Intention to get drunk when drinking for current drinkers[#] by intention frequency, age group and sex, Australia, ASSAD 2017

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Intention to get drunk									
Never	29	32	31	17	22	19	22	26	24
A few times/ sometimes	44	41	42	35	33	34	39	36	38
Most times/ every time	27	27	27	48	45	47	39	37	38
n	616	512	1,128	833	734	1,567	1,449	1,246	2,695

[#] Current drinkers: students who drank on any of the past seven days.

TABLES SHOWING USE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Table 5.1 Use of analgesics among secondary students in Australia by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ever used							
Male	91	93	92	93	95	95	93
Female	94	95	97	98	98	98	97
Total	93	94	94	96	96	96	95
Past year							
Male	85	90	88	89	91	92	89
Female	92	93	95	97	97	96	95
Total	88	91	91	93	94	94	92
Past month							
Male	47	57	57	61	61	62	57
Female	63	68	75	81	82	79	75
Total	55	63	65	71	71	71	66
Past week							
Male	25	31	30	37	34	36	32
Female	32	37	47	51	54	54	46
Total	29	34	38	44	44	46	39

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4% of population values. See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 5.2 Source of analgesics for past year users by age and sex, ASSAD 2017*

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Parents							
Males	94	94	92	91	90	86	91
Females	94	94	93	90	86	81	90
Total	94	94	92	90	88	83	90
Took from home							
Males	1	1	2	3	3	7	3
Females	2	1	3	3	6	5	3
Total	1	1	3	3	5	6	3
Bought it							
Males	1	<1	1	2	4	5	2
Females	<1	1	1	4	7	11	4
Total	1	1	1	3	6	8	3
Friends							
Males	0	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Females	<1	1	2	2	2	3	1
Total	<1	<1	1	1	2	2	1
n	2,640	2,756	2,727	2,827	2,833	2,275	16,060

* Base: students using analgesics in past year.

Table 5.3 Reasons for most recent use among past year analgesic users (multiple responses allowed) by age and sex, ASSAD 2017*^

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Headache or migraine							
Male	51	49	49	53	58	61	53
Female	40	44	44	42	47	46	44
Total	46	47	46	47	53	53	48
Cold/'Flu							
Male	36	32	30	30	29	27	31
Female	34	25	22	19	21	20	24
Total	35	28	26	24	25	24	27
Dental pain							
Male	4	4	7	4	3	4	4
Female	4	7	6	6	4	3	5
Total	4	5	7	5	4	3	5
Menstrual pain							
Male	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	13	19	25	31	31	30	25
Total	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pain from sport injury or strains							
Male	10	15	13	15	16	14	14
Female	8	10	9	10	7	10	9
Total	9	12	11	12	12	12	11
n	2,717	2,804	2,776	2,871	2,858	2,295	16,321

* Base: students using analgesics in past year.

^ Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses were allowed and only the most common reasons are shown.

Table 5.4 Analgesic use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	95*	93	92	96	94	95	95*	93	93
Female	97	97	96	98	98	98	97	97	97
Total	96*	95	94	97	96	96	96*	95	95
Past month									
Male	61*	60*	56	63	64	61	62*	61*	57
Female	74	74	72	83	82	80	76	77	75
Total	67*	67*	64	73	73	71	69*	69*	66
Past week									
Male	32	33	31	34	35	35	33	34	32
Female	42	45*	42	53	53	54	45	48	46
Total	37	39*	36	44	44	45	39	41	39

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 5.5 Use of tranquilisers for non-medical reasons among secondary students in Australia by recency, age, and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	82	82	82	80	79	77	80
Female	87	83	81	79	79	79	82
Total	85	82	81	80	79	78	81
Ever used							
Male	18	18	18	20	21	23	20
Female	13	17	19	21	21	21	18
Total	15	18	19	20	21	22	19
Past year							
Male	11	12	12	12	14	17	13
Female	7	11	13	15	15	15	12
Total	9	11	12	14	14	16	13
Past month							
Male	4	4	6	6	7	9	6
Female	3	5	6	6	6	6	5
Total	4	4	6	6	6	8	5
Past week							
Male	3	3	4	3	4	6	4
Female	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	3	3	3	3	4	5	3

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ± 3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 5.6 Common sources of tranquilisers for past year users by age and sex, ASSAD 2017*

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Parents							
Male	69	77	68	68	52	56	65
Female	77	76	68	61	60	57	65
Total	72	76	68	64	56	57	65
Prescribed							
Male	24	15	13	11	13	16	15
Female	16	17	17	22	21	28	21
Total	21	16	16	17	17	22	18
Took from home							
Male	1	1	1	3	6	4	3
Female	4	2	6	6	6	5	5
Total	2	2	4	5	6	5	4
Bought it							
Male	0	<1	2	5	13	12	6
Female	0	1	0	2	2	4	2
Total	0	1	1	3	7	8	4
From someone else							
Male	2	3	8	6	11	9	7
Female	3	3	6	7	7	4	5
Total	2	3	7	7	9	6	6
n	216	310	324	374	388	338	1,951

* Base: students using tranquilisers in past year.

