ASSAD 2017 Statistics & Trends

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

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

Published by Cancer Council Victoria

Suggested citation:

Guerin, N. & White, V. (2020). ASSAD 2017 Statistics & Trends: Australian Secondary Students’ Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Over-the-counter Drugs, and Illicit Substances. Second Edition. Cancer Council Victoria.

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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.

Acknowledgements

The Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at Cancer Council Victoria gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and assistance of the people and organisations listed here in the running of this survey:

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:

Australian Government Department of Health

Cancer Council Victoria

Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Government

Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health

Centre for Population Health, NSW Ministry of Health

Mental Health & Drug and Alcohol Office, NSW Ministry of Health

Cancer Institute, NSW

Cancer Council South Australia

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, SA Health

Tobacco Control Research and Evaluation, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

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

Performance and Programs, Mental Health Commission, Government of Western Australia

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

Department of Education, Tasmania

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

The people listed below coordinated the survey and/or organised data collection in their state or territory:

Tanya Plueckhahn, Gorjana Radisic, Kate Clarke-Palmer, Greg Sharplin, and Tony Daly, Cancer Council South Australia

Frances Gibson, Ann-Maree Hughes, Hai Phung, Sommer Sherwood, Epidemiology Section, Health Improvement Branch, Population Health Division, ACT Health

Tim Harrold, Jessica Gugusheff, Heather, Baldwin, Suzanne Schindler, Health Behaviour Surveillance, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health

Chris Moon, Warren Que Noy, Northern Territory Government, Department of Health, Mental Health, Alcohol, and Other Drugs Branch

Amanda Harrison, Rebecca Hood, Su-Ann Drew, Russell Bridle, Performance and Programs, Mental Health Commission, Government of Western Australia

Mandy Gardener, Natalie Klein, Abby Smith, Cancer Council Tasmania

Nicola Guerin, Tahlia Williams, Maree Scully, Felicity Houewen, Cancer Council Victoria

Rebecca Perkins, Peter Anderson, Peter Baade, Upeksha Chandrasiri, Cancer Council Queensland

Ted White, Tendai Dawkins, Community Solutions, Queensland

Saskia Kirson, Angela Brooks, McNair Ingenuity Research, NSW

Catherine Manley, Sonja Porter, Miles Morgan Australia, Western Australia

Australian Council for Educational Research advised on all aspects of sampling.

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% never smoked

2011: 77% never smoked

5% smoked in the past week which is 79,000 students (2% of 12 year olds, 11% of 17 year olds)

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 and past week smoking in 2017 was lower than in 2011

73% of 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

2011: 74%

2014: 68%

2017: 66% ever drank alcohol

15% drank in the past week

17% in 2011 and 15% in 2014 drank in the past week

46% drank alcohol in the past year

5% drank at risky levels in the past week

43% of 12 year olds and 85% of 17 year olds ever drank

9% of 16 year olds and 13% of 17 year olds had five or more drinks on at least one day in the past week

Secondary students drink premixed spirits (37%), spirits (19%), beer (34% males, 7% females) and 43% of current drinkers got alcohol from their parents

36% of current drinkers aged 16-17 and 22% of those aged 12-15 last drank at a party

28% of current drinkers aged 16-17 and 45% of those aged 12-15 last drank at home

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

Analgesics are the most commonly used substance

95% of students ever used analgesics, with use increasing with age

55% of 12 year olds and 71% of 17 year olds had used analgesics in the past month

Higher use among females than males

Most commonly used for headache

Tranquiliser use is increasing, and more common at older ages

19% of students had ever used for non-medicinal reasons

3% used in the past week

Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit substance

16% ever used

8% used in the past month

Use increases with age

Occasional use most commonly occurs at a friend’s home

Few students had ever used other illicit drugs

1% heroin

2% cocaine

2% performance enhancing drugs

3% synthetic drugs

5% ecstasy

1% ethno-botanicals

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).

Target population is all year 7-12 students in Australia

Sampling method is a stratified two-stage probability sample

Stage 1: random selection of schools (one sample of schools for year 7-10 students, one for year 11-12 students

Stage 2: random selection of students

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.

**Categories of students who had smoked cigarettes**

Never used: Never smoked. Did not have even a puff of a cigarette

Ever used: Ever smoked. Had smoked at least a few puffs of a cigarette 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-month: Past month smokers had smoked in the past four weeks

Current, or past week: Current smokers had smoked on at least one of the seven days before the survey date (past week)

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

Categories of students who had consumed alcohol

Never used: Never drank alcohol. Did not have even a sip of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime

Ever used: Ever drank alcohol. Had consumed at least a few sips of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime

Past-year: Past year drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink in the past 12 months

Past-month: Past month drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink in the past four weeks

Current, or past week: Current drinkers had consumed an alcoholic drink on at least one of the seven days before the survey date (past week)

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)

Categories of students who had used other substances

Never used: Never used the substance

Ever used: Had used the substance in their lifetime

Past-year: Had used the substance in the past year

Past-month: Had used the substance in the four weeks before the survey date

Current, or past week: Had used the substance in the seven days before the survey date

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. 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. 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. 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 2.1). We excluded data from students outside this age range and who did not indicate their sex.

Table 2.1 Number of secondary school students aged between 12 and 17 surveyed across Australia in 2017 by sex and age

| Age in years | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 2.2, 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 2.3, 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]](#footnote-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.