Table 5.7 Tranquiliser use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	16	16	19	19	20	22	17	17	20
Female	16	19	17	19	21	21	17	19	18
Total	16	17	18	19	20	21	17*	18	19
Past month									
Male	4	4	5	5*	5	8	4*	5	6
Female	4	5	5	5	6	6	4	5	5
Total	4	5	5	5*	5	7	4*	5	5
Past week									
Male	2	2	3	3*	3	5	2*	3	4
Female	2	3	3	3	3	3	2*	3	3
Total	2*	3	3	3*	3	4	2*	3	3

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

TABLES SHOWING ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Table 6.1 Cannabis use among students in Australia by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	97	94	89	80	71	63	83
Female	98	96	92	79	73	71	85
Total	97	95	91	80	72	67	84
Ever used							
Male	3	6	11	20	29	37	17
Female	2	4	8	21	27	29	15
Total	3	5	9	20	28	33	16
Past year							
Male	2	5	9	18	26	34	15
Female	2	3	8	20	25	27	14
Total	2	4	8	19	26	31	14
Past month							
Male	1	3	6	10	16	19	9
Female	1	2	5	10	14	14	7
Total	1	2	5	10	15	17	8
Past week							
Male	1	2	3	6	9	12	5
Female	1	<1	3	5	7	6	4
Total	1	1	3	6	8	8	4

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ± 3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.2 Cannabis use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	10	11	10	30	31	33	16	17	17
Female	9	9	9	24	26	28	13	14	15
Total	10	10	9	27	28	30	15	16	16
Past month									
Male	5	5	5	15	16	18	8	8	9
Female	4	4	4	10*	10*	14	6*	6*	7
Total	4	4	5	12	13	16	7	7	8
Past week									
Male	3	3	3	9	9	10	4	5	5
Female	2	2	2	5	5	6	3	3	4
Total	2	3	3	7	7	8	4	4	4

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.3 Use of dexamphetamine and methamphetamine among secondary students in Australia by recency, age, and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Dexamphetamines							
Never used							
Male	98	99	98	99	97	97	98
Female	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
Total	98	99	98	99	98	98	98
Ever used							
Male	2	1	2	1	3	3	2
Female	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Past year							
Male	1	<1	2	1	2	2	1
Female	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	<1	1	1	2	2	1
Past month							
Male	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Total	<1	<1	1	<1	1	1	1
Methamphetamines							
Never used							
Male	99	99	97	99	97	96	98
Female	99	99	99	98	98	98	99
Total	99	99	98	99	98	97	98
Ever used							
Male	1	1	3	1	3	4	2
Female	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Total	1	1	2	1	2	3	2
Past year							
Male	1	1	2	1	2	3	2
Female	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Past month							
Male	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Female	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
Total	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.4 Amphetamine use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017*	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	2	2	5	5	3	3	3	2
Female	2	2	1	4	2	2	3	2	1
Total	2	2	1	5	4	3	3	2	2
Past month									
Male	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	1
Female	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	<1
Total	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1

* 2011 and 2014 measure of 'amphetamine' use; 2017 measure of methamphetamine use.
Note: no significance tests were run by survey year, due to change in key variables measuring use.

Table 6.5 Opiate use (for non-medicinal reasons) among secondary students in Australia by recency, age, and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

		Age in years						
		12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Heroin	**Never used**							
	Male	99	99	98	99	99	99	99
	Female	>99	>99	>99	99	99	>99	>99
	Total	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
	Ever used							
	Male	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
	Female	<1	<1	<1	1	1	<1	<1
	Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Past year							
	Male	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Female	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
	Total	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
	Past month							
	Male	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
	Female	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
	Total	1	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Other opiates	**Never used**							
	Male	97	96	94	93	92	90	94
	Female	97	97	97	94	93	94	95
	Total	97	97	96	93	92	92	95
	Ever used							
	Male	3	4	6	7	8	10	6
	Female	3	3	3	6	7	6	5
	Total	3	3	4	7	8	8	5
	Past year							
	Male	3	2	3	5	7	8	5
	Female	2	2	2	5	6	5	3
	Total	2	2	3	5	6	6	4
	Past month							
	Male	1	1	2	2	3	4	2
	Female	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Total	1	1	2	2	3	3	2

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.6 Lifetime and past month opiate use in 2011, 2014 and 2017, by age group and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017*	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1
Female	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	<1
Total	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1
Past month									
Male	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Total	<1	1	<1	1	1	<1	1	1	<1

* Values show heroin use 2017.
Note: no significance tests were run by survey year, due to change in key variables measuring use.

Table 6.7 Cocaine use by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	99	99	98	98	96	93	97
Female	99	>99	99	98	98	95	98
Total	99	99	99	98	97	94	98
Ever used							
Male	1	1	2	2	4	7	3
Female	1	<1	1	2	2	5	2
Total	1	1	1	2	3	6	2
Past year							
Male	1	1	1	2	3	6	2
Female	1	<1	<1	2	2	2	1
Total	1	1	1	2	2	4	2
Past month							
Male	1	<1	1	1	2	3	1
Female	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
Total	1	<1	1	1	1	2	1

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.8 Cocaine use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12 – 15			16 – 17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	2	1	3*	4	5	2	2	3
Female	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2
Total	1	2	1	2*	3	4	2	2	2
Past month									
Male	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
Female	<1	1*	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	1	<1
Total	<1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.9 Inhalant use among secondary students in Australia by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ever used							
Male	18	18	19	17	16	17	17
Female	20	20	20	19	17	12	18
Total	19	19	20	18	16	15	18
Past year							
Male	13	11	14	13	11	13	13
Female	15	15	16	14	12	9	14
Total	14	13	15	14	11	11	13
Past month							
Male	8	6	8	8	5	7	7
Female	9	10	9	7	7	5	8
Total	8	8	8	8	6	6	7
Past week							
Male	5	4	4	4	3	4	4
Female	4	5	6	4	3	2	4
Total	5	4	5	4	3	3	4

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.10 Inhalant use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	17	16	18	14	12*	16	16	15*	17
Female	21	19	20	12*	11*	15	18	17	18
Total	19	18	19	13*	12*	15	17	16*	18
Past month									
Male	7	6	7	4	4	6	6	5*	7
Female	10	8	9	4*	4	6	8	7	8
Total	8	7	8	4*	4*	6	7	6*	7

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.11 Hallucinogen use among secondary students in Australia by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	98	98	97	96	92	91	96
Female	99	99	98	97	96	96	98
Total	98	99	98	97	94	94	97
Ever used							
Male	2	2	3	4	8	9	4
Female	1	1	2	3	4	4	2
Total	2	1	2	3	6	6	3
Past year							
Male	1	2	2	3	7	7	3
Female	<1	1	2	3	3	3	2
Total	1	1	2	3	5	5	3
Past month							
Male	1	1	2	2	3	3	2
Female	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	2	1

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.12 Hallucinogen use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	2	3	6	7	8	4	3	4
Female	2	1	2	5	3	4	3	2	2
Total	2	2	2	5	5	6	3	3	3
Past month									
Male	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2
Female	<1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.13 Ecstasy use among secondary students in Australia by recency, age, and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	97	97	96	95	91	85	94
Female	97	98	98	96	94	92	96
Total	97	98	97	95	92	89	95
Ever used							
Male	3	3	4	5	9	15	6
Female	3	2	2	4	6	8	4
Total	3	2	3	5	8	11	5
Past year							
Male	3	2	3	4	8	12	5
Female	2	1	1	3	5	7	3
Total	2	2	2	4	6	9	4
Past month							
Male	1	1	2	2	4	7	3
Female	1	1	1	2	2	4	2
Total	1	1	1	2	3	5	2

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.14 Ecstasy use among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	2*	4	5*	8	12	3*	4*	6
Female	1*	1*	3	4*	4*	7	2*	2*	4
Total	2*	2*	3	5*	6*	9	3*	3*	5
Past month									
Male	1*	1*	2	2*	4	5	1*	2*	3
Female	<1*	1	1	1*	2	3	1*	1*	2
Total	1*	1*	1	2*	3	4	1*	1*	2