Average number of cigarettes smoked per week by current daily and weekly smokers: weekly smokers = 8; daily smokers = 45

Average number of cigarettes smoked per week by current daily smokers:

Male, 12-15 years = 51, 16-17 years = 48

Female, 12-15 years = 29, 16-17 years = 47

Around 79,000 Australian secondary students aged 12 to 17 were current smokers in 2017

5% smoked in the past week:

2% of 12 year olds and 11% of 17 year olds

2% smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime:

3% in 2014, 2% in 2017

No sex differences in smoking rates in the past month, or past year

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).

Figure 3.1: Line graph showing the prevalence of past month smoking for 12-15 and 16-17 year olds from 1984 to 2017

Figure 3.1: Line graph showing the prevalence of current smoking (past week) and committed smoking (on at least three of the last 7 days) for 12-15 and 16-17 year olds from 1984 to 2017

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%).

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: Line graph showing percentage of current smokers aged 12-15 and 16-17 who bought cigarettes themselves, from 1987-2017

Figure 3.2: Line graph showing the percentage of current smokers aged 12-15 and 16-17 who got someone else to buy cigarettes for them, from 1990 to 2017

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.

Figure 4.1: Line graph showing the proportion of current and risky drinkers aged 12-15 and 16-17 from 1984 to 2017

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.

Most common negative events after drinking alcohol: vomiting = 39%; trying a cigarette = 33%; trying drugs = 23%; having an argument = 21%.

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.

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.

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.

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).

Students that had lessons about substance use in 2016:

Smoking > 70%

Alcohol > 80%

Illicit drugs > 70%

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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 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 | | |
| Sex | 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*  (*se*)Ŧ  18.7  (2.6) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  10.8  (1.1) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  14.8  (1.4) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  20.3  (1.5) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  15.4  (1.4) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  17.9  (1.0) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  19.7  (1.3) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  13.8  (1.0) | *M*  (*se*)Ŧ  16.8  (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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  | | |  | | |  | | |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) |
| Bought or not bought | Source |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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 cigaretteused by current smokers#† by age group and sex, ASSAD 2017

| Age group in years |  | 12-15 | | | 16-17 | | | 12-17 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) |
| Type of cigarette | Pack size |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Factory-made cigarette | 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 | Pouch | 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 |  | 12  (%) | 13  (%) | 14  (%) | 15  (%) | 16  (%) | 17  (%) | 12-15  (%) | 16-17  (%) | Total  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Never used | Male | 48 | 18 | 28 | 22 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 25 |
|  | Female | 61 | 34 | 25 | 28 | 25 | 30 | 31 | 27 | 29 |
|  | Total | 54 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 27 |
| Once or twice | Male | 0 | 28 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 15 | 13 |
|  | Female | 0 | 24 | 24 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 19 |
|  | Total | 0 | 26 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 17 | 16 |
| 3-5 times | Male | 12 | 23 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 10 |
|  | Female | 13 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
|  | Total | 12 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 6-9 times | Male | 20 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 7 |
|  | Female | 0 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
|  | Total | 11 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| 10-19 times | Male | 14 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 8 |
|  | Female | 13 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
|  | Total | 13 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| 20+ times | Male | 7 | 26 | 41 | 35 | 39 | 40 | 32 | 39 | 36 |
|  | Female | 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Smoking | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Smoking Status | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intention | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Frequency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) | Male  (%) | Female  (%) | Total  (%) |
|  | Recency |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Drinking behaviour | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of drinks in past seven days^ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *M*  *(se)‡* | 5.9  (0.4) | 4.0  (0.2) | 5.0  (0.2) | 8.6  (0.3) | 5.5  (0.2) | 7.0  (0.2) | 7.6  (0.3) | 5.0  (0.2) | 6.2  (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

| Age group in years |  | 12-15 | | | 16-17 | | | 12-17 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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

| Survey year | 2011 | | 2014 | | 2017 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  | 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

| Sex | 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex |  | 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†

| Source & location | Age group in years | 12-15  (*M*) | 16-17  (*M*) | 12-17  (*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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Status | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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#

| Status |  | Non-drinker | | Occasional drinker | | Party drinker | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age group in years |  | 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Source | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reason | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Source | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dexamphetamine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| Methamphetamine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017\*  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017\*  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drug type | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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

| Survey year |  | 2014 | | | 2017 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age group in years |  | 12–13  (%) | 14–15  (%) | 16–17  (%) | 12–13  (%) | 14–15  (%) | 16–17  (%) |
| Recency | Substance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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) # |

\* Dexamphetamine (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

| Age group in years |  | 12-15 | | | 16-17 | | | 12-17 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey year |  | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017#  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017#  (%) | 2011  (%) | 2014  (%) | 2017#  (%) |
| Recency | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Recall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Diagnosis | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  (%) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Response | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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

| Sex | 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](mailto:nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov.au) or the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Cancer Council Victoria:

[nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov](file:///\\sr-dc05\dfs\BSD\Research\Projects\Smoking\ASSAD-SSASS\1015.00%20ASSAD%202017\1015.00%20ASSAD%202017\Reports-Papers\3a.%20Comm%20National%20Report\FINAL%20NATIONAL%20REPORT%20-%20WORD%20VERSIONS\nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov)

[cbrc@cancervic.org.au](file:///\\sr-dc05\dfs\BSD\Research\Projects\Smoking\ASSAD-SSASS\1015.00%20ASSAD%202017\1015.00%20ASSAD%202017\Reports-Papers\3a.%20Comm%20National%20Report\FINAL%20NATIONAL%20REPORT%20-%20WORD%20VERSIONS\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 2.2 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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sector | Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 2.3 95% confidence intervals\* for prevalence estimates for ASSAD 2017 sample sizes sex and age

| Prevalence (%) |  |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | Age in years | n |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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.

1. *p* < 0.01 for all reported significant differences [↑](#footnote-ref-1)