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.15 Use of performance or image enhancing drugs without a doctor's prescription by recency, age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Never used							
Male	98	98	98	97	98	97	98
Female	97	98	97	98	98	98	98
Total	97	98	98	97	98	98	98
Ever used							
Male	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Female	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
Total	3	2	2	3	2	2	2
Past year							
Male	1	2	1	2	2	3	2
Female	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Total	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Past month							
Male	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Female	1	1	1	1	1	<1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 6.16 Use of performance or image enhancing drugs by year, recency, age group, and sex, ASSAD

	Age group in years								
	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017	2011	2014	2017
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Lifetime									
Male	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2
Female	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Past month									
Male	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Female	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

* Significantly different from 2017 at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6.17 Use of ethno-botanicals or synthetic drugs in the past year by age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ethno-botanicals							
Male	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Female	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Synthetic drugs							
Synthetic cannabis	1	1	1	2	4	3	2
Emerging synthetic hallucinogens	<1	1	1	<1	1	1	1
MDPV	1	1	<1	1	1	<1	1
Mephedrone	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Other synthetic substance	<1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	<1
Did not use any synthetic drug	98	98	98	97	96	96	97

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

[^] Percentages may not equal 100% as multiple responses were allowed.

TABLES SHOWING ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Any substance use by secondary students in 2014 and 2017

Table 7.1 Substance use in 2017 and 2014 by recency and age group, ASSAD

	2014			2017		
	12–13	14–15	16–17	12–13	14–15	16–17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ever used						
Analgesics	94	96	96	93	95	96
Alcohol	52	70	85	47	69	83
Tranquilisers	16	19	20	17	20	21
Inhalants	19	17	12	19	19	15
Tobacco	7	18	35	6	17	31
Cannabis	5	15	28	4	15	30
Ecstasy	1	3	6	2	4	9
Hallucinogens	1	3	5	1	3	6
Performance enhancing drugs	2	3	2	2	3	2
Cocaine	1	2	3	1	2	4
Amphetamines	1	2	4	1 (1)*	2 (2)*	2 (3)*
Opiates	1	2	2	1 (3)#	1 (6)#	1 (8)#
Used in the past month						
Analgesics	65	70	73	59	68	71
Alcohol	9	22	47	10	25	49
Tranquilisers	4	5	5	4	6	7
Inhalants	8	6	4	8	8	6
Tobacco	2	7	15	2	7	14
Cannabis	2	7	13	2	8	16
Ecstasy	<1	1	3	1	2	4
Hallucinogens	<1	1	1	1	1	2
Performance enhancing drugs	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cocaine	1	1	1	<1	1	1
Amphetamines	<1	1	2	<1 (1)*	1 (1)*	1 (1)*
Opiates	<1	1	1	<1 (1)#	1 (2)#	<1 (3)#

* Dexamphetamines (Methamphetamines) # Heroin (Other opiates)

Table 7.2 Reported use of any illicit substance^ (including or excluding cannabis) among secondary students in Australia by year, recency, age group, and sex, ASSAD

	12-15			16-17			12-17		
	2011	2014	2017#	2011	2014	2017#	2011	2014	2017#
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Any illicit substance (including cannabis)									
Lifetime									
Male	12	10	10 (13)	30	30	31 (33)	17	16	16 (19)
Female	10	9	9 (12)	24	24	27 (30)	14	14	15 (17)
Total	11	10	10 (12)	27	27	29 (31)	16	15	16 (18)
Past month									
Male	6	5	5 (6)	16	16	18 (19)	9	8	9 (10)
Female	5	4	4 (5)	11	9*	13 (15)	6	6*	7 (8)
Total	5	4	5 (6)	13	13	15 (17)	8	7	8 (9)
Any illicit substance (excluding cannabis)									
Lifetime									
Male	6	4	5 (8)	10	12	14 (18)	7	6	7 (11)
Female	5	3	4 (7)	9	7	9 (14)	6	5	5 (9)
Total	5	4	4 (8)	9	10	12 (16)	6	6	6 (10)
Past month									
Male	3	2	2 (3)	5	5	6 (8)	3	3	3 (5)
Female	2	1	1 (2)	3	2	3 (5)	2	2	2 (3)
Total	2	2	2 (3)	4	4	5 (7)	3	2	3 (4)

* Significantly different from 2017 (excluding 'dexamphetamines' and 'other opiates') at $p < 0.01$.

^ Illicit substances included cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates and ecstasy.

Excluding 'dexamphetamines' and 'other opiates' which were not surveyed in 2011 or 2014 (Including all illicit substances).

Note: when all substances surveyed in 2017 are included, proportions might include responses from students who misinterpreted the use of 'other opiates' survey item and reported medically supervised use.

Table 7.3 Concurrent substance use among secondary students in Australia, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Substance used in the past year				
	Tranquilisers	Cannabis	Amphetamines	Hallucinogens	Ecstasy
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Substance used on same occasion					
Alcohol	17	59	39	37	58
Tobacco	13	39	36	38	42
Cannabis	15	N/A^^	32	45	43
Hallucinogens	4	7	12	N/A^^	11
Amphetamines	2	3	N/A^^	4	7
Ecstasy	5	10	18	17	N/A^^
Analgesics	19	7	12	7	9
Tranquilisers	N/A^^	4	7	6	5
None	64	31	36	35	19
n	1,946	2,254	267	432	591

^^N/A = not applicable.

[#] Percentages may not equal 100% as multiple responses were allowed.

Substance use lessons recalled by students

Table 7.4 Recall of substance use education in the previous school year (2016) among secondary students in Australia by age and topic, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Smoking tobacco							
None	36	32	22	18	23	30	27
Part of a lesson	14	15	15	15	16	19	16
One lesson	21	18	18	20	23	21	20
More than one lesson	28	35	45	47	38	30	37
Drinking alcohol							
None	31	26	15	10	11	15	18
Part of a lesson	16	15	13	10	11	14	13
One lesson	23	22	18	19	22	24	21
More than one lesson	31	38	54	61	56	47	48
Illicit substance use							
None	50	41	24	16	15	21	28
Part of a lesson	16	16	13	10	12	15	14
One lesson	18	19	19	20	25	24	21
More than one lesson	16	24	43	54	48	40	37

Student use of health services for substance use, emotional problems, or behavioural problems

Table 7.5 Secondary students in Australia that reported being diagnosed with a mental health condition, by age and sex, ASSAD 2017[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12 -17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Yes							
Male	4	5	8	8	10	12	8
Female	6	9	13	17	20	25	15
Total	5	7	10	12	15	19	11
No							
Male	77	79	75	79	77	74	77
Female	80	76	72	69	70	62	72
Total	78	78	74	74	73	68	74
Don't know							
Male	20	15	17	14	12	14	15
Female	14	16	15	13	10	13	14
Total	17	15	16	14	11	13	15

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ±3.4 of population values. See Appendix 2 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Table 7.6 Use of a health professional in the past year by secondary students in Australia for substance use problems, or emotional or behavioural problems, by age and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
No							
Male	91	87	89	87	87	83	87
Female	87	84	80	75	74	72	79
Total	89	86	84	81	81	77	83
Yes – substance use							
Male	<1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Female	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Total	1	1	2	1	2	2	1
Yes - emotional or behavioural problems							
Male	9	12	10	13	12	16	12
Female	12	15	19	24	25	28	20
Total	11	13	14	19	19	22	16

Table 7.7 Substance use among secondary students in Australia by mental health diagnosis[#] and sex, ASSAD 2017

	Male		Female		All students	
Mental health diagnosis						
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ever used in lifetime						
Analgesics	97	93	99	96	98	95
Alcohol	78	65	83	61	81	63
Tranquilisers	37	16	36	14	36	15
Tobacco	33	16	37	13	36	14
Inhalants	26	15	22	16	23	15
Cannabis	34	14	34	11	34	13
Other opiates	17	5	11	3	13	4
Ecstasy	15	5	11	2	12	4
Hallucinogens	14	3	7	1	9	2
Performance enhancing drugs	6	1	3	2	4	2
Cocaine	8	2	5	1	6	1
Methamphetamines	6	1	3	1	4	1
Dexamphetamines	5	1	3	1	4	1
Heroin	4	1	2	<1	2	<1
*n**	715	7,143	1,342	6,605	2,057	13,748

[#] Students who reported “don’t know” have been excluded from this analysis.
* Number of students in the whole sample who gave a valid response.

APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

To obtain a copy of the questionnaire, please email the Australian Government's National Drug Strategy or the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Cancer Council Victoria:

nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov

cbrc@cancervic.org.au

APPENDIX 2: ASSAD DATA MATTERS

Data coding and editing

To maintain consistency across survey years, we followed data cleaning procedures established for the earlier surveys in this series.

For substance use questions, we checked for inconsistencies in reported use across time periods (lifetime, past year, past month, and past week). Our aim was to maximise use of the data and we operated on the principle that participants' responses about personal use in the most recent time period was accurate. We checked that the response for the most recent time period was consistent with responses for subsequent time periods. If responses for other time periods were missing or not consistent with the response for the most recent time period, they were recoded to match the response for the recent time period.

For example, if students indicated they had used a substance in the past week and in the past month, but then also indicated that they had not used it in the past year (or, if the response to this question was missing), the response for the past year was recoded to indicate that the substance had been used within this time period. We considered this change appropriate as past week and past month use logically implied past year use. However, if respondents indicated that they did not use a substance in the past week and the response for past month use was missing or 'yes', we did not edit these responses, as it is possible for someone who had not used a substance in the past week to have used it in the past month. We retained missing responses for these cases, as we could not determine whether the student had used the substance. If students reported that they had used a substance in the past week, month, or year, but also that they had not used the substance in their lifetime, the response to this latter question was changed to 'invalid'.

Regardless of the students' reported substance use, we did not edit reported self-perceived substance use behaviour, as this question aimed to assess perceptions rather than behaviour. As in previous survey years, there was minimal impact of recodes on the data set.

Planned comparisons across survey years

We used logistic regression to test for differences in the proportions of students who had used each of the different substances within different time periods (e.g., lifetime, past month, past week) across the survey years of 2011, 2014, and 2017. For these analyses, we grouped students by age (12-15, 16-17; 12-17) and sex.

Our outcome variable was binary (0 = behaviour did not occur; 1 = behaviour occurred). We controlled for age, education sector (government, Catholic, and independent), state/territory, and sex (when appropriate).

Because ASSAD uses a two-stage sampling procedure, the sample was less efficient than a simple random sample of the same size. We used the statistical package Stata MP 14.2 to create models that adjusted for clustering of observations by student within school (i.e., non-independence of observations), so that standard errors for prevalence estimates were not underestimated.

ABS Enrolment data

Table 2.3 Number of full-time students enrolled in Australian secondary schools by age, sex, and education sector[#]

	Age in years						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Government							
Males	93,139	88,205	87,304	85,956	81,797	64,982	501,383
Females	85,073	80,564	80,760	80,278	78,522	64,620	469,817
Total	178,212	168,769	168,064	166,234	160,319	129,602	971,200
Catholic							
Males	31,824	32,752	31,972	31,669	29,614	25,499	183,330
Females	30,885	32,055	31,346	30,846	29,424	26,250	180,806
Total	62,709	64,807	63,318	62,515	59,038	51,749	364,136
Independent							
Males	25,053	26,365	25,945	25,823	25,216	22,611	151,013
Females	25,266	26,296	25,973	25,773	25,296	22,414	151,018
Total	50,319	52,661	51,918	51,596	50,512	45,025	302,031

[#] Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2017. 4221.0 - Schools, Australia, 2017 (Latest issue released 2/2/2018). NSSC Table 42b Number of Full-time and Part-time Students by Affiliation, Sex, Grade, Age and Indigenous Status, States and Territories, 2006-2017. Available from: http://www.abs.gov.au/.

Confidence intervals

Table 2.4 95% confidence intervals* for prevalence estimates for ASSAD 2017 sample sizes sex and age

			Prevalence (%)				
Sex	**Age in years**	***n***	**90**	**80**	**70**	**60**	**50**
Male							
	12	832	±2.04	±2.72	±3.11	±3.33	±3.40
	13	1,818	±1.38	±1.84	±2.11	±2.25	±2.30
	14	1,590	±1.47	±1.97	±2.25	±2.41	±2.46
	15	1,610	±1.47	±1.95	±2.24	±2.39	±2.44
	16	1,774	±1.40	±1.86	±2.13	±2.28	±2.33
	17	1,267	±1.65	±2.20	±2.52	±2.70	±2.75
	12-17	8,891	±0.62	±0.83	±0.95	±1.02	±1.04
Female							
	12	1,030	±1.83	±2.44	±2.80	±2.99	±3.05
	13	1,871	±1.36	±1.81	±2.08	±2.22	±2.27
	14	1,745	±1.41	±1.88	±2.15	±2.30	±2.35
	15	1,729	±1.41	±1.89	±2.16	±2.31	±2.36
	16	2,238	±1.24	±1.66	±1.90	±2.03	±2.07
	17	1,611	±1.46	±1.95	±2.24	±2.39	±2.44
	12-17	10,224	±0.58	±0.78	±0.89	±0.95	±0.97

* 95% Confidence intervals = ±Margin of Error (formula for confidence interval calculation). MOE = ± 1.96 multiplied by the square root of population standard deviation multiplied by 1 minus the population standard deviation and divided by the sample size.